

March 2, 2025

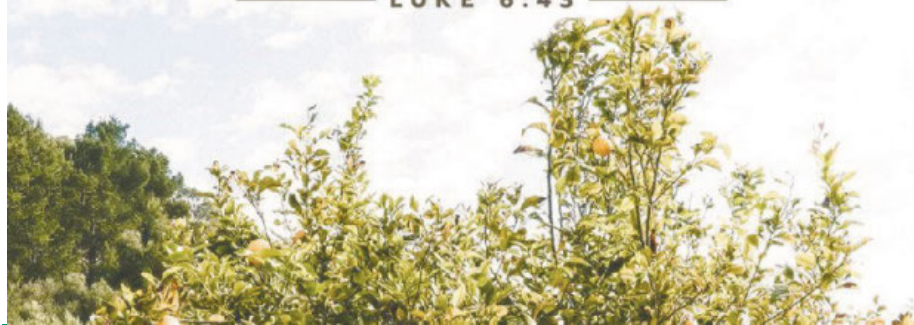


# MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# A GOOD TREE DOES NOT BEAR ROTTEN FRUIT.

LUKE 6:43



## The 8th 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 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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Office Assistant

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### JOURNEY TOGETHER IN CHRIST

#### FAITH FORMATION

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Director of Family Faith Formation

[kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org)

**Samuel Obert** ext. 5

Director of Youth Faith Formation

[sobert@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto: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.

# 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



## Lenten Regulations

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.

2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

## NEEDED: Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical positions need to be filled for Ash Wednesday Masses and also for Holy Week. 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.

## 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.

## Spring Ahead!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed next Saturday!

## MMOC Eucharistic Adoration

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

## Parish Social

The March Parish Social is cancelled. See you Thursday, April 3 after the morning Mass!

## Stations of the Cross

Devotions will be held at 4:00 PM every Friday during Lent through April 11. Eucharistic Exposition and individual confessions will take place from 3:00 - 3:50 PM prior to Stations of the Cross.

## MMOC Fish Fry

Fish Fry Fridays will be on March 14 and March 28 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Dine-in or Carry-Out. Choose from Baked or Fried Cod served with coleslaw, baked potato or fries, and a roll. A two piece dinner is \$13 and three piece dinner is \$16. Kids Menu is grilled cheese, fries and fruit for \$5. Beer, wine and dessert will be available at dine-in for an additional cost. There are sign-up sheets for volunteers for this event in the Gathering Space.



## Funeral Luncheon Volunteers

It's time for Arian Arens and Sue Hansen to turn in their aprons and pass the torch to new funeral lunch directors. Arian wants to retire from her duties, but will continue to work funeral lunches. Sue is moving to the Marshfield area. Ideally, there would be two people for each position so the duties can be shared. You will also get training to help you feel very comfortable in the transition. Please consider stepping up for a great cause in our parish. Men are also welcome. It would be wonderful to have replacements by April. For more information contact Arian 608-317-3387 or Sue 608-792-4910.

## Cold and Flu Season

There has been an increase in the amount of respiratory illnesses and flu in our area lately. In light of this, please use good judgment regarding attendance at Mass. If you are sick, i.e. running a fever, please remain safe at home. Likewise, please use reasonable caution and prudence when receiving the Precious Blood and sharing the Sign of Peace. Let's keep ourselves and others safe and illness free.

## Restrooms

In the instance of using the restroom during Mass, the age-old advice serves well: Please use the bathroom before leaving home. "Go...before you go." But not all plans "go well"!

- Best times: before/after Mass, during hymns, Communion time, and other movements (i.e. while people are sitting down, standing up, etc.)
- Worst times: during the Scripture readings, homily, and Eucharistic prayer.

This holds true when returning from the restrooms. Children are asked to seek the guidance and permission of their parents.

When reminders like these are in the bulletin, it's a sign that we're a real family!

## 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](mailto:alpha@mmoclacrosse.org)

**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.

## 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



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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!" Learn more at [.dynamiccatholic.com/lent](http://dynamiccatholic.com/lent).

### 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) Sandu Roellich 608-333-8801 or email [sandraroellich@yahoo.com](mailto:sandraroellich@yahoo.com) or Thursdays beginning March 6: 4:00 - 5:30 PM (men and women) Chuck and Mary Kulas 608-385-0192 or [kulasfarm@gmail.com](mailto:kulasfarm@gmail.com).

### 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](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).

## Family Life

### Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Sebastian Xavier Bell and Lola May Saxton who were baptized on February 23, 2025. We welcome them to God's family with great joy!

### Requiescat in Pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosa T. Wittenberg. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the family and friends who mourn their loss. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her.*

## Faith Formation

### Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does not meet on March 5. Families should work on their last two At Home Lessons for the month of February; 5-2: Jesus Christ the Son, and 5:3: The Holy Spirit. Plan to attend Ash Wednesday Mass as a family and we will see you March 12.

## Social Justice

### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, March 4

Food & Milk: Tammy Byington, Linda Schwartz, Manu Parker, Fran Ortmeier, Christie Nelson, Brenda Wintheiser, Kellie Schmitz, Peggy Baumler (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

Intake: 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](mailto:Molson@mmoclacrosse.org).

## 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

### March Meeting

The next Men's Club meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12 at 7pm in Classroom C located in the Lower Level of the Faith Formation Center. All men of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### Hoops Mania

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:

- Contact any Men's Club member.
- Online via the HoopsMania at [www.charitymania.com/give/LF019](http://www.charitymania.com/give/LF019)
- Or scan the QR code and make a \$10 donation.



*Around the Diocese*

**Men of the Cross “Freedom in Forgiveness”**

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. 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.

When: March 8

Where: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

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

Register at: [menofthecross.org](http://menofthecross.org)

**Weekly Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

**7:30 AM † Paula Heiderscheid**

**By Family**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**12:00 PM † Jim Schumacher**

**By Bob and Mary Jothan**

**5:30 PM † Tom and Anna Wilson**

**By Charles Wilson and Julia Martin**

**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

**7:30 AM † Doris Stuber**

**By Frances A. Smith**

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

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

**7:30 AM † Gloria Hundt**

**By Becky Byron**

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

**4:00 PM † Peter Klinkhammer**

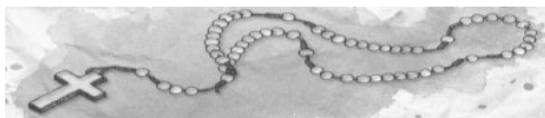
**By Joseph and Therese van Oss**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

**8:00 AM Pro Populo**

**10:00 AM † Josephine Abnet**

**By Patricia Berendes**



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

**Liturgical Roles March 8-9**

**Minister of Holy Communion**

- 4:00 PM Gary Heilman, Linda Heilman, Erin Klar, Steve Klar, Dawn Kutt, Kellie Schmitz, Therese van Oss
- 8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Charles Heiderscheid, Mike Keogh, Lance Miller, Sue Moyle, Sandy Poellinger, Erica Stanek
- 10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, OPEN, Carol Forer, Susan Halter, Anne Kernan, Christine J Nelson, Barbara Stetzer

**Lector**

- 4:00 PM Peter Schmitz, Mary Olson,
- 8:00 AM Francesca Ortmeier, Fred Berneking
- 10:00 AM Mary Jo Swartout, Nancy Steinhoff

**Server**

- 4:00 PM OPEN, Keegan Gerling
- 8:00 AM Nolan Richards, Perrin Richards
- 10:00 AM Louie Berendes, Olivia Neubauer

**Cantor**

- 4:00 PM Nancy Misch
- 8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks
- 10:00 AM Paul Lansing

**Musician**

- 4:00 PM Mary Jo Lium
- 8:00 AM Mary Jo Lium
- 10:00 AM Mary Jo Lium

**Sacristan**

- 4:00 PM Linda Kloet
- 8:00 AM Kathy Skiles, Dan Skiles
- 10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

**Gift Bearer**

- 4:00 PM Steve Klar, Erin Klar
- 8:00 AM Dave Ortmeier, Francesca Ortmeier
- 10:00 AM Linda Schwartz

**Greeter**

- 4:00 PM OPEN (lead), Jim Spielbauer, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN
- 8:00 AM OPEN (lead), Pat Burns, Isabel Harden, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN, OPEN
- 10:00 AM OPEN (lead), Keith Krejchik, Ella Krejchik, Adelyn Neubauer, Isabella Neubauer, Gavin Stratman, Trisha Stratman, Gabriella Stratman

**Scrip Seller**

- 4:00 PM Sue Olson, Kellie Schmitz
- 8:00 AM Mary Genz, Sue Moyle
- 10:00 AM Kathy McGettigan, Sheri Skelton

**Hospitality**

- 8:00 AM Cindy Klar, Bob Klar
- 10:00 AM Mary Schaub, OPEN

**Live Streamer**

- 4:00 PM Joseph van Oss

## Divine Mercy Mosaic

As last week's bulletin article mentioned, work on the mosaic has already begun. Inspired Artisans informed us that the tiles were all placed in the mosaic. Thus, our hope is to have it installed in early April so it may be blessed on Saturday, April 5, at 4 p.m. Mass, which is still a possibility.

While devotion to Divine Mercy is increasing, many are unfamiliar with its origins or the promises made by Christ to those who trust in His Divine Mercy. This article will focus on the history and promises of Divine Mercy and examine three images of it.

On February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and shared with her His message of Mercy for all and His desire for us to place our trust in Him. He also gave her an image with instructions, **"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You!"** (Diary #47-48) St. Faustina describes this image in her diary, "In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening in the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red, and the other pale." Sometime later, Our Lord explained to her, **"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."** (Diary #299)

St. Faustina's spiritual director, Fr. Michael Sopocko, commissioned Eugene Kazimirowski to paint the image. This image hangs in the Church of the Holy Trinity, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, in Vilnius, Lithuania. Through examination by photography and modern science, this version is an almost exact match of the head, face, and shoulders of the image on the Holy Shroud of Turin.



The most popular image was painted by Adolf Hyla in 1944 and gifted to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland in thanksgiving for saving him and his family during World War II. It hangs over the tomb of St. Faustina. A few noted differences are not in line with St. Faustina's vision: the hand of Christ raised in blessing is too high, and His gaze is focused on the viewer – not slightly downward. Additionally, the rays do not direct enough towards the viewer.

In the 1970s, the Marian Fathers commissioned a new image of Divine Mercy by American painter Robert Skemp. In this version, Skemp attempted to address the issues caused by the Hyla image by painting the rays in such a way they radiated out directly toward the viewer and lowered His hand and gaze. This image, while not perfect, is considered ultra-realistic.

These three images have ecclesiastical approval for display in churches and dissemination to the faithful. Therefore, all three are special vessels of grace and mercy. Robert Stackpole, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, reminds us that each of these images should be respected, but to remember, they are all imperfect renditions of our infinitely perfect and radiant Savior. Our mosaic was created based on the Skemp version in part because the rays coming from the heart of Jesus will reach all of the medallions featuring the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Through the Works of Mercy, we can fulfill Jesus' command to St. Faustina, **"I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere."** (Diary #742)

For all those who celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus made this promise, **"On that day (Divine Mercy Sunday), the very depths of My tender mercy are open. The souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."** (Diary #699). To receive this great pardon of



all our sins on Divine Mercy Sunday (or vigil), we are to sincerely repent of all our sins, place our complete trust in Jesus, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, venerate the image of The Divine Mercy, and be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf. (According to the Apostolic Penitentiary at the Vatican, it is sufficient that one's sacramental Confession be made within several days – about 20 days – before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.)

We are encouraged to prepare for this great Feast by praying the Novena of Divine Mercy which begins on Good Friday. As we near the beginning of this Novena, details will be shared in the bulletin.

Finally, a powerful way to be merciful to others is to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. This prayer, which uses traditional rosary beads, is typically prayed daily at 3 p.m. (the hour of Jesus' death) for the souls of sinners and those near death.

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception provided the resources for this article. You can learn more about Divine Mercy, the Novena, and the Chaplet at their website, [www.divinemercy.org](http://www.divinemercy.org).



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