

DEC 24, 2023

4th 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.



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son,
and you shall name
him Jesus.”
- Lk 1:31

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

ADVENT 4:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 9:00 AM

CHRISTMAS:

SUN 5:00 PM | 9:00 PM

MON 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

PARISH DIRECTOR

DEB STEPPE

Office: (414) 545-4316 x113

CONNECT:

WEBSITE ololmke.org

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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

Christmas Blessings!

As the Advent season gives way to Christmas, please accept my wishes for a wonder-filled holiday season.

Please join us for our Christmas liturgies at 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Sunday, December 24, and then at 8:00 am and 10:30 am on Monday, December 25. The liturgies will be wonderful with the joyous hymns of Christmas combined with all our voices joined together. Feel free to bring family and friends to church with you. Everyone is welcome!

As this is a short week, we are taking this opportunity to have the carpets in the building cleaned, so the Parish Office will be closed. We will re-open on January 2. Many of us will be working from home, and I will also be answering the phone for pastoral emergencies as well.

May you be surrounded in these days by folks who love you, good food, and so much joy! Know of my gratitude for each one of you. Being a part of this parish and being its shepherd is the gift of a lifetime.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe



SOCIAL TEACHING

Gabriel gives Mary shocking news in today's Gospel. She does not understand but trusts that, in the words of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well." Did that trust mean that Mary would have an easy life? No. She may have worried about how Joseph would react (perhaps quietly divorcing her, leaving her a disgraced woman with no man to care for her). She lived in a time of violence and resistance to Roman oppression. She may have worried about whether her son would live up to the billing Gabriel had promised. But she trusted that things would work out.

In the midst of your troubles and difficulties do you trust that everything will work out in the end?

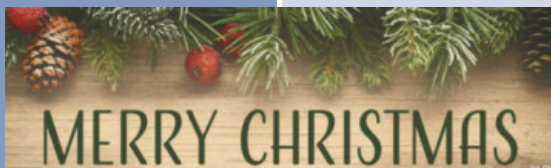
SUN 24

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Liturgy Church

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Liturgy Church
9:00 pm Liturgy Church



MON 25

Christmas Day

8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 pm Liturgy Church

TUE 26

Building Closed

COMMUNITY LIFE

FORMATION

Our Condolences

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

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Kathleen Schmid
From
James & Margaret Foltz
Mary Lamping

God with Us

As we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, which means God with us, may we share God's love by being Jesus to everybody we encounter. Merry Christmas from the formation department at OLOL!

Brightest blessings,
Maggie, Steve, and Roxanne

Faith Sharing Group

Join our spiritual Journey from January 9–May 28.

The Faith Sharing Group will meet every other Tuesday, in Room 3, from 6:30 pm–8:30 pm, beginning January 9. We would love for you to join in the sharing! We will discuss the book *The HOURS of the UNIVERSE: Reflections on God, Science, and the Human Journey* by Ilia Delio, one of the more creative thinkers on the dialogue between religion and science. Come explore your faith life in dialogue with others. Think on it! Call Judy Monday at (414) 416-3611 or email at judy monday@wi.rr.com if you wish to join us.

2024 HALLWAY ART SHOW

Once again, the Art Guild will be presenting the Hanging Art Gallery during the months of March and April. The theme for this year's exhibit will be entitled Colors of the Wind and will run from March 2 through the end of April. We will be accepting the pieces the weekend of February 10 and 11.

The rules have changed slightly as of this year. You may now enter up to four pieces. The items must be framed and suitable for hanging. No sawtooth hangers are allowed. If you have fiber or glass pieces, they do not have to be framed, but they must be set up for hanging. We ask that the participant provide a statement explaining the work (2-3 sentences is fine). There is a fee of \$15 for non-Art Guild members. If you would like to sell your art, you may put on a price or you may designate it as "Not for Sale." If you do choose to sell, we do suggest a 10%-20% commission given to the parish. You do have to be 16 or over to participate. Pickup weekend will be May 4 and 5.

If anyone is interested and would like to join the Art Guild, it is a fun and lively activity. It is a time to learn about art, find your own inspiration, try different talents, and meet friends. We cover many areas, painting, creative writing, card creations, and whatever looks interesting. You do not have to be a talented artist to join, many of us are novices, trying to find our creative selves. We have a meeting once a month and offer extra activities if you want to attend. Try it, you will really enjoy it!

If you have questions or concerns about the exhibit or joining the Art Guild, you may contact Mary Beth Javorek at jrjavorek@yahoo.com. The Art Guild is really looking forward to seeing all the beautiful art pieces brightening up our hallways in springtime!

WED 27

Building Closed

THU 28

Building Closed

FRI 29

Building Closed

WORSHIP



Week 4—Love

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

Reflect. Alongside the candles of hope, peace, and joy, this week we light a candle of love in the midst of the shadows of hate, indifference, and what Angelou calls “the chains of fear.” Rancor and ruin seem to rule the day. And yet the greatest commandment of all is to love God with everything we’ve got, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Angelou insists, “it is only love / which sets us free.” How can we make this liberating love more manifest in our everyday lives?

Pray. God of love, fill us with your Spirit of courage and liberty. When we are tempted by hatred, let us sow love. When we encounter hate, let us sow love. And when we witness or receive the gift of love, let us recognize your presence, leap for joy, and boldly, bravely, freely sow love all the more. Come, Jesus, come! Amen.

Wishing you all
the hope, peace, joy, and love
that comes with this sacred season.
Merry Christmas and Happy 2024.



Scripture Readings for December 30/31

Feast of the Holy Family

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | Psalm 128 | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:22-40

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, and frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: 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.

Walking Through Grief Together

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, January 6 and January 20, in Room 6 starting at 11:00 am. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

SAT 30

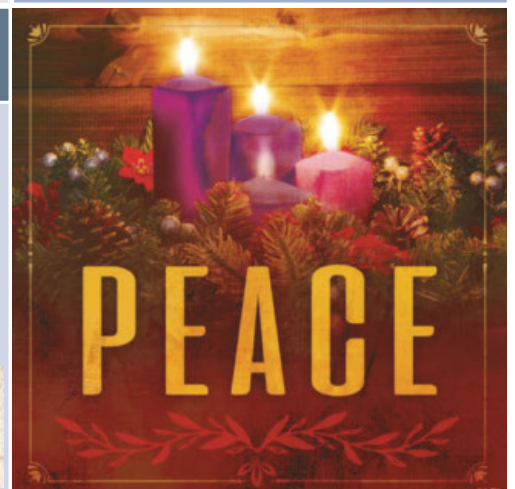
5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

SUN 31

8:00 am Liturgy
10:30 am Liturgy

Church
Church



SPOTLIGHT

Christmas 2023

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”
Luke 2:12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's no accident that when Jesus was born, he was placed in a manger. Think of it—the Son of God, born among us in absolute poverty, and placed in a trough meant for animal food. He became our Bread of Life. “This King of Kings came to us as food, feeding a starving humanity ‘with his tender love,’” Pope Francis once said. How true, and that continues today with the ultimate gift we receive at every Mass—Jesus in the Eucharist.

This Christmas, we are in the second year of the Eucharistic Revival, a special time in our Church when we are called to renew our devotion to the Eucharist. Jesus is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, and is there to sustain us in all that we do. Come and receive Him at Mass, and never go hungry. Sit with Him in adoration and find comfort in the love He has for you, today and always.

As we look to resolutions for the new year, I suggest you resolve to make this extra effort to deepen your relationship with Christ. What an amazing opportunity to focus on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith—for it is through the Eucharist that we are united with Christ and with one another.

May peace and joy be with you and your family this Christmas, and throughout the new year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Jerome Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee



DISCIPLESHIP

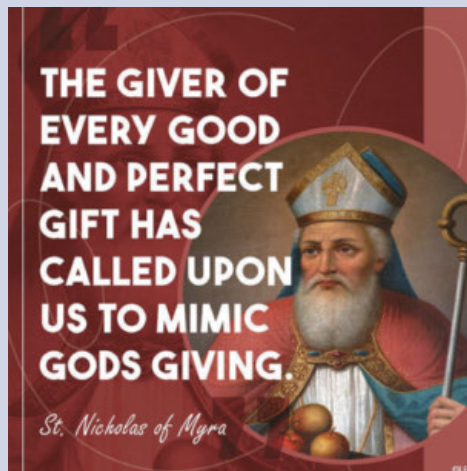
A Christmas Prayer

Dear God, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, His life and love; His teachings and works; His steadfast resistance; His suffering, death, and resurrection.

We celebrate the most nonviolent life in all human history. The greatest peacemaker the world has ever seen. We celebrate how His life and love continue to disarm, heal, and transform us all.

Bless us that we might be peacemakers, people who love one another, loving our neighbors, and loving our enemies. Bless us that we might be a new Christmas people, who, like Mary and Joseph, welcome Christ into the world. May we see Christ in the poor, serve Christ in the world's children, raise Christ through our nonviolent actions, and bring Christ's gift of peace on earth to fruition in our lives and in our work.

Amen!



STAFF EMAIL

Julie Fraleigh (Music Ministry Assoc.)
fraleighj@ololmke.org

Paul Kuenzi (Maintenance)
kuenzip@ololmke.org

Roxanne Lewandowski (Admin. Asst.)
lewandowskir@ololmke.org

Ken Marshman (Maintenance)
marshmank@ololmke.org

Marc Puechner (Communications)
puechnerm@ololmke.org

Cindi Roark (Finance)
roarkc@ololmke.org

Maggie Russell (Formation Ministry)
russellm@ololmke.org

Deb Steppe (Parish Director)
stepped@ololmke.org

Steve Szymanski (Child Ministry)
szymanskis@ololmke.org

Anne Van Deusen (Music Ministry)
vandeusena@ololmke.org

Maryrose Wolf (Administration)
wolfm@ololmke.org

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