



# CATHEDRAL of ST. BERNARD of CLAIRVAUX

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## Feast of the Holy Family

December 28, 2025

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*"He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,  
so that what had been spoken through the prophets  
might be fulfilled, 'He shall be called a Nazorean.'"*

-Matthew 2: 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 Confessions 3:30pm
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

### BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF MADISON

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# PASTOR'S PULSE ON THE PARISH



SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 28TH  
2025

Dear Friends,  
On behalf of Bishop Hying, myself and the Cathedral of St. Bernard, we extend to everyone a very warm welcome as we conclude the Jubilee Year this weekend.

Throughout the past year, we have all had experiences and opportunities to renew our call to be a pilgrim people, walking together in Christ on the way that leads to Him.

We have experienced renewal in the gifts of faith, mercy and reconciliation, and have come to know the infinite depth of the Lord's heart as we bring ourselves to Him in confession.

This weekend, we give thanks for this wonderful year of grace, and we are grateful to Bishop Hying for being present with us at this weekend's 10:00am Mass. Following the 10:00am Mass, the cathedral will be open for you to see the great progress that's been made!

Every day brings us closer to the finish line, and I am so incredibly grateful to all who have offered gifts of treasure and prayer for the success of the campaign. The cathedral stands as a testament of the Church's unity as she invites all her children to come together as the Body of Christ and join together as one in the sacrifice of the Mass and the rich liturgical tradition that she prays with her people.

## Pondering God's salvation

I pray that you all enjoyed a beautiful Christmas with your families and experienced the renewed joy of the Christ child in your hearts. The Christmas season invites us to ponder the many intricacies that were set forth in the plan of salvation.

So many things happened before the Lord came into the world, and it required the faith and trust of so many. Thanks be to God that everyone offered themselves in loving service to what the Father asked of them, and they became a living witness of faith in what they did to advance God's plan of salvation for the world.

This weekend, we focus upon our Lord, His mother, Mary and Joseph, his earthly father, as the Holy Family.

Both Mary and Joseph were people of deep faith: Mary, giving her assent at the

moment of the Annunciation, and Joseph, who put his faith in God above his earthly righteousness to take Mary into his home despite the fact that she was with child.

## Try to mirror the Holy Family

Today's family is far different than the family of the past. With the heavy use of technology and the many activities that today's children enjoy, it leaves less time to be together as a family and can sometimes encourage individualism.

It saddens me when I'm out for a bite to eat and see a family sitting together at a table, and not one word is being spoken because everyone is buried in their electronic devices. Technology has robbed us of the ability to be present to one another, and when that part of family life begins to falter, the family unit can come crashing down and fall apart.

Parents enjoy being a friend to their children, and there's nothing inherently wrong with that from time to time, but it cannot negate the fact that parents must also be protectors and deny their children what they ask for if it isn't for their good.

Parents are endowed with special gifts of wisdom to be able to discern what is right for their children and their family. When parents lose sight of that role and start allowing the kids to "steer the car", things can go off the road very quickly.

Jesus was obedient to His family and did what He was told - a sign of the importance of the fourth commandment to honor one's mother and father. May we all be united in the heart of the Holy Family and strive to make family life one that revolves around Christ and His command to love.

## Questions on Mass, Eucharist

There has been a lot of chatter lately about fulfilling the Sunday obligation and the reception of the Eucharist when a Mass has been missed.

The basis of required attendance at holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is found in the third commandment, given by God Himself in the book of Exodus. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 1324 states that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of Christian life".

In the *Code of Canon Law*, no. 1246 states that "Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation."

In other words, as Catholics, we are expected to attend holy Mass each Sunday, except if there is a grave reason for not coming. Here in the United States, a vigil Mass, celebrated at or after

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- Fr. Michael

4:00pm on Saturdays, fulfills the obligation, as does all holy Masses celebrated on Sunday.

## Fulfilling Sunday obligation

The *Code of Canon Law* no. 1248 helps us better understand when attending Mass might be physically impossible or unreasonable: (1) Illness (you are yourself ill, or you are caring for another person who is ill); (2) Chronic illness (you experience a flare-up); (3) Mental health crisis (severe anxiety, a panic attack, acute depression); (4) Recovery after surgery; (5) Lack of access to a Mass, either because there is no minister or you physically cannot travel the needed distance to attend holy Mass); (5) Dangerous or extraordinary circumstances (severe weather, treacherous road conditions, public emergencies); (6) You are an essential worker (healthcare or first responder, or you are employed to protect life and safety and cannot, for any reason, be excused for the obligation of attending holy Mass); and (7) you are dispensed from the obligation to attend holy Mass by a priest (usually for travel reasons).

Some interesting anecdotes to share regarding these reasons. Reason #5 is interpretive. For example, someone traveling in Japan made it to Mass and as he was talking to others present in church, he learned that some traveled from 120+ miles away to attend holy Mass. Reason #6 assumes that essential workers are working around the clock from Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening. If that's not the case, there would be an opportunity to attend holy Mass.

If you miss Mass for any other reason, it is considered a sin of serious or mortal nature, and should be confessed as soon as possible. You should refrain from receiving the Eucharist until you have made your confession. This practices ensures that our hearts are always prepared and ready to receive our Eucharistic Lord with full devotion and love.

One of the greatest ways we honor the Lord is through our participation in the holy Mass. There is nothing more important than uniting our hearts with the heavenly chorus and joining together in praise to our great and merciful God.

*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
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$445,000.00</b>

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

### OFFERTORY:

**DECEMBER 21, 2025 (Week 25 of 52)**

Envelopes.....	\$ 3,147.00
Loose.....	\$ 643.74
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ 3,790.74</b>

### OFFERTORY PROGRESS:

Collected to date.....	\$187,393.84
Needed to date.....	\$213,950.00
<b>Surplus/(Shortfall).....</b>	<b>(\$ 26,566.16)</b>

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### Monday, December 29th

1 John 2:3-11 ♫ Ps 96 ♫ Luke 2:22-35

5:45pm Confessions

6:30pm Pro populo

### Tuesday, December 30th

1 John 2:12-17 ♫ Ps 96 ♫ Luke 2:36-40

7:45am Open Intention

Following Rosary

### Wednesday, December 31st

1 John 2:18-21 ♫ Ps 96 ♫ John 1:1-18

4:30pm Jim Buechner †  
(Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas

Mary, Mother of God (S)

Mary, Mother of God (S)

### Thursday, January 1st

Num 6:22-27 ♫ Ps 67 ♫ Gal 4:4-7 ♫ Luke 2:16-21

9:30am L/D members of Fettig & Petroviak Families †  
(Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

### First Friday, January 2nd

1 John 2:22-28 ♫ Ps 98 ♫ John 1:19-28

7:45am Greg Pehler & Barbara Mrduff †

Following Rosary

### First Saturday, January 3rd

1 John 2:29-3:6 ♫ Ps 98 ♫ John 1:29-34

7:45am Pro populo

Following Litany of the IHM & Confessions

BVM

### Sunday, January 4th

Isaiah 60:1-6 ♫ Ps 72 ♫ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♫ Matt 2:1-12

4:30pm (Sat.) Debra Stapelton †

8:00am John & Patricia Ashenbrucker †

9:15am Confessions

10:00am John Wesley Rabby †

Epiphany (F)

### HIGHLIGHTED TIME = LIVESTREAMING

## BULLETIN SPONSORS

This week's bulletin is sponsored by an anonymous donor in honor of:

*Fr. Michael Radowicz*

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

**January 1, 2026**

*The following information is reprinted with permission from [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org):*

### **Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

The Apostle tells us: The Word took to himself the sons of Abraham, and so had to be like his brothers in all things. He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary's presence: she is to provide him with a body of his own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: She wrapped him in swaddling clothes... Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced his birth. He did not speak of "what will be born in you" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born from you" so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.



### **'Our Savior truly became man'**

By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with his own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality.

This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

### **'The Word was made flesh'**

The words of Saint John: The Word was made flesh, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in Saint Paul: Christ was made a curse for our sake. Man's body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven.

Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is for ever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

—Excerpted from a letter by St. Athanasius

## CURRENT CATHOLIC EVENTS

### **SUPPORT ADVENT MIDWIFE CHALLENGE**

Join Bishop Hying in supporting our sister diocese of Jacmel, Haiti with a gift to the Advent Midwife Challenge Our goal is to raise \$25,000, which will pay the salaries of two midwives at the Centre de Santé Sacré-Coeur de Thiotte (The Sacred Heart of Thiotte Healthcare Center or CSST). These midwives provide crucial services to Jacmel's limited healthcare infrastructure; by serving pregnant women and delivering babies, they free up other clinics and doctors to provide other resources and services to their communities. In this season of giving, it's important to remember those who are less fortunate than us and to reach out to them in the love and hope of Christ. Please visit [madisondiocese.org/midwife](http://madisondiocese.org/midwife) to learn more about this project and to donate. Thank you for your generosity!



### **SCRIP ORDERS DUE JAN. 5**

Monthly SCRIP orders will be processed on Tuesday, Jan. 6, so all SCRIP orders are due to the Parish Office by Monday, Jan. 5. The forms can be found at the back of church or by the office. Thank you for your continued support.



### **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.

### **FAMILY BINGO NIGHT ON JAN. 10**

Queen of Apostles Parish is hosting a Family Bingo Night for adults and kids on Saturday, Jan. 10, at St. Peter Church in Madison after the 4pm Mass. A light BBQ dinner is provided. Email Rosalia Boerke at [rboerke@qoap.org](mailto:rboerke@qoap.org) for food planning purposes.

### **A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Please welcome new members of the Cathedral of St. Bernard:



- Keelin Reilly & Emmeline Roth
- Jessica Wysocki
- Alexander & Morgan Warthen
- Nicholas Konwerski
- Molly Hones

### **CATHEDRAL DATES AT A GLANCE**

**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)



DECEMBER 28, 2025 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY