



Special Interest Articles:

- Sunday Social
- School News
- From the Bishop

Individual Highlights:

School News	2
REP Roundup	3
St. Pats KCs	3
From the Bishop	4
Pro-Life News	5
Upcoming Events	6

St. Pat's Sunday Social

By David Schmidt

We are excited to announce a new and wonderful event coming soon to St. Pat's. Starting on Sunday February 18th and continuing every third Sunday of the Month we will be having a Sunday Social.

The goal of the Sunday Social is to create additional opportunities for all of us to build Community and Fellowship within the Parish, and through that gain the Courage and Confidence to better live and share our faith not only each other, but with the community.

This event, which is based on Faith, Fun, and Fellowship, will be a one stop shop of activities for Parishioners of all ages.

With a combination of social, educational, spiritual, and devotional activities happening all at the same time there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

So, whether you want to enjoy coffee and donuts and play a game of cards; engage in a spiritual discussion about our faith; watch a presentation or

participate in a study to learn our faith; have children who want to engage with their peers and learn about and discuss their faith; or wish for a quiet time of prayer and reflection with fellow Parishioners; the Sunday Social will be the place to be.

Held in the School between our Sunday Masses you and your family will walk into the school and be handed a list of activities for the morning. This list will lay out the theme for the month and exactly what is being offered, who it is for, and where it is located. You then choose how you want to participate. There's no commitment, no pressure, no expectations. You decide exactly what you want to do and how much you want to be involved.

But that's not all. After the different activities in the School end, our Sunday Social will conclude back

over in the Church, where we would have a Community Meal in the Church basement running concurrent with a Children's Mass at 10:30. There is no better way to end a morning of Faith, Fun, and Fellowship than with a Mass and meal.

This event is something different for the Parish. It is something new that will take a lot of time and effort to develop. If this is something you are interested in, we ask that you pray about how best you may be able to contribute your time and talent. Be as an organizer, a facilitator, or as a participant. We need help to make this a success. So please spread the word.

If you would like to know more or help out with this event, our next planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 3rd at 6:00pm in the School Library. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact David Schmidt at davidjschmidt@hotmail.com or 608-797-9712.

Thank You and God Bless!!!



Happy New Year from St. Patrick School

By Jean Suttie

The school year is moving along very quickly! We had a great fall and advent season. The students collected food items for the food pantry as a November service project. Our students also had the opportunity to prepare for Christmas through reconciliation and learning more about Advent.

Coming up in January we will have Catholic Schools Week. We will be having a Lego theme this year! We are looking for monetary or Lego donations. If you are

interested in helping, please contact the school office.

The students will continue learning about saints during the school year. So far they have learned about: September -Mary Queen of Heaven, October - Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, November - St. Agnes, and December - Mary, The Immaculate Conception. The next three months will be January - St. Anthony, February - St. Peter, and March - St. Joseph. If you have recently entered through the front doors of school, you will see two large banners.

The banners are pictures of the two large rose windows from our church (men's side and women's side). This year we are featuring the women's window.

The students also have Monthly Prayer Intentions. We have done: September - Harvest, October - Families and Grandparents, November - Souls of those who have passed, and December - world peace. The upcoming months will be: January - world leaders, February - vocations, and March - unborn and mothers.

Upcoming School Events:

- January 27- Diocese Brains Tournament
- January 28- February 3 - Catholic Schools Week
- February 3 - Spaghetti Dinner after 4:30 Mass
- February 14 - Ash Wednesday Lent Begins
- February 15 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- February 20 - Kindergarten Round-Up 6 PM
- March 2 - Guest Reader Day
- March 11 - St. Patrick Day Dinner and Raffle

Beautiful Artwork for all to Enjoy!

By Jean Suttie

The School was blessed and is thankful to have received two wonderful donated pieces of artwork this year; The Sacred of Heart of Jesus and the Lord's Supper.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Painting is from Alyce Yankee. She inherited it from her mother Leone Goedert and thought more people would enjoy it here at school. It has a nice prominent place in the front hallway and will be enjoyed by many! Thank you!

The Lord's Supper picture was dropped off for the rummage sale and was reframed. We

do not know the donor, but are thankful to whoever dropped it off. It is also hanging in our main hallway for all to enjoy.

All are welcome to come and enjoy the not only these beautiful pieces of art but all the artwork and pictures we have hanging in our hallways.



REP Roundup

By David Schmidt

On December 9th, 26 children in our Parish were blessed to experience God's Grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time.

On a chilly Saturday morning these students were able to feel the warmth of God's forgiveness as they took another step in their journey of faith.

It was a beautiful scene as, with family and friends present, each student anxiously took their turn in Confession.

This wonderful day was the first milestone in a very important year for them. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the first step in a year that will eventually culminate in them all receiving Christ for the first time in the Eucharist.

Sometimes overlooked on a student's path to Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the perfect way for all of us to prepare to receive our Lord.

So as we wrap up this Christmas season when

we prepared for Christ to come to us, and get ready for Lent where we prepare for Christ to save us, let us keep these children and their families in our prayers, that they may always seek Christ in all the Sacraments, and that by their example we all might as well.



"...Reconciliation is the perfect way for all of us to prepare to receive our Lord."

St Patrick's Knights of Columbus

By Mike Harris

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, a great Christmas and are looking forward to an excellent New Year.

Our Pizza Knight in October was a success and we can certainly look forward to more of them to come. Love that pizza!

There is an update on the Ten Commandments Monument specifically the pavers to be placed around the monument. Since La Crosse Monument was under a deadline with previous obligations and the need to get them finished before the frost set in, we've elected to hold off until spring to place the pavers. A minor delay but we'll be able to do the whole thing at that

time. We now have the bricks and are being stored until spring.

On more of a somber note, I'm sure many of you know of the persecutions of Christians in the Middle East. The Knights are supporting an effort to help them financially and with as much prayer as can be garnered. There are some brochures on the Knight's stand at the back of church with more information. Please take one and help as you can.

In the meantime, I would like to include the prayer being offered composed by the Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain, as well as a web site to go to for more information.

"O God of all nations, the

One God who is and was and always will be, in your providence you willed that your Church be united to the suffering of your Son. Look with mercy on your servants who are persecuted for their faith in you. Grant them perseverance and courage to be worthy imitators of Christ. Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations to work for peace among all peoples. May your Spirit open conversion for those who contradict your will, that we may live in harmony. Give us grace to be united in truth and freedom, and to always seek your will in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"

www.christiansatrisk.org

Vivat Jesu

Mike Harris GK



"Give us grace to be united in truth and freedom, and to always seek your will in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"

From the Bishop

By Bishop Callahan
*From Catholic Life Magazine
 July 2017*



“Pray about it! Talk with God in quiet thought and reflection about your talents and abilities.”

Not too many years ago, when I was a parish priest, I remember listening to (young) people trying to describe the dilemmas they faced in their lives of faith. They wanted to determine what “to do” in the church (in their lives as an expression of their faith — if they did not feel called to be a priest, a deacon or a religious. That same dilemma presented itself for others who believed that the only way to serve in their parish is to become a reader at Mass or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. These are all noble callings and vocations — but they are not the only ones available. We should not walk away in distress, thinking we are “not needed” or we “are wrong” for any reason when we are not chosen for these particular ministries. There is so much to do in the church and so many ways to offer ourselves for service. One of the first — and probably one of the most necessary — ways to consider the type of ministry or service to offer in the church is just what you might guess: Pray about it! Talk with God in quiet thought and reflection about your talents and abilities — what you like to do and what you might find challenging or difficult. You might be surprised

how God could be calling you to volunteer, perhaps helping clean the church or changing the monthly missalettes. Prayer is always the starting point of our journeys for service in the church — don’t forget that.

While you may not be called to be an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Mass, you may be an asset to your pastor as a visitor to the sick and homebound. For this action, you will be commissioned as a Communion minister to the sick. You might visit the homebound or those in the hospital, taking time to read the Scripture readings with them, bring them the parish bulletin or simply chat about some things that may cheer them up and help them to feel connected to the larger parish community.

Speaking for your pastor, it’s encouraging to discover someone in a parish community who may be willing to offer their time for assistance in ministry to the youth. This not only means ministry to those in high school (confirmation classes, etc.). You might find out that your pastor could use some assistance with a young adult or a faith study group. The parish may need a prayer group to meet monthly to pray for specific needs of the parish or for those discerning vocations — marriage included.

There are administrative opportunities that present themselves in the deaneries of the diocese — both locally and at the diocesan level. The diocesan Pastoral Council connects the bishop with the laity of the diocese by maintaining contact with the deans, along with their own parish priests. This council meets several times a year with the bishop to discuss various needs, both of the local church and the wider faith community of the state (Wisconsin Catholic Conference) and the country (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

These meetings allow for consultation and dialogue with the bishop and members of his staff where everyone is allowed to hear and share ideas. You may even consider responding “yes” if you are invited by your pastor to serve on the parish Pastoral Council or Finance Council. Sometimes, it just may be satisfying for you to offer your talents and gifts in service to the church by simply doing what you may do for a living or what you do as a hobby. Consider volunteering your talent as carpenters, painters, plumbers, accountants or cooks, to name a few; these skills are quite essential and necessary for the church. Every pastor would be really grateful to receive such a gift from his generous parishioners looking to *(Cont. Pg. 5)*

PRO-LIFE NEWS – MARCH FOR LIFE

By David Schmidt

As the calendar turns from another Christmas season where your generosity was seen in your abundant support of our Christmas Crib for newborns helped by Catholic Charities, January once again offers us multiple opportunities to show your support for life and the protection of those among us who need it most.

As another year has gone by where abortion has continued to take the lives of the most innocent, we have the opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the world that there is a better way.

This January there are two trips planned where you can join those who share our respect for life, and our desire to see abortion come to an end.

On Sunday January 14th, Pro-Life Wisconsin (PLW) is organizing a bus trip to Chicago to participate in the March for Life-Chicago. The one day trip, which costs \$35 per person or \$85 per family will pick you up and drop you off here in Sparta. It is a great way to show your support. If you have questions or would like to register for the trip please visit www.prolifewi.org or call the PLW contact person, Therese Aloia

at 262-796-1111 ext. 14.

Additional, if you would like to travel a bit more to show your support for life, you can join the Diocese's Pilgrimage for Life to Washington D.C. from Jan 17-21. This Pilgrimage which is sponsored by the Office for Youth and Young Adults Ministry is a great way to join with thousands upon thousands of others, both young and old, in demonstrating your support for life.

To learn more about the Pilgrimage for Life visit www.dioc.org/yya and click on the "Pilgrimage for Life" to sign up.

God Bless!



"...multiple opportunities to show your support for life and the protection of those among us who need it most."

From the Bishop (from pg. 4)

(From Pg. 4)
return an offering to God.

These are just some of the areas I have found in my years of priesthood that many of the faithful tell me bring joy and a sense of satisfaction for them in contributing time, talent and treasure in their local communities.

Again, the need for personal prayer and introspection helps all of us learn what we can do to respond to

God's love in our lives. Each of us can offer ourselves in little ways to respond to the many needs in our parishes. In the years following Vatican Council II, we have come to know and understand that the work of the church is not simply done by clergy and religious. All of us must share as workers in the vineyard of the Lord in the work that fulfills the mission of Christ for His church and the entire world.

Please, take your time in considering how to offer yourself in service. Yes, there are many tasks; remember how Jesus spoke to Martha about being anxious about many things? Remember how He said that Mary had chosen the better part? Each of us has a particular way in which to serve the Lord. Take time. Listen; as you do, you will hear God's voice in your heart and join in the great adventure of the church!



"...introspection helps all of us learn what we can do to respond to God's love in our lives."

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://stpatricksparish.weconnect.com/>

Online Giving at:

<http://stpatricksparish.weconnect.com/ONLINE-DONATIONS>

St. Patrick's School at:

www.spartacatholic.org

Upcoming Events

01 Jan – New Year's Day	14 Feb – Ash Wednesday
02 Jan – Worship Committee Meeting	14 Feb – K-10 Grade REP
03 Jan – K-10 Grade REP	18 Feb – St. Pat's Sunday Social
03 Jan – Eucharistic Adoration	19 Feb – Second Harvest Food Pantry
08 Jan – Knights of Columbus Meeting	21 Feb – K-10 Grade REP
09 Jan – Education Committee Meeting	24 Feb – Confirmation Retreat
10 Jan – K-10 Grade REP	25 Feb – Last Weekend Food Drive
14 Jan – March for Life Chicago	28 Feb – K-10 Grade REP
15 Jan – Second Harvest Food Pantry	06 Mar – Worship Committee Meeting
17 Jan – March for Life D.C.	07 Mar – Eucharistic Adoration
17 Jan – K-10 Grade REP	07 Mar – K-10 Grade REP
24 Jan – K-10 Grade REP	11 Mar – St. Patrick's Day Dinner
28 Jan – Last Weekend Food Drive	12 Mar – Knights of Columbus Meeting
31 Jan – K-10 Grade REP	13 Mar – Education Committee Meeting
03 Feb – School Spaghetti Dinner	14 Mar – K-10 Grade REP
06 Feb – Worship Committee Meeting	17 Mar – PCCW Meeting
07 Feb – Eucharistic Adoration	18 Mar – St. Pat's Sunday Social
07 Feb – K-10 Grade REP	19 Mar – Second Harvest Food Pantry
10 Feb – PCCW Meeting	21 Mar – K-10 Grade REP
11 Feb – First Communion Meeting	25 Mar – Last Weekend Food Drive
12 Feb – Knights of Columbus Meeting	28 Mar – K-10 Grade REP
13 Feb – Education Committee Meeting	

Interested in Receiving Informational Emails about St. Pats

St Pats is currently sending weekly informational emails to all parishioners. This includes a bulletin link, a schedule of upcoming events, and other pertinent reminders/information. If you would like to be added or removed from this list please contact David Schmidt at davidjschmidt@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Who are We? Our Mission...Our Vision

Mission Statement: We, the faith community of St Patrick's Church's, are trusted to continue the mission of Jesus through the Catholic Church. Toward this goal, we serve, teach and worship. We strive to meet these ends in a spirit of love and compassion, tempered by justice and peace, through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Vision Statement: St. Patrick's Parish is committed to growing and nurturing our faith community through prayer, fellowship (hospitality), and service with opportunities for evangelization, education, and social justice, thereby continuing the mission of Jesus.

Additional Resources...

Diocese of La Crosse - <http://diolc.org/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - <http://usccb.org/>

The Holy See - <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>