

# St. Mary & St. Charles St. Mary & St. John Parishes

## We Welcome You

We welcome you to our parishes. If you would like to become a member of one of our parishes, please contact the parish office (994-2526) Bloomington or (725-5595) Cassville to register. For those who are interested in becoming Catholic or returning to the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. Greg.

## Sacraments:

### Reconciliation

Fr. Greg will be available to hear confessions on:  
Saturdays- 3:30-4:15p.m. at St. Charles, and 7:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary's Glenn Haven  
Sundays- 6:45-7:15 a.m. St. John, Patch Grove and 45 -9:15 a.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

### Baptism

May God bless our new parents! Please contact Fr. Greg to schedule the baptism of your child and to attend a baptismal preparation session.

### Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Please call Fr. Greg at least six months before the wedding. One of the parties must be a practicing Catholic.

### Anointing of the Sick

If someone is seriously ill, hospitalized, or is dying, please contact the Bloomington parish office immediately. Please call the parish office if there is someone who would like to be included in the Mass prayers.

### Vocations

Please contact Fr. Greg if you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming a priest, brother, sister, deacon, or lay church minister. Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood and all religious ministries!

### St. Charles and St. Mary's School-Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

To register your child, please call Mrs. Kelly Copsey at 994-2435 for St. Mary School or Ms. Dianne Makovec at 725-5173 for St. Charles School.

St. Mary and St. Charles Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

Bulletin Notices - Please submit bulletin notices in to the parish office (sunday7@tds.net) by Monday.

St. Charles Parish Office Hours (608)725-5595  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.-noon

St. Mary's Parish Office Hours (608) 994-2526  
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

## **Rev. Gregory Ihm**

P.O. Box 35, Bloomington, WI 53804  
608-994-2526 608-725-5595  
sunday7@tds.net (Julie M Jentz)  
stchas@tds.net (Cheryl Junk)



## Catechism of the Catholic Church

528 The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

Our parish website: [www.swwicatholicparishes.com](http://www.swwicatholicparishes.com).

**Liturgy Schedule**

Sat.	1/7	4:30 PM	Pro Populo	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Larry Zimmer	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	1/8	7:30 AM	Marilyn Huser	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Jim & Ellie Hinderman family	(Bloomington)
Mon.	1/9	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Cassville)
		8:45-9:30 AM	No Adoration	(Cassville)
Tues.	1/10	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Cassville)
Wed.	1/11	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Bloomington)
Thurs.	1/12	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Bloomington)
		8:45-9:30 AM	No Adoration	(Bloomington)
Fri.	1/13	8:15 AM	Skip Raisbeck	(Bloomington)
Sat.	1/14	4:30 PM	Gary & Steve Adams & deceased family members	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Edgar Bornhauser and Harold Stplpflug	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	1/15	7:30 AM	Pro Populo	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Susan Mergen	(Bloomington)



**Fr. Greg's Reflections**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**

“The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.” CCC 528

We find within the Liturgy for Epiphany the use of the words ‘splendor’, ‘light’, and ‘shine’. In the opening prayer of the Vigil Mass it reads: “May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, we pray, shed its light upon our hearts, that we may pass through the shadows of this world and reach the brightness of our eternal home.” In the first reading (Is. 60:1-6) we read:

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you... upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance... Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.”

This question arose in my heart as I prayed with this: What is this splendor and light and how do I possess this shining radiance? St. John Paul II wrote an important Encyclical entitled, “The Splendor of Truth” (Veritatis Splendor) and the opening sentence gives us the key to answering this question.

“Called to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, *“the true light that enlightens everyone” (Jn 1:9), people become “light in the Lord” and “children of light” (Eph 5:8), and are made holy by “obedience to the truth” (1 Pet 1:22).*”

For us to truly grasp and make the Epiphany ours, I invite you to read and meditate upon this very important Church teaching presented in the Encyclical; take time to read the entire document. It presents to us that there is Universal Truth who is Jesus Christ and this truth sheds light on our humanity through her moral teachings. Living moral lives in obedience to the truth of Jesus Christ is the way to receive the light and thus radiate it. This document has been controversial similar to that of Humane Vitae because it challenges the worlds view toward human fulfillment.

Don’t forget to bless the door way of your home with the Epiphany blessing (20 +C +M +B 23). You may use chalk which is an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The CMB also stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ bless this house). There is a special blessing of Holy Water that can be prayed on the Feast of Epiphany.

**Time Away from the Cluster**

I will be away from the cluster from January 9-20. Fr. John Meinholz will be here for the January 13-16 Masses. Please contact a parish office if you need to send me a message. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Vernon at St. Clement Church or Fr. Leffler at Ss. Andrew-Thomas Church.

**Scripture for the week of January 9, 2023**

Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**Epiphany House Blessing**

You can celebrate Epiphany at home with a blessing using the initials of the magi’s traditional names (Casper, Melchior, Balthasar), four crosses, and the new year’s numerals.

*Materials: a piece of chalk and a small container of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.*

**Leader:** In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the new year. [20 + C + M + B + 23]

Let us pray: May Christ bless this house! **ALL:** Amen!

**Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water and ALL say “AMEN!” after each room is blessed.**

**Living room:**

Where two or three are gathered in your name, Lord, you are present. Bless this room, O Lord.

**Kitchen:**

Give us this day our daily bread. Bless this room, O Lord.

**Dining room:**

Prepare us for the heavenly banquet. Bless this room, O Lord.

**Bedrooms:**

Stay with us Lord, when night has come. Bless this room, O Lord.

**Bathroom:**

Cleanse us from all sin. Bless this room, O Lord. *All return to the front door to pray together.*

**Leader:** Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . .

*The leader sprinkles all present with holy water.*

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **ALL:** Amen!



“If you ate only one meal a week would you survive? It is the same for your soul. Nourish it with the

Blessed Sacrament.” -St. André Bessette





**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS**

**Faith, Family and Academic Excellence**

The students and staff enjoyed two extra days of Christmas vacation because of poor weather and are back in the swing of things. They will be discussing the Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord in Religion class this week.

**SCRIP:** Scrip is available at school and also at Economy Feed Mill or if you have a special order you may call Molly Breuer, the Scrip Coordinator, at 563-608-5734 .



**St. Mary's Spaghetti Supper**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Spaghetti Supper at St. Mary's School on the evening of Saturday, January 28, 2023.

**Religious Education**

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Mary's School on Wed., Jan. 11, 2023 in Bloomington with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group will meet on Wed., January 25, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

**Christmas Flower Memorial**

Thank you to Mark and Erin Kluesner and family for their donation towards the Christmas flowers in memory of Ann Meyer.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES**

**PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES**

**St. Mary's Collections for the period ending December 30, 2022**

Church Support.....	\$2,970.00
Offertory.....	\$571.00
Harvest Fund.....	\$375.00
3K Program Fees.....	\$398.90
School Tuition.....	\$100.00
Christmas Flower Memorials .....	\$89.00
Gift.....	\$1,200.00
Memorial Candles.....	\$150.00

St. Mary's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses. It is suggested a family to give \$1,000.00 and a single person \$500.00 per year.

**St. John's Collections for the week ending on December 30, 2022**

Church Support.....	\$555.00
Offertory.....	\$240.00
Votive Candles.....	\$53.00

St. John's families are asked to generously contribution toward the support of parish expenses.

**St. John's Ministry Schedule for January 15, 2023**

	<b>7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass</b>
Lector:	Bill Mergen
Communion:	Mike McCabe
Ushers:	Charlie Martin, Roger McKinney
Servers	Ty & Matthew Tolle

**St. Mary Ministry Schedule for January 15, 2023**

	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass</b>
Lector:	Mary Sue White
Communion:	Mary Sue White
Sacristans:	Greg & Jane Patterson
Gifts:	Volunteers Needed
Ushers:	Joe Mergen, Mike Mumm
Server:	Meghyn & Sawyer Breuer

**Our Beautiful Churches**

Thank you to all who gave donations for the flowers and decorations and to everyone who helped to make our churches beautiful for the Christmas season.



St. Mary Church



St. John Church



**Saint André Bessette - Jan. 6**

St. André was born in 1845 into a large and very poor family from Quebec, Canada. The 8<sup>th</sup> of twelve children, he was named Alfred at his baptism. By the time he was 12 both of his parents had died and the children were sent to live with friends and relatives.

Alfred spent thirteen years doing hard manual labor, including factory and farm work in the northeastern United States. At age 25, he returned to Montreal and the parish priest noted his generous spirit and deep faith. He recommended the young man to the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal with a note stating: "I am sending you a saint."

Alfred took the name of this parish priest, André, and after much difficulty was allowed to join the Congregation as a Brother. Due to his poor health, he was given the simple job of minding the door of the Notre Dame College in Montreal. He welcomed guests, delivered mail, and ran errands.

Miraculously, sick people who visited him were cured by his touch and prayers. Brother André insisted it was God and St. Joseph. This began a many decades-long ministry to the sick. The lines of people became so long that he could no longer do his job at the school door. He attended to people all day and needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year. Over time, he began to build a shrine to St. Joseph on a hill he could see from his window. He did not live to see it completed and died on Jan. 6 1937. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."



**Our Beautiful Churches**

Thank you to all who gave donations for the flowers and decorations and to everyone who helped to make our churches beautiful for the Christmas season.



St. Charles Church



St. Mary Church

**Religious Education**

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Mary's School on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 in Bloomington with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group will meet on Wed., Jan. 25, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.



**St. Charles School**

We hope everyone had a very blessed New Year. We are very thankful for your prayers and support of our school.

The children have had a busy first semester, not only with their studies and faith life, but also in their service to the community. They have held some cookie baking days and donated the cookies to the food pantry here in town and to St. Patrick's in Dubuque, where they serve a meal to the poor each Wednesday. The children have assisted with the set-up and tear-down of several events, including the Fall Festival, Rummage Sale, and Advent Breakfast, and they also helped set up the Nativity scenes in the front of St. Charles Church and in the park. They changed over all the books in church for the new church year. St. Charles students are often seen serving at weekend and funeral Masses. Their time, while often unnoticed, is far-reaching and will hopefully lead to a lifetime of service for the Lord.

Please call the office 608-725-5595 for more information about enrolling your child(ren) at our school.

**St. Charles Celebration Musical CD's**

St. Charles Church Celebration Musical CD's are available for \$10. Sign up for one in church or contact the St. Charles Parish office at 725-5595 and leave a message.

**Catholic Herald**

Each week the *Catholic Herald* gives its readers a Catholic perspective on national and international news with articles from Catholic News Service. The *Catholic Herald* also keeps readers up to date locally with coverage of events happening around the diocese. If you do not subscribe but wish to receive the *Catholic Herald* print or e-Edition in your home, contact your parish office. The cost is \$20.00 per year.

**Reflection**

*"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

**PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES**

**St. Mary's, Glen Haven for December 31, 2022:**

Church Support.....	\$445.00
Offertory.....	\$64.00
Fuel Fund.....	\$300.00
<b><u>St. Mary's, Glen Haven for December 24, 2022:</u></b>	
Church Support.....	\$2,380.00
Offertory.....	\$311.00

**St. Charles, Cassville for December 31, 2022**

Church Support.....	\$2,240.00
Offertory.....	\$107.00
Bless Our Priests Collection.....	\$25.00
<b><u>St. Charles, Cassville for December 24, 2022</u></b>	
Church Support.....	\$4,325.00
Offertory.....	\$730.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$100.00

**PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES**

*St. Charles suggested giving is \$1,400.00 a year for a married couple and \$700.00 a year for a single household.*

*Love God, serve God; everything is in that.  
- St. Clare of Assisi*

**St. Charles' Ministry Schedule**

	<b><u>4:30 p.m. Mass on January 14, 2023</u></b>
Lector:	Bruce Boyum
Communion:	Holly Fishnick
Servers:	Declan Fishnick, Brielle Fishnick
Ushers:	Rick & Cheryl Junk, Tom Vondrum
	<b><u>St. Mary's, Glen Haven</u></b>
	<b><u>8:00 p.m. Mass on January 14, 2023</u></b>
Lector:	Cindi Breuer
Communion:	Cindi Breuer
Servers:	Mezera's
Ushers:	Joe Breuer, Ken Breuer





**Celebrate Life**

“Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 103:14; 104:29), is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory (cf. Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:6). This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: ‘Man, living man, is the glory of God’. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself” (The Gospel of Life, n. 34).

**Life Begins at Conception!**

At 18 days a baby’s heart begins to beat and by the 43rd day after conception a baby’s brain is coordinating movements. All of a baby’s organs are functioning at 8 weeks and a baby can smile, suck his/her thumb and make a fist by 12 weeks.

**Help is Available**

If you need support for an unplanned pregnancy, please contact the Clarity Clinic of SW Wisconsin at 608-348-5787 or email at [clientservices@claritywi.com](mailto:clientservices@claritywi.com) or the Women’s Care Center in Madison, WI at 608-241-8100. For more information on pro-life issues, visit [www.WisconsinRightToLife.org](http://www.WisconsinRightToLife.org).

**Natural Family Planning**

Register for in-person education courses or for a self-paced online course: <http://www.madisondiocese.org/classes-andregistration> Questions? Call 608-495-6117 or email: [nfp@straphael.org](mailto:nfp@straphael.org)

**Project Rachel - Healing from Abortion**

Are you or a loved one carrying the sorrow and regret from abortion? Whether recent or long ago ... God is waiting ... Healing is possible. For confidential help, call or email Mary: 608-821-3177 or visit [www.madisondiocese.org/rachel](http://www.madisondiocese.org/rachel).



**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Husbands and wives, offer each other the treasures of your love by participating in an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Jan. 13-15 virtual; Feb. 10-12 in Geneva, IL or April 21-23 in Brookfield, WI. Visit our website at - [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653.

**Cassville AA and Al-Anon Meetings**

The AA meetings are every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in Cassville.

**The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** -Call, text or chat. Mention you are a farmer and they will provide help specific for farmers.



**MEETINGS**

- \*Jan. 16 - St. Mary’s Parish Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Bloomington
- \*Jan. 17-KC Meeting at St. Mary’s, Bloomington at 7:30 p.m.
- \*March 15-St. John’s Parish Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**EVENTS**

- \*January 10 -St. John’s Food Pantry at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- \*January 11- Family Faith formation at Bloomington
- \*January 25-Youth Group at Bloomington
- \*January 28-St. Mary’s Spaghetti Supper
- \*January 29-February 4 -Catholic Schools Week
- \*February 5-West Grant Lions Club Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 –11:30 a.m. at the River Ridge High School Cafeteria. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk, cinnamon rolls, juice, and coffee. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 12 –6.
- \*February 10-12- Frassati Fest at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells for students in 9-12th grades.
- \*February 14-St. John’s Food Pantry at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- \*February 22- Ash Wednesday
- \*March 3 - St. Mary’s Fish Fry

**Visit with Fr. Paul Fagan**

A group of local people are planning a trip to visit Fr. Paul at his hospital complex in Tanzania in early June. Anyone interested in joining the group for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure can call Dave or Ione Meoska (723-9605) for more details.



Is your marriage tearing you apart? Does separation and divorce seem inevitable? There is hope. Madison Area Retrouvaille is a ministry for struggling marriages. Couples have rediscovered each other and their marriages through this program. A Retrouvaille program is scheduled January 27-29, in Green Lake, WI. Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for more information and/or for registration.

**SQUARE DANCE at St. Anne Gym, Stoughton**

Callin' all married couples to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter **SQUARE DANCE** on Sat., January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Ann’s Gym (323 N Van Buren, Stoughton). Potluck dinner (no nut/peanuts please) followed by 2 hours of guided square dancing by an official Square Dance caller. We will learn as we go, so if you’re up to learning something new, enjoying a lot of laughs, **this will be a night to remember!**

There is no cost to attend but free-will donations accepted. Registration is requested but not required (Amy & Jim @ 608-215-5197 or [awollangk17@gmail.com](mailto:awollangk17@gmail.com))

**FORMED**

FORMED brings together Catholic publishers into one web location, offering the opportunity to do Bible studies, learn about the Catholic Faith, watch movies, read e-books and more on a computer, tablet, TV, or a smart phone! Our cluster of parishes has a subscription to FORMED that allows all parishioners access to this treasure chest of faith enrichment.

To sign up, go to <https://signup.formed.org/> **You will need to enter 53804 to find our subscription which is listed under Southwest Wisconsin Catholic Parishes.** Then enter your name and email address. That’s it! You’re in.



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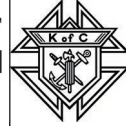
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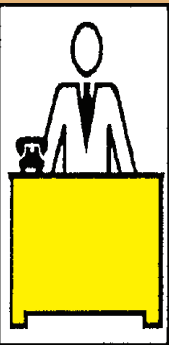
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