

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

309 W. Cook St. Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 742-6998 Fax: 742--1039

AND

St. Mary Help of Christians

PO Box 127 Briggsville, WI 53920
Phone & Fax: 981-2282

Parish email: parish@stmaryotic.com
Parish Website: www.stmaryotic.com



*If you have
faith the size of
a mustard seed,
you would say
to this mulberry
tree,
'Be uprooted
and planted in
the sea,'
and it would
obey you.*

**Parish Priest:
Fr. Jim Murphy**

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6 & 7, 2007

Visit our web site at www.stmaryotic.com

Portage Worship Schedule

Monday, October 8

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Tuesday, October 9

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Wednesday, October 10

7:00 AM † Tom & Margaret Coleman
(Estate of Bernadine Coleman)

Thursday, October 11

8:00 AM † Jack McWilliams (Family)

Friday, October 12

7:00 AM † Evelyn Thiede (Estate)

Saturday, October 13

5:30 PM † Mable Poole (Mary Poole)

Sunday, October 14

9:30 AM † Kathryn A. "Casey" Amend (Family)
10:45 AM In thanksgiving for Sam & Evelyn Pate's
50th Wedding Anniversary

Portage Confessions

Saturday, October 13

9:00-9:30 AM

Stewardship Reflection

October 7, 2007

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

A good steward cannot be a coward. It takes strength, love and self-control to put God first in our lives. St. Paul assures us that we have been given the courage we need to do God's work.

Stewardship of Treasure

for the Weekend of September 29 & 30

Envelopes	\$7986.00
Offertory.....	\$448.27
DSA.....	\$53.00

Year-to-Date

Envelopes Received.....	\$110467.80
Envelope Budget.....	<u>\$131750.88</u>

Difference.....(short) -\$21283.08

Visit Our Website!

www.stmaryotic.com

Look for parish bulletins, scripture readings, faith formation information, and much more!



From Our Pastor

During this Respect Life month, I would encourage you to participate in the 40 Days for Life effort. You may find more information at: 40daysforlife.com/madison

This effort is a 40 day prayer vigil. It began on Wednesday, September 26, and ends on Sunday, November 4, in 89 communities throughout the U.S. In Madison, it is being held outside Planned Parenthood on 3706 Orin Rd., off Hwy. 51. It is a 24 hour prayer vigil. The web site lists a calendar of open hours, or you may fast and or pray in solidarity with this effort.

Fr. Jim

BENEFIT FOR RIVER HAVEN HOMELESS SHELTER- This Weekend PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Pancakes, eggs, hash browns, gravy, sausage, juice, and coffee
Sunday, October 7 - 7:30 am-noon
Knights of Columbus Hall
Silver Lake Drive \$5.00

All proceeds go to River Haven Homeless Shelter

Join Our Parish Family



We invite all visitors that are interested in joining our parish to fill out a membership card after Mass. Parish members will be located in the back of church to assist you.

Church Decorations



Our church is always beautifully decorated to reflect the season or celebrations underway in our parish and these seasonal decorations are meant to enhance our worship environment. We ask for help in decorating for the continuing season of Ordinary Time on October 19 at 6:30 pm. Thank you.

Advertiser of the Week

CUSTOM HOMES

BY

TIERNEY BUILDERS

NI202 HOPKINS ROAD

ARLINGTON, WI 53911

FAX: 608-635-8055 BUSINESS: 608-635-4554

Please remember to patronize our bulletin advertisers listed on our bulletins weekly.

They help to make this bulletin cost-free to our parish.

In Loving Memory

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Boylan. Mary passed away on September 26, 2007 and a Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, September 29th at St. Mary-Portage.



May God grant her the peace and joy of heaven.

Offertory Program

Next Weekend, we will begin a program that asks everyone to reflect on the amount that they give to Offertory. This review will ask several questions.

They are:

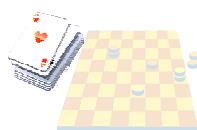
- Do I have a need to give or do I give only when there is a need?
- Do I understand that there is an obligation to provide regular financial support to the parish?
- Where does the parish fit relative to the other ways that I spend my money?
- How much do I give to the parish on a weekly basis? (If you give monthly or quarterly, calculate your weekly commitment to put it in perspective.)
- Is it too much, too little or just right?
- If I am not at the parish for one or more Sundays, do I make up the amount that I have not given?
- How much will I give each week during the coming year?

RCIA- What does being Catholic Mean?

Our RCIA process is under way. Is God calling you to receive baptism in the Catholic Church? If you are already baptized in a Christian Church, have you ever wondered what it would involve to join the Catholic Church? Are you a baptized Catholic who has never received first communion or been confirmed? If you answered yes to any of these questions, it's not too late for you to join us to get your questions answered. The next session will be held on Thursday, October 11th beginning at 7 pm at St. Mary-Portage.

Family Game Night

The Parish Life Committee invites everyone to a free Family Game Night from 6:30 to 9:00 pm Saturday, October 20 in the school cafeteria. Adults and older children will enjoy Euchre and Texas Hold 'Em. Younger children can test their skills at board games. Enjoy a free night of games, prizes and refreshments -- and fun!



Advent Bible Study

As Advent approaches we will begin a study of the Book of Isaiah. Perhaps the most influential of all the prophetic books in the Bible, the book of Isaiah speaks in wonderful and sometimes hidden words about the coming of the Messiah. How appropriate as we too prepare for his coming.



Time: 1:30 to 3:30 and 6:30 to 8:30
Tuesdays beginning October 30 thru December 18

Location: Parish Center

Cost: \$5:00 for the Workbook
\$9.99 for the Companion Book (Recommended)

Please call the Parish Office to enroll in the class by October 22 so books maybe obtained.

Food Pantry Shortages

The shelves at St. Vincent de Paul are looking a little bare at the moment. The food pantry at St. Vincent's runs out of the same foods that we do in our own homes.

If you are able to help keep up with the demand please drop off your non-perishable items at St. Vincent's or you are welcome to bring them to the church office. Some of the items that the food pantry could use are: cereal, tuna, pasta, juice, hearty soups, peanut butter, hamburger/tuna helper, and toiletries.

If you have extra time and would like to help out, St. Vincent's is also in need of volunteers!

Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness.



Respect Life Sunday

This weekend we celebrate Respect Life Sunday. October is Respect Life Month when the Church in the United States focuses on the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. For 2,000 years, the Catholic Church has boldly proclaimed the truth that every human being is a precious gift made in God's image and likeness, who is to be cherished and protected by all, no matter how broken, unformed, guilty, or "unplanned." Respect Life Month addresses the full spectrum of life issues from abortion to embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia to the death penalty.

Portage Faith Formation Schedule

Kindergarten– Eighth Grade

***Wednesday, October 10**

5:30-6:30 pm Class

***Wednesday, October 17**

5:30-6:30 pm Class

5:30-7:00 pm Parent Meeting and First Sacrament
Prep Family Gathering

***Wednesday, October 24 & October 31**
NO CLASS

.....

High School Faith Formation Mini Courses

***Respecting God’s Gifts**

7:00-8:30 pm
Wednesday October 10

***Creed Part I**

9:00-10:30 am
Sunday, October 7, 14 & 21

***Intro to Liturgy & Sacraments**

9:00-10:30 am
Sunday, October 7, 14 & 21

***Justice: A Catholic Priority**

12:30-2:00 pm
Sunday, October 7, 14, 21, 28 & November 4

.....

Confirmation Class

***Wednesday, October 10, 17 & 24**

7:00-8:30 pm

or

***Sunday, October 7, 14, 21, & 28**

9:00-10:30 am

High School Mini Course Teacher Needed!

We need YOU!

Please consider volunteering!!



The Youth Ministry Office is looking for an adult who would be interested in teaching the High School Mini Course: *Introduction to Christian Prayer*. This course is scheduled for Wednesday nights November 7, 14, 28, December 5 & 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm. This would involve supervising, mentoring and teaching lesson plans.

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT

The Nightmare

The Nightmare is an interactive, Hollywood quality maze that depicts four of the top killers of teens and young adults in America:

drunk driving, drug abuse, gang violence, and suicide.

The Nightmare, cast of 300 people, provides an unforgettable lesson about the difficult consequences of many life choices.

It also presents the crucifixion of Christ and offers people an opportunity to talk and pray with counselors.

Who: Students 13 years and older

Where: The Orbital, Marshfield, WI

When: Friday, October 19th

Time: 4:30pm - 11:00pm

Cost: \$13

(includes ticket and transportation)

**Registration forms can be found
in the back of church.**

**Registration Deadline:
Wednesday October 10th**

**Adult chaperones are needed! Please contact
Brenda Collins if you are willing to go!**

~Attention~

Faith Formation Parents

To ensure the safety of our Faith Formation Students we are asking you to come to the St. Mary School Gym to pick up your children following class each Wednesday.

We realize that this may be an inconvenience, but your children are precious and their safety is our main concern in today’s society.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

SCHOOL NEWS



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you are able and would like to help a child obtain a catholic education St. Mary's is once again looking for donations for the school scholarship fund. Our children lead the way to the future. If you are willing to make this wise investment in a catholic education please send a check to the parish office. If you have questions about the scholarship fund please call the school office at 742-4998.

THANK YOU

A gift of \$500.00 was given to the St. Mary School Endowment fund in memory of Betty Wartner.

NEW!

Participation at Mass for



Toddlers and Young Children

Beginning Saturday, October 13th at the 5:30 pm Mass, and continuing on Sunday, we are inviting families with young children and toddlers to bring one canned good or nonperishable item for the Portage Food Pantries. There will be a basket placed in front of the altar, and during the Offertory, when the ushers start distributing the baskets in church, the young children can walk up and put their one item in the basket. Adults may accompany small toddlers when walking up the aisle.

We ask that the items not be put in bags, and only one item per child as we are going to continue this practice through the rest of the year. We thought this would be a meaningful way to have the young children participate in Mass, and do something special for Jesus.

If you have any questions please call Anne Zydowsky, Parish Life Committee, 742-4912.

St. Mary Golf Outing & Dinner 2007

A special thank you to all those who participated, helped and/or donated to the 11th Annual St. Mary Golf Outing to make it a great success!

Gold Knight:

Zimmerman Plumbing, The Griep Family and McDonald's

Hole Sponsors

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Gugger Window & Siding | Portage National Bank/Mel & Maureen Bindl |
| Divine Savior Healthcare | Ziegler Builders |
| Harkins Family | Rak Family |
| Pflanz, Mantey, Mendrala-Funeral Home | Tooling Tech Group |
| Sky High Campground | Darrell & Mary Parker |
| Jon & Judy Steinhaus | Sean Malone-State Bank |
| Anonymous Donor | Community Bank of Portage |
| Quinn's Hitching Post | The Races |
| Fairway Mortgage | ASCS |
| Bauer Chiropractic | Benck/Blohm Family |
| Mark Raimer/ M & I Bank | |
| Chuck Miller | |

Donors

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jennifer Armson | Tim & Diane Bressers | Bud's Pizza |
| ACE Hardware | David Davidson | Dick's Sports |
| Armson Family | Dairyland Packaging | Daley's Beverage |
| Greg Beirne | Devil's Head | Eulbergs |
| Christmas Mt. | Gavinski Family | Computer Clinic |
| Culvers | Pierce's | Hair Lair |
| Davis, Duehr, Dean | Interstate Electric | The Ireland Store |
| Galley Studio | Jon Kruse | Cuff's Canine |
| Freedom Carpet | Chuck Miller | Bill Mitchell-Lawson |
| Jack Harkins | Napa Auto | Peg Napralla |
| Krista's Kitchen | Northern Exposure | Penda |
| McDonald's | Preuss Implement | Portage CC |
| Mobil Gas Station | Portage Glass | Portage Theatre |
| Northern Bay | Barb Smith | Connie Shlimovitz |
| Precision Hair | Tolly's Alley | Viva La Mocha |
| Designers | Bruce & Lisa Walker | Tooling Tech Group |
| Portage Furniture Store | Wisconsin | M & I Bank/Mark |
| Seaman Family | Distributors | Raimer |
| Quinn's Hitching Post | Zimmerman | H & H Pools |
| Trappers Turn | Promotions | Subway |
| University of WI | Dennis Locy | |
| Greenbay Packers | Stephanie Armson | |
| ASCS | Badger Sports | |

We raised a total of \$7800.00!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

MARTY, TODD & GREGG GAVINSKI AND TRAVIS HAMELE

THE WINNING FOURSOME OF ST. MARY'S GOLF OUTING 2007!



From Bishop Morlino

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Bishop of Madison, I am pleased to announce that I have designated the month of November, 2007 as Catholic Charities Month within the diocese. Catholic Social teaching proclaims that we are truly keepers of our brothers and sisters.

Catholic Charities helps to fulfill the Church's role in this mission of charity by providing compassionate, caring services to all God's people. It is of the utmost importance for us, as Catholics, to put our faith into action, and to carry out the command of Jesus Christ to "Love our Neighbor." Through the work of Catholic Charities, we can strengthen and support children, individuals, families and communities based on the value and sanctity of human life.

Catholic Charities mission is all about people helping people. They protect, preserve and promote the dignity and independence of persons. They provide help and create hope each and every day for:

- Our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities who are vulnerable
- Families and children who are neglected
- Individuals who are broken and oppressed
- Aging persons who are forgotten
- Persons with drug and alcohol addictions who are struggling

As part of Catholic Charities Month, I encourage you to learn about their programs by attending the upcoming Catholic Charities 12th Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 30th. Please support this event and see how they put their faith into action. If you are able, visit the Catholic Charities website or consider volunteering in one of their programs.

I want to acknowledge the members of the Board of Directors; Brian Cain, President; and the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities for their time, care and commitment in reaching out to those in need with skill and loving service during this past year. November also marks the full fruition of the All Saints Neighborhood project with groundbreaking of the Assisted Living Facility.

Let us go forward then in our shared mission to help our neighbor according to God's Plan, His Providence which alone makes all things new. Please support Catholic Charities as they carry out their mission in the Diocese of Madison, and may the blessings of an always deeper faith, health and safety be with you and yours.

Faithfully your in Christ,

The Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

Take a Closer Look at College Seminary!

Go with young men (ages 15-22) from the Diocese of Madison for a weekend visit to Saint John Vianney College Seminary on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. It is a chance for men to informally visit the seminary, sit-in on some classes at the university, and get to know a seminary from the inside-out without any pressure of commitment.

The entire trip is free. The dates of the trip are Thursday afternoon, November 15th through Saturday afternoon, November 17th .

For more information, contact Msgr. Jim Bartylla at 608-821-3095 or vocations@straphael.org.

Have You Been Blessed by Natural Family Planning?

If you have, please consider being an NFP teacher. You don't have to be a medical professional to teach others how to plan families naturally. All you need is a desire to spread the good news about NFP and the motivation to complete initial training. Medical background is a bonus, and NFP medical professionals are always needed! For more information, contact the Diocesan Family Planning Coordinator, Jessica Smith, at 608-821-3035 or jessica.smith@straphael.org.

New Family Planning Classes

Are you interested in family planning that respects your fertility *and* your beliefs? Find out more about Natural Family Planning (NFP)! Check for updated information at www.madisondiocese.org/nfp or call Jessica Smith at 608-821- 3134. To register for classes, call 608-821-3035 or email the Family Planning Coordinator at Jessica.Smith@straphael.org.

Briggsville Worship Schedule

Tuesday, October 9

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Wednesday, October 10

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Thursday, October 11

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Friday, October 12

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Saturday, October 13

4:00 PM † Dorothy Murphy (Family)

Sunday, October 14

8:00 AM † Rose Gorniak (Leroy Gorniak)

Stewardship of Treasure

for the Weekend of September 29 & 30

Envelopes Received.....\$1458.00
 Offertory.....\$107.50

Briggsville Faith Formation Schedule

Kindergarten– Ninth Grade

***Sunday, October 7**
 following 8 am Mass -Class

***Sunday, October 14**
 following 8 am Mass -Class

***Sunday, October 21**
 following 8 am Mass -Parent/Student

***Sunday, October 28**
 following 8 am Mass -Class

Catholic Women's Meeting

The St. Mary Briggsville Catholic Women's meeting will be October 18 at 1:30 pm. We will begin with Rosary followed by the meeting.

Men's & Women's Vocations Discernment Group

Have you ever considered whether God might be calling you to the priesthood or religious life? Do you ever wonder what it would be like to consecrate your entire life to serving Christ and His Church? Would you like to meet other men and women who have similar questions? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then please come and join us for our men's and women's vocation discernment groups. Msgr. Jim Bartylla, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Madison and Sr. Marcia Vinje, Associate Director of Vocations will lead each respective group as they share their vocation stories and insights and try to help answer your questions. The night consists of Eucharistic Adoration, discussion groups, and pizza/social time. For more information please contact the Vocations Office at (608) 821-3095 or vocations@straphael.org.

Hope for Your Marriage

Madison Area Retrouvaille will hold another weekend on October 19-21, 2007 at the Bishop O'Connor Center, 702 S. High Point Road, Madison. Hope for your Marriage: Retrouvaille. It begins with a weekend experience in which husbands and wives are helped to rediscover each other and to examine their life together in a new and positive way. For more information or a brochure call 608-249-2377 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Bulletin Announcements Deadline

All announcements must be received in writing or e-mailed to parish@stmaryotic.com attention Kari Caulum by 12 NOON each Wednesday.

Briggsville Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, October 13

Reader: Diana LaPointe

Extraordinary

Ministers of Communion: Chris Clark & Louise Lentz

Servers: Nicole & Shyla Cummings

Sunday, October 14

Reader: Terry McGowan

Extraordinary

Ministers of Communion: Anna & Lloyd Weber

Servers: Rathon & Argon Schulz

Scripture Readings

for the Week of October 7, 2007

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/
 Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28

Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

Calendar of Events
Week of October 8-14
St. Mary Portage Parish & School

Monday, October 8

St. Mary-Portage Parish

5:30 pm Catholic Women's Club cafeteria

Tuesday, October 9

St. Mary-Portage Parish

7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting PC-CR

Wednesday, October 10

St. Mary-Portage Parish

5:30-6:30 pm Faith Formation K-8 church

7:00-8:30 pm High School Mini Course PC-UL
(Respecting God's Gifts)

7:00-8:30 pm Confirmation PC-LL

7:00 pm Finance Committee PC-CR

Thursday, October 11

7:00 pm RCIA PC-LL

Sunday, October 14

St. Mary-Portage Parish

9:00-10:30 am High School Mini Course PC-CR
(Creed Part I)

9:00-10:30 am High School Mini Course PC-UL
(Liturgy & Sacraments)

9:00-10:30 am Confirmation PC-LL

12:30-2:00 pm High School Mini Course PC-CR
(Justice: A Catholic Priority)

Meeting Room Key

Parish Center Lower Level PC-LL
Parish Center Upper Level PC-UL
Parish Center Conference Rm. PC-CR

Calendar of Events
St. Mary Briggsville

Sunday, October 14

Following 8 am Mass Faith Formation

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception- Portage
608-742-6998

Weekend Masses

Saturday-5:30 pm
 Sunday- 9:30 & 10:45 am

Parish Offices- 742-6998

Parish Priest- Fr. Jim Murphy (jmurphy@stmaryotic.com)

Parish Deacon- Dennis Sutter (dsutter@stmaryotic.com)

Faith Formation- Jeri Sutter (jsutter@stmaryotic.com)

Youth Minister- Brenda Collins (bcollins@stmaryotic.com)

Pastoral Minister- Malu Durkin

Liturgist- Kathy Oganezov (kathyo@stmaryotic.com)

Secretaries- Pat Ashley & Kari Caulum

Bookkeeper- Betty Tessmann

Maintenance- Dan Schwalbe

Cemetery Sexton- Tom Waldron- 742-3153

Pastoral Council Chair-John Miller- 742-7267

St. Mary School- 742-4998

Principal- Lynn Koresh
 Secretary- Cindy Harvey

St. Mary Help Of Christians -Briggsville

608-981-2282

Weekend Masses

Saturday-4:00 pm
 Sunday-8:00 am

Parish Office - 981-2282

Parish Priest- Fr. Jim Murphy (jmurphy@stmaryotic.com)

Pastoral Minister- Sr. Jovita Winkel (jwinkel@stmaryotic.com)

Bookkeeper- Barbara Poppy-253-2100

Maintenance- Bob Gauger

Pastoral Council Chair- Susan Hilliard - 981-2033

Cemetery Sexton- James Dinegan- 981-2183

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Portage- Each Saturday, 9:00-9:30 am
 Briggsville- First Saturday of each month, 3:00-3:30pm

Baptisms

Portage & Briggsville-call Pat Ashley or Kari Caulum at 742-6998 to make arrangements.

Marriages

Call Fr. Jim six months prior to the wedding