



**CATHEDRAL of  
ST. BERNARD  
of CLAIRVAUX**

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2438 Atwood Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

# *First Sunday of Lent*

February 22, 2026

*"The Lord, your God, shall you worship  
and him alone shall you serve."*

-Luke 4: 8



## 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

Most Rev. Donald J. Hying

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### CAMPUS CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Jane Lang

Renee Watring



DIOCESE of  
MADISON

# PASTOR'S PULSE ON THE PARISH



SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 22ND  
2026

Dear Friends,  
Our Lenten journey is underway, and we embrace this penitential season with the whole of our hearts so that we may set aside the desires of the world and concentrate more on the spiritual graces that God affords us.

So often in the gospels when Christ encounters the Scribes and Pharisees, they see Christ's miracles plainly, and He hides nothing from them. How many opportunities did they have to open their hearts to Christ and allow something new to transform them, but because of their unwillingness to give up their political prowess and to actually comprehend what life might look like if they did indeed embrace Jesus ... such thoughts were simply too difficult to comprehend.

## Giving whole heart to Jesus

How often does that happen to us, friends? We give Jesus some of our heart, but not our whole heart. We tend to get comfortable in our ways and with the things we have, and while we're certainly open to being disciples of Jesus, we're not "all in".

Before the beginning of Lent, we heard from the letter of St. James, and he speaks specifically of disordered desires, and how they can lead to sin and death. Opening our whole heart to Christ can be overwhelming, and it will cause us much uneasiness at first. But then, after the dust settles, there is the Lord with us, and, having given our whole heart to Him, He floods us with an amount of grace like we've never experienced before.

Once we have that experience, friends, we say to ourselves, "Why did it take so long for me to get to this point?" Jesus isn't concerned with what has happened in the past - He is concerned about us now and in the days ahead. There is an abundance of life to be lived in the life of grace, friends, and I earnestly pray for each one of you that you might come to that point in your faith journey where you can turn it all over to the Lord and give Him your whole heart.

"The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." We work on the flesh in these 40 days that are given us, and as we stand with the Lord in the glory of the resurrection, we will have journeyed with Him to a whole new life.

## Joy of community

The other aspect of Lent that I would like everyone to experience is the joy of community. This is a foreign concept in the Protestant world. Many Protestant sects encourage a personal relationship with Jesus, and the life-long union we build with Him is mostly lived out of personal experience and prayer. Protestants do not over-emphasize community life like the Catholic Church does.

Some of the best Scriptural foundations we have on the Church's communal life can be taken from St. Paul's theology on the Body of Christ. Every one of Christ's believers forms His body, and churches are communities of believers, on the road, together, that leads to eternal life. We are here to support one another and be Christ for each other as we embrace one another in times of pain and sorrow, and rejoice with one another in times of happiness and accomplishment.

I am very encouraged when I see the relationships that have been formed between the fraternity of altar servers, our men's faith sharing group, our extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, and many others.

Our upcoming Lenten mission on evangelization will lay down the foundation of establishing deeper roots of community within our cathedral family. In a few months, the doors of the cathedral will be opened, and people will start worshipping with us and, God willing, joining our parish community. I want us to be those stewards of community who welcome everyone with open arms and invite them to experience what we ourselves have come to know and love about the Cathedral of St. Bernard. You all will play an important role, and it would make me very happy to see many of you at our upcoming mission.

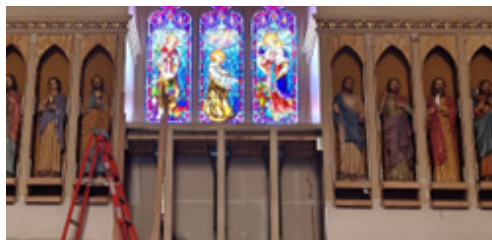
God continues to do wonderful things in our community, and if we are attentive to the ways in which He wishes us to grow even further, we'll join with one another in celebrating the community we have come to create that is fashioned by His love and a deep desire to grow more deeply in the faith. I'm very excited about the opportunities that are to come, and I'm looking forward to sharing this journey with you.

## Updates on campus

This past week, we had some significant updates here on campus. The 12 apostles have finally found their home in the apse of the

*"We tend to get comfortable in our ways and with the things we have, and while we're certainly open to being disciples of Jesus, we're not 'all in.'"*

- Fr. Michael



church. The final adornments have not yet been placed on the niches as yet, but when finished, will make the niches look almost three-dimensional. The first pieces of marble have been added to the reredos. We're getting close to finishing the light fixtures in the nave. Work has been steady on the organ case, with staining and lacquering taking place this past week on the pieces that can be permanently installed.

Outside, we've broken ground on the episcopal mausoleum. We'll prepare the footings and pour the foundation for the new building, but the building itself won't be constructed until the available funds are raised. Getting the footings and foundation work done now will allow us to remove the gravel ramp for heavy machinery to climb into the courtyard area and finish the fencing to place a perimeter around the courtyard.

## With sympathy and prayers

We extend our love and prayers to the family of Phil Lord who died this past week. Phil was one of our faithful ushers and a brother in the Knights of Columbus among many other roles throughout the years. May the Lord grant Him eternal happiness in the joy of His kingdom.

*With love in the Sacred Heart,  
Fr. Michael*

## OUR GIFT OF TREASURE

### 2025-26 Offertory Budget

Envelopes.....	\$370,000.00
Loose (Cash).....	\$ 75,000.00
TOTAL.....	\$445,000.00
NEEDED EACH WEEK.....	\$ 8,558.00

### OFFERTORY

#### February 15, 2026

Envelopes.....	\$ 2,799.96
Electronic Funds..	\$ 2,031.07
Loose.....	\$ 709.00
Easter Flowers...	\$ 10.00
St. Vincent de Pl..	\$ 25.00
Catholic Herald..	\$ 25.00
Building Endowmt..	\$ 60.00
Outreach.....	\$ 50.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 5,710.03

### OFFERTORY PROGRESS

Collected to-date..	\$250,722.75
Needed to-date.....	\$282,414.00
Surplus (Short-fall):	\$(31,691.25)

## Presentation on Mental Health Ministry



The Diocese of Madison is launching Mental Health Ministry, a ministry focused on awareness, advocacy, and accompaniment for those facing mental health challenges. All are invited to attend a 90-minute presentation by Laura Sokup, Mental Health Program Coordinator on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12:30pm at St. Bernard's Cathedral Parish. The presentation will cover the history of the ministry and its role in parish life. Snacks, refreshments, and Catholic mental health resources will be provided. Additionally, Laura will be available for questions.

Registration is encouraged in order to provide handouts. Contact Laura with any questions.

[laura.sokup@madisondiocese.org](mailto:laura.sokup@madisondiocese.org); 608-821-3053.



## Adult Religious Education with Deacon Tim

Join Deacon Tim and Cathedral of St. Bernard parishioners for classes focusing on the content of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Over the course of 18-20 sessions, we will study all the chapters of the *Catechism*. The first set of classes will meet at 7pm in the St. Veronica Room on the following dates: March 4, 10, 18, 25, April 1, 7, and 15. Contact Deacon Tim at [deacontimreilly@outlook.com](mailto:deacontimreilly@outlook.com) if you are interested.

## Lenten Companions now available

The *Magnificat Lenten Companion* is available at the back of church. Please feel free to pick one up for Lent!



## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, February 23rd St. Polycarp (m)  
Lev 19:1-2, 11-18 ✕ Ps 19 ✕ Matt 25:31-46  
5:45pm Confessions  
6:30pm Fr. Tom Sularz †

Tuesday, February 24th Tuesday of First week of Lent  
Isaiah 55:10-11 ✕ Ps 34 ✕ Matt 6:7-15  
7:45am Andrew Kim †  
Following Rosary

Wednesday, February 25th Ember Wednesday  
Jonah 3:1-10 ✕ Ps 51 ✕ Luke 11:29-32  
7:45am Deb Drager †  
Following Rosary

Thursday, February 26th Thursday of First week of Lent  
Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 ✕ Ps 138 ✕ Matt 7:7-12  
7:45am Ben Stitgen †  
Following Rosary

Friday, February 27th Ember Friday/St. Gregory of Narek (m)  
Ezekiel 18:21-28 ✕ Ps 130 ✕ Matt 5:20-26  
7:45am Rich Rolli †  
Following Rosary

Saturday, February 28th Ember Saturday/BVM  
Deut 26:16-19 ✕ Ps 119 ✕ Matt 5:43-48  
8:00am Holy Mass at the Schoenstatt Shrine

Sunday, March 1st Second Sunday of Lent  
Gen 12:1-4a ✕ Ps 33 ✕ 2 Tim 1:8b-10 ✕ Matt 17:1-9  
4:30pm (Sat.) Mary Pankratz †  
8:00am Pro Populo  
9:15am Confessions  
10:00am Jerry Jodar †

**HIGHLIGHTED TIME = LIVESTREAMING**

## BULLETIN SPONSORS

This week's bulletin is sponsored in honor of the:

*Buechner & Gunski Families*

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

February 23, 2026

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

### St. Polycarp

Polycarp had known those who had known Jesus, and was a disciple of St. John the Apostle, who had converted him around the year 80 AD. He taught, says his own pupil Irenaeus of Lyons, the things that he learned from the Apostles, which the Church hands down, which are true. Irenaeus, who as a young boy knew Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness, and majesty of countenance. He had lived near Jerusalem and was proud of his early associations with the Apostles.



Polycarp became bishop of Smyrna and held the see for about 70 years. He was a staunch defender of orthodoxy and an energetic opponent of heresy, especially Marcionism and Valentinianism (the most influential of the Gnostic sects). Toward the end of his life he visited Pope St. Anicetus in Rome and, when they could not agree on a date for Easter, decided each would observe his own date. To testify his respect and ensure that the bonds of charity were unbroken, Anicetus invited Polycarp to celebrate the Eucharist in the papal chapel on this occasion. Polycarp suffered martyrdom with 12 others of his flock around the year 156.

—Excerpted from *St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr* by Fr. Paul Haffner (*Inside the Vatican*, February 2004)

## CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

February 11:

Carl & Kristin Schneider-\$150

February 15:

Eric & Amy Rottier-\$20

February 12:

Janet Yelk-Kenitz-\$20

February 16:

Carol Herried-\$20

February 13:

Mark & Jennefer Lehman-\$20

February 17:

Joe & Helen Buechner-\$20

February 14:

Jerry Gilbertsen-\$20

Thank you to all who participated in the 2026 Calendar Raffle.

## CURRENT CATHOLIC EVENTS

### DONATE TO THE 2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you again to all parishioners who have made a gift to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal. Your generosity fuels the Church's enduring mission of justice, compassion, and charity. Every gift is vitally important to sustain Catholic education, evangelization and Christian initiation, and outreach to the poor and vulnerable. If you have not yet made a gift, envelopes will be available at Mass this weekend. To donate online visit [madisondiocese.org/inpew](http://madisondiocese.org/inpew) or join the Perpetual Steward Society with a continuous monthly gift at [madisondiocese.org/stewards](http://madisondiocese.org/stewards)



### HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Even though the war in Israel has ended, the Christians there and throughout the Holy Land rely heavily on our help. It is with funds from the Good Friday collection that the Franciscan Custody provides presence, care and service to the people who are living under dire circumstances in the land of Christ. You can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who live, work, and are struggling to survive in the land where Jesus walked on this earth. Please plan now to make your donation on Good Friday to this vitally important work!

### CHANGE TO TV MASS TIME

One of the airings of the Sunday TV Mass, sponsored by the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities-Diocese of Madison, can be seen at a new time. The former 7 a.m. airing of the Mass on TVW Channel 3.2 is now being seen at its new time at 8 a.m. The 6 a.m. airing on WISC Channel 3.1 can continue to be seen at that time.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RAFFLE TICKETS

To purchase KC raffle tickets, call Joe Buechner at 608-223-1191.

### Join us for parish mission Feb. 23 & 25

Please join us for our parish evangelization mission in the vestry on Monday, Feb. 23 and Wednesday, Feb. 25. Each evening begins with a 5:30pm gathering and snacks, 6pm presentation, and ends with 7:30pm prayer. Enter through the private rectory entrance next to the AC units. Hope to see you there!



### Lenten Reflections with Bishop Hying

Join Bishop Donald J. Hying of Madison this Lent for "Conquered by Christ," a study program inspired by the Sunday Gospel readings of the Lenten season! Visit [madisondiocese.org/lent2026](http://madisondiocese.org/lent2026).



### CATHEDRAL DATES AT A GLANCE

Saturday, Feb. 21 & Sunday, Feb. 22

SCRIP will be sold after all Masses. Cards include Hyvee, Culver's, and Woodman's.



Monday, Feb. 23 & Wednesday, Feb. 25, 5:30-8pm

Join us for our parish evangelization mission!

