

October 1, 2023



# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



## 26<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 s 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 - 3 PM.

### 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

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### AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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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.

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **MMOC Eucharistic Adoration**

On Oct. 5, Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour at 4:45 PM to accommodate work schedules and adult faith formation opportunities. Come Adore, Him!

### **Parish Social**

Join us Thursday, Oct 5, after the 7:30 AM Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee, conversation and fellowship.

### **Time for a New Ministry Schedule**

We will soon begin working on a new Ministry Schedule that will run from November 1 - January 31 for Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Sacristans, Cantors, Servers, Gift Bearers, Scrip Sellers, Live Streamers, Hospitality, and Greeters. Please submit any "Can't Serve Dates" through the online scheduling tab on the parish website, [www.mmoclacrosse.org](http://www.mmoclacrosse.org) or by calling the parish office, 788-5483, ext. 1 by October 17 at the latest. If you are new to the parish or have been here for a while and are interested in participating in a Liturgical Ministry, please contact the parish office to find out more.

### **Communion Calls**

The following parishioners will receive Communion in their homes this week: Gerald Sheehan; Rosemary Boland; Carol Weis; Dick Rady; Pam Badger; Tom & Gloria Hundt; Shirley White; Shirley Marson.

If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist in their home, call the parish office at 788-5483 ext 7.

## *PCCW & Men's Club*

### **Rummage Sale**

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

### **2023 Cookie Walk**

The 2023 Cookie Walk will be taking place on December 9. We are again having a craft area and would appreciate all of your homemade items. This year we would like to incorporate homemade soaps and candles along with other various crafts. If you have the talent and time, please consider donating to our craft area. Any questions, contact Vicki Kloss at 608-788-4828 or Maureen Spencer at 608-782-0994.

## *Family Life*

### **New Parishioners**

MMOC is delighted to welcome the Woodwick family (Steven & Robin) to the parish!

### **United in the Bond of Marriage**

Congratulations to Tyler Deaver and Rebecca Volten who were married on Sep 22, 2023. May the love they share be a living witness of how much God loves the world.

### **Pope's Intentions**

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

## *Faith Formation*

### **Made for More: High School Retreat Saturday, October 28**



Young people all over the world are giving up on their faith and the Church. As a result, they are finding themselves deeply unsatisfied with life. Generation Z is the most anxious, depressed, and despairing generation to walk this Earth. Now more than ever young people need to re-learn who God is, who they are, and their purpose in life. The things of this world will never truly satisfy us...we are 'made for more'. All high school youth (9th-12th grade) are invited to attend this transformative retreat! It will take place at Mary, Mother of the Church, beginning at 9 AM and concluding after the 4 PM vigil Mass. The cost is \$20 a person and includes lunch and a T-shirt. Registrations close on Oct. 22. Scan the QR code above to register.

### **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 web-

# Mary, Mother of the Church

site (under the Education-Preschool tab), via the QR code, or you may contact catechist Sarah Scarlet at 608-406-7686 or [sscarlett@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:sscarlett@mmoclacrosse.org).

## Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday October 4, from 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church for our first lesson: The Mission of Our Family. Contact Kristin with any questions at [kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org) or 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 from 5:30-6:30 PM 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. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

We humbly give our assent to what has been handed on to us for the last 2,000 years through the one Church that Jesus founded. This assent (giving our “yes – I choose to believe”) involves our commitment to persistence in prayer and study of Scripture in asking Jesus for deeper understanding regarding His true Presence in the Eucharist. Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Lord Jesus, “I believe; please help my unbelief.” This week, read how a father gives his assent to believing that Jesus can heal his son in Mark 9:20-27.

2. As you take “steps forward,” your faith in Jesus’ true Presence in the Eucharist will grow.

We cannot simply convince ourselves through reason that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. One of the best ways to grow in this faith is to spend some time in conversation with Jesus, truly present in a Catholic Church. Go there and share something with the Lord that is on your heart. You will notice that probably without saying or feeling anything special, you will leave with a quieted heart. Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me commit to spending some time in conversation with you in Church. This week, read about how we can always find Jesus in His Father’s house in Luke 2:41-51.

## *Social Justice*

**Stand Up for Life--THIS SUNDAY at 2-3:00 PM!**

**The Corner of Losey Blvd & Madison St.**

Could you pray one hour with us? This Sunday is National Life Chain Sunday which is held throughout the US and Canada and is the largest peaceful, prayerful,



pro-life, public witness in the world! The La Crosse Life Chain is from 2:00-3:00 PM along Losey Boulevard, but join our MMOC Parish at the corner of **Losey Blvd and Madison St.** Let's fill our area with MMOC support! Signs will be available for you at that corner (a suggested donation of 50 cents per person or \$1 per family). Let's do our part to defend LIFE!

## Catholic Charities Warming Center

The Warming Center will again be serving homeless adults at 413 South 3rd St., downtown La Crosse from November 1 through April 30. The Warming Center depends on volunteers to fill a variety of functions. Some provide supper, others register the guests as they check in, check their belongings and get them settled for the night while others come on duty in the early morning as the guests have breakfast and prepare for their day.

Mary, Mother of the Church will provide volunteers for the first, third and fifth **Tuesday** evenings of the month. The following are the 14 nights of service: Nov. 7 & 21; Dec. 5 & 19; Jan. 2, 16 & 30; Feb. 6 & 20; March 5 & 19; and April 2, 16 & 30.

Each night we need volunteers for the following service and times: Food for 40 people plus milk to be delivered by 6:30 PM. Six intake people from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Two early morning people from 6:00-8:00 AM. We will NOT be staffing the over-night hours.

The staff at the Warming Center is encouraging volunteers to attend one **orientation** and **training session**: Wed. Oct 11 from 8-10 AM; Monday Oct 16 from 5-7 PM, Thurs. Oct 19 from 6-8 PM. Every new and veteran volunteer needs to attend one of these training sessions.

Sign-up sheets are in the back of church until Oct 29. Thank you for considering this opportunity to offer food and hospitality to our homeless brothers and sisters. God Bless.--Mary Olson, MMOC Coordinator for the Warming Center, [molson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:molson@mmoclacrosse.org).

## The Gospel of Life White Mass & Banquet Wed. Oct. 18 at Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman

The theme is “*Standing Strong for Conscience in Healthcare: A Battle that Touches Us All.*” With the many pressures surrounding end-of-life decisions, abortion, vaccine mandates, and even transgender drugs and surgeries, how can doctors, nurses, and patients “stand strong” in defending their conscience rights? What is conscience, exactly, from the standpoint of Catholic teaching, and what is the way forward in this very challenging time?

Fr. Justin Kizewski will address these questions and more in his banquet keynote that follows the 6:00 PM “White Mass” celebrated by Bishop Calahan, a special Mass in which the faithful honor and pray for Catholic healthcare professionals. All the faithful are warmly invited



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to this special Mass, banquet and talk! To register (\$20 ea, \$10/student), visit [www.dioc.org/GospelofLife](http://www.dioc.org/GospelofLife) for more info.

## Community Events

### The Rule of Saint Francis - 800 Year Anniversary



Come to Viterbo University Monday evening (Oct 2) at 7 PM. Fr. Conrad Targonski will offer reflections on the Rule of Saint Francis, as we celebrate its 800th Anniversary. This talk will be held in the San Damiano Chapel. It is geared towards first-year students, but open to anyone interested in the life and legacy of Saint Francis.

### Men of the Cross Conference

Oct. 14 (8:30 AM - 5:15 PM)

The La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI

Connect with other Catholic men from around the Diocese of La Crosse who will lift you in this role and be encouraged and challenged by men of deep faith. Tickets are \$45 per person. Fathers, make this a Father/Son day and bring your high school-age son for free! If you are planning to bring your son, please put his name in the comment section on the online registration form.

So get your family members, best buds, men at your parish, and even acquaintances, together and join your brothers from all over the Diocese of La Crosse to reignite your identity as a catholic man. For registration and more info: [www.menofthecross.org](http://www.menofthecross.org) or scan the QR code above.



### Weekly Mass Intentions

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

7:30 AM **Living & Deceased members of the Peter and Anna Spaeth Family**  
By Wilma Spaeth

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

7:30 AM † Jane O'Neill  
By Russell O'Neill

**Thursday, October 5, 2023**

7:30 AM † Joyce DeFlorian  
By Family

2:00 PM **Word Service with Communion at Hillview Health Care Center**

**Friday, October 6, 2023**

7:30 AM † Helen "Honna" Pitz  
By Cal & Joan Mitchell

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

4:00 PM † Paul & Molly Bueltel  
By Terry Rymarz

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

8:00 AM **Pro Propulo**  
10:00 AM † Connie Goodreau  
By Bob Alexy

## Liturgical Roles Oct. 7-8

### Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 PM Joseph van Oss, Nancy Imhoff, Dave Imhoff  
8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Mary Lawrence, Daniel Skiles  
10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Anne Kernan, Linda Schwartz

### Lector

- 4:00 PM Linda Gillette, Sue Ernster  
8:00 AM Charles Heiderscheit, Barbara Stetzer  
10:00 AM Matt Binsfield, Mary Jo Swartout

### Server

- 4:00 PM OPEN, Madison Schlegel  
8:00 AM Matthew Klar, Nolan Richards  
10:00 AM Abby Schelfout, Tenley Solverson

### Cantor

- 4:00 PM Christine Nelson  
8:00 AM Nancy Misch  
10:00 AM Paul Lansing

### Musician

- 4:00 PM Christopher Carskadon  
8:00 AM Christopher Carskadon  
10:00 AM Christopher Carskadon

### Sacristan

- 4:00 PM Linda Gillette  
8:00 AM Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles  
10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

### Gift Bearer

- 4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN  
8:00 AM Sandy Pitsch, OPEN  
10:00 AM Jerry Kernan, Anne Kernan

### Greeters

- 4:00 PM Arian Arens, Patrick Hogan, OPEN, OPEN, Ryan Riebel, Joe Riemer, Mary Schaub, Chris Schlegel - Lead  
8:00 AM Peggy Baumler, Jonathan Baumler, Allan Baumler, Jack Branson, Cindy Klar, Dave Lawrence, John Mason, Bob Klar - Lead  
10:00 AM Lydia Bell, Felicity Bell, Mary Jothen, Keith Krejchik, Charlene Krockner, Terri Pedace, Harper Solverson, OPEN-Lead

### Hospitality

- 8:00 AM Nancy Pederson, Jeff Pederson  
10:00 AM Johanna Bell, Trisha Stratman

### Scrip Sellers

- 4:00 PM Sue Olson, Heidi Schlegel  
8:00 AM Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky  
10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sue Pretasky

### Live Streamer

- 4:00 PM Dave Imhoff



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

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I wrote a bulletin article two weeks ago which highlighted Deacon Terry Bell's move from part-time to full-time status on parish staff. Last week's article included his autobiographical faith journey. This article speaks about a bigger view: The **New Evangelization** and the multiple ways it has reached our parish.

What is evangelization? Evangelization is sharing one's life in Jesus Christ with others. "The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize. In a special way, the New Evangelization is focused on 're-proposing' the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith... The New Evangelization invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website).

Vatican II (1962-65) spoke of the need for evangelization. Pope Paul VI (1963-78) used the term "New Evangelization" in his 1975 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World). And Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) popularized the term beginning with an address in 1983, saying the New Evangelization would be "new in its ardor, methods and expression."

With this encouragement – and the working of the Holy Spirit – many new initiatives (i.e. programs, organizations, religious communities, etc.) have awakened in the Church, and a handful of them have reached our parish:

**-Little Blue Books, Little Black Books & Little White Books:** We purchase these daily reflection booklets for Advent/Christmas, Lent & Easter from the Diocese of Saginaw, MI for free distribution.

**-Catholic Christian Outreach:** CCO helps participants place Jesus at the center of their lives and to be commissioned by Him for service. Over 140 people have participated in 18 CCO small faith-sharing groups since 2019.

**-Catherine of Siena Institute:** The "Called & Gifted" workshop helps adults discern their unique charism-gifts received in Baptism and Confirmation to help them become effective and fruitful in the personal mission God has given to each of them. 48 people have participated in two workshops in 2023.

**-Augustine Institute:** FORMED.org is a web-based platform of talks, movies, animation, books on tape, etc., which gives us access to a variety of content that fits into our personal schedules. We have used their "Lectio" bible studies since 2018 (once we built our Parish Hall), including our current "Lectio Eucharist" offering.

**-Families Forming Disciples:** This family-based faith formation replaced the traditional religious education/CCD classes last year. In this new model, parents participate for personal growth in their faith and become equipped to lead faith formation activities for their children at home.

**-Dynamic Catholic:** Matthew Kelly founded an organization which encourages us to become the-best-version-of-yourself and to "Be Bold. Be Catholic." Periodically, we have

ordered 1,000 books for Christmas gifts to all who attend Mass during this liturgical season.

Another new method and expression of the New Evangelization is the **Fellowship of Catholic University Students** (FOCUS). They send missionaries to college campuses. Now that they have begun sending veteran missionaries to parishes, it's worth understanding the "new method and expression" they use for the New Evangelization.

FOCUS' primary format is called THE LITTLE WAY in imitation of Jesus. While He drew large crowds and did much of His teaching and healing in these venues, He invested more time and energy in smaller groups: His disciples. AND while He had many disciples, He invested more into 12 who became the foundation of the Church and were among the chief missionaries to establish the Kingdom of God. It's also worth noting, that Jesus invested even more into three of the Twelve Apostles. Peter, James and John were the only ones who witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of a little girl from the dead, and the prayers Jesus offered in the Garden of Gethsemane.

While Jesus spoke to the multitudes – THE BIG WAY – He also invested extra time and energy into a small band. Being part of a small group is life-enriching, life-sustaining, and life-changing. A clear example is family life! We grew up with a mom and dad and perhaps a sibling or more. Small groups offer sustainable support – to know and to be known. The Little Way is an essential piece for spreading the Gospel to the entire world. This new method and expression is very ancient, too! The Little Way is a core principal for the way FOCUS lives the New Evangelization. Big events that last an evening or even a series of weekly gatherings? Sure! Little groups that might last a lifetime? Absolutely!

Another point of emphasis for FOCUS is to help each believer to become a missionary just as Jesus turned His student-disciples into missionary-apostles, or, as Pope Francis likes to say, "Missionary Disciples."

Another opportunity has arisen for us. St. Bronislava Parish in Plover (near Stevens Point) is hosting **Divine Renovation**, an organization which helps parish leaders re-imagine parish life that is centered on allowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit to lead us so we are following the Great Commission to "make disciples"...and to help *those* disciples make new disciples, so we are all living an abundant life in Jesus with a desire that everyone receive the same gift... a desire that we all put into action. Every one of us is called to become a missionary disciple.

The New Evangelization has been underway! Our parish vision – **His Life. His Mission. Our Focus.** – echoes the words of St. John Paul II: "I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization and to the mission *ad gentes* (to the nations). No believer in Christ, not institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples" (John Paul II, *Redemptoris missio*, 3 in 1990).

Yours in Christ, Father Konopa

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