

**February 10 & 11 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**In healing the leper, Jesus went to the periphery, as we are called to do.**

Each year on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis has opted to wash feet not necessarily within the confines of Saint Peter's Basilica, but in prisons, care facilities, or refugee centers. It is here, at the "peripheries," where Pope Francis follows Jesus' lead.

The first reading provides context to help us understand Jesus' interaction with the leper in today's Gospel. In addition to declaring himself "unclean," the leper, according to the Levitical law, shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp. While this law protected others from contracting the disease, it also stigmatized and ostracized the sick for something that they had little or no control over. Lepers were outsiders in every sense of the word.

Amid this context, Jesus went to the peripheries, both literally and figuratively. At this point in Mark's Gospel, Jesus has been traveling around Galilee, proclaiming the message of the kingdom of God. It is a harsh environment; the land around is vast and dry; the sun shines hot and bright. It can be uncomfortable for even the healthiest of people. It is no wonder, then, that Jesus is moved with compassion upon seeing the leper. The leper thirsts for physical health but, even more so, for companionship and love.

While we commonly see the miracle of this story as Jesus healing leprosy, just as extraordinary is the man's willingness to approach Jesus, to risk even more censure, punishment, or even his life, to receive the love and healing touch of the Lord. This was possible, of course, because Jesus made himself available.

We may not have the ability to heal in a physical way as Jesus did, but we can allow our hearts to be overcome with compassion for others. We can follow Jesus to the people on the outskirts of society and make ourselves available to those experiencing poverty; those who are sick, mentally ill, or disabled; those who are homebound or in nursing homes. With the aid of God's grace, we can love them and perhaps even offer a gentle touch or embrace. These acts are mini-miracles, healing the hearts of those who, like the leper, may have been stigmatized or ostracized.

Grace and prayer certainly are needed for this work, for it is natural to fear such journeys to the periphery. Only through union with Christ do we desire to help shoulder the burdens of others – trading our safety, health, or comfort for compassion and sacrificial love of others.

As we turn to the sacrament to come, we remember Pope Francis' teaching that the Eucharist does not end with our reception of holy Communion. The Eucharist must be brought outside the doors of the church through our very lives – the body of Christ in action. If we are going to embody Jesus in our world today, we must go where he went, to the peripheries.

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February 14, 2024

**ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

**Holy Family, LaValle**  
9:15 AM - Mass

**Sacred Heart, Reedsburg**  
8:15 AM - School Mass  
6:00 PM - Mass

**Saint Cecilia, Wisconsin Dells**  
8:15 AM - Mass  
6:00 PM - Mass

**Saint Joseph, Baraboo**  
8:15 AM - School Mass  
6:00 PM - Mass

Pastorate 7

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Save the date for the Called & Gifted Workshop

April 27 | Monona

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** The Diocese will host a Called and Gifted Workshop at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall in Monona on April 27th from 9 am to 3:30pm. Our last Called and Gifted Workshop sold out and the demand for another event is clear! Registration is not open at this time, but please save the date.

For more information, please go to:  
[www.madisondiocese.org/called-and-gifted](http://www.madisondiocese.org/called-and-gifted)

**Holy Angels Parish**  
**Masses This Week**

Tue 2/13 **Holy Family** 9:00 am Adoration with Last Hospitality until April

Wed 2/14 **Holy Family** 9:15 am Ash Wednesday Mass- Richard Costerisan

Fri 2/16 **Holy Family** 9:15 am Mass-Philip Kinsman  
**Holy Family** 10:00 am Confessions

Sat 2/17 **Our Lady of Refuge Chapel, Sacred Heart**  
**Million of Monicas** 9:00 am Reflection: Seeking God's Healing  
**Holy Family** 3:00 pm Confessions  
**Holy Family** 4:00 pm Mass-Stephen Gladly

WE ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST

**Diocese of Madison**  
**Annual Catholic Appeal 2024**  
**"We are One Body in Christ"**

The theme for the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Madison is "We are One Body in Christ." Taken from Paul's letter to the Romans 12:5, this simple phrase expresses our solidarity with Our Lord and with one another, united in both faith and mission.

Each pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal supports the many programs, resources and services that the Diocese sponsors, offering hope, help and healing in countless ways. The Lord wants us to know the Eucharist as the source and summit of our unity in Him and as the flowing source of the graces we need to embrace the challenges we face.

This year we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge, payable over six months. Your gift will help enable our parish and the diocese to reach its goal and provide to the ministries supported by the appeal.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

**The collection basket for palms from last year's Palm Sunday Mass is now located in the back of the church.** Please bring your palms in by Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

"Prayer gives us the strength to strive ahead, overcome our fears, and glimpse the salvation that God prepares for us, even amid the darkness. Prayer also draws God's salvation near."  
 ~Pope Francis

**Parish Support 2/3/2024**  
**Family.**

Offertory	<b>\$2509.55</b>
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Thank you.

**Saint Cecilia's 20th Annual**  
**FAT TUESDAY**  
**CHILI FEST**

February 13th  
 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
 Saint Cecilia Parish Center Cafeteria  
 Free, Fun, & All-You-Can-Eat!

To RSVP, volunteer, or donate contact the Parish Secretary at [secretary@dellscatholic.com](mailto:secretary@dellscatholic.com)

Pastorate 7  
**Stations of the Cross**

**Lent 2024 Stations:**  
**Holy Family:**  
 \*Friday after 9:15 am Mass led by priest

**Sacred Heart:**  
 \*Tuesdays in Lent after 5:15 pm Mass led by priest  
 \*Fridays in Lent at 2:20 pm led by SHS

**St Joseph:**  
 \*Thursdays in Lent after 5:15 pm Mass led by priest  
 \*Fridays in Lent at 2:20 pm led by SJS

**St. Cecilia:**  
 \*Tuesdays in Lent after 5:15 pm Mass priest or lay led  
 \*Fridays in Lent at 3:00 pm priest or lay led

**You will want to make plans to attend**  
**St. Joseph's, Baraboo**  
**Delicious Shrimp and Fish Fry, February 16, 2024, 5:00-6:30 pm** or while supplies last!  
**Note the new time.** Dine in or carryout.

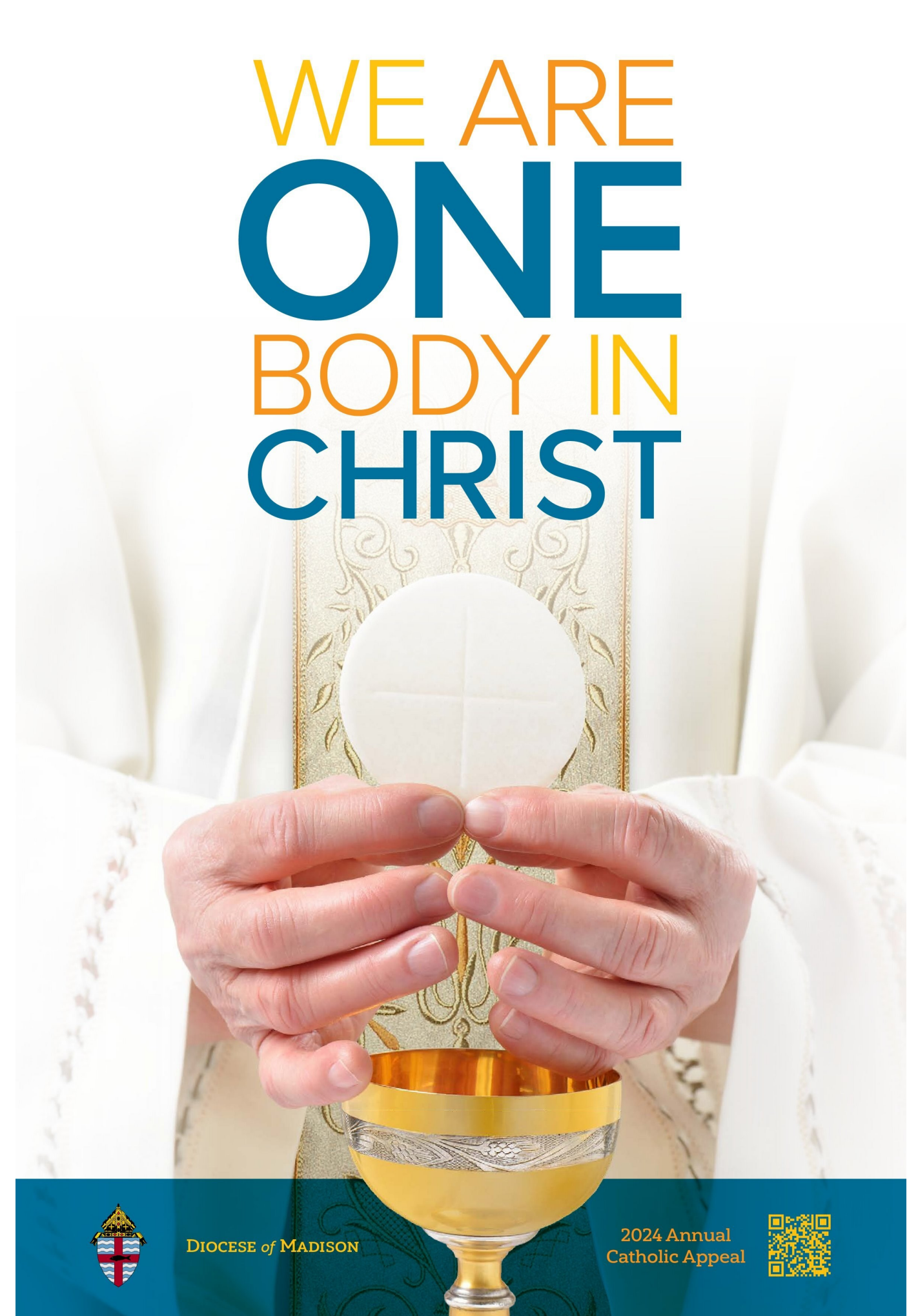
**Sacred Heart**  
**Mobile Food Pantry**  
**Thursday, February 22**  
**VFW 200 Veterans Drive, Parking lot**  
**Pickup Time: 4:00 pm until food is gone.** This will be drive-through. All persons in need of food are welcome. Food will be placed in vehicle trunks. Sponsored and Serviced by: Catholic Charities, Madison and Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin

If you would like to receive our parish emails or texts and do not get them, please contact the office at 608-985-7558.

**Have the Winter Blues?**  
**Come to our Euchre Card Parties**  
**St. Joseph, Baraboo:**  
**Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 1:00 pm, and Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 1:00 pm.** St. Joseph's School Gym, 310 Second Street. \$3.00 admission, snacks available. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Sponsored by St. Joe's CCW. Proceeds Benefit Parish Projects

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DIocese of MADISON

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

