August 13, 2023





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

Pasto

frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Terry Bell ext. 6 Deacon - Adult Faith Formation & RCIA tbell@mmoclacrosse.org

Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA ext. 7 Ministry with the Elderly and Sick kstuttgen@fspa.org

Kristin Johnson ext. 4

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AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ted Knutson 784-8585

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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Marv

On Tuesday, August 15, Mass will be held at 12:00 PM and 5:30 PM. This solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation.

6:30 AM St. Patrick (Onalaska)

6:30 AM Cathedral

8:00 AM St. Patrick (Onalaska)

8:00 AM St. James

8:00 AM Blessed Sacrament

8:30 AM St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish (West Salem)

12:00 PM Mary, Mother of the Church

12:10 PM Cathedral5:10 PM Cathedral

5:15 PM Roncalli Newman

5:30 PM Mary, Mother of the Church

5:30 PM St. Patrick (Onalaska)

5:30 PM St. James

"Eucharist at the Heart of Scriptures"

During this National Eucharistic Revival, all Catholics are invited to grow in their understanding of Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist. Join Mark Hart, the renowned "Bible Geek," on Monday, August 21 from 5:30 - 8:00 PM in the MMOC Parish Hall for this virtual Conference on the Eucharist in Scripture.

Mark presents in a compelling way, making the Scriptures on the Eucharist come alive. Cost is \$10 per person (paid for by MMOC's Vision Fund for parishioners, if registered through the parish) and includes Mark's book entitled "The Divine Encounter."

If interested, contact Steve in the parish office at 788-5483, ext 1, or secretary@mmoclacrosse.org. Deadline for registration is August 18th.

Fall Chicken-Que

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 14. Many volunteers will be needed. Volunteer sign up sheets are in the back of church.

Silver Circle

The next Silver Circle potluck will be on Thursday, August 17. Come and share a noon meal followed by BINGO! You won't be disappointed!

Family Life

Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to William George Schaller and Tom Steven Tierney-Morrison who were baptized on August 5 and 6. We welcome them to God's family with great joy!

Wedding Banns (II)

Jason Garstka and Paula Fanta on August 26, 2023. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding.

Faith Formation

CCO Small Faith-Sharing Groups

As we set our eyes on the life of Christ and His mission, we are learning that we need a relationship with Him – a close and personal relationship. Are you asking yourself, "How can I have a personal relationship with Jesus? What does it entail?" Perhaps you also are experiencing some uncertainty about "going on mission" and what that means in your life. You are not alone in these questions!

Catholic Christian Outreach can help! Over the past five years, MMOC has offered this dynamic and life-changing faith study series as an opportunity to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and fellow Christians. Over 36 weeks, you and 4-7 other group members will explore, discuss, and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. You will discover the joy and freedom of letting Jesus be your primary relationship – your center.

Every human heart desires to be known, loved, and cared for – this is what every great relationship offers us. Perhaps it is experienced with your spouse, close friend, or sibling. However, a relationship with Jesus is a gift no other relationship can fully provide. When we enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ, we find that He knows, loves, and cares for us in abundance. In fact, He said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Once we experience this relationship, we desire to share it with others – we seek to go on His mission.

"Over the past several years, I had been struggling with how I could develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus. The CCO program has helped set me on a path to overcome that struggle. The facilitator presented the materials in a way that encouraged meaningful discussions and sharing among participants. As a result, we were able to gain different perspectives on various topics that may have been obstacles in our personal faith development. We were all blessed with new friendships as we shared our journey with one another."

~Leanne Bentzen, 2020 CCO Participant

Several opportunities are available starting in September. Identify your preference, and then contact the group leader with your name, contact information, and any questions you may have.

Monday: 6:00-7:30 PM Peter Schmitz (men only) Schmitz.peter13@gmail.com or (608) 780-4181

Tuesday: <u>8:15-9:45 AM</u> - Sue Halter (men & women) <u>skhalter@gmail.com or</u> 608-769-4029

Thursday: <u>6:00-7:30 PM</u> - Tammy Byington (women only) <u>tammybyby@gmail.com</u> or (608) 498-0175

Open: Want to participate in a CCO group this Fall but are challenged with what fits your schedule? Contact Pattie Nimocks pattie.nimocks@gmail.com

or (608) 385-0865 to discuss what works for you. She is flexible in regard to day/meeting times!

Called & Gifted

Did you know God gives you spiritual gifts to help you to be effective at your work and a more effective witness to your faith in the workplace? If you wonder how you are called to be a channel of His love and provision at work or in your community, come and begin to discern your unique mission in life. We are

excited to offer this opportunity at MMOC, and everyone is invited to start this journey to discover the unique call God has for you and the gifts He gives you to fulfill your mission in life.

Our team, trained by the Catherine of Sienna Institute, will offer the Called & Gifted workshops and discernment groups from September 5 to December 5. Nine meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

We offered our first Called & Gifted Workshops this past winter/spring. When we asked participants, "What would you want your fellow parishioners to know about the Called & Gifted experience?" one responded, "Understanding that God gave us charisms to share with others in order to build His Kingdom was new to me. However, after learning about this, it made a lot of sense of how God has called me to serve Him. There were many times in my life that I tried some-thing different, but always seemed to revert back to a particular set of skills. What I know now was God calling me back to use my charisms, and when I used them for the good of others, I was filled with joy and love. The Called & Gifted experience brought to light that God was calling me to do something uniquely designed for me to praise

Call or email Linda Schwartz at 608-792-0351 or <u>alrzschwartz@gmail.com</u> for more information and to register. Please note the email correction.

Volunteers Needed for Faith Formation

Our Family Formation program and Youth Program are in need of volunteers to help with this year's collaborative programs serving families and youth from five of the La Crosse parishes.

Family Formation meets approximately twice a month from 5:30-6:45 PM on Wednesdays at Mary, Mother of the Church. Catechists and assistants are needed to teach monthly topics to children in grades 1st-5th. We are also in need of adults willing to serve as small group leaders to facilitate discussions with parents. Contact Kristin if you are interested or would like more information 608-788-5483 Ext. 4. or kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org

Youth Formation (middle and high school aged youth) takes place weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 PM at Blessed Sacrament Parish. If you are a faith filled person with a heart for young people

your gifts are needed to serve as a small group leader for teens. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Samuel Obert at sobert@mmoclacrosse.org 608-788-5483 Ext. 5.

Youth Faith Formation 2023 - 2024

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.

Contact Kristin Johnson: <u>kjohnson@newmanlc.org</u> or Samuel Obert: <u>sobert@mmoclacrosse.org</u>. Early-bird registration ends August 31 then price will increase.

Two Minutes with Jesus for Eucharistic Revival

1. Jesus is our greatest Friend. Jesus loves each one of us and desires to be with us always. Jesus gives Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist, so that He can live in our heart. The Holy Eucharist is Christ's Body and Blood. We know that Jesus is our greatest Friend because He gives Himself to us completely in the Holy Eucharist. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, Thank You for giving Yourself to me and being my closest Friend.

2. How do we get to know Jesus better? Jesus knows each one of us better than we know ourselves and He loves us. Friendship always involves two persons. We want to get to know this Person who loves us so much, through reading the Scriptures (the Bible). As we enter Advent, it is a perfect time to read the Scriptures and remember how Jesus came to us, born as an infant. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, give me the desire to read the Bible a few minutes each day. This week, read the words of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary that she will be the mother of the Son of God in Luke 1: 26-38.

OCIA/RCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (Formerly: RCIA)

Are you seeking to know Jesus Christ more deeply or understand God and His plan for us more fully? Do you want to know why Catholics believe what they believe and do what they do? To learn more about deepening your relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming part of a warm and supportive parish community, and understanding more about the Catholic Faith, we invite you to journey together with us in OCIA. OCIA is tentatively scheduled to start in early September. For more info, please contact Deacon Terry Bell at deacon@mmoclacrosse.org.

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 Gior-

gio 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.

Liturgical Roles August 15

Minister of Holy Communion

12:00 p.m. Gloria Biesen, Fred Berneking, Mark

Outzen

5:30 p.m. Deacon Terry Bell, Kelly Jakes, Anita Ol-

son

Lector

12:00 p.m. Mary Olson, Mary Jo Swartout 5:30 p.m. Bill Brendel, Barbara Stetzer

Server

12:00 p.m. Isabella Neubauer, OPEN

5:30 p.m. Louie Berendes, Hank Berendes

Cantor

12:00 p.m. Christine Nelson 5:30 p.m. Nancy Misch

Musician

12:00 p.m. Christopher Carskadon 5:30 p.m. Christopher Carskadon

Sacristan

12:00 p.m. Sue Groetsch 5:30 p.m. Mike Wuensch

Gift Bearer

12:00 p.m. Jessica Neubauer 5:30 p.m. Chuck Neubauer

Greeter

12:00 p.m. Donna Burns, Pat Burns, Trisha Stratman

Gabriella Stratman, Gavin Stratman, Kyle

White, OPEN, Jon Mason - Lead

5:30 p.m. Lydia Bell, Felicity Bell, Sam Dickinson,

Nora Dickinson, Mary Jothen, Camille Withrow, Grant Withrow, Joseph van Oss -

Lead

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

12:00 PM **† Jim Sauer**

by Dee Sauer

5:30 PM **Pro Populo**

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

7:30 AM **† Karen Hansen**

by Mark & Susan Halter

Thursday, August 17, 2023

7:30 AM **† Merlin Sutter**

by Carol Forer & Mary Beranek

Friday, August 18, 2023

7:30 AM † Peter Vick

by Theresa Vick

Saturday, August 19, 2023

4:00 PM **† Ron Weise**

by Linda Werner

Sunday, August 20, 2023

8:00 AM **Pro Populo**

10:00 AM † Deceased & Living Members of the Peter & Anna Spaeth Family

Liturgical Roles August 19-20

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. Kevin Moyle (Deacon), Chris Schlegel,

John Klouda

8:00 a.m. Mary Lawrence (Deacon), Nick Berry,

Janice Berry

10:00 a.m. Chuck Berendes (Deacon), Fred

Berneking, Terri Pedace

Lector

4:00 p.m. Peter Schmitz, Nancy Misch 8:00 a.m. Bob Mahr, Charles Heiderscheit

10:00 a.m. Nancy Steinhoff, Mary Olson

Server

4:00 p.m. Tenley Solverson, Jude Schramm 8:00 a.m. Nolan Richards, Matthew Klar

10:00 a.m. Abby Schelfhout, Izzy Schelfhout

Cantor

4:00 p.m. Paul Lansing 8:00 a.m. Pattie Nimocks

10:00 a.m. Natalie Solverson

Musician

4:00 p.m. Jenny Nielsen 8:00 a.m. Haylee Pagenkopf

10:00 a.m. Haylee Pagenkopf

Sacristan

4:00 p.m. Linda Gillette

8:00 a.m. Jane Vogel

10:00 a.m. Kimberly Krejchik

Gift Bearer

4:00 p.m. Ben Gerling, OPEN 8:00 a.m. Erin Klar, Steve Klar 10:00 a.m. Phil Klar, Shannon Klar

Greeter

4:00 p.m. Mark Misch, Harper Solverson, Linda Gil-

lette, Joe Riemer, Therese van Oss, Patrick Hogan, Steve Schaub, LEAD-Kellie

Schmitz

8:00 a.m. Joan Weissenberger, Jon Mason, Dave

Lawrence, Cindy Klar, Peggy Baumler, Jonathan Baumler, LEAD-Bob Klar

Keith Kreichik Charlette Berendes

10:00 a.m. Keith Krejchik, Charlotte Berendes, Mar-

cus Klar, Elie Klar, Mason Klar, Carol Forer, Maddox Herlitzke, LEAD-Phil Klar

i oror, mac

8:00 a.m. Ken Morrison, Michelle Morrison

10:00 a.m. Robb Pretasky, Sue Pretasky

Scrip Seller

Hospitality

4:00 p.m. Heidi Schlegel, Sue Olson 8:00 a.m. Mary Genz, Karen Perry 10:00 a.m. Lisa Doering, OPEN

Live Streamer

4:00 p.m. Joseph van Oss



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

I arrived in Denver, Colorado on July 5 for a Pastors Summit with FOCUS. It was a wonderful experience which included Dr. Scott Hahn, a scripture scholar who was my college professor. So inspiring!

Denver – The Mile High City – exactly 5,280 feet above sea level.

When the conference was over, I stayed in Colorado for a vacation. One of the places I visited was the state capitol. In 1909, a plaque on the western steps marked the exact one-mile elevation. After several plaques were stolen, in 1947 they carved these words into the riser (i.e. vertical part) of the 15th step: ONE MILE ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

Twenty-two years later a new brass benchmark was placed on the 18th step after several Colorado State University engineering students resurveyed the elevation and concluded that the inscription was 3 steps too low.

In 2003, a more accurate measurement was made where a third marker was installed: the 13th step.

While this is probably embarrassing, especially since the chiseled granite on the 15th step is the most obvious marker to this day, it was the right thing to do.

I have a similar embarrassment... one that I'm comfortable with.

In the March 26 bulletin, I listed "items we have learned along the way that have us actively improving the campus with a variety of projects," including some which "are barely noticeable to the majority of people and many are low cost, especially when considering the \$9 million project of Building Our Future Together."

The last one mentioned on the list was the Religious Education Center:

"Under consideration is renaming this 'Faith Formation Center' which matches the new parish vision. Our pursuit isn't limited to knowledge (i.e. education), but includes it. We are emphasizing **relationships** centered in Christ – which requires trust (and love) in addition to knowledge."

Over the past year, the City Parishes combined their efforts and resources to hand on the faith to our youth. Instead of using the title of "Director of Religious Education," we have Kristin Johnson as the "Director of Family Faith Formation" (PK-3 to Grade 5) and Samuel Obert as the "Director of Youth Faith Formation" (Gr. 6-12). Additionally, our parish has Deacon Terry Bell serving us in "Adult Faith Formation."

On May 18, I met with the Pastoral Council to discuss the merits of a name change for the lower level of our Parish Hall and the results were communicated in the June 18, 2023 bulletin. The following comments were shared:

-"Religious Education" suggests "children only" and has a "school-house feel" to it instead of a relational sense. -"Faith Formation" is more relational, allencompassing of one's heart as well as intellect, and lends itself to including adults.

-Language terminology changes over time.

-We've re-branded the job titles to fit the new emphasis in the Church as well as our new parish vision (His Life. His Mission. Our Focus.), so it makes sense to rename the lower level of the Parish Hall; it would be a missed opportunity if we did not do this.

Parish staff have also been consulted and they were equally understanding and supportive.

The same June 18 bulletin article concluded: "Therefore, with these consultations and encouragement, the process has been set in motion."

As an update, there was one indoor sign that needed to be replaced (\$156) and two prominent signs: the metal lettering outside the entrance of the Parish Hall and the foam lettering at the main entrance of the lower level. The estimated cost is \$5,500 and will be completed near Labor Day.

Embarrassing? Yeah. But I'm comfortable with it because it's the right thing to do.

Yours in Christ, Father Konopa













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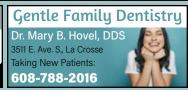
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