

NOV 5, 2023

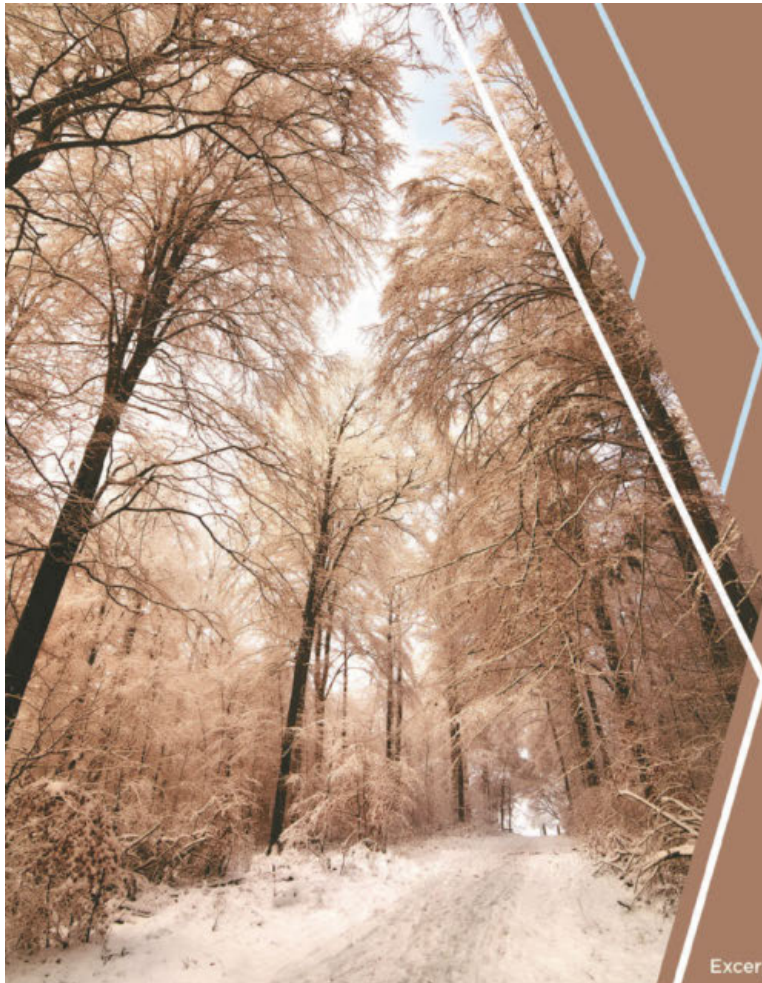
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"As for you, do not be called
'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher,
and you are all brothers. Call no one
on earth your father; you have but
one Father in heaven. Do not be
called 'Master'; you have but one
master, the Christ. The greatest
among you must be your servant."
- Mt 23:8-11

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

PARISH DIRECTOR

DEB STEPPE

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - October 2023

	ACTUAL <u>as of 10/27/2023</u>	BUDGETED <u>for Oct.</u>
Reg. Envelopes	\$54,746.82	\$64,000.00
Offertory	\$2,965.78	\$3,000.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: October 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$288,396.15	\$311,081.68
Operating Expenses.....	\$279,441.80	\$301,804.79

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23..	\$128,503.08
Donations	\$15,921.06
Expenses.....	\$0.00
Balance (10/27/2023)	\$144,449.14

THANK YOU!

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

2023 Catholic Stewardship Appeal (9/5/2023)

Donations:..... **\$27,277.00**
Goal is \$42,840 63.67%

Donors:..... **120**
of donors: 1,043 11.51%

DECIDE TO LEAD

www.CatholicAppeal.org

NOTES FROM DEB

Prayerful Disciples, Part Three—Making a Retreat

Have you ever thought about going on a retreat? A retreat is an opportunity to step away from our daily lives and open our hearts to God's Holy Spirit—free from the busy-ness of daily living. I have found that in a time of retreat, it's easier to slow down, to rest, and to listen to the whisperings of God's Spirit—whisperings that are sometimes drowned out by everyday life.

We are blessed with many opportunities for retreat in our area. The Siena Center in Racine offers guided retreats, private retreats, silent retreats, and group retreats throughout the year, including a men's retreat November 10-12.

The parish's annual women's retreat facilitated by Nancie Chmielewski, Claudia Porter and me will take place at the Siena Center January 26-28. Based on Exodus 3:1-7, the retreat is titled, "Take Off Your Shoes..." The cost of the retreat is \$270. All women of the parish are welcome, but space is limited. Registration forms can be found outside my office.

Maybe getting away to Siena Center (or the Jesuit retreat house in Oshkosh, or the Redemptorist retreat house in Oconomowoc) is just too difficult at this time, what about getting away for three minutes every day? Loyola Press (loyolapress.com) provides a 3-minute retreat you can receive in your email each day.

Know of my continued prayers for each of you.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Humility

Humility is considering others' views and needs as important as our own. We willingly serve others and accept help when we need it. We accept the lessons life brings, knowing that mistakes are often our best teachers. We give our very best, and trust that it is enough. Humility reminds us to be thankful for our successes rather than boastful.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says, "for they preach but they do not practice." How can humbly serving others help us follow Jesus with integrity?

SUN 5

MON 6

TUE 7

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

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10
6:30 pm Book Discussion:
The Risk of the Cross Rm 3

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
2:00 pm Alverno Nurses Rm 6
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7

COMMUNITY LIFE

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Don Blackstone

From
Joyce Odonnell
Joe & Diane Bartoszewicz
Pat & Jim Schwartz
John & Carol Wessely
Carol Ziehler

In loving memory of
Don Blackstone & Linda Taylor

From
Tomas & Carisa Putz
Patricia Blackstone

In loving memory of
Kathleen Schmid

From
Judy Stankewicz
The Foltz family

In loving memory of
Donald and Gladys Kopp

From
Ward and Lynn Kopp

CELEBRATE ★
VETERAN'S DAY

In gratitude, the school children of St. Greg's invite all veterans to Mass and Breakfast!

Thursday, November 9th -- Mass at 8:15am
Breakfast served by our students following Mass

Please RSVP to parish office at 414-543-8292 or sign up on our home page at www.stgregsmil.org

CELEBRATE ★ REMEMBER ★ HONOR

FORMATION

Fall Family Night: November 10

Hygge, a Danish word describing a feeling of coziness and contentment, is the theme of our first Family Night of the year. We have everything anyone of any age will need for a comfy night in—pizza, popcorn, movies and trivia. All that's missing is your fluffiest socks and your warmest sweater. Make sure you go to tinyurl.com/fallfamily23 to RSVP this week and don't forget to bring you \$5 per household donation the night of!



Youth Group

All youth from 6th-12th grade are welcome to join us for our third Youth Group meeting of the year! On Wednesday, November 15, we will gather in Room 6 from 6:30 pm–8:30 pm for a game night. Hope to see you there!

WED 8

7:00 am St. Ben's Meal Prep Kitchen
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:30 am Communion Service Church
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Tr. 612 Hall A
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 9

THU 9

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
12:00 pm Women's Grief Support Group Hall C
3:30 pm Spirit & Grace Reh. Church
6:30 pm Social Justice Cmte. Rm 3

FRI 10

Office Closed

6:15 pm Fall Family Night Hall

WORSHIP

Advent 4 / Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Mass Schedule

This year, Advent 4 and Christmas land on the same weekend. In fact, part of it is the same day! Mark your calendars now to keep track of our schedule for these days:

Saturday, December 23, 5:00 pm: Advent 4

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 am: Advent 4

(You read that right, only one service this morning!)

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm: Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25, 8:00 am and 10:30 am: Christmas Day

A Brief Reflection on the Power of Song Lyrics

You've heard me challenge you to look to song lyrics for messages—of love, hope, surprises, challenges, etc. Lyrics tell such beautiful stories, and much like scripture, influence how we see things. One of my favorite singer-songwriters is Peter Mayer. Here are some of the lyrics from his piece, "Holy Now." Read the words, go to YouTube, listen to his song, and then open your heart to discover the miracles all around you.

Anne Van Deusen, Director of Music Ministries

Holy Now (by Peter Mayer)

When I was a boy, each week, on Sunday, we would go to church
And pay attention to the priest, he would read the holy word
And consecrate the holy bread and everyone would kneel and bow
Today the only difference is everything is holy now.

When I was in Sunday school, we would learn about the time
Moses split the sea in two and Jesus made the water wine.
And I remember feeling sad that miracles don't happen still
But now I can't keep track, 'cause everything's a miracle.

Wine from water is not so small, but an even better magic trick
Is that anything is here at all.
So the challenging thing becomes not to look for miracles
But finding where there isn't one.

This morning, outside I stood and saw a little red-winged bird
Shining like a burning bush, singing like a scripture verse
It made me want to bow my head. I remember when church let out
How things have changed since then. Everything is holy now.

Scripture Readings for November 11/12

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16 | Psalm 63 | Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we hear the good news that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us!

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: November 7 and 21

Our food pantry is in desperate need of food. Many more families in need than in the past have visited our pantry over the last couple of months. Please consider grabbing a few extra items the next time you go grocery shopping.

Most needed items: spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables (all varieties), canned fruit, Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, Knorr sides (both rice and pasta), pasta, canned meat, and cookies. Please watch the expiration dates and non-perishable items only.

ololmke.org/food-pantry.

St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on Wednesday, November 8. Please bring food donations to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, or no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday. ololmke.org/st-bens/

Social Justice: An Invitation

The Social Justice Committee seeks to educate and awaken people to the issues of justice that confront society today. We meet monthly on the second Thursday. Our next meeting is November 9, at 6:30 pm, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities.

SAT 11

9:00 am Kathleen Schmid
Funeral Visitation Church
11:00 am Kathleen Schmid
Funeral Church
5:00 pm Liturgy Church

SUN 12

8:00 am Liturgy Church
9:00 am Sacrament Prep Hall
10:30 am Liturgy Church

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Parish Office and Facility Hours During the Holidays

With the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve being celebrated on the same day this year, it is producing some oddities not only for attending Mass, but also parish operations. We feel it is best to inform you now (and repeat the information often) so you can plan appropriately.

The Parish Office will be closed from December 22–January 2. If you have year-end contributions during that time, please bring it to Mass, leave it in our drop box at the 58th Street entrance, or mail it in.

The building will be closed from December 26–29. During this time, we will have our carpets cleaned.

Staff members not on vacation will be working remotely and can be reached by email.

Let's Talk About Grief

Many years ago, being a new member of OLOL, I stayed after the 5:00 pm liturgy for Community Sunday. At the door was a table with an individual who asked me if I would like to be a member of the Lazarus Committee. My response was "What is it? What do you do?" She explained that it was a bereavement committee that sent notes/cards to family members in our parish who have recently lost a loved one—a note after the funeral, three and six months following, one year later, and at Christmas—to help them during their first year of the grieving process. She explained that the cards/notes were provided and that I would be contacted with the name and address of the individual to whom to send the notes. I accepted and over time I began to understand the essence of grieving. All of us lose a loved one at some time or another. To know you are being prayed for and remembered is consoling, even though that person may not even know you! It was then I learned how important being "present" and "caring" really are. Sometimes it is not the words but the presence. That is one way we as a faith community help people live through the experience of loss and grief. If you hear "Lazarus Bereavement Committee" in the future, you too will know what we do, silently, behind the scenes. Would you care to join us?

Donna Van Wynsberghe
OLOL Pastoral Council Chair

DISCIPLESHIP

Advent—The Little Blue Book

The Little Blue Book for Advent is now available! You can obtain a copy by contacting the Parish Office or pick one up as you leave my Mass.

The Little Blue Book will be your Advent companion. There will be two Zoom discussions on this booklet during Advent. The first will kick off the season and how to best use the book. The second session will occur in mid-Advent just to check in and see how your Advent prayer and reflection is progressing.

Zoom Session One: Kickoff December 4 at 6:30 pm

Zoom Session Two: Check-In December 18 at 6:30 pm

Both Zoom discussions will be facilitated by our Parish Director, Deb Steppe. You can obtain the booklet without attending the Zoom sessions. Register on the Discipleship Institute web page at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/.

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