

JAN 7, 2024

Epiphany



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

WED 9:30 AM

PARISH DIRECTOR

DEB STEPPE

Office: (414) 545-4316 x113

CONNECT:

ONLINE ololmke.org

EMAIL office@ololmke.org

FACEBOOK [/ololmke](https://www.facebook.com/ololmke)

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

2024 Stewardship Pledge Commitments

As of this writing (December 20, 2023), OLOL has been abundantly blessed by the generosity of 313 of our parishioners who have returned their pledge commitment forms for 2024. Every gift is valued—and needed. Through our commitment, we are living as God intended—as disciples of Christ, building the kingdom of God. If you have not yet prayerfully discerned your pledge, we ask that you spend time in prayer, and return your pledge commitment as soon as possible to the Parish Office.

As we begin the budget process for the 2024-2025 year, we base our expenses on the amount pledged from you. We depend on your generosity to help us continue to provide vital liturgies, pastoral care, innovative education programs, caring outreach ministries, the up-keep of our buildings, and a livelihood for our staff. In gratitude, we take up the challenge to be faithful with little, with much and with all.

NOTES FROM DEB

Epiphany

Today we celebrate the wonder-filled feast of the Epiphany. We hear in our Gospel the story of the magi seeking out the newborn king of the Jews. It is a beautiful story that is depicted in all of the creches we have in our homes and churches.

Along side the beauty of this story is an important challenge from Matthew's Gospel as well. The magi were outsiders, astrologers from Persia and usually not held in high regard according to some biblical scholars. It is not the religious or political leaders who seek out Jesus, it is these outsiders.

I think it is easy to get used to listening to folks who are like us—people who practice the same religion, people who share the same political beliefs, people who share a similar ethnicity. The fact that this Gospel gives us outsiders who recognize Jesus is a challenge to us. Maybe “our side” doesn't have the whole truth. Maybe “our side” doesn't have all the answers.

May we open our hearts to the voices, even the unexpected voices, of all who proclaim the Good News.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Decisiveness

Decisiveness is firmness of mind in taking a stand or making a decision. It requires us to be both courageous and discerning. At times, a choice appears and we must make it instantly, without hesitation, prompted by a deep knowing that it is right. We move forward with resolve and confidence. Being decisive, we are content with our decisions and do not second guess ourselves.

The Gospel story of the three kings is a great example of a decisive action that was taken. Was it an easy one? Can you think of a choice you made and felt strongly it was the right one?

SUN 7

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

MON 8

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

TUE 9

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
1:00 pm Deanery Mtg. Rm 10
6:30 pm Faith Sharing Group Rm 3

COMMUNITY LIFE

FORMATION

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

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.

Coffee! Coffee! Coffee!

Start the new year off right by bringing your GIFT tumbler or other reusable cup to every GIFT session this year so that you can take advantage of the **new coffee bar!**

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 10

THU 11

FRI 12

7:00 am St. Ben's Meal Prep Kitchen
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:30 am Communion Service Church
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
7:00 pm GASIC Virtual

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
6:30 pm Social Justice Cmte. Rm 3

Office Closed

WORSHIP

Epiphany: The Three Kings

Although they did not know his name, they sought
 Him in the bleak darkness of wintry night.
 It defied all the wisdom they'd been taught,
 Yet they were drawn to a mystical light.
 With pilgrims' keen eyes that see beyond stars,
 They followed the light until they found Him.
 They offered gold, frankincense and myrrh
 To the new born King of Kings without sin;
 In a humble stable of hallowed ground.
 They wondered how such bright glory dwelt there.
 Yet through it all, He slept without a sound.
 They realized their riches weren't so rare,
 Not compared to divine Innocence's worth.
 That blessed night they perceived heaven on earth.
 Dominic Windram



Scripture Readings for January 13/14

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 | Psalm 40 | 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 |
 John 1:35-42

SAT 13

5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

SUN 14

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

Church
 Hall
 Church

Baptisms

10:30 am Mass

We welcome the following
 into our faith community
 through the waters of baptism:

Lucille Jo Tomczak

OUTREACH

St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on Wednesday, January 10. 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 January 11, at 6:30 pm, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities.

Homeless Shelter Collection January 19-28

We are collecting items for the homeless shelter, Repairers of the Breach. Please donate the following items **only**:

- Men's boxers (all sizes)
- Shower soap (travel size)
- Razors
- Laundry soap
- Ziplock bags
- Ground coffee
- Sugar and Equal packets

Please **do not** donate socks, scarves, hats, long underwear, or adult diapers.

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Cancellation and Closing Notifications

We will begin to go back to 4-page bulletins next week, so this is the final opportunity this winter to remind everyone about how best to get information about cancellations and closing due to bad 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 or tablet, so we will continue to use every means necessary to alert people about closings and cancellations. If you do have a smartphone or tablet, we encourage you to download our app.

LOL's History

William Penn (the founder of Pennsylvania) wrote that "time is what we want most but what we use worse." Yes, at times I can be accused of procrastination. Virgil (Roman poet) wrote in the Georgics "fugit irreparable tempus"/"time flies," as we now say. Both phrases came to mind when I was preparing this article, as they both intersect with my feelings about being a part of a group that worked on the history update project of Our Lady of Lourdes parish. How lucky it was to work with two enthusiastic people, Lucy Birschbach and Anita Eikens. We three wasted no time in getting down to basics—what we had to do, what to include, what to exclude, and organization.

All three of us could be called "history wonks," in that it was important to get everything right. We spread the wealth and contacted people within areas we needed to include as we added to LOL's written history. This meant we might be talking with people we didn't know but knew about. Sometimes things came easier for us and others not so, but it all came together, with the help from the other two in the group and Anita's computer knowledge.

None of our work was a waste of time—but time did fly.

The Parish history can be found on LOL's website at ololmke.org/parish-history/.

Dave Hansen
Pastoral 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.

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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