# March 9, 2025

MARY

OF THE CHURCH

OTHER



# The 1st Sunday of Lent

#### 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	
Tara Key	782-5998
Principal, Cathedral School	
Kate Moll	782-5564
Principal, Blessed Sacrament Schoo	01
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.

### Lenten Regulations

The season of Lent began 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.

### **Lenten Collections**

The Lenten Collection this year will support Alliance Family Services, a state-of-the-art pregnancy resource center in La Crosse. Alliance is an interfaith organization that supports women and families facing unplanned pregnancies with medical, practical, emotional and spiritual support.

### **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.

### **Spiritual Renewal Days**

### Canticle of Creatures: St. Francis Still Sings 800 Years Later

Spiritual Renewal Days will be held beginning at 6:00 PM on the evenings of March 31 through April 2. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Penance Service**

Join us on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 PM for our MMOC Penance Service. Individual confessions will be available.

### **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.

### **Church Cleaning on April 5**

We are looking for 25 volunteers and one hour of your time to clean the church on Saturday, April 5 at 8 AM. This is a good way for students to earn service hours and for parish members to work together to help keep our church clean while getting to know



one another! The parish will supply the rags and cleaning solution (an all-natural product). Volunteers are encouraged to bring a 1-gallon bucket. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the church.

### Silver Jubilee of our Parish

Mary, Mother of the Church was official established on April 9, 2000. We will celebrate this milestone on the weekend of April 5-6. On Saturday, the mosaic of Divine Mercy will be blessed at the 4:00 PM Mass. A celebratory dinner will be served after the Mass. The dinner is free and no reservations are required. On Sunday, free donuts and a continental breakfast will be served by members of Music Ministry in the parish hall after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. Let's celebrate the good things that have happened during the past 25 years as Mary, Mother of the Church looks forward to our future as we focus on His Life and His Mission.

### **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 hep 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.

### **House Fire**

On February 20, former St. Pius X school teacher Lorraine Check and her husband Roger Richter had a house fire in Bloomington, WI and lost their home. They are blessed to have good insurance, but words of encouragement can be a gift at this time of need: P.O. Box 127; Bloomington, WI 53804.

### **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 Chris-



tian 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 <u>alpha@mmoclacrosse.org</u>

### **Alpha Testimony**

Last fall, my wife and I participated in the Alpha program in order to spend some additional time together outside of TV time. Something more meaningful we could talk about after the kids have moved out, and we looked for ways to get to know each other again.

We weren't looking to be evangelists and frankly didn't want to be. We didn't need to find Jesus, we've known him our whole lives -- both Catholic school grads and all. We've read enough of the bible throughout those years, that there was no way we haven't gone through it at least twice, right? Personally, I have family and friends that are no longer practicing Catholics or even hate the Catholic Church, for one reason or another. I wanted to be able to talk to them about it. Maybe this Alpha class

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### would help?

What we found was a lot of what we all know, but it was in an easy form that was more helpful than the years of religious education as an adolescent!

We didn't need to find Christ, but got to welcome a new outlook on the Holy Spirit.

We've always loved our MMOC parish and the group of folks that make it our church. That was only reinforced with a great small group of 6 people we really didn't know well, along with a great group leader that we got to know so much better. We had open conversations together and simply enjoyed their presence.

In summary, I believe this class can help in many more ways than these few things I've mentioned, for almost anyone, including someone like me, with the German/Irish "I got this" upbringing! We can talk about things and we won't die or feel weird. And then maybe it won't be so hard to talk about more things.

# Family Life

### Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Hannah Lucia Holger who was baptized on March 2, 2025. We welcome her to God's family with great joy!

## Faith Formation

#### OCIA

In order to highlight the Church's concern for our candidates (those who are information baptized and preparing for reception into CHRISTIAN the full communion of the Catholic NTIATION Church through the Sacraments of Con- of ADULTS firmation and Eucharist), we will be sending them to Bishop Battersby on the



First Sunday of Lent. It is within the parish community, however, that the preliminary judgement is made concerning the candidates' state of formation and progress. This affirmation of our parish community happens at the Rite of Sending on Mar. 9 at the 10am Mass. The Rite of Sending offers our parish community the opportunity to express its approval of the candidates as well as send them to the Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral assured of the parish's care and support. Please pray for them as they take this next step in their journey with Jesus!

### **Family Faith Formation**

Family Faith Formation meets this Wednesday, March 12 from 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM. We begin our next monthly topic: The Sacrament of Reconciliation - perfect for this time of Lent.

### **Children Preparing for First Holy Communion**

A reminder that all families with children preparing to receive the Sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist will have a meeting with both parents (at least 1) and children on Wednesday, March 19 from 5:30 to 6:45 PM.

## 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!

## Social Justice

### Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, March 18

Food & Milk: Sue Pretasky, Clare Ruff, OPEN, OPEN, Dorothy Holtz (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

Intake: Mary Olson, Phil Klar, Shannon Klar, Riley Klar, Sarah Kopski, OPEN (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Morning Volunteer: Brad and Lynn Sturm (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.

## 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 at www.charitymania.com/give/LF019
- Or scan the QR code and make a \$10 donation.

## Around the Diocese

### Mass of Reparation

On March 27 at 10 AM at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, Bishop Battersby will conduct a Mass of Reparation. Every clergy, religious and lay person is invited and encouraged to attend.

What is a "Reparation Mass"? "It is when we humbly and truthfully acknowledge our sins and surrender ourselves with confidence into the loving and merciful arms of our heavenly Father. In the words of Pope Francis, we offer the heart of Christ a new possibility of spreading in this world the flames of his ardent and gracious love. We give him permission to remove all the barriers we have created and unleash his unconquerable Love upon ourselves and upon the world. That is reparation.

From start to finish reparation is a divine work, wrought by Jesus in his Passion and Resurrection. We, the members of his Body, get to participate in it."

### Fish Fry at St Charles Borromeo in Genoa

Come enjoy a delicious Fish Fry at St. Charles School, 707 Eagle Street, Genoa, WI on March 7, March 21, and April 4. Eat in or get it to go. Serving from 5 pm - 7 pm or gone, in the cafeteria. Dinner includes: 3 pieces of cod fish, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans and a bun for \$15. Drinks and desserts sold separately.

### Alliance Family Services - Stories of Hope.

Alliance Family Services is hosting an inspiring evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, fellowship and stories of what God is doing for women and families through Alliance Family Services, which exists to protect life, proclaim the gospel and provide support in challenging circumstances. Whether it's a pregnancy test, ultrasound, STI testing, prenatal care, well-woman exam or mentoring in life skills, Alliance Family Services is there to provide free and confidential assistance. Join them for "Stories of Hope" on March 14, from 6:00-9:00 PM at First Free Church in Onalaska. To register, visit alliance.givevirtuous.org/Event/soh-lacrosse,

### A Minute with Jesus

As you take "steps forward," your faith in Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist will grow. We cannot simply convince ourselves through reason that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. One of the best ways to grow in this faith is to spend some time in conversation with Jesus, truly present in a Catholic Church. Go there and share something with the Lord that is on your heart. You will notice that probably without saying or feeling anything special, you will leave with a quieted heart. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me commit to spending some time in conversation with you in Church.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

- Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- 7:30 AM † Gary Werner By Linda Werner
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025
- 7:30 AM † Donald Wavra By Bonnie Winter and K. Miller
- By Bolline Willer a
- Thursday, March 13, 2025
- 7:30 AM † Living and deceased members of the Wieczorek Family By Mike Wuensch
- 2:00 PM Service of the Word at Hillview Healthcare Center
- Friday, March 14, 2025
- 7:30 AM † Mary Clements By Jim and Patti Martell
- Saturday, March 15, 2025
- 4:00 PM † Jamie Tennant By Family Sunday, March 16, 2025
- 8:00 AM Pro Populo
- 10:00 AM † Myra Klos
  - By Linda Kloet



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

# Liturgical Roles March 15-16

Liturgical Roles March 15-10	
Minister of	Holy Communion
4:00 PM	Sue Ernster, Kelly Jakes, Steve Lefever,
	Kevin Moyle, Mark Outzen, Joseph van Oss
8:00 AM	Nick Berry, Gloria Biesen, Donna Burns, Erin
	Klar, Steve Klar, Erica Stanek
10:00 AM	Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes, John
	Conzemius, Mary Olson, Terri Pedace,
	Barbara Stetzer, Bill Brendel (Choir)
•	
Lector	
4:00 PM	Jerome Iverson, Chris Schlegel
8:00 AM	Bob Mahr, LuAnn Miller
10:00 AM	Linda Gillette, Matt Binsfeld
Server	
4:00 PM	OPEN, OPEN
8:00 AM	Isabella Miller, Kaitlin Ortmeier
10:00 AM	Shaun Ziolkowski, Matt Binsfeld
Cantor	
4:00 PM	Christine J Nelson
8:00 AM	Dawn Mazzola
10:00 AM	Sunday Choir
Musician	
4:00 PM	Christopher Carskadon
8:00 AM	Christopher Carskadon
10:00 AM	Jenny Nielsen
Song Leade	
10:00 AM	OPEN
Sacristan	
4:00 PM	OPEN
8:00 AM	Sue Groetsch
10:00 AM	Linda Gillette
Gift Bearer	
4:00 PM	The Goyette Family
8:00 AM	The McKenna Family
10:00 AM	Jim McGettigan, Kathy McGettigan
Greeter	
4:00 PM	Phil Watson (Lead), OPEN, OPEN, Arian
	Arens, Neil Kumm, Kevin Moyle, Joe Riemer,
	Olivia Rudie, Steve Schaub
8:00 AM	Allan Baumler (Lead), OPEN, Kylie Ortmeier,
	Isabel Harden, Peggy Baumler, Jackson
	Harpenau, Dave Lawrence, Rosie
10.00.000	Pennebecker
10:00 AM	Lisa Doering (Lead), OPEN, OPEN, Lydia
	Bell, Casey Horman, Felicity Bell, Charlene
	Krocker, Mike Wintheiser
Scrip Seller	
4:00 PM	Sue Olson, Dee Sauer
8:00 AM	Kerry Groetsch, Karen Perry
10:00 AM	Kathy McGettigan, Sheri Skelton
Hospitality	
8:00 AM	Cindy Klar, Bob Klar
10:00 AM	Robb Pretasky, Sue Pretasky
Live Streamer	
	Dave Imhoff

4:00 PM Dave Imhoff

#### **Divine Mercy Mosaic**

began on March 4, and the poly sheeting was installed to rable, customizable, and timeless. However, the decision control the amount of dust created in the Church. The was also influenced by the current design elements in niche renovation will include some of the wall sconces the Church. that hold the red vigil candles to be removed and distributed evenly between the Divine Mercy and Mary, Mother considered the most long-lasting form of art in the world. of the Church mosaics. This will help balance the ap- Today, you will find mosaics used in several ways. They pearance of the two niches and offer the ability to light can be installed on the walls, floors, and ceilings of bathvotive candles near the mosaics. Additionally, Chaseburg rooms and kitchens. High-traffic areas such as subways, Manufacturing is creating wall sconces in each niche to *swimming pools*, and businesses are common locations. provide lighting sticks. The updates to the niches will also Mosaics are both decorative and functional and can be include new lighting to improve the viewing of the mosa- used to enhance both indoor and outdoor spaces. When ics.

In determining how best to represent the image of Divine Mercy, the Skemp painting and the mosaic of Mary, Mother of the Church was the inspiration. The new mosaic will mirror elements from the current mosaic. such as the wood framing and blue background. 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. The mosaic of Mary, Mother of the Church, used various ele-



ments of the Church's art and architecture in its design; therefore, the Divine Mercy mosaic will reflect those same elements.

The May 5, 2024, article exbulletin plained the process for choosing mosaic as the art form to represent Mary, Mother of the Church. The article is reprinted below as a refresher on the benefits of a mosaic.





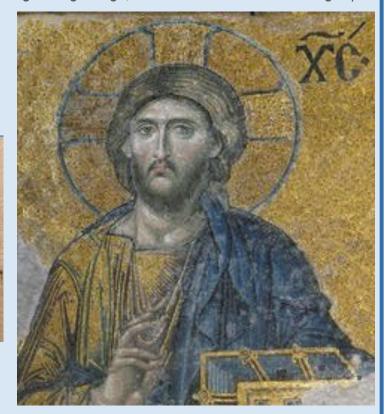
A framed painting or a painted mural would introduce a new form of art. While а in) would comple- Church. ment the current statues in church. there's a statues.

would constrict the possibilities. A mosaic quickly rose to Preparation of the niche for the mosaic of Divine Mercy the top of the list. In terms of practicality, a mosaic is du-

> Mosaic art is quite durable and functional; in fact it is installed properly, a mosaic can withstand exposure to sunlight, moisture, and temperature fluctuations – this is not the case with painted murals.

> Mosaic artists utilize various materials, such as clay, marble, glass, tiles, or stone, to create their intricate masterpieces. The wide assortment of materials allows artists and designers to customize patterns, colors, and textures. Each mosaic is, therefore, unique and beautifully created to fit its surroundings or serve its purpose.

> Finally, mosaic art is timeless. It is an art form with roots extending back to ancient cultures – over 4,000 years! – that is still appreciated, practiced, and chosen in today's modern building and decor designs. Due to its long-lasting design, mosaic art has allowed us a glimpse



wood- into past civilizations. These discovered mosaics teach carved statue (not a us about their religion, daily routines, and their attitude statue of plaster, toward flora and fauna. Byzantine mosaics are a wellstone. or plastic res- established and inspiring form of artwork in the Catholic

> Next week's article will highlight what a mosaic is, how the our mosaic was made, and how it will be mounted.

As the preparation work continues and our anticipation definite style to our grows, we ask Jesus to have mercy on us and on the which whole world.



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Mary Mother of the Church, La Crosse, WI A 4C 02-0155