February 2, 2025





The Presentation 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 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

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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

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.

Parish Directories

The next opportunity for families who participated in the parish directory by having a picture in the directory will be at the Men's Club Pancake Breakfast on February 9. For further information or if you have any questions please contact Betty Brendel at (608) 790-8054 or brendelbill@gmail.com.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous participation in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root cause of poverty and provide a sustainable future for this struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. For more information visit 222.usccb.org/cchd. Extra envelopes are on the greeters table in the Gathering Space.

MMOC Eucharistic Adoration

On February 6, Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour at 4:45 PM. Come adore Him!

Monthly Parish Social

Join us Thursday, February 6 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, 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.



World Day of Prayer for Consecrated life

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is celebrated on the weekend of Feb. 1-2. Please pray for all those who have an-

swered the call to consecrated life, aspiring towards joyful holiness in the service of the Church and world. Pray also for many more laborers to enter the vineyard so that Jesus Christ may be better known, experienced, and loved.

Healing the Whole Person

Discover transformational freedom in Christ! Engage your story with honesty, discover Jesus's presence even in fear, doubt or pain, accept His invitation to make you whole,



live in His freedom and transform the world. Learn from Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miriam James Heidland what is taught and experienced at the conference brought here locally in this 8 week video series. Sessions will be held at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish starting on February 20 and running for 8 consecutive weeks from 6:30-8 pm (with optional offerings some nights after the session is over.) There is no charge to attend. Registration is required and limited. For questions or to register, email Natalie: NatalieElskamp@gmail.com

Men's Club

Pancake Breakfast

Please join the Men's Club for fellowship on February 9 (Super Bowl Sunday) from 8:00 AM to Noon for a Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit cocktail, juice and coffee. The cost is \$5, \$4 for Seniors (60+) and for kids ages 6-12. Kids ages 5 and under are free. All are welcome.

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 lschwartz@mmoclacrosse.org.

Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, February 5 from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church. This week we will start our next monthly topic: The Trinity: Now That's Mystery!

OCIA: Rite of Acceptance and Welcome

On Sunday January 19th, seven adults took a very significant step in their relationship with God and His family, the Church. At the 10am Mass, Amy Korger, Ann Lorenz, Ashley Wateski, Corey Myers, Keila Ryan, Leah Brandner, and Sharyn Jordan participated in the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. All are seeking entrance into the Catholic Church through Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Amy is also seeking Baptism as a catechumen. During this sacred rite, they were welcomed, prayed for, and blessed by Father Konopa and the Mary, Mother of the Church family. Standing with their sponsors, they professed their desire to continue their journey of faith in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) and the parish promised to provide support and prayers for them along the way. So, please pray for

Amy, Ann, Ashley, Corey, Keila, Leah, and Sharyn as they seek to grow closer to the Lord and prepare to receive His life and love in the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Family Life

Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Kendall Rose Hundt who was baptized on January 25. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the Donna Spangler, Kathleen Spinner and Steven Esser. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to their families and friends who mourn their loss. Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

New Parishioners

MMOC is delighted to welcome Nancy Arentz to the parish.

Diocesan Annual Appeal



Social Justice

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, Feb. 4

Food & Milk: Joseph van Oss, OPEN, OPEN, Juli Jansen (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

<u>Intake:</u> (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM) Mary Olson, Nancy Imhoff, Tammy Byington, Fran Ortmeier, Manu Parker, Sarah Kopski, OPEN, OPEN (Two men are required to fill these open positions.)

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

The RESCUE project

This is an 8-week Lenten religious education series is being held in several parishes beginning February 16

with a Retreat Day on March 29. The RESCUE project proposes a Biblical world view that if nothing else, will challenge you to re-think what is real, what is true, and what is most important in life. Why is there something rather than nothing: What is everything so messed up? What, if anything has God done about it? And if He's done anything, how should I respond? The cost for the course is \$35 which includes class materials and a meal on the Retreat Day. For more information contact Amy Capelli at (608) 783 - 0847 or email amy_capelli@charter.net. Class locations and times are as follows:

Monday: 6:30 - 8:00 PM Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday: 6:30 - 8:00 PM St. Patrick's Onalaska

Thursday: 9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Patrick's Onalaska

Friday: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM St. Joseph the Workman

Heritage Bake Sale

Blessed Sacrament PCCW is sponsoring a Heritage Bake Sale on Saturday, February 8 from 9:00 AM - Noon. Among the featured items are Polish Pierogies, Norwegian leftse, Bohemian Kolaches, Upper Peninsula Pasties, Baklava and a variety of other homemade baked goods.

Men of the Cross "Forgiveness and Freedom"

Our relationship with Christ is many things. He is your refuge, someone to celebrate your joys, mourn with you in your sorrows, and is the one to break the chains that bind you and set you free. What are the chains that bind you? The world tries to convince you that the baggage you carry is not too heavy and that you probably deserve to carry that burden. But that is a lie. Christ wants you to be set free. There is Freedom in Forgiveness! Maybe you have been carrying around the same burden for a long time. Maybe you really don't understand forgiveness, how to forgive others, or how to forgive yourself. You may have forgotten what it feels like to be free. Join men from all over the Diocese of La Crosse and beyond, to experience Freedom in Forgiveness through Mass, inspiring talks, honest discussion and fellowship. The Church needs men to live free, allowing them to help other men break the chains that bind them so they may also live the joy-filled life that Christ wants for us. Register at: www.menofthecross.org

When: March 8

Where: Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse

Cost: \$30 (High School Students are free if attending with a parent or guardian.)

Calix:

A Catholic Substance Abuse Recovery Support

Calix is an association of Catholics wanting to live free of addiction to alcohol or drugs, and it is also for affected family members. It is not a substitute for AA or Al-Anon, which are strongly recommended, but it provides a Catholic perspective for these 12-step programs. "Calix" is Latin for "chalice," and it was founded in Minneapolis, MN in 1947 by a group of five men, all recovering alcoholics, who saw their Catholic faith as a sure path to serenity without alcohol. If you are interested in more information about a Calix group forming in the Diocese of La Crosse, you can email Christine at healthandharmonywi@gmail.com.

A Minute with Jesus

Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist. When we look at the consecrated Host at Mass, our eyes see only bread, but the reality is we are looking at Jesus truly present. We may ask Jesus to grant us the grace to believe this truth, that though "hidden", He is truly present in Holy Communion. It is important to remember that what we are not able to see with our eyes, we grasp by choosing to believe with faith's consent.

Evening of Hope



On Feb. 22, Bishop Battersby will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman. At the end of the Mass, he will impart the Papal Blessing with the attached plenary indulgence. A Holy Hour will follow Mass, during which Bishop Battersby will offer

a jubilee reflection on hope. Confessions will also be heard. The event will end with benediction at 7:00 p.m.

May 31, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Holy Hour, Confession, and 4:00 p.m. Mass (Bishop Battersby as celebrant) at Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire; Speaker, Fr. Daniel Sedlacek (Coincides with the Jubilee of Families in Rome).

Oct. 12, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Confession at Resurrection Church, Wausau; Speaker, Fr. James Kurzynski (Coincides with the Jubilee of Marian Devotion in Rome).

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

7:30 AM † Paula Heiderscheit

By Mark and Sue Halter

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

7:30 AM † Jane Tornblom

By Carolyn Wavra

Thursday, February 6, 2025

7:30 AM † Bill Riley

By Gloria Biesen

2:00 PM Service of the Word at Hillview Healthcare

Friday, February 7, 2025

7:30 AM † Myra Klos

By Virginia Horstman

Saturday, February 8, 2025

4:00 PM † Adrian Yaeger

By Kathy and Dennis Biessen

Sunday, February 9, 2025

8:00 AM † Josephine Abnet

Bv Patricia Berendes

10:00 AM Pro Populo



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

Liturgical Roles February 8-9

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM OPEN, Nancy Imhoff, Dave Imhoff, Kevin Moyle, Christine J Nelson, Mark Outzen, Kellie Schmitz

OPEN, Nick Berry, Janice Berry, Pat Burns, 8:00 AM Donna Burns, Lance Miller, Sandy Poellinger

10:00 AM Deacon Joseph Richards, John Conzemius, Lori Hammes, Shannon Klar, Mary Olson, Kathy McGettigan, Mary Olson, Barbara Stetzer

Lector

Joseph van Oss, Therese van Oss 4:00 PM 8:00 AM Bob Mahr, Fred Berneking

10:00 AM Terri Pedace, Bill Brendel

Server

4:00 PM Aubrey Jakes, Ellyana Jakes Ryann Klar, Kaitlin Ortmeier 8:00 AM Olivia Neubauer, Shaun Ziolkowski 10:00 AM

Cantor

4:00 PM Linda Kloet 8:00 AM Nancy Misch 10:00 AM Mary Kulas

Musician

4:00 PM Christopher Carskadon 8:00 AM Natalie Solverson 10:00 AM Natalie Solverson

Sacristan

4:00 PM Mike Wuensch 8:00 AM

Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles

10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

Gift Bearer

4:00 PM Ben Gerling, Lindsey Goyette

8:00 AM Steve Klar, Erin Klar

Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes 10:00 AM

Greeter

4:00 PM Phil Watson (Lead), OPEN, Joe Riemer,

Steve Schaub, Mary Schaub, Peter Schmitz, Jim Spielbauer, Joan

Weissenberger

8:00 AM Sue Groetsch (Lead), Allan Baumler, Kerry Groetsch, Jackson Harpenau, Pattie Nimocks, Kylie Ortmeier, Rosie

Pennebecker, Harper Solverson

Linda Gillette (Lead), Lydia Bell, Felicity 10:00 AM Bell, Charlene Krocker, Abby Schelfhout,

Gavin Stratman, Gabriella Stratman,

Brett Ziokowski

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Vickie Kloss, Sue Olson

8:00 AM Charlotte Berendes, Polly Berendes 10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sheri Skelton

Hospitality

8:00 AM Cindy Klar, Bob Klar

Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes 10:00 AM

Live Streamer Davie Imhoff



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is on February 2. On this day, Mass begins with the blessing of candles and a procession or solemn entrance.

Joseph and Mary fulfilled the Mosaic laws of ritual purification when they took Jesus to the temple forty days after his birth and presented him to the Lord.

Simeon and Anna, prophets and champions of prayer, immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

Simeon's beautiful canticle (see Luke 2:29-32) and his unsettling prophecy to Mary (2:34-35) have been incorporated into the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily prayer of the Church.

The Mass for the Feast of the Presentation includes the blessing of candles for the coming year, thus the name, "Candlemas." This practice came about sometime in the fifth century. It wasn't originally connected to the Presentation, yet it seems fitting to align this rite with the Presentation of Jesus, the light of the world. Originally the blessing was for the candles to be used in church, but parishioners also bring candles to Mass that day to have them blessed.

Q: What is the correct name for the feast day on February 2?

A: Over the centuries, the feast celebrated on February 2 has had many names. Since the fourth century, the East has called this the feast of Hypapante or the Feast of the Holy Meeting of Christ with Simeon and Anna. A similar feast, "forty days after epiphany," is also recorded in the writings of the pilgrim Egeria, who visited Jerusalem around 380 A.D. A feast akin to this has been celebrated in Rome since at least the fifth century. In the West, the feast was called The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and when the practice of blessing candles was added to this feast, it was called Candlemas. Today, on the General Roman Calendar, the feast is called the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, emphasizing the centrality of Christ in this event.

Q; Why are candles blessed?

A: The connection between the Presentation of the Lord and candles is found in the canticle of Simeon—Simeon's response to the presentation of the Lord:

"Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). The light of the candles blessed in this liturgy is a liturgical symbol of Christ's revelation of the Father to the nations. Christ is the light of the world (John 1:3-5 and John 8:12), and in the liturgy this light is seen. Liturgical symbols are not signs of absent realities. Because the light of these candles is a symbol of Christ, Christ the light of the world is present through the light of these candles.

Q: Is it a coincidence that candles are blessed on February 2 and throats are blessed with candles on February 3?

A: The tradition of holding two candles against the throat during the blessing of throats on the optional memorial of St. Blaise developed because his feast day falls the day after Candlemas. The Roman Ritual still prescribes that the candles which are joined in the shape of a cross and touched to the throat of the person being blessed should be "two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord."

Q. Is February 2 the last day of the Christmas Season?

A: Christmas Time runs from Evening Prayer of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6. Many churches leave some Christmas decorations or flowers up until after The Presentation of the Lord as a reminder of the joy of Christmas time.





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