



CATHEDRAL of ST. BERNARD of CLAIRVAUX

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"*

-Matthew 1:23



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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PASTOR'S PULSE ON THE PARISH



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21
2025

Dear Friends,

Recently, we celebrated the feast day of St. Lucy. Affectionately known as the “donut saint” to honor the Scandinavian tradition of having sweet rolls in her honor, St. Lucy was martyred for preserving her virginity against many evils that were inflicted upon her. Her image appears in the cathedral, and she is often depicted holding a platter with her eyes in accord with the historical account of her martyrdom.

There is another beautiful image that St. Lucy invokes for us as detailed by the account of her martyrdom. St. Lucy stood as an “immovable object” against the devil. In other words, the Lord used her as a pillar of faith and strength in order to reveal to those present that, despite cruel and gruesome punishments, it could not deter Lucy from her longing to be united with Christ in the joy of His kingdom. She knew well that her sufferings would be great, but they would lead her to eternal life.

Immovable objects of faith

As we enter into this final week of our Advent journey, a good question to reflect on is this: “Am I an immovable object of faith to those around me, or do I allow the evil one to steamroll me and run me down because I don’t want to face what could happen should I publicly show my love for Jesus?”

Many people are good at crying out when it comes to injustice and threats against the faith, but when the heat gets turned up and the spotlight is on us, are we ready to act on the words we have spoken? We have so many holy helps to become an immovable object like St. Lucy was - among them, the gift of the Eucharist and the prayers of our Lady. We want to be people that will put fear and trembling in the evil one when he sees us. We need not be towering in physical stature to overcome him; after all, Christ was a tiny child! The spiritual stamina we seek is there, friends - all we need do is ask for it!

Tragedy averted

On Saturday morning of last weekend,

we had a small fire here at the Parish Center. One of the rooftop air handlers caught fire and burned up. Thankfully, our fire alarm system did its job in alerting Madison firefighters to a problem. Their quick response allowed them to extinguish the fire before it got out of control. The building suffered no damage.

As part of the elevation project, we had purchased new units for the entire Parish Center last spring, so the new unit was already on site. It was put into service this past week, and I can feel my feet again! ☺ I am grateful to the Lord and our Lady for protecting us and ensuring that there was no loss of life or injury to our first responders.

Sadly, other parts of our world weren’t as blessed as we were. There have been a series of tragedies of late: the killing of two US soldiers from Iowa and their interpreter in Syria, the shooting at Brown University, a targeted shooting in Sydney which claimed the lives of many people, and the tragedy suffered by the Reiner family.

The evil one will stop at nothing to try and diminish our spirit as we look to the coming of the Christ child, but we cannot allow that to happen. Evil and sin may enjoy a temporary laud, but it never has the final say. The birth of Christ begins the great work of salvation in which death is swallowed up in victory. So many people struggle around this time of the year as they remember loved ones who are no longer with them or celebrate their first Christmas without someone who was close to them. Christ is our hope, and He brings an abundance of this gift in the joy of the Incarnation.

Calendar raffle

We are at the halfway mark in the calendar raffle. We’ve sold 200 tickets, which is wonderful! However, we still have 200 more tickets to go before we reach our goal of 400 tickets sold. Thanks for your generosity in helping us get there. Next week, we’ll start a Flocknote push to everyone’s email to encourage ticket sales in these final weeks.

Consecration in spring

I had mentioned to you awhile back that we were hopeful to have the cathedral consecrated in mid-February, right before the start of the Lenten season. Due to ever-shifting schedules of construction timelines and the availability of materials, I’m sad to report that the mid-February consecration will not be possible.

The good news is that we’ll only have a bit longer to wait. We’re in the process of setting a new date shortly after Easter Sunday.

“Many people are good at crying out when it comes to injustice and threats against the faith, but when the heat gets turned up and the spotlight is on us, are we ready to act on the words we have spoken?”

- Fr. Michael

Once the date has been confirmed, I can share it with all of you. This will give us the extra time that’s needed to complete all our finishes and trims, and have everything spic and span and ready to welcome all the faithful for the joyful events of the consecration.

I very much appreciate your understanding and patience. I know that this has been a tremendous sacrifice for everyone, but we keep our hearts set on our return to the “promised land.” The Israelites found their home after their long journey, and we will, too.

Celebrating Christmas

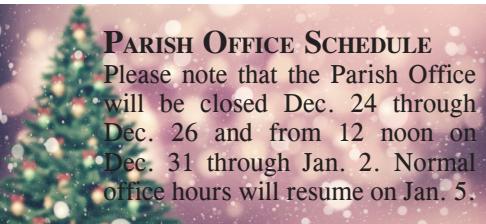
Please plan to join us for our Christmas Masses. Even though we’re still in the gym, John has really outdone himself with a wonderful pre-Mass concert which will take place on Christmas Eve at 8:15pm.

The office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 26th. The office will close at 12 noon on New Year’s Eve and will be closed on January 1st and 2nd.

If you’re traveling, please be safe as you travel and enjoy the time with your families. To those who will be with us, I look forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas with you all. May the Christ child find a loving place in your heart in which to dwell.

With love in the Sacred Heart,

Fr. Michael



EXTRA CONFESSION TIME

TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 4-7PM
Confessions and quiet prayer time



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:

DECEMBER 14, 2025 (Week 24 of 52)

Envelopes.....	\$ 1,422.00
Loose.....	\$ 682.35
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$ 25.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 2,129.35

OFFERTORY PROGRESS:

Collected to date.....	\$180,553.10
Needed to date.....	\$205,392.00
Surplus/(Shortfall)....	(\$ 24,838.90)

Cathedral of St. Bernard



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 194 or 49% of our goal. We still need to sell 206 or 51% more!

■ Tickets sold
■ Tickets to reach goal

49% 51%

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.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, December 22nd

The Fourth Week of Advent

1 Sam 1:24-28 ✶ 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ✶ Luke 1:46-56

5:45pm Confessions

6:30pm Paul Jobst

O King of the Nations (O Rex Gentium)

O Emmanuel

Tuesday, December 23rd

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 ✶ Ps 25 ✶ Luke 1:57-66

7:45am Deacon Chris and Patti Schmelzer

Following Rosary

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ✶ Ps 89 ✶ Luke 1:67-79

4:30pm Mick Olson (Vigil Mass for Christmas)

8:15pm Prelude by Cathedral Choir & Chamber Orchestra

9:00pm Open Intention (Vigil Mass for Christmas)

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (S)

Isaiah 52:7-10 ✶ Ps 98 ✶ Heb 1:1-6 ✶ John 1:1-18

9:30am L/D members of Fettig & Petroviak Families †

St. Stephen (F)

Friday, December 26th

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 ✶ Ps 31 ✶ Matt 10:17-22

7:45am Open Intention

Following Rosary

St. John (F)

Saturday, December 27th

1 John 1:1-4 ✶ Ps 97 ✶ John 20:1a and 2-8

8:00am Holy Mass at the Schoenstatt Shrine

Holy Family (F)

Sunday, December 28th

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 ✶ Ps 128 ✶ Col 3:12-21 ✶ Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

4:30pm (Sat.) Pro populo

8:00am Alyce Frederick Hoffman †

9:15am Confessions

10:00am Dylan Nulan †

HIGHLIGHTED TIME = LIVESTREAMING

BULLETIN SPONSORS

This week's bulletin is sponsored:

For the poor souls in Purgatory

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 26, 2025

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

Feast of St. Stephen

The deacon Stephen, stoned in Jerusalem two years after the death of Christ, has always been the object of very special veneration by the faithful. He is the first martyr. The account in the Acts of the Apostles relating his arrest and the accusations brought against him emphasize the parallel with our Saviour's trial; he was stoned outside the city wall and died, like his Master, praying for his executioners.



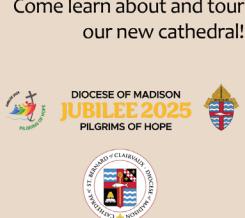
Stephen belongs to the group of seven deacons whom the Apostles associated with their work in order to lighten their load. He was "filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit," "full of grace and strength" he showed himself as a man of God, radiating divine grace and apostolic zeal. As the first witness to Christ he confronted his opponents with quiet courage and the promise made by Jesus (Mark 13.11) was fulfilled: ". . . Disputing with Stephen they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke."

In St. Stephen, the first martyr, the liturgy emphasizes the imitator of Christ even to the extent of the complete gift of self, to the extent of that great charity which made him pray in his suffering for his executioners. By establishing the feast on the day after Christmas the Church draws an even closer comparison between the disciple and the Master and thus extends his witness to the whole mission of the redeeming Messiah.

JUBILEE 2025 CLOSING CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 28
10:00 am Mass with Bishop Hying
Cathedral of St. Bernard of Clairvaux
2438 Atwood Ave., Madison
(Mass will be in the Gymnasium)

Featuring a
Cathedral open house
from 12:00 to 1:30 pm!



CURRENT CATHOLIC EVENTS

BLESS YOUR FAMILY BY PLANNING AHEAD



Bless your family by planning ahead. Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Madison serves our parish. Arrange your graves (including green burials), niches, vaults, monuments, Trappist caskets, and vases. Our regular office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8am to 4pm. The cemetery office will be closed Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 30-31. Since we are often busy with funerals, as well as holiday closures, it is best to call 608-238-5561 for an appointment to discuss your options. You can also browse available property at www.madisondiocese.org/cemeteries.

NOVENA OF MASSES AT THE SCHOENSTATT SHRINE

The Schoenstatt Shrine (5901 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison) is hosting a novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas from Dec. 15 through Dec. 23. Remaining dates and celebrants include: 7 pm Dec. 21, Fr. Mark Foley; 7pm Dec. 22, Fr. Steve Brunner; 6:30pm Dec. 23, Fr. Michael Tarigopula (followed by a potluck).



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 Dec. 20-21.

JOIN US FOR LESSONS & CAROLS ON DEC. 21

All are invited to attend a service of Lessons and Carols at 4pm on Sunday, Dec. 21 at the Holy Name Oratory, 702 S. High Point Rd., Madison.



NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES COMING SOON

Please note that the Cathedral of St. Bernard has switched to a new envelope company to better align our database needs with the Diocese of Madison. Although the envelopes will have a different look, nothing will change from previous years, except that you will receive them more often. Please contact the Parish Office if you have questions.



JOIN US FOR CATHEDRAL TOUR ON DEC. 28

Please note that monthly hospitality will not be held Dec. 28. Instead, please join us for a 12 to 1:30pm tour of the Cathedral after the 10am Jubilee 2025 Closing Mass with Bishop Hying.

CATHEDRAL DATES AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas



Wednesday, Dec. 24, 9pm Vigil Mass for Christmas, preceded by 8:15pm prelude by Cathedral Choir & Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, Dec. 25, 9:30am Mass for Christmas Day (with Women's Schola)

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 4:30pm Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, Jan. 1, 9:30am Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

