

St. Mary & St. Charles St. Mary & St. John Parishes

We Welcome You

We welcome you to our parishes. If you would like to become a member of one of our parishes, please contact the parish office (994-2526) Bloomington or (725-5595) Cassville to register. For those who are interested in becoming Catholic or returning to the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. Greg.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation

Fr. Greg will be available to hear confessions on:
Mondays-4:45-5:30 p.m. at St. Charles and 6:00-6:45 p.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington except on Feb. 6.
Thursdays- 7:30-8:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Bloomington
Saturdays- 3:30-4:15p.m. at St. Charles, and 7:15-7:45 p.m. at St. Mary's Glenn Haven
Sundays- 6:45-7:15 a.m. St. John, Patch Grove and 45-9:15 a.m. at St. Mary's, Bloomington.

Baptism

May God bless our new parents! Please contact Fr. Greg to schedule the baptism of your child and to attend a baptismal preparation session.

Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Please call Fr. Greg at least six months before the wedding. One of the parties must be a practicing Catholic.

Anointing of the Sick

If someone is seriously ill, hospitalized, or is dying, please contact the Bloomington parish office immediately. Please call the parish office if there is someone who would like to be included in the Mass prayers.

Vocations

Please contact Fr. Greg if you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming a priest, brother, sister, deacon, or lay church minister. Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood and all religious ministries!

St. Charles and St. Mary's School-Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

To register your child, please call Mrs. Kelly Copsey at 994-2435 for St. Mary School or Ms. Dianne Makovec at 725-5173 for St. Charles School.

St. Mary and St. Charles Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

Bulletin Notices - Please submit bulletin notices to the parish office (sunday7@tds.net) by Monday.

St. Charles Parish Office Hours (608)725-5595

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.-noon

St. Mary's Parish Office Hours (608) 994-2526

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Our parish website: www.swwicatholicparishes.com



The Catechism of the Catholic Church

257 "O blessed light, O Trinity and first Unity!"⁹³ God is eternal blessedness, undying life, unfading light. God is love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God freely wills to communicate the glory of his blessed life. Such is the "plan of his loving kindness", conceived by the Father before the foundation of the world, in his beloved Son: "He destined us in love to be his sons" and "to be conformed to the image of his Son", through "the spirit of sonship".⁹⁴ This plan is a "grace [which] was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began", stemming immediately from Trinitarian love.⁹⁵ It unfolds in the work of creation, the whole history of salvation after the fall, and the missions of the Son and the Spirit, which are continued in the mission of the Church.⁹⁶

Rev. Gregory Ihm

P.O. Box 35

Bloomington, WI 53804

608-994-2526

608-725-5595

sunday7@tds.net (Julie M Jentz)

stchas@tds.net (Cheryl Junk)

Liturgy Schedule

Sat.	2/4	4:30 PM	Pete & Delores Kirschbaum	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Pro Populo	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	2/5	7:30 AM	Living and deceased members of Dan Nies family	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Carl Neis	(Bloomington)
Mon.	2/6	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Cassville)
		8:45-9:30 AM	No Adoration	(Cassville)
Tues.	2/7	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Cassville)
Wed.	2/8	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Bloomington)
Thurs.	2/9	8:15 AM	No Mass	(Bloomington)
		8:45-9:30 AM	No Adoration	(Bloomington)
Fri.	2/10	8:15 AM	No Mass	
Sat.	2/11	4:30 PM	Francis & Betty Breuer	(Cassville)
		8:00 PM	Living & Deceased Members of the Paul White Family	(Glen Haven)
Sun.	2/12	7:30 AM	Betty Mergen	(Patch Grove)
		9:30 AM	Pro Populo	(Bloomington)

Scripture for the week of January 30, 2023

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24,35c; Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
 Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

Time Away from the Parishes

Fr. Greg will be away from the parishes from February 6-11, 2023.

Diocese of Madison Annual Catholic Appeal

“Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart”

The theme for the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Madison is “Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart.” We ask that God guide us, and give us the ability to put our *faith* in Him to allow us the capacity to love and care for those in our parishes, our diocese and the Church throughout the world. We ask that His grace make us even more generous in supporting those needs.

Each pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal supports diocesan ministries, education and services and assures a strong future for the Diocese of Madison and the people that it serves. 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.

Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist! Answer Christ’s call and come to the Madison Diocesan Eucharistic Congress for a deeper encounter with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Make it a weekend retreat of faith, fellowship and family. **Friday, September 29-October 1, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Waunakee, WI. For a guide, schedule or to pre-register go to <https://blessedbrokenandgiven.com/>**



“The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, ‘Come all

you who are sick, I will restore your health.”
 - St. Bernadette Soubirous



Fr. Greg’s Reflections

Your Light Must Shine Before Others

Last week we heard about the Beatitudes and this week we hear; those who live by the beatitudes are the salt of the earth and light of the world. I have spoken during Epiphany about the significance of light connected to the truth and our obedience to it. **Faith is the obedience to the good that we have come to know through the truth, Jesus Christ and this is good news that is called to be shared.** It isn’t just the faith that we read in textbooks or the Catechism but also that which we experience in everyday life. I think about farmers; give them 5 minutes together and they will be talking about the markets, their farm, fields, crops, equipment; asking questions, giving advice, sharing experiences; talking about a neighboring farmer etc.

Is raising souls for the kingdom of God not also of great importance and if it’s such good news why do so few speak about it publicly with each other? **“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”** Seeing good deeds is important but unless those actions are accompanied by words that help explain them, the actions can be misunderstood. “This is my Body given for you, do this in memory of me” then Jesus willfully entered into his passion where he gave his body for us on the cross.

I would encourage each parishioner to do one thing each day to grow in your knowledge of the faith and to strive to share the faith with one person each week or at least once a month.

I’ve recommended podcasts, the FORMED subscription, but there are also other sources such as the Bible, Catechism, lives of the Saints, etc.

Reading the lives of the saints is a great practice because they help us see the faith lived out in concrete ways and their example lends us courage and motivation to live out the faith ourselves.

The **Four Holy Habits** assist us in making room for Christ in our lives:

1. Praying daily: the rosary, silent mental prayer, reading scripture, Eucharistic Adoration.
2. Keeping the Sabbath: attending Mass and resting on Sundays and visiting family or the sick.
3. Going to Confession each month: make it an appointment with God and put it in your calendar.
4. Offering it up: mortification kindles the fire of devotion in the believer’s/lover’s heart.

Many Thank You’s

I want to say thank you to all who helped to make it a wonderful Catholic Schools Week for our students and all who work to share the Catholic faith with our young people.

Thank you to all the school families at St. Mary’s who worked so hard to put on the delicious spaghetti supper.

Thanks to the teachers and student for their wonderful classroom displays. A special thank you to Ma’s Bakery for the yummy spaghetti and garlic bread and to everyone who donated Silent Auction items and supported this event.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

Faith, Family and Academic Excellence

Even though the weather didn't cooperate, the Spaghetti Supper was well attended. The Silent Auction was a big hit. Thanks for your support!

The ski trip for the 5th - 8th graders was postponed because of the dangerously low temperatures. The students had a fun time bowling on Monday, January 30.

SCRIP: Scrip is available at school and also at Economy Feed Mill or if you have a special order you may call Molly Breuer, the Scrip Coordinator, at 563-608-5734 .



Spaghetti Supper Thank You's

Thank you to the school families at St. Mary's for their work put on the delicious Spaghetti Supper and everyone who attended the supper and made it a successful event. A special thank you to Ma's Bakery for the yummy spaghetti and garlic bread.

Thank You's

We are very grateful for the interest from the Bud and Rosemary Elskamp Memorial Fund which is used toward salaries for St. Mary's teachers and for the interest from the Perrin/McDermott Memorial Fund which is used for maintenance needs in the parish.

Thank you to everyone who generously supports our parishes with their time, talents, and financial resources.



St. Josephine Bakhita - (1869-1947) Feb. 8

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, she was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was flogged until she was covered with scars and resold several times. Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan obtained her in 1883.

Two years later, he took Bakhita to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. She became a babysitter to Mimmina Michieli and accompanied her to the Venice Institute of Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. There Bakhita felt drawn to the Catholic Church and discovered a "Master" who had himself been flogged to redeem her from slavery! "I am truly loved," she thought, "and awaited by this Love." She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

After her baptism, she often kissed the baptismal font, exclaiming, "Here I became a daughter of God!" For fifty years as a Daughter of Charity, Bakhita provided cheerful hospitality to all who knocked at the convent door. In her final illness, she relived slavery's horror: "Please, loosen these chains," she begged the nurse. Pope John Paul II canonized her in 2000, praising God for leading her "from slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and the Bride of Christ."



HARVEST FUND

Brrrr, it's cold outside! We are very gratefully to the families who have given donations totaling \$25,130.00 to help with winter expenses for the parish, especially to keep our facilities warm. **We have received approximately \$5,000 less than last year.** We appreciate all contributions large or small and thank the many generous parishioners for their continued support.

Goal:	\$50,000
	\$45,000
	\$40,000
	\$35,000
	\$30,000
	\$25,000
	\$20,000
	\$15,000
	\$10,000
	\$5,000

Religious Education

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Charles School on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group won't meet on Wed., Feb. 22, because of Ash Wednesday.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

We have Catechism of the Catholic Church books available at the parish office or church for \$5.00 each.

Fr. Mike Schmitz is hosting a great year-long program to read the Catechism which can be found at <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear> or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI-pOSv7tvG>.

All are welcome to join Fr. Greg in the church basement after the 9:30 a.m. Mass to discuss the Catechism readings from the previous week.



St. Mary's Fish Fry

Everyone is invited to attend St. Mary's Fish Fry on Friday, March 10 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

The evening will also include a CASH raffle.

A Trip to Visit Fr. Paul Fagan

A group of local people are planning a trip to visit Fr. Paul at his hospital complex in Tanzania in early June. Anyone interested in joining the group for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure can call Dave or Ione Meoska (723-9605) for more details.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Mary's Collections for the period ending January 27, 2023

Church Support.....	\$1,555.00
Offertory.....	\$416.00
Rent of Parish Facilities.....	\$100.00
Gift.....	\$525.00
Votive Candles.....	\$208.00
3K Program Fees.....	\$204.75
St. Charles Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$916.57
St. Mary's GH Reimbursement for Expenses.....	\$458.43

St. Mary's families are asked to generously contribute toward the support of parish expenses. It is suggested a family to give \$1,000.00 and a single person \$500.00 per year.

St. John's Collections for the week ending on January 27, 2023

Church Support.....	\$200.00
Offertory.....	\$140.00

St. John's families are asked to generously contribution toward the support of parish expenses.

Love God, serve God; everything is in that.
- St. Clare of Assisi

St. John's Ministry Schedule for February 12, 2023

7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
 Lector: Bill Mergen
 Communion: Michelle Breuer
 Ushers: Gene Harris, Tom Breuer
 Servers: Matthew & Ty Tolle

St. Mary Ministry Schedule for February 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
 Lector: Joanie Dickerson
 Communion: Joanie Dickerson
 Sacristans: TBA
 Gifts: Dave & Ione Meoska
 Ushers: Daniel Herbers, Eric Fuerstenberg
 Server: Meghyn & Sawyer Breuer



Religious Education

The next Family Faith Formation classes will be at St. Charles School on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and class at 7:00 p.m. The Youth Group won't meet on Wed., Feb. 22, because of Ash Wednesday.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

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All are welcome to join Fr. Greg to discuss the Catechism readings from the previous week after the 4:30 p.m. Mass.



St. Charles School

As we wrap up Catholic Schools Week, we want to THANK the St. Charles Parish members for their support of our school. Please continue to pray for our students and all Catholic schools and students.

“Educating for Life, Guided by Christ.” Our motto at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Cassville is truly something we strive for daily. Our students benefit from more than 40 years of Catholic school teaching and administration experience in teacher and principal Ms. Dianne Makovec.

Ms. Makovec strives to combine religious teaching into all aspects of Catholic education, through both Catholic textbooks and the integration of faith and morals throughout the day. The students participate in weekly Mass as well as periodic Confession, and Father Greg Ihm teaches the children once per week in the classroom. Currently, Father is teaching the students about the Israelites and the Arc of the Covenant. Service is also a top priority for the school family at St. Charles Borromeo.

Please call the office 608-725-5595 for more information about enrolling your child(ren) at our school.

Cassville FFA Alumni Pancake Breakfast

The Cassville FFA Alumni will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cassville High School cafeteria. Price is \$10 per person and children under 6 eat free. The meal includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, applesauce, cheese curds, milk, coffee, and juice. Dine-in or Carry-out.

The Light of Service

The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: “Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.” All of us celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today’s readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people’s spiritual needs. Saint Matthew’s Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Reflection

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” MATTHEW 5:16

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God’s gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them and they don’t put themselves above the people they have been called to help.



Our Lady of Lourdes (Feb. 11)

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children in a poor family from Lourdes, France, saw Our Lady in the first of eighteen apparitions. At the grotto of Massabielle, Bernadette saw “a small lady in white” who invited her to return each day. During the visions the Lady communicated a message of penance, instructed Bernadette to dig so that a spring of water began to flow, requested that a chapel be built there at the grotto, and eventually identified herself by saying “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Throughout these apparitions, Our Lady addressed Bernadette in a formal way, treating the humble girl with dignity. In 1862 the authenticity of the apparitions was confirmed by Church authorities. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was recognized worldwide in 1907. Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of the faithful; their faith and the faith of many others was revitalized through the story of a simple young girl from rural France.

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Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. (mention your petition) Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATES

St. Mary’s, Glen Haven for January 28, 2023

Church Support.....\$700.00
 Offertory.....\$17.00
 Gift.....\$1,000.00
 Fuel Fund donation.....\$150.00

St. Charles, Cassville for January 28, 2023

Church Support.....\$1,525.00
 Offertory.....\$128.00

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR EXPENSES

St. Charles suggested giving is \$1,400.00 a year for a married couple and \$700.00 a year for a single household.

St. Charles’ Ministry Schedule

4:30 p.m. Mass on February 11, 2023

Lector: Gordon Kremer
 Communion: Cheryl Junk
 Servers: Anna & Natalia Paar
 Ushers: Jim Koopman, Tom Vondrum, Rick Junk

St. Mary’s, Glen Haven

8:00 p.m. Mass on February 11, 2023

Lector: Renee Schwantes
 Communion: Tracy Walz
 Servers: Dave Schwates, Tim Walz
 Ushers: Erin Adrian, Leah Patterson



Celebrate Life

Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical "God is Love" teaches that "agape, which [is]...the typical expression for the biblical notion of love.... Love expresses the experience of a love which involves a real discovery of the other, moving beyond the selfish character that prevailed earlier. Love now becomes concern and care for the other. No longer is it self-seeking, a sinking in the intoxication of happiness; instead it seeks the good of the beloved: it becomes renunciation and it is ready, and even willing, for sacrifice" (n. 6). This kind of love is seen in a particular way when we care for the weak and defenseless, both born and unborn. May the Pope's encyclical encourage us to build a culture of life!

Life Begins at Conception!

At 18 days a baby's heart begins to beat and by the 43rd day after conception a baby's brain is coordinating movements. All of a baby's organs are functioning at 8 weeks and a baby can smile, suck his/her thumb and make a fist by 12 weeks.

Help is Available

If you need support for an unplanned pregnancy, please contact the **Clarity Clinic of SW Wisconsin** at 608-348-5787 or email at clientservices@claritywi.com or the **Women's Care Center in Madison, WI** at 608-241-8100. For more information on pro-life issues, visit www.WisconsinRightToLife.org.

Natural Family Planning

Register for in-person education courses or for a self-paced online course: <http://www.madisondiocese.org/classes-andregistration> Questions? Call 608-495-6117 or email: nfp@straphael.org

Project Rachel - Healing from Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats offer Hope and Healing for women and men who have struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. Upcoming retreats in 2023: March 24 - 26 and November 10 - 12. Whether recent or long ago, call or email Mary at 608-821-3177 rachel@madisondiocese.org Visit: www.madisondiocese.org/rachel. Referrals to a priest and /or therapist also available.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Let the light of your marriage sacrament shine for all. Make your light bright by participating in an upcoming World-wide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Feb. 10-12 in Geneva, IL; April 21-23 in Brookfield, WI or June 23-25 in Geneva, IL. Visit our website at - alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

Cassville AA and Al-Anon Meetings

The AA meetings are every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in Cassville.

The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline-

Call, text or chat 988 to reach a trained counselor. These trained counselors will listen, understand how problems are affecting a person, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. **Mention you are a farmer and they will provide help**



MEETINGS

*March 15-St. John's Parish Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS

*February 5—West Grant Lions Club Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 –11:30 a.m. at the River Ridge High School

*February 10-12– Frassati Fest at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells for students in 9-12th grades.

*February 14-St. John's Food Pantry at 12:30-1:30 p.m.

*February 22– Ash Wednesday

*March 10 - St. Mary's Fish Fry from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Bloomington



West Grant Lions Club Breakfast

The West Grant Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast at River Ridge High School on Sunday, Feb. 5. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice and coffee from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. There will be baked goods for sale. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 6-12 and FREE for kids under 6.

Cassville FFA Alumni Pancake Breakfast

The Cassville FFA Alumni will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cassville High School cafeteria. Price is \$10 per person and children under 6 eat free. Meal includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, applesauce, cheese curds, milk, coffee, and juice. Dine-in or Carry-out.

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FORMED

Our cluster has a subscription to FORMED that allows all parishioners to learn about the Catholic Faith, watch movies, read e-books and more on a computer, tablet, TV, or a smart phone! To sign up for FORMED, go to <https://signup.formed.org/> **You will need to enter 53804 to find our subscription which is listed under Southwest Wisconsin Catholic Parishes. Then enter your name and email address.** That's it! You're in.

Courage & EnCourage

Courage, an apostolate of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. They also have an outreach called EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. In recognition of the irreplaceable role of the family in attaining an understanding of the homosexual condition and embracing a life of chastity. If you are looking for acceptance for yourself-same-sex attraction and all-while embracing the truth about sex as God means it to be, you may call (608) 821-3018 or contact courage@madisondiocese.org.

"Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"
-St. Josephine Bakhita
You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and



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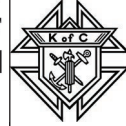
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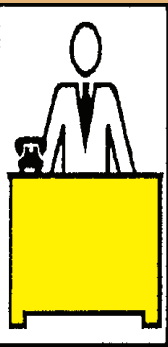
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GREAT VALUE - 70% of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.
GREAT LOYALTY - 41% of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.
GREAT PRODUCT - 62% of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin

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