January 5, 2025





The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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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.

Christmas Thank you

Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Masses so beautiful: liturgical ministers, musicians, greeters, sacristans and everyone who helped decorate the church. (See picture of decorators.) Everything is greatly appreciated.

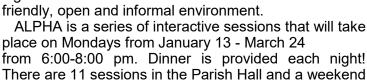


Celebrant next weekend (Jan 12-13)

Monsignor Kunz, senior priest, interim Vicar for Clergy, and former pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church (2002 - 2008) will be our celebrant next weekend while Father Konopa is on retreat. Please offer him a warm welcome.

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



To sign up please email alpha@mmoclacrosse.org

MMOC ALPHA Testimonial

away February 28 - March 1.

"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!"

Oremus

Over the last few weeks, the bulletin has highlighted the opportunity to participate in **Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer**. The articles have addressed the obstacles to building a relationship with the Lord, how Oremus can provide solutions to



those barriers, and the gift of Christian friendship with others in our parish family. The greatest gift of Oremus is a deepening of our relationship with God. This relationship is Divine Intimacy.

Divine Intimacy is the gift of being known, loved, and cared for by God AND of us knowing and loving God. It is a holy exchange of who we are with God and His sharing of who He is. God draws close to us at every time and every place. God shares His life with us (CCC 1) and He calls us to seek Him, know Him, and love Him with all our strength. Do you sense this longing in your heart? Do you desire to share your life with God and participate in His blessed life? There is still time to join Oremus' upcoming sessions. Ask the Lord if Oremus is how He wants to satisfy your longing and desires for Him.

Oremus will meet on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM (starting January 7) or Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM (starting January 9). The location will be determined based on attendance. To sign up for one of these sessions, please contact Sr. Meg at ley@mmoclacrosse.org or 608.788.5483 x 2. Additionally, you can sign up after Mass, when someone will be available to answer your questions. All Oremus materials will be provided free of charge. Please bring your own Catholic Bible. If you need a bible, please let us know.

Communion Calls

The following parishioners will receive Communion in their homes this week: Miriam Volten, 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.

Family Life

Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerald M. "Jerry" Sheehan. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the family and friends who mourn his loss. Eternal rest grant onto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Rosalynn Kathleen Servais who was baptized on December 29, 2024. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

PCCW and Men's Club

Christmas Social

You are invited to join the PCCW and the Men's Club as they host a social on Wednesday, January 15th at 6pm in the parish hall. Light dinner and beverages will be served. No meeting will be held. New members are always welcome! Come and check it out!!!

Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, January 8th, from 5:30pm to 6:45pm at Mary Mother of the Church. We will start our next monthly topic, "A Match Made in Heaven: The Sacrament of Matrimony"

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

2024 Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report has been mailed to all households. If you have not received your report please contact the office at 608-788-5483, ext. 1.

Diocesan Annual Appeal



Social Justice

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Jan. 7

<u>Food & Milk:</u> OPEN, Robin Woodwick, Trisha Stratman, Paul Rinzel, Linda Gillette (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

Intake: (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) OPEN, OPEN, Jennifer Burchell, Mary Olson, Sue Kratt, Bill Kratt

Morning Volunteer: OPEN, OPEN, (6:00 AM - 8:30 AM Wed.)

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

Around the Diocese

Join The March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Sign up for the Pilgrimage for Life, Jan. 22-26, our diocesan participation in the national March for Life in our nation's Capital. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults, families, and young people to bear witness to the sanctity of human life. To learn more, visit diolc.org/pilgrimageforlife.

Making Saints Campus Ministry Fundraiser Dinner Registration Open Now! The Lord is doing big things in the lives of our La Crosse college students and we want to share our good news with you. You're invited to join us Saturday, February 1st at Blessed Sacrament Parish



Hall for a night including dinner, student testimonies, a silent and dessert auction, and swing dance! Registration details can be found by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions or are interested in donating an item to our silent auction, please contact Adele at media@newmanlc.org.

Well-Read Mom Book Club

Would you like to dedicate more time to reading in 2025? Come join our Well-Read Mom book club! The mission of Well-Read Mom is to accompany women in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations in order to explore the human condition and reorient ourselves to what is good, beautiful, and true. Each month we read a piece of classic literature, then meet with other Catholic women to dive into the various themes presented in the book and discuss how they apply to our lives. All women are invited to join in, whether you are a mother or not. Our group has women from all ages and stages of life.

Office for Vocations

There are few things in life that are more uplifting than being able to help someone or be there for someone in need. When we can use our gifts and talents to make someone else's life better, it can bring joy to not just our lives, but to those we can serve as well. Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend. As friends of Christ, we are called to love in this way, to be willing to lay down our life for others. A powerful way to do this is by being a priest of Jesus Christ. He is calling young men to consider this call to serve, to offer their lives out of love for their sisters and brothers. He may be calling you! If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, contact Fr. Nate Kuhn, Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667.

The Magi's Gifts: Pointing to the Ultimate Gift

The gifts of the Magi illuminate the different aspects of Christ's identity. He is king, he is God, and in his marvelous grace, He died, so that we might live. As the Magi actively pursued Jesus, so too should we follow Christ without hesitation, letting Him be our guiding star. As Pope Francis has stated:

"It is not enough to know where Jesus was born, as the scribes did, if we do not go there. It is not enough to know that Jesus was born, like Herod, if we do not encounter him. When his place becomes our place, when his time becomes our time, when his person becomes our life, then the prophecies come to fulfillment in us. Then Jesus is born within us. He becomes the living God for me. Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who is the center."

The Pope's Prayer Intention for January

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

A Minute with Jesus

Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The Magi gave precious gifts to adore the Christ Child, which reveal this holy Child's identity; God becoming man: gold for Christ's kingship, frankincense for His divinity, and myrrh for His anointing after His sacrifice on the Cross. Jesus gives us the greatest Gift - the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. Thank You for giving us the most precious Gift of Yourself in the Eucharist.



Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 7:30 AM † Doris Stuber

By Mark and Sue Halter

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:30 AM † Thomas Soderberg

By Mark and Sue Halter

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:30 AM Jeneane Jacobson

By Friend

2:00 PM Service of the Word at Hillview Healthcare

Center

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:30 AM † Cameron Sokolik

By Bob and Mary Jothen

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:00 PM † Sr. La Verne Ramaeker

By Kay Shriver and Family

Sunday, January 12, 2024

8:00 AM † Donald Wavra

Dean and Lori Hammes

10:00 AM Pro Populo



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

Liturgical Roles January 11-12

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Nancy Imhoff, Dave Imhoff, Kelly Jakes, Chris Schlegel, Christine J Nelson, Kellie Schmitz

Gloria Biesen, Mike Keogh, Mary Lawrence

8:00 AM

Sue Moyle, Anita Olson, Tom Reichenbacher

Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes, Lisa 10:00 AM

Doering, Lindsey Hammes, Shannon Klar,

Barbara Stetzer

Lector

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss, Therese van Oss

8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks, Bob Mahr Sarah Scarlet, Bill Brendel

10:00 AM

Server

4:00 PM Aubrey Jakes, Ellyana Jakes Nolan Richards, Perrin Richards 8:00 AM

10:00 AM Ella Krejchik, Isabella Neubauer

Cantor

4:00 PM Linda Kloet 8:00 AM Lisa Conzemius

10:00 AM Sunday Choir

Song Leader

10:00 AM Kimberly Krejchik

Musician

4:00 PM Mary Jo Lium 8:00 AM Mary Jo Lium Jenny Nielson 10:00 AM

Sacristan

4:00 PM Mike Wuensch 8:00 AM Sue Groetsch 10:00 AM Carol Forer

Gift Bearer

4:00 PM OPEN, OPEN

Michelle Morrison, Ken Morrison 8:00 AM 10:00 AM Jerry Kernan, Anne Kernan

Greeter

4:00 PM Phil Watson (lead), OPEN, Patrick Hogan,

Mark Misch, Peter Schmitz, Jim Spielbauer, Joan Weissenberger, Mike Weissenberger

Allan Baumler (lead), OPEN, Pat Burns, 8:00 AM

Dave Lawrence, Mary Lawrence, Dan Skiles,

Kathy Skiles

Linda Gillette (lead), Sam Horman, Casey 10:00 AM

Horman, Keith Kreichik, Terri Pedace, Trisha Stratman, Gavin Stratman, Gabriella Stratman

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Dee Sauer, Kellie Schmitz Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky 8:00 AM 10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sheri Skelton

Hospitality

8:00 AM Cindy Klar. Bob Klar

10:00 AM Sue Pretasky, Robb Pretasky

Live Streamer

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

Epiphany Blessing of the Home

was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The You formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to that we may know You as our guest and honor you be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy as our Head. We pray to the Lord: Child's identity; gold for Christ's Kingship, incense for His R/. Stay with us, Lord. divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice on the Cross.

2025. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit pray to the Lord: closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas R/. Stay with us, Lord. Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the those living in this house may use their talents and next day.

The blessing of homes (schools, places of employ- R/. Stay with us, Lord. ment, etc.) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of All present recite the Lord's Prayer. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness Christ our Lord. of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and. R/. Amen. over all exterior doors:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to reminding us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem bene- forever*. dicat (May Christ bless this house)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.

20 + C + M + B + 25

The House Blessing

homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.

R/. Blessed be God forever.

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwell- to heal our divisions. May the spirits of joy and ing place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our laughter, hope and faith, playfulness and prayer, hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter compassion and love be perpetual guests in our this home find Christ's light and love.

holy Gospel according to Luke: Jesus came to Jericho Holy Spirit. Amen. and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he is prayed: was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a syc- Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up as we welcome them with respect and kindness. May and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for to- all our comings and day I must stay at your house." And he came down goings be under the quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, seal of God's loving they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at care. May we seek the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and and serve, in everysaid to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I one we meet, Jesus, shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything Who is Lord forever from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus and ever. Amen. said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house be- Prepared by the Ofcause this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

Leader: The Son of God made His home among us. Catechesis & With thanks and praise let us call upon Him. The re- Evangelization, sponse is "Stay with us Lord."

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Epiphany means "Manifestation." The first Epiphany Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph;

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, You had no place to lay The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the Your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the twelfth night of Christmas, on January 6th. In the United hospitality of Your friends: grant that through our States, this feast has been moved to Sunday, January 5, help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We

abilities to your greater glory. We pray to the Lord:

making our homes sacramentals. Sacramentals make us Leader: Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed more mindful, receptive and cooperative with God's Your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidgrace. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the ance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect Your love. We ask this through

The leader concludes the rite by making the Sign of the Cross over him/herself and praying:

May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and

R/. Amen.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and them be holy and filled with the spirit of happiness and peace, love and affection. May the spirit of pardon and affection reside with us and be always ready home. May God's holy blessing rest upon us all, in Leader reads Luke 19:1-9. Listen to the words of the the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and al- above the exterior doorways for the year 2025, using the so a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; blessed chalk, 20 + C + M + B + 25 the following praver

amore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us

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