

December 8, 2024



# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVERY VALLEY  
SHALL BE  
**FILLED.**

LUKE 3:5

## Second 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

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**Rev. Mr. Terry Bell** ext. 6

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### JOURNEY TOGETHER IN CHRIST 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

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Dec. 9**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9 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**

### **Angel Tree 2023**

A huge thank you for all the donations to the Angel Tree this year. Many families will have a brighter Christmas due to your generosity. May your faithful hearts inspire others to know Jesus and His wonderful works. The total amount raised was \$10,275.

### **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

### **Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Penance Service with individual confessions

- MMOC: December 11 at 6 PM
- St. Patrick, Onalaska: December 15 at 7 PM

### **All Day Confessions at the Cathedral**

There will be all day confessions at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman (530 Main Street, La Crosse) on Monday, December 16 from 9 :00 AM - 6:00 PM. There will be four to five priests available to hear confessions at any given time.

### **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 envelope 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.

### **Children's Christmas Choir**

We are asking all children, 5K and older, to join our Sunday Choir in leading the music on Tuesday, 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@mmoclacrosse.org)

### **New Life Choir**

The New Life Choir will sing Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25 at the 9:00AM Mass. We will meet to rehearse on Tuesday, December 17 at 9:00 AM in the music room in the lower level of the Parish Hall. Rehearsal will be about an hour. Please email or call Mary Jo Lium about joining the choir. mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org or 608-788-5483.

### **Retirement Fund for the Religious.**

Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service - praying, teaching, and caring for those in need - usually with little to no pay. Today their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious.

### **MMOC ALPHA - Come and See**

Jesus' first words in his public ministry were "Come and See". We invite you to bring your friends, family, co-workers or anyone else who wants to explore the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

ALPHA is a series of interactive sessions that will take place on Mondays from January 13 - March 24 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dinner is provided each night! There are 11 sessions in the Parish Hall and a weekend away February 28 - March 1.

To sign up please email [alpha@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:alpha@mmoclacrosse.org)

### **MMOC ALPHA - Feed My Sheep**

ALPHA is in need of a special individual willing to serve as the meal coordinator for meals. This person would plan the meals, shop for food, and organize a group of volunteers to cook and serve the meals. An excellent and experienced team of volunteers is already in place and ready and willing to help. Providing a meal for our guests allows them the freedom to attend our program with less stress and provides an opportunity for fellowship and relationship building. Contact Kimberly Krejchik at [alpha@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:alpha@mmoclacrosse.org) if you are feeling called to serve in this vital ministry.

*PCCW*

### **Cookie Walk**

As the Cookie Walk this year is only 10 days from Christmas, to help our own parish families and community families at this time of the year, cookie and candy makers along with pie makers, bread makers, soup and chili makers, Scandinavian bakers and crafts of your own imagination are all needed. This the final weekend for signups. Please check those areas still needing help; cookies and candies are still in need of more families helping. Also, please remember to pick up the instruction sheet on dropping off your goods if you have not already done so.

This is the final weekend also to purchase raffle tickets after Masses. Tickets can still be purchased the day of the Cookie Walk up to the time of the drawing (1PM). Please visit the Parish Hall to view the baskets or the back of church for the descriptive reading of each bas-



ket. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10. Drawings will take place at the Cookie Walk. (You do not need to be present to win). Thank you.

## Faith Formation

### Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does NOT meet this Wednesday, December 11. Families should work on at-home lesson 3-1 Jeremiah the Prophet. We will see you again on December 18.

### 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.



## Diocesan Annual Appeal

Diocesan Appeal results to date:



## Social Justice

### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Dec. 17

Food & Milk: (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Rob and Sue Pretasky, Robin Woodwick, Katie Croteau, Joan Weisenberger, Juli Jansen (milk)

Intake: (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) Mary Olson, Terri Pedace, James Lewis, Sarah Kopski, Larry Wopat, Steve Shaker

Morning Volunteer: (6:00 AM - 8:30 AM Wed.) Neil Kumm, Brad and Lynn Sturm, Rita Sanchez

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

### Advent is a Time of Preparation

Advent began December 1 and means "coming." The four weeks leading up to Christmas are to be different from our ordinary routine. Yet it is not meant to be a time of celebration, as that really begins on Christmas Eve. Advent is to be spent preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and eternal death. This focus of spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation can be difficult to maintain in the hectic hustle and bustle of the materialistic side of this sacred season. An important point for Advent is to keep everything simple by placing a limit on shopping and baking, while setting aside time for quiet prayer and for simply being with family members. Most of us don't need more gifts, but rather more time with each other. It is an opportunity to gather the family and prepare by remembering the darkness that pervaded the time of the people of God as they awaited the birth of the Savior.

## Community Events

### Diaper and Baby Essentials Drive

The Mayo Clinic Health System La Crosse Auxiliary and Aquinas Impact are collecting diapers, clothing and other baby essential items for the Catholic Charities Pregnancy Support Program "Grace Community Bags". They are in need of diapers and clothing size newborn to 18 months, diapers of any size, wipes, bottles and personal hygiene items for moms. You can drop off donations at MoKA, 123 West Ave N, La Crosse, WI. If you have any questions please call 608-392-2711

# Mary, Mother of the Church

## A Minute with Jesus\

Jesus came into the world to save us by reconciling us with God. Through the original sin, Adam and Eve separated themselves from God. They lost the gift of grace – God’s very life within them. They were no longer united with God in a relationship of love. Further, there was nothing Adam and Eve, or you and I, could do to fix the problems instigated by the original sin, above all, our separation from God. The “Good News” is that Jesus came to be among us as our Savior, to reconcile us with God. To accomplish this, Christ established one Church and instituted seven sacraments. Still today the sacraments are the means through which we receive God’s gift of grace, His divine life within us. This shows how much God loves us: He wants to be so close that He wants to dwell within us! The Holy Eucharist is the greatest of the sacraments by bringing us into the closest union with Jesus on earth. Let us prepare our hearts before Mass every Sunday for so great a Gift! Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for coming for us on the first Christmas, as well as Your coming to us most especially in the Holy Eucharist on Christmas.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**10:30 AM † Mary Clements**

**By Duwayne and Sue Nederloe**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

**7:30 AM † Christopher and Frances Marx**

**Anita Olson and Family**

**Thursday, December 12, 2024**

**7:30 AM † Don Wavra**

**By Dean and Lori Hammes**

**2:00 PM Word Service at Hillview Healthcare Center**

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**7:30 AM † Jerry Biesen**

**By Gloria Biesen**

**Saturday, December 14, 2024**

**4:00 PM † Carol Schams**

**By Family**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**8:00 AM Pro Populo**

**10:00 AM † Russ and Lois Halter**

**By Mark and Sue Halter**



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

## Liturgical Roles December 14-15

### Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Sue Ernster, Steve Lefever, Kevin Moyle, Mark Outzen, Chris Schlegel, Kellie Schmitz, Therese van Oss

8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Pat Burns, Donna Burns, Mary Lawrence, Lance Miller, Francesca Ortmeier, Tom Reichenbacher

10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Anne Kernan, Kathy McGettigan, Christine J. Nelson, Mary Olson, John and Terri Pedace, Rita Sanchez

### Lector

4:00 PM Jerome Iverson, OPEN

8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks, Linda Elsen

10:00 AM Fred Berneking, Mary Jo Swartout

### Server

4:00 PM Izzy Schelfhout, Tenley Solverson

8:00 AM Isabella Miller, Kaitlin Ortmeier

10:00 AM Isabella Neubauer, Adelyn Neubauer

### Cantor

4:00 PM Peter Schmitz

8:00 AM Nancy Misch

10:00 AM Kristine Gasch

### Musician

4:00 PM Natalie Solverson

8:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

10:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

### Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet

8:00 AM Jane Vogel

10:00 AM Linda Gillette

### Gift Bearer

4:00 PM Steve Klar, Erin Klar

8:00 AM Jennifer Miller, Lance Miller

10:00 AM Jessica Neubauer, Chuck Neubauer

### Greeter

4:00 PM Phil Watson (Lead), Arian Arens, Neil Kumm, Patrick Hogan, Joe Riemer, Olivia Rudie, Chris Schlegel, Harper Solverson

8:00 AM OPEN (Lead), Allan Baumler, Donna Burns, Pat Burns, Isabel Harden, Dave Lawrence, Kylie Ortmeier, Rosie Pennebecker

10:00 AM Lisa Doering (Lead) Lydia Bell, Felicity Bell, Andrew Egan, Carol Forer, Sam Horman, Casey Horman, Jerry Kernan

### Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Vickie Kloss, Dee Sauer

8:00 AM Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky

10:00 AM Jim Wagner, Julie Wagner

### Hospitality

8:00 AM Dave Ortmeier, Francesca Ortmeier

10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sheri Skelton

### Live Streamer

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss



## Pope Francis' Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother,  
on your feast day I come to you,  
and I come not alone:  
I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted  
to me,  
in this city of Rome and in the entire world,  
that you may bless them and preserve them from harm.

I bring to you, Mother, children,  
especially those who are alone, abandoned,  
and for this reason are tricked and exploited.  
I bring to you, Mother, families,  
who carry forward life and society  
with their daily and hidden efforts;  
in a special way the families who struggle the most  
for their many internal and external problems.  
I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and wom-  
en,  
and I entrust to you especially those who, out of need,  
are forced to work in an unworthy profession  
and those who have lost work or are unable to find it.

We are in need of your immaculate gaze,  
to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and  
things  
with respect and awareness,  
without egotistical or hypocritical interests.  
we are in need of your immaculate heart,  
to love freely,  
without secondary aims but seeking the good of the  
other,  
with simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and  
tricks.

We are in need of your immaculate hands,  
to caress with tenderness,  
to touch the flesh of Jesus  
in our poor, sick, or despised brethren,  
to raise up those who have fallen and support those  
who waver.

We are in need of your immaculate feet,  
to go toward those who know not how to make the first  
step,  
to walk on the paths of those who are lost,  
to find those who feel alone.

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself  
to us  
you free us of all stain of sin;  
you remind us that what comes first is the grace of  
God,  
the love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,  
the strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.  
Let us not give in to discouragement,  
but, trusting in your constant help,  
bet us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,  
of this city and of the entire world.  
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!



On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, has been the patroness of the United States since the mid-19th century. But her protection of the nation dates back to its earliest history.

The largest Marian shrine in the United States is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception - the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.



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