



Weekly Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 11 8:15 AM
(Saint Damasus I, Pope)
 † Elmer Fenzau

Wednesday, December 12. 8:15 AM
(Our Lady of Guadalupe)
 † Hannahmarie Horsfall

Thursday, December 13 8:15 AM
(Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr)
 Members of the Baus Family

Friday, December 14. 8:15 AM
(Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church)
 † Florence Schildgen

Saturday, December 15. 8:15 AM
 † Fr. John Norder
5:00 PM
 † Doug Reuter

Sunday, December 16 7:30 AM
Third Sunday of Advent
 People of Our Parish
9:30 AM
 † Irvin & Elaine Reuter

RECONCILIATION

Before Daily & Sunday Masses
Saturday at 4:00 PM

Face-to-face reconciliation by appointment only.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays:
 9 am to 5 pm
Thursdays & Fridays:
 9 am to 2 pm

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 1 & 2

Church Support Envelopes \$5,685.00
 Offertory Cash. \$569.00
 Children's Offertory. \$45.00
 Weekly Electronic Giving \$988.00
 1st of the Month Electronic Giving . \$1,040.00
Total \$8,327.00

Budgeted Offertory for Dec . . . \$42,882.00
 Offertory Received in Dec. \$8,327.00
Budgeted Amount Still Needed . . \$34,555.00

Monthly Offertory Comparison

November 2018 (4 weeks) \$33,092.00
 November 2017 (4 weeks) \$32,558.00

From Our Pastor:

In our journey through the Advent Season, preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ on December 25, the Church paused on December 8th to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (two Masses were offered at Saint Clement for the Solemnity). As we continue to mourn the death of our beloved Bishop Robert C. Morlino, a holy and devout shepherd for Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul, entrusting him into God's mercy and love. May we also pray for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for all the faithful in the Diocese of Madison. Mary is the Mother of Mercy, the mother of Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy.

Sometimes people seem confused over the meaning of the Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception, mistakenly assuming that it refers to the grace whereby Mary without loss of her virginity gives birth to Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at Christmas. The Church actually celebrates Mary's perpetual virginity on January 1 each year.

What the Church commemorates on December 8th is that God made a special provision for the Blessed Virgin Mary, since she is the woman who would become the mother of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Unlike other human beings descended from Adam, the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived *immaculately* and was preserved from all stain of original sin. This means that, by God's grace, she enjoys immunity from the ways that sin affects us. The Church teaches that Mary's special prerogative is given by God Himself – in other words, Our Lord gave to Mary *in advance* the graces that flow from the merits of His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension. Therefore, the grace of the Immaculate Conception freed Mary from *the struggle* to accomplish the good. What happened to Mary in an instant happens in us over time. We who suffer the effects of original sin, committed by Adam and Eve, can and do gain merit by sustaining the struggles involved in doing good. Mary, however, proceeds uninhibited by such difficulties. This special grace given to Mary does not lessen her capacity to merit good before God. Rather, because she is able to love more than we can, Mary's merits reach beyond those of all the saints. She is a mother like none other, the first and the perfect disciple of Jesus Christ, the Mother of the Only Savior of the world. And since we are brothers and sisters in Christ (John 19:26-27), she is our Mother, too – and she is able to help us grow in holiness as we place ourselves under her maternal mantle of mercy.

Let us pray: "Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Mercy, sustain our efforts to persevere in the good. Obtain the grace for us to flee sin and to embrace virtue. Help us, O Immaculate Mary, to become fruitful and holy disciples of your Son."

With peace and prayers in Christ,
Fr. William

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Happy Second Week of Advent! Please put your donation in an envelope marked with your name and name(s) of your deceased loved ones you wish to remember, and drop the envelope in the offertory basket or at the Parish Office. All checks should be payable to St. Clement Parish, and turned in by **December 17 (Monday)**. The memorial listing will be published in the Dec.22/23 bulletin. Thank you!

GIVING TREE ITEMS DUE TODAY

All gift, toiletries, and gift cards are due today, **Sunday, December 9th**. Thank you for helping with this corporal work of mercy.

INTERNATIONAL COMBINED COLLECTION NOTE

Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$567.00 for the International Combined Collection.



**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:
DECEMBER 15 & 16**



5 PM Lectors: Tom Hughey & Peg Jonas
5 PM Servers: Zach Mendis, Logan Harding & Braeden Bausch
7:30 AM Lector: Jan Block
7:30 AM Servers: Sam & Grace Schaffer
9:30 AM Lectors: Josh Jensen & Kathy Larsen
9:30 AM Servers: Delanie & Lily Weber, Lydia Mack

Lectors & Servers: We need volunteers for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Christmas Mass times are December 24, at 5 PM and 9 PM. Mass on Christmas Day is at 9:30 AM. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

FORMED: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

This Wednesday, December 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Blessed Mother, under that title, is the Patroness of the Americas as well as the Patroness of Children in the Womb. "Guadalupe: The Miracle and The Message" is a beautiful film, narrated by James Caviezel, that tells the story of Our Blessed Mother's appearance to St. Juan Diego near what is now Mexico City in 1531, and its relevance for today. The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most visited Marian shrine in the world. We've included this video in the Community area of FORMED to make it easy to find. On a side note, we'll be using this film for our adult education gatherings this week.

To register on FORMED, go to www.FORMED.org. Click on "Enter Code" and enter our parish code: **DHYNXC** and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Please join us in this Advent Season as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This week we will view a beautiful video about Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will be two opportunities to view this video. On Wednesday, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we will gather following the 8:15 Mass; and on Thursday, December 13, we will meet at 6:15 PM. Both gatherings will be held in the parish office meeting room, with sessions lasting about 1 ½ hours. All are welcome!

THE CHURCH LOOKS BEAUTIFUL!

We do have a beautiful church at St. Clement Parish, especially during the great liturgical seasons of the Church. As we near the Christmas Season, now just 2 weeks away, we need your help to decorate the church, making it even more beautiful than it already is. All it takes is a little bit of your time and talent. But first it takes you to call us at the parish office to let us know that you can help, and to give us an idea what days and times might be best. Contact Bill Manthe at 723-4990 to volunteer or if you have any questions.

2019 PARISH CALENDARS

The 2019 Parish Calendars are here and can be picked up in the entrances of the church. We wish to extend a huge Thank You to Greg and Rita Schmitz of Homeward Bound for once again supplying our calendars for us. Thank You Greg and Rita for your generosity!!

THIS WEEK AT ST. CLEMENT

Wednesday, December 12. . . . 9:30 am, Mass at Orchard Manor
. 10:30 am, Mass at Atrium Post Acute Care
. . . . RE classes; Grades K-6 (6-7 pm); Grades 7-9 (7-8:30 pm)
Thursday, December 13 7 pm, Rosary; 7:30 pm Meeting,
Knights of Columbus
Friday, December 14. 8:15 am, All School Mass

**AREA COMMUNAL PENANCE SCHEDULE
(WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS):**

- Wednesday, Dec. 12, St. Mary, Bloomington, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 19, St. Clement, 7 pm

BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Please remember the retired priests of our diocese by making a gift to the "Bless Our Priests" collection, which is used to directly support all retired priests' welfare, including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Please return your gift in the envelopes available at all Masses this weekend. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) NOTES

ALL women of our parish are members of the Council of Catholic Women CCW). The dues of \$5 help us support parish activities: roses for life (on the altar) for two weekends per month, altar bread, Lighthouse Media CD stand, donate to various causes etc. Thank you to members who sent in your dues. If you haven't yet, please send it in as soon as you are able. Thank you.

PLEASE BE ALERT!!!

Scammers are using Fr. William Vernon's name, with email addresses that are not his, seeking to scam people out of money. If you get an email that in any way looks suspicious, contact the parish office at 723-4990 before opening it. Know that Fr. William will never ask for monetary assistance in an email!

THANK YOU!

We want to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at the United Methodist Church a wonderful occasion. It's an event that's been growing steadily - over 150 people were served this year. It's a terrific ecumenical occasion of people donating food and their time in order that people in our community have a place to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The students of Saint Clement School invite you to our "Red Carpet Christmas" program under the direction of our new music teacher, Mr. Nate Gallagher. Please join us as our guests of honor are recognized for their parts in the Christmas Nativity. Our program starts at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 14th. Tickets go on sale at the Saint Clement School Office...wait...who are we kidding. There are no tickets. It's free to get in. Come and join us for some great music by the Saint Clement students and in celebrating the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ!