



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 Everglade Drive, Madison WI 53717 • (608) 833-2600 • [stamadison.org](http://stamadison.org) • [parish@stamadison.org](mailto: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

<b>Saturday</b> .....	4:30 PM
<b>Sunday:</b> Masses in English .....	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Misa en español/Mass in Spanish .....	6:30 PM
<b>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</b> .....	8:30 AM
<b>Tuesday</b> .....	5:30 PM
<b>Thursday</b> .....	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, 4:15–5:15 PM

Friday, 9:00–10:00 AM

## Parish Staff, 608-833-2600

**Pastor:** Fr. Bart Timmerman,

**Pastoral Associate:** Erik Gyr, [erik@stamadison.org](mailto:erik@stamadison.org)

**Music Ministries:** Gregory Buchberger, [greg@stamadison.org](mailto:greg@stamadison.org)

**Director of Evangelization and Parish Outreach:**

Jennifer Ludtke, [jennifer@stamadison.org](mailto:jennifer@stamadison.org)

**Director of Discipleship:** Holly Irving, [holly@stamadison.org](mailto:holly@stamadison.org)

**Business Manager:** Patrick O'Loughlin, [patrick@stamadison.org](mailto:patrick@stamadison.org)

**Facilities/Community Minister:**

Ismael Covarrubias, [ismael@stamadison.org](mailto:ismael@stamadison.org)

**Administrative Assistant:** Mary Bailey, [mary@stamadison.org](mailto:mary@stamadison.org)

**Communications:** Clarice Hinrichs, [clarice@stamadison.org](mailto:clarice@stamadison.org)

## Religious Education/Stewardship Office

**Administrative Assistant:** Terri Kopplin,

[terri@stamadison.org](mailto:terri@stamadison.org), 608-833-2606

**Children and Families/Hispanic Ministry:** Lorianne Aubut,

[lorianne@stamadison.org](mailto:lorianne@stamadison.org), 608-833-2600

**Middle/High School:** Dominick Meyer,

[dominick@stamadison.org](mailto:dominick@stamadison.org), 608-821-4867

"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Jn 4:10



"Si conocieras el don de Dios y quién es el que te pide de beber, tú le pedirías a él, y él te daría agua viva."

Jn 4,10

**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**March 15, 2020**

**Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma**  
**15 de marzo de 2020**



## Fr. Bart Timmerman, Pastor

### Third Sunday of Lent

Our preaching series on healing is now entering the third week.

On the First Sunday of Lent we reflected on the importance of healing as part of our being able to give our lives to Jesus Christ. We began Lent by trying to discover what area in our lives needs healing. We were encouraged to show this wound to Jesus, ask to be healed, and trust that Jesus can do this for us. This is a process and we want to keep praying and keep inviting Jesus into our lives to heal and save us.

Last Sunday we realized the healing power of the Mass. That at Mass we are reminded how much God loves us and what he has done to save us. In the Eucharist, we receive the pure love of Jesus Christ, we receive Jesus Himself and this is healing for us. There are mountain top experiences in our lives, like the Transfiguration. These experiences of God's glory and God's love, keep us hopeful and faithful during the sorrows of life. What are some of your mountain top experiences? Let these be your assurance of hope and final victory in Jesus our Savior!

Today we dive into the spiritual meaning of Jesus healing of the invisible wound of the woman Jesus meets at the well. We have been working on being a welcoming and inviting parish. But what are we inviting people into? We want to be a place of healing for people so that they can encounter Jesus Christ in a life changing way. What is causing the wounds in our families and in our community? We believe that our Church has the miracle of life-giving water to offer to our broken world. This living water is for those who are hurting, those who feel like outsiders, those who are in need of healing. Let us be this living water to one another and to all who enter our doors and all those who we encounter.

### Week of March 8-14 honored Catholic Women Religious

Last week, events around the country marked National Catholic Sisters Week. It was the sixth annual celebration of women religious taking place during National Women's History Month. The weeklong celebration is intended to honor our nation's 45,605 women religious and the sisters before them who founded schools and hospitals. These sisters were, and continue to be, missionaries, contemplatives, activists and spiritual leaders. To mark this year's celebration, we are including an intercession this Sunday, praying for women of our Church to consider a vocation to Religious Life or Lay Ministry in the Church. According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, based at Georgetown University, more than 100 women became sisters in 2017, ranging from 24 to 86 years old and the average age was 36.

It is important for us to recognize and appreciate the role of women in our Church and in our society. St. Pope John Paul II explained why women are the reflection of the loftiest goals of all human hearts:

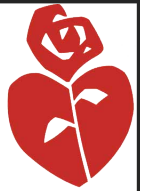
*"This Marian dimension of Christian life takes on special importance in relation to women and their status. In fact, femininity has a unique relationship with the Mother of the Redeemer, a subject which can be studied in greater depth elsewhere. Here I simply wish to note that the figure of Mary of Nazareth sheds light on womanhood as such by the very fact that God, in the sublime event of the Incarnation of his Son, entrusted himself to the ministry, the free and active ministry of a woman. It can thus be said that women, by looking to Mary, find in her the secret of living their femininity with dignity and of achieving their own true advancement. In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the*

## Prayer for Life

May all who have been wounded by abortion be filled with the hope that does not disappoint, and be healed by Christ; We pray to the Lord:

## Prayer for Justice

May our Lenten journeys bear the fruit of conversion to live more fully Jesus's call to reach out to "the other" and speak out for the needs of the lowly; We pray to the Lord:



*face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable: the self-offering totality of love; the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest sorrows; limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement. — St. John Paul II Redemptoris Mater (46)*

## Women in Scripture

Besides Mary the Mother of Jesus and Elizabeth the Mother of John the Baptist, women are also among the early followers of Jesus. Luke 8: 1-3, introduces us to some women by name: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others who provided for Jesus and the Twelve out of their resources. Mary Magdalene's relationship with Jesus continues throughout his life, death, and resurrection. She becomes known as the Apostle to the Apostles and is a Saint. Each Gospel writer attests that some of these women and other women were at the crucifixion and the resurrection. Faithful and courageous, they would remain with Jesus at a time when most of his male followers desert him. In the Acts of the Apostles, we are introduced to Priscilla (Acts 18: 1-3) and Lydia (Acts 16:14) who were great helpers of St. Paul in his evangelization efforts.

In the coming weeks we will notice the role many women played in the life of Jesus and in the birth of our Church. Their examples inspire us to love Jesus, open ourselves completely to receive the message of Christ, and actively share the Good News of the Gospel with others!

## COMMUNITIES OF SPIRIT, HEARTS FOR MINISTRY

Catholic Sisters Week  
March 8-14



## Lent Is Here!

### Stations of the Cross *(no incense)*

Tuesdays, March 17–31, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 PM

### Stations in Spanish (El Viacrucis)

Domingo, March 29, 7:30–8:00 PM

### Confession During Lent

Sunday, March 29, 11:00 AM–noon

Wednesday, April 1, 7:–00–8:00 PM

Saturdays, March 14–April 13, 3:15–4:15 PM

Sundays, March 15–April 14, 9:00–9:45 AM

### Confesiones en español

Sunday/domingo, March 29: 5:30–8:00 PM

Saturdays/sábados, March 14–April 13, 3:15–4:15 PM

### Adoration

Mondays: 2:00–4:00 PM in Chapel

Tuesdays: 4:15–5:15 PM in Chapel

Fridays: 9:00–10:00 AM in Chapel

### Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, April 5:

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7: **No** 5:30 PM Mass at STA

Diocesan Chrism Mass, 7:30 PM at St. Maria Goretti

Holy Thursday, April 9: **No** 7:30 AM Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 PM *(incense, bilingual)*

Good Friday, April 10: **No** 8:30 AM Mass

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 1:00 PM *(no incense)*

Servicio de Viernes Santo, 3:30 PM *(en español)*

### Easter Vigil Mass

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 PM *(incense, bilingual)*

**No** 4:30 PM Mass

### Easter Sunday, April 12

8:00 AM in Church *(incense)*

10:00 AM in Church *(incense)*

10:15 AM in Social Hall *(no incense)*

**No** 6:30 PM Mass

## Lenten Reflections on FORMED

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Join us as we journey throughout Lent toward a life with a deeper reliance and acceptance of Christ's love that waits to envelop us.

Receive short, daily videos and applicable challenges from Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray straight to your inbox every morning to fuel your Lenten journey. For more information, check out [formed.org/lent](http://formed.org/lent)



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## MAKE DISCIPLES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your generous support of our Make Disciples Capital Campaign.

As of March 9:

Campaign Goal ..... \$3,500,000

Amount Pledged to Date..... \$3,015,495

Received to Date ..... \$989,317

Number of Households Participating..... 465



### A Prayer By Father Andrew Gawrych, CSC

Lord Jesus, like the angels in heaven, may our hearts rejoice over the sinner who repents, over the doubting who find faith, over the despairing who find hope, over the lonely who find love. And then, with you, may we zealously seek out the lost of our world, so that, like us, they may find their true home in you. Amen.

### Care for Creation—A Lenten Journey

Let us reflect on Jesus's words, "... whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Consider how we thirst for that water, particularly when we examine our consciences and focus on our sinfulness.

That sinfulness displays itself in many ways, one of which is our excessive use of the Earth's resources. The average North American uses 10 times more natural resources per day than the average person in a very poor country according to a statistical estimate by Friends of the Earth.

What would it look like to live more simply, using fewer resources? (The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, *Lenten Reflection Guide 2020*)

"God calls us as caretakers of the Earth not simply to take the Earth's resources for our own benefit, but to use the Earth's resources to praise, reverence, and serve God....[Let us] ask for the grace to reconcile [our] relationship with God, Creation and humanity." (From the Ignatian Solidarity Network Ecological Examen)

## Save the Date!!!

### TOTUS TUUS 2020:

#### Summer Camp for Children

Our parish will once again host TOTUS TUUS! We will have this summer camp for children the week of July 13 – 17. Registration with details will be available on April 4.



### FUN raiser!

**Question:** What's an Awesome Way to Spend an Evening?

**Answer:** Trivia Night at Saint Thomas Church.

Come join us on May 16 for our 7th Annual Spring Fling Trivia Night. Enjoy a Mexican feast, trivia, wine pull and drinks.

Participants are able to sign up a whole team or be assigned to a team. Team members do not need to be members of STA. Not a Trivia expert? Not to worry. Come for good food, fun trivia questions and meet a few new people. Who knows...maybe you'll know the winning answer!

**Location:** Saint Thomas Aquinas

**Date:** May 16

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Cost:** \$15. A person

Sign-ups coming soon!

### A Visit to the Holy Land: Bringing Jesus to Life

**Monday, March 30, 6:30-8:00 PM**

**In the Gathering Area**

Jesus walked this earth in the flesh two thousand years ago. Have you wondered what His surroundings were like? Where did the shepherds watch their flocks by night? Was He actually born in a stable? How big is the Sea of Galilee? Where did He sleep the night He was arrested? Parishioner Laura Angle recently took a trip to the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked. Come see pictures of holy sites in Israel and listen as she shares her experiences getting to know Jesus to bring to life the gospel stories.



### STA Singles Dinner Out

Join the St. Thomas Aquinas Singles for their monthly dinner at Nonno's Ristorante Italiano, 704 S Whitney Way, Madison on Thursday, March 26 at 6 PM. RSVP by Tuesday, March 24 to Jill at 1-608-604-3070 or jillymoose18@yahoo.com.

### Exploring Lectio Divina in a Small Group

Starting March 16, and meeting approximately every other week, this small group meets in the home of the hosts (about 5 minutes from STA) and will use a book called *Praying Scripture for a Change*. This short and practical book will help participants to see how God continues to speak to us through the richness of scripture. To sign up, or for more information, contact Joel at galangjs628@gmail.com or Jenny Ludtke.

### Healing Series at Saint Andrew's, Verona

A 4-week program for those seeking encouragement and support on the journey through grief to new hope. Learn about coping with the emotions, spiritual elements and process of grief along with making and keeping memories. Share your experience as you feel comfortable. Refreshments provided.

Parish Center Mother Teresa Room from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on Saturday March 14, 21, 28, and April 4

Please join us for any or all the sessions to heal and find peace. For more info, please contact Audrey Janssen at 608-845-3003 or [ajanssen@tds.net](mailto:ajanssen@tds.net).

### Feed My Sheep 2020

Feed My Sheep is an annual food packaging event in partnership with the Rock County Rotary. The Westside Catholic Youth Network Parishes are organizing the ninth annual event. This is a great way to serve as an individual, family, and Parish. New and returning volunteers are needed! It is no coincidence that Feed My Sheep takes place during Lent. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Feed My Sheep can be a Lenten project for individuals or families to grow in prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. When we think globally and act locally, we really can begin to change the world! Anyone 3-103 years old can volunteer to serve at Feed My Sheep. The packaging day is Saturday, March 28. If you would like to sign up please go to [feedmysheepmadison.com/](http://feedmysheepmadison.com/).



### Could I really help run a food pantry?

Yes! You could! Our neighbors at the Lussier Community Education Center have a food pantry, and a small team (4-6 people) from St. Thomas Aquinas are the hosts on the second Wednesday each month from 7-8 PM. This is a great opportunity because of the limited time commitment, and the evening timeframe doesn't conflict with the workday. St. Thomas and LCEC have had a long history, and as good neighbors (only a few blocks apart) this is a great way to build our relationship and have a strong, positive presence in support of their many good works. Interested, curious? Contact Jenny Ludtke or Grace Phelps, our parishioner who coordinates each month, [graniap@chartermi.net](mailto:graniap@chartermi.net).



## This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

### Sunday, March 15

Food Sunday Collection

Confessions ..... 9:00 AM  
Talleres de Oración y Vida, Room 102/104 ..... 4:00 PM

### Monday, March 16

Outreach Funding Review Board, Lower Conference Room ..... 6:30 PM  
YA Small Group, Upper Conference Room ..... 6:30 PM

### Tuesday, March 17

Journey Group, Bride's Room ..... 1:00 PM  
Marian Prayer Cenacle Group, Library ..... 6:00 PM  
Men's Evening of Recollection, Chapel ..... 6:00 PM  
SVdP Conference Meeting, Upper Conference Room ..... 6:30 PM  
Journey Group, Bride's Room ..... 6:30 PM  
YA Men's Group, Room 102-104 ..... 7:00 PM

### Wednesday, March 18

Spanish Journey Group, Small Social Hall ..... 6:00 PM  
Journey Group, Lower Conference Room ..... 6:30 PM

### Thursday, March 19

Spanish Rosary, Church ..... 6:00 PM  
Parish Choir Rehearsal, Music Room ..... 6:30 PM  
Spanish Bible Study, Lower Conference Room ..... 7:00 PM

### Friday, March 20

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

### Saturday, March 21

STACKS, Room 102-104 ..... 1:00 PM  
Confessions ..... 3:15 PM

### Sunday, March 22

Confessions ..... 9:00 AM  
Faithful Citizenship Video, Library ..... 9:00 and 11:00 AM  
Talleres de Oración y Vida, Room 102/104 ..... 4:00 PM

## Care Facility Liturgies This Week

**Oakwood:** Friday, March 20, Rosary

**Brookdale:** Wednesday, March 20, Word and Communion

**Sebring:** Sunday, March 22, Word and Communion

### Monthly Envelope and Offertory Income

#### Actual vs. Budget for February 2020

Budgeted	\$89,863
Actual	\$89,105
Variance Month	(\$758)

#### Fiscal Year to Date Actual vs. Budget (July - February)

Budgeted	\$850,782
Actual	\$838,962
Variance Year to Date	(\$11,820)

The January collection report overstated Envelope and offertory income by about \$10,000. That has been corrected in this report.

## Mass Intentions for This Week

### Saturday, March 14

4:30 PM Living and Deceased members of the Theis & Pertzborn families

### Sunday, March 15: 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Phil Olson ☩  
10:00 AM Kathy Liegel ☩  
6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

### Monday, March 16

8:30 AM Mary Matuska ☩

### Tuesday, March 17: St. Patrick, Bishop; St. Patrick's Day

5:30 PM Jim Leonard ☩

### Wednesday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Luz G. Robledo ☩

### Thursday, March 19: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 AM Mary Hendrickson ☩

### Friday, March 20

8:30 AM Liberación

### Saturday, March 21

4:30 PM Stella Keyes ☩

### Sunday, March 22: 4th Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners  
10:00 AM Kirsten Vanderscheuren ☩  
6:30 PM Humberto y Rogelio Macias ☩

## Readings for the Week of March 15

**Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/  
Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf. Ps 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/  
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

**Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/  
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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### Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

#### March 7/8

Offertory / Envelopes ..... \$11,513  
Building Fund and Capital Improvement Fund ..... \$687

#### Counters Schedule

Monday, March 23: Phyllis Reindl and Dick Ihlenfeld  
Monday, March 30: Mary Michalski and Cyrilla Wipperfurth

If you have donated food in the last two months and have not picked up your dish please do so before Sunday, March 22, or your dish will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you

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# Parroquia Santo Tomás de Aquino

## Ama a Dios. Ama a los Demás. Haz Discípulos!

Somos una parroquia Católica donde las personas presencian a Jesucristo de una manera que cambia la manera en la que viven.



## Padre Bart Timmerman, Párroco

### Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma



Nuestra serie de predicación sobre sanación está entrando en la tercera semana.

El primer domingo de Cuaresma reflexionamos sobre la importancia de la curación como parte de nuestra capacidad de entregar nuestras vidas a Jesucristo. Comenzamos la Cuaresma tratando de descubrir qué área de nuestras vidas necesita curación. Nos animaron a mostrarle esta herida a Jesús, pedir ser sanados y confiar en que Jesús puede hacer esto por nosotros. Este es un proceso y queremos seguir orando e invitando a Jesús a nuestras vidas para sanarnos y salvarnos.

El domingo pasado nos dimos cuenta del poder curativo de la Misa. Que en la Misa se nos recuerda cuánto Dios nos ama y lo que ha hecho para salvarnos. En la Eucaristía, recibimos el amor puro de Jesucristo, recibimos a Jesús mismo y esto es una curación para nosotros. Hay experiencias en la cima de las montañas en nuestras vidas, como la Transfiguración. Estas experiencias de la gloria y el amor de Dios, nos mantienen esperanzados y fieles durante las penas de la vida. ¿Cuáles son algunas de tus experiencias en la cima de la montaña? ¿Que sean su garantía de esperanza y victoria final en Jesús nuestro Salvador!

Hoy nos sumergimos en el significado espiritual de Jesús sanando la herida invisible de la mujer que Jesús encuentra en el pozo. Hemos estado trabajando para ser una parroquia acogedora y que invita. ¿Pero a qué estamos invitando a la gente? Queremos ser un lugar de curación para las personas para que puedan encontrar a Jesucristo de una manera que les cambie la vida. ¿Qué está causando las heridas en nuestras familias y en nuestra comunidad? Creemos que nuestra Iglesia tiene el milagro de la vida dando agua para ofrecer a nuestro mundo roto. Esta agua viva es para aquellos que están sufriendo, aquellos que se sienten extraños, aquellos que necesitan curación. Seamos esta agua viva el uno para el otro y para todos los que entran por nuestras puertas y todos aquellos con quienes nos encontramos.

### La semana del 8 al 14 de marzo honrando a las religiosas católicas

Es importante para nosotros reconocer y apreciar el papel de la mujer en nuestra Iglesia y en nuestra sociedad. El Papa Juan Pablo II explicó por qué las mujeres son el reflejo de los objetivos más elevados de todos los corazones humanos:

## 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

## Rosarios en español

Jueves 6:00 PM

## Estudio Bíblico en español

Jueves 7:00 PM

## Contactos del ministerio hispano

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608-833-2600

Jennifer Ludtke Jennifer@stamadison.org  
608-833-2600

## Secretarias parroquiales

Mary Bailey mary@stamadison.org 833-2600

Terri Kopplin terri@stamadison.org 833-2600

## 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.

“Esta dimensión mariana de la vida cristiana adquiere especial importancia en relación con las mujeres y su condición. De hecho, la femineidad tiene una relación única con la Madre del Redentor, un tema que puede estudiarse con mayor profundidad en otros lugares. Aquí simplemente deseo señalar que la figura de María de Nazaret arroja luz sobre la femineidad como tal por el hecho mismo de que Dios, en el sublime evento de la Encarnación de su Hijo, se confió al ministerio, el ministerio libre y activo de un mujer. Por lo tanto, se puede decir que las mujeres, al mirar a María, encuentran en ella el secreto de vivir su femineidad con dignidad y lograr su propio avance verdadero. A la luz de María, la Iglesia ve en el rostro de las mujeres el reflejo de una belleza que refleja los sentimientos más elevados de los que es capaz el corazón humano: la totalidad del amor que se ofrece a sí mismo; la fuerza que es capaz de soportar las mayores penas; fidelidad ilimitada y devoción incansable al trabajo; La capacidad de combinar la intuición penetrante con palabras de apoyo y aliento. - *San Juan Pablo II Redemptoris Mater* (46)

## Confesiones en español

Los sábados, 14 de marzo—4 de abril, 3:15-4:15 PM

Domingo, 29 de marzo: 5:30—8:00 PM

Miércoles, 1 de abril: 7:00—8:00 PM

## Adoración

Lunes: 2:00—4:00 PM en la Capilla

Martes: 4:15-5:15 PM en la Capilla

Viernes: 9:00—10:00 AM en la Capilla

## El Viacrucis

En español: domingo, 29 de marzo, 7:30—8:00 PM

En inglés: los martes, 3-31 de marzo a las 6:00 PM

Miércoles, 18 de marzo, 6:00 PM





March 12, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Madison,

There is a great deal of information coming out with regard to the current COVID-19 outbreak, but a great deal remains unknown. What is clear, based on worldwide data and the best advice from public health experts, is that it is important for us to do what we can to diminish opportunities for the spread of this virus. It is certainly important that we not panic and that we keep our trust firmly in the Lord, His promise to remain with us, and our ultimate promise of Eternal Life. It is also important for us to take precautions to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Currently the best steps we can take in that regard seem to involve creating a sort of firewall, diminishing the opportunities for the spread of this virus, while some degree of containment is still possible.

Therefore, in addition to the directions and suggestions already given to pastors, I feel it is now a good time to remind the faithful of a few things and to offer a dispensation.

While it's often forgotten, even though we are encouraged to receive more frequently, no Catholic is obliged to receive Holy Communion more than one time per year (specifically, at least once during the Easter Season).<sup>1</sup> As such, if at any Mass (whether during this scare or at other times) a member of the faithful is concerned with reception of communion due to their being immunocompromised or to a sense that they may be ill, they should not feel obliged to receive communion sacramentally. Those who do not receive communion may still participate faithfully in the true sacrifice that is being offered and to make a spiritual communion – uniting themselves spiritually with Our Lord and with the whole Church.

Attending Mass on Sundays and holy days is a serious obligation, but those who cannot attend Mass due to illness or other grave reasons are not bound by this obligation. To go a step further, however, **I am issuing a decree, dispensing everyone in the Diocese of Madison from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until further notice from me.** This means that all Catholics are permitted to miss Mass on Sundays for the foreseeable future, without being concerned that they are neglecting their minimal duties to assist at Mass.

This is not to say that the faithful are prohibited from attending Mass – no one is obligated to use this dispensation. However, it is encouraged that everyone takes seriously this dispensation and take liberal advantage of it, keeping in mind also the recommendation from the Wisconsin Department of Health to avoid large community gatherings – particularly large intergenerational

**O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P**

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gatherings - at this time. In a particular way, we encourage the elderly and those who are immunocompromised not to attend Mass.

Obviously, I highly encourage those who decide not to attend Mass to keep up their lives of prayer. In fact, while I am not binding the faithful in this regard, I highly encourage that those people who do not attend Mass undertake some other pious practice in place of Mass. Examples of the types of practices include prayerfully watching the Mass, either televised or on various streaming options, or reciting the rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours.

At the same time, I strongly urge – very strongly, in fact – that priests do not stop saying Masses. The Eucharistic Sacrifice is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the representation of Christ’s Sacrifice on the Cross. It is the most powerful prayer that we can offer now, and we, as the Church, should carry on this prayer. It may make sense for priests to reduce their Mass schedules, but the reduced schedules should be clearly advertised. Further, priests are encouraged to offer the Mass at least daily – even if one is not publicly scheduled and even if none of the people are present.

For the days on which the liturgical norms permit, I encourage priests to offer regularly a “Mass for Various Occasions,” particularly #45 “For the Sick” or any options of #48 “In Any Need.” For Sunday Masses, the Masses of Lent still are to be prayed.

I also invite all of the faithful to offer particular prayers for our communities and for our world during this period of health crisis. In a particular way, I would encourage us to remember the intercession of the patron of our diocese, St. Raphael, who is also a patron of the sick and of healthcare workers, and whose very name means, “God heals.” In addition, at the conclusion of this document, I will include a prayer of intercession to Our Lady, drawn from a traditional chant sung in “times of pestilence,” which I encourage to be recited.

### **Uniting while “distancing”**

The phrase “social distancing” seems to be popular to describe the move for individuals to stay home and avoid crowds and other gatherings. However, while we are considering social distancing, I take this opportunity to remind all of us that, no matter the distance or our decision not to gather physically, we are never alone. The Lord is always with us and among us. And, so long as we are united to Him, we are alive in His Body, the Church. In this way, we may create “social distance,” but deepen our corporate closeness in Him.

With events being cancelled and work hours reduced, we should be communing more frequently in prayer with our God, remaining in mystical communion with Him and the Universal Church, and always remembering our duty to charity. We should not close in upon ourselves, but continue to reach out – even if over the phone or electronic means – to check in with one another, to reconnect, and to attend to the needs of our neighbors as we are able. Consider this moment a moment of opportunity.

### **Catholic Schools**

The Office of Catholic Schools has been in constant communication with individual Catholic schools and will continue to communicate, while also monitoring the various resources at their

disposal for best practices (which seem to change by the hour). Catholic school families should expect ongoing communication from their school administrators.

### **Other Events**

In terms of parish and school events that are not Masses and do not relate to the instruction of students, it is encouraged that each parish and school consider the cancellation of other events – particularly those events that are easily cancelable in the next few days.

Please know of my fervent prayers for you all. Let us rejoice in knowing the goodness of the Lord and let us continue to pray for and support one another.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Donald J. Hying  
Bishop of Madison

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### **A Prayer in Times of Pestilence**

The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. May this bright Star now vouchsafe to extinguish that foul constellation whose battles have slain the people with the wound of death.

O most pious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honors Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee.

V: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) #2042; *Code of Canon Law* (CIC), Can. 920



## The Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass and Parish Liturgies

Diocese of Madison | Office of Worship  
March 12, 2020

Bishop Donald Hying has decreed that all Catholics in the Diocese of Madison are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays until further notice. In addition to the concern for parishioners' health, this also is being done as an act of charity to the rest of our community, where hospitals and public health entities are overwhelmed. The governor has declared a state of emergency and public health officials are encouraging people to suspend all public events that will have large numbers of people in attendance. By our action, combined with the action of many other denominations and organizations in the secular community, we hope to slow down the advance of this virus and protect the most vulnerable in our midst.

This dispensation applies to all Sunday Masses (including Saturday evening Masses of anticipation), for all Catholics, both those who use the Ordinary Form and the Extraordinary Form.

There are many practical issues that arise. Here are some answers to anticipated questions to assist diocesan parishes with their plans.

- 1. Isn't it a mortal sin to miss Sunday Mass?** Normally it is. The Bishop has decreed that *all* Catholics are dispensed from this obligation until further notice. This means it is not a sin to stay home from Mass.
- 2. Can I still attend Mass?** While no one is bound to make use of this dispensation or prohibited from attending Mass, Bishop Hying urges all the faithful to weigh carefully the decision whether to attend Mass, taking into account not only the risk to themselves but also the risk of spreading the disease to others, especially the most vulnerable, particularly in light of the fact that unknowing carriers of the virus may be asymptomatic.
- 3. Is there something I can do at home?** Yes! We want your prayer life to continue at home. You could read the Scripture of the Day (available at [www.usccb.org/readings](http://www.usccb.org/readings)), watch a televised Mass, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, pray the rosary or simply pray in your own words. The Office of Worship will post other ideas on its website ([www.madisondiocese.org/worship](http://www.madisondiocese.org/worship)) beginning on Friday, March 13.

4. **Are all Parish Masses canceled?** No. Pastors, while they should continue to celebrate daily and Sunday Masses, may decide to reduce the number of Masses if warranted, being careful to communicate such decisions to the faithful clearly and with sufficient advance notice. Conversely, pastors may choose to add additional Masses so as to ensure that a smaller number of the faithful attend each Mass, provided that the norms regarding bination and trination are observed, again being careful to communicate schedule changes clearly with the faithful of the parish.

In particular, Bishop Hying is asking priests to periodically use the Mass formulary from *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions*. The two most appropriate are No 45: *For the Sick* and No 48: *In Any Need*, which has three separate sets of prayers. These can be used on some weekdays, but not on Sunday.

5. **If I go to Sunday Mass, can I still receive Holy Communion?** Yes. No one is required to receive Holy Communion, but if you are properly disposed and want to, you may receive (with hands flat, if receiving on the hand; with tongue extended and head tipped slightly back, if receiving on the tongue, so as to avoid any physical contact with the minister).
6. **Should there be liturgical ministers at each Mass?** We're leaving this to the discretion of the local pastor. If you livestream Mass on the internet or broadcast your Mass, you may choose to invite someone to be a lector or to play the organ. Please be sure that they are not in the categories of those especially vulnerable to this virus. If it is a "private Mass," liturgical ministers won't be needed. Since it is likely that few people will be in attendance or receiving Holy Communion, please do not use unnecessary Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Commentators, Gift Bearers, Greeters and Ushers, Cantors or Choirs.
7. **I'm healthy and my Spirituality is very important to me. Couldn't I attend Mass?** No one is prohibited from attending Mass, but as mentioned above in no. 2, this defeats some of the reason for why we have taken this extreme measure. Please follow the Bishop's decree regarding this.
8. **Should we still have choir practice or other such gatherings?** Again, the decision is left to the pastor and musicians of the parish. While smaller groups appear to be safer, singing in a choir usually involves a number of people in very close quarters with their mouths open, taking full breaths. Also, some choirs have a higher percentage of elderly, and they are at the greatest risk. However, choirs of all ages may wish to suspend rehearsals since they won't be singing at Mass.
9. **How long will this continue?** We don't know. We hope that we will be able to celebrate Mass as a community soon. The decree says that this dispensation remains in effect until you receive an announcement from the Bishop revoking it.
10. **It's Lent and I'd like to go to confession. Can I?** We're leaving this to the discretion of the priest, but confessions are permitted and certainly encouraged.

The Diocesan Office of Worship will prepare prayers and other suggestions for parishes and the people of the diocese. Please see our webpage ([www.madisondiocese.org/worship](http://www.madisondiocese.org/worship)) or Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/WorshipMadison/](http://www.Facebook.com/WorshipMadison/)) for updates and other material regarding the liturgy.