

Blessed Sacrament Parish

130 Losey Boulevard S. La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Father David Olson, Pastor

Father Edmund Donkor-Baine, Associate Pastor

November 16, 2008

PARISH OFFICE 782-2953

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BL. SAC. SCHOOL 782-5564

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COULEE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE 784-8585

Parish email address: BLESSEDSACRAMENT@centurytel.net

Parish website: BLESSEDSACRAMENTLACROSSE.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 am

Monday – Saturday 7:30 am

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday after 7:30 am Mass & 3:30-4:00

Confessions heard in church; other times by appointment

EVENING PRAYER DAILY WITH BENEDICTION ON WEDNESDAYS

5:15 *in the Adoration Chapel*

Contact the Parish Office to join the parish, to arrange for a wedding (6 months in advance), and for Baptism class information.

Anointing of the Sick: Those who are seriously sick or have been ill for a long period of time should receive the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

If you are home-bound because of illness and would like to be visited, please call.

November 16, 2008

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SOCIAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION: WE ARE STILL LISTENING!

All Lines Are Still Open!

Last month, we as social justice representatives on the Pastoral Council, held a listening session to prayerfully consider the following:

- What efforts might we consider in reaching out to those in need in our midst?
- What activities might we consider for education and prayer related to seeing and serving the Lord in, as what Mother Teresa calls, the distressing disguise of the poor and suffering?
- Who would like to help occasionally with projects?
- Who would like to join the Social Justice committee as we pray and discern future courses of action?

As Father Olson, Barb Swieciak, Pat and Ellen Cavadini, Kathy Mydy, Dave Allen met with us, the following dreams were expressed. Please review the list and reflect on those you might be interested in lending a hand with as well as any other ideas for prayer, study or outreach that might come to mind. We would love to hear from you!

*Basket drives with useful items, eg. Laundry supplies, etc.

*Bulletin reminders to recommend people you know who need help; contact Fr. Olson confidentially

*Parish Nurse possibility

*Parish hotline on voicemail

*Energy assistance needs

*Publicize resources available

*Advertise and explain reasoning behind our projects

*Enlist the aid of youth

*Expand once a month food collection; perhaps ask for one type of item, eg. peanut butter, flour, etc.

*Set goals and bench-marks

*Consider monthly calendar in bulletin with events noted

Bounteous Blankets

A few years back, a call was placed to Salvation Army to determine current needs. The worker said, "Well, we happily just relocated a family from the shelter to an apartment and gave them our last blankets." Thus the blanket collection was born and deliveries are made to the shelter several times a week, thanks to the abounding generosity of our Blessed Sacrament parish family. Thanks to **Ted & Sheila Riley family, Nicole and Mike Watunya, Joanne Nordeen, and Anita Walker and family** for helping with deliveries.

Deliveries continue through February and, YES! More help would be welcomed.

Giving Tree & Food Collections

As part of the Christmas fair later this month, the annual giving tree will be set up with needs identified from Catholic Charities. Food collections continue at Blessed Sacrament seven days a week for struggling families and individuals.

Gratitude

The generosity of our parish family and lives given in service cannot be underestimated. A sincere thanks to all for the many lives you touch in hundreds of ways day in and day out, through prayer, word and deed. As you go about your loving and serving and discover needs you think we could help to address We are still listening as we prayerfully discern how the Lord is calling our parish to serve him in the distressing disguise of the suffering...

Marcia Kolaczowski, 790-5342, and Scott Doberstein, 782-1833
Pastoral Council Social Justice Representatives

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

November 17 - 23, 2008

This week's reader: Betty Nelson
Communion Minister: Mary Kachel

Mon, Nov 17 Elizabeth of Hungary

7:30 **+Frank & Mae Smith**

Servers: Bill Chamberlain

Tues, Nov 18 Weekday, Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter & St. Paul in Rome

7:30 **Intention of the 1st Wedding Anniversary of Jimmy & Nicole Dobson**

Servers: Pete Fiorini

Wed, Nov 19 Weekday

7:30 **+Irene Sweeney**

Servers: Jason Hutzler

9:00 **+Margaret Schubert**

5:15 Evening Prayer & Benediction

Server: John Brennan

Thurs, Nov 20 Weekday

7:30 **+John & Laura Levi**

Servers: Riley Campbell, Meredith Wedro

Fri, Nov 21 Presentation of the BVM

7:30 **+Arthur McConaghy**

Servers: Emilie Steingraeber, Eliza Skemp

Sat, Nov 22 Cecilia

7:30 **+Poor Souls**

Servers: Courtney Frick, Evan Dolan

Christ the King

Sat, Nov 22

4:30 **+Edward Kletzke**

MC: Pete Fiorini

Servers: Clare Roop, Anna Schuttenhelm, Kate Riley

Readers: Gene Kolaczowski & Christine Skemp

Petitions: Emily Walker

Eucharist: Nancy Padesky, Mary Ann Bradley, Loretta Clarkin, Susan Fukuda, Marilyn Holland

Ushers: Bill Kroner, Tony Flottmeyer, Allan Fukuda, Dave Sweeney

Offering family: Patty & Tom Keil & family

Sun, Nov 23

8:00 **For the People of the Parish**

MC: Mike Vanderploeg

Servers: Mitchell Degenhardt, Nathan Schneider, John Paul Soldner, Riley Campbell

Readers: Tom Kieffer & Steve McGovern

Petitions: Maggie Clements

Eucharist: Carol Melde, Joe Clements, Earl & Lucille Newton, Jean Kachel

Ushers: Gene Hafner, Robert Schaefer, Adolph Szymkowiak, Mark Chamberlain

Offering family: Dave & Mary Jo Reinders

10:00 **+Dolores Murphy**

MC: William Arnold

Servers: Joey Francksen, Josh Lenth, Riley Reinhart, Jamie Cooper

Readers: Jason Hutzler & Bob Kelemen

Petitions: Erin Roop

Eucharist: Deb Gilkes, Mike Hartley, Larry Lee, Jeff & Sandy Reinhart

Ushers: John Sullivan, Terry Felt, Tom Franke, Joe Dalton

Offering family: Candy & Richard Pearse

AROUND THE PARISH

CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATE

CUT-OUT COOKIES BAKING & DECORATING PARTY

Wed, Nov 19, 10 am, Parish Center kitchen. Don't miss it! Bring your unique cookie cutters, decorating sprinkles, etc. Tasting will be allowed.

CHILDREN'S SECRET STORE

Please donate your new or very gently used items for moms and dads, etc. by dropping them off in the Parish Office or marked "Secret Store" and dropping off in the Narthex. Bring your children or grandchildren to shop in the Secret Store at the Christmas Fair. They'll love picking out those special gifts and wrapping them up.

There will be lots of helping hands there.

ANNUAL COOKBOOK STOCK-UP SALE

Buy one Blessed Sacrament Cookbook for \$10 or 2 for \$15. This timeless collection makes a great gift for just about anyone, but there's a limited supply left.

Cookbooks available in the Parish office, after Masses, and at the Christmas Fair.

APPLE AND PUMPKIN PIES NEEDED

for lunch at the Christmas Fair. Sign up to bake one or some in the Narthex. Please have your uncut pie(s) in the kitchen by 9:00 on Nov. 22.

OUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**WE ARE ALMOST \$50,000 BEHIND
COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. PLEASE
CHECK YOUR RECORDS AND HELP
US GET BACK ON TRACK. THANKS!**

**THERE ARE MANY WHO HAVE NOT AS YET SENT IN
THEIR PLEDGE CARDS FOR THE ANNUAL APPEAL.
THAT'S A MIGHTY BIG HELP TO OUR CHECKBOOK.**

BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS

**PUT YOUR GOOD CLEAN BLANKETS IN THE BIN IN THE
NARTHEX. THE SALVATION ARMY NEEDS THEM
BADLY AS THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN. ARE THERE
ANY TEENS AND PARENTS WHO COULD DELIVER THE
BLANKETS FOR US? CALL SCOTT AT 782-1833 OR
MARCIA AT 790-5342.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

RUMMAGE SALE PROFIT, Nov 1

\$2649.02

Thanks again to all who helped... and all who
shopped. Next sale: June, 2009.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-10

Wed, Nov 19, 6:30-7:45

There will be a parent round-table during class time. Come,
share your ideas and/or concerns.

PARISH SUPPORT

COLLECTIONS UPDATE: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Needed each week: \$17,400.00

Received 11/9: \$10,825.00

.....
No one ever injured his eyesight
looking at the bright side of life.

COMING UP

Nov 16 Family Rosary after 10:00 Mass

Nov 18 Widows & Widowers, Famous Daves, 6 pm

Nov 19 Make and decorate cut-out cookies for
Christmas Fair, 10 am

Nov 22 Christmas Fair, 8:30 – 3:00

Nov 24 Men's Club Meeting, 7 pm

Nov 24-30 Our Parish's week for Mobile Meals

MUSIC NOTES

ADULT CHOIR, (High school age and older) will practice
Thursday, 7-8:00, in the choir loft. The choir will sing at
the 9:00 Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (grade school age) will practice
Sat, Nov 22, 9:30-10:15, in the choir loft. The choir will
sing at the Christmas Fair on Nov. 22 and on Christmas
Eve at the 4:30 pm Mass. We'd love to have more
children join us! Call Pauline at 782-2953.

REST IN PEACE

Catherine Schmidt

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE WEEK

FUNERAL CHOIR

Ruth Bannen	Mary Noelke
Tom Bracken	Liz Nutter
Marge Chamberlain	Bill O'Leary
Pauline Connell	Nancy Padesky
Irm Drier	Tom Padesky
Mary Esten	Chris Parins
Betsy Fowler	Pat Poehling
Diane Franke	MaryJo Reinders
Colleen Gleason	Mary Ellen Robertson
Mary Ann Hartley	Margaret Schaefer
Florence Koenig	Arlene Schmidt
Maxine Kroner	Ralph Schwanbeck
Denis Kuennen	Barb Skemp
Carol Mader	Fran Skemp
Dorothy Mansheim	Fred Skemp
Sue Mathy	Sue Staples
Mary Jane McElligott	John Stubler
Mary Ann Melvin	Caroline Trueblood
Kathy Mruz	Mary Beth Vach
Betty Nelson	Rose Wettstein
Earl Newton	Ruth Wills
Loretta Nockels	Judith Wiltinger

Pam Quillin, Director

LA CROSSE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

La Crosse Center

10:30 Thanksgiving Worship Service

11-3:00 Dinner served

Please help out by bringing canned cranberry sauce to church and drop off in the box in the Narthex until Nov 25.

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS GROUP will gather for dinner this Tues, Nov 18, at 6 pm, at Famous Daves. If you have questions, contact Loretta Clarkin at 784-9917, or Barb Schmitz at 788-1667. New faces are always welcome!

BLOOD DRIVE Mon, Nov 17, at the Cathedral. Call 782-0322, ext 0.

THOSE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE A support group will meet at Holy Trinity Nov 19, 7-9:00 pm. For more information call Nancy at 769-5007 or email Mary at marystoy@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH If you'd like information on adoption come to our program at Catholic Charities, 3710 East Ave S on Nov 18, at 5 pm. Root beer floats will be served. For questions or to RSVP call Rhea Newman at 782-0710, ext 210.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY will be selecting families to be offered interest-free mortgages and residency in the La Crosse area in return for 350 hours of "sweat equity." To apply one must attend a Homeowner Expo, either Thurs, Nov 20, 6-7:30 pm, at the Southside Neighborhood Center, 1300 S 6th St, or Sat, Nov 22, 10-noon, at the YMCA North, 400 Mason St, Onalaska. For more information call 785-2373, ext 1, or go to www.habitatlacrosse.org.

AQUINAS RAFFLE CALENDARS are available in the Parish Office at \$20 each. A winner is drawn every day of the year.

***YOUTH RALLY** for Middle and High School students will be held Dec. 20 at St. Elizabeth's, Holmen. Mark your calendar. Music, prayer, fellowship, fun! Cost: \$5.00

***PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE** in Washington DC, Jan 20-24. Open to anyone 13 yrs. old and older. \$235 per person includes motorcoach, 2 nights in hotel, sweatshirt. Full amount due Dec. 1. This is a HUGE rally for life. Don't miss joining with thousands of others at our Nation's Capitol to make your voice heard. For more information contact Sister Stephania at snewell@dioceseoflacrosse.com. Registration form available on the Diocesan website at Youth Ministry Events link.

***JOHN PAUL THE GREAT YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** Feb 27-Mar 1, at the Lions Camp in Rosholt. Speakers will include Fr. Joe Hirsch, Sister Stephania Newell, & Phil Lawson from St. Peter's Parish, Stevens Point. Cost: \$60. Includes: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, fellowship, music, games, Mass. More information and registration form at Lawsphil@gmail.com, or by phone 715-344-6115.

PARISH STAFF OPENINGS

SECRETARIAL POSITION

- *27 hours per week
- *performs clerical functions and greets visitors in the office
- *requires good organizational skills and working knowledge of computer word processing, spreadsheet, and data entry.

CUSTODIAL MAINTENANCE POSITION

- *approximately 20 hours per week
- *cares for church buildings
- *works with parish volunteers to provide maintenance and cleaning

If you or someone you know might be suited for these positions please call Fr. Olson for more information.

Parish Council meeting November 4, 2008

All members were present. The meeting began with prayer and was followed by welcoming the newest members of the Council, Helen Roop, Galen Pittman, and Dave Reinders. Reports were heard from the four standing committees. Family life reported on ongoing work to develop a marriage preparation program for couples and their desire to model the preparation program to use married mentoring couples to meet with the couples anticipating marriage. More work will be needed to develop this program. The Sacred Worship committee reported on its recommendation to purchase a new manger scene for the church sanctuary. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with that purchase. Some discussion was held on the use of the old nativity scene to either keep it for use in the parish center during the Christmas season or to contact the school to see if they would have some use of it. The Sacred Worship committee will meet soon to continue work for the Advent and Christmas season liturgies and decoration of the church. The Social Justice committee reported on the success of the blanket drive. Blankets donated at Blessed Sacrament are being given to the Salvation Army for their shelter. For the Education committee report Fr. Olson gave a brief update on the RCIA program and the Confirmation program at Blessed Sacrament. Part of the requirement for confirmation will be attendance at a faith basics program Fr. Olson will teach. This will consist of 45 minute sessions between the Masses on certain Sundays beginning in January. These will also be open to the entire parish.

The Council elected Tim Brennan as the president for the Parish Pastoral Council. Fr. Olson and Tim will work to assign new members to the committees and adjust current committee assignments.

Old business of the work on the school windows and steps and our lease agreement with the school system was discussed. In conjunction with this the Council discussed the changes to the staff indicated from Fr. Olson's bulletin letter from the previous weekend, and the Council voiced general approval of the plan to hire a part-time custodial/maintenance person. The meeting ended with prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Finance Council meeting November 11, 2008

The meeting began with prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Fr. Olson updated the Finance Council on the ongoing We Belong to Christ campaign and this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal.

The WBTC Campaign has been very successful in the Diocese reaching 99% of its fifty million dollar goal in pledges throughout the Diocese. Blessed Sacrament Parish did not meet the 1.1 million dollar goal set by the Diocese and fell short by \$370,000. From the money we receive from the WBTC campaign, the Finance Council agreed to prioritize the payment of \$357,000 of assumed debt from the Coulee Catholic School system. The debt is owed to the Diocese, and assuming that debt is meant to help the school system attain a more solid financial footing. The Parish has until November, 2009, to pay off the \$357,000 without paying interest.

Pledges on this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal have been made by 33 percent of our parishioners. Sixty Seven percent have not yet responded to the Annual Appeal. So far we are \$22,000 over our target amount for the Annual Appeal, but this is well below where we were last year and the year before in pledges. Some members of the Finance Council suggested calling parishioners to remind them of the need to pledge.

Fr. Olson discussed the restructuring of staff at Blessed Sacrament Parish, and the Council suggested advertising the positions of secretary and custodian in the bulletin.

Mark Chamberlain gave a report on the parish budget. The parish operates on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. For the first three months, ended September 30 of this year, the parish envelope giving is \$51,000 less than last year. The Council felt this reflected a downturn in the economy generally. The poor performance of the stock market is also reflected in the balance of the Parish Endowment Trust which went from a high of just over two million dollars to a current balance of \$1,640,000. The Parish uses the earnings from the Endowment Trust for part of its operating budget.

For building and grounds there are no contemplated new expenditures except for maintenance costs.

Memorials and specific bequests to the parish amounted to \$1571 since September.

The meeting ended with prayer.

CHRISTMAS FAIR "WISH" LIST

- *Gently used and new books – hardcover preferred
- *CD's, Videos, DVD's for all ages – subject appropriate please
- *Handmade items – knitted, crocheted, sewn, sculpted, woven, woodworked
You price them, please. We will return to you if not sold at your price.
- *Gift items – new or VERY gently used. Need not be Christmas themed
- *Secret Store items – Children come to the Secret Store to buy for Mom and Dad,
Grandma, siblings, teachers, etc.
We'll have helpers to lend a hand, but we'd love to have wrapping paper, also.
Chairperson: Kathy Koehne, 788-8575.
- *Linens – preferably new

DROP OFF IN THE NARTHEX OR PARISH OFFICE

- *Baked goods – including canned and processed treats.

DROP OFF IN THE PARISH CENTER FRI, NOV 21.

Questions? Call Chief Elf Karen Perry, 788-1546.

DON'T YOU DARE MISS THIS YEAR'S FAIR
Saturday, November 22, 8:30 – 3:00

Gingerbread Village raffle

Basket raffle

Lunch - delicious as always

Fleece throws in team and school colors

Secret Store for kids' shopping

Cinnamon ornaments

THE GIVING TREE

Crafts and baked treats

Entertainment all day

Coffee & rolls in a.m.