

1 December, 2024



# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**PRAY**  
THAT YOU  
HAVE STRENGTH.  
— LUKE 21:36 —

## First Sunday of Advent

### 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 us 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 Mon-  
day in written format.

### PARISH CONTACTS

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

**Andy Foley** ext. 9  
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### JOURNEY TOGETHER IN CHRIST FAITH FORMATION

**Kristin Johnson** ext. 4  
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[kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Samuel Obert** ext. 5  
Director of Youth Faith Formation  
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### 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*

**Adam Poellinger**  
*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 joy-  
fully 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.

# First Sunday of Advent

## An Evening with St. Nicholas



Join us for an evening with St. Nicholas. This family event will be held on the Feast of St. Nicholas, Friday, December 6, from 6 – 7 PM in the Parish Hall. The event



will include singing, crafts, games and treats along with a visit from St. Nicholas himself! All children ages 3 to 7 are welcome to attend with their families. Older siblings are also welcome! There is no cost to this event but to help us better plan, please let us know how many children are coming by registering using the QR code. Contact Kristin with any questions. (788-5483, ext. 4 or [kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org)).

## MMOC Eucharistic Adoration

On December 5, Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour at 4:45 PM. Come, adore Him!

## Monthly Parish Social

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

**Communion Calls** The following parishioners will receive Communion in their homes this week: Miriam Volten, Gerald Sheehan, Pam Badger, Rosemary Boland, Dick Rady, Don Grohall and Tom Hengstl. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist in their home, call the parish office at 788-5483 ext. 7.

## Retirement Fund for the Religious.

Next week there will be a second collection for help to provide care, medicine and daily needs for over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give generously to the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

## Angel Tree 2024: Last Call!

The tree is up and decorated with angels. As in the past, each angel has a dollar amount attached. You have the opportunity to donate cash or check or purchase scrip of your choice in that amount and place it in the box. All angels and donations need to be turned in by Dec. 3. This project is designed to help Catholic Charities provide for families in need during the Christmas Season. Thank you for always being so generous.



## Children's Christmas Choir

We are asking all children, 5K and older, to join our Sunday Choir in leading the music on Sunday, December 24 for the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass (prelude music starting at 3:30 PM with the Sunday Choir). All music will be done in the choir loft.

The music will be simple Christmas Carols known to the kids. We are asking everyone to be in the choir loft ready to go at 3:40 PM. To make sure we have enough music, please contact Mary Jo Lium if your child(ren) will be singing in the choir this year. Thank you! ([Mjlium@mmoclarcrosse.org](mailto:Mjlium@mmoclarcrosse.org))

## Christmas Flowers

We have begun receiving donations toward the purchase of Christmas flowers and decoration in memory of loved ones or as a gift. You can use the flower enve-

lope in your Nov./Dec. packet or use a blank envelope for your donation marking the name of the person(s) you would like to memorialize. A list of those who are honored and remembered will be published in January.

## MMOC ALPHA series

What is Alpha? Alpha is a free opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha is not so much a course, but an experience. Gathering once a week over an eleven week period, Alpha brings together people from every walk of life.



How does an Alpha session work? We eat together, we listen to a talk and then we gather in small groups for a discussion. During the discussion portion, you can ask any questions you want. The beauty of Alpha is that there are no questions too hostile, silly or simple. Alpha has no prerequisites; we come together with one another as we are, free to be ourselves. Your table host will ensure the discussion ends on time. Do I have to talk and share my thoughts? No, you may remain silent if you wish.

Alpha will take place on Mondays in the Parish Hall beginning January 13 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Dinner is provided so please sign up to ensure we have enough food prepared. We will have a retreat on February 28 - March 1 which is an integral part (and a highlight) of the Alpha experience.

For more information contact Kimberly Krejchik at [alpha@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:alpha@mmoclacrosse.org) or call the parish office at 608-788-5483 ext. 1 to enroll.

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th this year. Bishop Battersby has dispensed the faithful from a day of obligation, however, a Mass is being celebrated at Mary, Mother of the Church at 5:30 PM. Other opportunities in the area are as follows:

- 6:30 AM St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral
- 8:00 AM St. Patrick (Onalaska)
- 8:00 AM St. James the Less
- 8:00 AM Holy Trinity
- 8:00 AM Blessed Sacrament
- 8:30 AM St. Teresa of Kolkata (West Salem)
- 12:10 PM St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral
- 5:10 PM St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral
- 5:15 PM St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Holmen)
- 5:30 PM Mary, Mother of the Church**

*PCCW*

## Advent Luncheon

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting the Ecumenical Advent Luncheon on Saturday December 7 at 10:30 AM. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space. Please join us in fellowship during this wonderful time of preparation for Jesus' birth.

## Cookie Walk

Cookie walk sign-ups for bakers, makers and crafters

continue in the Gathering Space. Please check what areas are needing help. Also, do not forget to pick up the soup/chili recipes if you are one of those makers. Raffle selling continues in two locates. Please visit the Parish Hall to view the aksets or the back of the church for a description of each one. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 12 for \$10. Thank you for your support.

## Faith Formation

### Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday December 4 from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. This week will be starting a new monthly topic. Cross my Heart - The Lord Keeps His Promises.

### Young Adult Retreat January 25, 2025

#### BEHOLD: Prayer of the Saints-

All young adults (18-35) are invited to attend the BEHOLD retreat taking place at Blessed Sacrament Parish on January 25. The event will begin at 9:00 am and conclude around 5:00 PM. Together we will hear inspiring talks, grow in Catholic community through small groups, participate in the life of God in the Sacraments (Mass & Confession), and rest in the presence of God in Eucharistic adoration and other periods of personal prayer. The theme is "Prayer of the Saints". Join us as we explore the rich prayer of holy men and women who have gone before us. Cost is just \$25 and includes a warm meal. To register, simply scan the QR code. Registration closes on January 17.



## Social Justice

### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Dec. 3

Food & Milk: (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Pattie Nimmocks, Kada Dunn, Kaarina Dunn Diane Hoffman, Mary Therese Rinzel (milk)

Intake: (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) OPEN, Karen Deshler, Matt Deshler, Sue Halter, Mary Olson,

Morning Volunteer: (6:00 AM - 8:30 AM Wed.) Brad Sturm, Lynn Sturm

Free haircuts by Dave Imhoff

Helping hands are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mary Olson at 651-301-0989 or Molson@mmoclacrosse.org.

## Scrip

### Additional Scrip Purchasing Options

Are you doing any of your holiday shopping online this year? In addition to Scrip gift cards, you can now also get rebates shopping online. Accessible from RaiseRight's phone app or online, choosing "shop online" currently provides over 500 shopping sites to choose from. If you're looking for ideas this holiday season, online options for purchases include food, toys, books, apparel, technology, travel, home goods, pet and office supplies, event tickets, and more. Some exclusively online sites like Etsy, Wayfair and

Etsy are also participating in the rebate program. To learn more you can visit <https://www.raiseright.com/how-it-works/shop-online>.

### Plan Ahead for the Holidays

As Christmas approaches, please plan ahead for your Scrip purchases for all of your shopping, baking, decorating and gift buying needs. If you intend to purchase large amounts of Scrip please let the finance office know in advance so any shortages can be avoided.

### Red Lobster Scrip

There are still some \$25 Scrip cards for Red Lobster available. These are the perfect solution for that friend or relative who lives in Rochester, MN.

## Around the Diocese

### Healing Service at Sacred Heart in Cashton

There will be a healing service and Mass on Dec 2. Adoration and confession at 4:30 PM, Mass at 5:00 PM, Corporate prayer for healing at 6:00 PM and an individual healing ministry at 7:00 PM. These times are approximate and participants are welcome to come and go as they please.

### Holy Trinity Cookie Walk

Holy Trinity will host their Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be a large assortment of cookies and a basket raffle is being held.

## Formed.org

### Formed.org

Looking for wholesome family viewing for the holidays? Check out Formed.org! Here are two examples for you to consider:

### The True Meaning of Christmas with Dr. Michael Baxter

Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Listen to Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes. There is also an accompanying book. "The True Meaning of Christmas."



### Nicholas: The Boy who Became Santa

Nicholas was still a young child when he discovered a very special secret that changed his life forever. It was the gift of giving, by which he brought happiness to many people. Nevertheless, in sharing this gift, Nicholas had to face many dangers.



Here is the fascinating story of the boy whose love and care for others make him one of the most popular figures of all times. Today, more than sixteen centuries later, the entire world celebrates the kindness and generosity of the man we call Santa Claus. Based on historical facts and traditions, "Nicholas: The Boy who Became Santa" is beautifully animated and definitely worth watching this season.

# Mary, Mother of the Church

## Advent Thoughts

### Be Ready:

The first Sunday of Advent is a time to be alert and watchful, and to prepare for Christ's return. We should be ready to repent of our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

### Be Attentive:

We should be attentive to God's presence in our lives, and not put off what he asks of us.

### Be aware of Injustice:

We should be aware of the injustices in the world, and strive to confront them through love, compassion and forgiveness.

### Be Open to Surprises:

God's grace is often unexpected, and we should be open to the ways he enters our lives.

### Be available to make a difference:

We should try to make a difference in the present moment and invite others to live more fully in Jesus.

## A Minute with Jesus

How do we get to know Jesus better? We get to know Jesus better by being with Him "in person." We do that at Sunday Mass. At the Mass Jesus is present personally and truly in the Holy Eucharist. He meets us there, and He wants to listen to us, as well as speak to us through the Scripture readings and prayers of the Mass. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, give me the desire to read the Bible a few minutes each day.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, December 3, 2024

10:30 AM † Patricia Stilp  
By Family

### Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:30 AM Living and Deceased members of the  
Walkow and O'Leary Families  
By Richard Grosskopf Sr.

### Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:30 AM † Mary Ann Schedivy (Elsen)  
By Tom and Diane Elsen

2:00 PM Word Service at Hillview Healthcare  
Center

### Friday, December 6, 2024

7:30 AM † Andrew Coleman  
By Family

### Saturday, December 7, 2024

4:00 PM † Alan Bennett  
By Elaine and Marlin Buchner

### Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00 AM † Michael Pitsch  
By Don Walsh

10:00 AM Pro Populo

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

## Liturgical Roles December 7-8

### Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM OPEN, Jim Klock, John Klouda, Dawn Kutt, Kevin Moyle, Kellie Schmitz  
8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Janice Berry, Nick Berry, Lance Miller, Anita Olson, Tom Reichebacher, Steve Young  
10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, OPEN (Choir), Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes, Susan Halter, Lori Hammes, Kathy McGettigan, Patti Sherry

### Lector

4:00 PM Mark Outzen, Chris Schlegel  
8:00 AM Charles Heiderscheit, Bob Mahr  
10:00 AM Mary Olson, Barbara Stetzer

### Server

4:00 PM Sue Ernster, OPEN  
8:00 AM Hallie Miller, Isabella Miller  
10:00 AM Ella Krejchik, Abby Schelfhout

### Cantor

4:00 PM Therese van Oss  
8:00 AM Dawn Mazzola  
10:00 AM Sunday Choir

### Musician

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

### Song Leader

10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik

### Sacristan

4:00 PM Mike Wuensch  
8:00 AM Sue Groetsch  
10:00 AM John Conzemius

### Gift Bearer

4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN  
8:00 AM Sandy Pitsch, Danice Taylor  
10:00 AM Jim McGettigan, Kathy McGettigan

### Greeter

4:00 PM OPEN, (lead), Arian Arens, Neil Kumm, Mark Misch, Joe Riemer, Steve Schaub, Peter Schmitz, Phil Watson  
8:00 AM Allan Baumler (lead), OPEN, OPEN, Peggy Baumler, Donna Burns, Pat Burns, Isabel Harden, Karen Perry  
10:00 AM Jon Mason (lead), Keith Krejchik, Charlene Krockner, Robb Pretasky, Gavin Stratman, Gabriella Stratman, Mike Wintheiser, Brenda Wintheiser

### Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Vickie Kloss, Mary Schaub  
8:00 AM Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky  
10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sue Pretasky

### Hospitality

8:00 AM Bob Klar, Cindy Klar  
10:00 AM Johanna Bell, Trisha Stratman

### Live Streamer

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss



## The Advent Wreath

During Advent and Christmas, festively decorated evergreen wreaths hang in windows and on doors everywhere. In many homes and churches, it's also common to see special wreaths lying on tables or ledges, adorned with four candles (usually three purple and one rose). This familiar symbol of the season is the Advent wreath.

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. It is often decorated with berries and pine cones. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath, with no beginning or end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent season, we eagerly anticipate his coming and the promise of eternal life in heaven with him.

### The Four Advent Candles

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

Each of the candles lit before Christmas represent an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.

#### Week One - December 1

Candle Name: The Prophecy Candle

Representing: Hope

Candle Color: Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. It symbolizes penance, preparation and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' com-

ing with hope and anticipation.

#### Week Two - December 8, 2024

Candle Name: The Bethlehem Candle

Representing: Peace and Preparation

Candle Color: Purple. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better versions of ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

#### Week Three - December 15

Candle Name: The Shepherd's Candle

Representing: Joy

Candle Color: Rose

The third candle is rose and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

#### Week Four - December 22

Candle Name: The Angel Candle

Representing: Love

Candle Color: Purple.

During the final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for each of us, which is made apparent in the birth of His Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

## Christmas Mass Times

Now is a good time to mark your calendars and to share with family and friends the Mass times for Christmas.

December 24 at 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM

December 25 at 9:00 AM

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