

December 22, 2024



# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



## Fourth 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 Monday 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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### JOURNEY TOGETHER IN CHRIST FAITH FORMATION

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**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 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.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### From the Pastor and Parish Staff

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and Merry Christmas!

May Christ's peace reign in your hearts and in your homes!

Serving you in the name of Christ is an honor and a privilege. May 2025 be a special year of grace for all of us.



### Special Mass Schedule

#### Christmas:

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

#### Mary, Mother of God:

- December 31 at 4:00 PM
- January 1 at 9:00 AM

### Bulletin Deadlines

Our publisher has adjusted print deadlines for the upcoming weeks. For the January 5 bulletin, please submit by December 27.

### Parish Office Hours

The office will be closed during the Christmas Season on December 23-26 and December 30 - January 1. The office will be open on December 27 and January 2-3.

### 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.

### Cookie Walk Thank You

The Cookie Walk wants to extend a very deep appreciation to the parishioners of Mary, Mother of the Church for what you gave towards the 2024 Cookie Walk. You gave it your love, from signing up to make something to stepping in and doing something for the first time, and everything in between. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. The total amount brought in from the Cookie Walk will be shared at a later date.

### 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 who generously donated to the Retirement Fund for Religious. The total raised was \$2,365.

### 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)

### NEEDED: Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical positions need to be filled for Christmas Masses, as well as 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](http://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 - 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.

### Oremus

Last week's bulletin introduced an upcoming opportunity at Mary, Mother of the Church, *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer*. Potential obstacles to encountering the Lord in daily prayer, such as a lack of time, skill, knowledge, companionship, and fear, were also identified. This week, we will address these possible obstacles.



The first couple of sessions of Oremus help define prayer and the steps before praying. These lessons provide suggestions to help you make time for prayer alongside a group of fellow Christians to help you keep your commitment to daily prayer. Each participant is encouraged to commit 20-25 minutes to daily prayer.

The next several sessions focus on various forms of prayer – giving you the knowledge and skill to break open Scripture and learn to listen to God in your daily life. The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of prayer, which is rooted in lectio divina – "divine reading." Oremus will teach us how to pray using lectio divina. The

wonderful news is that if you want to start a daily prayer life, are just beginning to pray each day, or are looking to go deeper in your prayer, Oremus can be that guide to help you on the journey.

The fear of the unknown is quite real, but the Lord calls us to be brave and step out in a spirit of trust and confidence. As the new year approaches, has the thought of developing or deepening your prayer life stirred up some interest and excitement in you? Do you sense joy rising in your heart? That may be the Lord asking you to join Oremus. This week, let the idea expand in your heart. Ask the Lord where He is asking you to take a step in trust.

Oremus will meet on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (starting January 7) or Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (starting January 9). The location will be determined based on attendance. To sign up for **one** of these sessions, please contact Sr. Meg at [bookkeeper@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mmoclacrosse.org) or 608.788.5483 x3. All Oremus materials will be provided free of charge. Please bring your own Catholic Bible.

### Family Life

#### Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jack Fritsch and Mike Taylor. 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 them.*

### PCCW and Men's Club

#### Christmas Social

Members of the PCCW and the Men's Club will gather together for a social on Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to come for fellowship and create new friendships!

### Faith Formation

#### Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does NOT meet for the next two weeks, December 25 or January 1. Finish up any At Home Lessons that need to be completed and enjoy the Christmas season! We will see you again on January 8.

#### 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.

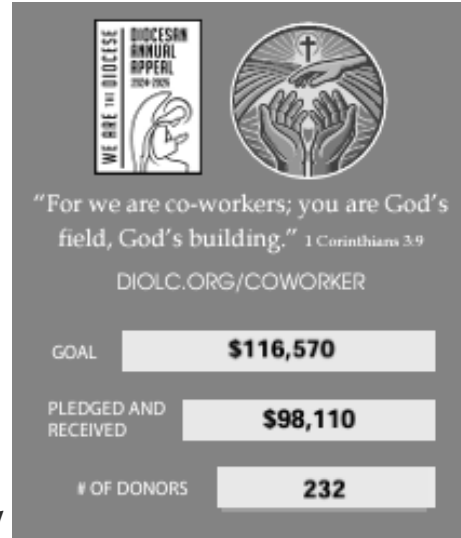


## Finance

### End of the Year Donations

Please have any donations you wish to be included for the 2024 tax year, personally delivered to the parish office on **Friday, December 27** or postmarked by **December 31, 2024**. Due to IRS requirements, anything sent through the mail postmarked after **December 31, 2022** cannot be posted to your 2024 contributions.

## Diocesan Annual Appeal



### Social

#### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Dec. 31

Food & Milk: Pattie Nimocks, Joan Weissenberger, Kellie Schmitz, Joan Buckley, Sue Halter (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

Intake: (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) Mary Olson, Sarah Kopski, Jennifer Burchell, Molly Sanford, Fr. Konopa, OPEN

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](mailto:Molson@mmoclacrosse.org).

### Justice

## Around the Diocese

### The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer

On January 1st, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames is launching *The Rosary in a Year* podcast! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, explain the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at [AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear](http://AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear)

# Mary, Mother of the Church

## Advent Sets the Stage for Christmas Joy

Even if you are too busy or exhausted from all that you desire to accomplish during Advent, you can ask the Holy Spirit to give you a hunger for Christ's presence. He will answer that prayer. Planning the specified time for prayer each day is important; otherwise, it can so easily fall by the wayside. You can also fast from TV programs or desserts or other things that you like a little too much, which in the end, really don't satisfy your heart. Fasting helps will increase your hunger for Christ.

## A Minute with Jesus

Jesus came into the world to be our model of holiness. Jesus, God of the universe, the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, humbled Himself and took on human flesh, being born as a tiny infant in Bethlehem. The New Testament highlights the fact that Jesus' entire earthly life was dedicated to loving and serving each person He met. Today, Jesus is our model of unconditional love in giving Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. Through receiving Him in Holy Communion, we are strengthened to follow Jesus' example of giving ourselves in love and service to others.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus. Help us to read the Bible so that we can learn to follow your example of self-giving love in all circumstances.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**4:00 PM** † Wisler, Wolf, Long & Pahs Families  
By Tom Pahs

**6:30 PM** Pro Populo

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024**

**9:00 AM** † Edna Spohn  
By Family

**Thursday, December 26, 2024**

**No Mass**

**Friday, December 27, 2024**

**7:30 AM** † Pat Tanner  
By Family

**Saturday, December 28, 2024**

**4:00 PM** † Sr. LaVerne Ramaeker  
By Kay Shriver & Family

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**8:00 AM** † Larry Springer  
By Family

**10:00 AM** Pro Populo



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

## Liturgical Roles December 28-29

### Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 PM Kevin Moyle, Dawn Kutt, Mary Schaub, John Klouda, Therese van Oss, Linda Gillette, Kelly Jakes
- 8:00 AM Tom Reichenbacher, Steve Young, Janice Berry, Nick Berry, Erin Klar, Steve Klar, OPEN
- 10:00 AM Linda Schwartz, Rita Sanchez, Sue Halter, Kimberly Krejchik, Lori Hammes, Patti Sherry, OPEN

### Lector

- 4:00 PM Mark Outzen, Jim Klock
- 8:00 AM Linda Elsen, Charles Heiderscheid
- 10:00 AM Mary Jo Swartout, Mary Olson

### Server

- 4:00 PM Madison Schlegel, Sr. Sue Ernster
- 8:00 AM Olivia Taylor, Matthew Klar
- 10:00 AM Tenley Solverson, Christopher Hughey

### Cantor

- 4:00 PM Mary Kulas
- 8:00 AM Natalie Solverson
- 10:00 AM Natalie Solverson

### Musician

- 4:00 PM Christopher Carskadon
- 8:00 AM Christopher Carskadon
- 10:00 AM Christopher Carskadon

### Sacristan

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

### Gift Bearer

- 4:00 PM Ben Gerling, OPEN
- 8:00 AM Sandy Pitsch, OPEN
- 10:00 AM Manu & David Parker

### Greeter

- 4:00 PM Chris Schlegel (LEAD), Mary Schaub, Jim Spielbauer, Patrick Hogan, Arian Arens, Joe Riemer, Steve Schaub
- 8:00 AM Allan Baumler (LEAD), Cindy Klar, Bob Klar, Rosie Pennebecker, Isabel Harden, Peggy Baumler, Pat Burns, Donna Burns
- 10:00 AM OPEN (LEAD), Harper Solverson, Lydia Bell, Felicity Bell, Andrew Schwartz, Jackson Massa, Keith Krejchik, OPEN

### Scrip Seller

- 4:00 PM Heidi Schlegel, Vickie Kloss
- 8:00 AM Karen Perry, Mary Genz
- 10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik, Tammy Byington

### Hospitality

- 8:00 AM OPEN, OPEN
- 10:00 AM Mary Snider, OPEN

### Live Streamer

- 4:00 PM Joseph van Oss



### Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee year of 2025. It is a momentous occasion, a year marked out for forgiveness and renewal. There have been Holy Years since 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII called the first, but they ultimately derive from the Jubilees of the Old Testament when the fruits of the earth were given to all: "The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food" (Lev 25:6-7).

Over time, the intervals between Holy Years have shortened, from 100 years to the biblical 50 years to 25 years at present. This Jubilee marks the first 25 years of this millennium since Pope St. John Paul II inaugurated the Jubilee in 2000. It is an opportunity to review those 25 years and to make all things new again. His Holiness has called it a "Year of Evangelization" with the motto: "Pilgrims of Hope".

The Church, with the world, has undergone many vicissitudes in the last quarter-century. It has lost members in Europe and in Anglophone countries and gained others in Africa and Asia. The old scandals of sexual abuse have not been resolved, being ultimately based on the problem of how sinful humans exercise power and how institutions protect themselves. There have been new challenges, too – notably the Covid pandemic, which was arguably mishandled in many countries by the harmful

decision to shut churches rather than open them responsibly. Respect for human dignity has diminished with the increasing acceptance of assisted suicide as a means of dealing with the problems of pain and loneliness, and the migrant crises have brought fresh tensions in many parts. Meanwhile, the challenge of caring for this earth, our common home, is still urgent, and the Pope has asked that young people should make this a priority for the Jubilee.

The Year of Jubilee offers the chance of a new beginning. The faithful who go to pray in the Jubilee churches in Rome will have the valuable benefit of a plenary indulgence. The gathering of so many people in the city of Sts. Peter and Paul can only bring blessings on them and their communities. Even if we cannot journey to Rome, we can bring the Jubilee to our own places through prayer and pilgrimage. Jaded as we are, there will be a real sense of expectation when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door – and in opening it, he invites us all to step inside. - **This article appeared in the December 2024 edition of the *Catholic Herald*.**

Join Fr. Konopa and Deacon Terry Bell on a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy Sept. 29-Oct. 8, 2025. The pilgrimage cost is \$5194, with an optional add-on to Florence and Venice Sept. 25-30 for \$1978. To register for the pilgrimage and pay your deposit of \$500, visit [www.206tours.com/frkonopa](http://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](mailto:lschwartz@mmoclacrosse.org).

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