

SEP 24, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

... a pilgrim church
coming to know
the kingdom of God
by being Christ
to the world.

NOTES FROM DEB

A Few Autumn Tidbits

The season of autumn begins this weekend. With the cooler temperatures come the glorious fall colors and unfortunately, cold and flu season—including a new Covid variant. Regardless of what virus we may encounter, let's stay safe and keep one another safe. If you are feeling unwell, please do not come to Mass. You can find our 5:00 pm Mass online at youtube.com/@ololmke. Wednesday Table Reflections, recorded prayer services based on the readings of the day, can be found there as well. These can also be found on our website by clicking on the Worship tab.

Let's hold in prayer the members of our community who, because of age or illness, are not able to join us for weekend liturgy, and let's pray in gratitude for those who minister to them.

Please know that we also have prayer shawls available to take to folks who are ill, preparing for surgery, or just in need of a little extra support. The prayer shawls are a physical reminder of the love, prayers, and support of our parish community. Prayer shawls are available in our front lobby. Information about prayer shawls, including how to make them, can be found on our website under the Prayer and Spirituality tab.

Have a great fall season!

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

WED 9:30 AM

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DEB STEPPE

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - September 2023

	ACTUAL <u>as of 9/15/2023</u>	BUDGETED <u>for Sept.</u>
Reg. Envelopes.....	\$25,033.94	\$63,000.00
Offertory	\$1,223.00	\$2,500.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: September 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$170,890.24	\$209,300.01
Op. Expenses	\$161,393.90	\$213,640.44

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23 ..	\$128,503.08
Donations.....	\$7,313.26
Expenses.....	\$0.00
Balance (9/15/2023)	\$135,841.34

THANK YOU!

*Our Lady of Lourdes is greatly
blessed with your continued
generous support
of all our ministries!*

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 24

Welcome Weekend	
8:00 am Liturgy	Church
10:30 am Liturgy	Church

Monday, September 25

8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 6
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group	Rm 10

Tuesday, September 26

8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 6
1:00 pm ART Guild Mtg.	Rm 4
3:00 pm Food Pantry	Rm 7
6:00 pm Adoption Support	Rm 6
6:00 pm Finance Council Mtg.	Virtual

Wednesday, September 27

8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 6
9:30 am Communion Service	Church
10:00 am Alverno Nurses	Rm 10
10:15 am Morning Faith Group	Hall BC
6:45 pm Boy Scout Troop 612	Hall A
7:00 pm Oktoberfest Mtg.	Rm 3

Thursday, September 28

8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention	Rm 6
12:00 pm Women's Grief Support Group	Hall C
6:30 pm The Chosen	Hall A

Friday, September 29—Office Closed

Saturday, September 30

10:00 am Sharon Bertram Funeral Visitation	Church
11:00 am Sharon Bertram Funeral	Church
5:00 pm Liturgy	Church

Sunday, October 1

8:00 am Liturgy	Church
9:00 am GIFT	Hall
10:30 am Liturgy	Church
6:00 pm Virtual Mass Watch Party	Virtual

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Donald Blackstone and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Linda Taylor
From
Daniel J Roadt

Oktoberfest Meeting

Wednesday, September 27

7:00 pm

Room 3

Topic: Pulling it all together.

Important meeting for leaders

The party is not far away and we are synchronizing the details.

OUTREACH

Walking Through Grief Together

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, October 7 and October 21 in Room 3 starting at 11:00 am. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

Thank You

Thank you to all who stepped up and donated to our blood drive. We recruited five first time donors. It wasn't too bad giving blood, was it? The donated units of blood will impact over 54 local patients. Did you know that someone needs blood every two seconds?!

Thank you again for your generous donation.

Our 2024 blood drives will be May 14 and September 17.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Today's Gospel tells the story of the landowner and the day laborers. Day laborers are those who wait in the public square hoping to be hired. If they are hired, it is for one day, with no guarantee that they will have work tomorrow. When the landowner returned to the public square late in the day, he was surprised to find men there. It did not occur to him that these were desperate men who had no land of their own (only the first son inherited the father's land) and had to depend on others like the landowner to hire them for planting and harvesting. The rest of the year they had to try to find odd jobs or beg.

What does this story say about the injustices of society in that time? Does it relate to our own society?

SPOTLIGHT

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair 2023

October 13-14-15

You are OLOL's best advertising. Please help spread the word to bring a crowd to our campus(event?!). Here are some ideas:

- Proudly display a yard sign.
- Display posters at your work, school, or favorite meeting place.
- Carry handbills in your purse or car and distribute them!
- Like and share Oktoberfest Artisan Fair Facebook posts.
- Follow Oktoberfest Artisan Fair on Instagram and like and share our posts.
- Invite friends and family by phone, personal conversations and email.

Talk up Oktoberfest Artisan Fair to neighbors, friends, and family. Invite them to join you for coffee and a torte after holiday shopping. Invite some to join you for a music performance and an adult beverage. Bring a group of friends and dance to the Squeezettes on Saturday night. Bring your grandchildren and their friends to do an art project or make a gift.

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair Team

FORMATION

GIFT October 1: Where is your spiritual dining room?

As disciples we have a multitude of opportunities for spiritual nourishment; however, we don't always make the space for it. Leah Sealey of MKE Spiritual Directors will encourage us to be more aware of our spiritual connections outside of Sunday liturgy by challenging us to build our own spiritual dining room. Join us Sunday, October 1, at 9:00 am in the hall for our second GIFT session.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

At most 10:30 am liturgies on Sundays, we have Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The children hear that week's readings, sing the Psalm, and our CLOW ministers offer an age-appropriate reflection on the readings. We encourage all children in these grades to attend CLOW to learn about our faith.

DISCIPLESHIP

Zoom Book Discussion—My Body is Not a Prayer Request

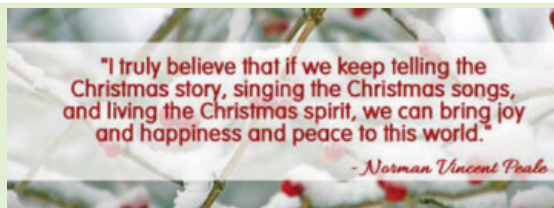
Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17 and 24
7:00 pm

Discussion Facilitator: Rebekah Dubrosky

This book, written by Amy Kenny, a disabled Christian, shows that the Church is missing out on the prophetic witness and blessing of disability. Kenny reflects on her experiences inside the Church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities to engage in disability justice. She shows that until we cultivate Church spaces where people with disabilities can fully belong, flourish, and lead, we are not valuing the diverse members of the Body of Christ.

Join us as we discuss the book and brainstorm how we can incorporate all peoples to be an active, included, and truly welcomed part of our faith community. Register on the Discipleship Institute web page at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or through the Parish Office

WORSHIP



As we officially enter the fall season, it's a good time to start thinking about Christmas! How can you share your talents with the rest of the OLOL community as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth? Please consider joining our **new** Christmas Choir!

There are only three rehearsals (December 6, 13, 20) and two Masses (December 24, 31). You will be given music and recordings to help you prepare. It's a wonderful time to grab your family and friends and get involved in our music ministry. Watch future bulletins for more information or talk to Anne Van Deusen or Julie Fraleigh.

Scripture Readings for September 30/October 1 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28 | Psalm 25 | Philippians 2:1-11 |
Matthew 21:28-32

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*Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul*

Visits to Homes, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Prisons

The St. Vincent de Paul Society visits people in all kinds of distress to offer a helping hand and a listening ear. Volunteers go to the homes of anyone who requests help. The home visit is the basic, most fundamental activity of a Vincentian ministry. Rather than have people come to us, we go to the homes of those in need. During this visit we learn the nature of the problem as well as more about their other needs. Whatever the person shares with us remains confidential between the Vincentian conference and the person. A home visit is always done by a minimum of two Vincentians, never alone. We listen to the person or family, getting their perspective on the problem and its resolution. The information gathered at the initial visit is brought back to the SVDP meeting and discussed. It is a joint decision within our conference as to what assistance we are able to provide. One of our most important gifts to leave behind is a feeling that someone cares and that there is hope. We celebrate the works of our parish SVDP conference and encourage everyone to consider becoming part of this arm of the Church's ministry.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

Along with home visits we

- Provide rent and energy assistance,
- Provide vouchers for furniture and household items available at our SVDP stores,
- Coordinate the food pantry, open every other Tuesday,
- Sponsor the blood drive twice a year,
- Serve at the south side meal site,
- Sponsor twinning efforts with the Philippines,
- We served at Mt. Carmel/Kindred over 40 years until closing.

These outreach services are only possible through your monetary support. Please consider SVDP when making your donations.

Spiritual growth is a very important aspect of our ministry. We continue to work as Vincentians seeing Christ in those we serve and in each other.

Join the SVDP ministry and help to make a difference. We meet every other Tuesday in Room 3 at 10:30 am. Check the bulletin for the next meeting date. Hope to see you there!



Refugees around the World*

20.7 million refugees under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

5.7 million Palestine refugees under UN Relief and Works Agency mandate

48.0 million internally displaced people

4.1 million asylum seekers

3.9 million Venezuelans displaced abroad

When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself. I, the LORD, am your God. Leviticus 19: 33-34

Just five countries produce 68% of all refugees displaced abroad: the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar.

The top five host countries where these displaced people are currently located are: Turkey, Colombia, Germany, Pakistan, and Uganda.

8.2 million Afghans are being hosted by neighboring countries; over 1.6 million have arrived since 2021. After more than 40 years, Afghan refugees continue to make up one of the largest and most protracted displacement situations under UNHCR's mandate.

After ten years, Syria remains the world's largest refugee crisis. More than 6.8 million Syrians have been forced to flee their country since 2011. The vast majority – approximately 5.2 million refugees – have found refuge in neighboring countries, primarily in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Germany is the largest non-neighboring host country, with more than 620,000 Syrian refugees.

6 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014. This is the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history and one of the largest displacement crises in the world. **Twenty percent** of the population has fled the country and people continue to leave at an average of 5,000 per day. Venezuela, a country that has traditionally been a generous host to refugees, is now facing its own displacement crisis. The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has become the second largest international displacement crisis in the world with 6 million Venezuelans. A majority of displaced Venezuelans live in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and the United States.

Why people are fleeing:

Climate Change

Climate-related displacement and migration is set to be the greatest challenge of our era. While there is a general consensus that global warming impacts us all, the role it will play in future human migration is often underestimated. Climate change disproportionately impacts developing countries, and more specifically fragile states.

Violence and Political Turmoil

Conflicts are not unique to recent or contemporary history. But these movements have intensified and become more concentrated for reasons including prolonged civil war and violence between various populations along ethnic and political lines,

Shortage of food and medicine

Millions were pushed into poverty in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. Many have lost their livelihoods and are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs.

Human Rights Violations

The economic downturn has exposed people to multiple protection risks such as child labor, gender-based violence, and other forms of exploitation.

How you Can Help

A refugee's story doesn't just end once they've been resettled in a new country. After their long journey to safety, they still need your support. You can welcome new refugees who are arriving in your community by offering shelter, support, or even a job.

UNHCR released data showing that the number of people displaced by climate-change-related disasters since 2010 has risen to 21.5 million.

Overall, there are a variety of solutions available for stopping climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Planting trees is an effective way to reduce carbon dioxide because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their trunks, leaves, and roots. Promoting sustainable practices in your community is an important part of reducing emissions. This includes encouraging individuals and businesses to use fewer resources such as water or electricity, buying locally produced goods, reducing food waste, and investing in renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power.

The meat industry has far-reaching effects on our climate. Cows emit tons of methane simply through digestion, particularly when they eat processed grain. Furthermore, deforestation for cattle ranching in places like Brazil destroys local habitat and the carbon reduction potential of forests. Eating less meat by eliminating one meat meal per week can be a great way to limit carbon emissions. Of course, just one person altering their habits might not make much of a difference, but as a society we dictate the supply and demand of our food systems depending on what we buy and consume.

***statistics provided by UNHCR**

Submitted by the OLOL Social Justice Committee