



# 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*

**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 29, 2015**

## **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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## **Finding Refuge—Sanctuary in St. Paul**

Approximately 12 million Syrians have fled their homes since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011. Half of them are children. To put that number in perspective, more children have fled their homes in Syria than the entire population of Minnesota. As the crisis has swelled, many refugees have sought sanctuary in Europe. Over 700,000 have risked their lives to travel to Europe this year. Nearly half of them have died.

In the midst of this humanitarian crisis, Pope Francis has announced a Holy Year of Mercy to begin on December 8, 2015. He has called us to reflect on and rediscover the corporal works of mercy—feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. As part of this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has implored Catholics to welcome those that are different from us. As we inch closer to the holidays, now is a good time to reflect on the men, women, and children that are suffering abroad and at home without shelter, food, or water.

In December and January, The Basilica focuses on issues of global stewardship. For the past several years, we have focused on refugees, both at home and abroad. The issue has only become more and more relevant. We will be looking deeper into the issue this year with a focus on stories about refugees and immigrants and their journey.

While the majority of the press regarding the Syrian refugee crisis has focused on Europe, this issue does not just affect the world outside our borders. Minnesota is home to over 400,000 first-generation immigrants and over 100,000 refugees, the majority of whom are settled in the Twin Cities. Each one has a story of how they got here and why.

President Obama has also announced that the United States will admit 10,000 Syrian refugees in the coming year. The Twin Cities is likely to see the relocation of some Syrian refugees, as it is home to one of the largest refugee populations in the United



**Luke Olson**

A parishioner since 2011, Luke Olson is an Associate at the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney and is a member of the Global Stewardship Team. He and his wife Laura sing in the Cathedral Choir and The Basilica Schola Cantorum.



*Column continued inside*

# THIS WEEK

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

3:00pm Vespers for Advent

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:30am SVdP Shoe Ministry

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:15am Advent Morning Prayer

9:30am SVdP Outreach Ministry

10:30am Prayer Shawl

6:00pm Lector Practice

6:00pm Crossroads

6:30pm Voices for Justice

6:30pm RCIA Session

6:45pm Baptism Preparation Class

7:00pm Mundus\*

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:30am Centering Prayer

7:30am SVdP Leadership Team

9:00am Sandwich Ministry

9:30am Outreach Ministry

11:30am Listening Ministry

5:30pm Cherub Choir\*

5:45pm Choristers Choir\*

6:00pm JustFaith

7:00pm Children's Faith Formation

7:00pm Basilica Cathedral Choir\*

7:00pm Juventus\*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00am Men's Book Study

9:15am Advent Morning Prayer

9:30am SVdP Outreach Ministry

10:00am Crossroads Book Club

11:30am Listening Ministry

12:00pm Basilica Open 12-Step AA

6:00pm Pathways

7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00am Emmaus Leadership

10:00am Centering Prayer

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00am Confessions

9:30am SVdP Shoe Ministry

10:30am Mass with Sacrament of  
Anointing of the Sick

2:00pm Amahl & the Night Visitors

5:00pm Mass of Anticipation

8:30pm CSB/SJU Concert

\*registration/audition required

# Finding Refuge

Continued from page 1

States. Approximately one in three Somalis in the United States live in Minnesota. St. Paul has the largest Hmong community in the United States. Minnesota also has a burgeoning population of Vietnamese, Liberians, Bhutanese, and Karen.

Why have so many refugees resettled in Minnesota, despite its harsh winters? The reason is that Minnesota has one of the strongest networks of volunteer agencies in the country. The Advocates for Human Rights and the American Refugee Committee, both international organizations, are based here in the Twin Cities. In addition, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Lutheran Social Services, Arrive Ministries, the International Institute of Minnesota, and the International Association for Refugees all provide support for refugees in Minnesota.

In the face of shocking statistics and images of immigrants and refugees, it is often difficult to know what one person can do in the face of such widespread suffering. But understanding is the first step to action. Our state has a strong legacy of welcoming immigrants and refugees into our community, which gives us particular responsibility of taking Pope Francis' message of welcome to heart.

As we spend the next two months telling the stories of immigrants and refugees, we can take this opportunity, at the beginning of the Holy Year of Mercy, to reflect on the plight of immigrants and refugees leaving their home to start a new life.

## † BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

### GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP—PROMOTING PEACE IN THE WORLD

Running for your life . . . How afraid must you be to leave your home and everything familiar to take a dangerous journey with an unknown destination?

Thousands of people are fleeing Syria every day. A recent StarTribune article featured the story of one middle class Syrian family who now calls Minnesota home. After surviving daily shelling of their home, a family member was injured by the bombing. They made the decision to flee with only the clothes on their back and a first aid kit. For two years they travelled by car and by foot until they reconnected with a relative. Eventually they learned of a chance to resettle in the U.S., which they described as pure luck.

After interviews and background checks, in April they became one of 3 Syrian families resettled in Minnesota since 2011. They knew no one, and they continue to worry about family and friends left behind. They've found a place to live, a job at Walmart, are learning English, and working to make Minnesota home.

Would any of us choose this journey of separation and uncertainty? As Catholics, what are we called to do to promote peace in the world, and to help those fleeing fighting and violence? Daniel Wordsworth, head of the American Refugee Committee describes what's happening in Syria as a true "humanitarian tragedy." This December and January, please join us to explore the critical and complex issues impacting refugees and immigrants and consider what our faith asks of us.