

DEC 10, 2023

2nd 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.



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Prepare the way
of the Lord.”
- Mk 1:3

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

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3722 S. 58th Street | Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053 | (414) 545-4316

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 - November 2023

	ACTUAL <i>as of 11/30/2023</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Nov.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$80,746.91	\$64,000.00
Offertory.....	\$2,683.89	\$2,700.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$409,160.75	\$383,003.35
Operating Expenses	\$355,164.61	\$381,806.26

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23...	\$128,503.08
Donations.....	\$19,103.82
Expenses.....	\$0.00
Balance (11/30/2023)	\$147,631.90

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

Carrying an Unnecessary Burden

We all struggle in our lives. We all sin. We all make choices that are unwise, unhealthy, and sometimes downright hurtful. We sometimes find it difficult to forgive—not only forgiving others for wrongs done to us but forgiving ourselves as well. All those struggles, all that sinful behavior creates emotional baggage that we carry around with us. Our lives can be complicated enough. Carrying around our sins seems like an unnecessary burden. The sacrament of reconciliation is an opportunity to let go of our sinful baggage—to relieve ourselves of the burden of sin.

Our Advent Reconciliation services take place this Wednesday, December 13, at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm. We gather as a community, aware of our sins. We hear the word of God, we express our contrition for our wrongdoings, and we pledge to live as God wants us to live. Every time I attend one of these services, the atmosphere in the room seems lighter as we walk out forgiven and relieved of our burdens.

If you haven't been to this service before or if it has been a while since you have experienced this sacrament of forgiveness, please consider this your invitation to join us on Wednesday.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Cooperation

Cooperation is working together for the good of all. It is a willingness to stand side by side and use the different gifts each of us has to offer. We seek common goals in service of a unified vision. We blend our abilities to create something none of us could achieve alone. We look for ways to be helpful and ask for help when we need it. Together we accomplish greater things.

Mark's Gospel tells us John's ministry gives us an early glimpse of what the journey of discipleship entails, which will be perfectly and fully embodied by Jesus. It is a call to action, to repent and reorient ourselves toward God. What one thing can you do this Advent to cooperate with this call?

SUN 10

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

MON 11

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Rm 3

TUE 12

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:30 am SVDP Mtg. Rm 3
1:00 pm Art Guild
Open Studio Rm 4

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Patrick Riedy, Patricia Lynch, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Kathleen Schmid

From

Peter & Cheryl Floryance
Barbara Kaiser
Eugene & Ann Stefaniak
Kevin & Tracy Hooley
Peter & Christine Stefaniak
Jean Demores
Thomas Maher
Byron & Barbara Nichols
Del Januchowski
& Barbara Baron
Dennis & Christine Matykiewicz
Therese Hazinski
Michael Ryterski
Matthew & Rebecca Heimerl
Joseph & Jan Passamani
Craig & Mary Mueller
Kathleen Flicek
Mark & Rosemarie Mussa
Mark & Susie Van Rixel for
music ministry
James & Margaret Foltz

In loving memory of
Happy Birthday Carol Kaiser
From
Love Bob Kaiser

In loving memory of
Birthday of Virginia Weller
From
Her loving children and
grandchildren

FORMATION

GIFT Advent Resource

It's the second week of Advent! Have you been reading Heavenly Peace: Daily Prayers for Advent? Each day this advent resource offers a scripture verse and a prayer designed to help us become people of patience. Furnish your spiritual dining room this advent with these beautiful prayers celebrating the promise of the Light of Christ!

Christmas Eve Gospel Dramatization

Join us for a Christmas Eve tradition at OLOL, as children in GIFT grades 3 and 4 will dramatize the Gospel as it is read at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve liturgy. This is especially helpful for younger children to understand why we celebrate Christmas.

Everyday Stewardship: Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

WED 13

7:00 am St. Ben's Meal Prep Kitchen
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
12:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Church
6:00 pm Christmas Choir Reh. Rm 9
6:45 pm Boy Scouts Hall B
7:00 pm GASIC Virtual
7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Church

THU 14

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:00 am Stewardship Mailing
Prep Rm 4
6:30 pm Social Justice Cmte. Rm 3

FRI 15

Office Closed

WORSHIP



Week 2—Peace

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

Reflect. Alongside the candle of hope, this week we light a candle of peace in the midst of a war-torn, polarized world. Strife is everywhere. But God’s peace—God’s shalom—is more than just the “absence of war,” as Angelou insists; it’s “true Peace. A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.” Where do we most need this harmony today? Where in your personal life, in your community’s life, in our planet’s life? What would peace look like—and how are we being called to help make it?

Pray. God of shalom, we pray for our hearts, our homes, and our world so full of war and rumors of war. Give us the wisdom and courage to be peacemakers, to “come the way of friendship.” Show us the way to prepare for your coming, to make the rough places plain, to help create a lasting shalom in your world, a peace “louder than the explosion of bombs.” Come, Prince of Peace, come. Amen.

Communal Reconciliation

This Wednesday, December 13, we offer communal reconciliation. There are two opportunities: 12:00 pm (noon) and 7:00 pm. Please join us.

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 16/17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 | Luke 1 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family, and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

St. Ben’s Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor’s meal program on Wednesday, December 13. 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 December 14, at 6:30 pm, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 19, January 16 and 30

Most needed items: Hamburger Helper, jelly, canned beets, canned potatoes, boxed potatoes (not mashed), and condensed soup (both creamed and other). Thanks for your ongoing support to the pantry. It is because of you that we can provide food to the needy. God bless.

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

SAT 16

11:00 am Walking Through
 Grief Together Rm 3
 5:00 pm Liturgy Church

SUN 17

8:00 am Liturgy Church
 10:30 am Liturgy Church
 11:30 am Christmas Eve Reh. Church

COMMUNICATIONS

Avoid Holiday Shopping Scams

It's the holiday shopping season which means cybercriminals looking to take advantage of well intentioned people. Use these tips to help guide your online shopping to avoid scams.

- Stick to reputable retailers.
- Use a credit card for online purchases.
- Avoid impulse donations. Research the charity to make sure it is legit.
- Delete unsolicited messages about orders you never made or unexpected deliveries. Look up the retailer's phone number from their website if you feel you need to confirm or check your credit card statements.
- Avoid clicking links in emails. Go directly to retailer websites through a browser.

SPOTLIGHT

Open Wide Our Hearts Wisconsin Indigenous Peoples

In 2021, a Green Bay Press-Gazette investigation found high and disproportionate incarceration rates for Native Americans as compared with white Americans in Wisconsin. **As people of faith, this should concern us.**

In January 2023, a MacArthur Foundation report stated that federal oppression of Indigenous peoples has eroded Native culture, creating a lasting traumatic impact on tribal communities, such as alcohol and substance abuse. The report also found that Native youth often face conviction as adults for drug-related crimes. It recommended that rehabilitation services be culturally relevant, such as pairing a tribal elder with a youth drug offender rather than imposing a fine or jail time.

The problems in tribal communities originate from the passage of the Doctrine of Discovery, which granted European colonial powers the right to claim the new lands they discovered on behalf of Christendom. This led to the dispossession, oppression and genocide of Native peoples.

Slow Progress: On **March 30, 2023**, Pope Francis renounced the 550 -year-old Doctrine of Discovery. In regard to the Vatican announcement, Reverend Peter Bakken, justice and witness coordinator for the Wisconsin Council of Churches, stated, "We have to take costly, meaningful action to repair the damage that has been done." On **August 3, 2023**, a ground blessing took place in Tomahawk for a Native youth drug treatment center which will focus on building cultural identity. Hopefully, more actions to repair the hundreds of years of injustices will follow.

Pat McKay, Social Justice Committee

DISCIPLESHIP

The Chosen

Thursdays: January 18–March 7

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall

Join us as we view Season Two of The Chosen. Season One was so well received and attended, we are excited to view the next season.

The second season focuses on the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and what happens as word of His ministry begins to spread. The series centers on Jesus and the diverse people who met, followed, and interacted with Him. One episode will be viewed each Thursday evening—eight episodes total. Group discussion will follow each episode. All ages are welcome. This is a free event and no registration required.



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SYNOD ON SYNODALITY UPDATE

**MONDAY DECEMBER
18TH, 2023 - 6:30 - 8:30
PM STEIGER HALL**

**SIGN UP BY CALLING
BRIAN JENS AT THE PARISH
OFFICE AT
414-982-2406
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Come and join us for this special conversation on how the journey through the Synod on Synodality is taking place! Help us bring their proposals to life as we talk about new opportunities for formation in 2024!