

**February 17 & 18 First Sunday of Lent**  
**The kingdom of God is at hand.**

The readings for this First Sunday of Lent are full of contrasts and paradoxes. God makes a covenant with Noah, establishing the rainbow as a sign of his fidelity to a promise of blessing – just on the heels of a horrific flood. The contrast of life and death is complemented by the paradox that the rainbow can appear precisely, and only, because there first was rain.

Peter discusses the obedient suffering of Jesus which brings life, where Adam’s disobedience brought death. This is a paradox of “dying to self” and “mortal death” actually leading to new and eternal life. In the Gospel the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, drives Jesus into the barren desert to face temptation.

Finally, Jesus begins his preaching, telling people to repent and believe in the Gospel. To repent means to feel regret and sorrow; to change, and “turn away from.” “Gospel” is a word meaning “good news.” To “repent and believe in the Gospel,” then, contrasts the feeling of sorrow and turning from with believing in and turning toward the Good News. The paradox here, as above, is that one must experience a sort of death in order to receive life.

As the Lenten season begins, these contrasts and paradoxes point to the inflection points in our own lives. We have been saved by the waters of baptism: washed free from sin and death and promised the eternal reward of life in the kingdom with our Savior. Yet we remain sinners. When we search our own hearts and examine our lives we know we have given way in the face of temptation, choosing disobedience and bringing pain and suffering to ourselves and our communities. As Christians, this is precisely the contrast of the Lenten season. There is indeed cause for joy and hope! There is indeed cause for regret and sorrow. And the paradox is that one must embrace the suffering in order to experience the joy.

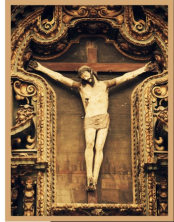
For 40 days – a number harkening to the time of rain which caused the flood, the years Israel spent wandering in the wilderness, and the days Jesus faces the temptations of Satan – we, too, journey into the desert. We take up fasting, prayer, and almsgiving with humble hearts that recognize our sinfulness. We simplify our liturgy and refrain from certain celebrations, songs, and acclamations of praise. We take stock of our sins and we seek forgiveness.

But we do not walk without hope. We repent, yes, but we also believe in the Gospel! We are fundamentally a people of hope – a people chosen by God and redeemed by the resurrection of our Savior. We are an Easter people who walk in the first light of dawn with the sure knowledge that death has lost its sting and hell has no victory.

And still we know that the light of day has not yet cast out all darkness. The kingdom of God is already at hand, but it is not yet fulfilled. Let us pray for its coming. Repent, and believe in the Gospel. \*\*\*\*\*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
*Lenten Schedule*

Holy Angels, La Valle	
FRIDAYS	AFTER 9:15 A.M. MASS
Sacred Heart, Reedsburg	
TUESDAYS	AFTER 5:15 P.M. MASS
FRIDAYS	2:20 P.M. - LED BY SHS STUDENTS
St. Cecilia, Wisconsin Dells	
TUESDAYS	AFTER 5:15 P.M. MASS
FRIDAYS	3:00 P.M.
St. Joseph, Baraboo	
THURSDAYS	AFTER 5:15 P.M. MASS
FRIDAYS	2:20 P.M. - LED BY SJS STUDENTS



Pastorate 7

**TEC Retreat 192 coming to St. Mary's Bloomington. The start date is March 22 (start noon) - 24, 2024 (ends 3:30 pm on Palm Sunday). TEC (Together Encountering Christ) is centered on the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Our Shepherd Bishop Donald Hying has also centered his 'Go Make Disciples' initiative on that same theme. This Lenten TEC is especially designed to help us grow in our love for Christ and our Holy Catholic Church. It is an amazing experience for the young at heart who are 15 years of age or older. Regardless of your present walk in our Catholic Faith, you will be rejuvenated. This is also a 'shout out' to those of you who have already experienced a TEC retreat and would like to help out. Jeff Jackson the lay Director can be reached at 608.778.6027 Or Online or paper applications and more information about TEC can be found at [www.MadisonDiocese.org/TEC](http://www.MadisonDiocese.org/TEC) or by contacting Marie Lins at the OEC at 608-821-3135.**

Discover God's Call for Your Life

**CATHERINE OF SIENA INSTITUTE**

EQUIPPING PARISHES TO FORM LAY APOSTLES

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 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. 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.

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

- Tue 2/20 **Holy Family** 9:00 am Adoration
- Fri 2/23 **Holy Family** 9:15 am Mass-Dorothy Schluter  
Stations of the Cross after Mass  
**Holy Family** 10:00 am Confessions
- Sat 2/24 **Our Lady of Refuge Chapel, Sacred Heart**  
**Million of Monicas** 9:00 am Reflection:  
Having a Repentant Heart  
**Holy Family** 3:00 pm Confessions  
**Holy Family** 4:00 pm Mass-Robert & Lieve Rott

**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.

**Lenten Meditation the First Week of Lent:**

The kingdom of God is best viewed from the bottom up. In other words, stripped of our usual securities as Jesus was in the desert, we learn to rely on God's mercy and surrender to God's priorities. Our own deserts may appear in the form of job insecurity or decline in physical or emotional health. How might God be using these times to strengthen and console us?

**Prayer:**

Grant me, O God, the ability to see evidence of your kingdom in the ordinary rhythms of daily living. When chaos threatens, remind me that you are near.

"The heart of Catholicism is to rejoice in God's mercy and share our joy, in words and deeds."  
 ~Dynamic Catholic

**Parish Support 2/10/2024**  
**Holy Angels**

Offertory	\$2050.00
Thank you.	

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

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl**

Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl in this bulletin. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

**First Week of Lent: A Season For Reflection**

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more and read this week's Story of Hope.

**\*Be sure to write your name and address on your Rice Bowl when you get it so you can get the donation information on your year end statement for 2024.**

**Sacred Heart**  
**This 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:



**St. Luke Fish Fry**  
**St. Luke, Plain**

Friday, March 1, 5:00-8:00 pm  
 Serving family style  
 Carry Outs Available  
 Bake Sale Sponsored by Faith Formation


**Have the Winter Blues? Come to our Euchre Card Parties**

**St. Joseph, Baraboo: 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

If you would like to add a request for our Prayer Chains, please call the parish office at 608-985-7558.



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# HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

## LA VALLE PASTORATE 7

Website: [www.holyangelslavallo.org](http://www.holyangelslavallo.org)

*"Holy Angels, Guard Us."*

**Rev. Paul Ugo Arinze**  
Pastor  
PO Box 166  
La Valle, WI 53941  
[paul.arinze@madisondiocese.org](mailto:paul.arinze@madisondiocese.org)

**Rev. John Blewett, Parochial Vicar**  
**Rev. Garrett Kau, Parochial Vicar**  
**Rev. Luke Powers, Parochial Vicar**

**Deacon Tom Fogarty**  
Pastoral Associate  
Cell Phone - (414)-530-0868  
[tjohnf52480@gmail.com](mailto:tjohnf52480@gmail.com)

**Holy Angels Parish Secretary**  
Julie Hineman  
Office (608)-985-7558  
[holyangels7558@gmail.com](mailto:holyangels7558@gmail.com)

**Holy Angels Bookkeeper**  
Robin Landsinger  
Office - (608-985-7558)  
[landsingerr@gmail.com](mailto:landsingerr@gmail.com)

**Weekend Mass Schedule**  
Saturday  
Confession 3:00 pm Holy Family, La Valle  
Mass 4:00 pm Holy Family, La Valle

**Weekday Mass Schedule**  
Friday  
Confession 8:30 am Holy Family  
Mass 9:15 am Holy Family, La Valle



**Sacraments**

In need of Baptism, Holy Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, or any of the sacraments, please call the parish office at (608-985-7558) or email [holyangels7558@gmail.com](mailto:holyangels7558@gmail.com)

Religious Education call or email Holy Angels Office at (608-985-7558) or email [holyangels7558@gmail.com](mailto:holyangels7558@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain Requests call or email Holy Angels Office at (608-985-7558) or email [holyangels7558@gmail.com](mailto:holyangels7558@gmail.com)