

DEC 31, 2023

Holy Family



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and
became strong, filled
with wisdom; and
the favor of God
was upon him.
- Lk 2:40

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

Parish Support - December 2023

	ACTUAL <i>as of 12/15/2023</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Dec.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$33,687.82	\$70,000.00
Offertory	\$1,743.42	\$4,500.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: December 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income.....	\$447,140.04	\$464,315.02
Operating Expenses.....	\$395,736.34	\$454,919.21

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23...	\$128,503.08
Donations.....	\$20,405.82
Expenses	\$50.00
Balance (12/15/2023)	\$148,883.90

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

Happy New Year!

I recently did an internet search for "New Year's Resolutions." There were over 72 million results. I scanned a few of those and saw suggestions for everything from traveling somewhere without a map, to turning off social media, from cleaning out your car (I could use that one), to going to the dentist on time. There were also more spiritual suggestions like keeping a journal and letting go of grudges. I certainly agree with those.

One suggestion for a resolution spoke to me, and that was to be kind. Simple kindness.

Our world today has so much darkness. We hear every day of the war in Ukraine and the terrorism and violence in the Holy Land, not to mention the gun violence experienced every day (literally) in our country.

There is not much we can do to have an effect on all the evil in the world, but we can be kind. We cannot force world leaders to value the lives of those considered an enemy, but we can choose to have no enemies.

Let's be kind this year. Let's share a few extra bucks with organizations like the St. Vincent de Paul Society who care for the poor. Let's smile at neighbors—even grumpy ones. Let's hold open doors and let folks go in front of us in the line at the grocery store. Let's create the peace for which we pray.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Unleashing Potential Through Virtues

Virtues are gems in the heart of the true self. Our human responsibility is to mine those gems and bring them to light by naming them as you see them in yourself and others. We are spiritual beings created with enormous potential within. As our true self develops, the light of Christ shines brighter in the world.

If you are into making New Year's resolutions, or even if not, can you commit to naming virtues you see in those around you? See what a difference it can make! Can we all agree we need more light in our world!

SUN 31

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

MON 1

Office Closed

12:00 pm Liturgy Church

TUE 2

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



COMMUNITY LIFE

FORMATION

Welcome New Parishioners November 2023

Daniel Kampa and Jordan Schuler
Daniel and Mary Leister
Judy Lopez
Vicki Rodriguez
Karen Szews

The Synod on Synodality

What occurred in October at the Vatican at the Synod on Synodality? What did the synthesis document contain? What does it mean for the Church going forward? Join us at GIFT on January 14 as Steve Szymanski walks us through these questions and we practice synodality in discussing the pressing issues facing our Church.

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 mrjavorek@yahoo.com. The Art Guild is really looking forward to seeing all the beautiful art pieces brightening up our hallways in springtime!

WED 3

THU 4

FRI 5

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
6:30 pm Baptism Prep Rm 10
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 9

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

Office Closed

WORSHIP

A New Year

So, there I stood on this piece of land, a new year stretched out before me, galloping fast and full. Could God's love really transform the landscape of my heart and seep into the ground here? Could love stop me in my tracks, could it hijack the dates and times and allow me to breathe in the new? I felt both the warmth of shelter and the distant chill of harsher weather. Could this man Jesus really stand between me and this incoming storm? Or become part of my intimate family treasure? How I look and wonder at the flaming colours of dawn, a dawn that breaks again and again across the face of a broken world. Can this unconditional love really cradle such a discordant and desperate globe in saving hands?

Yet at this moment, I feel the depth of ground beneath me. I stand upon words of truth, the book of life. And as I allow the Gospels, tales of Jesus of Nazareth to come alive in my mind, they awaken my heart. If love really did overcome when Christ died on the cross, this piece of land is redeemed, restored, and forgiven. Yes!! I can walk forward with a peaceful heart. And I do hold in my hands a piece of that land, a fragment of that legacy. Faith leaps in my heart, order reigns in my mind and hope grows in my spirit. A new year, new beginnings, and new dreams can all be made possible through God's transforming love.

"A New Year"—a prayer poem, © 2014, Julie Palmer

Scripture Readings for January 6/7

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 | Psalm 72 | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Matthew 2:1-12

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by providing families with food and assisting financially for utility and rent bills. Thanks!

Laudate Deum: To All the People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis

Monday, January 8

6:30 pm–8:30 pm

St. Matthias

Come for an interactive discussion on Pope Francis' latest message on climate change.

Free event—all are welcome!

Register online at:

stmatthias-milw.org/ffo or call Brian Jens at (414) 982-2406

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.

SAT 6

Welcome Weekend

9:30 am Baptism Rehearsal Church
11:00 am Walking Through Grief Together Rm 3
5:00 pm Liturgy Church

SUN 7

Welcome Weekend

8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy (Baptisms) Church

Walking Through Grief Together

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, January 6 and January 20, in Room 3 starting at 11:00 am. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Cancellation and Closing Notifications

We are officially in 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.

Everyday Stewardship

I have heard people say, "You don't get to choose your family!" I believe that to be only partially true. I did not choose my father and mother, but my family is greater than my family tree of ancestors. My family includes those who have been there when both my father and mother passed away. My family includes those who came to see my newborn children in the hospital. My family includes those who celebrated with me my greatest triumphs and consoled me in my greatest times of trial. Each and every one of them I have chosen to be a part of my family.

Most of the time we talk about stewardship in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We quantify the size of our gifts, seeing them as things that have a finite value. However, true stewardship has no limits. What we are called to give is everything. When we fully empty ourselves into another and into the reality of God we find ourselves transformed. We truly grow into our own as the creations we became at baptism.

It is in that transformation that we find ourselves connected to others in a profound way. Those who were not connected to us by blood are now connected to us by spirit. Our family, the body of Christ, grows and becomes stronger. In this family, a man can be father to a Son not of his flesh and a woman mother to a Son of a divine origin. In this family, we find our hope and our home. And we must never make the mistake of thinking that is not a choice.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

DISCIPLESHIP

New Year Prayer

God of love, we ask a special New Year blessing over our church family. As individuals, we have many parts, but we are all baptized into one body by one Spirit. Help us remember that although we all have different gifts and abilities, we are equally important to one another, and we must use our gifts to build each other up. May your gathering table always remain a table open to all people—no exceptions. Help us live in harmony and care for each other, suffering together and rejoicing together as one. Amen.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon you and remain with you throughout the year.

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