

FEB 4, 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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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

Parish Support - January 2024

	ACTUAL <i>as of 1/19/2024</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Jan.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$48,251.79	\$65,000.00
Offertory	\$1,298.00	\$3,000.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: January 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$540,164.70	\$536,468.85
Operating Expenses.....	\$479,257.02	\$535,675.82

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23..	\$128,503.08
Donations	\$26,880.98
Expenses.....	\$50.00
Balance (1/19/2024)	\$155,359.06

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

A Comforting Prayer for These Winter Days

Recently, when I led the Communion service on the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, I concluded the service with one of St. Francis de Sales' prayers. In these cold days of Winter, when Spring seems so far away, when the news we hear on television and the news we hear from one another can be bleak or sad, when it seems like so many folks are faced with life-threatening illnesses, St. Francis' prayer may provide a bit of solace.

Be at peace.

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;
rather look to them with full hope as they arise.

God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them.
He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things;
and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same everlasting Father who cares for you today
will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering, or give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

Be well and be assured of my prayers.
Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Courtesy

Courtesy is treating others with kindness and tact. We take the time to speak and act graciously, showing people that we value and respect them. We remember our manners, greet others warmly, and listen closely when they speak. Courtesy is a way to honor others, showing them how much they matter to us by how we treat them. Those closest to us need our courtesy most of all.

The readings today convey a sense of urgency in Jesus' ministry. We see that by touch Jesus heals. This passage also draws the connection between prayer and ministry. It also presents a model of true discipleship, which consists of humble service to others.

How can we put aside some urgency estimates and act courteously towards others, especially those closest to us?

SUN 4

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

MON 5

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

TUE 6

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:30 am SVDP Meeting Rm 3
6:00 pm Crime Safety Mtg. Hall A
6:30 pm Faith Sharing Group Rm 3

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Bernadette (Bonnie) Drow and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Maxine Stypa

From
Ronald and Phyllis Presl

In loving memory of
Janet Falk

From
James and Beverly Conrad

In loving memory of
Gloria Joyce Perry

From
Barbara Groh

Traveling with Fr. Bill

Dear Parishioners,
Would you be interested in an 11 day Globus bus tour from Zagreb to Dubrovnik though Croatia and Slovenia? It would be late August to early September 2024. For more information, contact our travel agent, Donna Clementi at donnaalee2001@hotmail.com (262)492-5898 or me.

Blessings!
Fr. Bill

FORMATION

Youth Retreats

We have two high school retreats taking place this spring!

The 9th/10th grade retreat is on Saturday, February 10, from 10:00 am-6:00 pm in Room 6. Family and friends are invited to attend the 5:00 pm liturgy with the retreatants!

The overnight Confirmation Retreat takes place on February 24 and 25. Family and friends are invited to join the confirmation candidates for the 5:00 pm liturgy on Saturday!

Souper Bowl Sunday Collection

Our annual Souper Bowl Sunday collection will take place before and after all liturgies on February 10 and 11. Please consider donating to help our youth ministry programs and our friends in Hatti.

A Saturday GIFT Session

Please note that the first GIFT session in March takes place on **Saturday, March 2, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.**

An Evening of Gospel Music

You are invited to gather with fellow parishioners and guests for an hour of energizing music in our church presented by the All Saints Church Gospel Choir on Friday, February 9, from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm. The choir is well-known, having performed in the greater Milwaukee area as well as out of state for many years. The musical program will be followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Admission is free, but attendees are encouraged to bring travel size hygiene items* for Courage Kits which are distributed to local schools and non-profit agencies by Courage MKE, a charity that provides shelter and guidance for displaced LGBTQ+ youth.

Register at ololmke.org/social-justice/ or call the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316.

*travel size deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, lip balm, or Band-Aids; hand warmers; menstrual products; gum; or granola bars

Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Committee

WED 7

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 *The Chosen: Season 2*
Virtual Discussion Virtual
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 9

THU 8

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:00 am Stewardship Mailing Preparation Rm 4
6:00 pm Social Justice Cmte. Rm 3
6:30 pm *The Chosen: Season 2* Hall C
7:00 pm Anointing of the Sick Prayer Service Church
8:00 pm Anointing of the Sick Prayer Service Reception Hall

FRI 9

Office Closed

7:00 pm All Saints Catholic Church Gospel Choir Church
8:00 pm All Saints Catholic Church Gospel Choir Reception Church

WORSHIP

Some Thoughts on the Readings for Today

It is not often that we hear from the book of Job, and today's passage ends on a most somber note: "I shall not see happiness again". Job speaks with brutal yet refreshing honesty in today's first reading. He struggles to find purpose in the drudgery of everyday life. He bemoans how days and nights seem to go by with the mechanical movements of a weaver's shuttle until the thread runs out and death comes knocking. Do his laments sound familiar? Surely all of us have reasons to lament in our lives as individuals or as members of communities facing hardship. No human being is exempt from experiencing a spectrum of emotions, including anger, frustration, boredom, and other difficult emotions.

Job demonstrates the value of bringing these emotions to prayer. God can handle lamentations – in fact, Scripture is filled with such prayers. How might we as individuals and as a community practice greater honesty in prayer? Where might we need to make space for honest lamentations?

Jesus responds to prayers of lamentation, although not always in ways we hope. Today's gospel can be difficult to digest for people who prayed for healing, for themselves or for a loved one, and did not experience a cure like Simon's mother-in-law. Questions such as "why did I or my loved one have to suffer" or "why didn't Jesus answer my prayers" are the sorts of difficult, honest questions Jesus wants us to bring to him. God's ways are deeply mysterious. Jesus is not Santa or a fairy godmother. He does not make all our wishes come true exactly as we imagine. Rather, Jesus remains close to us in our times of need. He listens to the longing of our hearts and promises healing will come in time.

Excerpted from *Living Liturgy 2024*

Scripture Readings for February 10/11

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 | Psalm 32 | 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 | Mark 1:40-45

OUTREACH

Thank You

Dear Our Lady of Lourdes Family, Your beautiful donations of hats, mittens and scarves have been distributed. Many thanks from Barack Obama Elementary School, Gaenslen Elementary School and Ascension All Saints Family Health Center. Your generosity is keeping many children and adults warm during these cold days.

Social Justice: An Invitation

The Social Justice Committee seeks to educate and awaken people to the issues of justice that confront society today. We usually meet monthly on the second Thursday, but have moved this month's meeting for members to attend the Anointing of the Sick Prayer Service. Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 8, at 6:00 pm**, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities.

Recycling Update

We are once again collecting pens, markers, mechanical pencils, and wooden pencils. The bins are in the meeting room hallway.



SAT 10

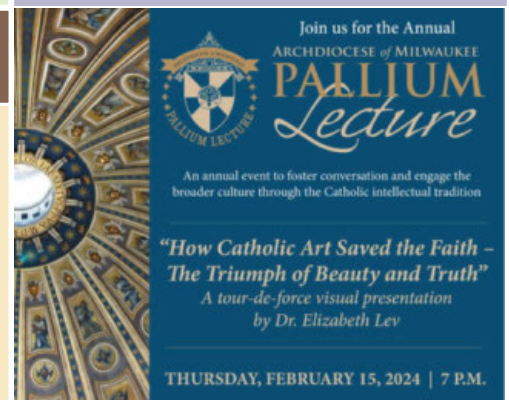
Hallway Art Show Intake
Welcome Weekend
Souper Bowl Collection
5:00 pm Liturgy

Church

SUN 11

Hallway Art Show Intake
Welcome Weekend
Souper Bowl Collection
8:00 am Liturgy
9:00 am Sacrament Prep
10:30 am Liturgy
11:30 am Lent Environment
Changeover

Church
Hall
Church
Church



Register and learn more at archmil.org/bishops/Pallium-Lecture-Series.htm

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Constant Contact “From” Address Change

In order to stay compliant with changing industry standards, Constant Contact, who we use to send out bulk emails for things like GIFT and electronic stewardship mailings, is changing the address domain these mailings come from.

For example, some of our emails will come from **webmaster-ololmke.org@shared1.ccsend.com** instead of **webmaster@ololmke.org**. **This change does not impact everyday emails sent by staff members. Those addresses are not changing.**

If you receive emails for GIFT, Discipleship Institute, Wednesday Table Reflections, or the stewardship mailing, please note this change and watch your inbox and possibly junk mail depending on your filter settings.

From the Pastoral Council

On Sunday, January 14, Steve Szymanski facilitated a GIFT session about the Synod on Synodality, asking us to discuss our responses to the question, “What is the single most important issue facing the Church today?” At our table, the issue of “relevance” came up. Our group observed that, anecdotally, it seems like people are finding other ways to have their spiritual needs met that don’t always involve attending an in-person service at a physical church. Communing with nature, for example, is one such alternative.

Data backs up what we discussed. In June 2023, a Gallup poll highlighted the downtrend in church attendance across all faith groups in the U.S. since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Since 2020, in-person church attendance is down four percent among Protestants and seven percent among Catholics, the two largest faith groups in the U.S.

How satisfied are you with the Catholic Church? The synodal process seeks Catholic’s perspectives through “conversations in the Spirit” using listening, silence, prayer, and dialogue, to discern what the Holy Spirit is calling us towards as we journey together.

Pope Francis asked us all to discern to what the Spirit is calling the Church. What do you say? What can you do to improve our community here at OLOL, so that we can provide something relevant to those dissatisfied followers who both want and need the Catholic faith to be an integral part of their lives?

Come to GIFT this weekend to participate in another synodal discussion about our Catholic faith!

Jim Stamatakos, Pastoral Council member

DISCIPLESHIP

Lenten Lunch Bag Retreat

February 18–March 18

Allow for about one hour each week.

Introduction to the Retreat on Zoom—Monday, February 19–6:30 pm

Final Discussion on Zoom—Monday, March 18–6:30 pm

Facilitated by: Anita Hallman-Kowalski

Pack up your lunch bag and go on a Lenten retreat—in the comfort of your own home! All you need is openness, a questioning mind, a cheerful spirit, a bit of reflection and a willingness to change. We will look at the Lenten Sunday scriptures through the Ignatian Examen to see where we are invited or challenged to change. Register by Monday, February 12, and you will receive a packet of material in your email to guide you. There will be an introduction to the retreat offered via Zoom on Monday, February 19. Please register on the Discipleship Institute web page at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or through the Parish Office.

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