LOVE never fails
(1 Corinthians 13:8)

SAINT CLEMENT CATHOLIC PARISH
135 South Washington Street - Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813
Founded in 1859

Diocese of Madison, Bishop Donald J. Hying
Fr. William Vernon, Pastor 723-4990 Josh Jensen, Principal 723-7474
Bill Manthe, Parish Associate 723-4990 Nick Crosby, CRE 7-12 723-4990
Katie Crosby, Parish Secretary 723-4990 Rebecca Dean & Melissa Martin, CREs K-6 723-7474
Website: www.saintclementparish.com Email: st_clement@tds.net (Katie)

For Parish Membership, Baptisms, Weddings, Communion Calls or any other pastoral need, contact the respective parish office.
Bulletin Announcements: Deadline is Monday at Noon to the St. Clement Parish Office or to st_clement@tds.net
**Weekly Mass Schedule**

- **Tuesday, December 15** . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8:15 AM
  - Members of the Baus Family
- **Wednesday, December 16** . . . . . . . . . . . . 8:15 AM
  - Fr. Paul Mankowski, SJ
- **Thursday, December 17** . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8:15 AM
  - Msgr. Michael Burke
- **Friday, December 18** . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8:15 AM
  - Bob & Jan Schmidt Family
- **Saturday, December 19** . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8:15 AM
  - Msgr. Michael Burke
  - **5:00 PM**
  - Family Members of Clara & Clarence Fuerstenberg
- **Sunday, December 20** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7:30 AM
  - Fourth Sunday of Advent
  - Don & Florence Pluemer
  - **9:30 AM**
  - People of Our Parish

**OFFICE HOURS:**

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

**RECONCILIATION**

**Before Daily & Sunday Masses**

- **Saturday at 4:00 PM**

  Face-to-face reconciliation by appointment only.

**STEWARSHIP OF TREASURE**

**December 5 & 6**

- Church Support Envelopes . . . . . . . . . . . . $6,279.00
- Offertory Cash . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $397.00
- Weekly Electronic Giving . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,048.00
- 1st of Month Electronic Giving . . . . . . . $1,440.00
- **Total** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $9,164.00
- **Budgeted Offertory for Dec** . . . . . . . . . . $44,994.00
- **Offertory Received in Dec** . . . . . . . . . . $9,164.00

**Monthly Offertory Comparison**

- November 2020 (5 weekends) . . . . . . . . . . . $36,577.00
- November 2019 (4 weekends) . . . . . . . . . . . $28,461.00

**REMINDERS:**

- Giving Tree items (gifts and toiletries) due today, Sunday, December 13.
- Christmas Memorials due Monday, December 14.

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**From Our Pastor:**

Last Sunday, we heard Saint John the Baptist proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, calling upon people to live the faith in word and deed, to prepare the way of the Lord (Mark 1:1-8). This Sunday, we read that Saint John the Baptist came to witness and testify to the Light, Jesus Christ, so that all might come to believe through Him (John 1:6-8, 19-28). Saint John was not the Light, but testified to the Light, calling upon all people to make straight the way of the Lord. Later in the Gospel, Saint John even says of Jesus Christ: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

In today’s culture, it seems that many people are obsessed with being number one. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, sports fans and athletes could often be heard chanting in stadiums and arenas nationwide, “We’re number one,” regardless of their team’s actual ranking. In our secular culture, the champion appears to be the only one who matters. The second-place finisher (no matter how valiant or deserving their play) is routinely relegated to obscurity, while the winner (no matter how unbecoming their conduct) is honored and remembered. And since there can only be one true champion, the competition can get rather intense, while there is also a tendency for a number of imposters falsely to lay claim to the title of being number one. We see this today, with some politicians and much of the elite media claiming victory in the midst of a presidential election plagued by suspect voting machines and clearly corrupted by election officials, governors and judges in some states who changed election laws that can only be legally changed by state legislatures (the winner, according to the U.S. Constitution, is ultimately determined by 538 electors of the Electoral College when they cast their ballots based on the legal votes of U.S. citizens from their states, which are then received and certified by the U.S. Senate and U.S. House).

If Saint John the Baptist were to follow the example of our corrupted sports and politics, he would have claimed the title of “champion” when asked if he were the Messiah. All Saint John had to say was “yes sir, that’s me, the messiah.” Instead, he spoke the truth, relegating himself to at least number two, stating that he didn’t even deserve to untie the Champion’s sandal strap. Surely John understood the risk of not being number one, that he was inviting the crowds to forget him. In his humility, however, Saint John teaches us that unlike the secular culture’s views on first-place and second-place finishers, there is only one True Champion, and that by making Jesus Christ “number one” in his life and in our life, we actually will never be forgotten or lost.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, help us to have the wisdom of Saint John the Baptist so that we may willingly and joyfully proclaim and give witness to You by our words and deeds. Please help the leaders of the Church and our country to embrace integrity, truth and honesty. Help us all to live the faith that You have given us, to stay close to You in prayer, in Your Church, Word and Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, mindful of Your communion of saints. By Your grace, help us to humbly follow You, dear Jesus, the one True Champion, all the way to Life Eternal in Heaven. Amen.

With peace and prayers in Christ,

Fr. William

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**BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION**

Please remember the retired priests of our Diocese of Madison by making a gift to the “Bless Our Priests” Collection, which is used to directly support all retired priests’ welfare, including the cost of healthcare, long-term care and other medical needs. Please return your gift in the envelopes available on the tables by the entrances of the church. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!
**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!**

The Knights of Columbus’ special “Keep Christ in Christmas” outdoor yard display “judging” is drawing near. Contact Bill Seyer at 988-6543 to let him know that you are participating. On the week of December 21, members of the KCs will drive by each participating home to pick a winner. We will also publish in the bulletin the addresses of those who are participating so that you too can see the many displays of “Keep Christ in Christmas.” To participate, call Bill Seyer.

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**ST. CLEMENT FALL FESTIVAL 2020 UPDATE**

First, thank you everyone for making our Fall Festival a huge success! Not knowing how the pandemic would affect our festival, we trusted in God and the generosity of parishioners and community members alike, and it was financially the best festival ever. The net profit from our festival was $58,145.85, up $7,000 from last year! There are many people to thank, but most of all we need to thank our chairpersons of the event: Josh & Erin Jensen, Kevin & Renee Timmerman. They worked very hard to organize everything before the event, and on the day of the festival. Their planning made everything flow very smoothly. Because of everyone’s generosity, we were able to transfer $58,000 to our parish general operating fund to help cover church and school expenses. Below is a simplified breakdown of the income and expenses of the Fall Festival. For a detailed breakdown, see the parish bulletin board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Raffle Sales</td>
<td>$27,111.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle &amp; Cash Donations</td>
<td>$28,486.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner Sales</td>
<td>$25,795.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$547.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$81,940.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$23,785.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Profit</td>
<td>$58,145.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once again, thank you to everyone who made our 2020 Fall Festival a huge success, and for your fabulous generosity! God bless you.

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**2021 PARISH CALENDARS**

The 2021 parish calendars are available at the entrances of the church. We wish to extend a big Thank You to Greg and Rita Schmitz of Homeward Bound for once again supplying our calendars for our parish. Thank You Greg and Rita for your generosity!!

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**IN MEMORIAM**

In these early days of the Advent Season, please remember in your prayers Brian Janssen of our parish who died on December 1 and whose Funeral Mass was offered on December 4. Brian was just 46 at the time of his passing from this life to life eternal with God. Brian was one of three sons born to Rodger and Mary Janssen, and like most boys, Brian was very active in sports and anything outdoors. Brian’s life journey led him to working in finance, with him becoming the branch manager at People’s State Bank, where he was admired by both employees and bank patrons. Brian was a very social man, enjoying visiting and being around others. The most important person in his life was his wife Denise, and together they were inseparable. She was the love of his life, as he was hers. She brought her son Braeden into their marriage, and together Brian and he were best buddies. Sadly, Brian’s life took an unexpected turn earlier this year when he became ill and a cure could not be found. Brian loved life, he adored his family and friends, and he was close to God. May he now rest in perfect peace and happiness with the Lord. As we pray for him, may we also pray for his beloved wife Denise, Braeden, his dad Rodger, his brothers Rob and Jay (and Missy), and all of his family and friends in this time of sorrow.

May God’s consolations and comfort be with them.

“Eternal rest grant unto Brian, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

With Jeff Kasparek unable to remove snow from our church and school sidewalks this year as he continues to recover from surgery, we need volunteers who would be willing to assist with this. We do have a lead person who will take charge of contacting individuals when snow needs to be moved. If you are able to help with snow removal, please let us know when you can help (for example weekends only, mornings, afternoons, any hours of the day) and if you can help shovel or bring a snow blower. We have a snow blower at the parish, but more would be welcome. Contact the parish office with your name, best phone number to reach you, and when you can help. Please do not volunteer if you have a health condition that would put you at risk. We want everyone to stay healthy!

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**SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL**

**GET YOUR SCRIP CARDS TODAY!!!**

With Christmas just around the corner, we now have smaller denomination SCRIP cards available from many of our most popular retailers in addition to hundreds of other cards that we already had in stock. These SCRIP cards make great stocking stuffers and gifts for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list. We are also having a SCRIP WAR competition at school in which the class that purchases the most SCRIP before Christmas earns the right to donate $100 to the charity of their choice! So, be sure to stop by the SCRIP table after each weekend Mass or call the school office during the week at 723-7474 to get your SCRIP cards today. Just let us know which student’s class you would like your order to go towards. And, as always, we thank you for your continued support of our wonderful parish school!!!