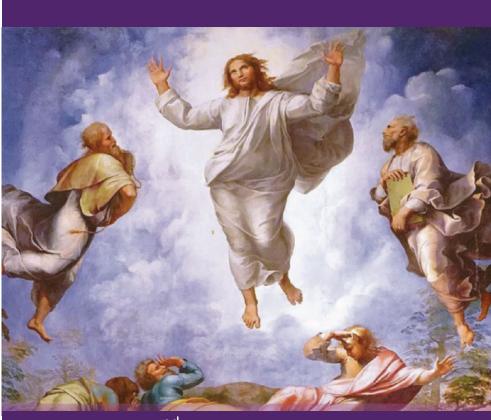
# February 25, 2024





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### **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(a)mmoclacrosse.org

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Mary Jo Lium ext. 8 Sacred Music mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org

Mike Juran ext.2 Finance Assistant finance@mmoclacrosse.org

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 784-0287 Principal, Aquinas High School

## **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.

# **Anointing of the Sick Mass**

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Feb. 27 at the 10:30 AM Mass (NO 7:30 AM Mass).

Those with the following health conditions should consider receiving the sacrament:

- --heart condition
- --serious ailment or disease
- --elderly...notably weakened by age
- --upcoming surgery due to illness/injury
- --emotional affliction

By the grace of this sacrament, God strengthens both body and soul to face the extra anxiety and temptations that come with sickness. Please use the reserved seating in the front pews. If you need a ride, contact Sr. Kathy 608-788-5483 ext. 7.

# **Stations of the Cross**

Devotions will be held at 4:00 PM every Friday during Lent through March 22. Eucharistic Exposition and individual confessions will take place from 3:00 - 3:50 PM prior to Stations of the Cross.

## **Penance Service with Individual Confessions**

Join us at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 13 at MMOC for our Penance Service for individual confessions.

## **Lenten Collection**

Did you know? 1 in 3 people in the Great Rivers Region are considered poor or near poor (COMPASS Report).

The Great Rivers Region includes residents of Buffalo, Houston, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties. These men, women, and children living in poverty are our neighbors, and some may be members of our parish family. These are the very people Jesus refers to in the second of the Great Commandments, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). Feeding the hungry is a response to His call to love.

You may be asking, what income qualifies a household as poor or near poor? The Federal Poverty Level for a household of four is \$26,500/year. The same household of four is considered near poverty if they earn less than \$63,324/year. These households are above the federal poverty level but still struggle to afford necessities such as health care, transportation, and food

The need for food experienced by our neighbors is a daily challenge – sometimes one they face year-round. Therefore, The Hunger Task Force needs year-round donations of time, food, and money. As our chosen charity this Lent, please give generously to The Hunger Task Force.

### **Church Cleaning**

An hour of your time will make our church shine! We are looking for 25 volunteers to clean the church on Saturday, March 9, at 8:00 AM. This is a good way for students to earn service hours! And this is a great way for parish members to work together to help keep our church clean while getting to know one



another! The parish will supply the rags and cleaning solution (an all-natural product). Volunteers are encouraged to bring a 1-gallon bucket. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the church.

## **NEEDED: Parish Office Assistant**

Steve Young has submitted his resignation. He has blessed us with his work ethic and positive attitude to serve. While he will be missed, Steve and his family will remain members of the parish, and he will make himself available to assist with the transition and provide orientation for the new staff member. We wish him God's kindest blessings.

Primary duties of the Parish Office Assistant include:

- Managing the front office
- Creating bulletins
- Handling parish mailings
- Maintaining parish calendars
- Assisting parish staff and organizations
- Overseeing Parish Hall usage
- Maintaining parish databases
- Scheduling Mass intentions & liturgical ministries
- Facilitating sacramental prep programs, including marriage coordination and baptisms
- Maintaining official sacramental records
- Computer/technology troubleshooting skills

The successful candidate will have the ability to operate office equipment; experience with Google and Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and Publisher; ability to learn in-house software ParishSOFT and Ministry Scheduler Pro; clerical skills and experience; and effective interpersonal communication skills, including telephone and social media.

The Office Assistant position is 28 hours per week (Tues.-Fri.; 8 AM-3 PM) and the pay range is \$18-20/hour commensurate with experience. Benefits include paid time off, retirement options, and a 10% tuition discount for Aquinas Catholic Schools if applicable. The position is available immediately. To apply, please send a resume with references from previous employers to Father Konopa at the parish office (2006 Weston Street) or frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org.

## **Girl Scout Cookies**

Satisfy your sweet tooth now or put them in the freezer and save them for later after Lent. Girl Scout Troop 4654 will sell after Mass on March 3-4. They are raising funds to support their Gold Award (Community Service Projects) and future troop travel. Cookies are \$5 per box except Gluten Free are \$6. Cash, Check, and Credit Cards are accepted.

# Family Life

### Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Samantha Ginny Myers who was baptized on Feb. 17. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

# Mary, Mother of the Church

# Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Gerald Kreibich, Marilyn Servais, and Ashli Jambois. 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

### **New Parishioners**

MMOC is delighted to welcome Carol Denison and Jeff Fredrickson to the parish family!

# Faith Formation



The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion was held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman on Sunday, Feb. 18. This rite is an occasion that marks of ADULTS entry into the period of Purification and Enlightenment that coincides with Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity for candidates and

catechumens to see the larger Church, be introduced to their new Cathedral, and receive the grace of the Rite.

Moreover, on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent we will be celebrating the scrutinies at the 10 AM Masses. The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by a prayer of exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above

### **Family Faith Formation**

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, February 28, from 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. We will introduce a new monthly topic: The Church and Our Journey to Heaven. Families will also receive their next At Home Lesson packets. Contact Kristin with questions at kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org or 608-788-5483 Ext. 4.

### Poems for Lent

For each weekend throughout Lent, I'd like to share with you a short poem. These poems have been written by various members of this year's group of 10th grade Confirmation candidates. They were tasked to write using the theme of either "Jesus on the Cross" or "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit". I hope you delight in these and that they will enrich your Lenten season! -Samuel Obert.

> Jesus died to save all Upon the cross on calvary hill so that we may not fall but to have heaven be fill ~ Anonymous

Please pray for the 53 young men and women in our program who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring! Thank you!

# Women's Small Faith-Sharing Group Opportunity

Are you trying to figure out what it means to make Jesus' life and mission your focus or how to build a relationship with Him? Are you asking, "Where do I begin?" As with all great relationships, taking the time to get to know the person is best. The same is true with our relationship with Jesus Christ. One dynamic way to begin this journey is to join a small faith-sharing group. Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) might be the next step on your journey to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ, your Savior.

On Mondays from 6:00 - 7:30 PM, beginning March 4, Tammy Byington will host a group focused solely on the series' first two books. During these 14 weeks, you will explore God's loving plan for your salvation and develop a deeper appreciation of the power of the Holy Spirit. If you want to join her group, please contact her at 608-498-0175 or TammyByBy@gmail.com.

# Men's Club

# **Hoops Mania**

The Men's Club is sponsoring the Hoops Mania March Madness Basketball raffle! Game cards are \$10 each. Funds raised will support the Building Fund, Vision Fund (youth/adult ministry), and Aquinas 7th grade Scholarships. Game cards are on sale until March 19 via several options:

- 1) The Men's Club will be selling game cards after all Masses on the weekends through Sunday 3/17
- 2) Online via the Hoops Mania website: http://www.charitymania.com/give/LE00D
- 3) Contact a Men's Club member for game cards. Thank you and good luck!

# **Eucharistic Revival**

## A Minute With Jesus

Jesus waits for us. After Mass, Holy Communion is reserved in the tabernacle. The red sanctuary candle in the front of the church is constantly burning to remind us that Jesus is present in the tabernacle in the sacred Host. He waits for us to come and spend some time with Him, just as we would spend time with any friend. We can speak with Him about anything, and simply be quiet in order to listen to Him. It is helpful to bring a book to have something to help stay focused when distractions arise. This time with the Lord will help bring solace and peace as worries take on a proper perspective and we will gradually know that when we receive Holy Communion, we are truly receiving Jesus.

- Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me to set aside some time to spend with You in church so that You can strengthen my faith that You are truly present in Holy Communion.
- · This week, read how Jesus asked Peter and the Apostles to spend time with Him in prayer in Matthew 26:40.

# **Finance**

# **Scrip Extra Rebate**

Kwik Trip has a short-term special rebate. Therefore every purchase of Kwik Trip from February 10 through February 25 will receive a 10% rebate instead of 5%!!



# Scrip: Use it or lose it...

While it may take gift cards years to expire, experts say it's still wise to spend them quickly. Some cards such as Kwik Trip, will start accruing inactivity fees if they're not used for a year, which eats away at their value. This may apply to other Scrip cards as well. Please be mindful of when you purchase the card and set a reminder to spend them before the fees eat away their value. If you have further questions contact the Finance Office at 608 -788-5483 ext. 2.

# Social Justice

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, March 5

Food & Milk (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Kathy & Dan Skiles, Paul & Mary Therese Rinzel, Linda Gillette, Linda Schwartz, Sue Pretasky (Milk) Intake (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM): Mary Olson, Sarah Kopski, Matt & Karen Deshler, Russ O'Neil.

Free haircuts by Linda Kuehl

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

# **Community Events**

# Morning of Reflection for Women

All are welcome on Saturday, March 2, the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman hosts its annual Morning of Reflection for Women. This year's theme is "Faith & The Real Presence: Recognizing Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread." This free event starts at 8 AM with Mass. Register by emailing therese351@gmail.com.

# **Weekly Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:30 AM † Paula Heiderscheit

By Family

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

7:30 AM † Bea, Rich, and Bill Gilles

By Gloria Biesen

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Thursday, i editiary 29, 2024

7:30 AM † Duane Forer

By Roger & Carol Forer

2:00 PM Word Service at Hillview Healthcare

Center

Friday, March 1, 2024

By Mark & Sue Halter

Saturday, March 2, 2024

4:00 PM † Larry Weibel

By Family

Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:00 AM † Alan Bennett

By the Wilhelm Family

# Liturgical Roles March 2-3

# **Minister of Holy Communion**

4:00 PM Mark Misch, Kellie Schmitz, Kevin Moyle 8:00 AM Deacon Bell, Lance Miller, Anita Olson

10:00 AM Deacon Bell, Pattie Sherry—Choir, Linda

Schwartz, Rita Sanchez

Lector

4:00 PM Peter Schmitz, Chris Schlegel 8:00 AM Charles Heiderscheit, Bob Mahr 10:00 AM Nancy Steinhoff, Barbara Stetzer

Server

4:00 PM Zeke Schramm, Jude Schramm

8:00 AM OPEN, Nolan Richards

10:00 AM Isabella Neubauer, Adelyn Neubauer

Cantor

4:00 PM Linda Kloet 8:00 AM Sara Edman 10:00 AM Sunday Choir

Musician

4:00 PM Bridget Baumeister 8:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

10:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Gillette

8:00 AM Dan & Kathy Skiles 10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

10:00 AM **Gift Bearer** 

4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN

8:00 AM Lance & Jennifer Miller 10:00 AM Chuck & Jessica Neubauer

Greeter

4:00 PM Linda Gillette, OPEN, Neil Kumm, Arian Arens, Jim Spielbauer, Joan Weissen-

berger, Cullen Pittman, Phil Watson-Lead Donna Burns, OPEN, Mary Lawrence,

8:00 AM Donna Burns, OPEN, Mary Lawrence, Joe Riemer, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, Sue

Groetsch-Lead

10:00 AM Gabriella Stratman, Gavin Stratman, Andrew Schwartz, Mike Wintheiser, Nathan

Wintheiser, OPEN, OPEN, Robb Pre-

tasky-Lead

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Sue Olson, Kevin Moyle 8:00 AM Kerry Groetsch, Mary Genz 10:00 AM Sue Pretasky, OPEN

Hospitality

8:00 AM Bob & Cindy Klar

10:00 AM Trisha Stratman, Mary Schaub

Live Streamer

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

Song Leader

10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik



Mary, Mother of the Church Presents 2024 Spiritual Renewal Days

# in the Love Story of Salvation

# Monday, March 4 GOD'S STORY WITH US:

Understanding the Story of the Bible Presented by Ann Lankford Meet in Parish Hall

# Tuesday, March 5 MY STORY WITH GOD:

Knowing and Telling your Story
Presented by Chris Ruff
Meet in Parish Hall

# Wednesday, March 6 ENCOUNTERING JESUS:

To Be Known, Loved & Cared For Meet in Church



# Join us at 6 pm each evening at MMOC



Christopher Ruff is Director of the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns for the Diocese of La Crosse. He directs the Lay Formation Institute, is assistant director of Deacon Formation, and supports social ministry efforts throughout the

diocese. Chris received his licentiate degree from the Pope John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family. He is the author of the Discipleship Series of small-group resources and has spoken around the country. He and his wife, Clare, have five grown children and four grandchildren.



Ann Lankford is Director of the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization for the Diocese of La Crosse. She assists teachers of the Faith at parishes and schools with ongoing formation and the development of requested resources and provides

evangelization training in the Lay Formation Institute and Diaconate. Ann received her MA in Theology and Christian Ministry with a specialization in Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is a presenter for Franciscan at Home online workshops for the Catechetical Institute, Steubenville, OH.





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