

Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church coming to know the Kingdom of God by being Christ to the world

Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

Grab a bow and be a gift to others.



Dear OLOL family and friends,

When my siblings and I were young, Christmas morning was a special family time. Our annual ritual was to wake up earlier than usual, peek under the Christmas tree to make sure Santa had been there, run and get our parents, wait for them to come downstairs and have their morning coffee, and then begin the exciting adventure of opening gifts. At our extended family gatherings, there were even more gifts. We methodically opened one at a time so that we could see what everyone received and be witness to the joy, gratitude, and love in the room.

In the midst of all that joy, my dad was the instigator of one of my favorite traditions. Every year, at some point, he would take one of the bows that had been torn off a package and stick it on his head. Sometimes it went on top of his head, sometimes on his forehead. It didn't matter where it was put, what mattered is that he did it every year. We would giggle and take pictures and celebrate that tradition, and while there was no rhyme nor reason to this activity, Christmas was never complete without it. Dad died in September of 1996, yet that tradition continued. Somebody—it didn't matter who—had to put a bow on their head before we could finish our gift opening. We'd talk and laugh about this silly gesture. And one of my favorite things now is that even the grandchildren who were born after Dad left us, and who never even met him, know that he did this.

When I think about it now, I realize the symbolic nature of that small gesture. Dad was always a gift to us, sharing himself generously and motivated by love. I know it's not why he did it, but it's how I saw him—a generous package, neatly wrapped up and topped with a bow. And I realize now that any one of us could have put the bow on our head and been a gift to someone else. You can, too.

As we wrap up another Christmas season and calendar year, and as we prepare to greet 2024, ask yourself these questions. How can you be a gift to others? How can you bring joy to those around you? How can you make someone's life easier through the sharing of your time, talent, and treasure? It doesn't take a lot of effort really—love and a simple bow will do.

Wishing each of you a blessed holiday season and a joy-filled 2024.

Anne Van Deusen

Director of Music Ministries

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Our Lady of Lourdes Stewardship Contribution
*****January 2024*****

Env. No. _____ Date: _____

Name _____

Regular Offering-Operating Fund .. \$ _____

Improvement Fund \$ _____

St. Ben's Meal Program \$ _____

Solemnity of Mary (Jan. 1) \$ _____

Check # _____ TOTAL \$ _____

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Contributions to Operating Fund ONLY

***does not include contributions to any other funds**

Operating Fund Pledge Contributions to Pledge

.....\$ 0.00\$ 0.00

Last Contribution to Pledge on [Date]\$ 0.00

«STATEMENT NAME»
«SPECIAL ADDRESS»
«DELIVERY ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP CODE»

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Outreach to Haiti twinning (Lent).. \$ _____

Other \$ _____

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