



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 Everglade Drive, Madison WI 53717 • (608) 833-2600 • stamadison.org • parish@stamadison.org

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES!

We are a Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday	4:30 PM
Sunday: Masses in English	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Misa en español/Mass in Spanish	6:30 PM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30 AM
Tuesday	5:30 PM
Thursday	7:30 AM

Confession

Saturdays, 3:15–4:10 PM

Sundays, 9:00–9:50 AM

Prayer, Devotion, and Adoration

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Monday after Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Wednesday after Mass

Morning Prayer: Thursday after Mass

Rosario en español: Thursday, 6:00–7:00 PM

Rosary in English: Friday, 8:05 AM

Adoration: Monday, 2:00–4:00 PM

Tuesday, 4:15–5:20 PM

Friday, 9:00–10:00 AM

Parish Staff, 608-833-2600

Pastor: Fr. Bart Timmerman,

Pastoral Associate: Erik Gyr, erik@stamadison.org

Music Ministries: Gregory Buchberger, greg@stamadison.org

Director of Evangelization and Parish Outreach:

Jennifer Ludtke, jennifer@stamadison.org

Director of Discipleship: Holly Irving, holly@stamadison.org

Business Manager: Patrick O'Loughlin, patrick@stamadison.org

Facilities/Community Minister:

Ismael Covarrubias, ismael@stamadison.org

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Communications: Clarice Hinrichs, clarice@stamadison.org

Religious Education/Stewardship Office

Administrative Assistant: Terri Kopplin,

terri@stamadison.org, 608-833-2606

Children and Families/Hispanic Ministry: Lorianne Aubut,

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Middle/High School: Dominick Meyer,

dominick@stamadison.org, 608-821-4867

"Let us go rejoicing to
the house of the Lord"

Psalm 122:1



"Vamos alegres
a la casa del Señor"

Salmo 122:1

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019

Primer Domingo de Adviento
1 de Diciembre de 2019



Fr. Bart Timmerman, Pastor

First Sunday of Advent- Year A

This Sunday begins the new Liturgical Year of the Church. As you know we have a three-year cycle of readings that we hear proclaimed at Sunday Mass. We now enter into Year A cycle of readings. This year, we will hear the Gospel of Matthew proclaimed at Mass. Matthew was written in the 80s A.D., after the Gospel of Mark and so we see that he used Mark's Gospel as a resource, oral traditions, and a third source. Matthew wrote the Gospel for the community of disciples in Antioch, Syria who did not meet Jesus in person, but lived out their faith in Jesus without abandoning their Jewish faith, but their belief in Jesus as the Messiah lead them to have serious conflicts with their fellow Jews, especially the Pharisees. This conflict is seen throughout the Gospel. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is the true Master who has comprehensive knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures and Hebrew Law. He offers a new interpretation, which reaffirms the values of the Old Testament, and brings them to their fullness. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is introduced to us in a traditional Jewish manner by naming 14 generations in a genealogy showing Jesus as an Israelite, descendent of Abraham and David, highlighting his royal heritage. Matthew's constant references to the Old Testament shows Matthew's desire to teach his community that Jesus is the fullness of the law. It is the only synoptic Gospel that explicitly mentions the Church and it was written to be proclaimed in the Liturgical assembly. It was written to be proclaimed to the end of the earth! May this year be a fruitful year for us as we reflect on Matthew's Gospel at our Sunday Masses.

Advent Preaching Series Theme: An Inviting Parish!

This Advent we will focus on the theme of being an inviting parish. Last year we focused on the theme of being a welcoming parish. Last year I was so pleased with the great efforts we all made to be a welcoming parish to those who are walking through our doors and joining us for Mass. I feel that we do a good job with welcoming. This year, we want to make an effort to not only welcome those who come to Mass here, but also invite people to come to Mass here. This is perhaps not as easy and may call us to step outside of our comfort zone.

Knowing my own uneasiness with inviting people to Mass, even as a priest, this calls me to stretch myself. But what motivates me, to take the step to invite, is that I know we have something beautiful to share. Not only do we have a beautiful Catholic faith, I feel that as a unique Catholic community of St. Thomas Aquinas, we have an extra special gift to share with others. Being a part of STA inspires my faith, challenges me to grow, and offers me a sense of belonging. We have been blessed and I would love for us to be able to share this with others, especially with those who are in need of God's mercy and redeeming love.

Please be open to helping STA to be a parish that not only welcomes, but also invites. Being an inviting parish will help to evangelize our families and community and bring people to meet Jesus in a way that is life changing! By inviting others to join us for Mass,

for Alpha, and for our Healing Ministry, we will take another step forward to realizing our vision of being an evangelizing parish made up of missionary disciples!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Sunday, December 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America and is always a Holy Day of

Prayer for Life

For all the faithful: May the Lord help us build a culture of life in vigilant expectation of His return; We pray to the Lord:



Obligation EXCEPT in the year when it falls on a Sunday. The Solemnity cannot "replace" the celebration of a Sunday in Advent, so the celebration is transferred to Monday, December 9. While the day remains a solemnity, the faithful are not obligated to attend Mass. Therefore we only have one Mass scheduled for the Immaculate Conception, which is on Monday, December 9 at 8:30 AM.

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Ann, free from original sin by the virtue of the merits of her Son, Jesus. The Catholic Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception, keeping her "immaculate," without the stain of sin, including original sin. We need to be sure not to confuse Mary's Immaculate Conception with the Virginal Conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. It is also erroneous to think that Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the way Jesus was. We know that Mary was conceived in the normal way and had two biological parents: St. Joachim and St. Ann. From the first instant of Mary's existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings. This is why the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary and said, "Hail, *full of grace*, the Lord is with you."

Christmas Baskets Challenge Returns!

The weekend of December 7 and 8, bring as much food as you can... each Mass time will have it's own table, let's see which Mass time can contribute the most, and win bragging rights!

These items are most needed:

canned fruits
laundry detergent
canned vegetables
Toothpaste
macaroni & cheese
shampoo
peanut butter
canned juice
Soup
pasta
Rice
canned meals
Spaghetti
Ravioli



2019 Annual Catholic Appeal as of October

STA Parish Pledge Total\$142,019
 Paid to Date\$135,437
 Thank you for fulfilling your pledge and supporting our Diocese of
 Madison.

Priests For The Future as of October

Parish Pledge Total\$1,423,789
 Paid to Date.....\$1,404,382
 Total Over-Goal Sharing (October 2019) \$394,594

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal Wrap-Up

Please read the Annual Catholic Appeal wrap-up flyer included in today's bulletin. This material shows participation and performance information as well as how the funds collected will be used to meet our spiritual and material needs. Thank you to all who participated in this important part of parish and diocesan life!

Prayer Night: A Time of Adoration

Our 3 - 5 graders in Faith Formation had a beautiful night of adoration a couple of weeks ago. They had an opportunity to pray in silence, adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, pray with beautiful hymns and offer their own petitions before the living Christ.

STA parishioners, please continue to pray for all of our students in Faith Formation, for their families, and their deepest needs.



The Holiday Bake Sale Is Coming!

The STA annual Holiday Bake Sale will be the weekend of December 14 and 15 after all Masses. Proceeds help with the cost of grocery store gift cards that we include in our Christmas Baskets for neighborhood families. Each year, St. Thomas Aquinas delivers over 120 Baskets, so your help is essential.

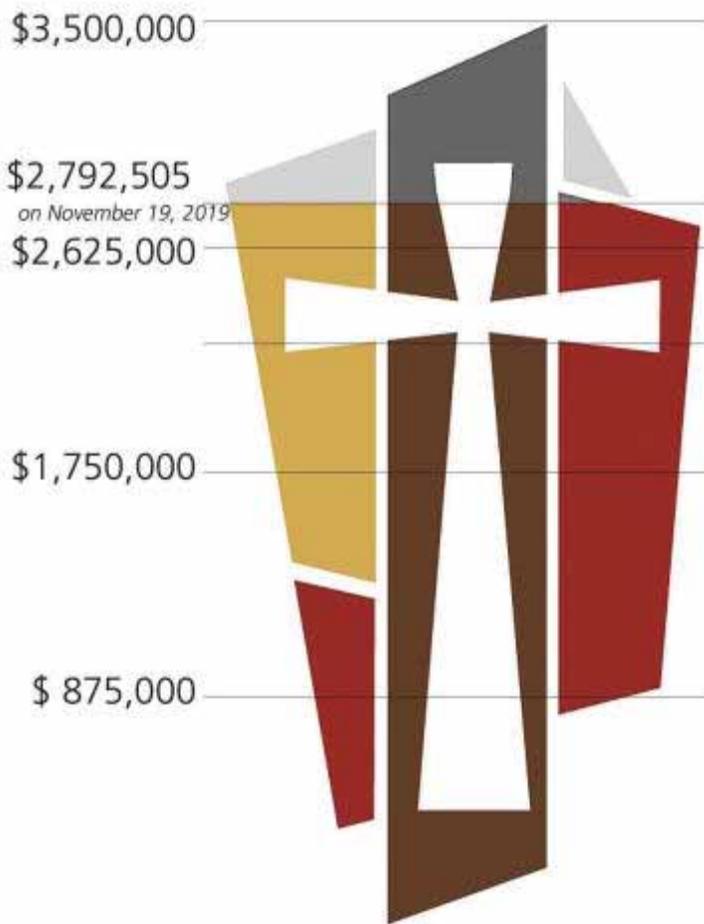


When you do your holiday baking, consider making a double or triple batch and donating the extra to our sale. Stop by the sign-up table in the Gathering Area before or after Mass for information and to let us know what you are bringing. Please contact Holly Irving if you have questions

MAKE DISCIPLES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your generous support of our Make Disciples Capital Campaign. As of November 19, a total of 354 households have pledged \$2,792,505. If you did not get a chance to fill out a pledge card, you can find them in the Gathering Area by the mail slot.

MAKE DISCIPLES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Campaign Progress



Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Planning for death is as natural as planning for life. Having a will is good stewardship of your assets. Take care of your family and consider your parish family in your preparations



Thank you to all who gave money to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in memory of Ken Opitz:

- Royal Gibson
- Gregg Gibson
- Peter and Sandra Renner.

Celebrating Your Generosity

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of parishioners who have left bequests to the parish. These gifts help us to build a solid foundation for future generations! We are also very grateful to those who donated to the Make Disciples Capital Campaign! Your generosity has been overwhelming!

Music & Liturgy Corner

Children's Choir for Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 PM

Students in grade 4 and up are invited to join our STA Choristers for our Christmas Eve Children's Mass. If you or your children would like to be involved with leading our sung prayer during this Mass, please contact Greg for more information and to confirm your spot! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their talents during this most wonderful time of the year! High school students are also welcome to join us! Don't delay!

Rehearsals are:

- Saturday, Dec. 7 10:30 – 12:00 in Music Room
- Saturday, Dec. 14 10:30 – 12:00 in Church
- Saturday, Dec. 21 10:30 – 12:00 in Church
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 3:00 in Music Room

Ideally, students would be in attendance for all four rehearsals, but we are happy to work around your schedule as needed. Parent helpers are also needed. Please contact me if you are interested! I'm looking forward to hearing your beautiful voices at our first rehearsal on Saturday, December 1. Contact Greg Buchberger with questions.

Advent begins!

As we begin the season of Advent, we begin a new Liturgical Year! Each week during our Entrance procession, we will hear the chant, "Veni, Veni Emmanuel/O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and then sing together, "Come, Emmanuel." "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is a text that was originally written in Latin, based on the O Antiphons, a series of plainchant antiphons sung at Vespers/Evening Prayer during the final days before Christmas. The 1861 translation by John Mason Neale from Hymns Ancient and Modern is the most prominent by far in the English-speaking world.

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel!

Qui gemit in exilio, Privatus Dei Filio,

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Emmanuel (Tony Alonso)

Awake now, friends, the time is near (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
Soon the Lord of life will appear (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
Stay awake, prepare God's way (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
This is what the scriptures say (Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel; Shall come to you, O Israel

Let us see your living face (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
Sons and daughters of one living race (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
Show us mercy, show us love (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
Send salvation from above (Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel; Shall come to you, O Israel

God's glory now shall be revealed (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
The blind will see the sick be healed (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
All will sing together in peace (Come, O Come Emmanuel)
All will sit together at the feast (Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel; Shall come to you, O Israel

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel; Shall come to you, O Israel

Gifts From the Heart

Christmas Gifts for STA

Neighbors in Need

November 23 - December 8

Once again St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners will have the opportunity

to help make Christmas brighter for our neighbors. **Don't forget to take an ornament from the Gifts from the Heart display wall before they are gone!** These ornaments contain gift

requests from our neighbors in need. We invite you to take an ornament, buy any or all of the requested items and place them

- Unwrapped, with ornament attached on the outside
- In the alcove to the left of the fireplace in the Gathering Area
- **By Sunday, December 8**
- Gift cards may be handed in at the office, slid through the mail slot, or placed in the marked box by the main receptionist window.

Donations of gift bags, wrapping paper and ribbons to hand out are also appreciated.

Gifts will be sorted and sent out on December 9, so bringing them in by the due date is essential. All gifts will go to someone, but late gifts may not make it to the people who requested them. Thank you for your promptness and, especially, for your generosity!



**i.d.9:16 Young Adult
Discipleship Night
December 5**

All young adults are welcome to our fourth Disciples' Night, which includes Mass, dinner, a livestream talk, and discussion.

This month we continue our series on the Beatitudes with "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit". When everything is stripped away, who are we before God? Though earthly possessions have value, they can easily distract and draw our attention off of God and onto ourselves. Being poor in Spirit means we will inherit the Kingdom, but how do we actually live this way? Ed Conlin will share personal stories and practical insights of living with true poverty of Spirit. Ed is a lifelong committed brother of the Servants of the Word. He serves the homeless, the mentally ill, and addicts of Detroit. In his spare time, he does freelance counseling for the Sword of the Spirit and loves worship and music.

What to expect:

6:00 PM Mass

6:30 PM Dinner & Drinks

7:00 PM Speaker/Q&A (via livestream in conjunction with other chapters nationwide.)

8:00 PM Fellowship

To RSVP for the December 5 event (to plan for food), please go to the event on the YA Facebook page: facebook.com/STAMadisonYA/ or email the leadership team at id916madison@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar!

- December Food collection for Christmas Baskets
- December 8: All gifts for Gifts From the Heart due
Gifts are sorted and sent to outside groups for delivery the very next day.
- December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
- December 13: Christmas Basket Packing
- December 14: Christmas Basket Delivery
- December 14 and 15 Bake Sale

Christmas Pageant

Children ages 2 – 10 are welcomed to participate in our Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve.

Practices will be held on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM beginning December 4. We do have some costumes. First come, first serve! Please contact Holly Irving if your child will be in the pageant.



Our Parish Library Has Great Books for Advent and Christmas

Come enjoy the Advent and Christmas books our library has to offer. Books are available to be checked out to enjoy with your family as well.

Adults may enjoy the following:

1. The Infancy Narratives by Pope Benedict XVI
2. Advent of the Savior: A Commentary... of Jesus Christ by Stephen J. Binz
3. Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything... by Scott Hahn
4. Devotional and daily reflection books

Families may enjoy

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe books and DVDs (English and Spanish)
2. Children will find several heartwarming selections in the "Children's Books" area.

"Unplanned" DVD in our Library

If you have yet to see the blockbuster movie "Unplanned," it is now available in our Library. The movie is based on the real-life conversion story of former Planned Parenthood abortion clinic director Abby Johnson and clearly shows the power of prayer and witness to save the lives of many unborn children – and to inspire the conversion of abortion workers.



Christmas Basket Can you help?

Our annual tradition at St Thomas Aquinas is to fill and deliver Christmas Baskets to our neighbors at Wexford Ridge and Tree Lane Apartments.



What needs to be done:

Donate: Please bring your non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to church between now and December 13. Items to donate include: canned goods, boxes of cereal and pasta, as well as laundry detergent, tooth paste and shampoo.

Sort food/pack baskets: Sign up sheets will be in the Gathering Area for families who want to help sort and pack the baskets on Friday, December 13 between 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM. This is a great family activity and children of all ages are welcome.

Deliver baskets: Baskets will be delivered beginning at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 14. Sign up sheets will be in the Gathering Area for those who wish to volunteer to deliver 3 or 4 baskets. We really need delivery volunteers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for families to experience giving at Christmas and for our parish to build community among its members and our neighbors. There are many jobs for all ages—children through seniors!

If you know of someone in the parish in need of a Christmas Basket, call Mary and Clarice in the office at 608-833-2600.

Your Invitation To Learn About becoming Catholic

If you are not Catholic, and are curious about what it would take to possibly become one, we would love the opportunity to talk with you. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process that gives you an opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith and Sacred Scripture, grow closer to God through prayer, and help you come



to a decision about receiving the sacraments and becoming a member of the Catholic Church. This year, RCIA will be taking place on Wednesday evenings. Make a short one-on-one appointment to learn more by contacting Jenny Ludtke.

Are you Catholic already, but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Listen to the Spirit calling! There is a preparation process for adults who have been practicing their Catholic faith, and are now looking to celebrate Confirmation. The first step is to reach out to Jenny Ludtke!

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe presents the Catholic Faith in a way that was immediately understood and accepted by the native Mexican Indians. It is impossible to describe fully the rich symbolism contained on the Tilma of Juan Diego because every detail of color and of form carries a theological message.

Our Lady's **hair**, parted in the middle and hanging loosely, indicates she is a virgin maiden.

Scientific analysis has shown **reflections** of people in the Virgin's **eyes**, just as any human eye would reflect. There are 13 total figures (including Juan Diego and Bishop Zumárraga) that form two scenes in both eyes.

One can **see a cross** in the center of the medallion that she carries on the upper part of her dress. This manifests her consecration to her Son Jesus, whose cross reminds us of both His total sacrifice for love and the moment when he gives us Mary as our Mother.

The symbol of the Cross was seen on the sails of the Spaniards' ships.

The Virgin's identity as a woman of heaven and earth is affirmed by her **garments' colors and decorations**: her reddish tunic is the color symbolic of earth, while the star-speckled green-blue mantle symbolizes the heavens. The mantle's color indicates her royalty, since only the Aztec emperors could wear cloaks of that color. The Virgin, Queen of heaven and earth, points us toward the truth that God is love, and mankind is the recipient of His love.

The **8-petaled flowers** symbolize the day of new creation. The 'blossom' is in the form of a hill, and the stem is presented as a river. The "hill-water" represented the concept of civilization. The 'hill' represents the highest point of encounter between God and man. **Viewed upside down**, the flower/stem takes the form of a heart - source of life, which belongs to and has its origin in God.

Our Lady's appearance is mestiza, both **Aztec and Spanish**, showing the two cultures coming together at this point in history.

The stars on her mantle signify **she comes from heaven** - the Queen of Heaven. The **constellations** are in the **exact position as appeared** before dawn on the morning of December 12, 1531.

Her **hands are joined in prayer** and, therefore, she is not God but clearly there is one greater than she, and she points her finger to the cross on her brooch.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe depicts a **dark ribbon above her womb**, indicating that she is a woman anticipating the birth of God's only Son. The Spanish expression is encinta, "adorned with ribbon."

In the **center of her tunic, overlying her womb**, is a four petal jasmine flower which is the sign of the Divine and the center of the cosmic order to the Aztec. The Virgin's Baby, Jesus, is Divine and the true center of the universe.

The **4-petaled flowers** with leaves on her tunic symbolize to the Aztecs that the fifth-age, the Age of Peace, has begun.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is shown **among the clouds**, representing her divine origin.

Our Lady **stands in front of the sun**. The sun symbolized the **greatest Aztec god** - Huitzilopochtli. She announces the God who is greater than their sun god.



Our Lady stands on the moon. The crescent moon symbolized the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent moon god. She has clearly crushed and defeated him. **The Virgin's shoe**, which appears over the moon, has no color, but is simply the raw tilma. This is inexplicable.

An angel with eagle's wings supports the Mother of God. The eagle was the "bird of the sun." Here the angel is the messenger of the Virgin. The angel wears both a tunic of the same color and a brooch like hers. The angel holds her mantle in one hand and the robe with the other, signifying the Son she bears is from both heaven and earth.

Photo credit: Fr. Timothy Quadehoven, Priest of the Diocese of La Crosse



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Mother of America

The well authenticated story of the five apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary is briefly related here:

1st Apparition: At dawn on December 9, 1531, Juan Diego, an Aztec convert, was going to Tlatelolco to attend catechism class and Holy Mass. As he was passing Tepeyac Hill, he saw birds on the summit and heard the strains of celestial music. Filled with wonder, he stopped. Then he heard a feminine voice asking him to ascend. When he reached the top he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary standing in the midst of a glorious light, in heavenly splendor. The beauty of her youthful countenance and her look of loving kindness filled Juan Diego with unspeakable happiness as he listened to the words which she spoke to him in his native language. She told him she was the perfect and ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God, and made known to him her desire that a shrine be built there where she could demonstrate her love, her compassion and her protection. "For I am your merciful Mother", she said, "to you and to all mankind who love me and trust in me and invoke my help. Therefore, go to the dwelling of the Bishop in Mexico City and say that the Virgin Mary sent you to make known to him her great desire."

2nd Apparition: The Bishop was reluctant to believe Juan Diego's story. Juan returned to Tepeyac Hill where he found the Blessed Virgin waiting for him, and told her of his failure. She bade him return to the Bishop the next day and repeat her wishes.

3rd Apparition: The Bishop then requested that the Lady give him a sign. Juan reported that evening and she promised to grant his petition on the following morning. But Juan was prevented from coming because of a sudden and severe illness of his uncle, Juan Bernardino.

4th Apparition: Two days later, on December 12, as he was going to the Church at Tlatelolco in order to bring a priest to his dying uncle, Juan Diego was stopped by the Lady, who had come down from Tepeyac Hill to meet him in the road. She listened quietly to Juan's excuse for not having kept his appointment with her the day before. When he had finished speaking she said, "It is well, littlest and dearest of my sons, but now listen to me. Do not let anything afflict you and be not afraid of illness or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need? Do not fear for your uncle for he is not going to die. Be assured... he is already well."

Having heard these words, Juan Diego rejoiced and asked for the sign he was to take to the Bishop. He was told to climb to the top of the hill where she had spoken to him on three previous occasions. She said he would find many flowers blooming there which he was to cut and bring to her. Juan Diego did as he was told though he knew no flowers had ever bloomed before on the stony summit. He discovered a marvelous garden of dew-fresh blossoms which he cut as she had asked. Placing them in his rough cloak, or tilma, he brought the flowers to the Lady who rearranged them and told him to take them to the Bishop; that this was the sign to persuade him to carry out her wishes.

When Juan Diego, radiantly happy, stood before Bishop Fray Juan de Zumárraga and told him of the fourth encounter with the Lady, he opened his tilma to show the Bishop the sign; the flowers cascaded to the floor - but to the astonishment of the Bishop and Juan Diego, there appeared upon the coarse fabric of Juan Diego's mantle a marvelously wrought, exquisitely colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her.

5th Apparition: Earlier that same day, December 12, she had also appeared to Juan's uncle, Juan Bernardino, and restored him to health as she had told Juan Diego. Juan Diego was at that time fifty-seven years old; his uncle was sixty-eight. Both had been among the first of the natives to be baptized into the true faith several years before.



The Name of Guadalupe

Juan Bernardino told his nephew the Blessed Virgin had ordered him to relate to the Bishop in what miraculous manner she had cured him. She also told Juan Bernardino her image was to be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe" and thus she has been venerated by this title for nearly five centuries.

The Mantle of Juan Diego

The mantle or tilma on which the Sacred Image of the Blessed Virgin is imprinted is handwoven from the fibers of the Maguey cactus, a fabric which has a life span of little more than thirty years. It is six-and-a-half feet long by forty-two inches wide and has a seam running down the middle.



Located in the Shrine Church - Mexico produced by the Vatican Museum St.

The Sacred Image

Directly on this rough, burlap-like material is the exquisitely delicate figure of Our Lady, four feet, eight inches in height. This authentic portrait of the Virgin Mary has remained fresh and lovely for nearly five centuries and may be viewed today at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City where it occupies the place of honor above and behind the main altar.

The Codex

The Sacred Image is a codex, or picture writing; every detail is symbolic. She is brighter than the sun; her foot rests upon the moon; the stars on her mantle are in the same relative configurations as the stars in the heavens on the morning of December 12, 1531; the northern constellations on her right - the southern constellations on her left. Further, the golden filigree over her rose colored gown matches the topography of the Mexican lands once ruled by the Aztecs.

WORDS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO JUAN DIEGO

"Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of heaven and earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor. Here I will demonstrate, I will exhibit, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities and misfortunes."



Pray for Our Loved Ones

SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES

CW4 Steve Artz
 1st Lt. Nick Car
 A1C Margarita Clayton
 A1C Colin Donovan
 Captain Alex Harms
 SPC Shalice Hood
 SSGT Mark Jurakovich
 SSGT Mike Levesque
 Major Stuart Mark Slattery
 SGT Jack Vilim
 SSG Michael Bosold
 SFC Enrique Andres Cervantes
 Major Tim Doll
 A1C Brianna Herreid
 A1C Nicholas Jones
 LT Bradley Kirschbaum
 CPL Alyssa Rivera
 Steven Thomas
 1st Lt. Christian Waechter

Thank you to all active and non active military members and their families that serve our country. We hold you in our heart and thank you for your service.

Please let Clarice (833-2600) know if there has been a change to the status of your family member.

Resources for Human Needs

SVdP Conference: St. Vincent du Paul Conference (food, rental assistance, school supplies, utilities) Phone messages only 608-205-8276
www.momhelps.org/: Middleton Outreach Ministry (food, rental assistance, utilities, clothing, rides, home chores)
www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html: Women's Care Center (counseling, ultrasound, baby items, parenting class)
www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/: Catholic Charities (adoption, aging services, developmental disabilities, counseling, alcohol - drug abuse treatment, adult day care)
www.cmcmadison.org/: Catholic Multicultural Center (meals, health services, education, job development, immigration legal help)
abuseintervention.org/: Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (crisis response, emergency shelter, support groups)
www.silentnomoreawareness.org: Abortion recovery help and awareness campaign
hopeafterabortion.com: Project Rachel (resources for abortion recovery)
Madison AI-Anon Hotline: support for people troubled by someone else's drinking or drug use - 608-255-5181
www.elizabethhousedane.org: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County (residential maternity and parenting program)
National Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
National Hotline for Sex Trafficking: phone 1-888-373-7888 or text "help" to 233733

The Meaning of Advent Candles

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit, and sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness.

Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent:

1. The Candle of Hope
Color: Purple
 Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming with hope.
2. The Candle of Peace
Color: Purple
 During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming.
3. The Candle of Joy
Color: Pink
 This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.
4. The Candle of Love
Color: Purple
 During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son:

Information taken from:
dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/about-advent/

Online Advent Resources

usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm - A virtual calendar with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever. Daily reflections from Matthew Kelly and other leading Catholic speakers. You'll receive daily inspirational emails with short videos, encouragement, and coaching for Advent.

ewtn.com/advent/calendar.asp Daily readings, reflections and an Advent action. There are also links and videos to history lessons and messages of hope.

adventreflections.com/ daily email from Bishop Robert Baron that are deep yet thoughtful and give you an "action item" each day.

osv.com/portals/4/pdf/30Things_AdventPoster.pdf a printable calendar featuring 30 ways to a stress-free Advent

loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/activities/advent-activities-for-all. Advent activities for children, with ideas for family time.

onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/ Daily reflections. Each page includes a reference to each reading, as well as a link to the text of the readings.

ignatianspirituality.com/advent Ignatian contemplation and reflective prayer encourage us in the season of Advent.

This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday, December 1

SVdP Meeting, Library 9:00 AM
 Ginger Bread House Making, Social Hall 4:00 PM

Monday, December 2

Bereavement Series, Upper Conference Room 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 3

Marian Prayer Cenacle Group, Library 6:00 PM
 Parish Life Committee Meeting, Lower Conference Room 6:15 PM
 SVdP Fellowship Meeting, Bride's Room 6:30 PM
 Alpha, Upper Conference Room 6:45 PM

Wednesday, December 4

Toddler Time, Upper Conference Room and Nursery 9:00 AM
 Advent Confessions, Church 6:45 - 7:15 PM
 Alpha, Social Hall 5:30 PM

Thursday, December 5

Diocesan Trono de Sabiduría, Room 102/104 6:00 PM
 Id9:16, Church and Social Hall 6:00 PM
 The Wild Goose 6:30 PM

Friday, December 6

Caroline Roe's Journey Group, Library 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 7

Children's Choir Rehearsal for Christmas, Music Room 10:30 AM
 Confessions 3:15 PM

Care Facility Liturgies This Week

Oakwood: Friday, December 6, Rosary

Brookdale: Friday, December 6, Word and Communion

Sebring: Sunday, December 8, Word and Communion

Immaculate Conception moved to Monday, December 9, this year and is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass on December 9 will be at 8:30 AM as usual.

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, November 30

4:30 PM Leonard and Joan Vasquez ☩

Sunday, December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Bill Bahr

10:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

6:30 PM Juan Manuel Huerta Montizi ☩

Monday, December 2

8:30 AM Mary Deloris Stiennon ☩

Tuesday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier, Priest

5:30 PM Kreuser Family Living and Deceased ☩

Wednesday, December 4: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Carlos Rojas, Matilde Corona, and Erika Rojas ☩

Thursday, December 5

7:30 AM Greg Olson ☩

Friday, December 6: St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:30 AM Dick Genske ☩

Saturday, December 7

4:30 PM Albert Duckwitz ☩

Sunday, December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM George Reilly ☩

10:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

6:30 PM Carlos Rojas, Abelardo Rojas, and Matilde Corona ☩

Readings for the Week of December 1

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

November and December

Early bulletin deadlines have changed when donations are posted in the bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.

November 16/17

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Counters Schedule

Monday, December 2: Phyllis Reindl and Dick Ihlenfeld

Monday, December 9: Mary Michalski & Cyrilla Wipperfurth

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Padre Bart Timmerman, Párroco

Primer Domingo de Adviento - Año A

Este domingo comienza el nuevo año litúrgico de la Iglesia. Como saben, tenemos un ciclo de lecturas de tres años que escuchamos proclamado en la misa dominical. Ahora entramos en el ciclo de lecturas del año A. Este año, escucharemos el Evangelio de Mateo proclamado en la misa. Mateo fue escrito en los años 80 d.C., después del Evangelio de Marcos, por lo que vemos que utilizó el Evangelio de Marcos como un recurso, tradiciones orales y una tercera fuente. Mateo escribió el Evangelio para la comunidad de discípulos en Antioquía, Siria, que no conocieron a Jesús en persona, pero vivieron su fe en Jesús sin abandonar su fe judía, pero su creencia en Jesús como el Mesías los llevó a tener serios conflictos con sus compañeros judíos, especialmente los fariseos. Este conflicto se ve a lo largo del Evangelio. En el Evangelio de Mateo, Jesús es el verdadero Maestro que tiene un conocimiento integral de las Escrituras judías y la Ley hebrea. Él ofrece una nueva interpretación, que reafirma los valores del Antiguo Testamento y los lleva a su plenitud. En el Evangelio de Mateo, Jesús se nos presenta de una manera judía tradicional al nombrar a 14 generaciones en una genealogía que muestra a Jesús como un israelita, descendiente de Abraham y David, destacando su herencia real. Las constantes referencias de Mateo al Antiguo Testamento muestran el deseo de Mateo de enseñar a su comunidad que Jesús es la plenitud de la ley. Es el único Evangelio sinóptico que menciona explícitamente a la Iglesia y fue escrito para ser proclamado en la asamblea litúrgica. ¡Fue escrito para ser proclamado hasta el fin de la tierra! Que este año sea fructífero para nosotros al reflexionar sobre el Evangelio de Mateo en nuestras misas dominicales.



Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, Domingo 8 de Diciembre

La solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción es la fiesta patronal de los Estados Unidos de América y siempre es un día sagrado de obligación. EXCEPTO en el año cuando cae un domingo. La solemnidad no puede "reemplazar" la

Misa en español

Domingos 6:30 PM

Confesiones

Sábados 3:15 - 4:10 PM y por cita con el párroco

Adoración al Santísimo

Lunes 2:00 - 4:00 PM en la capilla

Martes 4:15 - 5:25 PM en la capilla

Viernes 9:00 - 10:00 AM en la capilla

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Jueves 6:00 PM

Estudio Bíblico en español

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Sacramentos y otros

Para Bautismos, Primera Comunión, Confirmación, Matrimonios y Quinceañeras contacte a Lorianne Aubut. Para la unción de los enfermos contacte a Mary Bailey.

Oración por la Vida

Por todos los fieles: que Dios nos ayude a construir una cultura de la vida esperando vigilantes Su regreso; roguemos al Señor:

celebración de un domingo de Adviento, por lo que la celebración se transfiere al lunes 9 de diciembre. Si bien el día sigue siendo solemne, los fieles no están obligados a asistir a misa. Por lo tanto, solo tenemos una misa programada para la Inmaculada Concepción, que es el lunes 9 de diciembre a las 8:30 AM.

La Inmaculada Concepción es la concepción de la Virgen María en el vientre de su madre, Santa Ana, libre del pecado original por la virtud de los méritos de su Hijo, Jesús. La Iglesia Católica enseña que Dios actuó sobre María en el primer momento de su concepción, manteniéndola "inmaculada", sin la mancha del pecado, incluido el pecado original. Debemos asegurarnos de no confundir la Inmaculada Concepción de María con la Concepción Virginal de Jesús en el vientre de María. También es erróneo pensar que María fue concebida por el Espíritu Santo como lo fue Jesús. Sabemos que María fue concebida de la manera normal y tenía dos padres biológicos: San Joaquín y Santa Ana. Desde el primer instante de la existencia de María, ella estaba en estado de gracia santificante y estaba libre de la naturaleza corrupta que trae el pecado original. Es por eso que el Ángel Gabriel saludó a María y dijo: "Salve, llena de gracia, el Señor está contigo".

St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Update

Last January two members of our St. Thomas Aquinas conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society met with a homeless man at the West Towne Food Court. He had been referred to us by a social worker after he had been shot several times in a drive-by shooting. His extended hospitalization resulted in the loss of his job and eventually the loss of his housing. He and his 5 children had been sleeping on the couches of friends for three months. He had found an apartment but needed help paying the security deposit. Our conference paid his landlord \$500, which, along with donations from some other service agencies, allowed the family to move into their apartment. The father is again employed.

Helping this family was one of the highlights of the past year for our conference. Below is a summary of all the activities of our members in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

Our members made **68 home visits** in the past year, providing help to prevent a utility shutoff or eviction or providing furniture, diapers or just a friendly ear. We also met with 13 other homeless families or individuals.

Requests come from various sources, including our SVdP Service Center, referrals from parish staff, the Lussier Center or neighborhood caseworkers. We also receive calls directly from families in need. Last year we were **contacted by 118 different individuals by phone.**

Last year our conference **spent a total of \$19,378.00 assisting the poor.** We got this money from several sources. We received a \$10,000 grant from the parish Outreach Funding Board. The parish also gave us the proceeds from the Thanksgiving Day Mass collection, and gave us an additional \$1000 to honor our Bishop Don Hying, who is also the national chaplain of our Society. Several parishioners made personal contributions. And our own members contribute money at each monthly meeting. In addition, we were able to distribute \$7,449.51 in assistance provided by grants from the Madison SVdP District Council.

Here are some of the ways that we used the money entrusted to our conference:

- We paid security deposits so that 3 other homeless families could move into housing.
- We made rent payments so that 29 families could avoid eviction.
- We helped 29 families with utility payments to prevent potential shutoff.
- We provided furniture to 19 families and paid the cost of moving it to their residence if they had no way to transport it themselves.

Other highlights of the past year:

- In January one of our members, Ralph Middlecamp, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from in Business magazine for his work with the Society.
- In April one of our members, Kathleen Dare, received a Distinguished Service Award from the United Way for her work with the Society.
- In October one of our members, Mike Meehan, was elected to a 3 year term as president of the SVdP Madison Diocesan Council.
- We delivered 3065 pounds of food and non-perishable items to our SVdP Food Pantry from our 3rd Sunday parish food collections.
- We made up 300 gift tags and distributed gifts donated by parishioners during Advent
- Together with 17 other conferences, we provided Christmas gifts to 466 children at our Little Drummer event in December.
- Together with 17 other conferences, we accepted over 2000 blanket donations before Masses as part of our January Recycle the Warmth collection.
- We co-hosted the annual Mother's Day Baby Shower.
- We provided a chili supper to parishioners enrolled in Alpha this month.

Our current membership includes:

- 15 members who serve as home visitors
- 10 members who volunteer at Vinny's Lockers, storing the belongings of 186 homeless individuals
- 13 members who pick up food donations from local grocery stores and deliver them to our SVdP Food Pantry
- 2 members who planted, weeded, and harvested 9,300 pounds of vegetables for our Food Pantry at the Lacy Food Pantry Garden in Fitchburg
- 7 members (who are also Knights of Columbus) who collected 17,269 pounds of donated produce from Farmer's Markets and delivered it to our Food Pantry
- 8 members who volunteer as hosts, stockers and receptionists at our Food Pantry
- 2 members who volunteer at our SVdP pharmacy for the uninsured
- 2 members who volunteer at the County Jail tutoring inmates or joining them at Mass
- 3 members who volunteer at the Lussier Community Education Center

Since its founding in 2003 our conference has been able to provide 987 families with financial assistance totaling \$217,480.25. We are extremely grateful to Fr. Bart, the parish staff, and our entire parish family for their continued support of our charitable work. We are also very thankful for the generosity of the many parishioners for their donations to our ministry.

Steve Middleton
Conference President