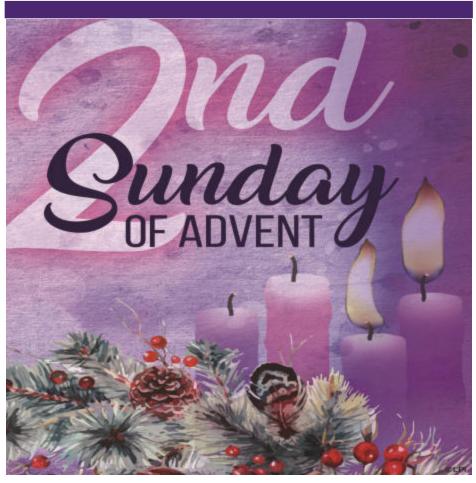
December 6, 2020





MASS TIMES

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

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4pm-5pm 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 weekend 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	

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 tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org

Andy Foley ext.6
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Mary Jo Lium ext.2 Sacred Music mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org

Holly Gorman ext.3
Finance Assistant
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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

Mrs. Angela Koblitz 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.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8 (Tues.) is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. As with Sundays, there is no obligation to attend. We will have Mass at Noon and 5:30pm to celebrate this Feast Day. The Noon Mass will be live streamed on our website. There will be no 7:30am Mass. **Many** Greeters are need for these Masses.

Advent Penance Services Individual Confessions at MMOC are on Wednesdays at 4 - 5 PM and 7 - 8 PM Dec. 9, 16 and 23 in the Mother's Room. Please use the center doors at the main church entrance

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 2pm, 4pm & 6pm Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 9am.

During this pandemic year, Bishop Callahan is granting an early start for Christmas Eve Masses in order to accommodate the increased interest to attend Mass for Christmas while following the restrictions of 25% capacity and physical distancing. Those attending are reminded to arrive early. Doors are unlocked 30 minutes before Mass, and overflow will be directed into the Parish Hall. We will live stream the 4pm Mass, and it will be broadcast live on KQEG and rebroadcast at 10am on Christmas Day. Liturgical Ministers are needed; please sign up online or by calling the office.

Cookie Walk Drive-Thru Due to COVID, we will have a Cookie Drive-Thru on Sat, Dec. 12, from 7:30am - 1:00pm. Cookies, candies, pies, breads, soup and chili are very much needed! Please see the mailing sent to you for specific bread and pie

needs. The bottom section of the Order Form asks that you sign up to let us know what you can make for the sale (please return this as soon as possible so we know what we can expect). For more Forms, see the MMOC website to print one. The deadline for purchasing raffle tickets is Dec. 12 at Noon.

Cookie Walk Drop Off Info Homemade baked goods, including soup and chili, for the sale can be dropped off on Tues and Wed (Dec. 8 and 9) at the Parish Hall main entrance from 8am - 5pm unless special arrangements have been made. No special packaging is required; we appreciate disposable containers (please label containers with your name if you need them back) and label baked goods containing nuts.

Christmas Flower Donation We are receiving donations toward the purchase of flowers and decorations in memory of a loved one or as a gift. You can use the flower envelope in your Nov./Dec. packet or use a blank envelope with your donation and the name of the person(s) you would like to memorialize. A list of those who are honored and remembered will appear in a January bulletin.

Deacon Sage Health Update Almost 2 year ago, Deacon had 3 surgical procedures to remove cancer from the bladder. On October 30, he had his quarterly bladder cancer check-up and his lab reports indicated the microscopic presence of cancer cells nearly a full year after being declared cancer-free. After two Covid19 tests which were negative, he had a successful surgical procedure on Nov. 19 to remove the cancer. His recovery has gone smoothly and we enjoyed seeing his return last weekend. Deacon and his wife Mary are grateful for your prayers as they consult with physicians regarding post-surgery options. Due to accelerated bulletin deadlines for Thanksgiving (and now for Christmas and New Years), it's difficult to provide updates that are timely. Please continue to pray for him during the coming weeks.

MyParish App For Advent Now available on the MyParish app: Special Advent Reflections. Please visit mmoc.mobi on your smart phone and select iPhone or android to download. These helpful reflections will aid in reflecting on the Mass readings each day as we await Christ's coming.

St. Pius X History: 40 Years of Grace 1960-2000 The history of St. Pius X Parish has been written and posted on our website. Some have requested a paper copy, so arrangements are being made for a spiral bound copy with a cardstock cover. A donor is partially covering the cost to keep it to \$5/copy and is willing to anonymously cover the full cost for those requesting free copies. Contact the office with your order at secretary@mmoclacrosse.org or 788-5483 x2. The deadline is Tues, Dec. 15 at Noon and copies will be available for pick-up at the Usher's Table on Dec. 19-20 after Mass or in the parish office Dec. 22-23

TV/Online Masses

TV Mass: Saturday 4pm Mass is broadcast live on KQEG and rebroadcast on Sunday at 10am.

Online Mass Saturday 4pm Mass is live streamed on our website and our 7:30am weekday Masses are live streamed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Guidelines for Mass

Weekend Masses

- -Masks are required; extras are in gathering space
- -Doors are unlocked 30 minutes prior
- -Arrive at least 5 minutes early
- -Entrances: main doors across from Trane parking lot and Parish Hall doors
- -Accessibility entrance: side door from Weston St. (near tabernacle)
- -Seating: follow directions of Greeters
- -Dismissal: exit immediately as directed by Greeters

Religious Education

St. Nicholas Today, Dec. 6, is the feast of St.



Nicholas. MMOC has been blessed to receive an annual visit from Bishop Nicholas around this time of year for some singing, storytelling, and crafts with our little children. However, due to the pandemic, St. Nicholas wants everyone to remain safe, so he left little gift bags at church for those attending Mass this weekend. Parents, please assist your child(ren) in receiving this thoughtful

gift from St. Nicholas as you exit church!

Aquinas is gearing up for the 2021-22 school year! At Aquinas, students explore their passions, give back to their communities, grow in faith and prepare for a successful future. Our schools are open to families of all faiths, and we offer several tuition assistance programs. We offer in person face to face learning or virtual learning. To learn more or to start your enrollment process visit us at www.aquinascatholicschools.org or contact us at (608) 784-8585.

Aquinas offers morning surround care and aftercare for all of our elementary grades! This is a great feature about our elementary schools. For more information on these programs please visit https:// www.aquinascatholicschools.org/perspective-3p-4-5k-parents.

Did you know? Aquinas Catholic Schools provides free busing services from Tomah, Winona, Galesville, Genoa, Cashton, Lewiston, and all points in between! For more information please check us online at www.aquinascatholicschools.org

Retirement Fund for Religious

Give in Thanksgiving "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education" writes a donor. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Blood Drive

Save a Life, Donate Blood Mary, Mother of the

Church Blood Drive is Monday, Dec. 21 at 1-6pm in the Parish Hall. Blood donations are much needed this time of year, please consider donating. COVID-19 Antibody Testing will be performed on all donations as part of our standard testing. Masks are required Appointments are appreciated.



quired. Appointments are appreciated, please signup online at bit.ly/givebackdec21 or call Laura at 788 -5483. ext. 2. All donors with a valid email will receive a \$10 e-gift card as a thank you for donating.

Family Life

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norbert Hegenbarth. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the family and friends who mourn his loss. *Eternal rest grant onto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.*

Welcome to the Waters of Baptism Congratulations to Honor Rose Wopat who was baptized on November 28. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

New Parishioners MMOC is delighted to welcome Jeff & Jeannie Nylander, and Jacob & Kristy Honaker and their children lan and Murphy to the parish.

Finances

Diocesan Annual Appeal Thank you for responding to this year's effort: "His Church Is Here. Still His Church Still Provides, His Church is You and Me." Let's act quickly and do our part as Mary, Mother of the Church!



Christ our Cornerstone: Campaign for the Cathedral Next weekend we will have a special presentation regarding our Cathedral steeple renovation project. Since its dedication in 1962, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral has been an icon of faith and a magnificent place of worship. As the Mother Church of the Diocese, she has welcomed all within her walls, whether it be generations of faithful parish families or visitors from near and far. As Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, our Cathedral is the cornerstone of our diocese.

More than simply a building, Father Billy Dodge, Pastor of the Roncalli Newman Parish in La Crosse, reminds us that our Cathedral is "a book, but in structure. It is our faith in stone and as Catholics, wherever we are in the Diocese of La Crosse, we have a building to be proud of. This is a statement of our faith."

Now, it is our time to make a difference in the life and future of our Mother Church. Next weekend, we will be unveiling an unprecedented opportunity for us to join together as one body united in Christ and take part in this momentous effort! In preparation, please view the video at Cathedral's website: cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone/

Building our Future Together

As we near the end of our calendar year, we offer a status report on our 2020 Phase IV projects in the church, rectory, and office areas. In our Phase IV Campaign materials from October, 2019 we outlined the various projects and components and identified two priority areas:

- Sealing the Building Shell: Church, Rectory & Office
- 2. Replacing Mechanical & Electrical Systems

The following are the components of those areas and their status:

SEALING THE BUILDING

Roof Replacement: COMPLETED

Steeple Repairs and Reroof: COMPLETED

Masonry Restoration: COMPLETED

Church Stained Glass Window Strengthening: TBD

Rectory Window Replacement: TBD

Exterior Lighting: IN PROCESS THRU DEC

HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)

HVAC Replacement: IN PROCESS THRU DEC HVAC Asbestos Abatement: COMPLETED Church Interior Lighting Improvements: IN PROCESS THRU DEC

Water Heaters – Church and Rectory: COMPLETED Repair Water Service to Buildings (from 21st St.): COMPLETED

ADDITIONAL "WISH LIST" ITEMS

Installation of new handrails on the balcony stairs: COMPLETED

New Advent Wreath in Church: COMPLETED (with non-BOFT Christmas funds)

On our original Phase IV Campaign materials, the above items that are completed or in process to be completed were estimated to cost \$2,036.674. The actual cost to have the above items completed is projected to be \$1,435,000. (This final cost is "projected" as there remain some final, closing invoices to be received.) All of the actual 2020 bids received and total costs were less than what had been projected in October 2019. Next week we will publish the remaining Phase IV possible projects.

Happy St. Nicholas Day! Enjoy some fun time with your children today. Please remember to keep our parish in your Advent prayers as we continue to Build Our Future Together.



ADVENT



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD



Liturgical Roles

December 12-13

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. NOT FILLED

10:00 a.m. Kellie Schmitz

Lector

4:00 p.m. Sue Ernster 8:00 a.m. Patricia Kirchner 10:00 a.m. Peter Schmitz

Cantor

4:00 p.m. Linda Kloet 8:00 a.m. Nancy Misch 10:00 a.m. Mary Kulas

Musician

4:00 p.m. Randy Lyden 8:00 a.m. Randy Lyden 10:00 a.m. Randy Lyden

Welcome

4:00 p.m. Linda Gillette, Betty Koenen, Jon Mason, Kevin Moyle, Steve Schaub, Mary Schaub, Jim Spielbauer

8:00 a.m. Peggy Baumler, Allan Baumler, Donna Burns, Pat Burns, Mark Misch, Rosie Pennebecker, **NOT FILLED**

10:00 a.m. Mike Juran, Jerry Kernan, Anne Kernan, Phil Klar, Robb Pretasky, Brenda Wintheiser

Seating

4:00 p.m. Lisa Doering, Virginia Horstman, Joe Riemer, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

8:00 a.m. Bob Klar, Cindy Klar, Brian Logue, Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles

10:00 a.m. Polly Berendes, Charlotte Berendes, Chuck Berendes, Terri Pedace, Mike Wintheiser

Worship Aid

4:00 p.m. NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

8:00 a.m. Dave Lawrence, Mary Lawrence, Martin Logue 10:00 a.m. Christine Kainz. Amelia Kainz. Neil Kumm

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

12:00 PM † Matthew Wesley

by Family and Friends

5:30 PM 60th Anniversary of Gene and

Rosemary Feuerhelm (July 30, 1960)

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:30 AM **† Alvina Clements**

by Her Family

Thursday, December 10, 2020

7:30 AM † Gary Werner

by Ron and Linda Kaiser

Friday, December 11, 2020

7:30 AM † Francis and Beatrice DeFlorian

by Teresa Brown

Saturday, December 12, 2020

4:00 PM † Mildred Darling

by Jack and Pat Darling

Sunday, December 13, 2020

† Rudolph Strasser Families 8:00 AM

by Family

10:00 AM Pro Populo

Hillview Masses will be rescheduled for another time. The Rosary is prayed before each weekday Mass Tuesday through Friday beginning at 7:05 am.



There will be four presentations, one for each week of Advent. The length of the talks will be roughly 30-40 minutes and discussion questions



Judy Roraff Retires

After 48 years of playing the pipe organ – and 43 of those years for St. Pius X and Mary, Mother of the Church – Judy Roraff decided this is the right time to retire. She calls it a "privilege" to play the organ, "the king of instruments."

Judy was recognized at the 4 PM Vigil Mass on Christ the King (Nov. 21) with her family present. This Mass was broadcast on KQEG and can still be viewed on the parish's YouTube channel. Judy thanked the parish for being active singers – a great motivation for musicians to serve! She thanked Mary Jo Lium, all the musicians, including cantors, with whom she has partnered for music ministry, and so many others.

Her first organ lessons as a child were on a pump organ at Crucifixion Parish, La Crescent. With a scholarship for piano, organ, and French horn, Judy attended Viterbo and took additional lessons. During her adulthood she played the popular music of the day on the organ -- not church hymns -- at a variety of venues. As an adult, Judy first played the organ in church at St. Joseph's Ridge from 1972-77. She wasn't warm to the idea because she hadn't been playing church hymns... and to do this for a congregation! The pastor Fr. Malik persisted in asking her, and one day he said, "When God gives a person such talent, don't you think you should use it?" That got her started! Her Viterbo teacher was a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who was living at St. Joseph Villa at the time, so Judy asked her to show her the nuances of St. Joseph's pipe organ, something she had never played.

When Judy and Phil moved to La Crosse, they joined St. Pius X Parish, and Rita Nowicki was the organist and Director of Music. (Rita died on November 2, 2020.) Part of the registration process included sharing one's gifts and talents. Judy mentioned her experience of playing the organ at St. Joseph's Ridge and the pastor Fr. Butz said, "We already have an organand wasn't interested! Rita Nowicki

> proached Judy and said, "We really could use your help." By this time, hymns were the only music Judy was playing.

If you read the History of St. Pius X, Judy and Phil shared some of their memories on page 78 ("St. Pius X Parish - Our Stories: Liturgy).

Judy was recognized as our 2013 Woman of the Year and she remains a special member of the parish family.

Happy retirement, Judy!



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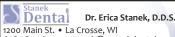
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