



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY



*Seek the well-being of the city to which I have sent you. Pray for it to the Lord.
For in seeking its well-being, you shall find your own. Jeremiah 29:7*

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016

EUCCHARIST

Saturday

5:00pm

Sunday

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am,

4:30pm, 6:30pm

Monday-Friday

7:00am and 12:00pm

Saint Joseph Chapel

The nursery is available during the Sunday 9:30am and 11:30am Masses for children through age 4.

Please use the ground level doors for handicap entrance. Wheelchairs are available upon request.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 9:00-10:00am and by appointment.

BAPTISM & MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

Please call the Parish Office.

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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Co-Sponsoring a Refugee Family Update

In December 2015, The Basilica community whole-heartedly agreed to co-sponsor a refugee family with Lutheran Social Services (LSS). In preparation for their arrival, we held a second collection to gather funds needed for housing and other basic needs. We developed a team of dedicated, talented, and compassionate volunteers to organize the efforts and work with the family. We worked with LSS to set up their apartment and collected various household items to make their transition as easy as possible.

The Family Has Arrived!

On February 21, 2016, a group of Basilica parishioners were excited to gather at the airport to welcome the refugee family to Minnesota. Prepared with welcome signs, U.S. and Somali flags, new winter coats and gloves, and open hearts, Basilica parishioners greeted the family and began a journey of support and solidarity.

The family is originally from Somalia. Two parents, two teenage daughters and two sons in their early 20s arrived on February 21. Several older children immigrated separately a few years ago.

After two days of settling in, The Basilica mentoring team joined LSS in a meeting with the family. They began to share stories with one another and build relationships. Through a translator, one of the young men said he knew this transition would be a very difficult move, and he didn't know if they would be able to make it. However, after meeting the people here to help them, he knows it will work. It was a humbling and sacred meeting.

The Basilica team began to learn how to help the family in their transition. All of their goals involve education and work. The family is deeply grateful for the opportunity to be in Minnesota and said they are committed to "Doing their very best."

Basilica volunteers are excited to work with LSS to help them reach their goals. We invite our whole community to hold the family in prayer over the months ahead.



Janice Andersen
Director of Christian Life
The Basilica of Saint Mary



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- 9:15am Children's Learning
- 11:00am Adult Learning
- 11:30am Children's Liturgy
- 1:00pm Artists' Reception & Talk
- 3:00pm Solemn Vespers for Lent
- 5:30pm Youth Learning

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- 9:30am SVdP Shoe Ministry

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- 9:15am Lenten Morning Prayer
- 9:30am SVdP Outreach Ministry
- 3:00pm DCEH DSP Meeting
- 6:00pm Lector Practice*
- 6:30pm RCIA Session
- 6:30pm John MacDougall Series
- 6:30pm Voices for Justice
- 7:00pm Mundus*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

- 9:00am Sandwich Ministry
- 9:30am SVdP Outreach Ministry
- 11:30am Listening Ministry
- 1:00pm Emmaus Ministry Planning
- 5:30pm Cherub Choir*
- 5:45pm Choristers Choir*
- 6:00pm JustFaith
- 6:30pm Gospel of Luke
- 7:00pm Basilica Cathedral Choir*
- 7:00pm Juventus*
- 7:00pm Children's Learning

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

- 9:15am Lenten Morning Prayer
- 9:30am SVdP Outreach Ministry
- 11:30am Listening Ministry
- 6:00pm Pathways
- 6:30pm Emmaus Ministry Reflection
- 6:30pm John MacDougall Series
- 7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

- 5:30pm Eucharist
- 6:00pm Soup Supper
- 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

- 9:00am Confessions
 - 9:30am SVdP Shoe Ministry
 - 9:00am Rock Solid Marriages
 - 5:00pm Mass of Anticipation
 - 7:00pm AA Meeting
- *registration/audition required

Refugee Family Update

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The Family's Journey

During the violent civil war and famine in Somalia, this family left their homeland in 1992 and settled into the newly established Dadaab Refugee camp in Kenya. The United Nations set up Dadaab in one of the harshest terrains in the Kenyan desert in 1991, housing 90,000 refugees escaping Somalia's civil war. Today, Dadaab is the largest refugee camp in the world, home to close to 500,000 people.

The children in the family that arrived in Minnesota on February 21 were born in the Dadaab Refugee camp. Even with lives beginning and ending, Dadaab remains purely temporary living. No permanent features of community life can officially be established: housing, employment, schooling, or commerce. While canvas tents are provided by the United Nations, they deteriorate in the sun after several years. Houses are then fortified with twigs and occasional tin roofs. Most homes stand less than six feet tall. While people are protected from civil war, security requires little opportunity to leave the camp. To learn more about the refugee camp, visit dadaabstories.org.

Several years ago, after living in the Dadaab Refugee Camp over twenty years, the family was transferred to the Kakuma Refugee Camp to prepare to immigrate to the United States. They have been awaiting the transition for a long time. They arrived tired, yet glad to be in the United States.

How to Get Involved:

During this Year of Mercy, there are many ways to get involved in this ministry. There are several committees established to coordinate these opportunities:

- Mentoring Team: to work closely with the family
- Collections: opportunities to collect and package supplies for refugee families
- Education and advocacy: to provide forums to learn more about refugees and immigration
- Communication: to share information with The Basilica community throughout this partnership

LSS will resettle about 625 individuals in the Metro and St. Cloud areas in 2016. Because they arrive in the U.S. with few belongings, there is an immediate need to provide them with basic personal and household items. In the coming months, we will organize several events to give our Basilica community an opportunity to collect and package the most-needed items.

On a Sunday afternoon in early April, The Basilica and Masjid An-Nur will co-sponsor an event on Islamophobia in our community. Our speaker will be Dr. Todd Green, author of the book [The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West](#) and Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. This is a timely and important discussion for our community.

The Basilica is already making plans to sponsor another family later in the Spring. If you would like to be involved in this ministry in any way, email tracy.droessler@gmail.com or call 612.317.3477.

According to the United Nations, there are currently 43 million uprooted victims of conflict and persecution worldwide. Rooted in love and faith, The Basilica community is committed to a compassionate response in whatever ways possible. Look for upcoming announcements about how you can help this effort!