

January 31, 2021



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Catholic Schools Week



AQUINAS  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS

#### 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 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](mailto:frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Rev. Mr. Richard Sage** ext. 8

Deacon  
[rsage@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:rsage@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA** ext. 5

Ministry with the Elderly and Sick  
[kathy@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kathy@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Therese van Oss** ext. 4

Religious Education and Pastoral Minister  
[tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Andy Foley** ext. 6

Buildings and Grounds  
[afoley@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:afoley@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Mary Jo Lium** ext. 2

Sacred Music  
[mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Holly Gorman** ext. 3

Finance Assistant  
[finance@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:finance@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Laura Boden** ext. 2

Parish Secretary  
[secretary@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto: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.

**'SOUP'er Bowl Sunday Drive-Thru** Due to COVID-19 public health recommendations for the limiting of public gatherings the Men's Club of Mary, Mother of the Church is sponsoring a soup drive-thru on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Parish Hall entrance from 9am – 1pm. The 3 choices of soup are Chicken Noodle, White Chicken Chili, and Traditional Chili. There are a few ways to get your order in by Tuesday, Feb. 2: call your order in to Dave Imhoff at (304)654-3438, email your order to Francis Schelfhout at [frimisch@gmail.com](mailto:frimisch@gmail.com), place your order form in the offertory basket at weekend Mass, or mail your order to the Parish Office. Funds raised will support Aquinas Scholarships and the Building Fund.

**Blessing of Candles** Feb. 2 is known in the United States as Groundhog's Day. This "holiday" might be interesting to many and even celebrated by some, but this date has much greater significance in our liturgical calendar. It's the 40th day after Christmas.

In accord with the Law of Moses, Mary went to the temple in Jerusalem for the purification ceremony and to present baby Jesus to the Lord. Simeon, a devout Jew, was moved by the Holy Spirit to approach the Holy Family. He took Jesus into his arms and thanked God for seeing the "light" of salvation with his own eyes (Luke 2:22-40).

For centuries the Church celebrated this event by blessing and "light"-ing candles. As Dec. 25 became known as Christmas (Christ-Mass), so Feb. 2nd became known as Candlemas (Candle-Mass).

Due to the pandemic, we will not have a procession with lighted candles at the 7:30am Mass, but there will be a blessing of candles in the sanctuary. Anyone who wants a blessed candle is welcome to bring their candle(s) to church, place it on the table in the sanctuary before Mass begins, and retrieve it at the conclusion of Mass.

**Blessing of Throats** February 3 is marked as the memorial of St. Blaise, a bishop of Armenia who was martyred around 316 AD when Christianity was still outlawed. When he was arrested, he ministered to fellow prisoners and even healed them. One day a child who was choking on a fish bone was brought to him and he saved him. This famous story led to the blessing of throats on the feast of St. Blaise. Traditionally, candles from Candlemas Day were used in the blessing of throats. Two candles are crossed in the shape of an X and placed on the shoulders of those to be blessed. The Church still encourages the blessing of throats through the intercession of St. Blaise but asks that candles only be used when blessing people as individuals, not as a congregation. Due to the pandemic, this blessing will be offered for the congregation at the 7:30 am Mass: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.

**World Day for Consecrated Life** Women and men called to consecrated life take vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience to live their baptismal promises more intensely. We celebrate them in a special way on Feb. 2, the Presentation of the Lord, when Jesus was identified as the Light of the World because they reflect the light of Christ for us as we live our baptismal promises. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life as religious order sisters, brothers, and priests and as consecrated virgins. In a special way, MMOC gives thanks for Sr. Kathy Stuttgen FSPA and Sr. M. Donna Krzmarzick for reflecting the light of Christ... and for all religious who frequent our Masses. Sr. Kathy is a staff member who leads our Ministry with the Elderly and Sick; Sr. Donna is a parishioner who is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Consecrated Life.

**Ash Wednesday** Mass with Distribution of Ashes will be at Noon and 5:30 PM on Feb. 17. There will be no 7:30am Mass. The noon Mass will be livestreamed.

**Lent Collection** St. Clare Health Mission has been chosen for our 2021 Lent Collection. The mission started 28 years ago to serve the new population of Hmong that arrived in La Crosse. Today it continues its mission by serving the uninsured, underinsured, at-risk, and vulnerable in our community and in the surrounding area. Over the years St. Clare Health Mission has registered and helped over 18,000 clients obtain the health care they need. New initiatives are underway! In conjunction with the Scenic Bluff Clinic of Cashton, mental health and dental services are being set up. In collaboration with La Crosse health care providers, a street medicine team has been providing help to the homeless on a weekly basis. The Health Mission's next goal is partnering with Rotary International and local Rotary clubs to purchase a Mobile Medical Clinic. This unit will reach persons who are unable to travel to La Crosse. Let's lend our financial support to maintain their good work and to fulfill their new dreams as they reach those among us who are on the margins.

**Wisconsin Bishops Issue Statement on Morality of COVID-19 Vaccines** There are three COVID-19 vaccines that are available (currently only for the most vulnerable populations), or likely to be available in the coming months. They are from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine, but they did use a morally compromised line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) for confirmatory testing. The AstraZeneca vaccine used that cell line in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be preferred. But the US Bishops

## Mary Mother of the Church

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Conference has recently stated that all three are morally permissible because of the remoteness of the material cooperation in the evil of abortion. Catholic moral theology has always made a distinction between formal and material cooperation in an act which is morally compromised. Formal cooperation with a moral evil such as abortion is always sinful. An example of this kind of cooperation might be the doctor or nurse who directly assists with, and intends, the abortion itself. Material cooperation can be different in that it does not intend the evil act and is often more distant or remote from the act itself. To read the Wisconsin Bishops' full assessment of the vaccines and for a document answering "Frequently Asked Questions," visit [diolc.org/respect-life](http://diolc.org/respect-life) and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines – Ethics."

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** - Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than forty-six million people in the United States live in poverty today. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address obstacles as they work to make permanent and positive changes for their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [usccb.org/committees/catholic-campaign-human-development](http://usccb.org/committees/catholic-campaign-human-development). Envelopes are available at the main entrance of church and may be placed in the offertory collection at your convenience.

**Virtual Men's Lenten Retreat on February 20** Look to St. Joseph as a model for being a great husband and father. This retreat will feature speakers Fr. Sam Martin and Mr. Pat Brueggen. More information is coming. Facebook: [fb.me/e/cPMROcgmE](https://www.facebook.com/fb.me/e/cPMROcgmE).

**Retrouvaille (Retro-vī) Marriage Help Weekend Coming Soon!** Whether you have simply drifted apart, or have arrived at separation or divorce, Retrouvaille offers hope. Begin with a weekend away at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI. Feb. 12-14, 2021. Fully confidential, affordable, and open to couples of all faiths or no faith background. For details or to register, call toll free 1-877-922-HOPE (4673) or [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org). Space is limited with special Covid precautions.

**Ministry of Greeter** This ministry of hospitality was created to meet diocesan regulations for safe, orderly movement in/out of church and for sanitizing the church after every Mass. This ministry is open to middle school students (with their parents) and older who are willing to...

- arrive 30+ minutes before Mass
- select among 3 kinds of Greeter options: Welcome (at doors), Worship Aid (distribution), and Seating
- remain after Mass to sanitize pews/chairs, door handles, bathrooms, etc.

Please contact the parish office or any of our Greeters and you will be provided the training to comfortably transition into this ministry: 788-5483 x2.

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for February** We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

### *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 through Fridays.

### *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
- Holy Communion: receive by hand
- Dismissal: exit immediately as directed by Greeters

### *Family Life*

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

### *PCCW and Men's Club*

**Men's Club Meeting** Come be part of the Men's Club! We meet every first Wednesday of the month, and our next meeting is Feb. 3 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Join us in-person or join us virtually! For more info email [mensclub@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:mensclub@mmoclacrosse.org) and a virtual meeting link. Be part of the fellowship and create new friendships!

**Hoops Mania Tickets & Game Card Info** The Men's Club will once again be sponsoring the HoopsMania March Madness Basketball raffle! Game cards are \$10 each. Funds raised will support the Building Our Future Together Fund and Aquinas Scholarships. HoopsMania is an exciting sweepstakes based on college basketball's national championship tournament. Each game card is randomly assigned 8 seeds in the men's NCAA tournament bracket (e.g., #2 seed in Midwest). You will find out your teams when the NCAA brackets are selected on 3/14 and teams are assigned seeds. Your teams then earn points each round based on their game score. Winners are determined at the end of the tournament, after the National Championship game. With the purchase of a game card, you can win any

of 75 possible prizes. The 70 highest scores win; the 5 lowest scores also win for a total of \$2,000 in payouts! Minimum odds of winning are 1 in 19. In the event the 2021 NCAA tournament is cancelled, HoopsMania will randomly select a prior year's tournament similar to what was done for last year's fundraiser. Game cards are on sale until March 14 and are now available.

The Men's Club will provide several options to obtain game cards:

- 1) The Men's Club will be selling game cards in a drive thru fashion at the west (parish hall) entrance after all Masses on the weekends of 2/20-2/21, 2/27-2/28, 3/6-3/7, and 3/13-3/14.
- 2) Online via the HoopsMania website (details to be released in a future bulletin).
- 3) At the Scrip Drive-up Days.
- 4) Contact a Men's Club member for game cards, or
- 5) Email your requested number of game cards to the Men's Club at mensclub@mmoclacrosse.org and we will make arrangements to get you the game cards. Thank you and good luck!

## Saint Joseph

**Year of St. Joseph** The Diocesan "Year of St. Joseph" has been extended to Dec. 8, 2021 in conjunction with Pope Francis' proclamation of a "Year of Saint Joseph" from Dec. 8, 2020 to Dec. 8, 2021 (Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*: "With a Father's Heart"). This year recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

**33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph** March 19 is the Solemnity of Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consider participating in a 33-day retreat, which is contained in one book: *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Donald Calloway MIC. This retreat is done at home. Weekly discussions will be held in the Parish Hall with Fr. Konopa on Mondays at 6:30 - 8:00 PM from Feb. 15 to March 15 for those who wish to attend. Consecration Day is Friday, March 19. There's likely to be two options that day: after the 7:30 AM Mass and an evening ceremony. Books will be available for purchase in Feb. Please watch for an update in future bulletins.

## Aquinas Catholic Schools

**Catholic Schools Week** is an opportunity to show appreciation to the teachers, principals, administrators, and faculty who dedicate their time and talent to Catholic schools. Please say a prayer of thanksgiving and give a heartfelt "Thank You" to express your gratitude to those who have chosen to follow God's call in the field of Catholic education.

**Enroll for 2021-22** At Aquinas Catholic Schools, your child will be ready to succeed in literacy, faith development, social skills, and the future. We provide our students with an excellent education, but we also help them grow in spirit and embrace virtues that will stay with them throughout their lives. Aquinas is now accepting new students and returning students for grades 3P-12<sup>th</sup>. To learn more or to schedule a virtual visit with one of our principals call 784-8585 or visit [www.aquinaschools.org](http://www.aquinaschools.org)

## Liturgical Roles

February 6-7

### Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 p.m. Dave Imhoff (**Deacon**)  
Jerry Roesler (**Parish Hall**)  
8:00 a.m. **NOT FILLED (Deacon)**  
10:00 a.m. Shannon Klar (**Deacon**)  
Lori Hammes (**Parish Hall**)

### Lector

- 4:00 p.m. Mark Outzen  
8:00 a.m. Francesca Ortmeier  
10:00 a.m. Matt Binsfeld

### Cantor

- 4:00 p.m. Linda Kloet  
8:00 a.m. Haylee Pagenkopf  
10:00 a.m. Paul Lansing

### Musician

- 4:00 p.m. Jenny Nielsen  
8:00 a.m. Jenny Nielsen  
10:00 a.m. Jenny Nielsen

### Welcome

- 4:00 p.m. Sophia Schmitz, Peter Schmitz, Elizabeth Solverson, **NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED**  
8:00 a.m. Kerry Groetsch, Cindy Klar, **NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED**  
10:00 a.m. Charlotte Berendes, Chuck Berendes, Megan Binsfeld, Mike Juran, Phil Klar, Trisha Stratman

### Seating

- 4:00 p.m. Lisa Doering, **NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED**  
**Lead** Kellie Schmitz  
8:00 a.m. Bob Klar, Dan Skiles, Kathy Skiles  
**Lead** Sue Groetsch  
10:00 a.m. Andrew Schwartz, Gabriella Stratman, **NOT FILLED**  
**Lead** Linda Schwartz

### Worship Aid

- 4:00 p.m. Sandy Pitsch, **NOT FILLED**  
8:00 a.m. Anna Binsfeld, Elly Binsfeld  
10:00 a.m. **NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED**

**Weekly Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

7:30 AM **Betty and Bill Brendel**  
by Rosa Wittenberg

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

7:30 AM † **Ida Rose**  
by Alice Flock

**Thursday, February 4, 2021**

7:30 AM † **Dorothy Wuench**  
by Larry and Colleen Weibel

**Friday, February 5, 2021**

7:30 AM † **Donald Kaiser**  
by Ron and Linda Kaiser

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

4:00 PM † **Guy Buckley**  
by His Family

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**

8:00 AM **Pro Populo**  
10:00 AM † **Adrian Yeager**  
by Kathy and Dennis Biesen

Hillview Masses will be rescheduled for another time.

The Rosary is prayed before each weekday Mass  
Tuesday through Friday beginning at 7:05 am.

**Building Our Future Together**

On January 21, we held a joint meeting via zoom with the Building Our Future Together Commission, the parish Finance Council, and the parish Pastoral Council to review the updated status and priorities of potential 2021 projects. Summarily, we have about \$1,660,000 in remaining Phase IV projects and we anticipate we will have about \$955,000 in cash available in 2021. Phase IV was a 3-year pledge and fund raising period. Thus, we will have about \$500,000 in pledges remaining due in 2022. At this time, we may not have sufficient funds to accomplish all the identified projects in Phase IV.

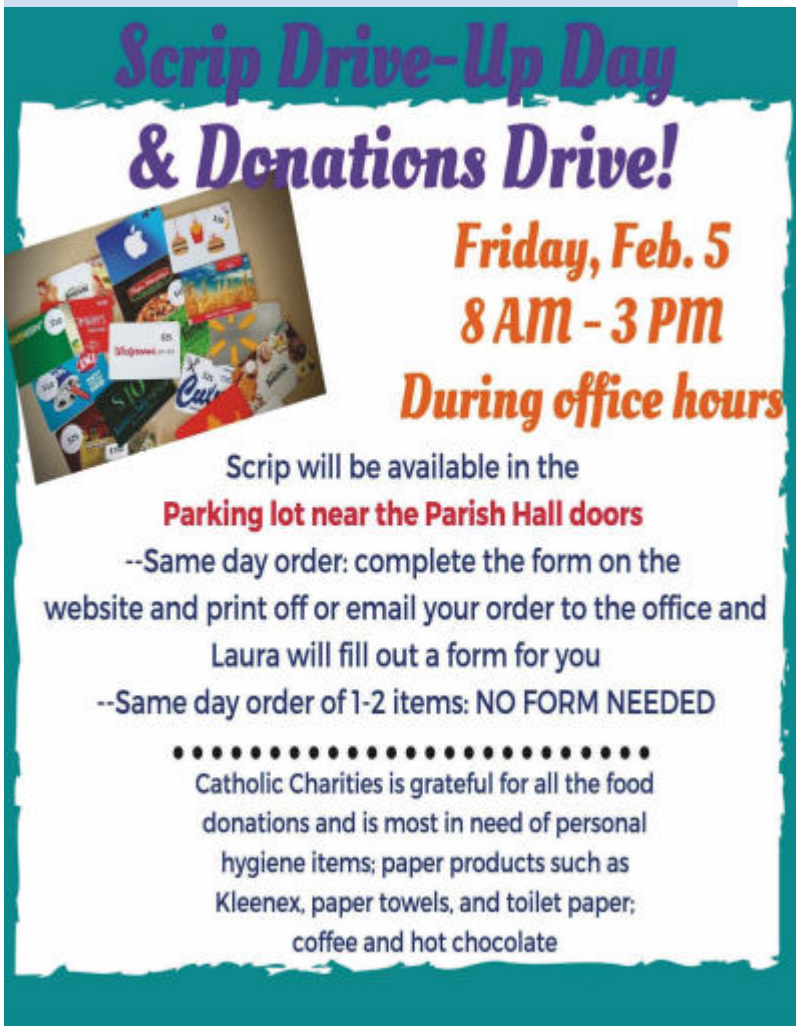
Last week in this article, we mentioned that we have been doing background work examining some of the possible building projects we may consider for 2021. At the joint meeting on January 21, we identified 3 priority areas: 1) projects aimed at "Sealing the Building Shell – Church & Rectory," 2) repairs and renovations in the rectory, and 3) a new tractor with a broom and plow. There was a consensus among the council members to proceed with those 3 projects at a cost estimate of about \$586,000.

We began a discussion on the remaining projects considering the advantages of "bundling" certain areas for efficiency. For example, one of the elements of "Sealing the Building Shell" is to strengthen and repair the stained glass windows. Therefore, in the area of Church Interior Renovations, it would seem timely to proceed with "Repair/Paint ceilings and Window Areas". Then due to scaffolding and/or lifts that are needed it may make sense to remove pews for refinishing. That would trigger the opportunity to strip and refinish the floors. And the list of combination possibilities continues. Fowler & Hammer is continuing to obtain cost updates for some of the proposed projects. Soon, these three consultative groups will help to finalize recommendations for 2021 projects.

Financially, we are able to do about \$369,000 in additional projects during 2021 with available cash. However, we may consider a short-term "bridge" loan from the Diocese to cover costs to accomplish some of the other church interior projects that may make sense to do while we are under pandemic restrictions and have limitations on church use. The bridge loan would not exceed the amount of outstanding pledges. We have proposed that in the past, but we have never had to obtain a loan to complete any of the BOFT projects. Parishioners have been very generous and faithful in completing their pledges.

We are most grateful for your goodness and are thankful for the many gifts and sacrifices you have made to make these repairs and improvements to our parish fabric. THANK YOU!

Please remember to keep our parish and each other in your prayers as we continue to Build Our Future Together.



**Scrip Drive-Up Day  
& Donations Drive!**

**Friday, Feb. 5  
8 AM - 3 PM  
During office hours**

Scrip will be available in the  
**Parking lot near the Parish Hall doors**

--Same day order: complete the form on the website and print off or email your order to the office and Laura will fill out a form for you

--Same day order of 1-2 items: NO FORM NEEDED

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Catholic Charities is grateful for all the food donations and is most in need of personal hygiene items; paper products such as Kleenex, paper towels, and toilet paper; coffee and hot chocolate

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