

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1812 Lynn Avenue • Altoona, Wisconsin 54720 Vol. 44 • No. 48

FROM FATHER SAKOWSKI

Ushering in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

On this Tuesday, December 8th, Pope Francis will inaugurate the “Year of Mercy” – something he is palpably excited about (as am I!). There are several highlights to look forward to:

- Pope Francis opening the Door of Mercy at St. John Lateran (his own cathedral church)
- Holy Doors being opened throughout the world (including at the St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral and at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse)
- opportunities for visiting pilgrimage sites and obtaining a plenary indulgence
- opportunities to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy
- increased opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession, so dear to Pope Francis
- reflection booklets (available soon!) for each parishioner to use during the Year of Mercy

In our own Eau Claire Deanery, as in Rome, we will be observing “24 Hours for the Lord” in early March. From 4 PM to 4 PM on March 4th (24 hours straight), priests will be available to hear Confessions at Immaculate Conception parish. Like Pope Francis, we are hoping that the Year of Mercy will be a time of many lost sheep returning home!

Also in our own deanery (for those unable to make the pilgrimage to Rome or to La Crosse), the church of Sacred Heart will be a pilgrimage site for the entire Jubilee Year. Pope Francis is hoping that Catholics worldwide will take advantage of these pilgrimage sites by gaining a Jubilee indulgence. In his words, “I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed.”

Francis proceeds to explain how to obtain the Jubilee Year indulgence: “To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door [or other designated holy site] ... It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions (Cont. on pg. 2)

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)
Mass at St. Raymond’s Sat. 6:00 pm
Sun. 8:30 am

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

December 5/13

Sat. 9:00 am First Saturday: Priest’s Int.
 4:00 pm † Richard Kremar
Sun. 11:00 am † Arlene Flohr
 1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary’s & St Raymond’s Parishioners
Mon. 5:30 pm † Florence Swatzina
 7:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary’s & St Raymond’s Parishioners
Tue. 9:00 am † Mary/Leonard Drescher
 7:00 pm Mass at St. Raymond’s
Wed. 8:00 am † Peter Kovar
Thu. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond’s
 4:00 pm Mass at Grace Edgewood
Fri. 9:00 am Billie Perkins
Sat. 8:00 am Spanish Mass: Priest’s Int.
 4:00 pm † William/Ann Planert
Sun. 12:00 pm Bi-Lingual Mass: St. Mary’s & St. Raymond’s Parishioners

(Cont. from pg. 1) that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world." As with other indulgences, the faithful may obtain one per day, for oneself or for a soul in purgatory.

In a touching manner, Francis also extends the Jubilee Indulgence to the sick and the homebound. If, living with faith and joyful hope in their trials, they receive communion or attend Holy Mass (even via television or radio or internet) they can obtain the Indulgence.

Pope Francis even extends the Jubilee Indulgence to those who are in prison, if they make a pilgrimage to their prison chapel: "May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door."

The unlocking and throwing open of Holy Doors is symbolic of God's mercy, made possible to us by Jesus' death on the Cross. On December 20th, the Church's liturgy proclaims: "O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: come, and lead forth the captive who sits in the shadows from his prison." Mercy is an undeserved gift – and therefore all the more beautiful. During this coming Jubilee Year, may we all be filled with gratitude that Christ has thrown open the doors of mercy. May we experience that mercy richly, and inspire others to do the same.

To be continued...

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 11/24/15: CJ Thurner (supervisor); Carol Mastej (caller); Mary Kneer, Judy Ciske, Phyllis Frueh, Kathy Koopmann, Colleen Campbell, Brenda Catt, Dave Cullinan, Christine Buscherfeld, Brad Webster (workers); Margaret Skwierczynski (pull tab); Janet Marcon, friends and family (concession). 12/1/15: Laurie King (supervisor); Carol Mastej (caller); John & Alice Bauer, Julie Nyberg, Pat Schwoerer, Katie Bilka, Jeff Dykes, Bridgit Chilson, Brenda Catt (workers); Rachel Brogelman (pull tab); Janet Marcon, friends and family (concession). Thank you.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes, Dec. 9, 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.

Welcome!

We are glad you participated at Mass with us. How may we serve you?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am interested in parish membership

Please note my change of address or phone I am in need of envelopes

I will be temporarily away the following dates: _____

Please remove and put in the collection basket or send to parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Dec. 6, Cookie Walk**, St. Patrick's Cafeteria, 8:30-noon.
- Dec. 8, The Bible Timeline Study**, 9 a.m. All women are invited to participate.
- Dec. 8. National Night of Prayer for Life** at St. Patrick's, Eau Claire, 8 p.m. – midnight.
- Dec. 8, Young Adult Meeting** 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9, 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.
- Dec. 10, 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.
- Dec. 11, Pious Pints**, 7 pm meeting Bye the Willow, Chippewa Falls. Guest speaker: Deacon Tom Kinnick.
- Dec. 12, St. Olaf PCCW Annual Cookie Walk**, 10 am-1 p.m. and on Dec. 13, 9:30-12:30 pm.
- Dec. 13, Bi-Lingual Mass at noon** followed by a Las Posadas Celebration in the Parish Center. This Mass will replace the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Spanish Mass.
- Dec. 16, RCIA**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. For more info, email frsakowski@gmail.com or go to www.srsmRCIA.com
- Dec. 28, ABCD's of Medicare** 1–3 p.m.
- Jan. 7, Understanding the Scriptures Bible study**, 6:30-8p.m.

Please check out the bulletin board for detailed information.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 6, 2015

- Sun: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
- Mod: Is 35:1-10/ Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tue: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wed: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thu: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15
- Fri: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Sat: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18-19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Weekend of December 12/13

Lectors

4:00 pm D Stearns
11:00 am N Frank

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm D Effertz
11:00 am R Wanke

Servers

4:00 pm L Endres, B Cisneros, G Wolterstorff
11:00 am L Kovcevic, H Johnson, C Windeshausen

Attendant Servers

4:00 pm J Wolterstorff
11:00 am R Wanke

Organists

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

Cantors

4:00 pm L Gallagher
11:00 am S Alexander

Ushers

4:00 pm M Rohn, R Meyer, R Verdegan, G Wolterstorff
11:00 am M Chilson, T Buck, J Bauer, R Smeltzer

Counters

C Mastej, J Thom, I Lewis

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., Jan. 17** at 9:45-11:30 a.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 website for details, or contact parish office now to start the process.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Regular Monthly Meeting, Mon., Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Officers meeting in the Knights room, followed by regular meeting at 7 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

Last Week

Adults	\$4,652.00
Endowment Fund	\$0.00
Young People.....	\$1.00
Children.....	\$16.07
Offertory.....	\$664.79
Total	\$5,333.86
Capital Campaign (Rec'd to Date)	\$275,125.51

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 Gerseth, 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, 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 Rothfusz, 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, Steve & Ella May Kassa, Rita Collier, Kyle R, and their families in your prayers.



REMINDERS & TIDBITS

The Second Vatican Council – 1965 to 2015 is the title of a presentation that is sponsored by the Eau Claire Catholic Deanery and will be presented by Fr. John Schultz 50 years after the conclusion of the Council. Presentations will be at the St. James Parish Gathering Room on Monday, December 7, and at St. Raymond's Parish on Wednesday, December 9. Both will be at 7:00 PM and will last one hour. The public is invited.

Check out St. Mary's new app on your smartphone! Download MyParish app from the App Store. You will have access to St. Mary's bulletins, homilies, religious education cancelations and more.

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.

Regis Catholic Schools... Help us replace the seats in the Fr. Dowd Auditorium at Regis High School! 1 Seat=\$200, 2+ Seats = \$175/Each (Each seat includes a 4" X 1" plaque you can customize) Donate via PayPal RegisCatholicSchoolsFoundation.com under "Giving Opportunities" or mail a check to Regis Catholic Schools Foundation, 2728 Mall Drive, Ste. 200, Eau

Claire, WI 54701.

The St Olaf PCCW will be holding its 22nd Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 am—1 pm and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm located at 2407 North Lane, Eau Claire, WI. Lunch is available including BBQ, Potato Chips, Pickle, Dessert, Coffee or Lemonade. We will have a lot of Christmas Goodies available for purchase as well as raffles and a silent auction for a Green Bay Packer football. The proceeds of this event will go towards community projects sponsored by the PCCW.

People are needed for weekly adoration at St. Patrick's Benedictine Chapel in Eau Claire, on Mon. 7-8 am; Tue. 7-8 am and 8-9 am; Wed., 7-8 am, 5-6 pm and 8-9 pm; Fri. 11 am to noon and 5-6 pm. Contact Ann at 715-874-5794 to sign up.

\$CRIP NEWS

\$crip Volunteers for next weekend,
4:00 pm (Mary Kneer and volunteer),
11:00 am (Loann Sumner and volunteer)

Last Week

Number of Orders.....	12
Amount Sold	\$2,290.00
Profit (approximately).....	\$114.50
Monthly Profit	\$1,389.75

Thank You!

For additional \$crip news log onto St. Mary's website:
www.stmarys-altoona.com.

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