

# Saint John the Evangelist Parish

WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 31, 2023

We are a Eucharistic Community called together to celebrate our Catholic faith. As a welcoming community of God, our mission is to provide an environment that enriches our spiritual, personal and social growth through prayer, education, outreach and fellowship.

- Joint Parish Mission Statement

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



# Saint Luke Parish

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**Patrick** Loreto

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Saint John the  
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ARENA, WISCONSIN

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

## DECEMBER 31, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Savior is born for us! Christmas is a time to start out afresh, especially in our friendships and relationships. Life is too short to hold on to grudges and resentments--these will eat away at our interior peace. Before the Christ Child

we should ask for the holy simplicity and openness of children. It takes courage to reach out, to offer forgiveness--it takes the holy boldness that only God can give us.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once wrote:

"The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained"

In our world it becomes easy to "cancel" others--to throw them completely out of our life. Sometimes it is true that we cannot be reconciled to others, yet, we always must offer them, at least, forgiveness from our own hearts. This time of year I would encourage us to try to see the "small bridgehead of good" even in those from whom we are separated because of some hurt or resentment. This is what Christ instructed us to do in his preaching: "love your enemies." This doesn't mean we enable evildoers, but it means we try to put out evil in an abundance of good. Christmas is about seeing, in the flesh, an abundance of goodness and love in the Holy Infant.

in prayer,  
Fr. Luke

The Christmas decorations and celebrations were all so very well done. Thank you to the choir, ushers, servers, decorators and so many more! We gave Glory to God in the Highest!

Our first transition team meeting was on December 21st. We had a good discussion about the future name of our parish. As we set out "Into the Deep," one of the tasks we need to accomplish is to present the Bishop with three options for the future name of our parish. Before getting too far ahead please read these brief reminders on names:

- 1.) All Church buildings, as long as they remain standing, will retain their name forever.
- 2.) The schools will retain their same name. In the case of a school merger, the schools would likely take on the name of the new parish.
- 3.) The new name is very important because it becomes our new identity as a single parish. (Pastorate 6 is only a temporary name!)

At our transition team meeting we decided to present to the parish five names for your consideration. The five names which we decided upon, in no particular order, are:

- 1.) Mary Mother of God
- 2.) St. Anne
- 3.) Divine Child
- 4.) Good Shepherd
- 5.) St. Maximillian Kolbe

After looking over the names I have also realized the need to add a 6th option: 6.) Saints Joachim and Anne

Since the 2nd Vatican Council, Joachim and Anne have shared the feast day of July 26th. Thus it would only be appropriate to also consider naming our parish under both of their names.

We looked for a name which was welcoming, encompassing and with a certain ease to spell and market. As a team these names also came to us through our own prayer and reflection on the Into the Deep merger process. We have on this list a female saint (from the early church), a male saint (from the most recent century), two titles for Our Lord Jesus and one title for Mary. If you have another name in mind which you feel we should consider you may send me an e-mail with a short explanation. I will consider adding the name to our poll, which will be sent out on 1/14, if I receive a few notes about a similar name or if one strikes me as particularly appropriate for us. Over the next two weeks I will be publishing some further explanations of these names.

Here is our timeline for the naming process:

- a. Sundays 12/31/23 & 1/7/24 ~ presentation of 5 names to parishioners
- b. Sunday 1/14/24 ~ Voting begins (on-line & paper ballot in back of church-- an option for write in names will be included)
- c. Sunday 1/28/24 ~ Last day for voting
- d. Tuesday 1/30/24 ~ Transition Team uses voting results to help narrow the list down to 3 names
- e. Thursday 2/15/24 ~ 3 names due to Bishop Donald Hying.
- f. Bishop Hying will give us our new name before July 1st, 2024.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR PASTORATE 6

- Tues: **No Mass** at St. John, 8:30 AM  
Choir Rehearsal at St. John, 6:00 PM
- Wed: Men's Group Meet at St. John, 5:30 AM  
Adoration at St. John, 7:00 AM  
Prink the Word at St. John, 9:15 AM  
MS/HS Faith Formation at St. Luke, 6:45 PM  
Parents Meeting for Confirmation students at St. Luke, 7:30 PM
- Thurs: Adoration at St. Luke, 7:00 AM  
SVDP Meeting at St. John, 5:30 PM
- Fri: First Friday Adoration at St. Luke, 5:00 - 7:00 AM
- Sat: Adoration at St. Boniface, 8:00 AM  
First Saturday Mass at St. Boniface, 9:00 AM
- Sun: Family of Faith Sunday for Families of 5K - 5th grade children at St. John ~ Mass at 8:30 AM  
~ Class at 9:30 AM

~ DATE CHANGE ~



**ST. PATRICK'S** will be holding hospitality after Mass on Sunday, **January 7, 2024**. Please bring a dish to pass and come enjoy time with your fellow parish members!

### THE LIGHTS THIS WEEK BURN FOR ...

St. John's Sanctuary  
Lamp

In Memory of  
Norm & Louise  
Kraemer



St. Luke's Sanctuary  
Lamp

In Memory of  
Wayne & Marci  
Faber

### READINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3 :2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard 30 min utes before each Weekend Mass  
St. Luke ~ 3:30 PM Saturday & 9:30 AM Sunday  
St. John ~ 5:00 PM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday  
St. Patrick ~ 7:00 AM Sunday  
St. Boniface ~ 8:30 AM First Saturday of the Month



### PRAY FOR THE SICK & SUFFERING

Dave Dischler, Shelly Alt, Tom Rieder, Michael Whitcomb, Tony Anday, Doug Schmitz, Dave Schoenmann, Lexi Norton, Kelly Feiner, Roger & Mary Pascavis, John Johnson, Miles Bishop, and Cyndi Anliker.

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR PASTORATE 6**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024 ~ *THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD*

**8:30 AM Holy Mary, Mother of God Mass at St. John** for the People of Pastorate 6  
**10:00 AM Mass at St. Luke** for Rudy Feiner †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 ~ *Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors*

**8:30 AM NO Mass** at St. John  
**5:15 PM Mass** at St. Luke for John E. Schmitz †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 ~ *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

**8:30 AM Mass** at St. John for Duane A. Meixelsperger †  
**10:45 AM Mass** at St. Luke for Fr. Laverne Meier †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 ~ *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

**8:30 AM Mass** at St. Luke for Duane A. Meixelsperger †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 ~ *St. John Neumann, Bishop*

**8:30 AM Mass** at St. John for Mervin Nelson †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024 ~ *St. Andre Bessette, Religious*

**4:00 PM Mass** at St. Luke for the Deceased Members of the Herman & Lucille Brey Family †  
**5:30 PM Mass** at St. John for Vern Liegel †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 ~ *THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD*

**7:30 AM Mass** at St. Patrick for Andrew "Pete" Hess †  
**8:30 AM Mass** at St. John for The People of Pastorate 6  
**10:00 AM Mass** at St. Luke for Penny Blum †



Join us on Wednesday mornings from 5:30 - 6:30 AM for Pray and share with Fr. Kumud.

All men are welcome.



**LUCKY LUKE CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS:**

December 18 - 24: Lee Schmid, Kylie Schwingle, Caitlin Opatik, Curtis Hooverson, Danny O'Malley, and Carly Kraemer **who are \$50 Winners.** Rachel Eberle won \$400, as the Fourth Sunday of Advent winner!

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

SAT., JAN 6	4:00 PM ST. LUKE	5:30 PM ST. JOHN
Sacristan	Gwen Kraemer	Alice Bindl
Lector	Lauri Meixelsperger	Diane Baryenbruch
Ushers	Bill Bergman Dan Bindl Gary Mueller Zach Thomas	Pat Slaney Donna Slaney
Servers	Finn Oppert OPEN	OPEN OPEN

SUN., JAN 7	7:30 AM ST. PATRICK	8:30 AM ST. JOHN	10:00 AM ST. LUKE
Sacristan	Sheila Drea	Terri Larson	Marty Gates
Lector	Nick Klingaman	Dan Joyce	Bob Gates
Greeter			Doug Schmitz
EM		Tom Bennett	
Ushers	Dan Brickl Cindy Brickl	Ron Bauer Tom Bennett	Ken Bindl Sue Bindl Bev Eberle OPEN
Servers	Caleb Klingaman Braysen Boland	Duke Stroud Charles McCall	Jack Nelson Evan Faber

Dear sisters and brothers in Jesus Baby,

It was hard for me this year to celebrate Christmas joyfully amidst the shadows of war, injustice, hunger, and poverty in our World. But when I reflected more on the reason of the birth of Jesus, I found lots of hope, peace and joy to celebrate it. The reason for the season is Christ Himself who brings peace on earth. The angels sung, "*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*" Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. I also realized that it was certainly not easy for Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, and apostles to live and preach in the troubled world of their time. So the world today is in its time...we need to do what we are called to do and leave the rest in HIS hands!

Most importantly, I, as your Priest, celebrate the Eucharist in the hope of inviting you all to be the architects of compassion, builders of justice and champions of peace within our families, communities and world at large. I pray in each Mass I celebrate that you let your hearts not be troubled (John 14:1) even if you live in a troubled world. Let your hearts be filled with boundless hope, peace, joy and love to serve the poor and needy.

I also take this opportunity to thank all of you for your love, concern, beautiful greeting cards, cookies, and gifts. I do really appreciate it. This year I was not home sick because you all poured out your immense love on Fr. Luke and me. We really feel blessed to be in your pastorate and serve you with our might. Be assured of our love and prayers for each one of you. We are here for you and for your spiritual needs. Do not hesitate to reach out!

Once again, I bring God's choicest blessings upon each one of you in this New Year 2024! Let us meet each other everyday without fail under the feet of the Lord in prayer. Let the blood that flows from the cross wash our sins and make us holy for His kingdom.

With Fraternal blessings!

Fr. Kumud



## ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

**DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 2:** Christmas Vacation

**JANUARY 3:** Return to school

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** All of us at St. John's School would like to wish you and your family a Blessed New Year!

**WITH GREAT GRATITUDE** ~ The faculty and staff would like to thank the Home & School and everyone for their gifts of appreciation during the holiday season.

**TREMENDOUS BAKE SALE!!** A HUGE thank you goes out to Home & School for organizing such a beautiful and profitable bake sale! A big thank you also goes out to all of you who made these tasty treats and/or purchased them. Your help made this a very profitable event.

**YES ~ YOU CAN REGISTER!** We are currently accepting registrations in all grade levels. If you would like a tour of St. John's School or would like to visit a classroom, please call 588-2021.



### **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

See for yourself all the great things happening at St. John's School by visiting our website at [www.stjohns-springgreen.org](http://www.stjohns-springgreen.org) or by liking our Facebook page - St. John the Evangelist School, Spring Green, WI.



*Both schools have openings in all grade levels...*

*Come check us out by scheduling a tour!!*

**Prayer Shawls** - A reminder that prayer shawls are available for anyone you may feel is going through a serious illness or emotional time and could use the extra prayers and comfort. You can contact St. John's Parish Office 588-2028 or St. Luke's Parish Office 546-2482.



As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, let us remember that God's love for us is reflected in the love for each other in our family. Why not celebrate and encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Jan 26-28 in Brookfield, WI; Feb. 9-11, 2024 in Geneva IL; March 9-10 in Wisconsin or April 27-28, 2024 in Mundelein, IL. For more info go to: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653.

## ST. LUKE SCHOOL NEWS

**JANUARY 3:** School resumes; School Mass

**JANUARY 10:** School Mass

**JANUARY 11:** Education Commission

**THANK YOU** St. Luke School's Home and School Association for the support you give St. Luke School throughout the year. Your tireless work and dedication to the students and school is greatly appreciated.

**SCHOOL RESUMES** ~ Classes will resume Wednesday, January 3. There will be school Mass on our first day back.

**"LOVE GROWS HERE"** ~ St. Luke's Seventh Annual Gala is Saturday, March 16 at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort in Spring Green. This year's Gala will feature good food, music, emcee Meg Aspinwall, exciting live auction package deals, and silent auction including items made by students. Mark it on your calendars!



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** ~ will be celebrated January 28 through February 3. The Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community". We have many things to celebrate including students, families, parishioners and community members. This year we will celebrate Mass and a pizza lunch with Bishop Hying during the week. We look forward to a special week of activities celebrating Catholic Schools!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** St. Luke School is hosting a Preschool Open House on Thursday, February 15, from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Come and see what we have to offer children 3-5 years old. Call the school office at 608-546-2963 or email [diane.mueller@stlukecatholicchurchplain.com](mailto:diane.mueller@stlukecatholicchurchplain.com) to RSVP.

**DO YOUR SHOPPING THROUGH THE SCHOOL STORE** ~ You can support St. Luke School while shopping. Simply go to [Schoolstore.com](http://Schoolstore.com), enter our school name, *St. Lukes Catholic School*, and click the tab under the blue SchoolStore banner that says "Merchants". Choose the merchants that you would like to shop with either by category or alphabetically with the drop down bar on the left. Once you click the merchant, you will be redirected to that merchant's actual website. A portion of the money you spend will automatically be sent to St. Luke School. You need to go through the [Schoolstore.com](http://Schoolstore.com) portal for St. Luke's to get credit. Happy Shopping!

**KEEP UP ON THE LATEST SCHOOL HAPPENINGS AND "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!** Visit our Facebook page at St. Luke's Catholic School, Plain, WI. Check out our website at [www.stlukes-plain.org](http://www.stlukes-plain.org).



**DECORATIONS:** Thanks to those who helped decorate our churches! We received many compliments about the beauty of each church.

Also, take down of our decorations will happen after all Masses on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at all parishes!! Remember, many hands make for light work!



### ST. LUKE FISH FRY NEWS

Circles 1, 2, 8 & 12 are scheduled to work for the February 2, 2024 fish fry. Please visit [www.pastorate6.org](http://www.pastorate6.org) and click on the "Fish Fry Sign Up to Volunteer" tab under "News."



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

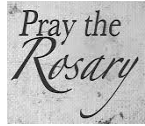
**St. John the Evangelist  
Spring Green  
Every Wednesday 7.00am to 8.00am**

**St. Luke Catholic Church  
Plain  
Every Thursday 7.00am to 8.00am**



**Deepen Your Faith with the *Catholic Herald*  
NO Issue for January 4, 2024**

Learn more about your Catholic faith by reading the *Catholic Herald*. If you do not subscribe but wish to receive the *Catholic Herald* print or e-edition in your home, contact your parish office.



**"Parish Rosary Program"  
(All parishes of Pastorate 6)**

**Combined Weekly Total: 106  
Running Grand Total: 8,850**

We would like to ask parishioners of ALL five churches to put your rosary counts into the collection baskets at the weekend Masses!

## DIOCESE OF MADISON

*Sacred Music at the Oratory  
2023-2024 Season*

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Solemn Choral Vespers for Palm Sunday  
featuring "Ad Manus" from Buxtehude's "Membra Jesu Nostrum"  
(*Diocesan Schola and Consort*)

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Solemn Choral Vespers and Concert  
(*Diocesan Choir*)

All events are at 4:00 PM in Holy Name Oratory, Madison.

## PLANNING YOUR WILL

*Remember St. John's, St. Luke's, and St. Patrick's*

A bequest is a wonderful way to express gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings! The gift you give establishes a lasting legacy of love for others by helping the Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its many ministries.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

<b>St. John's (Week 26)</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Maint.</b>
Weekly Envelope Goal	\$ 7,925.00	\$ 577.00
Dec 23/24 Actual	\$ 10,569.00	\$ 230.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 45.00
Difference:	+\$ 5,140.00	-\$ 302.00
Envelope Goal YTD	\$ 206,050.00	\$ 15,002.00
YTD Total to Dec 24	\$ 161,742.00	\$ 6,002.00
Difference	-\$ 44,308.00	-\$ 9,000.00

*Give Your "First Fruits"  
Back to God!*

To Parish .....5-8%  
To Diocese.....1%  
To Charities.....1-4%

*Would you prayerfully consider  
treating St. Luke/St. John  
Parish as one of your children  
in your will/estate planning?*

*Call Parish Office for details.*

<b>St. Luke's (Week 26)</b>	
Total Weekly Goal	\$ 7,405.00
Dec 23/24 Actual	\$ 2,873.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 2,500.00
Difference:	-\$ 2,032.00
Total Goal YTD	\$ 192,530.00
YTD Actual to Dec 24	\$ 160,567.00
Difference	-\$ 31,963.00

\*This now includes weekly envelopes and weekly offertory basket collection!!

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<p><b>Shell</b></p>  <p><b>PLAIN KWIK STOP</b> 546-3900</p> <p>Hot Fresh Breakfast and Lunch Sandwiches - Soft Serve</p>	<p><b>Nachreiner Auto Care LLC</b> 608-546-2382</p> <p>AC Service - Alignments - Engines Hydraulic Hoses - Oil Changes - Transmissions Tires - ATV - Car - Golf Cart Lawn Mower - Skid Steer - Trailer - Truck</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH! ADVERTISE HERE! CALL 588-2028</b></p>	<p><b>ASAP HEATING &amp; COOLING, LLC</b></p>  <p>Spring Green, WI Sales • Service • Installation 608-588-ASAP (2727) Jerry Anding, Owner</p>
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<p><b>JASON SCHLUTER CONSTRUCTION</b></p>  <p>jasonschluterconstruction@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Richardson-Stafford FUNERAL HOME</b></p> <p>"Serving the Area Since 1898"</p> <p>780 N. Winsted Street Spring Green, WI 53588 (608) 588-2181</p> <p>Thomas Stafford - Director staffordspringgreen@frontier.com www.staffordfuneralhomes.com</p>	<p><b>LAMERS The Passenger Professionals</b></p>  <p>608.588.2222 GoLamers.com</p>	<p><b>Prairie Flowers</b></p> <p>Full Service Floral &amp; Unique Gifts</p> <p>126 N Lexington St. Spring Green 608-588-9999, www.prairie-flowers.com</p>
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# Saint John the Evangelist Parish

253 N. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 628  
Spring Green, WI 53588

**ST. JOHN MASS: Saturday 5:30pm & Sunday 8:30am**

### ST. JOHN OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office..... 588-2028  
Parish Fax ..... 588-2648  
Parish Email..... barb.ferguson@pastorate6.org  
Website..... www.stjohnspringgreen.com  
Parish Center/Kitchen..... 588-2229  
Pastoral Council President: Dave Mack ..... 459-0680  
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference.... 546-2482

### ST. JOHN SCHOOL

School Office ..... 588-2021  
School Website..... <http://stjohns-springgreen.org>  
School Principal: Allison Stroud..... 588-2021

### ST. JOHN CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Roger Kolan..... 588-2103

# Saint Luke Parish

1240 Nachreiner Avenue  
Plain, WI 53577

**ST. LUKE MASS: Saturday 4:00pm & Sunday 10:00am**

### ST. LUKE OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office..... 546-2482  
Parish Fax ..... 546-2616  
Parish Email..... heather.faber@pastorate6.org  
Website..... www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com  
Church Kitchen ..... 546-2800  
Pastoral Council President: Bruce Culver..... 544-5813  
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference.... 546-2482  
Little Luke Daycare..... 546-2963, ext. 316

### ST. LUKE SCHOOL

School ..... 546-2963  
School Website..... <http://stlukes-plain.org>  
School Principal: Diane Mueller..... 546-2963

### ST. LUKE CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Bob Schweiss..... Cell: 608-963-8163

# Saint Boniface

105 Church Street  
Lime Ridge, WI 53942

# Saint Patrick Loreto

58280 County Road G  
Plain, WI 53577

# Saint John the Baptist Mill Creek

6494 County Highway H  
Arena, WI 53503

**MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am**

**MASS: Sunday 7:30am**

**MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am**

St. Patrick's and Our Lady of the Fields  
Shrine Cemetery Sexton: Doug Faber

(May-October)

### JOINT STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

#### PASTOR: Fr. Luke Syse

546-2482 / 588-2028 / Cell: 636-4337  
fr.luke.syse@pastorate6.org  
1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Kumud Chandra Nayak

546-2482 / 588-2028  
fr.kumud.nayak@pastorate6.org  
1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Michael Davidson  
588-2028 / 546-2482  
michaeldavidson84@gmail.com

### SCHEDULING EVENTS

All parish activities or meetings need to be scheduled on the parish calendar. Please call the parish office.

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Wednesday - Noon

### MINISTERIO HISPANO / HISPANIC MINISTRY

Padre Luke Syse se habla espanol  
Puedes llamarlo a 608-636-4337

### NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish family. Please stop by or call the parish office for information about registering as parish members.

### SACRAMENTS

#### PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes before every scheduled mass.

#### MARRIAGE

To schedule a wedding date, call the parish office. The common policy of the Diocese of Madison requires a 6-month minimum notice. We strongly recommend at least one year in advance.

#### BAPTISM

Baptism dates are arranged through the parish offices. First time parents are required to attend a baptism preparation program before the baptism of their child. Please call the parish office for more information.

#### COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

We are happy to bring Holy Communion to those confined to their homes. Please notify the parish office.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Individual celebrations can be arranged by calling the parish office.

#### OCIA (FORMERLY RCIA)

#### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. Please contact Marie Lins at 608-469-3982 or [marie.lins@madisondiocese.org](mailto:marie.lins@madisondiocese.org).