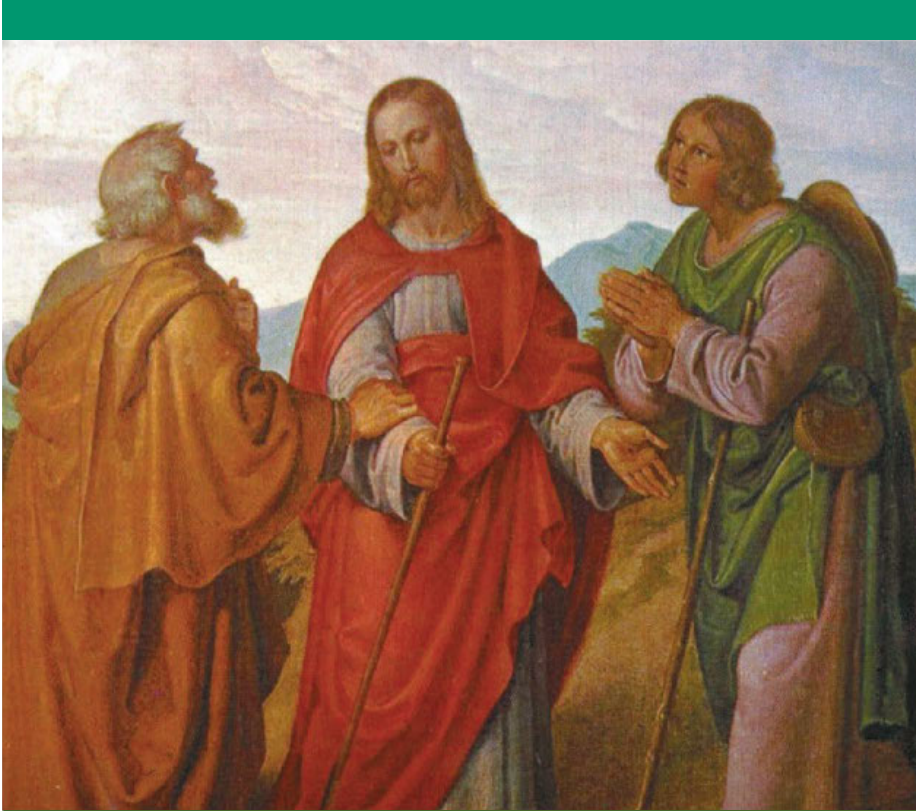


September 17, 2023



# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



## 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4 PM  
Sunday 8 AM & 10 AM  
Tuesday–Friday 7:30 AM

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 PM 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 8 AM - 3 PM

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 8 AM - 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](mailto:frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Rev. Mr. Terry Bell** ext. 6

Deacon - Adult Faith Formation & RCIA/OCIA

[tbell@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:tbell@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA** ext. 7

Ministry with the Elderly and Sick

[kstuttgen@fspa.org](mailto:kstuttgen@fspa.org)

**Kristin Johnson** ext. 4

Director of Family Faith Formation

[kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Samuel Obert** ext. 5

Director of Youth Faith Formation

[sobert@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:sobert@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Therese van Oss** ext. 0

Funeral Coordinator

[tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Andy Foley** ext. 9

Buildings and Grounds

[afoley@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:afoley@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Mary Jo Lium** ext. 8

Sacred Music

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

**Mike Juran** ext. 2

Finance Assistant

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

**Sr. Meg Earsley, FSPA** ext. 2

Bookkeeper

[bookkeeper@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Steve Young** ext. 1

Office Assistant

[secretary@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:secretary@mmoclacrosse.org)

### 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.

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Chicken-Que Thank You!

To the organizers, volunteers, and those who purchased a Chicken-Que dinner, thank you for making this fundraiser successful.



### MMOC Sunday Choir

Rehearsals for Sunday Choir begin on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The choir meets to rehearse every Tuesday evening from 6 - 7:30 PM in the Music Room. We are looking for new members to join — vocal or instrumental! If interested or have questions contact Mary Jo Lium at [mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org).

### Needed: MMOC Coordinator for Mobile Meals

Sue Moyle has been the parish coordinator for 20+ years and will be stepping away from this position at the end of 2023. The main responsibility of this open position is to schedule volunteers to deliver meals during our week. Mary, Mother of the Church has six weeks per year to deliver meals. We have two weeks left this year (Sept. 18 and Nov. 20). Sue is willing to answer any questions and offer support: 608-787-0076. We're grateful for Sue's commitment over the years and grateful she is still committed to being one of the drivers.

### Needed: Mobile Meals Volunteers

MMOC delivers Mobile Meals two more times this year. We need volunteers for the week of September 18-24 and November 20-26. It takes about one hour or less if you know the route. It is such a wonderful service. Please consider delivering Mobile Meals. Contact Sue Moyle @ 608-787-0076 to volunteer on one day, two days, or even the whole week. Thank you!

### Scrip Extra Rebate

Kwik Trip has a short-term scrip special rebate. Therefore every purchase of Kwik Trip from September 1 through September 30 will receive a 10% rebate instead of 5%!!

## *Social Justice*

### Join 40 Days for Life Sept. 24 Kick-Off Rally and Vigil Campaign

Join pro-life people of the Coulee Region at a kick-off rally for 40 Days for Life on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2 PM at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center, 1433 Rose St. in La Crosse. Matt Sande, Pro-Life Wisconsin Legislative Director, will provide a state legislative update and call to action entitled "Embrace Them Both: Protecting and Supporting Moms and Babies."

The fall campaign to end abortion will run Sept. 27-Nov. 5 on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood, 1201 Caledonia in La Crosse. Please consider coming to pray for an hour, anytime between 7 AM and 7 PM. Sign up at [40daysforlife.com/en/](http://40daysforlife.com/en/). Call Marie Allen for more information or signs: 608-784-5189.

### Catholic Charities Food Pantry/Clothing Closet Low

The Food Pantry and Men's Clothing Closet in La Crosse is getting low and could use men's, women's and children's winter clothes, as well as non-perishable food items. Donations can be dropped off at 508 South 5th Ave in La Crosse, Monday-Thursday from 9 AM – 4 PM. We appreciate your support!

### LIFE CHAIN - Stand Up for Life!

The La Crosse Life Chain will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2:00-3:00 PM along Losey Blvd. Stand with thousands of pro-lifers throughout the USA in a peaceful and prayerful public witness for one hour praying for our nation and an end to abortion. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable from the beginning of life to its end and at every point in between.

MMOC's corner captains are Kerry and Sue Groetsch. Please join them and fellow parishioners at the corner of Losey Blvd. and Madison St. where they will have signs for you (a suggested donation of 50 cents per person or \$1 per family). Even if you only have a few minutes, please come and join us in standing up for LIFE!

## *Family Life*

### Wedding Banns (III)

Tyler Deaver and Rebecca Volten on Sept. 22, 2023. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding.

## *Pastoral Council Elections 2023*

### Pastoral Council

We thank Linda Schwartz and Sue Halter who have offered many years of faithful service on the council! Election results will appear in next week's bulletin.

## *PCCW*

### Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Fall Assembly at Mary, Mother of Church, September 18, 2023 at 6 PM.

Have you heard about or seen the movie the "Sounds of Freedom", a story about child and human trafficking?

Come learn more about this problem from Deacon Steve Przedpelski of the Franciscan Peacemakers of Milwaukee. Meeting will start at 6 PM with program to follow. A light meal with desserts, refreshments, and fellowship will top off the evening.

All ladies of all area parishes are invited. Please RSVP by call or text to Rita Sanchez, 608-780-3621 or Kay Kesler, 608-780-0485.

### Rummage Sale

PCCW rummage sale will be October 13-14. Donations can be dropped off from 8 - 4:30 PM on Oct. 12 in the Parish Hall. Please remember we are unable

## Mary, Mother of the Church

to take furniture, paint or chemicals, microwaves, or anything we would need to pay for disposal.

### *Faith Formation*

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a program for the religious formation of children rooted in the Bible and the liturgy of the Church. In this program, the 3-6 year old child will encounter Jesus as the Good Shepherd; who loves them, cares for them, and knows them by name. This is accomplished through prayer, listening to Scripture, and giving the child time to work with hands-on materials. Each of the materials presented are linked to either a specific part of the Mass or the Bible, which help to make the mystery of God concrete for the child. To participate, children must be at least three years old by November 1, 2023. Space is limited to 10 children per session. Registration is \$50 per child. If this is a burden, please reach out!

Choose the session that best fits your schedule:

**Fridays:** 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

starting November 3, 2023 - May 17, 2024.

**Saturdays:** 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

starting November 4, 2023 - May 18, 2024.

Sessions will not meet for major holiday breaks:  
Nov. 24/25, Dec. 29/30, and March 29/30.

If you have a love for sharing the faith with the younger members of our parish family, please consider volunteering as an aide during sessions. Training will be provided.

Registration is available online at our parish website (under the Education-Preschool tab), via the QR code, or you may contact catechist Sarah Scarlet at 608-406-7686 or [sscarlet@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:sscarlet@mmoclacrosse.org).

#### **Fall Adult Faith Formation Program**

This week we begin Lectio Eucharist and we would love to have YOU join us! In Episode 1 "**Source and Summit**", we will learn why the Church calls the Eucharist the "source and summit of the Christian life". Dr. Brant Pitre introduces us to the Sacrament of the Eucharist and explores its various names – and how those names give insight into its meaning. Do you know where you can find the word Eucharist in the Bible?

**MON** - Blessed Sacrament at 6:30-8:00 PM

**TUE** - **Mary, Mother of the Church at 8:15-9:45 AM**

- St. James the Less at 9:00-10:30 AM

**WED** - Holy Trinity at 1:00-2:30 PM

**THUR** - St. Patrick, Onalaska at 9:15-10:45 AM

- St. Patrick, Onalaska at 5:00-6:30 PM

- **Mary, Mother of the Church at 6:00-7:30 PM**

**FRI** - Cathedral at 10:30-12:00 noon

OR THIS CLASS CAN BE DONE AS A HOME STUDY.

Classes are FREE. For those who want a workbook, the cost is \$15. Registration is available at all

participating parish offices, online at [stpatsonalaska.com](http://stpatsonalaska.com), or by contacting Amy Capelli at (608)783-0847 or [amy\\_capelli@charter.net](mailto:amy_capelli@charter.net) or just show up at any class.

#### **Family Faith Formation Kick Off September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Just a friendly reminder that our Family Faith Formation begins this **Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6:45pm** at Mary Mother of the Church. Come hear about the changes that will take place this year, meet your child's teachers, connect with other families and more! We will begin our evening in the Parish Hall and then be dismissed to classrooms. At least one parent or guardian must attend with their child. Contact Kristin with any questions [kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org) 608-788-5483 Ext. 4

#### **Sacramental Preparation Session**

All families with children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time should plan to attend the first At Church Session **Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6:30pm at Mary Mother of the Church**. We will gather in the Parish Hall to begin our session. This session is for families from all five of the City Parish Collaborative. Please contact Kristin with any questions [kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org) 608-788-5483 Ext. 4.

### *Eucharistic Revival*

#### **Two Minutes with Jesus for Eucharistic Revival**

1. Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

When we look at the consecrated Host at Mass, our eyes see only bread, but the reality is we are looking at Jesus truly present. Jesus, grant me the grace to believe this truth, that though "hidden", You are truly present in Holy Communion. It is important to remember that what we are not able to see with our eyes, we grasp by choosing to believe – with faith's consent. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Lord, I want to believe. Please help me to believe that what You say is true, especially helping the part of me that sometimes questions. This week, read about the father of a sick boy who asked Jesus to help him believe what seemed impossible in Mark 9:20-27.

2. Jesus wants us to know He is continually with us. Oftentimes, our mind begins to wander at Mass because we only see bread and wine. What contributes to our distractions is the bombardment of noise and images on our mind that come through our physical senses (hearing, seeing). Therefore, we are much less attuned to the world of the spirit and the much deeper spiritual realities that are right here, all around us. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me to learn to be quiet and reveal to my heart the truth that this is really You present under the appearance of bread and wine. This week, read about Jacob in the desert, who was very much afraid, and came to realize that God was

September 17, 2023

present right there with him. As with Jacob, we can say as we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:10-17)

## Community Events

### Midwest EnCourage Fall Retreat

A weekend of prayer and reflection for family and friends of people who experience same-sex attractions or gender identity discordance. Pray, meditate, share and discuss ways to maintain a loving relationship with your loved one while continuing to uphold the wisdom and truth found in the teachings of the Church. 5 PM Friday, Sept. 29-1 PM Sunday, Oct. 1 at a Retreat Center in the Minneapolis, MN area. For more information and to register go to: <https://couragerc.org/event/encourage-fall-retreat-save-the-date>.

### Holy Trinity Bake Sale and Chicken-Q

Chicken-Q and Bake Sale Thursday, October 12, 11:00 AM - 5:30 PM at Holy Trinity Parish located at 13th and Park Avenue. ½ Chicken, Coleslaw, Beans and Bun for \$11.00. Carry Out, Drive Through or Delivery. For Delivery call 608-782-2028 Ext 2.

### Couples 500 Card Club

If you enjoy playing 500 have you considered joining the parish 500 Card Club? If you don't know how, we'd be delighted to teach you.

Each couple plays one other couple, once a month at their convenience. Couples need not be married. For more information, contact Patty Kirchner at 608-792-1960 or PatriciaJKirchner@gmail.com.

### Weekly Mass Intentions

#### Tuesday, September 19, 2023

7:30 AM † Betsy Halter  
by Mark & Susan Halter

#### Wednesday, September 20, 2023

7:30 AM † Michael Tierney  
by Family

#### Thursday, September 21, 2023

7:30 AM † Bob O'Connor  
by Gloria Royer  
2:00 PM Word Service with Communion at  
Hillview Health Care Center

#### Friday, September 22, 2023

7:30 AM † Jim Arens  
by Family

#### Saturday, September 23, 2023

4:00 PM † Deceased & Living members of  
the Peter and Anna Spaeth Family  
by Wilma Spaeth

#### Sunday, Sunday 24, 2023

8:00 AM † Marie Meyers  
by Roger & Carol Forer; Paul &  
Ruth Fairbanks & Gloria Biesen  
10:00 AM Pro Populo

## Liturgical Roles Sept. 23-24

### Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss - Deacon, Kellie Schmitz, Linda Gillette  
8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Kathy Skiles, Daniel Skiles  
10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Shannon Klar, Linda Schwartz

### Lector

4:00 PM Peter Schmitz, Chris Schlegel  
8:00 AM Fred Berneking, Charles Heiderscheit  
10:00 AM Polly Berendes, Patricia Kirchner

### Server

4:00 PM Jude Schramm, Zeke, Schramm  
8:00 AM Isabella Miller, Nolan Richards  
10:00 AM Adelyn Neubauer, Isabella Neubauer

### Cantor

4:00 PM Therese van Oss  
8:00 AM Sara Edman  
10:00 AM Paul Lansing

### Musician

4:00 PM Mary Jo Lium  
8:00 AM Mary Jo Lium  
10:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

### Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Gillette  
8:00 AM Jane Vogel, Sue Groetsch  
10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik

### Gift Bearer

4:00 PM Ben Gerling, Tony Kath  
8:00 AM Jennifer Miller, Lance Miller  
10:00 AM Jessica Neubauer, Chuck Neubauer

### Greeter

4:00 PM Mary Schaub, Steve Schaub, Mark Misch, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN  
8:00 AM Peggy Baumler, Jonathan Baumler, Mike Weissenberger, Joan Wissenberger, Karen Perry, Jon Mason, OPEN, Allan Baumler-Lead  
10:00 AM Gabriella Stratman, Gavin Stratman, Casey Horman, Sam Horman, Chuck Berendes, Charlotte Berendes, Keith Krejchik, Rob Pretasky-Lead

### Hospitality

8:00 AM Cindy Klar, Bob Klar  
10:00 AM Trisha Stratman, Paul Lansing

### Scrip Sellers

4:00 PM Dee Sauer, Kevin Moyle  
8:00 AM Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky  
10:00 AM Lisa Doering, Tammy Byington

### Live Streamer

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss



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

September 17, 2023

Welcome, Deacon Terry Bell!

Welcome? YES! Perhaps an explanation is appropriate.

The Bell family joined the parish in 2016, so we don't need to welcome them to the parish!

When Deacon Terry Bell was ordained on May 7, 2022, he was assigned to MMOC by Bishop Callahan to be "our deacon." Therefore, we don't need to welcome him as our deacon!

However, last summer, the hope was to welcome him as a full-time staff member with an emphasis on adult faith formation and evangelization. This was the ministry he had been doing for eight years among college students through FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) – two years at UW-Platteville and 6 years as a Team Director at UW-La Crosse.

In prayer, I was convinced Deacon Terry Bell would be a graced fit for our new parish vision: **His Life. His Mission. Our Focus.** I approached him about full-time status a year before ordination. He deeply desired to join parish staff but needed to pray about it. After months of discernment, he believed God was calling him to remain with FOCUS. In our conversations, I came to learn that FOCUS sends missionaries into parishes. He felt called to help FOCUS in its newest venture – to parishes – and he hoped MMOC would be willing to make this happen.

You see, the majority of FOCUS's campus missionaries are in their 20's. Frequently enough, their next chosen occupations are in parishes, Catholic Schools, and non-profit organizations. Established in 1998, FOCUS noticed this trend. Likewise, FOCUS learned from the university graduates they served that it wasn't always easy to connect with a new parish once they left campus. There was a need in parishes for bible studies and other forms of small groups that supported their Christian discipleship journey.

So, FOCUS began to expand their areas of service to parishes in 2015. They started slowly and learned from their pastors, their experience, and – of course – the Holy Spirit. Parishes are stable communities, unlike the university student bodies, so the way they supplemented parish life needed to adapt as well.

Hiring a FOCUS missionary was worth discerning, especially if it were Deacon Terry Bell. He was already well known to us as he assists at our Sunday Masses...frequently standing among the last to leave church. Also, his monthly homilies reveal the time and prayer he devotes to us. They are marked with wisdom and humor, encouragement and challenge, big ideals and practical suggestions... GOOD NEWS!

My communication with FOCUS began in late-2021 and picked up steam in early 2022. In the Spring of

2022, the parish prepared to welcome two FOCUS missionaries per their standard agreement: one male and one female. We would hire both for the low cost of \$64,000 because they provide the rest of the fundraising outside of our parish to cover their salaries and benefits. The parish had an increased stewardship drive to reach this financial goal.

Regrettably, the agreement with FOCUS did not begin as planned on Sept. 1, 2022. Time ran short and they wanted Deacon to assist with some national initiatives. FOCUS operated in good faith and "donated" 15 hours of Deacon's 40-hour work week to MMOC without any cost to the parish. In gratitude, we made a \$3,200 donation to FOCUS. (I chuckle as I type this because Church ministry is never limited to 40 hours! And so it must have seemed to Deacon.)

In the last year, he led a series called "The Search," facilitated a men's CCO faith-sharing group, piloted a new initiative called Discipleship Group, and prepared monthly homilies.

Some weeks ago, Deacon began full-time! We are one of 13 parishes to hire a FOCUS missionary. He has expanded his ministry, especially as our RCIA/OCIA Director, which already has 9 adults, 2 teenagers, and a child who are learning about the Catholic Faith.

Regrettably, FOCUS was unable to find a female counterpart to propose as a good fit for our parish, so we will wait and pray for a qualified individual to fill this position on Sept. 1, 2024. In the meantime, MMOC will pay FOCUS \$32,000 this year for the benefit of Deacon Bell's full-time ministry among us.

Next week's bulletin will share his faith journey, but it's worth mentioning here that he and his wife Johanna are raising 5 young daughters. He has two vocations. So, he needs to strike a balance and – like all of us – set some healthy boundaries. Currently, he limits the evenings that he works on parish commitments to 2 per week. He also regularly assists at our 2 Sunday Masses and also assists at the 4 PM Vigil on the weekends that he preaches so that most Saturdays can remain "family days."

So... "Welcome, Deacon Terry Bell!" ...as a FULL-TIME parish staff member...and a missionary among us!

Every one of us is called to become a missionary disciple, for Jesus not only came to give us abundant life, He also wants us to multiply His life in others: "Go...make disciples." I look forward to learning from Deacon Terry Bell.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Konopa

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www.kirchnercustombuilders.com | martykirchner@gmail.com