December 15, 2024





Third 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 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 CONTACTS

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

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

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

Tammy Zoroufy ext.2 Finance Assistant *finance@mmoclacrosse.org*

Sr. Meg Earsley, FSPA ext. 2 Evangelizing Mission mearsley@mmoclacrosse.org

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

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

Jennifer-Marie Burchell ext. 1 Office Assistant secretary@mmoclacrosse.org

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN CHRIST FAITH FORMATION

Kristin Johnson ext. 4 Director of Family Faith Formation *kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org*

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

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 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas Mass Times

December 24 at 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM December 25 at 9:00 AM

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Patrick, Onalaska: Dec 15 at 7:00 PM (approx. 7 priests)

St. Joseph the Workman: Dec. 16 at 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM (4-5 priests each hour.)

Bulletin Deadlines

Our publisher has adjusted some print deadlines for the upcoming weeks. Bulletin deadlines are as follows: For December 29 - Please submit by December 21 For January 5 - Please submit by December 27

Christmas Flowers

We are 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.

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.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you to all you generously donated to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

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@mmoclarcrosse.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 contact Mary Jo Lium at mjlium@mmoclacrosse,org or 608-788-5483.

NEEDED: Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical positions need to be filled for Christmas Masses, Dec. 31 at 4 PM, and Jan. 1 Mass at 9 AM. This includes Sacristans, Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters, Gift Bearers, and Servers. Please consider filling in if you are available. Go to www.mmoclacrosse.org and click on the Ministry

Scheduler link at the top of the page, or call Jennifer at 608-788-5483, ext. 1.

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 if you are feeling called to serve in this vital ministry.

Oremus

Do you find yourself wrestling with the desire to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, but there are obstacles in the way? The lack of time, feeling like you don't have the skills or knowledge to begin, fear, and no one to keep you accountable may be holding you back. My



dear friend, you are not alone. Many of us desire to hear the voice of God in our everyday lives but struggle to hear Him or are uncertain how to respond. It is almost impossible to build a relationship with anyone, much less God, if we don't have a way to communicate with them. Good news! We have a way to help you overcome those obstacles and begin to grow your relationship with the Lord.

In January, we will host Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer. This program features Fr. Mark Toups, who will guide you through easy-to-understand teachings on prayer. After each presentation, you will engage in a small-group discussion to share your prayer experiences and the basics of the lesson. In between sessions, you will pray with specific Scripture passages from your Bible and then record your thoughts and experiences in your workbook. These weeks will guide you step-by-step as you draw close to God and listen for his voice speaking to you.

Oremus will meet on Tuesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (starting January 7) or Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (starting January 9). The location will be determined based on attendance. Please contact Sr. Meg at <a href="mailto:measure-me

Italy Pilgrimage

2025 is a Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope – and we will head to Italy! We will tour many holy sites and historic locations while visiting Rome, Assisi, and other cities. In addition to our pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy, pilgrims should consider signing up for the pre-trip to Florence and Venice. Those attending the pre-trip will travel to Venice on September 25. Those partaking in the main portion of the trip will depart for Rome on September 30 and then travel by bus to Assisi, where they will meet up with the pre-trip travelers. On October 8, after an early breakfast, we will depart for the airport and return home.

The pilgrimage costs \$5194/person, and the pre-trip costs \$1978/person. These costs include round trip airfare from La Crosse, 8 nights of hotel accommodations (+4 nights of accommodations for the pre-trip), breakfast and dinner daily, wine and mineral water with dinners, motor coach transportation while on pilgrimage, luggage handling, tips for hotel and restaurant staff, sightseeing and admission fees for all sights on the itinerary, and professional, local Catholic guides. Costs not included are lunches and beverages not mentioned, as well as tips for the guide and bus driver. To register for the pilgrimage and pay your deposit of \$500, visit www.206tours.com/frkonopa. The trip balance is due 90 days before departure: July 1, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Schwartz at lschwartz@mmoclacrosse.org.

Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, December 18 from 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. We will take time to prepare for the Christmas season!

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

<u>Food & Milk:</u> (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM): Patti Nimocks, Joan Buckley, Kellie Schmitz, Joan Weisenberger, Sue Halter (milk)

<u>Intake:</u> (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) Mary Olson, Fr. Konopa, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, Sarah Kopski,

Morning Volunteer: (6:00 AM - 8:30 AM Wed.) Neil Kumm, Carol Berra

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 purchases large amounts of Scrip please let the finance office know in advance so any shortages can be avoided.

Community Events

Silent Night Advent Singing Bowls Experience

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting. It is a season to anticipate the promise of the Holy One coming to dwell with us. On Saturday, December 21 from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM please join the Franciscan Spirituality Center, English Lutheran Church, Joan Filla and Sr. Malinda Gerke for an evening of Taize style prayer paired with the beautiful sounds of Tibetan singing bowls and harp music. This is a unique opportunity to reflect on your spiritual journey. This even takes place at English Lutheran Church, 1509 King Street, La Crosse.

Aquinas Schools

Coaches Needed

Coaches are needed for the High School Varsity Boys Tennis team and the Middle School Softball 7th and Head 8th Grade teams.

After-Care Workers Needed

Blessed Sacrament Elementary School is looking for Aftercare Workers, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM (hours are flexible). Contact Kate Moll - katemoll@aquinasschools.org or at 608-782 -5564.

The Pope's Prayer intention for December

For Pilgrims of Hope. We pray that this Jubilee year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian Hope.

Pilgrims of Hope

Every 25 years, the Catholic Church has a Holy Year of Jubilee, 2025's theme is Pilgrims of Hope. The Jubilee is an event of great spiritual, ecclesia and social significance in the life of the church. It's characterized by forgiveness of sins and indulgences, which is a full express of the mercy of God.

The Jubilee logo depicts four figures representing humanity from the four corners of earth. They are embracing in solidarity and fraternity and clinging to the cross, our symbol of faith and hope. The cross is shaped like a sail and anchor, symbolizing Christian hope and victory over evil. The rough waves under the figures represent the fact that life's pilgrimage is not always smooth.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:30 AM † Leo and Nora Sammons

By Gloria Biesen

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:30 AM + Marie Yost

Tom and Becky Juen

Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:30 AM † Paula Heiderscheit

By Family

2:00 PM Word Service at Hillview Healthcare

Center

Friday, December 20, 2024

7:30 AM † Edna Schumacher

By Family

Saturday, December 21, 2024

4:00 PM † Jim Schumacher

By Linda Werner

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:00 AM Living and deceased members of the Pe-

ter and Anna Spaeth Families

By Wilma Spaeth

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

Liturgical Roles December 21-22

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Sue Ernster, Nancy Imhoff, Dave Imhoff, Kelly Jakes, Dawn Kutt, Steve Lefever, Mark Outzen

8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Gloria Biesen, Mike Keogh, Sue Moyle, Anita Olson, Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles

10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, John Conzemius, Lisa Doering, Carol Forer, Lindsey Hammes, Terri Pedace, Shannon Klar

Lector

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss, Therese van Oss

8:00 AM Bob Mahr, Fred Berneking

10:00 AM Barbara Stetzer, Fred Berneking

Server

4:00 PM Keegan Gerling, Aubrey Jakes

8:00 AM Perrin Richards, Nolan Richards

10:00 AM Adelyn Neubauer, Olivia Neubauer

Cantor

4:00 PM Christine J. Nelson

8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks

10:00 AM Mary Kulas

Musician

4:00 PM Christopher Carskadon

8:00 AM Haylee Pagenkopf

10:00 AM Haylee Pagenkopf

Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet

8:00 AM Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles

10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

Gift Bear-

er

4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN

8:00 AM Francesca Ortmeier, Stephanie Schmitt

10:00 AM Jessica Neubauer, Chuck Neubauer

Greeter

4:00 PM Phil Watson (Lead), Patrick Hogan, Kevin Moyle, Chris Schlegel, Harper Solverson, Jim Spielbauer, Mike Weissenberger, Joan Weissenberger,

8:00 AM Allan Baumler (Lead), OPEN, Peggy Baumler, Donna Burns, Pat Burns Isabel Harden, Cindy Klar, Bob Klar

10:00 AM Robb Pretasky (Lead), Charlotte Berendes, Chuck Berendes, Matt Binsfeld, Elly Binsfeld, Anna Binsfeld, Megan Binsfeld, Andrew Schwartz

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Sue Olson, Dee Sauer

8:00 AM Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky

10:00 AM Sue Pretasky, Sheri Skelton

Hospitali-

ty

8:00 AM Francesca Ortmeier, Dave Ortmeier 10:00 AM David Zoroufy, Tammy Zoroufy

Live

"IS THIS LIFE?" "IS THERE MORE TO "IS THERE THAN THIS?" "WHAT AM ITHERE THAN THIS?"

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

Testimony from an Alpha Participant

"Alpha has reminded me of the importance, value, and beauty of having a relationship/friendship with Jesus. In our group, we have witnessed one another grow in faith and we have become friends.



"There have been many examples of how we have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Alpha is for everyone, no matter where you are in your faith journey! There is no need to fear; there is no judging, no preaching, (and no homework!) rather friendship, understanding, compassion, and love. You are invited!"

The Celebration of St. Nicholas on December 6. Thank you to all of the people that volunteered their time, talent and treasure for making this evening an event to remember. A wonderful time was had by all!











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