



One Family Catholic Community

Holy Rosary, Medford
Good Shepherd, Rib Lake
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Whittlesey
and Sacred Heart, Stetsonville

December 28, 2025 ~The Holy Family

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY

215 S. Washington Ave., Medford, WI 54451

Mass Schedule

Monday — 12:15 pm
Tuesday — 5:15 pm
Wednesday — 8:30 am
Thursday — 8:30 am
Saturday — 5:00 pm
Sunday — 8:45 am and 10:30 am

Adoration

Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Confession

Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday from 3:45 - 4:45 pm

GOOD SHEPHERD

513 State Rd., Rib Lake, WI 54470

Mass Schedule

Tuesday — 6:00 pm
Saturday — 6:30 pm
Sunday — 9:30 am

Adoration

Tuesday from 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Confession

Tuesday from 5:00 - 5:45 pm
Saturday from 5:45 - 6:15 pm

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

W5409 Whittlesey Ave., Medford, WI 54451

Mass Schedule

Friday — 8:30 am
Sunday — 8:00 am

Adoration & Confession

Friday from 9:00 - 10:00 am

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

322 W. Cty. Rd. A., Stetsonville, WI 54480

Mass Schedule

Wednesday — 8:30 am
Saturday — 4:00 pm
Sunday — 7:15 am

Adoration

Wednesday from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Confession

Wednesday from 9:00 - 9:30 am
Saturday from 2:45 - 3:45 pm

Very Reverend Patrick McConnell, Pastor
Reverend Julian Druffner, Associate Pastor
Deacon Patrick Gierl



THE HOLY FAMILY

“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel,
for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” - Mt 2:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

4-Parish Office

Phone: 715-748-3336 ext. 1
Email: parishoffice@hrmedford.org
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
PO Box 503, Medford, WI

Holy Rosary Parish

Phone: 715-748-3336 ext. 1
Fax: 715-748-4185
Email: parishoffice@hrmedford.org
Website: www.hrmedford.org

Holy Rosary School

Phone: 715-748-3336 ext. 2

Emergency Priest Line—For urgent pastoral emergencies, please call 715-748-3336 option 4. We ask you to please call, not text a priest for emergencies to make sure they are answered timely.

Good Shepherd Parish

Phone: 715-427-5259
Email: goodshepherdcc@outlook.com
Website: www.goodshepherdriblake.org

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Onsite Phone: 715-748-6644

Sacred Heart Parish

Onsite Phone: 715-678-2395

Deacon Pat

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From my family to yours, may the peace of Christ, present in the manger, fulfill all your hopes and dreams! Yes, as Christ comes to us in the SIMPLICITY and UNAMBIGUOUS reality of the family unit, I pray you and yours will spend precious time in the coming days reflecting on this wonderful gift from God. On this the Feast of the Holy Family, we can all relate in one fashion or another to how our families have impacted our lives. This central unit and foundation of society is arguably the most important of all the paths that man walks. For it is within the family that a **covenant of love is exchanged** and grows into the very reality of a healthy society. We must do everything in our power, both privately and publicly to promote healthy relationships, support for, and encourage the family unit. We go about this monumental task, first by personal prayer. Reflecting on how God is calling each of us to fulfill our vocation as directed by the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, supporting each other and encouraging each other to actively pursue, each day, ways to grow in our vocations and thirdly, seek holy relationships that encourage honest dialog. I know for a fact that some have been impacted negatively in and by poor examples but this is all the more reason to part ways from the negative generational sin and forge HOLY, HEALTHY, AND VIRTUOUS RELATIONSHIPS! We can start this beautiful process of rebuilding by living out the words from St. Paul to the Colossians. "Put on, **as God's chosen ones**, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and **forgiving** one another." We cannot change the past: We can only recognize where we are today and move to live in the freedom and simplicity of the Christ child as Mary and Joseph did as they adore Him in the manger. May the PEACE OF CHRIST richly bless you in the coming year and whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

"Willed by God in very action of creation, marriage and family are interiorly ordained to fulfillment in Christ and have need of His graces in order to be healed from the wounds of sin and restored to their "beginning," that is, to full understanding and the full realization of God's plan" (JP II - Familiaris Consortio (the role of the christian family in the modern world).

With Love and Prayers...from my FAMILY to yours

Mission Statement for our 4-Parish Community of Holy Rosary, Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Sacred Heart

As a Catholic Community of disciples, guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist, and formed by the Word, we are called by the Father to bring all to Jesus Christ our Savior.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 27, 2025

4:00 pm	+ Larry Fierke by Jack Boeck	SH
5:00 pm	+ Elroy & Wayne Dahl by Family	HR
6:30 pm	+ Paul Matyka by Dave & Chris Wille	GS

Sunday, December 28, 2025

7:15 am	+ Lester & Christine Dassow by the Family	SH
8:00 am	+ Robert Heier by Uncle Butch & Aunt Cookie	OLPH
8:45 am	+ Deceased Family Members by Carol Ewan	HR
9:30 am	For all the families of our 4-Parish Community	GS
10:30 am	+ Mark Mertens by Archie Parent	HR

Monday, December 29, 2025

12:15 pm	+ Ray Deml by Carol Jahsman	HR
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Tuesday, December 30, 2025

5:15 pm	+ Ward Keller by Jason & Kari Wanke	HR
6:00 pm	Jon & Teresa Rezutek Family by the Family	GS

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

6:00 pm	+ Peter Matyka by Allen & Melissa Thums	GS
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Thursday, January 1, 2026

12:00 am	Living & Deceased Members of the Acker & Hebert Families	HR
8:00 am	+ Richard Feltz by John & Annette Tlusty	OLPH
9:00 am	+ Jeanette Gehrig by Mary Albrecht	SH
10:00 am	+ Bruce Kohn (Anniv. of Death) by Josephine Jedrae & Leah	HR

Friday, January 2, 2026

8:30 am	+ Robert Werner by Jerry Brandner Family	OLPH
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Saturday, January 3, 2026

9:00 am	+ Mr. Chum Odenigwe by the Ekwueme Family	HR
4:00 pm	Living & Deceased Family & Friends by Kathy Trimmer	SH
5:00 pm	+ Rosalie Brost by Family	HR
6:30 pm	+ Bob Melaski by Lori Krueger	GS

Sunday, January 4, 2026

7:15 am	Bishop James Powers	SH
8:00 am	For all the families of our 4-Parish Community	OLPH
8:45 am	Deacon Pat, Jeanette & Family	HR
9:30 am	+ Fr. Dennis Meulemans by Seven Sisters Apost.	GS
10:30 am	+ Bob Tlusty by Ruth Zuleger	HR

HR Holy Rosary • GS Good Shepherd • OLPH Our Lady of Perpetual Help
SH Sacred Heart • NHM Nursing Home Medford • NHR Nursing Home Rib Lake

**This Week the Sanctuary Light at Our Lady of Perpetual Help
is lit with the following intention:**

In Memory of Ardath Dums on her birthday by the Family

Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together.

Amen. ©LPi

Holy Rosary Parish

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

6:00 pm Adoration and Confession until 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Parish Office Closed

No Religious Education Classes

11:00 pm Adoration

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Parish Office Closed

12:00 am Solemnity of Mary Midnight Mass

10:00 am Solemnity of Mary Mass

No Silent Adoration from 4 pm—7pm

Saturday, January 3, 2026

8:00 am Confession until 8:45 am

9:00 am 1st Saturday Mass

10:00 am Altar Guild Mtg.

3:45 pm Confession until 4:45 pm

Holy Rosary Finances

Dec. 9-15, 2025

Dec. 9-15, 2025

Adult Envelopes \$7,219.37

Loose \$524.00

Christmas \$125.00

Votives \$132.25

School Support \$1,550.00

School Tuition \$700.00

Other, misc., \$620.52

Total \$10,871.14

Checking Balance... \$731,719.84
Income \$13,409.34
Expense \$63,263.87
Ending Balance \$681,865.31

Catholic Service Appeal

Total assessment \$113,501.00

CSA paid to date \$39,384.00

Subtotal \$74,117.00

Pledges Due \$4,435.00

Balance due \$69,682.00

Total \$43,819.00 — 83 Families

Maintenance Fund

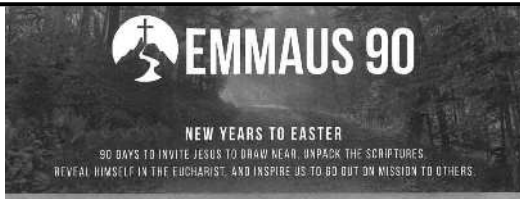
December 15, 2025

New Cash Contrib..... \$399.00

Holy Rosary Capital Campaign Update

Pledges to date: \$2,307,475.85

Tiered Goal: \$1.5M / \$2M / \$2.4M



Join us for a concentrated season of encountering Jesus Christ, growing more firm in your faith, and emerging more confident in sharing the Gospel than ever before.

EMMAUS 90 IS A TIME TO ...

- ...draw close to Christ who draws close to you
- ...band together with friends and family, not go it alone
- ...go from giving something to giving everything
- ...get equipped for your mission

COMMIT TO THE ADVENTURE.

Emmaus 90 "pilgrims" receive:

- daily prayer prompt - Guidebook Journal - challenges to grow in holiness -
- robust formation sessions (by livestream on Thursdays at 7pm or view recording) -
- discussion questions for small groups and families - a community walking with you -

MORE INFO AND REGISTER AT
WWW.ARCHMIL.ORG/EMMAUS-90



Registration for Emmaus 90 is required and opens October 1. Register by Dec. 10 to receive your Guidebook by Christmas.

Inspired by the National Eucharistic Revival to help Catholics embrace a deeper direct relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

If you have questions or would like to join a local Emmaus 90 small group, please email your interest to smallgroups@hrmedford.org or call Kari at 715-829-3130.

Baptisms

December 21, 2025

Elliot Lee Rezutek

Son of Rafael & Angel Rezutek

Sponsors:

Gabriel Rezutek
& Angelica Rezutek

December 21, 2025

Edward James Henrichs

Son of Jacob & Ashley Henrichs

Sponsors:

Billie Hartwig
& Shawna Konieczny

Wedding Banns

Brian Wood & Korissa Hrabý III

Rest In Peace

Our sympathy to the family & friends of

Walter Emmerich

may he rest in peace



4-PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

JANUARY 16, 2026

All adult volunteers who serve the parishes or school in any way are welcome to attend.
More details to come soon!



Christmas Flower Donations



In Memory of Jerry & Shelby Brandner

In Memory of Geraldine & Clarence Alsteens

In Memory of Kathleen, Ray, Janet & Gordon

In Memory of Dick & Jean

In Memory of William & Emily Niggemann by Ray & Kathleen Synol

In Memory of Teri Zimmerman by Ray & Kathleen Synol

In Memory of Ryan Ruesch by Patty & Reno Ruesch & Family
For all of my Family

In Memory of Jerome Kleutsch by Kathleen Kleutsch

In Memory of Cindy Mayer by Kathleen Kleutsch

In Memory of Charles & Ann Mayer by Kathleen Kleutsch

In Memory of Alban & Louise Kleutsch by Kathleen Kleutsch

In Memory of Clarence "Chow" Werner
by the Werner Family

In Memory of Galen & Eleanor Sherfield by Stuart & Lynn Amundson

In Memory of Duane Sherfield by Stuart & Lynn Amundson

In Memory of Bernard Pernsteiner & Jane Brylski by Julie & Kurt Radtke

Thank you to all who donated towards these beautiful flowers in memory of their loved ones.

Religious Education "News You Need to Know"

Merry Christmas!!! (a few days late)
With Christmas in the middle of the week. My bulletin articles get a little out of order. Last week I wrote about the 4th week of Advent. Now I want to wish everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:8-11

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. We have time to get together with families and friends. I try to slow time a little and enjoy the season.

I hope that during this special time of the year, everyone has time to stop and reflect on the Joy in our lives. Please remember those who are away from home in your thoughts and prayers. Merry Christmas to everyone and your families.

4 Parish Volunteer Dinner

The volunteer reception/dinner is on **Friday, January 16th**. We are planning on having an appreciation event for the volunteers in all four of our parishes. I'm looking for some volunteers to help. We need some bartenders, people willing to help with cooking, setting up/decorating, and preparing food, etc. If you are willing to help. Contact Mike Bub at the Holy Rosary office.

OCIA Sunday, Jan. 4th

OCIA is a program for adults who wish to join the Catholic Faith or adults who never completed their Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist, or Confirmation. The program will start on Sunday, January 4th, after the 10:30 Mass. **I mailed out the schedule and registration form for the program.** If I missed you, please call or send me an email. If a person wants more information or wishes to discuss their specific situation, please contact Mike Bub. Anyone still wishing to join the class can just show up at the first class on Jan 4th.

Religious Education classes

- Classes will resume for all grades at both Holy Rosary and Good Shepherd on Wednesday Jan 7th.
- First Communion Parent Meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 7th. We will be holding a parent meeting for all Holy Rosary First Communion students. The meeting will be in the school gym starting at 6:00 pm. This includes parents from both the Rel. Ed program and Holy Rosary school students. This is a very important meeting to review the steps parents need to complete for their child to receive their First Communion this coming April.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Religious Education program, contact Mike at mbub@hrmedford.org or call me at 715-748-3336, ext. 248.

Holy Rosary School News

Vision Statement — Holy Rosary Catholic School will be the school of choice for all families of Holy Rosary Parish, as well as, for other families who desire a quality Catholic education that will ensure students begin their life's journey with a strong foundation of faith and knowledge.

Merry Christmas!

A huge thank you to all of our students and staff who put together fantastic Christmas Programs!



Daily Bible Readings for the Week of December 28

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a,
5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Attention ALL youth in grades 6-12: Are you looking for a place to make great friends and grow in your faith? Come check out youth group on Sunday afternoons!

Upcoming Events (From 3:00-5:00pm unless noted):

Jan. 4th Youth Group at Holy Rosary
Jan. 18th Youth Group at Holy Rosary
Jan. 25th Snow Tubing at Perkinstown Winter Sports Area 12:00-4:00pm
Feb. 1st/8th Possible Snow Tubing Make-Up Dates 12:00-4:00 pm

For more information or questions regarding youth group, please contact Hannah Filipiak at 715-748-3336 ext. 245 or hfilipiak@hrmedford.org

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which saint is the patron saint of priests?

Answer: St. John Vianney

©LPi

Pictorial Directory Questions & Concerns

There have been many questions regarding the pictures from the pictorial directory. If you were charged postage to pick up your picture order, have not yet received your pictures, or have any other questions, please reach out to Universal Church Directories at 888-742-5823.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Monday, December 29, 2025

7:00 pm Prayer Hour

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

6:30 pm Book of Matthew Book Study

Thursday, January 1, 2026

8:00 am Solemnity of Mary Mass

Friday, January 2, 2026

9:00 am Adoration and Confession until 10:00 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Finances

Dec. 9-15, 2025

Dec. 15, 2025

Adult Envelopes \$745.00
Loose \$111.00
Votives \$25.00
Immaculate Conception \$5.00
Total \$886.00

Checking Balance \$12,371.21
Income \$886.00
Expense \$3,546.38
Ending Balance \$9,710.83

Catholic Services Appeal

Total assessment \$9,719.00
CSA paid to date \$5,805.00
Subtotal \$3,914.00
Pledges due \$275.00
Balance due \$3,639.00
Total \$6,080.00 26 Families

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Campaign Update

Pledges to date: \$133,359.00
Households Pledging to date: 62
Parishioner Participation: 78%

Goal: \$125,000
Percent Achieved: 107%

Sanctuary Light at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

OLPH offers the opportunity to light the sanctuary candle for an intention. The cost is \$5.00 per week. Stop in the parish office or drop an envelope with your intention into the collection. Please also add your name and phone number in case we need to contact you.

Book of Matthew Book Study

Join us in reading and discussing *The Book of Matthew* from December to April.

All meetings will take place on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm at OLPH

Dec. 30—Chapters 4-7
Jan. 13—Chapters 8-10
Jan. 27—Chapters 11-13
Feb. 10—Chapters 14-16
Feb. 24—Chapters 17-20
March 10—Chapters 21-25
March 24—Chapters 26-28
April 14—Wrap Up
Contact Megan Niggemann for more information at 715-560-0151



Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are now being scheduled for 2026 and cost \$20. If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the parish office.

Good Shepherd Parish

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

3:00 pm Adoration until 5:45 pm
5:00 pm Confessions until 5:45 pm

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

No Religious Education Classes
6:00 pm Solemnity of Mary Mass

Friday, January 2, 2026

3:00 pm Prayer Partners—Rosary for the Sick

Saturday, January 3, 2026

5:45 pm Confessions until 6:15 pm
6:00 pm Rosary

Good Shepherd Finances Catholic Services Appeal

December 14, 2025	Total assessment.....	\$28,165.00	
Adult	\$1,751.00	CSA Paid to date	\$14,350.00
Loose	\$166.00	Subtotal	\$13,815.00
Candles.....	\$22.00	Pledges due	\$135.00
Energy & Bldg. Fund.....	\$1,595.00	Balance due.....	\$13,680.00
Immaculate Conception....	\$20.00		\$14,485.00 - 59 Families
Total.....	\$3,554.00		

Cleaning and Polishing of the Pews

We are looking for helpers to clean/polish the church pews. Whether you can help with one pew or more than one, you are welcome to join us. Products and cloths will be provided. Please come **Monday, January 5th at 10 am in church** for a demo on using the cleaner/polish. If you cannot make it at that time, anyone at the demo can show you how to properly apply the product, allowing you to come at a different time. Please contact Mary Niggemann or the parish office with questions. Thank you to all who are willing to help.

Christmas Pageant

Our Children's Christmas Program will be after next Sunday's 9:30 Mass, Jan. 4th with a social afterwards. Please stay/come and support our youth in grades 1-5.

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary at Good Shepherd will be Wednesday December 31st 6:00 pm.

Servants of the Shepherd Meeting

The Servants of the Shepherd will be meeting after the Tuesday evening on Mass Dec. 30th. New Members are welcome to join.

Prayers

Please pray for Parishioner Walter Emmerich and his wife Elaine and their family. Wally died Dec 15th. May he rest in Peace.

Office Closed

The Good Shepherd Office will be closed this week. Contact Holy Rosary and follow the prompts for any emergency situations.

Prayer Partners

The Partners in Prayer will be meeting Jan. 2nd at 3pm to pray the Rosary for the sick. All are welcome to join us in Prayer.

Volunteers Needed

Good Shepherd Church will be providing Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass for children from 3 until they receive their First Communion. This will take place prior to the first reading until the offertory hymn. We are looking for volunteers willing to lead these young children on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. All stories, activities, and materials will be prepped for the volunteers ahead of time. If you are interested, please call Hannah Filipiak at 715-965-4943 or email at hfilipiak@hrmedford.org.

Sacred Heart Parish

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

No 8:30 am Mass, Confessions or Adoration

Thursday, January 1, 2026

9:00 am Solemnity of Mary Mass

Saturday, January 3, 2026

2:45 pm Confessions until 3:45 pm

Parish Family Weekend After Mass Sat. 1/3 & 1/4

Sacred Heart Finances Catholic Services Appeal

December 14, 2025	Total assessment	\$14,870.00	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,715.00	CSA Paid to date.....	\$3,021.83
Loose.....	\$322.00	Subtotal	\$11,848.17
Maintenance.....	\$625.00	Pledges due	\$2,454.17
Immaculate Conception	\$541.00	Balance due	\$9,394.00
Building Fund	\$10.00		\$5,476.00 - 17 families
Candles.....	\$11.00		
Christmas.....	\$50.00		
All Saints.....	\$20.00		
Total	\$3,294.00		

Start the new year with

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

At Sacred Heart, there will be no sacraments on Wednesday, 12/31. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary will be offered Thursday 1/1 at 9:00am. See elsewhere in the bulletin for the full Solemnity Mass schedule.

Parish Family Weekend: January 3-4

Take a bit of time next weekend to join your parish family downstairs after Mass. Have a cup of coffee or juice, a light meal, and some wonderful conversation with old, and new, friends. Everyone is welcome!

Food Pantry Donations

Recent donations to the Taylor County Food Pantry included \$110 cash, \$50 gift card, and 59 pounds of food and miscellaneous items. Cash is especially appreciated while the new nonprofit entity is being established; checks can be made payable to MATI. Donations can be put into the collection box in the church entry, or given to Peggy Hruby for delivery.

Honor Your Loved Ones with a Mass or Candle Intention!

Sacred Heart's 2026 intention schedule has many openings, including in January. Mass intentions are \$20. Sanctuary candle intentions are \$5. Forms are available in the entry to complete and drop into the weekly offering collection. Or contact the office to review open dates.

Seeking Mass Assistants

New volunteers to assist with Masses are always needed and welcome! Please consider the ways you can be an active participant and provide a most reverent and welcoming worship experience as musician, sacristan, lector, eucharistic minister, greeter, usher or scrip seller. Contact any current volunteer or the parish office for training (if needed), and to get on the schedule. Thanks also to those who respond generously to service opportunities as they arise, such as greeter, usher, or gift bearer

Solemnity of Mary Mass Times

December 31st Mass
6:00 pm Good Shepherd

Midnight Mass
11:00 pm Holy Rosary—Adoration
12:00 am Holy Rosary

January 1st Mass
8:00 am Our Lady of Perpetual Help
9:00 am Sacred Heart
10:00 am Holy Rosary



Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.



Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get really crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

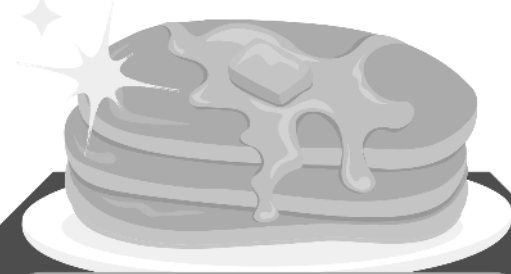
I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

©LPi

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Rosary School PANCAKE BREAKFAST 215 S. Washington Ave., Medford SOCIAL HALL



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
SERVING FROM 8:00 AM- 12:30 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please scan the QR Code below to sign up or call the office



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