

July 23, 2023



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS TIMES

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

CONFESSIONS

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

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing devices are available. See Greeters for additional information, especially for hearing aids paired with Bluetooth.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 8am-3pm

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

SCRIP

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Requests are due to the office by Monday in written format.

PARISH STAFF

788-5483

Rev. Brian D. Konopa ext. 3

Pastor

frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Terry Bell ext. 6

Deacon - Adult Faith Formation

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Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA ext. 7

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AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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President

Tara Key

782-5998

Principal, Cathedral School

Kate Moll

782-5564

Principal, Blessed Sacrament School

Angela Koblitz

783-5483

Principal, St. Patrick School, Onalaska

Andrew Bradley

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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Parish Bookkeeper

Sister Meg Earsley, FSPA has joined the parish staff as a bookkeeper. This is a part-time position which will allow our Finance Assistant Mike Juran to reduce his hours. Originally from Southeastern Wisconsin, and then living in Iowa, so Meg returned to Wisconsin and came to La Crosse five years ago when she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She professed first vows two years ago in August. Sister Meg has received different certifications, the latest becoming a Laudato Si Animator and is completing a degree in Religious Studies at Viterbo University. She enjoys spending time with the sisters, praying in Adoration, singing, cooking, and is an avid birdwatcher. Welcome, Sr. Meg!



Blessed Art Inc.

Blest Art will be visiting our parish this weekend after Masses in the Parish Hall on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Their mission is to support these families in the Holy Land. They have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. They kindly invite us to visit their display in the Parish Hall and to consider purchasing a piece of art from the Holy Land. In doing so, we support the many families who depend on this art for their living. Our purchases make a difference in the lives of many Christian families. They accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards. Please note that they do not ask for, nor do they accept, any donations. Thank you for your support.



Mobile Meal Volunteers Needed

MMOC delivers Mobile Meals the week of July 24-30. Pickup time is 10:30 am and you are finished in about 1 hour, delivering about 14 meals. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer contact Sue Moyle @608-787-0076. Thank you for volunteering for this worthy cause.

Family Life

Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Walt Augustine Weinmann who was baptized on July 15, 2023. We welcome him to God's family with great joy!

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Corrita Jorgens. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the families and friends who mourn their loss. *Eternal rest grant onto her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her.*

Faith Formation

FORMED

Want to see a movie about the life of a Saint? Or listen to inspiring teachers of the faith?

Get the Catholic video service from the Augustine Institute, **free** for MMOC parishioners!

Visit: www.formed.org, Click Sign up and search for "Mary Mother of the Church LaCrosse," and provide your email address. Mobile apps are also available!

Sacramental Preparation Programs

All families with children going into 2nd grade or 10th grade should have received information (via email) regarding applications for the prep. programs for the Sacraments of first Communion/first Confession (2nd graders) and Confirmation (10th graders). If you haven't received anything and would like your child to receive these Sacraments, contact Kristin Johnson: kjohnson@newmanlc.org or Samuel Obert: sobert@mmoclacrosse.org. Applications are due by July 31st for the 2nd grade programs and August 20th for the 10th grade program!

Youth Faith Formation 23-24

The new school year is upon us, which means it's time to register your child/ren for their Faith Formation program. All families with youth in 1st grade through 12th grade should have received a letter and registration form in the mail. If you haven't, contact Kristin Johnson: kjohnson@newmanlc.org or Samuel Obert: sobert@mmoclacrosse.org. **OR** register using the QR code below. Early-bird registration ends August 31st; price will increase thereafter.

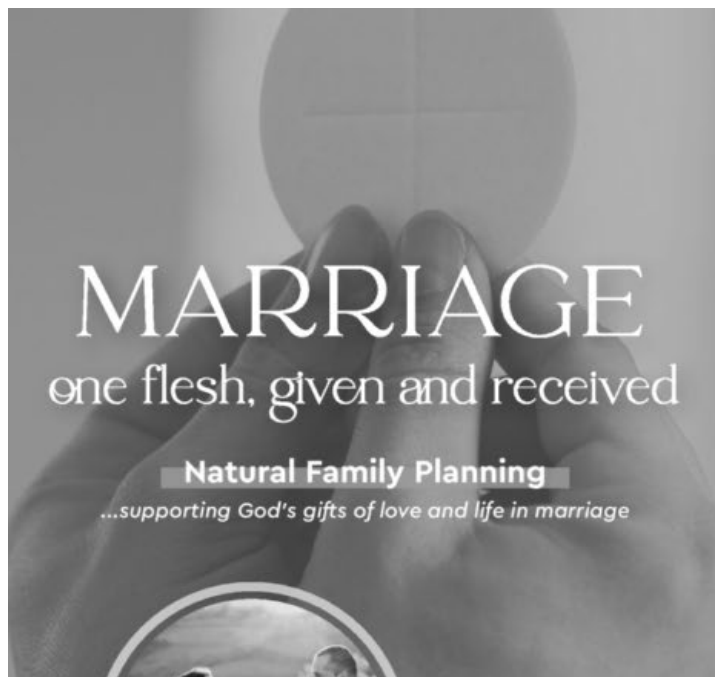


Verso l'Alto Hike

Saturday August 19th, Devil's Lake State Park. All middle and high school-aged youth are invited to participate in this day of hiking, friendship, and prayer. We will learn about the life of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, which was full of prayer and the outdoors, about each he proclaimed, "verso l'alto" or "to the heights!" Chaperones will be needed to help with carpooling. If interested please contact Samuel Obert: sobert@mmoclacrosse.org.

Vacation Bible School Registration Deadline July 28th.

The deadline to register for VBS is fast approaching. You have until July 28th to sign up! Vacation Bible School is **August 7th-11th from 9:00am-12:00pm** for children entering Kindergarten - 5th Grade hosted at Holy Trinity Parish. We will be taking a Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure this year at Vacation Bible School. To register scan the QR code. Contact Kristin Johnson, Director of Faith Formation for the City of La Crosse Catholic Parishes at kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org if you have questions.



One of the most joyous occasions in life is the celebration of a wedding. A man and woman come together to join their lives together so that “they are no longer two but one flesh” (see Matthew 19:11). Religious or not, Catholic or not, most people understand marriage as

a lifelong commitment in which husband and wife are faithful to one another. Most people also take for granted that marriage is based on love—not just any love, but the kind of love where a person will sacrifice for the beloved. As Catholics, it is important to remember that Jesus sanctified marriage and elevated it to represent His love for the Church—marriage “in the Lord” mirrors the very love of our Lord. Let’s reflect on this mystery of a love that will sacrifice for the beloved.

Spousal Love

Where did this idea come from? Some might argue that it is a natural human understanding. That is partially true because we all know that the experience of loving another person is part of the fabric of human life. Our Christian faith tells us more however. We know through the eyes of faith that God, who is love, created us for love and to love!

While love is experienced throughout life in family relationships and with friends, married love is unique. Created in God’s image, husband and wife become “one flesh” (see Genesis 2: 24) and are called to live a love that is faithful, selfless, generous, and everlasting. God established marriage as an original blessing, not only to

spouses but also to the world. Through it, God builds up families and society.

Despite the first sin and its harm to God’s original plan for man and woman, especially as He willed for marriage, marriage still reflects God’s love in the world. This is true regardless of the individual religious faith of each spouse. However, in Christian marriage—the marriage of a baptized Christian man to a baptized Christian woman—God exalts Christian marriage beyond the dignity and value of natural marriage and gives spouses the privilege of reflecting Christ’s love for his bride, the Church (see Ephesians 5: 31–32). They witness to something that many do not believe is possible: free, total, faithful, permanent, fruitful love. This is the love our hearts long for. This is the love husband and wife are called to in marriage. It is a love made real in Christ precisely because He is both present with husband and wife in the sacramental reality of the marriage and because marriage reflects His spousal love for His Church.

Marriage is a Gospel

In God’s original plan for men and women, the mutual love of spouses “becomes an image of the absolute unending love with which God loves man” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1604)—this is good news! Despite humanity’s fall from grace and the ensuing brokenness, the Lord God continued to invite His children to accept His design for marriage which reveals the love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Pope Benedict XVI taught this truth when he wrote:

[M]atrimony is a Gospel in itself, a ‘Good News’ for the world of today, especially the dechristianized world. The union of a man and a woman, their becoming ‘one flesh’ in charity, in fruitful and indissoluble love, is a sign that speaks of God with ...force and an eloquence... Marriage, as a union of faithful and indissoluble love, is based upon the grace that comes from the triune God, who in Christ loved us with a faithful love, even to the Cross.

(Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, October 7, 2012, St. Peter’s Square)

The love of Christ is expressed in His Passion, in His total gift of self on the Cross. The Eucharist is the memorial of what Christ has done for us, “the making present and the sacramental offering of his unique sacrifice, in the liturgy of the Church which is his Body” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1362). In this great sacrament of love, the Lord, entrusted “to His Beloved Spouse, the Church...a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1323). Christ freely offers Himself in a self-gift of total, permanent, faithful, and fruitful love for the Church and for each individual in the Eucharist.

Eucharistic Communion and Marital Communion

In receiving the Lord in Holy Communion, we enter into an intimate union with Christ. As Jesus said, “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him” (Jn 6:56). Pope Benedict also reminded us that

There is nothing authentically human—our thoughts and affections, our words and deeds—that does not find in the sacrament of the Eucharist the form it needs to be lived to the full...to permeate every aspect of our existence.

(Sacramentum Caritatis, 71)

In other words, we are called to respond to the Lord’s gift of Himself with an open heart. And in receiving His gifts, likewise, respond with our own gifts: striving to receive Him with love, thanksgiving, and surrender; relying on the strength He provides to persevere in and deepen our relationship with Him; and to give our neighbor the love that He gives us. This is the Christian life.

In the deep intimacy of the marital act, the one-flesh union of spouses, we can find humble parallels to the above mystery. The marital embrace is “meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life” (*Married Love and the Gift of Life*, p. 2). Husband and wife are called to be ministers “of the design established by the Creator” (*Humanae Vitae*, 13), embracing the “inseparable connection, established by God” between the love and life-giving aspect of the marital act (*Humanae Vitae*, 12). In doing so, spouses allow the Eucharistic Christ to permeate this most intimate aspect of their lives through understanding, appreciating, and cooperating with the Creator in their shared fertility.

Responsible Parenthood and Natural Family Planning

God invites married couples to be stewards of their fertility through “responsible parenthood.” If a couple discerns that, for just reasons, they should avoid a pregnancy, rather than turning to contraception or sterilization, they can turn to Natural Family Planning.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods are based on the biological fact that while men are fertile all the time, women are fertile during only part of their cycle. NFP methods teach couples how to accurately identify a woman’s fertility by learning how to observe, chart, and interpret the signs of fertility. With this knowledge, the couple freely chooses whether or not to engage in sexual intercourse based upon their family planning intention. If they want to avoid pregnancy they abstain; if they desire to achieve pregnancy, they come together.

These methods can be used effectively to manage fertility regardless of the woman’s cycling pattern or stage of life (such as postpartum, pre-menopause or with irregular cycles). There is no need to use contraceptives or sterilization to plan one’s family.

Blessed, Strengthened, Consecrated

Though periodic sexual abstinence can be challenging at times, this challenge is itself a blessing. St. Paul VI wrote, “far from being a hindrance to their love of one another,” this self-discipline “transforms it by giving it a more truly human character” (*Humanae Vitae*, 21) and the lived experience of many couples testifies to the truth of this statement. They find not only that in this sacrifice their love, mutual respect, appreciation, and trust is enhanced but also that their relationship with the Lord is strengthened as well.

And husband and wife are not left alone in the challenge. Through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, they are given the grace to live out all that God asks of them and are “strengthened and... consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1638; cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 1134). The Lord is with them: “Then let them implore the help of God with unremitting prayer and, most of all, let them draw grace and charity from that unending fount which is the Eucharist” (*Humanae Vitae*, 25).

Learn More

Catholic teaching on love and human sexuality

usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/love-and-sexuality

Catholic teaching on married love and the gift of life

usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/catholic-teaching/upload/Married-Love-and-the-Gift-of-Life-English-version.pdf

Natural Family Planning

usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/what-natural-family-planning

Where to learn an NFP method

usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/find-nfp-class

Useful marriage-focused websites

foryourmarriage.org; marriageuniqueforareason.org

Cannot find what you need? Contact nfp@usccb.org.

©2023, Janet McLaughlin. Mrs. McLaughlin has a Masters of Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Marriage and the Family. A wife, mother, and grandmother as well as a former teacher/trainer of SymptoPro, a method of Natural Family Planning, she lives in the Diocese of Baker in Oregon. This article is used here with her permission. You can reproduce this article for educational purposes. Please include the text “Used with permission, ©2023, Janet McLaughlin. All rights reserved.”



July 23, 2023

Community Events

Coaches Needed!

Aquinas is looking for coaches for High School Girls Golf (fall), Middle School Volleyball (fall), and High School Boys Golf (spring). If you are interested in coaching, please contact Pam Donarski (pam.donarski@aquinasschools.org)

Artwork Show and Sell

Hosted by The Catholic Daughters of America, you are invited to a "Show and Sell" art show on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. All sales remain your profit! There will also be a bake sale, silent auction, ice cream social, and food and drinks. All proceeds will go to our Priests and Seminarians Education Fund. For more information contact Sandra at (608)787-6482 or sandyborreson@gmail.com.

Don't miss Mass during a vacation!

Find Mass times by city, state or zip. Then check that church's bulletin for any updates.



Picnic on the Lawn

July 29th from 11 AM to 4 PM at St. Mary Parish, 900 Central Ave, Coon Valley. Includes a hog roast, bounce house, dunk tank, snow cones, kids games and more. Live music with Leather and Lace from 12 (noon) until 2 PM. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for a fun afternoon with family and friends. ALL ARE WELCOME!



Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

7:30 AM † Mary Flottmeyer
by Family

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7:30 AM † Jack Lucey
by Rose Kazmierczak

Thursday, July 27, 2023

7:30 AM † Larry Weibel
by The Family

Friday, July 28, 2023

7:30 AM † Marty Konop
by Betty Koenen Stout

Saturday, July 29, 2023

4:00 PM † Adrian Yeager
by Dennis & Kathy Bissen

Sunday, July 30, 2023

8:00 AM † Kathy (Pierce) Jeffery
by Gloria Biesen

10:00 AM Pro Populo

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



Liturgical Roles July 29-30

Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 p.m. Deacon—OPEN, John Klouda, Mark Outzen
- 8:00 a.m. Deacon Terry Bell, Mary Lawrence, Gloria Biesen
- 10:00 a.m. Deacon Terry Bell, Mary Olson, John Conzemius

Lector

- 4:00 p.m. Barbara Stetzer, Joseph Van Oss
- 8:00 a.m. Linda Elsen, Charles Heiderscheit
- 10:00 a.m. Fred Berneking, Bill Brendel

Server

- 4:00 p.m. Sr. Sue Emster, Keegan Gerling
- 8:00 a.m. Kaitlin Ortmeier, OPEN
- 10:00 a.m. Shaun Ziolkowski, Tenley Solverson

Cantor

- 4:00 p.m. Christine J Nelson
- 8:00 a.m. Nancy Misch
- 10:00 a.m. Rick Wilson

Musician

- 4:00 p.m. Christopher Carskadon
- 8:00 a.m. Christopher Carskadon
- 10:00 a.m. Christopher Carskadon

Sacristan

- 4:00 p.m. Linda Gillette
- 8:00 a.m. Jane Vogel
- 10:00 a.m. Mike Wuensch

Gift Bearer

- 4:00 p.m. Ben Gerling, OPEN
- 8:00 a.m. Francesca Ortmeier, Dave Ortmeier
- 10:00 a.m. Rachel Egan, Sally Egan, Andrew Egan

Greeter

- 4:00 p.m. Olivia Rudie, Jim Spielbauer, Nora Dickinson, Phil Watson, Mark Misch, Arian Arens, Steve Schaub, Therese Van Oss—Lead
- 8:00 a.m. Peggy Baumler, Jon Mason, Kylie Ortmeier, OPEN, Jonathan Baumler, Dave Lawrence, Donna Burns, Allan Baumler—Lead
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Jothen, Felicity Bell, Lydia Bell, Jackson Massa, Andrew Schwartz, Linda Schwartz, Maddox Herlitzke, Robb Pre-tasky—Lead

Hospitality

- 8:00 a.m. Cindy Klar, Bob Klar
- 10:00 a.m. Trisha Stratman, Johanna Bell

Scrip Seller

- 4:00 p.m. Dee Sauer, Kevin Moyle
- 8:00 a.m. Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky
- 10:00 a.m. Sheri Skelton, Tammy Byington

Live Streamer

- 4:00 p.m. Joseph Van Oss

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