



The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKMAN

Cathedral



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Jimmy Steuck Receives St. Joseph the Workman Award

Jimmy Steuck received the Cathedral parish's annual St. Joseph the Workman Award at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on April 30, for all that he does for the parish.

The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council selected Steuck for the award, which was presented by Monsignor Richard Gilles.

"We give this award to someone who typifies the ethic, the life, the person of St. Joseph," Monsignor Gilles told the congregation before announcing this year's winner.

"This person does so in a tremendous way, but very subtly," Monsignor Gilles said. "This person is always ready to quickly act, to volunteer, to be of great humble service without any fanfare. He not only contributes to whatever needs to be done at the drop of a hat, but also is a person of tremendous deep prayer, who spends a lot of time within these sacred walls."

Benda, Meszler and Hicks to Perform in Cathedral Organ Recital Series

Organists Jacob Benda, Alexander Meszler and James D. Hicks will perform during the parish's 2023 Organ Recitals series, said Dr. Brian W. Luckner, Cathedral director of sacred music.

Benda will perform on **September 17**, Meszler on **October 22** and Hicks on **November 12**. Each performance will be at 3:30 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon. Admission is free although freewill offerings will be accepted.

Benda joined the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2022 and currently serves as the director of music, liturgy and sacred arts at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as organ professor in the music department. He has been featured as a solo recitalist at universities, festivals and cathedrals throughout the United States.

Meszler is assistant professor of music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He was appointed to the college's faculty in 2022. He curates programs that combine eclectic genres spanning more than five centuries. He is dedicated to the promotion and performance of music by living composers and is a member of the American Guild of Organists' Committee on New Music.

Hicks lives and works out of Califon, New Jersey, and has directed music ministries in churches throughout the nation over 35 years. He now devotes himself to concert, publishing and recording projects. Over the past 15 years, he has researched organ music of the Nordic lands, resulting in the ongoing Nordic Journey recording project. ✠



Jacob Benda



Alexander Meszler



James D. Hicks

Then Monsignor Gilles announced that Steuck – who was an altar server at the Mass – was receiving this year's award.

"I was surprised," Steuck said after Mass. "It's a very kind gesture by the Cathedral and by Monsignor. So I'm very appreciative of it." "Here at the Cathedral, I'm a server for Sunday and weekday Masses, and funerals," Steuck said.

"I do a lot of set-up work in getting things ready for Mass and cleanup after liturgical events, things like that." ✠



Liturgical Living Initiative Gets Under Way at Cathedral

Parishioners are being encouraged to incorporate liturgy into their lives at home, with the help of **Restore the Roots: Cultivating Your Domestic Church**, a liturgical living initiative of St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral.

A team of five parishioners has begun creating an insert that will go into the parish weekend bulletin on the weekend before the first of each month, providing information about that month and its feast days and suggesting possible ways to mark them.

For example, the first insert, which was in the parish’s April 29-30 bulletin, noted that the month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It suggested trying to incorporate at least one special practice for Mary to deepen one’s relationship with her, such as having a Mary Crowning ceremony or planting a Mary Garden or singing a Marian hymn before bed. That first insert also provided information on the feast days in May and ways to celebrate them, such as praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit.

The initiative actually began last fall, when the group made available to parishioners information about Advent and sold Advent wreaths and candles after Masses, said Natalie Elskamp, the coordinator of the initiative.

In January the group also made house blessing kits available for the Feast of the Epiphany. The group will continue to do these things and hope to branch out in new ways in the future.

Monsignor Richard Gilles had talked to Elskamp and others last fall about ways to encourage parishioners to incorporate faith into their everyday lives at home.

“Liturgical living” means to bring the seasons and feasts of the church into your daily life by fun traditions, activities or prayer, Elskamp said. This method of living isn’t anything new, as the early church fathers wrote to their followers and encouraged them to do this as well, she said. It is how the faith was handed down and lived out for centuries.

“Liturgical living is a passion of mine,” Elskamp said. “Come to our house and you’ll be able to figure out which liturgical season it is and if it’s a feast day of a favorite saint. As a family we’ve all learned so much about the church, our faith and the saints. We’ve also deepened our relationships with Jesus and Mary.

“Living liturgically is such a simple thing to do and it’s a great evangelization tool,” Elskamp added. “Each person or family can deepen their faith and can pass the faith on, too. We’re just trying to give them the tools.” ✕



ABOVE: Forty people attend the Cathedral parish’s inaugural Covenant Hearts marriage enrichment event on February 11 in the Cathedral Undercroft. Photo by Mari Erickson.

Cathedral is Holding Three Annual Events to Engage Parishioners

The Cathedral is holding three annual events this year aimed at building relationships and engaging parishioners.

Forty people attended the parish’s inaugural **Covenant Hearts** marriage enrichment event on Saturday, February 11, in the Cathedral Undercroft.

And about 80 people attended the inaugural **Patronal Feast Day** event held after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 30, in the Undercroft. It included a potluck lunch, raffle of gift baskets and silent auction of a statue of Mary. May 1 is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Both will be annual events, as will be the **Beacon of Light and Hope Celebration** planned for Sunday, September 10, which will feature a



meal and games. The first Beacon of Light and Hope Celebration was held last September, to mark completion of the \$6.1 million restoration of the Cathedral.

“We not only want to say we’re (the parish) the Beacon of Light,” the Cathedral’s Parish Mission Associate, Kevin Decker, said of the reason for holding the three events. “We want to actually live it out and be the Beacon of Light,” he said. “We want to hold events like this and build personal relationships and grow discipleship, to really engage.”

At the February event, guest speakers Ollie and Sandy Schulteis discussed how couples can keep Christ at the center of their marriage, and how to improve communication within their marriage. They are members of Roncalli Newman Parish in

La Crosse and are involved in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter program.

“It was awesome and it was engaging,” Decker said. “It was actually something that people could use in their marriage.” The Covenant Hearts event also included a gourmet meal prepared by chef John Zayas, who lives in Puerto Rico, is a friend of Decker and has ties to the La Crosse area.

“I thought it was a really good start,” Decker said of the April 30 feast day event. “We’ll just keep building year after year. It’s nice to get people back together.

“I was very happy with it, and there were a number of people who chipped in and helped out,” Decker added. “Thanks to everyone who helped out and to the people who brought food. It was nice to do something to celebrate our patron saint.” ✕

ABOVE: About 80 people attended the Patronal Feast Day potluck lunch held after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on April 30 in the Undercroft.

Cathedral Participates in Mobile Meals Program

The Cathedral is again providing volunteer drivers in the Mobile Meals of La Crosse program. The parish is always in need of lunchtime drivers of any age, said Cyndi Withrow, who has been the Cathedral’s Mobile Meals coordinator since the late 1990s.

Volunteer drivers from the Cathedral delivered to the homebound from January 23-29. And Cathedral volunteer drivers also will deliver meals during the weeks of **June 19-25, August 28-September 3, October 23-29 and December 4-10**. The volunteers pick up meals at 10:30 a.m. at the Market Street entrance to Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse and deliver them to people on the city’s South Side. Deliveries take about an hour-and-a-half on weekdays and 40 minutes on weekends.

Whether parishioners volunteer one or many times, their contribution is greatly appreciated, Withrow said. Call her at **608-799-2614** to sign up or get more information. ✕

Knitters, Crocheters Invited to Help Create Prayer Shawl Ministry

Cathedral parishioner Ginny Nelson is inviting knitters and crocheters to help create a prayer shawl ministry at the parish.

“There was a prayer shawl ministry years ago, but it disbanded,” Nelson said. “I am following Monsignor Gilles’s call to use my talent to help the parish.” Knitters and crocheters would help create prayer shawls for those who may need healing in mind, soul, body or spirit, Nelson said.

“The idea is for the recipients to be wrapped in the warmth of a prayer-filled shawl,” she said. The knitters and crocheters would pray over the shawls while they are making them in their homes.

Anyone interested in being part of the new ministry is asked to call or text Nelson at **608-797-7435** or email her at **ginny_nelson@hotmail.com** . ✕

Nelson said a card would be attached to each shawl before it is given to someone.

- The card says:
- “May this shawl be a sign of God’s loving, healing presence.”
 - “May it warm you when you are weary.”
 - “May it encourage you when you are discouraged.”
 - “May it assure you of God’s care and comfort.”
 - “May it remind you that you are surrounded by the prayers of others.”



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2023 First Communion

Elijah Elskamp and Heidi Wolfe pose with Monsignor Richard Gilles after making their First Holy Communion at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on April 16.

Confirmation at the Cathedral – 2023



Ten Cathedral parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 12 at the Cathedral.

Pictured above with Monsignor Richard Gilles are Joseph Cahalan, Susan Cahalan, Zoe Emineth, Jana Forrestal, Patrick Gundersen, Anicca Klug, Chiagoziem Nduka, Kathryn Savoldelli, Leah Wilder and Jane Wolfe.

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Your Faith Community **NEEDS YOU**
Volunteer **GET INVOLVED!**