

DEC 17, 2023

3rd 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.



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A man named John
was sent from God. He
came for testimony, to
testify to the light, so
that all might believe
through him.
- Jn 1:6-7

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

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

The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me?

A few years ago, I was the lector who read our passage from the prophet Isaiah today. I joked as I was preparing that the statement should be more of a question: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me? **Me???**"

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the broken hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners...

These words of the prophet... these words that Jesus spoke in the synagogue... these words are meant for each one of us. Yes, the Spirit of God is upon me. The Spirit of God is on you. We are the prophets who are called to care for the poor, the broken hearted, those held captive, those in prison.

In a week we will celebrate the birth of Jesus our Christ. As his followers, it is our vocation to live as Jesus did. As we journey into this next year, may we continue to live out our call. May we find new and wonderful ways to be a healing presence for our world.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Hope

Hope is looking to the future with trust and faith. It is optimism in the face of adversity. Hope gives us the courage to keep moving forward. With hope we know we are not alone. There are gifts to be gleaned from all that happens. With hope we find the confidence to try and try again.

Like the crowds, we are left with a heightened sense of expectation and hope by the end of this Gospel reading. We remain in joyful expectation of the birth of the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

How can we make Christmas a renewal of hope this year?

SUN 17

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

MON 18

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 19

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Kathleen Schmid
From
Mary Ellen Kempski

In loving memory of
Richard Kosiboski
From
Kathy and family

FORMATION

Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who has participated in Youth Group this year! Moving forward Youth Group will be taking on new life with an intergenerational focus. For those of you who enjoyed our first Family Night in November, you will love this new version of Youth Group. Stay tuned for more information about our first event in April!

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.



VENEZUELA

Every year, roads are closed to traffic in the city of Caracas to let people participate in *las pantinatas*— "the skating" where everyone roller skates to Christmas Mass.



NEW ZEALAND

On the island, Christmas trees look a little different. Residents use the native pōhutukawa tree, with its bright crimson flowers, as their symbol for Christmas.



GERMANY

Starting in the 16th Century, Germans hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of their Christmas tree. Whatever child finds it receives a gift!

WED 20

THU 21

FRI 22

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

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6

Office Closed

WORSHIP



Week 3–Joy

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

Reflect. Alongside the candles of hope and peace, this week we light a candle of joy in the midst of a world full of sorrow. Some call joy “the secret of the Gospel,” since even the greatest faith, or hope, or peace, or love – if it lacks a sense of joy, it is not yet fully alive. As Angelou put it: “Joy is a freedom,” a force that itself helps a person find liberation. Can we sing a song of joy, a song of freedom, even in the midst of the shadows of sorrow?

Pray. God of delight, God of celebration, God of good news of great joy for all people – we pray for your world so full of sorrows. Let us weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. Most of all, let us sing with Mary of how you delight in lifting up the lowly, scattering the proud, and filling the hungry with good things. Come, Jesus, come. Amen.

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 23/24

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 | Psalm 89 | Romans 16:25-27 |
 Luke 1:26-38

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist says, “I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord.” Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

All Saints Summer Meal Program

Due to bulletin space, this message is overdue; however, the social justice committee wants to thank the 22 enthusiastic parishioners who volunteered at the All Saints meal program this summer. Their help was much appreciated by the All Saints organizers who look forward to our participation again in 2024.

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

Most needed items: cookies, jelly, canned and boxed Potatoes (not mashed). 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 23

5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

SUN 24

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Liturgy

Church

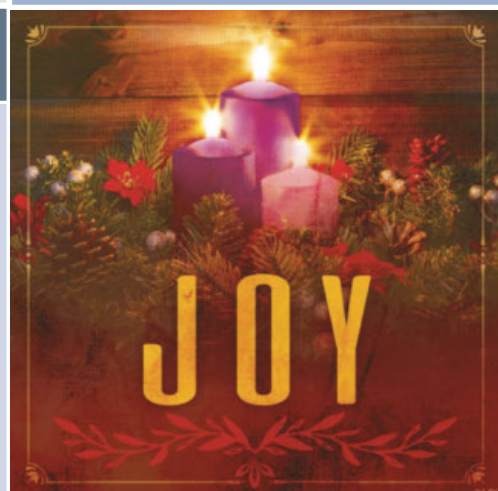
Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

9:00 pm Liturgy

Church



COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Cancellation and Closing Notifications

We are just about to enter winter. Therefore, please stay in touch with OLOL regarding building and event notifications during inclement weather.

First alerts will go out through our app and text notifications. Then postings will go up on our website home page and Facebook. Lastly, the local TV stations will be contacted. This order is based on the speed and ease (fastest to slowest) of disseminating the information.

We are aware that not everyone has a smartphone, so we will continue to use every means necessary to alert people about closings and cancellations. If you do have a smartphone, we encourage you to download our app.

Unsung Disciples: Giving Tree

It took many volunteers to bring smiles to the K4-third graders at Prince of Peace and St Hyacinth's. Planning for this event started mid-October with Cindy Beine, chair, contacting the schools for the students' "wish lists." Cindy's volunteers included members of OLOL St. Vincent de Paul and others. The giving tree team met before and after Masses to prepare gift request tags, sort gifts, and like Santa, checked their lists twice. By the end of the collection, Santa's helpers could barely move in the classroom. Additional volunteers from the schools came to assist and the packages were loaded into trucks. The packages were distributed at St Hyacinth's religious education Christmas program. Prince of Peace students receive their gifts on the last day of school prior to Christmas. For the past three years, Cindy has been involved in organizing the Giving Tree Program. Approximately 325 students were served this year, with requests growing. This ministry is conducive to busy parishioners who are unable to volunteer during the week and have short bursts of time before and after Mass on the weekends for a few weeks. Consider being one of Cindy's elves next year. Thank you to all who generously donated to this program and made the students' Christmas a little brighter.



Paula Dahlman, Parish Council

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.**

Can't make the viewing? Watch an episode on your own and join our Zoom discussion only group held each Wednesday evening beginning January 24.

Register for zoom discussion: ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or call the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316.

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