

St. Therese Parish

9525 W Bluemound Rd Milwaukee, WI 53226

sttheresemke.org info@sttheresemke.org (414) 771-2500 Facebook:@sttheresemke

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARK 12:43

We are St. Therese Catholic Church, a community of believers, who walk together by faith in Christ Jesus, and minister in the Little Way of St. Therese, as we strive hand-in-hand to live as God's people.

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

East Church 5424 W Bluemound Milwaukee, WI 53208 West Church/Office 201 N 76th St Milwaukee, WI 53213

stvincentpallotti.org / vpallotti@stvpc.org (414) 453-5344 Facebook: @stvincentpallottimke YouTube: @st.vincentpallottiparish



A Community of disciples, nourished by the Eucharist, caring for each other and reaching out to others.

November 10, 2024

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West Sunday 7:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East 9:00AM - St. Therese 10:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6:25AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East Tues: 8:00AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West Tues: 8:45AM - St. Therese Wed: 6:00PM - St. Therese Thurs: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West First Friday: 5:30PM – St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15-3:45PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West Sunday 6:45-7:15AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East First Sunday of the Month - 8:15AM - St. Therese Or by appointment on weekdays

Pray the Rosary

Saturday : 3:15PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West Sunday: 7:00AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East Third Sunday of the Month -10:00AM - St. Therese

Adoration

First Friday 6:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West Wednesdays 5:30PM - St. Therese Thursdays 11:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

Anointing of the Sick

After Mass on the First Full Weekend of the Month. You can also contact either Parish Office or Fr. Tom PC on his cell phone (414) 308-6238 to arrange a visit.

Baptism, Marriage and RCIA

Please call either Parish Office. Preparation can take nine months or more.

Funerals

Contact either Parish Office to plan.

Parish Pastoral Council

1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:00PM

To contact a Parish Pastoral Council Member, send an email to council@sttheresemke.org or leave a message for them in either parish office. Meeting minutes are available in the parish offices.

Chairperson

Art Nennig

Vice Chairperson Brett Surinak

Secretary Jennifer Tierney

Trustees

Dennis Ferger – STP (414) 546-7330 Christopher Gauthier – SVP (414) 302-1033 Kathy Hubrich – STP (414) 839-2669 Lenny Schaefer – SVP (414) 534-1450

Members-At-Large

David Helterbran Linda Okruhlica Sr. Marilyn Metz Tom Ratkowski Mary Noeske

Saint Vincent de Paul (414) 462-7837

Hospital Visits

The Federal Privacy Regulation (HIPAA— Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act) prohibits hospitals from informing churches of a patient's presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you are admitted to a hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact either Parish Office.

Prayer List for Mass

It is our privilege to pray at our weekend masses for those in need. If you would like to add a name to the list, please contact either Parish Office.

> Need Prayer? Call the Prayer Network at (414) 810-9844

Need Holy Communion? Call either Parish Office

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 8:00AM

Announcement Deadline: Thursday, 8:00AM

All submissions must be in writing to either Parish Office; email preferred.

Pastor of St. Vincent Pallotti Parish & St. Therese Parish

Fr. Thomas Pulikkeel Chacko, SAC ext. 1 at St. Therese and ext. 102 at St. Vincent Pallotti fr.thomaspc@stvpc.org (414) 308-6238

St. Therese Parish Staff Parish Emergencies (414) 771-2500 – Push 0

Office Hours: Friday and Saturday: Closed Sunday: 10:00AM-11:30AM Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs: 8:00AM-12:00PM Onsite; 12:00PM-4:00PM Remote

Director of Administrative Services Heather Goeden ext. 2

Heather Goeden ext. 2 heather@sttheresemke.org

Finance Director Christine Jensen ext. 4 christine@sttheresemke.org

Choir Director Carrie Sanders

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Organist Kathy Luty

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Staff Office (414) 453-5344

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:30AM-3:30PM

Director of Admin & Development

Susana Cuellar ext. 109 sscuellar@stvpc.org

Director of Liturgy & Music

Carrie Sanders (414) 258-4165 ext. 107 csanders@stvpc.org

Food Service Director

Laura Ruiz-Reves ext. 120

Iruiz-reyes@stvpc.org

Secretary

Lori Gabert ext. 101 lgabert@stvpc.org

Bookkeeper Kari Utzerath ext. 104 kutzerath@stvpc.org

Scrip Coordinator Therese Schaefer (414) 534-3836

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish School Staff Office: (414) 258-4165 Fax: (414) 258-9844

Principal

Joe Fryda ext. 111 jfryda@stvps.org Vice Principal Tracy Irwin ext. 259 tirwin@stvps.org Office Manager/ Choice Coordinator Lirse Jones ext. 112 ljones@stvps.org

Parish Membership / Support Anyone over age 18 is invited to register as an adult member. Please call either Parish Office for more information.

Catechesis Ministry

Sr. Marilyn Metz – Co-Coordinator Preschool to Grade 8 Program & Coordinator of First Reconciliation and First Communion: gr2_3@sttheresemke.org

Mary Rose Sanger – Co-Coordinator Preschool to Grade 8 Program: mrs77stt@sttheresemke.org

Rick Reinders – Coordinator of High School & Youth Confirmation: rreinders@sttheresemke.org





Calling All Bakers:

Sign up to donate cookies for the December 14 cookie sale online or call Mary at

(414) 425-2028. Please sign up. The success of this fundraiser depends on your generosity. Directions for drop off are downloadable from the website.

Thanksgiving Office Hours

Closed Wednesday, November 27 through Sunday, December 1.

Evening Mass Cancellation

On Wednesday, November 27, there will be no Adoration or Evening Mass. Join us at the Ecumenical Service at St. Therese at 7:00PM instead!



A 90-DAY ADVENTURE FOR THOSE SEEKING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

NEW YEARS TO EASTER

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

Emmaus 90 pilgrims receive:

- Daily prayer prompts
- A Guidebook Journal
- Challenges to grow in holiness
- Robust formation sessions (by livestream on Thursdays at 7 pm or view recording)
- · Discussion questions for small groups and families
- A community walking with you



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKE

CHURCH SUPPORT

Envelopes & Offertory – Nov 3rd	\$	5,360.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Nov 1st	\$	390.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Oct 27th	\$	1,822.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Oct 20th	\$	8,728.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Oct 13th	\$	3,291.50
Maintenance Donations	\$	705.00
Sharing Weekend (October 13th)	\$	855.00
Please remember St. Therese in	vou	r will!

9:00AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed on our Facebook page. It is also posted on our website after Mass.

Like us and follow us on Facebook @sttheresemke!



Sharing Weekend is This Weekend: November 10

The Sharing Weekend recipient for November is Dryhootch. Dryhootch is a veteran nonprofit that provides peer support for veterans returning from active duty as well as recovering from addictions. Dryhootch provides rides to and from the VA for veterans that do not have transportation. Dryhootch also provides a food pantry for veterans and their families. Dryhootch also has a family resource center. Dryhootch has two locations in Milwaukee including coffee shops at 1030 E Brady St and 4801 W National Ave. There is also a location in Madison at 1324 E Washington Ave.

Donations can be made at Mass, mailed to the Parish Office or by using the QR code to donate online. If you are writing a check, please make it out to DryHootch. Thank you for your generosity.



Remember Your Loved Ones This November

Wall of Remembrance

The Wall of Remembrance is our way at St. Therese of honoring the deceased during the month of November. Please

email a photo of your loved one that has passed away to Heather in the Parish Office at heather@sttheresemke.org. You may also stop by during office hours with a printed photo. She will scan the photo and give it right back to you. Please also indicate whether or not you'd like the name of your loved one included with the photo. Heather will then put the photos on the eBoard in the back of the church to be shown before and after Mass.

Book of the Dead

Place the names of your deceased loved ones in the Book of the Dead. It is near the Holy Water font.

Senior Planet Classes

Free Technology Education for Older Adults

10:30AM to 12:00PM in the Firefly Room of the Wauwatosa Library.

Making Holiday Cards & Letters (11/12) – Use your newfound tech skills to make fun holiday photo cards and write letters to your family and friends. Come with a photo stored on your device that you would like to include on your card.

Intro to Photo Editing Skills (11/19) – Come and delve further into learning how to edit your photos. We'll also explore how the images we see in the media can sometimes be edited. We'll talk about the features on your phones as well as photo editing apps that can do even more.

de Chantal Gatherings for Women

Women are invited to Saint Francis de Sales Seminary on Tuesday, November 12 to pray for vocations to the priesthood. The gatherings will be led by Fr. Michael Malucha. The sessions include Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual formation, and hospitality. Gatherings will begin at 9:30 am and 7:00PM at the Seminary, 3257 South Lake Drive, St. Francis. Please RSVP to Ibrielmaier@sfs.edu or call (414) 747-6463. Enjoy some quiet time with the Lord in the beauty of the Seminary!

Schedule a Mass Intention in Memory of a Loved One

Please consider donating a mass intention in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. Most weekend Masses are scheduled for 2024, but there are many weekday Masses open. To donate, please contact Heather Goeden in the Parish Office.

Looking to donate online? Use the QR Code on the right to make a contribution to St. Therese Parish on our online giving website. Thank you for your generosity.





* GOD BLESS * OUR VETERANS!



St. Vincent Pallotti School McTeacher's Night



Thursday, November 14 3:15-5:30pm **McDonalds**

6409 W Bluemound Rd.

Say "**I'm with St. Vincent Pallotti!**" when you order for 10% of sales to go back to the school!

100% of all cash pie sales during the event benefit the school!

SAVE THE DATE and NOTE THE CHANGE!

Our annual

St. Vincent Pallotti Pasta Dinner

has moved from November to Saturday, <u>February 8.</u> Watch the bulletins in 2025



for more information!

10:30AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed

and Recorded Find the link under "Mass Times" Also available on YouTube.

STEWARDSHIP PARISH SUPPORT				
	Actual Amount Received in October, 2024	Actual Amount Received this FY as of October, 2024	Budget for Fiscal Year 7/01/24-6/30/2025	
Envelopes	\$12,119.00	\$58,221.06	\$217,000.00	
Offertory	\$2,457.81	\$10,762.34	\$36,100.00	
Donations	\$827.25	\$5,067.57	\$22,900.00	
TOTAL	\$15,404.06	\$74,050.97	\$276,000.00	

Thank you for your contributions!

The Special Collection for November will be donated to Capuchin Community Services

To provide a contribution: Envelopes can be mailed to the Parish Office **OR** you can go to our <u>website</u> and do an <u>Online giving</u> donation. Look for the "Online Giving" button.



How Old is God?

As humans, we measure age based on the date we were born, but that method doesn't translate to measuring God's age because He doesn't have one. God has always been and will always be. Therefore, He is beyond time or age; and not only that, He is the inventor of time.

God is the creator of the whole universe and all it contains (John 1:3). Time itself is a creation of God by which we are able to measure our days, years, and the seasons as they pass (Genesis 1:14; Psalm 104:19). Because God is the creator of time, He exists outside the realm and confines of time. When He first spoke to Moses, God called Himself "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). This statement is related to the Hebrew name for God YHWH, or more commonly, Yahweh. By calling Himself "I AM" God was showing Moses His supreme rulership, limitless power, and His never-ending presence. He is the God who always IS. In the Old Testament and the New Testament, the Lord reveals Himself to be "the first and the last" (Isaiah 44:6). He is "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13; Revelation 1:8). In the Greek alphabet, Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last letter. So, in English, the equivalent saying would be that He is the "A and the Z." We are bound within the confines of time, but God isn't. He was here before the beginning and He will be here after the end, and in all of it, He is always present. Asking "How old is God?" is thus a category mistake. As explained, God is outside of time; He does not have an age. The question "How old is God?" assumes He has an age, but because He is timeless and eternally self-existent, He is not in the same category with things subject to time, with things that have an age. We have a God who has always been and will always be. We know that God is always with us and will never leave us (<u>Hebrews 13:5–6</u>); we know that He is faithful to complete His good work (<u>Philippians 1:6</u>; 2:12-13); we know we can

(<u>Philippians 1:6; 2:12–13</u>); we know we can never be separated from His love (<u>Romans</u> <u>8:28–39</u>). Our future is secure when we put our trust in Him (<u>Psalm 9:10; Proverbs</u> <u>30:5</u>).

November 10, 2024 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



STP = St. Therese Parish SVP-E = St. Vincent Pallotti East Church SVP-W = St. Vincent Pallotti West Church

Sunday, November 10

Sharing Weekend at STP/SCRIP Pick-Up Weekend at STP

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
 9:00AM Mass at STP Live Streamed on Facebook
 9:15AM Children's Liturgy of the Word at STP
 10:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool –
- Grade 8 Program at STP 10:30AM First Reconciliation Preparation at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W Live Streamed and Posted

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day

6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E6:00PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting at STP

Tuesday, November 12

8:00AM Morning Mass at SVP-W
8:45AM Morning Mass at STP
9:15AM Bible Study at STP
6:30PM Christian Formation Committee at STP

Wednesday, November 13

6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E5:30PM Adoration at STP6:00PM Evening Mass at STP6:30PM Human Concerns Committee at STP

Thursday, November 14 – STP Office Remote All Day

11:30AMAdoration at SVP-W12:00PMAfternoon Mass at SVP-W4:00PMChoir Rehearsal at SVP-W7:00PMGroup 100 AA

Friday, November 15

6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E 9:00AM Church Cleaning at SVP-W

Saturday, November 16

Birthday Weekend at SVP/ SVdP Collection at SVP

- 9:00AM Altar Server Training at STP
- 3:15PM Confessions at SVP-W
- 3:15PM Rosary at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Mass at SVP-W

Sunday, November 17

Birthday Weekend at SVP/ SVdP Collection at SVP

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E 9:00AM Mass at STP-Live Streamed on Facebook
- 10:00 AND TVIASS ALGTP LIVE GLI PAILINEU ON PACEDOOK
- 10:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool Grade 8 Program at STP
- 10:00AM High School Catechesis & Confirmation Prep at STP
- 10:30AM First Reconciliation Preparation at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W Live Streamed and Posted

Intentions & Readings for the Week

November Sanctuary Candle at STP For Young Married Couples

Sunday, November 10

Readings 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44

Monday, November 11

Observance: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day Readings Ti 1:1-9/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 17:1-6 6:25AM (SVP-E) Blessings for Eileen Piasecki (M. Biernat)

Tuesday, November 12

Observance: St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

Readings Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29/Lk 17:7-10 8:00AM (SVP-W) †Robbie DeStasio (Trudy & Dennis Manuel) 8:45AM (STP) St. Therese Parish Community

Wednesday, November 13

Observance: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

Readings Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6/Lk 17:11-19 6:25AM (SVP-E) Blessings for Marcia Flejter (M. Biernat) 8:15AM (SVP-W) School Mass 6:00PM (STP) St. Therese Parish Community

Thursday, November 14

Readings Phlm 7-20/Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Lk 17:20-25 12:00PM (SVP-W) Blessings for Fr. Tom PC & his family (Jim & Fran Proulx)

Friday, November 15

Observance: St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Readings 2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18/Lk 17:26-37 6:25AM (SVP-E) Blessings for Christopher D. (The Ewert Family)

Saturday Mass, November 16

Observance: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin Readings 3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8 4:00PM (SVP-W) The Peter Cychosz Family

Sunday Mass, November 17 –33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32 7:30AM (SVP-E) Parishioners

9:00AM (STP) [†]Irene Enderson and St. Therese Parish Community 10:30AM (SVP-W) [†]Paula Cuske (G. Callahan)



To be included, please call either Parish Office.

Dorothy Ash, Peter Carlis, Brandon Choe, Michael Czamecki, Nancy Dineen, Dean Doberstein, Kylie Doyne, Elizabeth and Elijah, Jan Eno, Kathleen Fugiasco, Family G, Matthew Harrison, Dan Heinz, Josette Jaeger, Mary Kirchner, Helen Klister, Julie Kross, Betty Lovinus, Rachel Lund, Kathy Manthe, Debbie Martin, Loretta Merz, Bob O'Neil, Debbie Opichka, Fr. Norm Oswald, Celeste Rau, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Kaity Shields, Michael Sullivan, Robert Szablewski, Beverly T, John Wachowiak, Chris Wehausen

November 10, 2024 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Earth Ministry:

Hope for Unlimited Clean Energy in Our Time?

Scientists have been laboring for decades to create a controlled nuclear FUSION reaction. Fusion is the type of energy that powers the sun and stars. Until now, nuclear power has come from FISSION reactors. Fission reactors create energy by splitting atoms. Fusion reactors would create energy by joining atoms together. Fusion reactors would generate contamination-free energy without the radioactive waste of fission reactors. A recent *CBS 60 Minutes* exposé described the internationally-competitive race to harness nuclear fusion, especially by physicists in China and the USA.

A key step in the nuclear fusion process is to produce heated plasma, which is a gas of hot ions and free-moving electrons. For the first time, a fusion device at UW Madison has generated this plasma via a sophisticated magnetic mirror which became operational on July 15, 2024.

This breakthrough provides hope that unlimited, carbon-free, radioactive-free energy may one day be reality.



St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti Thanksgiving Services



- Please join us at one of these services to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday:
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving eve prayer service on Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00PM. St. Therese Parish is pleased to host this year's service with St. Vincent Pallotti, Syro Malabar, and Martin Luther Lutheran Church. What a great way to bring in the holiday season, joining in prayer and song, giving thanks to God for the many blessings we receive. The combined choirs will enrich our service and fill our church with joyful music. Hospitality will follow immediately after the service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We are in need of someone to help coordinate the hospitality after the service. If you are able to do this, please contact Heather in the St. Therese Parish Office.

If you are able to provide a pie for hospitality, please let Heather in the St. Therese Parish Office know by Monday, November 25. Drop off will be on Tuesday, November 26 from 8:00AM until 3:00PM at the Parish Office or Wednesday, November 27 from 6:00PM until the service begins in the back of church.

• Thanksgiving Morning Mass - Thursday, November 28 at 8:30AM at St. Vincent Pallotti-West (201 N 76th St)

All are welcome and encouraged to attend one of these services!

Altered Bulletin Deadlines for November & December

- November 24 Bulletin Articles due November 13 at 8:00AM
- December 1 Bulletin Articles due November 20 at 8:00AM
- December 8 Bulletin Articles due November 25 at 8:00AM
- December 15 Bulletin Articles due December 4 at 8:00AM
- December 22 Bulletin Articles due December 10 at 8:00AM
- December 29 Bulletin Articles due December 18 at 8:00AM
- January 5 Bulletin Articles due December 20 at 8:00AM



St. Therese, St. Vincent Pallotti, and St. Jude are collaborating in a new social interaction ministry for empty nesters, active middle agers and senior adults called J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth). Our mission is to plan and provide fellowship through various events keeping us active which is a very important part of mental and emotional well-being in us all.

Join us November 21 at 11:00AM for our next J.O.Y Luncheon to be held in the St. Therese Parish Hall. In addition to lunch there will be a brief presentation on Navigating Medicare sponsored by Network Health. The luncheon is free, but a free will offering is appreciated to further the ministry. **RSVP by contacting either parish office.**

55+ Social Club Annual Christmas Party

All members of St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti parishes are welcome to join the members of the 55+ Social Club at their annual Christmas party on December 6 at 11:30AM at Alioto's Restaurant. We'll enjoy companionship, a delicious meal of salmon, lasagna, tenderloin tips, or baked cod (cost \$30), sing Christmas carols, and select a Santa gift. We hope you will join us! Reservations and payment due by December 1. Questions? Contact Rosina at (262) 782-1966.



Our Christian Formation Classes Grades K-8th are organizing a food drive to benefit the Hunger Task Force of Wisconsin. Please support our students by bringing your non-perishable food items to Mass at St. Therese Parish, November 1-24. A box is located by the entrance for your donations. Thank you for your support!

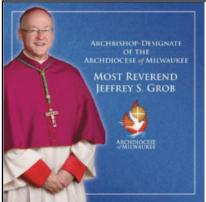
Catechesis Corner

• K-8th grade classes are being challenged with a food drive through November 24. The class with the most donations will receive donuts and milk! See how you can help above!

Upcoming Class Schedule:

- CLOW: November 24
- Sunday Morning Age 3 Grade 8 Program: November 17
- First Reconciliation Preparation: November 17
- High School Program: November 17
- Confirmation Preparation: November 17

November 10, 2024 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



With ongoing gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the gifts given to the Church in southeastern Wisconsin, we now ask your prayers for the Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, Archbishop-Designate of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Pope Francis announced his choice for the 12th Archbishop of Milwaukee on November 4.

A native of Cross Plains, Wisconsin, the Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob attended Holy Name High School Seminary in Madison and the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1992 and completed his graduate studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary in 1999. He received a Doctorate of Canon Law degree from St. Paul University and a Doctorate of Philosophy degree from the University of Ottawa in 2007.

Bishop Grob has served as Associate Pastor and Pastor of several Archdiocese of Chicago parishes, Assistant to the Chancellor, Associate Vicar for Canonical Services, Judicial Vicar,

and Chancellor. He was appointed an auxiliary bishop of Chicago on September 11, 2020, and ordained to the episcopacy by Cardinal Blase Cupich on November 13, 2020.

Archbishop-Designate Grob's installation as Archbishop of Milwaukee will be January 14, 2025. Until that time, Archbishop Listecki serves as Apostolic Administrator of the archdiocese. Please keep Archbishop-Designate Grob and the Church of southeastern Wisconsin in your prayers.



Eight Ideas for Supporting a Grieving Friend during the Holidays

Knowing how to support a grieving friend is never easy. This is even more true during the holiday season. They may be dreading Thanksgiving or Christmas and you may be wondering what you can do to help ease their pain. One size does not fit all but here are a few ideas to get you started.



1: Support their holiday choices – Whether the person who's grieving has decided to fly to Bali, watch Netflix all day, or do exactly the same thing they have always done, be supportive of their choices. Yes, their choices may have an impact on you, but try not to be too disappointed or concerned. Keep in mind that just because they take a break or do things differently this year, doesn't mean they will do things this way forever.

2: Invite, but don't push – Extend holiday invitations, but make it clear that you absolutely understand if they aren't up for it. No one wants to be left off the invitation list because people assume they don't want to do anything, and at the same time, no one wants to have the pressure of showing up for a zillion holiday events. An invite offered even with the understanding that they might not make it may be exactly what the person needs.

3: Be prepared, their plans might change – Whether it is a last minute bail on a holiday party, or a last minute decision to accept the holiday dinner invitation you extended that they initially declined, try to be flexible and understanding. Grief is totally erratic and you sometimes realize that you don't actually want to do what you thought you wanted to do (and vice versa). Let your friend know you support any changes they need to make.

4: Send a thoughtful holiday card – It's not that your grieving friend isn't happy for you and your beautiful family or that they aren't interested in the joy you shared in your family's annual holiday letter. But it can sometimes be hard to see all the smiling, happy families without feeling a tinge of pain about their now incomplete family. Instead of the standard photo-card, a thoughtful handwritten note acknowledging how tough the holidays must be and sharing a memory can go a long way.

5: Consider a memorial gift or donation – If you exchange gifts with your friend, there are many beautiful memorial gifts out there that may be a good option. You can also acknowledge their grief this holiday by making a donation in their loved one's name/memory to a charity that is important to them or that was important to their loved one.

6: Offer practical help and support – Practical support can take many different shapes and forms depending on what your friend needs, but try to offer something specific rather than offering a vague "let me know what I can do." Some things that might be helpful are offering to help them with decorating (if they plan to decorate), help with holiday shopping, gift wrapping, watching their kids so they can go shopping, offer to take their kids to holiday events they might not be up for, cleaning, prepping for a holiday meal, etc.

7: Listen without minimizing, judging, or giving advice – Now, if your friend asks you for advice, that's a different story. But if your friend just needs to vent, complain, and emote about their misery trying to make it through the holidays, just listen and support them. Don't try to find a silver lining, don't tell them they should be over it, don't tell them what they 'should' or 'shouldn't' do. Just be there!

8: Remember, grief doesn't only impact the first holiday season - After the death of a loved one, grief just kind of



becomes a part of a person's holiday season. Many people will probably make your friend feel like they should be "over it" by the second or third holiday season. Even though things may be a little easier some elements of the holiday season may still be very difficult. Keep this in mind and provide them with the same kindness, support, and consideration that you did in the first year after their loss.



