# January 28, 2024





# Fourth 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.

#### 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

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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* 

**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, Aguinas Middle School 78

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.

### **Blessing of Candles**

Feb. 2 is known in the United States as Groundhog's Day. This "holiday" might be interesting to many and even celebrated by some, but this date has much greater significance in our liturgical calendar. It's the 40th day after Christmas.

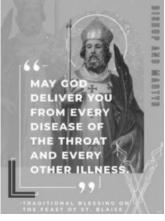
In accord with the Law of Moses, Mary went to the temple in Jerusalem for the purification ceremony and to present baby Jesus to the Lord. Simeon, a devout Jew, was moved by the Holy Spirit to approach the Holy Family. He took Jesus into his arms and thanked God for seeing the "light" of salvation with his own eyes (Luke 2:22-40).

For centuries the Church celebrated this event by blessing and "light"-ing candles. As Dec. 25 became known as Christmas (Christ-Mass), so Feb. 2nd became known as Candlemas (Candle-Mass).

We will have a procession with lighted candles at the 7:30 AM Mass. Anyone who wants a blessed candle is welcome to bring their candle(s) to church and place it on the table in the gathering space before Mass begins.

### **Blessing of Throats**

February 3 is marked as the memorial of St. Blaise, a bishop of Armenia who was martyred around 316 AD when Christianity was still outlawed. When he was arrested, he ministered to fellow prisoners and even healed them. One day a child who was choking on a fish bone was brought to him and he saved him. This famous story led to the blessing of throats on the feast of



St. Blaise. Traditionally, candles from Candlemas Day were used in the blessing of throats. Two candles are crossed in the shape of an X and placed on the shoulders of those to be blessed. The Church still encourages the blessing of throats through the intercession of St. Blaise but asks that candles only be used when blessing people as individuals, not as a congregation. This blessing will be offered for the congregation at the

This blessing will be offered for the congregation at the 4 PM Mass.

# Ash Wednesday Schedule 7:30 AM NO Mass this day

12 Noon Mass (livestreamed) 5:30 PM Mass

### 2024 Mardi Gras

Coulee Region Mardi Gras congratulates the newly crowned Rex and Queen of Mardi Gras 2024, Phil & Shannon Klar of MMOC! Phil and Shannon began their reign at the 2024 Mardi Gras Ball. See the website for more info on all the Mardi Gras fun, including Mass with Rex and Queen XXXII and Mardi Gras supporters at MMOC on Feb. 4 at 10 AM.

All are invited to these events in support of Aquinas Catholic Schools with funds raised going toward class-room needs, tuition assistance, technology, and fine arts programs.

### **National Catholic Schools Week**

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!

Enrollment for Cathedral Elementary School, St. Patrick Elementary School, Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, Aquinas Middle School, and Aquinas High School is open for new families.

Contact <u>info@Aquinasschools.org</u> with any questions or visit www.aquinascatholicschools.org/enrollment.

# **Monthly Parish Social**

Join us Thursday, February 1 after the 7:30 AM Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee, conversation and fellowship.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour — Thursday Feb. 1 at 4:45 PM.



### Silver Circle

B 2. O 63. BINGO!

Yes, come and enjoy your favorite entertainment at the Silver Circle. Pot luck lunch will be served at noon on February 15. If you are in need of a ride, give Sister Kathy a call at 608-788-5483 ext. 7. And she will make it happen. What a way to start Lent!

# World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

This day of prayer will be celebrated in parishes on the weekend of Feb. 3-4. Please pray for all those who have answered the call to consecrated life, aspiring towards joy-filled holiness in the service of the Church and world. Pray also for many more laborers to enter the vineyard so that Jesus Christ may be better known, experienced, and loved.

We take this occasion to thank God for the lives of grace of Sr. Kathy Stuttgen, FSPA and Sr. Meg Earsley, FSPA who serve our parish.

### **Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast**

The Men's Club will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 11 from 8 AM - 12 noon. The breakfast will include



pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit cocktail, juice and coffee. \$5.00 per person; \$4.00 seniors (60+) and kids (6-12); Free for kids 5 and under. Come join us in the Parish Hall for some great food and fellowship!

### Mass Intentions Policy Issues and Corrections

We are sorry to say that we have discovered several issues with our 2024 schedule of Mass Intentions. There are several factors at play in this system that have caused the issues at hand. If your requested Mass intentions are affected you may receive a call or email from Steve in the parish office to discuss ways to remedy the situation. An updated policy will be published in a future bulletin. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

### **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**

Next weekend (Feb 3/4) there will be a special collection to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than 37 million people in the United States live in poverty. CCHD supports those living in poverty by funding programs that empower local communities to address their challenges. It identifies and address-es the unique obstacles people face as they work to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Special envelopes are in your monthly packets and extra envelopes are on the table in the Gathering Space. Please place your envelope in the regular collection basket.

# Family Life

### **Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism**

Congratulations to Shyann Lynn Josephine McDowell who was baptized on January 21. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

# Faith Formation

### In need of Co-Catechist

Our Family Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation program is need of a co-Catechist/helping hands in our second-grade classroom due to one of our Catechists heading south for the winter months. The commitment is three Wednesday evenings a month between 4:45 - 7:00 PM (a meal is served at 5 PM) through the middle of May at Mary, Mother of the Church. Please contact Kristin if interested at 788-5483 x4 or at kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org.

### **Family Faith Formation**

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, January 31 from 5:30—6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. We will introduce a new monthly topic, The Holy Spirit: Power and Strength for Your Family. Families will also receive their next At Home Lesson packets. Contact Kristin with any questions kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org or 608-788-5483 Ext. 4.

### Middle School Lock-In: February 9 - 10

This free overnight event will take place at Mary, Mother of the Church. The youth will arrive before 7 PM on Friday and leave by 9 AM on Saturday. They will participate in various games and activities, hear a few faith-related talks, and have the opportunity to learn about and practice prayer. Yes, they will get some sleep too (hopefully). Boys and girls will sleep in separate locations. The goal for this event is for these 6th-8th graders to walk away with a newfound appreciation for their Catholic faith, deeper relationships with their friends, and many memories of late-night shenanigans that they'll keep for years to come! Please email Samuel Obert (sobert@mmoclacrosse.org) by February 1 if you'd like your middle school son/daughter to participate in this event.

### **Lenten Adult Faith Formation Program**

things during Mass? What is the basis for our prayers, or practices, and our rituals during the Liturgy? You are not alone....so together let's learn about the Mass. YOU are invited to a 5-week Bible Study for everyone called "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" beginning the week of February 18. See below for locations and

Have you ever wondered...why we say and do certain

- Tuesdays: 9:00-10:30 AM St. James the Less (basement)
- Wednesdays: 8:15-9:45 AM MMOC (parish hall)
- Wednesdays: 1:00-2:30 PM Holy Trinity (Leo Hall)
- Thursdays: 9:15-10:45 AM St. Patrick (basement)
- Thursdays: 5:00-6:30 PM St. Patrick (basement)
   Thursdays 6:30-8:00 PM Blessed Sacrament
- Thursdays 6:30-8:00 PM Blessed Sacrament (parish hall)
- Fridays 10:30-12:00 Noon Cathedral (Undercroft)
- OR you can do a Home Study Option

The cost for class materials is \$24.00 which includes a book, workbook, and access to online videos. Register at any participating parish office, online at www.stpatsonalaska.com, or by contacting Amy Capelli at (608)783-0847 or amy\_capelli@charter.net.

# **Finance**

# **Diocesan Annual Appeal**

start times.

The target goal for our parish is \$110,420. As of Jan. 24, we have raised \$104,430 and parish participation is at 30%. Thank you to everyone who has responded.

### **Year End Statements**

Individual 2023 MMOC contribution statements were mailed on Jan. 24 and will hit your mailboxes soon.

# Social Justice

### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Jan. 30

Food & Milk (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Sue Groetsch, Tammy Byington, Linda Schwartz, Kellie Schmitz, and Brenda Wintheiser, Mary Jothen. Kevin & Joy Hennessy (Milk)

Intake (6:30 PM - 9 PM): Mary Olson, Linda Schwartz, Sarah Kopski, Kellie Schmitz, Tammy Byington, Brenda Wintheiser

Free haircuts by Linda Kuehl

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

# **Eucharistic Revival**

### A Minute With Jesus

We Respond with Thanksgiving after Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the words of Jesus repeated by the priest, a miracle happens at every Mass. The substance of the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, even though the bread and wine still look the same. When we receive Jesus, we want to thank Him for this incredible Gift. Then we can speak with Him about anything that is on our heart. We also want to listen to what He might say to us in the quiet of our heart.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, I believe in you. Jesus, I hope in You. Jesus, I want to love You with all my heart. Jesus, I thank You for having come to dwell in me as I receive You in Holy Communion. I welcome You into my heart and I ask you to "crowd out" whatever might be there that is not of You. And I desire to give You full reign as my Lord, my Savior and my King. Thank You for giving Your life for me on the Cross, loving me this much and allowing me to receive You into my heart in this present moment. And now that You are so close to me, please help me love You more and more, and serve You by loving the people around me. Amen. Visit diolc.org/deeper for a downloadable Prayer Card with this prayer.

This week, read Psalm 107:1. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

# Community Events

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

When all the hustle-bustle of the holidays are over, don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree, then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more info, contact Denise and Greg at (563) 920-9419. Upcoming dates: Feb. 16-18 in Marshalltown, April 12-14, 2024, in Epworth, Sept. 27-29 in Dubuque and Nov. 8-10 in Holstein, IA.

### Retrouvaille

Is your marriage in distress? No matter how hopeless it seems forgiveness and trust are hopeless it seems, forgiveness and trust are 🏗 possible. Retrouvaille is a Catholic-based program that helps couples through difficult times in their marriages, some even after separation or divorce. It is not counseling or group therapy. The next program starts on February 16-18, 2024, in the Wausau area. Fully confidential. No couple is turned away for lack of finances. To find out more, scan the QR code, call 1-877-922-4673 or www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

### **Book Signing**

Parishioner Mark (Sue) Halter's brother John has just written a new book called "Driving Dad Home," which tells the story of bringing their father Russell back to La Crosse from Phoenix following Russell's decline into dementia. Sad but heartwarming, with much family history. John will be in La Crosse to sign books on Saturday, February 3, from 10 - 2 PM at Gallery 1802 (1802 State St.)



# Liturgical Roles February 3 –4

# Minister of Holy Communion

Kelly Schmitz, Gary & Linda Heilman 4:00 PM 8:00 AM Deacon Bell, Steve Young, Mary Law-

10:00 AM Deacon Bell, Terri Pedace, Barb Stetzer

### Lector

4:00 PM Jim Klock, Peter Schmitz 8:00 AM Bob Mahr. Linda Elsen

10:00 AM Bill Brendel, Mary Jo Swartout

### Server

4:00 PM Zeke Schramm, Jude Schramm 8:00 AM Kaitlyn McGovern, Henry McGovern 10:00 AM Izzy Schelfhout, Abby Schelfhout

### Cantor

4:00 PM Nancy Misch 8:00 AM Sara Edman 10:00 AM Sunday Choir

#### Musician

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

### Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet

8:00 AM Kerry & Sue Groetsch 10:00 AM Linda Gillette

### Gift Bearer

OPEN, OPEN 4:00 PM

8:00 AM Ken & Michelle Morrison 10:00 AM The McKenna Family

### Greeter

4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN, Kevin Moyle, Phil Watson, Mark Misch, Chris Schlegel, Joe Riemer,

**OPEN-Lead** 

8:00 AM Jonathan & Peggy Baumler, Dave Lawrence, Kerry Groetsch, Karen Perry, Jon Mason, Sandy Pitsch, Allan Baumler-

Lead

10:00 AM Felicity Bell, Lydia Bell, Cullen Sackman, OPEN, OPEN, Kyle White, Cullen Pittman, OPEN, Polly Berendes-Lead

# Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Kellie Schmitz, Sue Olson 8:00 AM Mary Genz, OPEN

10:00 AM Kathy McGettigan, Mary Schaub

# Hospitality

8:00 AM Jeff & Nancy Pederson 10:00 AM Bob & Cindy Klar

#### Live Streamer

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

Song Leader

10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik





### Who is 15-year-old Blessed Carlo Acutis who planned and developed the International "Eucharistic Miracles" Exhibit?

Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager like most of the youth of our day. He was known as a computer whiz, who liked to play soccer, video games, and the saxophone. He enjoyed spending time with his many friends. Carlo was cheerful, outgoing and fun-loving.

What set Carlo apart was that he loved God and made Jesus and Mary the center of his life. Beginning at an early age, he developed a deep devotion to the Eucharist and attended Mass every day, being realistic about the times in which he lived and realizing he needed this grace to overcome temptations, sin and the various struggles of life. He also loved to frequent Eucharistic adoration. Carlo called the Holy Eucharist his "highway to Heaven." This teen believed that if Catholics recognized the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus, their lives would be transformed.

Carlo was committed to teaching the Faith at the parish and serving in soup kitchens. He also went around the city giving money to homeless people. "This was Carlo's secret: He had a constant, intimate friendship with Jesus. He wanted everyone he encountered to have this kind of relationship [with Christ] like he did." (by Carlo's mother)

Carlo became interested and adept at computer programing and video making. With these interests and fascination with the potential for the profound good that social media could bring, he began creating a website of all of the Eucharistic Miracles of the world. Carlo and his family traveled to many of these Eucharistic Miracle sites and photographed them to develop a virtual exhibit that would display these incredible "gifts" from God in order to help strengthen the faith of people.

As a teenager Carlo was diagnosed suddenly with leukemia and died in 2006 at the age of 15. Carlo has already passed two of three required steps for canonization - the path to sainthood: 1) "Venerable" recognizes a person has lived a heroically virtuous life. 2) They are recognized as "Blessed" when a miracle has been attributed to their intercession. 3) "Canonization" requires a second miracle after being declared blessed. The second and third steps each require a miracle through the intercession of this person and are seen as God's confirmation that this person is indeed in Heaven with Him.

Questions for reflection: "The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus." "The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers adoration to the Sacrament of the Eucharist, not only during Mass, but also outside of it,... for the solemn veneration of the faithful..." (Catechism, paragraphs 1391, 1378)

- 1. In what way does the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis inspire you?
- 2. "To always be close to Jesus, that's my lifeplan." (Quote of Blessed Carlo Acutis) What is a phrase that captures your life plan that you might say to yourself often?
- 3. How realistically can you add the practice of Eucharistic Adoration to your life, in a simple way?

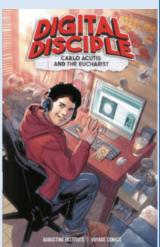
### Ideas:

1. Plan a Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, which presents a selection of the main Miracles of the Eucharist approved by the Catholic Church. The Exhibit was planned and developed by Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Ann Lankford, Director of the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization.

Diocese of La Crosse

Teach your kids more about Carlo's story in this amazing comic book found on Formed.org! Presented by Ascension Press and Voyage Comics.



### **Weekly Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

† Mary Ann Bornheimer 7:30 AM

By Family

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:30 AM

† Steve Pitsch By Jim Finn

Thursday, February 8, 2024

7:30 AM † Barbara Musgjerd

By Mark & Susan Halter

2:00 PM **Word Service with Communion at** 

Hillview Healthcare Center

Friday, February 9, 2024 7:30 AM † Iris Topp

By Dave Schneider

Saturday, February 10, 2024

4:00 PM † Adrian Yeager

By Dennis & Kathy Bissen

Sunday, February 11, 2024

8:00 AM Pro Propulo 10:00 AM † John Ujda

By Mark & Susan Halter





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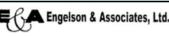


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