

May 24, 2020



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4pm
Sunday 8am & 10am
Tuesday–Friday 7:30am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:15-3:45 pm or by
appointment

Contact the parish office to register,
schedule a baptism, schedule a wedding
(six months notice required), and to
request the Sacrament of the Sick.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 8am-3pm

FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 8am-Noon

SCRIP

Scrip is sold before and after all week-
end Masses and in the parish office on
Fridays from 8am-3pm.

PARISH STAFF

788-5483

Rev. Brian D. Konopa ext. 7

Pastor
frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Richard Sage ext. 8

Deacon
rsage@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Samuel McCarty

Deacon
smccarty@usml.edu

Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA ext. 5

Ministry with the Elderly and Sick
kathy@mmoclacrosse.org

Therese van Oss ext. 4

Religious Education and Pastoral Minister
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Mary Jo Lium ext.2

Sacred Music
mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org

Brandee McKane ext.3

Holly Gorman
Finance Assistants
finance@mmoclacrosse.org

Laura Boden ext.2

Parish Secretary
secretary@mmoclacrosse.org

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ted Knutson 784-8585

President

Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka 782-5998

Principal, Cathedral School

Kay Berra 782-5564

Principal, Blessed Sacrament School

Sue Amble 783-5483

Principal, St. Patrick School, Onalaska

Denise Ring

Principal, Aquinas Middle School 784-0156

Principal, Aquinas High School 784-0287

OUR MISSION

Mary, Mother of the Church
parishioners are called to be the
People of God, formed by the
Holy Word and nourished by
the Holy Eucharist. We joyfully
share our faith and gifts of time,
talent, and treasure. We are
committed to serve all God's
people in the building of the
Kingdom.

TV/Online Masses

Many have enjoyed watching Mass on KQEG (Channel 5 on Charter; Channel 4 on CenturyLink). These Masses need to be pre-recorded since KQEG is not able to broadcast it "live." Therefore, we will continue to record weekend Mass for broadcast until the regular weekend Mass schedule resumes in church.

Sunday Mass: 4 PM Saturday & 10 AM Sunday on KQEG.

Sunday Mass: 4 PM Saturday posted on our website

Tues - Fri Mass: 7:30 AM Live Streamed on our website.

Private Prayer

The church is available for prayer:

Tuesday-Friday: 9 AM-5 PM

Individual Confessions will only be available by appointment as we focus on the orderly seating for weekend Masses

FORMED

Looking for a way to prepare for the Feast of Pentecost? Check out the series "The Wild Goose" on Formed.org. The Wild Goose is a work of the Holy Spirit, which is awakening in the hearts of all those participating in God's love and transforming power. As you walk through this series, pray for the Spirit to breathe life into your heart.

Update from Seminarian Joe Culligan



"Having spent the past two years at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, WI, I have grown in my desire to know and love God personally, as well as in my desire to make God known and loved by others. The community life, studies, and prayer have provided the flame

which has inspired this desire. I was fortunate enough to spend last summer at Mary, Mother of the Church with Father Konopa and Deacon Sage, and during this time I had the opportunity to give a series of Catechetical lectures on Evangelization and on Confession. In giving these lectures, I was able to use the fruits of my prayer, studies, and evangelization experience; this stirred my desire to serve God, specifically as a preacher. Throughout the past year at St. Francis de Sales Seminary, my desire to be a preacher has continued to grow. This desire led me to begin praying, in consultation with my seminary instructors, about serving God as a Dominican Priest in the Order of Preachers. In becoming familiar with the Dominicans of the

Province of Saint Albert the Great – the Central Province (which includes Wisconsin) – I encountered many holy men sharing the same ardent desire which I realized has begun to grow in me. The Dominican life is founded upon a life of prayer, studies, and community, all of which are used to aid the Dominican to preach the Word of God. I have now decided to pursue a Vocation as a Religious Priest with the Dominicans, and I am excited to begin my formation with them on August 1st, 2020! I am extremely grateful for Father Konopa, Deacon Sage, and all the members of Mary, Mother of the Church for aiding in my Vocational discernment, and for the constant support which I have received."

Joe Culligan has a student debt from his degree at UW-La Crosse totaling \$36,000. The Dominicans are accustomed to accepting postulants/candidates with \$30,000 or less, so they are asking Joe to make an effort to raise at least \$6,000. If you feel called to help, please send a donation by June 30 payable to "MMOC" and add "Joe Culligan" to the memo line. All donations will be processed through our Works of Charity account and parishioners will have it credited to their giving history.

Family Life

New Parishioners MMOC is delighted to welcome Beverly Sinniger to the parish.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jo Ann Antony and Ida Barone. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the families and friends who mourn their loss. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

Congratulations to all our Graduates



We would like to extend a special congratulations to all who will be graduating this year. To all of our middle school, high school, and college graduates, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide you on your journey of life.

Brodyn Byington	MacKenzie Helfrich	Jerry Morrison
Thomas Clements	Jacob Kaiser	Ally Pangier
Darius Driver	Heleyna Kammel	Lauren Patterson
Andrew Fischer	Caelen Lansing	Jalen Schams
Kaitlyn Haberman	Brit Larson	Molly Schmitz
Olivia Hammes	Joseph Lecheler	Ryan Schwartz
Kadon Hansen	Lily Manning	Caleb Taube
Evan Hegge	Macauley Miller	

Mary Mother of the Church



2006 Weston Street
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mmoc.mobi
mmoclacrosse.org

May 20, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We received wonderful news from Bishop Callahan: weekend public Masses can begin again! (Only weekend Masses, not weekday Masses, but it's a start!) Many people have expressed their hunger to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, to be with their parish family, to participate in singing, and to enjoy fellowship together. Many have expressed gratitude for the Online/TV Masses from "our own church," but it's time for a new beginning!

Speaking of new beginnings, many of us have been in conversations that included this question: "Do you think our society will change after we're through this coronavirus pandemic? Will things ever be the same again?" Well, this I know: There will be a LOT of changes as we begin public Masses again!

There are 53 directives and considerations from the Diocese. Bishop Callahan is asking for an abundance of caution to minimize the possibility of spreading COVID-19 in our churches based on the available data provided by health organizations. As an example, we will need to sanitize all the pews, bathrooms, and door handles between each Mass. You can visit the Diocesan website via a link on our website (mmoclacrosse.org) to review them. Before we can reopen for weekend Masses, we need to apply for a Certification of Readiness from the Diocese. I've already heard from some priests they will not be ready until June 6-7. If we fall short of the needed volunteers or supplies, we will be required to wait until June 6-7 as well.

The official training webinar hosted by the Diocese will be held shortly after this bulletin goes to print, so it's not possible to have all the details at this time; however, a parish letter will be sent soon. Here's the difficult news: We may only be able to accommodate 150-200 people. Social distancing is the key: 6 feet or more between those not living in the same household. Most likely, this means only every third pew will be available and there will need to be spacing between those sitting in the pew. Therefore, a single person sitting in the pew will need 3-5 spaces. A family of 5 will not need these spaces between them, but the next person will need to be 6 feet away from the family. As you can imagine, this will be a challenge, and it's possible people may come to Mass and then be turned away...causing hurt. To accommodate as many as possible, this will require a certain orderliness...and patience.

I want to assure everyone that the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is dispensed. Additionally, Bishop Callahan "encourages those over 65 and particularly those with underlying health conditions to stay home." I fully agree, especially as we begin this new experiment. Some are predicting many will flock to church this first weekend, others believe the caution will keep many home. It's hard to know. At this time, we will keep the Mass times as they have always been until a need teaches us otherwise. We will also live stream the 4 PM Mass via our YouTube channel on the parish website and parish app.

Some people will be most appreciative of the cautious care of the new procedures, many will have questions, and some might even be critical. Clearly, patience will be needed. We're all in this together, and we need to look out for one another. There will still be many restrictions because the COVID-19 virus has not disappeared. Our hunger for Jesus in Holy Communion must still be within the framework of Jesus' great commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." The new procedures will require love, kindness, and patience so we can make our church as safe as possible given the dynamics of our church building with so many entrances.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. May Jesus in His great mercy keep us safe and in good health!

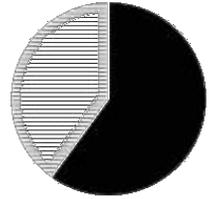
Yours in our Risen Lord,

Father Konopa

MMOC Patronal Feast Pope Francis has named the Monday after Pentecost to be observed as the annual feast day of Mary, Mother of the Church. This is a moveable feast (based on the date of Easter) and this year's observance is June 1. Mass will be offered privately and posted online at 7:30 AM We will announce the Man and Woman of the Year before the Final Blessing.



The number of active donors who use WeShare online-giving: 249 households (42%) as of May 20



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Scrip Drive-Up Days & Food Drive!



Tuesday June 2 8 AM - 6 PM

Scrip will be available curbside along Weston Street!--Pre-order by May 26 (Tuesday) for guaranteed fulfillment: phone 788-5483 ext. 2 or email secretary@mmoclacrosse.org--Same day order: complete the form in the bulletin--Same day order: NO FORM NEEDED for 1-2 items



Let's also help those who turn to Catholic Charities for non-perishable food and essential supplies: such as toilet paper, paper towel, diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5 or larger), and personal care items. Drop off your items when you come to the Scrip Drive-up Days!



Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

7:30 AM † Gerry Konop
by Marty Konop

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

7:30 AM † Dolores Hawes
by Jack and Pat Darling

Thursday, May 28, 2020

7:30 AM † Frances Kreibich
by Jennifer Kreibich

Friday, May 29, 2020

7:30 AM † Jerry Biesen
by Gloria Biesen

Saturday, May 30, 2020

4:00 PM † Gloria Freehill
by Toni and Ron Weise

Sunday, May 31, 2020

8:00 AM † Rudolph Strasser
by His Family
10:00 M † Pro Populo

**Father will be saying the weekday Masses privately.
Hillview Masses will be rescheduled for another time.**

With Gratitude and Honor

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our country. When the need was greatest, they stepped forward and did their duty to defend the freedoms that we enjoy, and to win the same for others.

O God, you yourself have taught us that no love is greater than that which gives itself for another. These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had, life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country - and for us.

Help us to honor their memory by caring for the family members they have left behind, by ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for, by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives, and by demanding that no other young men and women follow them to a soldier's grave unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.

Holy One, help us to remember that freedom is not free. There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear. Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price to ensure that freedom would be our legacy.

Though their names may fade with the passing of generations, may we never forget what they have done. Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice, O God, help us to be worthy.

- J. Veltri, S.J.



Building Our Future Together

NEW: Ministry of Greeters and Sanitation Teams: It seems that in the wake of many major events there has been some shift in our behavior and an awareness of how we might do something different. For example, after 9/11, airplane travel was never the same as before. For Mary, Mother of the Church the familiar role of “usher” will be changed into two roles of service “**Greeters**” and “**Sanitation Teams**” as we look to reopen public Sunday Masses (which includes the 4 PM Vigil Mass on Saturdays).

Due to a number of procedural changes that must be followed to reopen for Sunday Mass, we will need the assistance of approximately **14 Greeters at each Mass**. In addition to their primary role of greeting and welcoming parishioners, they will distribute worship aides, guide people to seating, assist parishioners as needed, take up the offertory collection, assist with providing directions at the end of Mass, and hand out bulletins. This ministry is open to men and women from middle school students to 64 years old. A mom or dad along with a middle school, or high school age young adult would work well in this role. In accord with new Diocesan guidelines for the reopening during a pandemic, the age of greeters should be 64 or younger. Currently, our list of ushers includes 16 teenagers and 25 men who are 65+ years old, leaving only a small core group of 25 adults 18-64 years old. We will need many new volunteers to be Greeters! We are grateful for the many loyal ushers who are 65+ and have been volunteering for many years (and decades)! Once the pandemic is over, we will be able to welcome them again!

We will also need Sanitation Teams before reopening our church. Once the pandemic is over, this service will be discontinued. Summarily, it is the service of sanitizing all the pews, kneelers, bathrooms, doors and doorknobs after each Mass. We will be using the Parish Hall for overflow seating so those chairs and bathrooms will also be areas to sanitize. We envision we will need **10 Sanitizers at each Mass**. Men and women between the ages of 18 and 64 will be most welcomed into this ministry.

Please phone the Parish Office, 788-5483, ext. 2, to express interest or to volunteer. **We will need Greeters and Sanitation Teams in place in order to have Sunday Mass on the weekend of May 30-31.** We will offer four joint training sessions for these ministries on Wednesday and Thursday, May 27 and 28 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM on both days. You need to attend only 1 of the 4 sessions. Training will also include watching an on-line video you may watch at home. If you do not have home access, we will have it available prior to the training sessions. We will have future training sessions but it is important that we have full teams in place before our first public Mass on May 30.

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