December 31, 2023





The Holy Family

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.

THE ROSARY

Prayed before each weekday Mass Tuesday - Friday beginning at 7:05 AM.

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

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

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

Kristin Johnson ext. 4

Director of Family Faith Formation kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org

Samuel Obert ext. 5 Director of Youth Faith Formation sobert@mmoclacrosse.org

Therese van Oss ext. 0 Funeral Coordinator tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org

Andy Foley ext. 9 Buildings and Grounds afoley@mmoclacrosse.org

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Sr. Meg Earsley, FSPA ext. 2 Bookkeeper bookkeeper@mmoclacrosse.org

Steve Young ext. 1 Office Assistant secretary@mmoclacrosse.org

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ted Knutson 784-8585 *President*

782-5998

Tara Key

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.

Special Mass

Mary, Mother of God*

Jan. 1 at 9:00 AM

*Not a holy day of obligation this year, so there will be no 4 PM Vigil Mass on Sunday, Dec. 31.

NEEDED: Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical positions need to be filled for Jan. 1 Mass at 9 AM. Please consider filling in if you are available. Go to the Ministry Scheduler link at www.mmoclacrosse.org.

NEEDED: Ministers of Holy Communion

We welcome new Ministers of Holy Communion. Training will be offered on Saturday, January 13 from 8:30-9:30 AM. Those interested are asked to contact the parish office 788-5483 x1 by noon on Friday, January 12 to share your email and register.



MMOC Eucharistic Adoration

On Jan 11, Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour at 4:45 PM. Come, let us adore, Him!

Parish Social

Join us Thursday, January 4 after the 7:30 AM Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee, conversation and fellowship.

Family Life

Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Shirley White and Joan Ross. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the families and friends who mourn their loss. Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

50th Wedding Anniversaries

Please submit the names of those couples celebrating their 50th Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries in the year 2024, by January 22 to Steve at secretary@mmoclacrosse.org or call 608-788-5483, ext. 1.



Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, January 3 from 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. We will introduce our new monthly topic, The Bible: Our Family's Story. Contact Kristin at kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org or 608-788-5483 Ext. 4.

Youth Faith Formation

We will resume on Wednesday, January 3 with our Christmas Party. If you would like to make a donation of food or drinks for this youth event, please contact Samuel Obert at sobert@mmoclacrosse.org. Lastly, please remember to return all 'Safe Environment' paperwork by January 3.





Finance

End of the Year Donations

Due to IRS requirements, any donations for the 2023 tax year needed to be donated by Dec. 31 or sent through the mail postmarked by **December 31, 2023.** Thank you for your generosity in 2023!

Building Fund Summary

Fowler & Hammer's original bid for doubling the size of the storage shed, extensive concrete work and land-scaping was \$258,489.00. The work was completed at a cost of \$192,508.56, which is \$65,980.44 under the original bid amount.

The balance in the Building Fund is \$527,182.17. Of this amount, \$26,796.00 comes from a single benefactor for the final payment of the mosaic of Mary, Mother of the Church which was recently completed and will be installed in May, 2024.

Thank you for your generosity!

Diocesan Annual Appeal

The target goal for our parish is \$110,420. As of December 22, parish participation is at 26% Please be generous. If you are unable to contribute financially, please return the appeal form to the diocese with \$0 written in the amount pledged line. Thank you.



Social Justice

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Jan. 2

<u>Food & Milk</u> (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Pattie Nimocks, Mary Jothen, Maureen Monk, Virginia Horstman

Intake (6:30 PM - 9 PM): Mary Olson, Sarah Kopski, Terri Pedace, Dave & Nancy Imhoff, Russ O'Neil Morning Volunteers (6 - 8:30 AM Wed.): OPEN, OPEN Free haircuts by Linda Kuehl

--Mary Olson, MMOC Coordinator for The Warming Center, molson@mmoclacrosse.org.

Donate to Help Victims of Violence in the Holy Land

Catholic Relief Services, in conjunction with Caritas partners, are working to meet the desperate humanitarian needs caused by the terrorism and fighting in the Holy Land. How can you help? Scan the QR code to find out.

Mary, Mother of the Church

World Mission Sunday Thank You

"A heart-felt thank you from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission Office to Mary Mother of the Church Parish for your generous response of prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. Your response to Pope Francis' call to have our "Hearts on Fire, feet on the move" gives witness to your commitment to Christ and His teachings. We will forward your financial contribution of \$3,496.04 to our national office. The collected funds will assist in spreading God's message of hope and peace to the poor, those suffering persecution for their faith, and those who are yet to experience the redeeming power of the Gospel. Many thanks for MMOC's generosity to the Missions. God bless you."

PCCW & Men's Club

Christmas Social on Jan. 10 at 6 PM

Join us for an evening of fun! All men and women of the parish are invited to an evening social hosted by the PCCW & the Men's Club in the parish hall. Both groups are always looking for new members. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with current members.

New Year's Resolution

New Year's Resolution: The Bible in a Year

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's "Bible in a Year" podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. This was first offered January 1, 2021, and became America's #1 Religion Podcast. Each 20-25 minute episode includes 2-3 scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and a guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. Unlike any other Bible podcast, this podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Time-line® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word! Bible in a Year is available on your favorite podcast app. It is designed to be started at any point in the year, you don't need to have started on January 1.

New Year's Resolution: The Catechism in a Year

If you ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life, this podcast is for you. Fr. Mike Schmitz and Ascension Press will begin "The Catechism in a Year" on January 1, 2023. With this podcast, Catholics will read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days, understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter, see how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture, absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition, encounter God's plan of sheer goodness, and transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded. Search "Catechism in a Year" at Ascension Press and you'll be guided to your New Year's Resolution.

New Year's Prayer by Vinita Hampton Wright (ignatianspirituality.com)

God of all time.

help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,

help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,

help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. AMEN.

Fucharistic Revival

Two Minutes With Jesus

- 1. At Mass, we want to focus on God. When we go to Mass, we want to think about God. This is our setaside time with Jesus and we are to speak with and listen to Him because the Mass is the official public worship of God by the Church. This is the way that God invites us to worship Him as laid out in the Bible. Jesus wants us to sincerely focus on Him and what is happening at the altar. When we get distracted: don't get upset, but say a little prayer – ever so simple – and turn your thoughts gently and peacefully back to the Mass. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me to stay focused on You and what is happening at Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening). This week, read how we are to give thanks to the Lord in Psalm 95:1-6.
- 2. At Mass, the Scripture Readings prepare us to receive Jesus. There are two major parts to the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Liturgy of the Word, we listen to three Readings and a Psalm from Sacred Scripture (the Bible). These Readings help us recall all that God has done for us: His love and His plan for us. We stand up for the third Reading - the Gospel, the most important Reading - because Matthew, Mark, Luke and John deliver the message that Jesus brings, and include quotations of HIs very own spoken words. After the Gospel, the priest or deacon help us to understand these Readings from the Bible and how to apply the message to our daily life in order to be a more faithful follower of the Lord. Hearing the Words of Scripture and the Homily which follows helps our hearts to re-

ceive Jesus in the Eucharist. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me to come to Mass with an open heart, ready to hear the Readings from Scripture and the Homily in order to know You better. This week, read from the Letter of Paul to Timothy about the importance of God's Word: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, correction and training in righteousness, so that the man (or woman) of God may be fully competent and equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Community Events

"Behold: God is With Us" Young Adult Retreat - Jan. 27

The world needs Jesus. Our souls need Jesus. Out of God's abundant love for us. He became man: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Jesus is the answer to the longings of our heart, and He is our way to eternal life. Knowing He would ascend into heaven, Jesus leaves us Himself- body, blood, soul, and divinity- under the guise of simple bread and simple wine. Why? So that our intimate love and union with Him (flesh to flesh) may continue in this life as we await the perfection of His love and union in the next. "Behold: God is With Us" or "Behold," for short, is an opportunity for you to retreat from the busyness and stresses of this world and find rest and consolation in Jesus and other young adults like you. All 18-35 year olds are welcome to join us for a day of enriching talks, silent prayer/reflection, small group discussion, adoration, confession, and Mass. Most importantly, learn how to remain connected post-retreat to a lively community of young adults striving for Sainthood. This day-long retreat will occur at Blessed Sacrament Parish in La Crosse, WI. Check-ins will begin at 8:30 AM, and the retreat will conclude after the 4:30 PM vigil Mass. An optional after party will take place to follow! Breastfeeding babies are welcome! Lunch will be pro-

ACS Enrollment

the QR code to the right.

Aquinas Catholic schools welcomes you to enroll for the 2024-2025 school year. Aquinas is committed to providing a safe and structured learning environment for its students. There is much to be excited about with the launch of the Viterbo Education Program, new STEM lab, and over fifty extracurricular activities to get involved with. Call (608) 784-0287 to schedule a tour!

vided! All of this and more for the low cost

of \$20. Let us behold the Lord together! Register using your smartphone to scan

Enrollment for Cathedral Elementary School, St. Patrick Elementary School, Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, Aquinas Middle School, and Aquinas High School opens soon as well: January 8 - Current ACS Families, and January 22 - New Families. Contact info@aquinasschools.org with any questions or visit www.aquinascatholicschools.org/enrollment to get started.

Liturgical Roles January 6-7

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM John Klouda, Dave & Nancy Imhoff 8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Mary Lawrence, Gloria Biesen

10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Carol Forer-Choir, Anne Kernan, Lori Hammes

Lector

4:00 PM Mark Outzen, Barbara Stetzer 8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks, Linda Elsen 10:00 AM Matt Binsfeld, Polly Berendes

Server

4:00 PM Sue Ernster, Madison Schlegel 8:00 AM Olivia Taylor, Danice Taylor 10:00 AM Abby & Izzy Schelfhout

Cantor

4:00 PM Nancy Misch 8:00 AM Lisa Conzemius 10:00 AM Sunday Choir

Musician

4:00 PM Jenny Nielsen 8:00 AM Jenny Nielsen 10:00 AM Jenny Nielsen

Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet 8:00 AM Sue Groetsch 10:00 AM Mike Wuensch

Gift Bearer

4:00 PM George & Maggie Bell 8:00 AM Michael & Danice Taylor 10:00 AM Mike & Teri Kendhammer

Greeter

4:00 PM Chris Schlegel, Elie Klar, Arian Arens, OPEN, Steve Schaub, Mark Misch, Mary

Schaub, Phil Watson-Lead

8:00 AM Pat & Donna Burns, Dave Lawrence, Johnathan & Peggy Baumler, Sandy Pitsch, Rosie Pennebecker, Jon Mason-

Leau

10:00 AM Isaac Schelfhout, Elly, Megan, & Anna Binsfeld, Robb Pretasky, Keith Krejchik, OPEN, Lisa Doering-Lead

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Heidi Schlegel, Kevin Moyle8:00 AM Bob & Charlene Jansky10:00 AM Sue Pretasky, Kimberly Krejchik

Hospitality

8:00 AM LuAnn Miller, Fran Ortmeier 10:00 AM Pat & Kathy Houlihan

Live Streamer

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

Song Leader

10:00 AM OPEN



YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST:

Spotlight on MMOC's Stained Glass Windows on the North (right) Side of the Sanctuary.

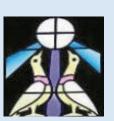
Window 1: Eucharist

A: The pelican was a Christian sign in the first centuries of the church. It symbolizes Christ in the Eucharist who feeds us with the Sacrament of his body and blood. The pelican has a long beak



and a sack where it stores small fish to feed to its young. In the process of feeding, the bird appears to open its own breast with its bill. The reddish tinge of its plumage and the redness of its beak prompted the legend that it drew its own blood to feed its young, as Christ shed his blood for our salvation.

B: Doves looking at the host symbolize the faithful who look to the Eucharist for spiritual food. The three rays of light symbolize the grace that comes from the Holy Trinity to us through the Eucharist. Another possible interpretation of this window is that two doves, regarded in legus' time as a minimal sacrifice look up



Jesus' time as a minimal sacrifice, look up to the greater sacrifice made by Christ himself.

C: The Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God") is a lamb who symbolizes Christ, the Lamb of God. "[John] saw Jesus walking toward him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The banner of Easter victory over sin and death features a red



cross on a white pennant, similar to the St. George's Cross. The blood flowing into the chalice is the precious blood He shed for our salvation.

Liturgical Roles Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Minister of Holy Communion

9:00 AM Nick Berry, Daniel & Kathy Skiles

Lector

9:00 AM Sarah Scarlett, Mary Jo Swartout

Server

9:00 AM Nolan Richards, Jackie Taylor

Cantor

9:00 AM Nancy Misch

Musician

9:00 AM Christopher Carskadon

Sacristan

9:00 AM Daniel & Kathy Skiles

Gift Bearer

9:00 AM Sandy Pitsch, OPEN

Greeter

9:00 AM OPEN, OPEN, Mary Jothen, Jon Mason, Patrick Hogan, Gavin Stratman, Gabriella Strat-

man, Alan Baumler-Lead

Window 2: Eucharist

A: The stag drinks flowing water, recalling Psalm 42: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God."



B: The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, is depicted as pierced by a sword, symbolizing the sacrificial death of Christ. The Lamb of God's blood flows into the chalice, becoming the Precious Blood that we consume at the Holy Eucharist.



C: The loaves and fish remind us of the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish. "After taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to Heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left



over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces." (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:11-17; John 6:1-15) As those 5,000 were hungry, so the people of God still hunger for the spiritual nourishment that is the Holy Eucharist.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 AM † Jerry Roesler

By Gordon Nelson

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

By The Wilhelm Family

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

7:30 AM † Donna Weigel

By Mike Wuensch

Thursday, January 4, 2024

7:30 AM † Joyce DeFlorian

By Bud DeFlorian

2:00 PM Word Service with Communion at

Hillview Healthcare Center

Friday, January 5, 2024

7:30 AM † Michael Pitsch

By Gordon Nelson

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 PM † Ray Stuttgen

By Sue & Mark Halter

Sunday, January 7, 2024

By James Guggenbuehl

10:00 AM Pro Populo





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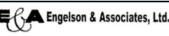


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