

DEC 3, 2023

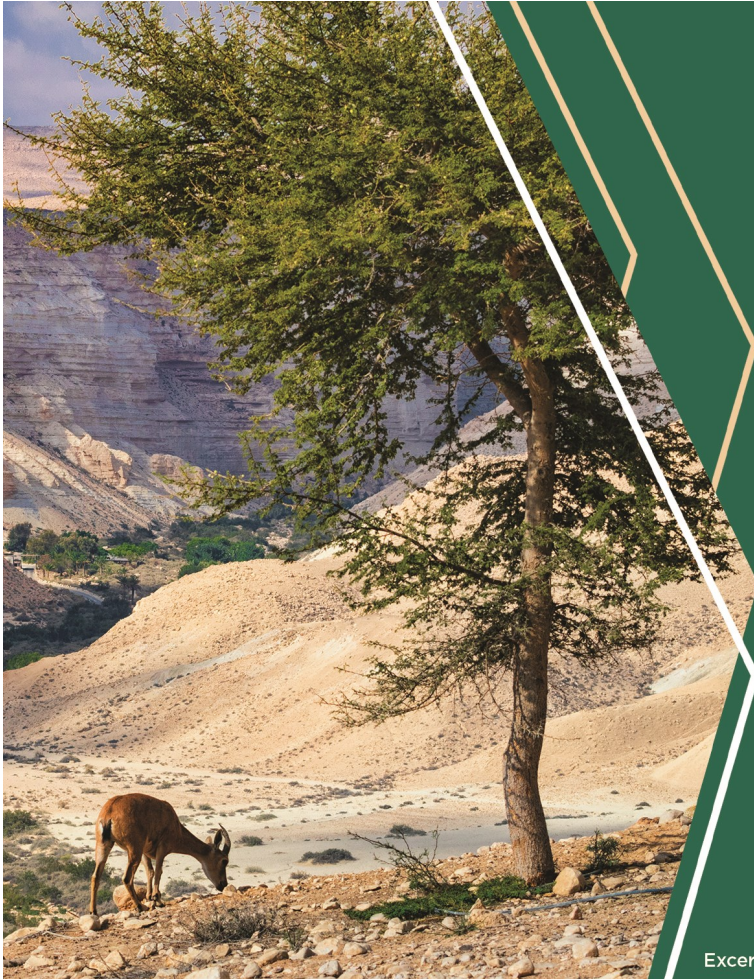
1st Sunday in Advent



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.”
- Mk 13:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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

Looking Ahead to 2024

As we fast approach the end of another year, you are reminded that contributions for calendar year 2023 must be dropped in the collection by Sunday, December 31, dropped in the drop box outside the front entrance, or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31. Also, a check dated December 31 or earlier sent through the mail, but not in our possession or in a valid postmarked envelope, and received after January 1, is a 2024 contribution.

Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must have them in the Parish Office by **12:00 pm (noon) on Thursday, December 21**, to receive credit for 2023 as the Parish Office is closed Friday, December 22, 2023 through January 2, 2024 due to carpet cleaning in the office. Please plan accordingly! Thank you for your generosity.

NOTES FROM DEB

Some Thoughts on our Old Testament Advent Scriptures

In this sacred season, the Sunday readings from the Old Testament tell a story in and of themselves. If we look at these readings from each of the four Sundays of Advent together, they comprise sort of a conversation between the people and God. We would see that Advent is a season of hope, of expectation, and of complaint!

Our reading from the prophet Isaiah today begins with a lament—a complaint about the sinfulness of the people. The reading for next week gives us God's response to the people—words of comfort and encouragement. In the Third Sunday of Advent, the voice of the prophet responds to God's comforting word. The complaints and lamentations are over as this reading is filled with hope. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear again from God with words of reassurance and hope for the people.

As we journey through Advent this year, may we each share all that is within our hearts with God (even our complaints) and may we take the time to listen for God's words of comfort to each of us.

Advent blessings!

Deb Steppe
Parish Director

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Steadfastness

Steadfastness is being steady, persevering and dependable. We remain true to our purpose through whatever happens. It grows whenever we rise to a challenge. It bolsters our will to keep going when life tests our resolve. We choose a direction, then keep a steady pace. We commit ourselves to something for however long it may take. We don't allow ourselves to be battered and blown off course. We hold on and ride the waves.

Like the "lord of the house" in today's Gospel, Jesus' incarnation came at the least expected time and manner possible, as a baby boy resting in a manger. Will Christmas day find us ready for Jesus?

SUN 3

Art Guild Canvas Distribution
Haiti Craft Fair
Welcome Weekend
8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:00 am RCIA Rm 6
10:30 am Liturgy Church
6:00 pm Confirmation
Conversation St. Greg's

MON 4

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10
6:30 pm The Little Blue Book:
Advent Reflection Virtual

TUE 5

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

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

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Tony Greco
From
Tanya Gross

In loving memory of
Kathleen Schmid
From
Tanya Gross
Catherine Markwiese

In loving memory of
Dorothy Calicchio
From
Mary Jane Lippert



FORMATION

The Communion of Saints with Dr. Lorrie Wenzel

This presentation will identify some of the early Christian followers whose stories are etched into the statues and stained glass of cathedrals around the world. Recalling these holy lives gives us hope in times of heartbreak. Christian saints and martyrs show us it is possible to carry the Light of Christ in the face of grievous despair and give us the courage to do the same.

In this GIFT session, Dr. Wenzel will tell the stories of these holy people through the lens of her travels to cathedrals across the globe. Adults who are not registered for GIFT are welcome to register for this session by paying the \$10 fee the day of the presentation.

Youth Group

All youth from 6th-12th grade are welcome to join us for our next Youth Group meeting! On Wednesday, December 13, we will gather in Room 6 from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm for a game night. Hope to see you there!

Everyday Stewardship: In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

WED 6

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:30 am Liturgy Church
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
6:00 pm Christmas Choir Reh. Church
6:45 pm Boy Scouts Hall B
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 9
7:00 pm Oktoberfest Mtg. Rm 3



THU 7

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
3:30 pm Spirit & Grace Choir Church

FRI 8

Office Closed

12:00 pm Immaculate
Conception Liturgy Church

WORSHIP



Week 1: Hope

(Excerpted from a reflection on "Maya Angelou and the Freedom Poetry of Advent")

Reflect. Particularly during Advent, Christians are called to dwell in the shadows. After all, it's in the dark that we light candles, since that's where they'll do the most good. With this in mind, instead of simply "lighting a candle of hope," first turn toward specific shadows of hopelessness in our lives, in our neighbors' lives, and around the world. With Angelou, remember that hope and despair often ebb and flow with our days, and that many people struggle with sorrow and depression. Then keep watch, strike a match, pray, and sing.

Pray. God of light and hope, of darkness and dawn, be with us in the shadows, even and especially in the valley of the shadow of death. Show us the way, and let us be lanterns of hope for others. Keep us awake and alert to your coming. Tear open the heavens; let the mountains of despair quake at your presence. Come, Jesus, come. Amen.

Immaculate Conception

This Friday, December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Please join us for Mass at 12:00 pm (noon).

Advent 4/Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23, 5:00 pm—Advent 4
 Sunday, December 24, 9:00 am—Advent 4
 Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm—Christmas Eve
 Monday, December 25, 8:00 am & 10:30 am—Christmas Day

Scripture Readings for December 9/10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 85 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert!" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Giving Tree

Giving Tree gifts are due this weekend. The schools will be picking the presents up this week. Thank you for your generosity!

Social Justice

The Archdiocesan Prison and Jail Ministry will be holding an event to address how the Church can enhance its support for individuals involved in the criminal-justice system.

The event takes place on Saturday, December 9, from 8:15 am-3:30 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 327 West Brown Street, Milwaukee.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 5 and 19

Most needed items: cake mix, cereal, condiments, creamed soups, and Chef Boy R Dee.

Please watch expiration dates.
ololmke.org/food-pantry.

SAT 9

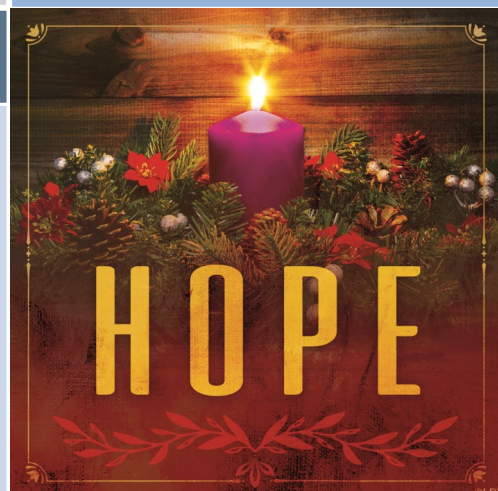
5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

SUN 10

8:00 am Liturgy
 9:00 am GIFT
 10:30 am Liturgy

Church
 Hall
 Church



COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Bulletin Content Through the Holidays

As we progress through the holiday season and into our journey of Advent, it is good for us to remind everyone that our bulletins are printed by an outside publisher that distributes bulletins to churches throughout the country. With that service comes pushed up print dates due to the holidays. It also means that sometimes we cannot get items like condolences, memorials, and funerals published when they come in. Depending on space and timing these items may be published later than anticipated.

We ask you for your understanding as we try to do our best to publish information as we get it. Be sure to watch our website and other forms of communication for up-to-date information.

Seasonal Stress vs Seasonal Peace

As December begins, many find themselves anxious and stressed about the holidays. Common conversations focus on feelings of being overwhelmed, chaotic schedules, and attempts at trying to include all the past traditions. Years ago, during his homily, a parish priest challenged his parishioners to poll their families about which Christmas tradition meant the most to them. Families discussed which traditions should be kept, which could be postponed until January/February, which should be deleted and which new memories could be created? Survey answers were enlightening.

Is your family up for this task? Conducting this little exercise could shorten the "to do list" giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy a peaceful and reflective season.

Paula Dahlman, Parish Council



DISCIPLESHIP

Advent Longing

Spirit of Life and Love,
Our hearts are filled with longing.
Longing for a world with more hope
and less despair;
Longing for more happy hearts and
fewer hungry mouths;
Longing for a life of more connection
and less isolation;
Longing for love rather than hate;
Longing for a future of less consumption and more compassion;
Longing for peace and less violence;
Longing for leaders that speak truth;
Longing for a nation that acknowledges injustice
and works to make things right;
Longing for a present with each of us doing what we can to end racism and all
forms of oppression.
Come Lord Jesus!



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Three Kings Mitten Drive

January 6-7



**Please consider donating hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves
to the OLOL Three Kings Mitten Drive.**

**In the past, the OLOL community has been generous in donating hats, mittens,
gloves, and scarves to keep people in our community warm.**

**All donations will be given to Gaenslen School and The Bread of
Healing Clinic to help keep those in need warm this winter.**

Donations can be dropped off until January 7 in the lobby.

Thank you for your generosity!