



The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKMAN

Cathedral

Taggart Receives Parish's St. Joseph the Workman Award

Sara Taggart received the highly esteemed Cathedral's annual **St. Joseph the Workman Award** during the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 11, for all that she does for the parish.

Taggart sells scrip and takes parishioners' Mass intentions after the three Masses at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday. She also takes care of the flowers in the Cathedral's sanctuary as part of her role on the parish's *Sacred Worship Committee*.



"She has her family and she works, but she takes on the scrip table and takes care of the flowers, as well as the Mass intention book. Whatever needs to be done, she does with no complaint."

MONSIGNOR GILLES



As a member of the Cathedral's *Social Concerns Committee*, Taggart also helps at the downtown Catholic Charities Warming Center every Monday from November to April.

Taggart and her husband, Michael, have five children – Kristyn, Cecilia, Michala, Caleb and Amber – and four grandchildren.

Members of the *Parish Pastoral Council* unanimously recommended her for this year's **St. Joseph the Workman Award**, said Monsignor Richard Gilles, the parish's rector.

"This is somebody who is just constantly here, a long-term faithful member of the parish who always steps up to the plate, always does what needs to be done, doesn't complain about it," Monsignor Gilles said. "She has her family and she works, but she takes on the scrip table and takes care of the flowers, as well as the Mass intention book," he said. "Whatever needs to be done, she does with no complaint. She's just a real gift to the parish, a real treasure." ✕



Sara Taggart, pictured with her husband, Michael, received the parish's annual St. Joseph the Workman Award at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 11.



Beacon of Light Picnic to be Held September 14

The parish's fourth annual Beacon of Light picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14, at Myrick Park. The event will include a pig roast, lots of other food, raffle baskets and music.

"People like to eat and chat" at the event, said Kevin Decker, the Cathedral's parish mission associate. Last year's event drew a large crowd. For more information about this fall's event, see upcoming parish weekend bulletins. ✕

Cathedral Ministry Fair to be Held on October 18-19

The second Cathedral Ministry Fair will be held after the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19. Information on several Cathedral ministries will be available at several tables, from members of the ministries.

The parish's first ministry fair was held November 16-17.

The purpose of the ministry fairs is "Just to get everybody involved, and to continue building community," said Kevin Decker, the Cathedral's parish mission associate.

Decker and Monsignor Richard Gilles, the parish's rector, said they were pleased with the turnout at the first ministry fair and with the number of people who signed up to become involved in the ministries.

Some of the ministries featured at that event included social justice opportunities, women's faith formation, cooking club, sacred liturgy, Parish Council of Catholic Women, homebound ministry and altar linens/ church cleaning. ✕



Cathedral Provides Drivers for Mobile Meals of La Crosse 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.

"The Cathedral parish has five delivery weeks again in 2025," Withrow said. Volunteer drivers from the Cathedral delivered to the homebound from **February 17-23** and from **April 14-20**. And they are scheduled to deliver meals during the weeks of **June 16-22**, **August 18-24** and **October 13-19**.

Volunteers pick up the meals between 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. "There is a hot meal carrier, a cold lunch cooler and a clipboard with recipient addresses and corresponding meal numbers," Withrow said. The volunteers pick up the meals on the south side of the new Mayo Clinic Health System hospital building in La Crosse and deliver them to people on the city's South Side, she said. Deliveries take about an hour-and-a-half on weekdays and 40 minutes on weekends. The meal carriers are returned to the southwest corner of the same new hospital building on the corner of 11th and Mississippi streets.

"The Mobile Meals of La Crosse program has expanded in the last several years, covering a greater area and serving more people," Withrow said.

"Our volunteers like to help our community neighbors in this way," she said. "It's a service that is schedule-friendly for busy people, as you choose the days that are convenient for you.

"One of our regular volunteers, Julie Fuchsteiner, sums it up well," Withrow said. "She says 'I've met some wonderful people delivering. I hope that it brightens up their day as much as they brighten mine!'" ❖

Pancake Breakfasts Are Set for August 10 and November 2

The parish's *Family Life Committee* will hold a pancake breakfast after the Masses on **Sunday, August 10**, to raise money to help send families to a Cathedral Family Weekend later this year at Camp Gray, a Catholic summer camp near Wisconsin Dells.

And the *Social Concerns Committee* will hold a pancake breakfast after the Masses on **Sunday, November 2**, to help send a group of Cathedral parishioners to the annual National March for Life next January 23 in Washington, D.C.

"We've worked on helping the homeless and now we'll (also) be working on pro-life things," Kevin Decker, the Cathedral's parish mission associate, said of the *Social Concerns Committee*. ❖

Cathedral Book Club Members Learn About Faith, Moral and Current Issues

Members of the Cathedral Book Club enjoy reading, interacting with others and learning more about faith, moral and current issues.

Each season typically begins in September, when club members decide which books (and occasionally movies) that they will discuss in monthly meetings that continue through May. The past season concluded with a May 1 discussion of the book "*The Secret Life of Sunflowers*."

Book discussions are from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month, in the Cathedral's Gathering Area. While that's where book discussions are held, the club occasionally views a movie in the St. Joseph Hall (Undercroft).

The club was organized in 2006 in an effort to provide another social opportunity for parishioners, said Colleen Walsh, one of the original members. Its meetings usually draw about six members, Walsh said, adding that all are welcome to join the club. "Not everyone comes every time," she said.

"People are invited to join in all the activities," Walsh said. "If they just want to come for one time, that's fine. If they want to come to everything, they are most welcome.

"I'm an old retired English teacher," Walsh said with a smile, when asked why she belongs to the book club. "It's for companionship. And I like to read anyway."

"I enjoy reading and it's nice to get together with people and discuss books," said Liz Whalen, who joined the club a dozen years ago. She added that belonging to the club results in her reading books that she otherwise might not read.

"I enjoy reading, too," said her husband and fellow club member, Chuck Whalen, who joined about nine years ago.

"I'm motivated to read," said Sister Mary Ann Gschwind, who joined the book club one year ago.

"I like meeting new people," said Julie Ripp, who joined the club 15 years ago. "And we can speak our minds and tell each other what we think about the book."

"I like the interaction and the discussions," said Rochelle Dyar, who joined the club five years ago. "You get to be introduced so many different kinds of books that you didn't know existed. Lots of good books are brought in and read."



Above, members of the Cathedral Book Club discuss the book "*The Secret Life of Sunflowers*" at their May 1 meeting in the Gathering Area. Members pictured above at that meeting were, from left, Julie Ripp, Rochelle Dyar, Colleen Walsh, Sister Mary Ann Gschwind, Liz Whalen and Chuck Whalen. * Club members not pictured are Joyce Sanders, Betty Roskos, Jan Schneider & Vicki Monk.

Club members are grateful to the La Crosse Public Library for its assistance, Walsh and other club members said.

"They go beyond what is necessary," Chuck Whalen said of the public library staff. "They really do work hard" to help.

The library staff has a copy of the book club's schedule, rounds up copies of the books listed on the schedule and emails or telephones club members to let them know when the copies are ready for them to pick up.

The club's past season began with the movies "*The Boys in the Boat*" in October and "*A Man Called Otto*" in November. Those were followed in subsequent months by discussions of the books "*The Dutch House*," "*When We Walk By: Ending Homelessness in America*," "*The Ride of Her Life: Last Chance Journey Across America*," "*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*," "*An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*" and "*The Secret Life of Sunflowers*." ❖

Bird, Schwandt and Winterfeldt to Perform in Cathedral Organ Recital Series

Organists **Gabriel Rivera Bird**, **Dr. Daniel Schwandt** and **Dr. Chad Winterfeldt** will perform during the parish's 2025 Organ Recitals series, said Dr. Brian W. Luckner, Cathedral director of sacred music.

Bird will perform on September 28, Schwandt on October 26 and Winterfeldt on November 16. Each performance will be at 3:30 p.m. in the Cathedral on a Sunday afternoon. Admission is free although freewill offerings will be accepted.

Luckner said Bird is a dedicated young organist who despite his Puerto Rican ancestry, hails from La Crosse, where he studies with Luckner. His proclivity for organ playing landed many opportunities, such as being a finalist at the American Guild of Organists Youth Competition, being a student participant at summer institutes at Eastman, Curtis, Michigan and Oberlin, and being invited to the Oregon Bach Festival Organ Intensive with Julliard Professor Paul Jacobs. Bird is grateful to the Cathedral for allowing him regular access to its beautiful space and organ.

Schwandt is the newly appointed cantor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, where he continues a rich tradition of sacred music. He also serves as university organist and lecturer in music at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he teaches organ and harpsichord. He holds organ and sacred music degrees from St. Olaf College and the University of Notre Dame. He has served congregations in Minnesota, Indiana and Chicago, where for 12 years he served as seminary cantor of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Winterfeldt is cantor of Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he oversees music in the chapel, teaches music theory, directs the handbell ensembles, and maintains an active organ studio. He also is director of music ministry at Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He holds degrees in organ performance from the University of Nebraska, Yale University and Concordia College, Moorhead. ❖



Gabriel Rivera Bird



Dr. Daniel Schwandt



Dr. Chad Winterfeldt

May 4th St. Joseph Potluck

May 1 is the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman



Parishioners enjoyed each other's company and a delicious meal at the St. Joseph Potluck, which was the Cathedral's third annual Patronal Feast Day celebration, after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 4, in the Rectory Annex. The weather was perfect.

In one of these photos, Brandon Dane and his wife Jamie (whose hand appears at far right) feed their twins, Rowen and Daniella.





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Six high school students from Cathedral parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 23 at the Cathedral. The Confirmation Mass was celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby, pictured above with the students and Monsignor Richard Gilles. Receiving the sacrament were Samuel Mark Elskamp, Joseph Matthew Korger, Gabriel Andres Rivera Bird, Sophia Valentina Nicolai, Dawson Aaron Charles Miles and Chiadikobi Emily Nduka.



Above, six Cathedral parishioners made their First Holy Communion at the 10 a.m. Mass on April 27. Pictured above with Monsignor Richard Gilles, they are Joshua Decker, Gemma Gander, Genevieve Elskamp, Heidi Hundt, Raymond Sauppe' and Montgomery Bolanos.

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