PARISH STAFF

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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
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.

MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil 4pm
Sunday 8am & 10am
Tuesday–Friday 7:30am

CONFESSIONS
Saturday 3:15-3:45 pm
or by appointment

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.
Presentation on the Sacrament of Confession
This Tuesday, July 30, there will be a 20-25 minute presentation by Seminarian Joe Culligan after the 7:30 am Mass in the Parish Hall. This presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), will address common misconceptions of the Sacrament and its importance for spiritual growth. There will also be time for a few questions afterwards, so please come prepared.

August Communion Calls The following parishioners will receive Communion in their homes this week: Mary Carlson; Ed Semb; Olivia Krajewski; Carol & Clayton Weis; Gerald Sheehan; Catherine Larson; Betty Butterfield; Jim Lepsch; Don Bowman; Janice Mosher; Margaret Bakkum; Marilyn Lawrence; Bob O’Connor; and Barb Starsky. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist in their home, please call the parish office at 788.5483.

Monthly Mass Social Please join us Thursday, August 1 after the 7:30 am Mass for coffee, conversation, and fellowship.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention For August That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly “schools of true human growth”.

Food Baskets for August Catholic Charities is grateful for all the food donations and is most in need of School snacks like crackers, cookies, pretzels, etc.; pop top items such as hearty soups, veggies, beef stews, hearty soups, canned meats, and complete boxed/canned meals.

Family Life

Requiescat in Peace Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dolores Weber. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to her family and friends who mourn her loss. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her.

United in the Bonds of Marriage Congratulations to Luke Medinger and Clara Degallier, who were married on July 20, 2019. May the love they share be a living witness of how much God loves the world.

Wedding Banns (II) Zackery Woods (MMOC) and Rachel Mickelson on August 10, 2019.

Feed your faith with prayer, and your doubts will starve!

Baptism Class Parents who are welcoming a new baby to their families are asked to attend our Baptismal Preparation.
Session I - Sunday, August 4 at 9:00 - 9:50 am (immediately following the 8 am Mass)
Session II - Monday, August 5 at 6 - 7 pm
Upcoming Baptism weekends will be August 10 & 11, September 7 & 8. Please contact the parish office to register: 788-5483 x. 2

Catholic Education

Sky Vacation Bible School We will be taking off on high adventure with God this year at Vacation Bible School. A week of prayer, songs, stories, crafts, and watching our faith take flight! This high-flying adventure is open to all students entering Grades K through 5 and will take place August 19-23, 9 am to 11:30 am at Holy Trinity Parish. Contact Rebecca at holytrinityreled@charter.net for more information and registration.

Middle School Ministry Camp All students entering Grades 6-8 are invited to join us for three evenings of prayer, fun, and our ultimate goal….serving others as Jesus taught us. This camp will take place Tuesday—Thursday, August 20-22, 6:30pm-8:30pm at Holy Trinity Parish. Contact Rebecca at holytrinityreled@charter.net for more information and registration.

Aquinas Catholic Schools We are still accepting enrollments for our preschool and kindergarten programs for the 2019-20 school year! Offered at both St. Patrick Elementary School (located in Onalaska), and Cathedral Elementary School (located in La Crosse) these programs provide a high-quality early childhood education starting at three years old. We are committed to helping all families that want to send their children to Aquinas Catholic Schools, regardless of financial ability. To learn about your options and to schedule a tour contact Nancy Pederson 608.784.8585. or go online to www.aquinascatholicschools.org for more info.

Join Us! St. Patrick Elementary School will be holding an open house Sunday, August 4th after Mass from 8:00 am-noon. We invite you and family for refreshments, an opportunity to explore the school and to meet some of our teachers. Whether you're new to Aquinas or if you're already a part of the Aquinas family we invite you to join. If you have any questions, please contact Chandra Frydenlund 608.784.8585.
Liturgical Ministry Needs

NEEDED: Weekend Sacristans
Volunteers are needed to prepare the sacred vessels before Mass, tend to them afterward, and give attention to a variety of other items. Generosity of time and the ability to manage the sanctuary steps are requirements. Sacristans arrive for Mass about 20+ minutes beforehand and remain an additional 15 minutes afterward. As with all liturgical ministries, training is offered until there is a level of comfort and scheduling needs are respected; for example, volunteers choose their Mass preference, can “block off” weekends they are unavailable, and can request substitutes when less timely events arise. There is a need at all three 3 weekend Masses. Please contact the parish secretary at 788-5483 x 2.

NEEDED: Weekday Sacristans
Volunteers are needed to unlock the church and prepare everything for 7:30 am weekday Masses. Sacristans arrive at 6:30-6:45 am, turn on the lights, prepare the sacred vessels before the 7:05 am Rosary, and remain after Mass an additional 10+ minutes to prepare for the next day. Volunteers are asked to cover a full week about once a month. Generosity and flexibility of time is needed, especially as extra items arise such as funerals or special Mass schedules. The current team of weekday volunteers is helpful for training and ongoing support to substitute for each other. Please contact Fr. Konopa for more information: 788-5483 x 7.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY
PHOTO SESSIONS
Thank you to all those who participated in our July 23-26 photo sessions! On-line sign ups for August 20-24 are currently under way. Please visit the parish website: www.mmoclacrosse.org and click the links for...
  • 2019 Directory FAQ
  • How do I make an appointment?
  • Lifetouch Appointment Scheduling
and follow the instructions or call the parish office at 788-5483, ext 2. Upcoming dates include Aug. 20-23 (Tues - Fri) 2-9pm and Aug. 24 (Sat.) 9am-3pm. Once the August dates are 80% full, the September dates will open up.

Liturgical Roles

August 3rd & 4th

Ministers of Holy Communion
  4:00 p.m.  Mary Calkins, Linda Gillette, Mark Misch, Kevin Moyle, Kellie Schmitz, George Smith
  8:00 a.m.  Anita Olson, Mary Jo Schumacher, Betty Stoll, Wally Stoll, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
  10:00 a.m. Terry Bell, Dave Campbell, John Conzemius, Carol Forer, Terri Pedace, Linda Schwartz

Sacristans
  4:00 p.m.  Linda Gillette
  8:00 a.m.  Betty & Wally Stoll
  10:00 a.m.  John Conzemius

Lectors
  4:00 p.m.  Peter Schmitz, NOT FILLED
  8:00 a.m.  Patricia Kirchner, Francesca Ortmeier
  10:00 a.m.  Pattie Nimocks, Maureen Schwartz

Servers
  4:00 p.m.  Sophia Schmitz, Kyle White
  8:00 a.m.  Alec Taylor, Jackie Taylor
  10:00 a.m.  Ryan Conzemius, Rachel Egan

Musicians
  4:00 p.m.  Randy Lyden
  8:00 a.m.  Judy Roraff
  10:00 a.m.  Judy Roraff

Cantors
  4:00 p.m.  Nancy Misch
  8:00 a.m.  Linda Kloet
  10:00 a.m.  Rick Wilson

Ushers
  4:00 p.m.  Jim Kadlec, Mark Misch, Kevin Moyle, Phil Watson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
  8:00 a.m.  Jack Darling, Ed Garbers, Howard Olson, Wally Stoll, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
  10:00 a.m.  Steve Clements, Joe Halverson, Dean Hammes, Mike Kendhammer, Laura Papenfuss, Patrick Schams, Jalen Schams, Jim Servais

Gift Bearers
  4:00 p.m.  Barb Herlitzka, Ken Herlitzka
  8:00 a.m.  Dave Ortmeier, Francesca Ortmeier
  10:00 a.m.  Andrew Fischer, Henry Kabat

Hospitality
  8:00 a.m.  NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
  10:00 a.m.  Pat Houlihan, Kathy Houlihan

Scrip Sellers
  4:00 p.m.  Kevin Moyle, Kellie Schmitz
  8:00 a.m.  Bob Jansky, Charlene Jansky
  10:00 a.m.  Juli Jansen, Kathy McGettigan

Money Counters
  10:00 a.m.  Bill Antony, Sally Egan, Bob Mahr
There is a Farm Crisis!

SOLD” echoed the words from the mouth of the auctioneer. A signal of both an unfortunate end as well a beginning. That is the situation for a record number of farmers in our state. To date, Wisconsin has lost almost 700 dairy farms in 2018, and 7,785 herds of dairy cows since December 2003, a loss of 49.8% in 16 years. Too often we dismiss statistics because they are just numbers. However, each of those 7,785 herds were owned by people, most often a family who operated the farm for generations.

One of those families who recently had to sell their herd of dairy cows was Dan & Bernice Becker, parents of Fr. Aaron Becker, Associate pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven and chaplain at Assumption Middle and High Schools in Wisconsin Rapids. “It was really hard. The first crop of hay was not very good and then my parents ran out of it. With the shortage of hay, the price is just too expensive and milk prices are low. We had no choice but to sell,” explained Fr. Becker.

Historically, it has been customary to experience three-year cycles of lows and highs in milk prices. During the higher price cycles, farmers have been able to recover from the low years, catching up on past due bills and replacing worn-out equipment. Currently, however, we are in the fifth year of a low-price cycle, causing devastating hardship on too many farms.

Often the “solution” presented to farmers is – “just get a different job.” However, the life of a farmer is unique. Fr. Daniel Sedlacek, associate pastor of St. Mary’s in Altoona and St. Raymond of Penafort in Fall Creek, grew up on a farm near Cornell and offers some valuable thoughts: “I’d argue that the vocation to farming is distinct from other occupational-related callings. It is the primordial vocation established by God at creation, along with marriage, motherhood, and fatherhood (‘be fruitful and multiply’). God certainly calls people to all sorts of work - to be doctors, teachers, writers, and engineers - but to be a farmer runs deep into the roots of what it means to be human. And so, although the life of modern man is increasingly alienated from creation, God still calls us today to ‘till the earth and keep it.’”

Because of this “primordial call” and deep connection to the land and one’s family heritage, leaving the farm can present challenges that are not just financial, but also emotional and psychological. Especially in light of the high suicide rate among farmers, UW-Extension has been offering support and resources to combat this tragedy, including a series entitled “Supporting Farmers during Challenging Times.”

Veterinarian Dr. AnnMarie Elwing of St. Charles Borromeo parish in Genoa shared a recent experience while conducting a monthly herd health visit. “I asked the farmer, ‘how are you feeling?’ And he broke into tears and said, ‘You’re the first person to ask me how I feel.’”

One of the biggest aspects of this farm crisis is that so many of us are unaware of its existence and of the great suffering it is causing. Pope Francis has spoken often of the importance of accompaniment, of walking alongside others. We are called by Jesus himself to love our neighbor as yourself.

Let us be committed to learning about this crisis, praying for those affected, and reaching out personally when we have the opportunity. To learn more, visit the diocesan website at www.diolc.org/farm-crisis.

The farm crisis is being recognized nationally. Similar to the Farm Aid of the 1980’s a concert is being planned for Sat., Sept. 21 in the Milwaukee area featuring nationally recognized recording artists such as Willie Nelson and John Cougar.

By Dan Kitzhaber, Director for Marriage and Family Life
Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, July 30, 2019
7:30 am  † Don Helfrich
by Zada, Ramona, and Jackie

Wednesday, July 31, 2019
7:30 am  † Bernard and Lucille Mauss
by Rita Sanchez

Thursday, August 1, 2019
7:30 am  † Alvina Clements
by Her Family
2:00 pm  † Bernice Celius
by Wayne and Rita Nowicki
(at Hillview)

Friday, August 2, 2019
7:30 am  † Queto And Caroline Weber
by Jean Weber

Saturday, August 3, 2019
4:00 pm  † Mona Muth
by Marlene Riepel

Sunday, August 4, 2019
8:00 am  For the People
10:00 am  † Clarence and Verna Clements
by Bob and Connie Goodreau

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

Thank You!  A growing number of parishioners is enrolling in our WeShare online giving program. Thank you to everyone who has already made the switch from ACH or from the personal arrangements made with their banks/credit unions! Thank you to everyone who has made the switch from church envelopes to WeShare!!!

WeShare improves efficiencies in the office as it eliminates manual entry of envelope information; it increases the reliability of regular income; and its cost to the parish is equivalent to ACH fees or printing/mailing church envelopes.

Please take the time to learn more. Visit our parish website, click the WeShare icon, and see how easy it is! It's an important benefit to you and your parish.

Building Our Future Together

Church Altar Relocation Survey

Phase IV of Building Our Future Together will give special consideration to the maintenance and enhancements of our beautiful church. One extra consideration is relocating the main altar to the same level as the ambo-pulpit and chairs. For the month of July, we have used a small, wood altar at this location as an experiment. Now, it's time to gather opinions in a formal process.

Please visit our parish website (or other social media) to click a link and answer a brief survey.

Next week, hard copies of the survey will be made available for those without access to the internet. While we're happy to receive hard copies and enter the data, it would reduce the workload considerably if those with online access would use the electronic option. The survey will conclude Sunday, Aug. 11 and it will take time to process the data.

So far, the discussions – “for” and “against” – have been marked with charity. In the same spirit, please fill out the survey only once! Thank you! Teenagers and Children are welcome to participate.

Please remember a memento in your prayers for Building Our Future Together!

SAVE THE DATE
Fall Chicken Que
September 12 at 11am-6pm

A great way to support our parish and meet new people. There is always lots to do, and many hands make light work! Sign up sheets will be in the Gathering Space two weekends prior.