



SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1812 Lynn Avenue • Altoona, Wisconsin 54720 Vol. 44 • No. 44

FROM FATHER SAKOWSKI

As we continue through November, the Church's liturgy bids us turn our gaze to the Last Things. In my own personal calendar, I remind myself each year to take a look at my **funeral planning**. I encourage you to do the same. It may not be something that's pleasant to think about, but we do our loved ones a wonderful favor by completing as many arrangements as possible long before the inevitable moment of death comes. By making all of those decisions in advance, we minimize the grief of our loved ones, who will have plenty enough to be concerned about.

One obvious preparation is to sign a last will and testament. Doing so serves several purposes. First, it allows us to specify in advance any charities we want to support after we pass on. **People rarely do this anymore!** Even though many of them would like to see some of their hard-earned savings go to their favorite charity, it doesn't happen because no will is made out. During my 3+ years at these parishes, I have now presided at nearly 100 funerals for our people. Some of the families have generously given the parish a memorial gift honoring their loved one. But if my memory serves me correctly, not a single one specifically named either parish as a beneficiary in his or her will. I certainly don't expect anyone to do so – but I'm guessing that some of them intended to do so; only they never got around to it.

Whether or not you would like to bequeath a legacy gift to our parish (or to some other worthy cause) is entirely up to you. But please remember that, if you don't make the plans now, it almost certainly won't happen. Just something to think about.

Secondly, having a clearly written will and testament normally eases the burden of your next of kin, who otherwise have to puzzle over your possessions and how you intended to divide them. Finally, it can keep families from being torn apart by greed. Everyone says it will never happen to their family when dad or mom dies – and yet we all know that it often does happen. Signing a will can prevent these unfortunate results.

Another preparation is funeral planning. For example, I've already picked out the readings and music for my funeral Mass – no one will have to do it for me. I also have my cemetery plot and am in the process of arranging for a casket. I have all biographical information assembled, and have it on file with the funeral home and with a few of my relatives (and, in my case, with the chancery office in the diocese). When God calls me home, my hope is that no one will have to guess about these things. Every funeral home offers resources in doing this kind of advanced planning. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to. But keep in mind that funeral directors are also salesmen – know your options, your duties, and your rights.

As you make your funeral plans, I must offer one caution. I am deeply concerned about how cremation is becoming increasingly popular among Catholics. As your pastor, it is my duty to inform you what the Church teaches about it. One might say that it is tolerated now by the Catholic Church, but it is anything but encouraged. On this subject, I will quote directly from what the Congregation for Divine Worship says in the *Order of Christian Funerals*:

Parish Contact Information

Office 715-855-1294
Office Fax 715-855-8664
E-mail stmarypar@gmail.com
Website www.stmarys-altoona.com
Rectory 715-514-5113
Prayer Chain ... generalbook@charter.net
St Mary's School Office 715-830-2278
Regis Catholic Schools 715-830-2273

Parish Staff

Pastor,

Fr. Derek Sakowski 715-855-1294
Email frsakowski@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar,

Fr. Alan Guanella 715-855-1294
Email aguanella@crossae.org

Parish Secretary/Administrative Assistant,
Sharon Stearns 715-855-1294

Director of Religious Education,

Mary Kneer 715-835-1692

Director of Sacred Music,

Josh Gallagher 262-203-3552

Maintenance, M Marcon ... 715-855-1294

Schedule of Masses

Weekend:

Saturday (vigil)	4:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am
	1:00 pm (Spanish)
<i>Mass at St. Raymond's Sat. 6:00 pm</i>	
	<i>Sun. 8:30 am</i>

Sacramental Celebrations

Confession: St. Mary's: Saturday from 10:00 am –12:00 pm or by appointment.
St. Raymond's: Thursday at 7:00-9:00 pm
Baptism: Call parish office for appointment.
Marriage: At least six months advance notice. Call parish office for appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS

November 7/15

Sat. 4:00 pm † Arlene BaDour
Sun. 11:00 am Dick & Betty Schafer
1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary's & St Raymond's Parishioners
Mon. No Mass
Tue. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
Wed. 8:00 am † Sue Pichetti
Thu. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
4:00 pm Mass at Grace Edgewood
Fri. 9:00 am † Paul C & Clara Bauer
Sat. 4:00 pm † William Bluem
Sun. 11:00 am † Amilia Al Abbas
1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary's & St Raymond's Parishioners

“Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites” (n. 413).

Why so much of a focus on the body? The same document explains why:

“... the human body is inextricably associated with the human person, which acts and is experienced by others through that body. It is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. The body of a deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. Thus, the Church's reverence for the sacredness of the human body grows out of a reverence and concern both natural and supernatural for the human person. The body of the deceased brings forcefully to mind the Church's conviction that the human body is in Christ a temple of the Holy Spirit and is destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead” (nn. 411-412).

The last reason is the most important. We believe in the Resurrection of the Body. The Fourth Lateran Council (1215) explains in detail what that means, teaching that, on the last day, both the saved and the damned “will rise again with their own bodies which they now bear.” In the Resurrection, God will raise this very body of mine – or whatever is left of it – and will transform and glorify it after the pattern of Christ's body (Phil 3:21). In other words, our Resurrection will be like that of Jesus. His tomb was empty on Easter Sunday; the Resurrected Jesus bears the very same body as the earthly Jesus – even though it is now so gloriously transformed that many didn't even recognize Him when they first saw him. We also will once again bear the very same body we now have, even though it will be gloriously transformed beyond anything we can imagine.

In view of the Resurrection of the Body and the fact that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, cremation should only be done for extraordinary reasons (n. 415). I think, for example, of a 500-pound person, of those who are severely disfigured in tragic accidents, or of those who are extremely poor.

Indeed, many will object that cremation is the cheapest option. That is perhaps true, although I've seen plenty of expensive urns. We also forget that there are cheaper options out there than are typically advertised by funeral homes. For example, I am considering spending \$1,000 for my casket from the Trappist monks at New Melleray Abbey (check out their website). The bottom line, though, is that the funeral rites should reflect our faith, and we believe in the Resurrection of the Body.

Finally, our mortal remains are to be interred in a final resting place. Cremation is only reluctantly allowed, but it is absolutely forbidden to scatter ashes, to keep them in one's home, or to keep them on one's person (*e.g.*, in the form of a pendant). Our bodies in their entirety are to be buried or entombed, waiting until that day “in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Bingo is every Tuesday evening. Begin selling at 6:00 pm. Early bird bingo starts at 7:00 pm. Regular bingo starts at approximately 7:30 pm. Bring the family and enjoy a fun evening together. Thank you to our bingo workers for their dedication (10/27): CJ Thurner (supervisor); Tara Kovacevich (caller); Mary Kneer, Judy Ciske, Phyllis Frueh, K Koopmann, C Smiskey, Amy Sacia, T Semerad, S Rubenzer (workers); Sarah Ostrowski (pull tab); J Marcon, friends and family (concession). (11/3): Laurie King (supervisor); Carol Mastej (caller); John & Alice Bauer, V Obias, Pat Schwoerer, A Mueller, J Burhop, S Strahm, Sara St. John, K Wanke (workers); Rachel Brogelman (pull tab); J Marcon, friends and family (concession). Thank you.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Nov. 11, Religious Education Classes grades 1-8 meet 6-7 pm & gr. 9-10 meet 6-7:30 pm.
Sunday School – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has begun. Registration

forms are in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Becky at 715-832-9798 or thurner@charter.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Nov. 10, The Bible Timeline Study, 9 a.m.
All women are invited to participate.

Nov. 10, Financial Peace University, 6:30 p.m. For more info, call 715-379-6792.

Nov. 10, Young Adult Meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 11, Adoration 8:30 a.m.—8:30 p.m.
Please sign-up for an hour with our Eucharistic Lord. **The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.** Adoration is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Nov. 12, Mission Ladies, 10-2 p.m.
Potluck luncheon at noon. All women invited. This event has been changed to the second Thursday of the month.

Nov. 12, 33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat, 7 p.m. at St. Raymond's.

Nov. 18, RCIA, 6:30-8:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. For more info, email frsakowski@gmail.com or go to www.srsmRCIA.com

Nov. 19, Understanding the Scriptures Bible study, 6:30-8p.m.

Nov. 23, ABCD's of Medicare 1–3 p.m.

Dec. 13, Social Sunday after 11 a.m.
Mass in the Community Center.

Please check out the bulletin board for detailed information.

Please submit information for the bulletin by Monday and inserts by Wednesday before that weekend.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Week of November 8

Sun: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44
Mon: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Tue: Wis 2:23--3:9/Lk 17:7-10
Wed: Wis 6:1-11/Lk 17:11-19
Thu: Wis 7:22b--8:1/Lk 17:20-25
Fri: Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37
Sat: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8
Sun: Dn 12:1-3/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Weekend of November 14/15

Lectors

4:00 pm D Stearns
11:00 am J Satnik

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm R Hanson
11:00 am J Koenig

Servers

4:00 pm G, JP Wolterstorff, A Leis
11:00 am N & J Mullenberg, C Windes-
hausen

Attendant Servers

4:00 pm J Wolterstorff
11:00 am J Fox

Organists

4:00 pm A Plaetz
11:00 am J Gallagher

Cantors

4:00 pm S Stearns
11:00 am R Alexander

Ushers

4:00 pm P Connell, G Wolterstorff, M
Rohn, R Verdegan
11:00 am J Bauer, M Chilson, R Mullen-
berg, R Smeltzer

Counters C Mastej, J Thom, P Schwoerer

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Expecting a child? Begin the baptismal preparation now. At St. Raymond's, the baptismal prep class is on **Thu., Dec. 10**, at 6-7 p.m. and the luncheon is on **Sat., Nov. 14** at 7:15-9 p.m. At St. Mary's, the next baptismal prep class is on **Mon., Jan. 11**, 6-7 p.m. and the luncheon is on **Sun., Feb. 12**, 9-10:45 a.m. Baptism information, forms, and documents are available online at www.stmarys-altoona.com. At least two (2) months advance notice needed. See web-site for details, or contact parish office now to start the process.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Regular Monthly Meeting, Mon., Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Officers meeting in the Knights room, followed by regular meeting at 7 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

Last Week

Adults	\$7,267.00
Endowment Fund	\$0.00
Young People.....	\$2.00
Children	\$3.25
Offertory.....	\$555.14
Total	\$7,827.39
Capital Campaign (Rec'd to Date)	\$267,847.91

ELIZABETH MINISTRY



- To add a name, due date/birth date, request a meal, or to volunteer, please call Emily Thurner at 715-864-3048.
- Please pray for those who are expecting.

*Thank you for giving of your time to this ministry.
It is appreciated by those who are blessed.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For...

Please keep Cliff Abrahamson, Pat Gersech, Richard Lasiuk, Betty Nelson, JoAnn Deters, Sr. Theodore Nelson, Karen Solberg, Shelly Allen, Sheila Lehnen, Foresten Family, Lucille Welter, Mary Beth Pierce, Pat & Don Kamrowski, Lee & Darlene Henrichs, Linda Gesche, Eileen Niehoff, Megan Olszewski, Roger Forcier, Jeanne Reali, Clarence Nowobielski, Julie Rohn, Arla McFadden, Duane Fanetti, Walt Nguyen, Linda Gabriel, Rose and Kevin Sigmund, Dick Sires, Sarah Marble, Bob & Betty Haas, Plets family, Erica Nerbonne, Judy Ciske, Kelly Hawker, Maureen Kollar, Ed Hofacker, Sam P, Eleanor Wildrick, Dave Rosener, Mike Moses, Carol Bridges Rothfus, Abby Williamson, infant Elizabeth and her parents, Laurie, Lucille Plautz, Kip Schultz, Doreen Bauer, Kristin Soley, Dylan Snyder, Sue Arrell, Pabich intention, Melgard intention, Sue Lippold, David Schwartz, Garret Soley, Jarett Londre, and their families in your prayers.



REMINDERS & TIDBITS

Mission of Mercy to a Ukraine in Crisis: On Wednesday, Nov. 18, hear about the dramatic situation in the war-torn country of Ukraine and the role of Chalice of Mercy in bringing both humanitarian relief and spiritual conversion. Our speaker, founder **Valentyna Pavyukova**, immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 18, with almost no English skills and no religious background, except for the "Our Father" prayer she had memorized at her grandmother's knee as a little girl. Far from family and friends, she was homesick and hurting. But God knew how desperately Valentyna's homeland, Ukraine, needed His Love and Mercy, and He was preparing a beautiful mission for this humble young woman. **Her joyful story will inspire you!** Please join us at 7 PM at St. Patrick Parish, 1031 Main Street, Onalaska, on Nov. 18.

Did you attend St. Mary's Elementary School? We want to connect with you as we work to grow our St. Mary Parish Endowment Trust. Please check out the information sheet in the Narthex and connect with your classmates.

St. Mary's Youth Choir for students K-8 at 9:45-10:45 on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. The choir will sing on the second Sunday of the month. For more info email alexansm@uwec.edu

Salvation Army 2015 Christmas Bell Ringers Needed Nov. 6 thru Dec. 24 in Eau Claire and

Chippewa Falls. Register online: www.ringbells.org or call 715-834-1224.

Concluding Mass & Celebration at St. Patrick Church, with the Most Reverend William Callahan on Sunday, Nov. 22, begins with a Rosary Walk at 9 am; Mass at 10 am; Dinner at 11:30 am; Tour at 1 p.m. Reservations required for dinner. Call 715-832-0925 by Monday, November 16.

Community Christmas Fair, Sat., Dec. 5, 9-2 p.m. at Fall Creek Fire Hall.

Regis Catholic Schools...

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the Soup & Bread Fundraiser last week. Through your donations of \$2,200, St. Mary's Court 537 will receive \$1,500 matched funds from Catholic Order of Foresters for updating the parish house where Fr. Wilger lived.

\$SCRIP NEWS

Scrip Volunteers for next weekend,

4:00 pm (Mary Kneer and volunteer),
11:00 am (Loann Sumner and volunteer)

Last Week

Number of Orders.....	22
Amount Sold	\$8,255.00
Profit (approximately).....	\$412.75
Monthly Profit	\$412.75

Thank You!

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