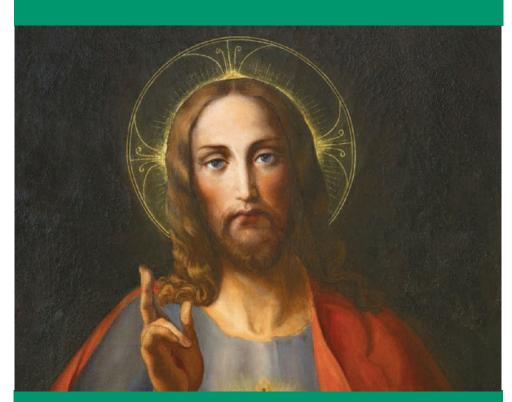
February 23, 2025





The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ash Wednesday Schedule - March 5

No 7:30 AM Mass this day 12 Noon Mass (livestreamed) 5:30 PM Mass



Old Palms

If you are looking for a way to dispose of blessed palms, there is a box in the gathering space for this purpose. We will dispose of them in a proper manner. Traditionally, the ashes from blessed palms are used for Ash Wednesday.

Stations of the Cross

Devotions will be held at 4:00 PM every Friday during Lent through March 22. Eucharistic Exposition and individual confessions will take place from 3:00 - 3:50 PM prior to Stations of the Cross.

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 March 17 - June 2 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dinner is provided each night! There are 11 sessions in the Parish Hall and an in house retreat weekend away May 9 - 10.

To sign up please email alpha@mmoclacrosse.org

Small Faith-Sharing Group Opportunity

Do you desire to experience being known, loved, and cared for by Christ? Are you longing to let Jesus into your heart? Do you sense something is missing in your life and think it might be Jesus? Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) might be the next step on your journey to a more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.

This Lent and Easter season, CCO facilitators will be hosting groups on the first two books of the series. You can explore God's loving plan for your salvation and develop a deeper appreciation of the power of the Holy Spirit. There are two groups forming:

Tuesdays beginning March 4: 6:00 - 7:30 PM (for women only) Sandra (Sandy) Roellich 608-333-8801 or email sandraroelich@yahoo.com

Thursdays beginning March 6: 4:00 - 5:30 PM (men and women) Chuck and Mary Kulas 608-385-0192 or kulasfarm@gmail.com.

MMOC Fish Fry

The parish will be hosting two fish fries during Lent on March 14 and 28. There are sign-up sheets for volunteers are in the Gathering Space.

Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does NOT meet on February 26 or March 5. Families should work on their last two At Home Lessons for February; 5-2: Jesus Christ the Son, and 5-3: The Holy Spirit. Plan to attend Ash Wednesday Mass on March 5 at your own Parish. We will see you on March 12.

Social Justice

Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops of the United States of America

Dear Brothers in the Episcopate,

I am writing today to address a few words to you in these delicate moments that you are

living as Pastors of the People of God who walk together in the United States of America.

- 1. The journey from slavery to freedom that the People of Israel traveled, as narrated in the Book of Exodus, invites us to look at the reality of our time, so clearly marked by the phenomenon of migration, as a decisive moment in history to reaffirm not only our faith in a God who is always close, incarnate, migrant and refugee, but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person. [1]
- 2. These words with which I begin are not an artificial construct. Even a cursory examination of the Church's social doctrine emphatically shows that Jesus Christ is the true Emmanuel (cf. *Mt* 1:23); he did not live apart from the difficult experience of being expelled from his own land because of an imminent risk to his life, and from the experience of having to take refuge in a society and a culture foreign to his own. The Son of God, in becoming man, also chose to live the drama of immigration. I like to recall, among other things, the words with which Pope Pius XII began his Apostolic Constitution on the Care of Migrants, which is considered the "Magna Carta" of the Church's thinking on migration:

"The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants in Egypt and refugees there to escape the wrath of an ungodly king, are the model, the example and the consolation of emigrants and pilgrims of every age and country, of all refugees of every condition who, beset by persecution or necessity, are forced to leave their homeland, beloved family and dear friends for foreign lands." [2]

- 3. Likewise, Jesus Christ, loving everyone with a universal love, educates us in the permanent recognition of the dignity of every human being, without exception. In fact, when we speak of "infinite and transcendent dignity," we wish to emphasize that the most decisive value possessed by the human person surpasses and sustains every other juridical consideration that can be made to regulate life in society. Thus, all the Christian faithful and people of good will are called upon to consider the legitimacy of norms and public policies in the light of the dignity of the person and his or her fundamental rights, not vice versa.
- 4. I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act

of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.

- 5. This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all as I have affirmed on numerous occasions welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly.
- 6. Christians know very well that it is only by affirming the infinite dignity of all that our own identity as persons and as communities reaches its maturity. Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups. In other words: the human person is not a mere individual, relatively expansive, with some philanthropic feelings! The human person is a subject with dignity who, through the constitutive relationship with all, especially with the poorest, can gradually mature in his identity and vocation. The true ordo amoris that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (cf. Lk 10:25-37), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception. [3]
- 7. But worrying about personal, community or national identity, apart from these considerations, easily introduces an ideological criterion that distorts social life and imposes the will of the strongest as the criterion of truth.
- 8. I recognize your valuable efforts, dear brother bishops of the United States, as you work closely with migrants and refugees, proclaiming Jesus Christ and promoting fundamental human rights. God will richly reward all that you do for the protection and defense of those who are considered less valuable, less important or less human!
- 9. I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.
- 10. Let us ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to protect individuals and families who live in fear or pain due to

migration and/or deportation. May the "Virgen morena", who knew how to reconcile peoples when they were at enmity, grant us all to meet again as brothers and sisters, within her embrace, and thus take a step forward in the construction of a society that is more fraternal, inclusive and respectful of the dignity of all.

Fraternally,

Francis

From the Vatican, 10 February 2025

- [1] Cf. Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, <u>Declaration Dignitas infinita</u> on human dignity, 2 April 2024.
- [2] Pius XII, Apostolic Constitution *Exsul Familia*, 1 August 1952
- [3] Cf. Francis, Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti*, 3 October 2020.

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, March 4

<u>Food & Milk:</u> Tammy Byington, Linda Schwartz, Manu Parker, Fran Ortmeier, Peggy Baumler (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

<u>Intake:</u> Mary Olson, Nancy Imhoff, Matt Deshler, Karen Deshler, Fran Ortmeier, Tammy Byington, Manu Parker, (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Morning Volunteer: Neil Kumm (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.

Scrip

Kwik Trip Scrip

Kwik Trip has a short-term special rebate this month! That means every purchase of Kwik Trip scrip from February 9 through the end of the month will receive a 10% rebate.

Just a reminder that after twelve months of non-use there is a \$2 monthly service fee deducted from the remaining balance on cards.

PCCW

March Meeting

All are invited to join us for our March PCCW meeting on Monday, March 10 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. A light lunch will be provided. Bring a friend!

Men's Club

Hoops Mania Kick-off

The Men's Club is sponsoring the HoopsMania March Madness Basketball raffle! Game cards are \$10 each. Funds raised will support the Building & Vision Funds as well as the Aquinas 7th grade Scholarships. Game cards are on sale until March 17. There are several options:



- The Men's Club will be selling game cards after all weekend Masses through March 17.
- Contact any Men's Club member.
- Online via the HoopsMania at www.charitymania.com/ give/LF019
- Or scan the QR code and make a \$10 donation.

A Minute with Jesus

We need God's help to believe. The Eucharist is beyond our ability to grasp fully. The Eucharist is a mystery, which means we would not know this is Jesus' Body and Blood without the Lord specifically saying these words to us in Scripture. We can understand this mystery to an extent, but not fully because this mystery is of God, Who is infinite.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, please open my heart to believe that You are truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

FORMED

During Lent, many of us attempt to fast from chocolate, soda and social media, but when Easter arrives it can be easy to fall back into our old habits. The trust is, Lent is more than a list of sacrifices. It's an invitation to journey through the desert with Jesus, where He can work on renewing our hearts and minds. This transformation invites us to experience Easter as a moment of true joy and new life in Christ. FORMED is offering a four-part series entitled "How to Lent" that will help you plan and prepare for Lent. You will hear from priests and parishioners on what it means to understand prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and see how you can enter this season with greater intention. Visit www.formed.org, Click Sign up and search for "Mary, Mother of the Church La-Crosse," and provide your email address to register.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:30 AM + Greg Hanifil

By Cheryl Childers

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

7:30 AM † Vernon Sorenson and Alice Melcher

By Nancy Johnson

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:30 AM † Debra Arentz By Kathleen Hogden

2:00 PM Service of the Word at Hillview Healthcare Center

Friday, February 28, 2025

7:30 AM † The Ramaeker Family

By The Michael Miller Family

Saturday, March 1, 2025

4:00 PM † Louis Bornheimer

By Joan Thames

Sunday, March 2, 2025 8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:00 AM † Queto and Caroline Weber

By Jean Weber



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

Liturgical Roles March 1 - 2

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Nancy Imhoff, Dave Imhoff, Kelly Jakes, Kevin Moyle, Mark Outzen, Kellie Schmitz, Joseph

van Oss

8:00 AM OPEN, Gloria Biesen, Pat Burns, Donna Burns, Mary Lawrence, Anita Olson, Tom

Reichenbacher

10:00 AM OPEN, John Conzemius, Lisa Doering, Carol Forer, Lori Hammes, Mary Olson, Patti Sherry

Lector

4:00 PM Jerome Iverson, Peter Schmitz

8:00 AM Bob Mahr, LuAnn Miller

10:00 AM Polly Berendes, Sarah Scarlet

Server

4:00 PM Isabella Miller, Madison Schlegel

8:00 AM Ryann Klar, Matthew Klar

10:00 AM Jack Thompson, Izzy Schelfhout

Cantor

4:00 PM Christine J Nelson

8:00 AM Haylee Pagenkopf

10:00 AM Choir

Musician

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

10:00 AM Jenny Nielsen

Song Leader

10:00 AM Linda Gillette

Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet

8:00 AM Kerry Groetsch

10:00 AM Mike Wuensch

Gift Bearer

4:00 PM Ben Gerling, Lindsey Goyette 8:00 AM Ken Morrison, Michelle Morrison

10:00 AM Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes

Greeter

4:00 PM Chris Schlegel (Lead), Arian Arens, Mark

Misch, Olivia Rudie, Joan Weissenberger, Steve Schaub, Jim Spielbauer, Phil Watson

8:00 AM Allan Baumler (Lead), OPEN, Donna Burns,

Peggy Baumler, Pat Burns, Isabel Harden,

Jackson Harpenau, Dave Lawrence

10:00 AM Robb Pretasky (Lead), Elly Binsfeld, Anna Binsfeld, Megan Binsfeld, Matt Binsfeld,

Marcus Klar, Mason Klar, Abby Schelfhout

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM Vickie Kloss, Dee Sauer

8:00 AM Mary Genz, Sue Moyle

10:00 AM Tammy Byington, Sue Pretasky

Hospitality

8:00 AM Nancy Pederson, Jeff Pederson

10:00 AM Charlotte Berendes, Polly Berendes

Live Streamer

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

Mosaic of Divine Mercy

On January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Fr. Konopa announced the commissioning of a new mosaic to be installed in the Sacred Heart niche (south side of church) featuring the image of Divine Mercy. The image of Jesus will fill the central panel, and the side panels will have symbols of the Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Fr. Konopa explained the inclusion of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in this way, "When the mercy of Jesus comes into our hearts, then we need to bring that mercy into the world."

Why the change?

The Divine Mercy mosaic will complement our mosaic of Mary, Mother of the Church in many ways. The wood framing and blue background of the mosaics will match. The rays coming from the heart of Jesus will mirror the rays from the Holy Spirit, and the medallions depicting the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy will mirror the tongues of fire.





Originally, the niche with the mosaic of Mary, Mother of the Church was a confessional. After Father James Falconer (pastor of St. Thomas More 1976-1988) died unexpectedly while pastor, a statue of Jesus and the Children was installed in his honor. He was a strong supporter of Catholic Education and taught at Aguinas High School for many years. The statue was a tribute to his welcoming nature to children. Over the years, an image of Divine Mercy was added to its west wall. In 2018, the statue was moved to the lower level of the Faith Formation Center to add a welcoming feature for the children. Following its removal, a larger canvas print of Divine Mercy was purchased and placed in the niche; however, it was removed when the mosaic was installed in 2024. Devotion to Divine Mercy has gained more momentum in recent years. In 2000, St. Pope John Paul II added "Divine Mercy Sunday" to the liturgical calendar on the Second Sunday of Easter. As the devotion to Divine Mercy grows, it is worthwhile returning to a permanent image in our church.





This mosaic is made possible by the generosity of a parishioner who wanted to make a significant gift to the parish. The \$85,000 donation will cover the creation and installation of the mosaic and a portion of the renovations. Once again, the artists at Inspired Artisans from Milwaukee have been commissioned for this work. To see more of their beautiful work, please visit their website, www.inspiredart.com. Their artistry is truly inspiring!

The Building Fund will cover the majority of the \$29,000 expenditures of renovating the niches. A significant cost will be removing the metallic gold tiles and covering the wall with limestone panels from the same quarry as the panels in the Mary, Mother of the Church niche.

New lighting will be installed in both niches.

Fowler & Hammer has been hired for the renovation work, and HSR (the architect for Building Our Future Together) is assisting with a dignified relocation of the Sacred Heart statue to an open wall in the hallway of the Parish Hall. Stay tuned for the design plan in an upcoming bul-

letin article.

As mentioned above, the work

LEARN OF ME BECAUSE
I AM MEEK AND
HUMBLE OF HEART

on the mosaic has already begun. The images have been sketched and approved, and the mosaic tiles are being cut and placed by the artists in Italy. We hope to have it installed in early April so it may be blessed on Saturday, April 5, at the 4 PM Mass. Not only would this be in place for our parish's Silver Jubilee (April 9, 2000), but it would also be in place for the traditional Divine Mercy Novena, which begins on Good Friday, April 18.

Next week's bulletin article will discuss the history of the image of Divine Mercy, the promises associated with devotion to Divine Mercy, and an update on the process.

Encounter the Mercy of Jesus this Lent

Dynamic Catholic offers the opportunity to consecrate yourself to the Divine Mercy of Jesus with the 33 Days to Divine Mercy book, journal, and free online videos. A brief description from their website: "Our God is a God of new beginnings. He wants to heal you. He wants to teach you how to love again. He wants to bathe you in His mercy, convince you of His mercy, fill you with His mercy, and send you out into the world as a pilgrim of mercy.



When was the last time you had a profound encounter with God's mercy? The kind of encounter that radically reorients the way you see yourself, your relationships, and your faith. Now is your time. 33 Days to Divine Mercy is an unprecedented spiritual resource. It will guide you through a life-changing journey to discover the very heart of God and His extraordinary plan for your life!" You can learn more at www.dynamiccatholic.com/ lent.html.



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



4101 Mormon Coulee Court La Crosse, WI 54601



SUPPORT OUR PARISH

RKB Accounting & Tax Service, LLC

Reginald "Kim" Boldon, CPA, MBA

Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll, Income Tax Services & olution Services for Individuals, Small and Medium Size Bu

1314 Johnson St. • La Crosse, WI 54601 BBB (608) 782-6433 • rkboldon@rkbcpa.com
Website: www.rkbcpa.com



608-799-7287 • www.rainawayrsg.com



A Full Service CPA Firm • Tax Planning & Preparation William J. Sherry, CPA 3317 Mormon Coulee Rd • La Crosse, WI 54602 Bill@eacpas.net (608) 788-2181



Commercial • Residential • Industrial Scott Kainz, Parishioner (608) 386-0575 Wisconsin State Certified Master Electrician Fully Insured



Blaschke & Schneider (608) 782-1346









(608) 785-3255 www.lacrosselaw.com 201 Main Street, Suite 205 • La Cross



"We'd love to be your flooring guy" Scott Zielke 783-1088 WWW.FLOORCRAFTERSONLINE.COM



Sales - Service - Parts - Body Shop clasonbuickgmc.com 3232 Mormon Coulee Rd.



BUSINESS PRINTING & MARKETING SERVICES 2704 South Ave. - La Crosse 608-788-5005 | www.instylacrosse.com WE PRINT FOR THE CHURCH



Living Fully. Living Well.

COMMUNITY LLA CROSSE ASSISTED LIVING (608) 788-9870 SKILLED NURSING BLCLaCrosse.org REHABILITATION

CHUMACHER Funeral and KISH Cremation Services

ONALASKA 907 Sand Lake Rd 782-1252 LACROSSE 200 West Ave S 782-1252 LA CRESCENT



Edward Jones

Mike Wintheiser

Financial Advisor La Crosse, WI (608) 433-9859

Curtis J Bisek Financial Advisor

(608) 782-4065





641 Brickl Road, West Salem WI

BAGNIEFSKI

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

• Sales • Service • Installation Hometown Proud Dealer for TRANE

782-0664

Earl L. Bonsack, Inc. Driving nice since 1963 'Living the Dream'









ſŸſŸŶŶŴĦ₽₽₩ŶŶſŊijijij

LOCAL TRUSTED EXPERTS

om Remodels • Water Heaters • Water Softeners • Drinking Water Systems

• Toilets/Faucets • Blocked Drains • Service & Repair • Maintenance • Salt Delivery

Plumbing 608-786-4004 www.maxwell-white.com Water Cond. 608-781-8088

Investments • Trust • Since 1913

www.trustpointinc.com



Proud of being a part of the new expansion! La Crosse Backhoe

Services, Inc.

Serving the Coulee Region since 1970

IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMed*Alert*!™ CALLNOW ✓ Ambulance/Police

✓ Family/Friends

✓ GPS & Fall Alert

800.808.9294

md-medalert.com









4239 MORMON COULEE RD • LA CROSSE, WI



New Homes & Light Commercial Marty and Tony Kirchner | (608) 782-3087 2809 28th Street S • La Crosse, WI 54601



Call today! (608) 785-5500 ext. 1 www.lacrossecounty.org/hillview

SAFE, SECURE, AND AFFORDABLE SENIOR LIVING The best kept secret in La Crosse

