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 STAFF

Rev. Brian D. Konopa  ext. 7
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frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Richard Sage  ext. 8
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rsage@mmoclacrosse.org

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AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ted Knutson  784-8585
President

Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka  782-5998
Principal, Cathedral School

Kay Berra  782-5564
Principal, Blessed Sacrament School

Sue Amble  783-5483
Principal, St. Patrick School, Onalaska

Denise Ring  784-0156
Principal, Aquinas Middle School

Denise Ring  784-0287
Principal, Aquinas High School

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 8am–3pm

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 8am–3pm.

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Thirty Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving Mass Time  Thursday, November 22 at 9am. Let us come together to give thanks to God! There will be no Mass Friday, November 23. Liturgical Ministers are still needed, please sign up online.

Parish Office Hours  The office will be open Mon - Wed 8am-3pm; closed Thursday (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday. Scrip will be available for purchase Wednesday, Nov. 21 from 8am-3pm.

Food Baskets for November  Catholic Charities is grateful for all the food donations and is most in need of socks, underwear, long underwear for men; weatherproof gloves and hats for the whole family; non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners; coffee and hot chocolate.

Book of Remembrance  In the month of November, the Family of God remembers the souls of our departed loved ones. MMOC records the names of parishioners who have died in the previous 12 months in our Book of Remembrance. Everyone is invited to pray for them and to write the names of their own loved ones whose funerals have been in other places, especially those who have died in the last year. The Book of Remembrance is in a place of honor near the Easter Paschal Candle for the majority of the month of November.

Prayer to St. Michael  Bishop Callahan has asked parishes to pray to St. Michael the Archangel for his assistance "to help rid us, the Church, of its current evils." Parishes were given latitude to decide the length of time, and MMOC will say the prayer until Advent begins on Dec. 1.

Would you like to learn to play music? A Handbell Choir for all ages is forming. No musical experience is needed. No long-term commitment required. Just come and try it out. Rehearsals are on Fridays from 3:45 to 4:30 in the Music Room in the lower level of the Parish Hall. For more info e-mail Nancy Misch at nancyinlax@yahoo.com

Opportunities for Confessions During Advent  Mary Mother of the Church will be hosting Penance Services Wednesday, Dec 5:
4pm with RE students Gr. 3-5
7pm with RE students Gr. 6-8
St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral will have all-day confessions Monday, Dec 17 at 9am-6pm.


Social Justice

Angel Tree 2018  It’s up and decorated with angels. As in the past, each angel will have a dollar amount attached. You have the opportunity to donate cash or check, or purchase scrip of your choice in that amount and place in the box. The Angel Tree will be up through December 2. All angels and donations need to be turned in by December 9. This project is designed to help Catholic Charities provide for those families in need over this Christmas season. Thank you for always being so generous.

La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner  We are collecting green beans (they prefer the large #10 cans, not the French style) and fruit punch for the 37th annual La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Please bring your donations to the Mother’s Room by Tuesday, Nov. 20. For more information on the dinner itself please visit www.laxthanksgivingdinner.com

Family Life

Welcome to the Waters of Baptism  Congratulations to Thomas Xavier Kuklinski who was baptized on November 10 at the 4pm Mass! We welcome him to God’s family with great joy!

Religious Education  There will be no Religious Education classes Wednesday, November 21, Happy Thanksgiving!

MMOC ACS Families  Aquinas Catholic Schools has an Education Commission to assist the Dean and system President in identifying long term goals and forming policies to assist in the operation of our Catholic schools. This consultative body is formed from supporting parishes, school leaders, and school associations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Aquinas Catholic Schools please contact your parish’s rep, Lori Meyer, (ldmeyer@centurytel.net) or Father Konopa. Thank you for supporting the formation of our children as we seek to pass on the gift of faith.

Men’s Club

Football Mania Winners Week 9  Congratulations to the following winners: Paul Fellenz, Mark Patterson, John Gillies, Jeff Servais, Morgan Langrehr, Mark Kendhammer, Derrick Fredrickson, Ron Dehli, Anita Olson, Tom Shankey, Joan Weissenberger, Tom Demarais, Alex Fuchsteiner, Charles Berger, Bill Treanor, Teresa Dight, Bob Flottmeyer and Ron Krogman!
PCCW

November PCCW Social  Join us for the PCCW Meeting on Monday, Nov. 19 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Audrey Lucier, Director at Franciscan Spirituality Center will speak on the topic, “At the Heart of Things: Diving Deep into Spirituality”. A Social with refreshments will follow. All the women of MMOC are members of our PCCW. Hope to see you there.

Scrip

Plan Ahead For The Holidays  As Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Christmas approach, please plan ahead for your Scrip purchases for all your shopping, baking, decorating and gift buying needs. Purchase scrip in the parish office on Fridays from 8am-3pm and before/after all weekend Masses. You can also buy scrip online, please call Brandee in the office for all the details 788-5483, ext. 3.

COOKIE WALK 2018

Mark your calendars, our famous Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 8 7:30am-1pm in the PARISH HALL! Sign up sheets to help out at the Cookie Walk and to make baked goods are now in the gathering space of the church.

Cookie Makers Wanted:  Attention all bakers, we are in need of pies, breads, candies, and lots and lots of cookies. Put on your aprons and chefs hats, heat up your ovens, and get out your mixing bowls. Your baked good donations can be dropped off in the main entrance of the Parish Hall Thursday Dec. 6 from 7:30am-5:30pm or all day Friday, Dec. 7

Please label any items that contain nuts.

Raffle tickets for an American Girl doll will be on sale after all Masses. In addition tickets for several specialty gift baskets to be raffled off at the Cookie Walk are now on sale in the gathering space of the church.

Liturgical Roles

November 24th & 25th

Ministers of Holy Communion
4:00 p.m.  Joseph van Oss, Larry Weibel, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
8:00 a.m.  Diane Elsen, Tom Elsen, Sue Moyle, Anita Olson, Chris Schlegel, NOT FILLED
10:00 a.m.  Barbara Hauke, Rozan Iverson, Rebecca Kath, Tony Kath, Sue Konop, Barbara Stetzer

Sacristans
4:00 p.m.  Norma Hruska
8:00 a.m.  Kerry & Sue Groetsch
10:00 a.m.  John Conzemius

Lectors
4:00 p.m.  Joseph van Oss, Barbara Stetzer
8:00 a.m.  Linda Elsen, Francesca Ortmier
10:00 a.m.  Pattie Nimocks, Barbara Stetzer

Servers
4:00 p.m.  Sophia Schmitz, NOT FILLED
8:00 a.m.  Ryann Klar, Macauley Miller
10:00 a.m.  Ryan Conzemius, Andrew Egan

Musicians
4:00 p.m.  Bridget Misch
8:00 a.m.  Judy Roraff
10:00 a.m.  Mary Jo Liim

Cantors
4:00 p.m.  Nancy Misch
8:00 a.m.  Sara Groetsch
10:00 a.m.  Ensemble Choir

Ushers
4:00 p.m.  John Dooley, Herb Meyers, Rick Mix, Steve Shaker (sub req.), Mike Weissenberger, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
8:00 a.m.  Marv Elsen, Bob Klar, Howard Olson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
10:00 a.m.  Andrew Fischer, Nancy Kabat, Mike Kendhammer, Mike Konop, Ron Malles, Nick Osowski, Bill Sherry, Don Wavra

Gift Bearers
4:00 p.m.  Marie Meyers, Herb Meyers
8:00 a.m.  Linda Kaiser, Ron Kaiser
10:00 a.m.  Teri Kendhammer, Mike Kendhammer

Hospitality
8:00 a.m.  Cindy Klar, Bob Klar
10:00 a.m.  Charlotte Berendes, Polly Berendes

Scrip Sellers
4:00 p.m.  Vickie Kloss, NOT FILLED
8:00 a.m.  Sue Moyle, Karen Perry
10:00 a.m.  Sheri Skelton, Gehrig Skelton

Money Counters
10:00 a.m.  Sally Egan, Teresa Pederson, Joanne Spindler

The Blessing of the Religious Education Center took place on Wed., Sept. 19, 2018. The parish gave thanks to God as Gr. K-5 had their first class. During the prayer service, the St. Thomas More School Time Capsule from the school year 1997-1998 was opened. St. Thomas More School was closed at the end of the 1999-2000 school year. Before the building was deconstructed in the winter of 2015-16, the time capsule was located and saved for the time when we had classrooms again. Contents include…

1997-1998 Staff, in addition to the Teachers listed below:

Grade 6 – Teacher: Miss Allison Larkin – Yellow booklet containing a class photo and individual notes from each student. A few quotes:
- If you find this in 50 years I plan to be a veterinarian. I have 2 sisters and 1 brother. My dad is a dentist and my mom is a nurse. – Averi Kotnour
- If you find this in 50 years I plan to be a retired NHL Hockey star in the hall of fame. – Ryan Lee
- In 50 years I plan to be working in Emergency Room with kids mostly. This school gives a good education. I am a server for the church. – Melissa Konop

Grade 5 – Teacher: Mrs. Linda Leach – Each student in class wrote an individual letter addressed to “Dear Finder”. A few quotes:
- Today is Monday, Sept. 15, 1997. I am in the fifth grade. When I grow up I want to play in the NFL and I hope one of my kids find this letter. – Greg Marco
- Mother Teresa died last Friday, she was very kind. The Packers won the Super Bowl last year. The USA just sent a rover to Mars. – Tim Znidarsich
- I love animals, so I want to be a veterinarian. Princess Diana (Princess of Wales) died this week. – Caitlin Lyga
- I like going to school here. My life is pretty exciting. My Mom’s name is Connie and my Dad’s name is Phil. I like my family. – Jessica Watson

Grade 4 – Teacher: Mrs. Mary Reeck – There was a fourth grade class photo. There is a class letter which describes their studies of the state of Wisconsin, Moses and the Ten Commandments, weekly school Masses, and the new computer lab with ten new Power Macintosh Computers.

Grade 3 – Teacher: Mrs. Susan Tossi – Each student created an “I LOVE JESUS” prayer and all were compiled into a “Prayer Book.” A few of their prayers:
- He is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah. I can be like Jesus. – Ruth Anne Marco
- Jesus frees us. Jesus is love. I love Jesus – Trevor Lyga
- He is the Head of the Catholic Church. Jesus is Holy Communion. – Wendy Bakkestuen

Grade 2 – Teacher: Mrs. Nancy Hauser – The First Communion Class included each of their names written with their very best penmanship and a glazed pottery chalice and paten as a sample of what was gifted to each of them to remember this special sacramental year!

Grade 1 – Teacher: Mrs. Connie Pick – There were individual photos with a letter printed by each first grader with this message: 9-12-1997 I am (name). I am in first grade.

Kindergarten – Teacher: Mrs. Tracy Servais – Blue Booklet called “What I Want to Be” by the class of 2010. Just a few quotes:
- When I grow up I want to be a baby care provider – Maggie Kotnour
- When I grow up I want to be a teacher – Bridget Misch
- When I grow up I want to be a builder – Olivia Slaback

Pre-School – Teacher: Mrs. Barb Monahan – These little ones wrote their names in colorful pre-school style on an 11x17 construction sheet of paper.


Items from the time capsule are on display inside the parish hall.
**Building Our Future Together**

In the fall of 2015, we opened the two cornerstones of the St. Thomas More school building. In the fall of 2016, we opened the 1960 cornerstone from St. Pius X. On September 19, 2018, we opened another time capsule which was placed in the front yard of St. Thomas More school and saved for the first day of class for the new Religious Education Center. The contents included mementos from the school year 1997-1998:

Father Richard Fliss was the Pastor and Mr. Victor Kapusinski was the Principal. Several of the grades included a class picture. A couple of the older boys expressed their plans to be NHL Hockey and NFL Football players. It didn’t happen. The 4th graders wrote about their studies of the State of Wisconsin and boasted about the school having “ten new powerful Macintosh computers.” Today their cell phones are probably more “powerful” than all those computers put together! The second grade First Communion Class included a glazed pottery chalice and paten as a reminder of their special sacramental year. And Mrs. van Oss, the school music teacher, included a program from the spring production of “The Sound of Music.”

The cornerstones and the items in these time capsules are legacy items. Legacy is so important! It’s part of our story and part of our identity. In the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life, we need to live in the present moment to meet the demands and responsibilities of our lives. However, it’s also good to reflect on the past … and to look far into the future.

We’ve done this as a parish when Building Our Future Together. We’ve looked to the past and created a Legacy Wall. We’ve looked to the details of our 1960 era church and incorporated architectural themes into the new construction … both outside and inside.

We’ve spent a lot of time as a parish reflecting on what our parish would need in the future when we made our plans and our pledges. The past and the future are important considerations when making big decisions.

Estate planning is like this as well. Even when our estates are modest in size, our planned gifts tell our family and others what we valued in life and what we will always value.

We hope you have had the opportunity to read the parish mailing that arrived at your home a week ago. We realize this is a busy time of year, but it’s also a time when we thing of the past … and even about the future.

This week we celebrate Thanksgiving … and we have so much for which to be thankful! We remember with gratitude the legacy of our past, whether it is from St. Pius X Parish or St. Thomas More Parish. We remember the present and the beautiful new Parish Hall, Religious Education Center, and Music Room.

With grateful confidence and trust in God we look to the future as we continue to Build Our Future Together under the patronage of Mary, Mother of the Church. Happy Thanksgiving!

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**Weekly Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, November 20, 2018**
7:30 am † Lorraine Keil by Her Family

**Wednesday, November 21, 2018**
7:30 am † Don Dolan by Ruth Dolan

**Thursday, November 22, 2018**
9:00 am † Clarence and Verna Clements by Bob and Connie Goodreau
2:00 pm No Mass (at Hillview)

**Friday, November 23, 2018**
7:30 am No Mass

**Saturday, November 24, 2018 (Incense)**
4:00 pm † Lorraine and Adrian Yeager by Kathy and Dennis Bissen

**Sunday, November 25, 2018 (Incense)**
8:00 am † Carol (Darling) Weber by Jack and Pat Darling
10:00 am For the People

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

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**The 2018 Diocesan Annual Appeal**

For many years MMOC has met and surpassed the target with the confidence of knowing we are doing our part to help the broader church while enjoying the rebate which is returned to the parish. This fiscal year’s target is $103,190. Regardless of how generous our circumstances allow us to be, each of us can return our pledge cards. If a household cannot give this year, that’s understandable. But PLEASE, return your pledge card—even if “$0” or “prayers only” is the response. Let’s move closer to 100%! Results as of Nov. 13