



**CATHEDRAL of
ST. BERNARD
of CLAIRVAUX**

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."*
-Luke 1: 38



MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS

MONDAY 6:30pm (2nd-5th)
TUESDAY-FRIDAY 7:45am
1st SATURDAY 7:45am, with
confessions following

The Rosary is prayed after daily Mass. For a full listing of daily Mass devotional prayers, please visit our website or call the office.

WEEKENDS

SATURDAY 4:30pm
SUNDAY 8:00am & 10:00am
Confessions 9:15am

PRAYER LINE

The parish has many dedicated parishioners ready to assist you with prayer in times of need. To place your intentions on the Prayer Line, please call Carol (244-4817).

CONTACT

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DIOCESE of
MADISON

PASTOR’S PULSE ON THE PARISH



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 7
2025

Dear Friends,
In his first apostolic visit to the faithful in Turkey and Lebanon, Pope Leo was asked about his core spirituality on his return flight to Rome as he visited with over 80 journalists and members of the media.

What defines Robert Prevost? What is the overarching theme of Pope Leo’s response to the heart of the Lord? It was a loaded question, but one which was met with a very simple, but profound response.

The holy father responded with a simple statement of faith, in which he said that Christ leads, and he follows. He revealed that he was looking forward to his retirement, but the Lord had other plans for him. He responds to the Lord’s will with peace and a desire to follow.

Our will versus God’s will

I’ve thought a lot about this response, and really, it should define every one of us in the spiritual life. There is a constant battle going on in our lives, and it has to do with what we want versus what the Lord wants.

It’s quite easy to fulfill our passions and desires, but it becomes more difficult when the Lord is asking something of us that we’d rather not entertain. “Yet not my will, but yours be done,” are the words of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane before His passion.

We may hear the Lord very clearly and it is succinctly revealed what it is we are to do, but we are displeased and uncomfortable with what might come about from the results of what the Lord is asking.

To give a concrete example of what this looks like, we can look to St. Joseph. God asked him to take Mary into his home after the Annunciation. It put St. Joseph in



a difficult position, but despite those difficulties, he did what God asked. From that decision, many graces blossomed.

Let Our Lord take the lead

So often, we tend to be narrow-minded thinkers. We think of the immediate situation at hand, but we might not think as much about what lies in the future. What are the long-range ramifications of my decision? Am I inviting the Lord into the decision that’s being made? Am I allowing the Lord to lead, or am I the one leading and asking Jesus to follow?

As we continue in our Advent journey, friends, the command of the Lord is clear: “Let me take the lead, because I know what is good for you.” As we prepare to allow Jesus to enter our hearts once again, perhaps this is something that we can ponder and consider as we look to the joy of Christmas.

Rejoicing with Mary

As we celebrate our Lady’s Immaculate Conception this coming week, we recall the great moment when Mary, conceived without original sin, was marked for her special role in salvation history. Special grace was given her to say “yes” to God’s holy will, and she was prepared for that moment at the moment of her conception.

We rejoice with Mary in knowing that, we, too, having been given special

“As we continue in our Advent journey, friends, the command of the Lord is clear: ‘Let me take the lead, because I know what is good for you.’”

- Fr. Michael

graces and gifts to give our ascent to the Lord and allow Him to work in us, bringing about great things that will touch the hearts of many.

Construction updates

Lots of activity to report from the past week! Finishes continue in earnest with the delivery of appliances and furniture in the rectory. The remaining portions of floor were coated, and our post-construction cleaners have begun some of their work as well.

The reredos and altar of sacrifice are the focus of the current woodworking, along with the casework for the organ in the choir loft. Staining of the niches is also underway. The electricians are starting to hang more of our new lighting fixtures in the church, so that is an exciting development!

We have received permission to pour the footings for the mausoleum in the hopes that full construction will take place at a later time. Getting the footings in will allow us to remove the makeshift gravel wall that gets equipment up into the courtyard area. If the mausoleum isn’t constructed immediately, the footings will be there for future construction which can take place at any time.

We’re also exploring sign options with the City of Madison for occasional advertising of events, special Masses, etc. More on that as we learn additional information from the city.

As the Israelites went forth with the fire of God to lead them, may our hearts allow the Lord to lead us so that we may truly be His instruments in bringing holiness to all those we encounter.

With love in the Sacred Heart,
Fr. Michael

OUR GIFT OF TREASURE

2024-25 OFFERTORY BUDGET

Envelopes.....\$370,000.00
Loose (Cash).....\$ 75,000.00
TOTAL.....\$445,000.00

NEEDED EACH WEEK.....\$ 8,558.00

OFFERTORY:

November 30, 2025 (Week 22 of 52)

Envelopes.....\$ 610.00
e-Offertory November...\$ 8,726.05
Loose.....\$ 539.00
St. Vincent de Paul...\$ 800.00
TOTAL.....\$ 10,675.05

OFFERTORY PROGRESS:

Collected to date.....\$172,830.55
Needed to date.....\$188,276.00
Surplus/(Shortfall)...(155,445.45)

Cathedral of St. Bernard

OVER 180 CHANCES TO WIN!!

CALENDAR Raffle Tickets

Pick up your tickets today!

Ticket stubs can be returned with a check payable to the Cathedral of St. Bernard through the offertory basket, by mail, or drop them off in the Parish Office through the mail slot.

Contact the Parish Office to purchase tickets by credit card!

Only 400 tickets will be sold - each ticket has a chance to win each day from January 1 to June 30, 2026!

Raffle Ticket Sales Progress

Our goal is to sell 400 tickets! We have currently sold 137 or 34% of our goal. We still need to sell 263 or 66% more!

Tickets sold
Tickets to reach goal

34%

66%

PEACE IN THE WOMB

Starting at 3pm on Friday, Dec. 12, join others in pro-life Christmas caroling in front of Planned Parenthood, 3706 Orin Rd., Madison. “In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.” For more information, call Cecile Gregory at 608-792-3487.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, December 8th Immaculate Conception of the BVM (S)
The Second Week of Advent
Gen 3:9-15, 20 ✕ Ps 98 ✕ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 ✕ Lk 1:26-38

12Noon L & D of Fetting & Petroviak Families †

Following Rosary

Tuesday, December 9th St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (m)
Is 40:1-11 ✕ Ps 96 ✕ Matt 18:12-14

7:45am Tom Watts †

Following Rosary

Wednesday, December 10th Our Lady of Loreto (m)
Is 40:25-31 ✕ Ps 103 ✕ Matt 11:28-30

7:45am In honor of Fr. Greg Ihm

Following Rosary

Thursday, December 11th St. Damasus I (m)
Is 41:13-20 ✕ Ps 145 ✕ Matt 11:11-15

7:45am Gerald Kujawa †

Following Rosary

Friday, December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)
Zec 2:14-17 ✕ Judith 13:18bcde, 19 ✕ Lk 1:26-38

7:45am Patricia O’Driscoll †

Following Rosary

Saturday, December 13th St. Lucy (M)
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 ✕ Ps 80 ✕ Matt 17:9a, 10-13

8:00am Holy Mass at the Schoenstatt Shrine

Sunday, December 14th Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10 ✕ Ps 146 ✕ James 5:7-10 ✕ Matt 11:2-11

4:30pm (Sat.) Richard Trace †

8:00am Alyce Frederick Hoffman †

9:15am Confessions

10:00am Pro Populo

HIGHLIGHTED TIME = LIVESTREAMING

BULLETIN SPONSORS

This week’s bulletin is sponsored in honor of:

For families that are survivors of crib death

Each week our bulletin will feature the names of those who made a donation toward our bulletin, which is now published in-house.

For more information, contact the Parish Office.
Thank you so much for your support!



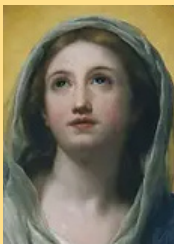
LIVES OF THE SAINTS

December 8, 2025

The following information is reprinted with permission from www.catholicculture.org:

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States.



Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”

—Catechism of the Catholic Church

CURRENT CATHOLIC EVENTS

NOTE BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND



Next weekend, please consider contributing to the Bless Our Priests Collection. As Catholics, we have a sacred duty to care for those who have shepherded us in faith. Your generous donation will help provide for the retirement needs of our beloved retired priests, who have dedicated their lives to serving God and His people. Thank you for your compassion and support.

SCRIP WILL BE SOLD TWO WEEKENDS IN DECEMBER
Please note that SCRIP sales will not be held Dec. 27-28. Instead, SCRIP will be sold after all Masses during the weekends of Dec. 13-14 and Dec. 20-21.



2026 CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Calendars for the new year are now available in the parish entryway. Please pick up yours today!

MORNING OF PRAYER & REFLECTION DEC. 13

All are invited to a fruitful morning of prayer and reflection as we prepare our hearts for Christmas with the Blessed Mother on Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 to 11:15 am at Schoenstatt Heights, 5901 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison. Contact Jamie McCarville with questions at 608-695-6706.



DIOCESE of MADISON

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025

HOLY NAME ORATORY
702 S. HIGH POINT RD.
MADISON

DIOCESE OF MADISON ADVENT MIDWIFE CHALLENGE



HELP US PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MIDWIVES
IN THE DIOCESE OF JACMEL, HAITI



To donate, scan the QR code or
visit MadisonDiocese.org/Haiti



The Bishop Hying warmly invites you to ponder the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary this Advent with “Joyful”! This four-part program is perfect for individuals, families, and small groups and features videos from Bishop Hying for each of the four Sundays of Advent, reflection questions, and prayers. The full program can be found at madisondiocese.org/joyful.



CATHEDRAL DATES AT A GLANCE



Sunday, Dec. 7, 6:30pm Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, Dec. 8, 12 noon Mass for Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

