

FEB 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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

NOTES FROM DEB

Lent? Already???

Easter is early this year, so Ash Wednesday is just a few days away! Let me pose to you the perennial question: What are you doing for Lent this year?

The days are long past when I would give up candy for Lent only to lose my enthusiasm for that discipline about two weeks into the sacred season. I also recall my college days of abstaining from meat, which pretty much meant waiting until midnight on a Friday to order a pizza with pepperoni! I think you may agree—that isn't what Lent is about.

The three traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Why not be a little creative this year? Maybe your prayer discipline will involve praying with the Little Black Book for Lent (we have those available) or finding a book in our parish library that intrigues you. I have also crafted an online Lent Retreat taking just a few minutes each day. The online retreat can be found at ololmke.org/lent-prayer/. If fasting from sweets works for you that is fantastic, but what about fasting from being oversaturated in social media or even fasting from holding a grudge? And as the person responsible for the parish's finances, I would never turn down a donation, but maybe this year is the time to donate your time as well as your money?

These traditional disciplines give us an opportunity to grow closer to Christ—a chance to gain a new awareness of what is important in our lives and a time to open our hearts to love as God does.

See you on Ash Wednesday at 12:00 pm or at 7:00 pm. Let's make this a good and prayerful Lent.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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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 - January 2024

	ACTUAL <u>as of 1/31/2024</u>	BUDGETED <u>for Jan.</u>
Reg. Envelopes.....	\$61,649.84	\$65,000.00
Offertory	\$2,690.04	\$3,000.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: January 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$556,896.27	\$536,468.85
Op. Expenses	\$500,323.61	\$535,675.82

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/23 ..	\$128,528.08
Donations.....	\$27,529.36
Expenses.....	\$50.00
Balance (1/31/2024)	\$156,007.44

THANK YOU!

*Our Lady of Lourdes is greatly
blessed with your continued
generous support
of all our ministries!*

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 11

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

Monday, February 12

8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 6
11:30 am	Resurrection Choir Rm 9
11:45 am	Autism Intervention Rm 4
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group Rm 10
6:30 pm	Building & Grounds Rm 3

Tuesday, February 13

8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 6
1:00 pm	Art Guild Rm 4
	Open Studio Rm 4
3:00 pm	Food Pantry Rm 7

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday	
7:00 am	St. Ben's Meal Prep Kitchen
8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:15 am	Morning Faith Group Hall BC
12:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service Church
6:30 pm	The Chosen: Season 2 Virtual Discussion Virtual
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service Church
7:00 pm	GASIC Virtual

Thursday, February 15

8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention Rm 6
3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Reh Church
6:30 pm	The Chosen: Season 2 Hall C
6:30 pm	Women's Spirituality Rm 4

Friday, February 16—Office Closed

Saturday, February 17

11:00 am	Walking Through Grief Together Rm 3
5:00 pm	Liturgy Church

Sunday, February 18

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

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

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Maxine Stypa
From

Trudy Scott
Diane Chow-Neathery
Kathleen Knight
Chris Riste
Rita Klos
Jeff Girard
Theresa & Michael Marten
Georgianne Merbach

In loving memory of
Judy Bialk
From

Leon & Carole Burzynski

OUTREACH

Join the Fleece Blanket Making Community

Join us on Saturday, March 9, at 2:00 pm to make a fleece blanket for those at homeless shelters in Milwaukee. You do not need experience. Helpers will be available to get you started.

Watch for details in next week's bulletin.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on Wednesday, February 14. Please bring food donations to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, or no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday.
ololmke.org/st-bens/

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Idealism

Idealism is having a vision of what is possible and wanting to make a difference. It is caring passionately about what is meaningful in life. Idealists see things as they could be and have faith in the power of change. We don't just accept the way things are. Idealists don't just dream for things to be better. They do something to make them better.

Can you imagine the joy of the leper who was healed by the word and touch of Jesus? Asked to tell only the priests he could not help himself from telling everyone. How do you share with others your ideals, making them real?

SPOTLIGHT

Open Wide Our Hearts

I was teaching second grade and in the middle of a lesson. A seven-year-old suddenly burst out sobbing, saying over and over, "I want to be white." The memory of his sorrow still hurts. It brings to mind the poem "Incident" by Countee Cullen.

Once riding in old Baltimore,
Heart filled, head filled with glee,
I saw a Baltimorean
Keep looking straight at me.

Now, I was eight and very small,
And he was no whit bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, "N*****."

I saw the whole of Baltimore
From May until December;
Of all the things that happened there,
That's all that I remember.

Eileen O'Connor Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice
Committee

FORMATION

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.**



Women's Spirituality Group Meeting

Thursday, February 15
6:30 pm–8:00 pm

Attention women of the parish. The Women's Spirituality Group would like any interested women to join us for discussion and reflection, lead by fellow parishioners, of next weekend's scripture readings. All women welcome!

DISCIPLESHIP

Stations of the Cross—Being a Synodal Church

Friday, February 16, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 pm, Church

We will offer two opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross this Lenten season. The first opportunity is online (via Zoom) on Friday, February 16, from the comfort of your own home. The theme will be "Being a Synodal Church." The online presentation will begin at 6:30 pm and registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register on the Discipleship Institute web page at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or through the Parish Office.

The second opportunity to walk along these same stations will be held live in the church space on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 pm. You can attend one or both services. This is an excellent opportunity to begin and close out the Lenten season reflecting on Christ's love for us—and how we must reflect that same love as His disciples.

WORSHIP

Ashes to Ashes

The word "Lent" comes from a Germanic term for "springtime," the days when new life emerges from what has lain dormant all winter. It's a most appropriate time for us Christians to make our annual retreat and grow in our relationship with God. By tilling the soil of our faith and nurturing the seeds that have lain fallow in our hearts, God brings new life to birth in us. As we begin our Lenten journey, we are invited to embrace our mortality, for by doing so all the rest of life falls into right perspective. The cross on our forehead is God's promise of new life from the ashes of death.

Dan Schutte

Ash Wednesday Services are at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 14.

Scripture Readings for February 17/18

1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15 | Psalm 25 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 |
Mark 1:12-15

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Lent Almsgiving Project

Our Lady of Lourdes will raise money for Outreach to Haiti's Education Program this Lent.

Haiti is a land of extreme poverty and currently a place of political and civil unrest. For families living in this situation, sending children to school is a daunting task given the lack of money for even the most basic needs. Yet education provides hope for the future of Haiti as it empowers and supports Haitians in their struggle for self-determination. Currently only a fraction of the children in Haiti are attending school. There is little or no public education. Almost all worthwhile education is private, and Outreach to Haiti seeks to find quality education for the children they support in their scholarship program.

Outreach to Haiti, our Parish's twin, sponsors approximately 200 students from kindergarten to university level in any given year. In the 30-plus years since the inception of Outreach to Haiti, more than 2000 students have participated in the program.

- Students are selected on the basis of need and the ability to succeed.
- Schools are vetted for quality of education offered.
- The Education Program not only helps with tuition, but monitors performance and intervenes as quickly as possible to address problems. How?
 - They provide, as needed, medical care, food, and counseling.
 - Students with health issues not treatable by Outreach to Haiti's clinic staff are referred elsewhere for help.
 - Struggling students are offered opportunities for tutoring.
- Outreach offers general assistance to students in the following ways:
 - They have an on-site computer lab giving students the ability to do research as well as honing computer skills.
 - Outreach provides proactive medical assistance with a yearly physical at their on-site clinic and a yearly dental checkup.
 - At the university and vocational (post-secondary) level, they actively assist students and graduates with internships and job placement.
- They offer general assistance to our students in the following ways:
 - ESL (English as a Second language) is offered to post-secondary students and post-secondary graduates to bolster their resumes.
 - "Wi Madam Yo Kapab" (Yes Ladies Can) is a program designed to support the girls in the program through mentoring and incentives.
- **If you would like to donate:**
 - You can include it in the weekly collection (just indicate your donation is for Haiti).
 - You can donate on-line donation in the parish app for Haiti.
 - You can drop your off or mail your donation to the Parish Office.

Our Lady of Lourdes has been in a twinning relationship with Outreach to Haiti for almost twenty-five years. The parish has shown great compassion and generosity for our sisters and brothers in Haiti over this time. Outreach to Haiti remains very grateful for the parish's on-going support of their mission in Haiti. Above all else, we would ask for your continued prayers for all the people of Haiti.

