

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1812 Lynn Avenue • Altoona, Wisconsin 54720 Vol. 44 • No. 49

Parish Contact Information

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Parish Staff

Pastor,

Fr. Derek Sakowski 715-855-1294
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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 12/20

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
Mon. No Mass
Tue. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
Wed. 8:00 am † Cherie & Steven Boley
Thu. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
11:00 am Mass at Oakwood Villa
3:00 pm Mass at Fall Creek NH
Fri. 9:00 am † Gilbert & Florence Pitt
Sat. 4:00 pm † Paul C & Clara Bauer
Sun. 11:00 am † Luann Wanke
1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary's & St Raymond's Parishioners

FROM FATHER SAKOWSKI

Ushering in the Year of Mercy

It has begun! On Tuesday Pope Francis opened wide the Door of Mercy in Rome, in the hopes that each of us will open wide our hearts to God's unfathomable mercy, and will allow ourselves to become rich in works of mercy throughout the coming year.

The tradition of Jubilee Years goes back to the Old Testament. As you know the Sabbath (the "seventh" day of the week) was commanded by God to be a day of rest. It was meant to be a day that liberated man from his toil and reconnected him with God, family, and neighbor.

The Jews further observed the tradition of a *Sabbath Year*, allowing the fields themselves to lie fallow and rest. Any crops that grew in them did not belong to the owner, but to the poor.

Then, after seven times seven years, there was a Jubilee Year. During that year (ushered in by the blowing of a ram's horn in the Temple), not only did the fields rest, but there was an expectation that old debts be forgiven and property be returned to its original owners (who perhaps had lost it during a time of poverty).

Last week I wrote about how Pope Francis is urging all of us to gain the Jubilee Indulgence as often as possible during this Year of Mercy. Both in the Old and New Covenant, God has shown us that we are not isolated individuals, but are knitted together as one people. Jubilee Years are times when the spiritual abundance of some allows others to experience God's mercy more richly. We're all in this together, and we should give and receive freely.

St. Augustine articulates the defining features of a work of mercy. The Latin word for "mercy" is *miseriordia* – a combination of the words for "misery" and "heart." Mercy involves having deep compassion for the misery of self and others – imitating the amazing compassion of Jesus' heart. Augustine explains that performing works of mercy (*miseriordia*) serves to alleviate the misery (*miseria*) of the other.

There are any number of ways that we can ease the misery of others. Traditionally, the Church has identified fourteen of them – the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy and the 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy. As we start this great Jubilee Year of Mercy, it is worth recalling all of them. Consider how each of these alleviates the misery of others: (Cont. on pg. 2)

(Cont. from pg. 1)

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish the sinner
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive offenses willingly
- Comfort the afflicted
- Pray for the living and the dead

In a wonderful diversity of ways, each of these works of mercy serves to ease the misery of others. Some do so in a way that even very secular people can recognize; others are more subtle, and can only be seen with the eyes of faith. For instance, admonishing the sinner or instructing the ignorant (when done with the loving heart of Christ) are true acts of mercy because they have the potential to liberate people from sin and error, both of which enslave the human heart in a way far worse than mere physical suffering.

During this time of year when people ponder New Year’s resolutions, I encourage each of us to formulate Year of Mercy resolutions. Please take these 14 works of mercy to prayer, and invite the Lord to illumine your heart. One by one, ask the Lord to help you remember, “When was the last time I did this – in a way that truly eased the misery of another?”

My guess is that each of us has 2 or 3 of these kinds of works of mercy that we are very familiar with and very comfortable with. But it may be years since we’ve done others of them – if ever.

I encourage you to set concrete, measurable goals for the coming year. Make a point of doing each and every one of these works of mercy at least a couple of times. You might be pleasantly surprised at how liberating they are – both for the giver and the recipient. You may be pushed well out of your comfort level, but I don’t think you’ll regret it.

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: Carol Mastej (supervisor); Rich Kneer (caller); Joyce Oates, Linda Schuh, Jackie Behounek, Jean Ryan, Jason Galewski, Kate Gilboy, Maryjo Frank, Chris Finn (workers); Sarah Ostrowski (pull tab); Knights of Columbus (concession). Thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes, Dec. 16, 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
 - Change of address/phone
 - I need envelopes
- Please remove and put in the collection basket or send to parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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. 14, Fr. Guanella’s Birthday!

Dec. 15, The Bible Timeline Study, 9 a.m. All women are invited to participate.

Dec. 15, Young Adult Meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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. 20, Second Collection for Christmas Flowers.

Dec. 23, Decorating St. Mary’s for Christmas at 10 a.m. Many helpers would be appreciated. Great opportunity for service hours!!

Dec. 28, ABCD’s of Medicare 1–3 p.m.

Jan. 7, Understanding the Scriptures Bible study, 6:30-8p.m.

Jan. 13, 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.

Jan. 14, 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.

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 December 13, 2015

Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps
25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-
19, 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/
Lk 7:18b-23

Thu: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/
Mt 1:1-17

Fri: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-
19/Mt 1:18-25

Sat: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-
17/Lk 1:5-25

Sun: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-
19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Weekend of December 19/20

Lectors

4:00 pm M Doney
11:00 am A Koenig

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm S Stearns
11:00 am J Koenig

Servers

4:00 pm T Doney, B Albee, M Talley
11:00 am J Fox, J & N Mullenberg

Attendant Servers

4:00 pm D Wogernese
11:00 am M Niedzwiecki

Organists

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

Cantors

4:00 pm M Welle
11:00 am Youth Choir

Ushers

4:00 pm C Lylum, P Connell, M Rohn,
B Behounek
11:00 am J Cooley, T Buck, T Sykora,
R Mullenberg

Counters C Mastej, J Thom, C Kading

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Expecting a child? Begin the baptismal preparation now. At St. Mary's, the baptismal prep class is on **Mon., Jan. 11**, 6-7 p.m. and the luncheon is on **Sun., Feb. 21**, 9-10:45 a.m. At St. Raymond's, the luncheon is on **Sun., Jan. 17** at 9:45-11:30 a.m. and the baptismal prep class is on **Thu., Mar. 3**, at 6-7 p.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., December 14, 6 p.m. Officers meeting in the Knights room, followed by regular meeting at 7 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

Last Week

Adults	\$12,216.00
Endowment Fund	\$100.00
Young People.....	\$1.00
Children	\$7.80
Offertory.....	\$542.12
Total	\$12,866.92
Capital Campaign	\$3,690.31

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, 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 Wil-drick, 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, Steve & Ella May Kassa, Rita Collier, Kyle R, and their families in your prayers.



REMINDERS & TIDBITS

The new bulletin format will begin in January. It will be colorful and informative for both St. Mary's and St. Raymond's parishioners.

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.

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.

The World Youth Day Pilgrims are holding a "Chocolate Stroll" on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. in Fr. Klink Hall at Immaculate Conception. Over 20 varieties of home made chocolate decadence will be offered. Cost of the chocolates are \$12.00 per pound and you pick what you would like. Over 300 pounds of chocolates will be available.

It is time to sign-up for the Magnificat or renew your subscription for the monthly periodical that has been available in the past. The cost will be \$30 for the annual subscription. Please submit payment to the parish office along with the address to which you wish to have the periodical sent. Please note "Magnificat" in the memo of your check. Great gift for those who are homebound and for family members!

\$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.....	23
Amount Sold	\$6,730.00
Profit (approximately).....	\$336.50
Monthly Profit	\$336.50

Thank You!

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

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OF THE WEEK



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