March 30, 2025





The 4th 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

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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.

Spiritual Renewal Days

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

St. Francis is the secondary patron of our Diocese, and our local community of friars will be here to pray and reflect upon the canticle-poem written by St. Francis in 1225, which inspired Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praised Be) on the care of our common home. Join Fr. Conrad Targonski OFM, Fr. John Abts OFM, and Fr. Michael Weldon OFM on March 31 - April 2 (Mon-Wed) at 6 PM. The first two evenings will be in church; the final evening will be in the parish hall. Food hospitality follows each evening.

Silver Jubilee of our Parish

Mary, Mother of the Church was officially 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 of meatballs and buttered noodles 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.

Parish Directories

Parish directories will be available for purchase in the Parish Hall during the Silver Jubilee celebrations after Masses on the weekend of April 5-6. The cost is \$20. Directories will be available to purchase in the parish office after that weekend.

Cathedral Individual Confessions

Priests will be available to hear individual confessions at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral on Monday, April 14 at 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

Stations of the Cross

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

MMOC Eucharistic Adoration

On April 3, Mary, Mother of the Church will host its monthly Holy Hour at 4:45 PM. Come adore Him!

Parish Social

Join us Thursday, April 3 after the 7:30 AM Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee, conversation and fellowship.

NEEDED: Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical positions need to be filled for Holy Week Masses. 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 and click on the Ministry Scheduler link at the top of the page, or call Jennifer at 608-788-5483, ext. 1.

MMOC Fish Fry

Thank you to everyone who made our Friday Fish Fries a success!

Lenten Collection - Alliance Women's Clinic

This year's Lenten Collection supports Alliance Women's Clinic - a state-of-the-art pregnancy resource center in La Crosse. They advocate for the unborn, women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. This Christ-centered nonprofit medical ministry is committed to offering all services at no cost to women and families in our community. They offer the following:

Medical Services provided exclusively by board-certified medical professionals, including physicians, registered nurses, sonographers, and licensed counselors: pregnancy testing, limited obstetric ultrasound, abortion pill reversal, STI testing, prenatal care (up to 20 weeks), and well-woman care for reproductive-aged women.

Other Support Services include assistance with insurance enrollment, budgeting, and job applications; help with housing solutions; educational classes and mentorship programs; and opportunities for spiritual growth and guidance.

Please be generous to this year's Lent Collection and consider attending the Open House on April 8.



Alliance Women's Clinic is a Christ-centered nonprofit medical ministry, offering free, compassionate care to women and families in the La Crosse area. Our professional team provides essential medical services, pregnancy support, and spiritual guidance.

Join us April 8 to learn more!

Special Collection for St. Francis de Sales Seminary

Thank you to everyone who supported the capital campaign for the renovation and restoration of the St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee.

Easter Flowers

We are already receiving donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. Flowers will be purchased throughout the Easter Season to add to our extended celebrations. You may use the special envelopes in your envelope pack for this. If you choose to use WeShare and donate electronically, please contact the parish office so that your memorial intention can be recorded for the bulletin as there is no option to add this online.

New Life Choir

The New Life Choir will sing Easter Morning, April 20 at the 8:00 AM Mass. We will meet to rehearse on Tuesday, April 8 at 9:00 AM in the music room (lower level of the Parish Hall). Email or call Mary Jo Lium if you are interested in joining the choir mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org or 608-788-5483 ext. 8.

Children's Choir

We are asking all children 5K and older to join our Sunday Choir in leading the music on Easter Sunday, April 20 at the 10:00 AM Mass. All music will be done from the balcony. We are asking everyone to be in the choir loft ready to go at 9:45 AM.

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.

Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does not meet Wednesday April 2. Families should be working on their At Home Lesson 6-3: The Prodigal Son and 6-4: Catholic Prayer Traditions.

OCIA

Please pray for our candidates who are preparing to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil: Ann Lorenz, Ashley Wateski, Braelyn Wateski, Scarlett Wateski, Corey Myers, Keila Ryan, Leah Brandner, and Sharyn Jordan.

Father of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into his allembracing love. Please guide our candidates in the days and weeks ahead: strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for them!

Social Justice

Warming Center Volunteers on Tuesday, April 1

<u>Food & Milk:</u> Mike Marco, Mary Schaub, Lu Ann Miller, Pattie Nimocks, Juli Jansen (milk) (to be delivered to 413 S. 3rd St. by 6:30 PM)

<u>Intake:</u> Mary Olson, Nancy Imhoff, Sarah Kopski, Matt Deshler, Karen Deshler, OPEN (man preferred) (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Morning Volunteer: Neil Kumm and Carol Berra (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

Men's Club Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who made the food drive a success.

Around the Diocese

National Defund Planned Parenthood Protest

Join thousands of pro-lifers across the country, gathering peacefully at Planned Parenthood facilities to educate our communities about their true agenda, speak out for our unborn brothers and sisters, and call on state and federal governments to defund the abortion giant. There is a gathering on Wednesday, April 2 at 4 PM at Planned Parenthood-La Crosse, 1201 Caledonia Street, La Crosse. For more Info: Contact Marie Allen at 608-799-9196.

Faith & Recovery:

Catholic Keys to Freedom from Substance Abuse All are invited to a breakfast program on April 26 featuring two extraordinary speakers:

Joe McGivney - A lifelong alcoholic whose brain was so damaged that it led to his being institutionalized with an incurable psychosis, until one morning he woke up and was suddenly and completely healed.

Keaton Douglas - Executive Director of the iTHIRST initiative and creator of the iTHIRST Spiritual Companionship Training, which forms lay leaders and clery for the mission of accompanying those suffering from substance use disorders and their families.

For more information and to register for this inspiring morning program at Holy Cross Diocesan Center, visit diolc.org/faith-recovery.

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Aquinas Booster Club Raffle

Please plan to attend the annual Aquinas Booster Club Auction on Saturday, April 5 at 5 p.m. at Aquinas High School. The event raises money to support student-athletes and features a silent and live auction, Golden Ticket raffle (your choice of any live auction item), a raffle for \$1,000 off Aquinas tuition, food and beverages. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate in the silent auction and make donations after 5pm on March 28. Auction is live and can be found here: events.readysetauction.com/acs/bcauction2025.

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 27

The Deanery of the La Crosse Diocese has chosen the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. You are invited to make a pilgrimage for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27.

The schedule for the day:

9:00 AM Latin Mass

11:00 AM Spanish Mass

12:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet in Spanish

1:00 PM English Mass

2:30 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

2:45 PM Divine Mercy Reflection & Consecration by Cardinal Burke

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet led by Cardinal Burke,

3:15 PM Benediction & Reposition

3:30 PM St. Faustina Relic Blessing & Veneration.

Confessions will be available 30 minutes before the 9 & 11 AM Masses until all are heard and then at 12 Noon - 4 PM. Cart shuttles will be available for pilgrims from 8AM-5PM. For more information, please call the Shrine at (877) 799-4059.

"On that day (Divine Mercy Sunday), the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." – Diary of St. Faustina #699

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

7:30 AM † Paula Heiderscheit

By Family

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:30 AM † Fran and Beatrice DeFlorian

By Teresa Brown

Thursday, April 3, 2025

7:30 AM † Gloria Hundt

By Becky Byron

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

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:30 AM † Mildred Miller

By Lorraine Miller and Jerry Hegenbarth

Saturday, April 5, 2025 4:00 PM † Myra Klos

| Wyra Kios

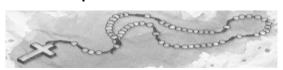
By David and Laura Wagner

Sunday, April 6, 2025

8:00 AM Living and Deceased members of the Groetsch, Pahs and Pretasky families

By Kerry and Sue Groetsch

10:00 AM Pro Populo



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

Liturgical Roles April 5-6

Minister of Holy Communion

4:00 PM Gary Heilman, Linda Heilman, Kelly Jakes, Steve Lefever, Mark Misch, Kellie Schmitz

8:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Gloria Biesen, Pat Burns, Donna Burns, Mary Lawrence, Lance Miller,

Tom Reichenbacher

10:00 AM Deacon Terry Bell, Chuck Berendes, Polly

Berendes, Carol Forer, Mary Olson, Patti

Sherry, Barbara Stetzer

Lector

4:00 PM Mark Outzen, Jim Klock

8:00 AM Pattie Nimocks, Charles Heiderscheit 10:00 AM Mary Jo Swartout, Fred Berneking

Server

4:00 PM Keegan Gerling, Madison Schlegel 8:00 AM Hallie Miller, Kaitlin Ortmeier

10:00 AM Louie Berendes, Thompson Jack

Cantor

4:00 PM Christine J Nelson 8:00 AM Paul Lansing 10:00 AM Natalie Solverson

Musician

4:00 PM Haylee Pagenkopf 8:00 AM Haylee Pagenkopf 10:00 AM Haylee Pagenkopf

Sacristan

4:00 PM Linda Kloet 8:00 AM Sue Groetsch 10:00 AM John Conzemius

Gift Bearer

4:00 PM8:00 AM10:00 AMBen Gerling, Lindsey GoyetteJennifer Miller, Lance MillerDavid Parker, Manu Parker

Greeter

4:00 PM Chris Schlegel (Lead), OPEN, Arian Arens, Jackson Harpenau, Neil Kumm, Joe Riemer, Jim Spielbauer, Phil Watson

8:00 AM Allan Baumler (Lead), Peggy Baumler, Isabel Harden, Cindy Klar, Bob Klar, Kylie Ortmeier,

Dave Lawrence, Rosie Pennebecker

10:00 AM Robb Pretasky (Lead), Charlotte Berendes, Andrew Egan, Andrew Schwartz, Linda, Schwartz, Gavin Stratman, Trisha Stratman,

Gabriella Stratman

Scrip Seller

4:00 PM8:00 AM10:00 AMKevin Moyle, Sue OlsonMary Genz, Kerry GroetschTammy Byington, Sue Pretasky

Live Streamer

4:00 PM Joseph van Oss



Divine Mercy Mosaic

Good news! We have received word that the mosaic has shipped from Italy to Milwaukee, and the renovation of the niches is still on schedule for our Jubilee weekend celebration of April 5-6. Your continued prayers are appreciated.



This article focuses on the Spiritual Works of Mercy: highlighting the seven medallions which depict how we are to bring the Mercy of Jesus to our neighbors in need as Jesus shared with 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).

The Spiritual Works of Mercy tend to the spiritual needs of others. Each medallion design was chosen to help us meditate on how to live these Works of Mercy. The pale-white rays from Jesus' heart, representing the water that makes souls righteous, are radiating through these medallions. From top to bottom:

Instruct the Ignorant Admonish the Sinner Counsel the Doubtful Comfort the Sorrowful Forgive All Injuries Bear Wrongs Patiently Pray for the Living and the Dead

The first image, Instruct the Ignorant, is represented

with a cross overlaid on Sacred Scripture. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe that have commanded [you" (Matthew 18:19-20). As disciples of Jesus, we, too, are responsi-



ble for sharing the Gospel message with our family, friends, and those we encounter. Who is Jesus calling you to share the Good News with today?

The next image, Admonish the Sinner, is represented



was by a heart wrapped in the chains of sin and a hand pointing that soul to Jesus, represented by His Cross. You may be thinking, "I have no stones to throw." Your thought is correct; it is essential that we bring our failings to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, we are responsible

for helping others stay on the narrow path to heaven; as Proverbs 27:17 suggests, "Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another." Our words of correction may be a loving suggestion to forgive a family member or a sharing of how a hurtful pattern of behavior is not in line

with the teachings of Jesus. Who can you help sharpen on their journey to

heaven?

The third image, Counsel the Doubtful, uses the image of a compass. As Christians, it is important we provide good direction to those who are struggling with a difficulty in life or



questioning God's goodness. Just as the compass can point us in the right direction on our earthly travels, a virtuous friend can point us in the direction of Jesus Christ who is "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" for our journey to heaven (John 14:6). Who needs you to help guide them to Jesus?

Comfort the Sorrowful, the fourth medallion, is depict-



ed by two hands gently holding a broken heart, echoing the psalmist, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed spirit" (Psalm 34:18). As you meditate on this image, consider who needs you to bring the healing love and compassion of Jesus to their broken

The fifth image of a dove holding an olive branch is the universal symbol of peace used by God to signal the end of the flood to Noah. This represents the call to Forgive All Injuries. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask that God forgive us our trespasses AS we forgive those who trespass against us (Matthew

6:12), not just seven times, but 77



times (Matthew 15:22). As you contemplate the depth of God's mercy and forgiveness, consider to whom you need to extend this same gift today.

To Bear Wrongs Patiently is depicted as a yoked



cross with thorns and lilies. The thorns remind us of the injustice and persecution Christians must bear (Matthew 5:10-12). Jesus bore His Cross patiently for us and for our salvation. We, too, are called to take up our cross and follow after Him (Matthew 10:38). The yoke reminds

us that we are not asked to carry our cross alone. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart... For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11:28-30). The lilies represent the Life of Christ. Most often, those we live with, work with, and journey through life with are in need of this patient mercy from us. To whom can you extend the patience of Christ in your life?

Finally, the image of hands folded in prayer reminds

us to Pray for the Living and the Dead. This particular Work of Mercy is one we can all begin immediately! St. Paul writes, "I urge you, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people" (1 Timothy 2:1). Let us also remember to "pray for those



who persecute you" (Mt. 5:44) and to make "atonement for the dead that they might be freed from their sin" (2) Maccabees 12:46). Thus, we can pray for the spiritual and temporal needs of the living and for the purification of the dead. Who needs your prayers?

Next week's article will feature the Corporal Works of Mercy and preview the corresponding medallions. As we wait and pray, St. Faustina, pray for us.

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