



1st Sunday of Advent

Mass and Communion Services

WEEKEND

Sat: 4:00 pm

Sun: 8:00 am | 10:30 am

WEEKDAY

1st and 3rd Wed: 9:30 am Mass

2nd, 4th, and 5th, Wed: 9:30 am

Communion Service

(Except on holy days or communal reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Please check the Parish Calendar.)



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Notes from Deb

**They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.
Isaiah 2:4**

Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent. Throughout our Sunday readings we will hear from the Prophet Isaiah. This quote from today's passage is one of my favorites from this season because it speaks of the hope for our world that we all share.

Don't we all long for the day that weapons of war are transformed into tools for growth and food? Don't we all long for the day when all the nations on earth no longer plan for war but work for peace and justice? It is that hope to which we cling, and it is that hope that we can make happen.

Perhaps this is the Advent that we embrace an active hope, a hope that spurs us to work toward creating a bit more peace in our world. Perhaps this is the Advent that we look at the "swords" of our lives—our quick temper or a grudge—and turn those things into something positive. The transformation of the world for which we hope can start with one gesture, one act of kindness at a time.

May your hearts be filled with the hope and beauty of Advent.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, November 30

Christmas Giving Tree

Haiti Craft Fair in the Hall

8:00 am	Liturgy (Burkert)	Church
10:30 am	Liturgy (Drenzek)	Church
4:00 pm	Advent Evening Reflection	Church

Monday, December 1

1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:00 pm	Christmas Choir Reh.	Church

Tuesday, December 2

3:00 pm	Food Pantry	Rm 7
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Wednesday, December 3

9:30 am	Mass	Church
10:15 am	Morning Faith Group	Hall C
12:30 pm	Euchre Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Women's Spirituality	Rm 6
7:00 pm	Worship Team Mtg.	Rm 3

Thursday, December 4

3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Reh.	Church
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Friday, December 5—Office Closed

6:30 pm	Humble Night Concert	Church
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Saturday, December 6

Giving Tree

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

8:00 am	Human Concerns Mtg.	Rm 3
11:00 am	Walking Through Grief Together	Rm 3
4:00 pm	Mass (Lewis)	Church

Sunday, December 7

Giving Tree

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

8:00 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Abert)	Church
4:00 pm	Advent Evening Reflection	Church

Stewardship Update

Parish Support - November 2025

	ACTUAL as of 11/7/25	BUDGETED for November
Reg. Envelopes	\$26,435.26	\$77,916.67
Offertory	\$889.85	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$389,967.86	\$390,503.32
Op. Expenses	\$299,555.21	\$394,394.46

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/25		\$70,269.91
Donations		\$64,397.53
Expense		\$17,000.26
Balance (11/27/25)		\$399,474.87

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Giles & Maureen Fisch
From Michael and Amy Fisch

In loving memory of Susan R Albrecht
From John, Kate, and Cole

Women's Spirituality Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 3

6:30 pm–8:00 pm

Discussion and reflection, lead by fellow parishioners, of next weekend's scripture readings. All women welcome.

Virtue of the Week

Initiative

Initiative is originality and creativity in action. When we have Initiative, we boldly express new ideas, discover a new method, or find a different way to solve a problem. We lead our lives responsibly. We don't wait for others to remind us or pressure us into action. We accept responsibility as an engaging opportunity to apply our own ideas. We use our creativity to bring something new into the world.

In this first week of Advent, all three readings tell us to, stay awake, walk in his paths, in the light. How can you use some Initiative to plan for rest and playful participation in activities that are life giving?

Formation

Next GIFT on December 7 with Fr. Alan Jurkus

Join us at GIFT on Sunday, December 7, at 9:00 am in the Hall, as Fr. Alan Jurkus presents on the papacy from Pope Pius XII to Pope Leo XIV. If you do not regularly attend GIFT and wish to attend, please call the Parish Office for details.

House of Peace Holiday Food Boxes

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone in our OLOL family who helped with the House of Peace Holiday Food Boxes effort! We expect to surpass our goal of 225 boxes filled. We will have the final numbers shortly.

New Years Eve Potluck!

Save the date! Join us in celebrating New Year's Eve as a parish family! The New Year's Eve Potluck kicks off with 4:00 pm Mass, followed by a community potluck dinner and festive activities, including a 6:00 pm countdown (midnight in London!). Keep an eye out for a flyer in next week's bulletin with **all** event details!

Worship

"It does not need to be perfect... to be magic." Rasheed Ogunlaru

There are so many ways to participate in Advent this year. Ways to center yourself, to express yourself and to share yourself. Precious opportunities to leave the busyness of the season for a bit and enter into the magic of the season.

Christmas Choir

If you are planning to attend the 9:00 pm Mass on Christmas, consider joining the Christmas Choir. There are only four rehearsals (you must attend at least three, including the last one) and the Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Mass. Want to share your voice? Simply come the first night, ready to share your gifts. Want to play an instrument? Please contact Anne Van Deusen.

Rehearsals—Mondays, December 1, 8, 15 (6:00 pm–7:15 pm) and 22 (6:00 pm–8:00 pm)

Mass—Wednesday, December 24, 9:00 pm (meet at 8:15 pm)

Advent Evening Prayer

Come in out of the cold for a half hour of quiet, reflective prayer – 4:00 pm each Sunday during Advent.
November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

Concert: Humble Night: Advent & Christmas Music

Friday, December 5

6:30 pm

(free—will donation will be collected)

You might recognize Tom and Barb Webber from the many activities they do at Lourdes – lector, music, Oktoberfest leader, etc. They have been hard at work this past year, recording their seventh CD, Humble Night, a collection of original Christmas and Advent songs. This album bridges the timeless scriptural narratives of the season with the lived experiences of today. It blends contemporary folk and Americana with Celtic-tinged ballads, jazzy world beat rhythms, and soulful Gospel-inspired melodies. Join Tom, Barb, and friends for a concert celebrating that music, along with other seasonal songs and prayers.

Tree Lighting and Caroling

Friday, December 5

6:45 pm–7:15 pm

Please see the separate bulletin article about the Jackson Park Tree Lighting Ceremony. Traditionally, members of Our Lady of Lourdes have helped lead the singing of the Christmas carols. Please contact Anne Van Deusen to get involved. Bonus—you could help with the caroling and then come down Forest Home Avenue and catch the second half of the Webber concert.

Spotlight

Gospel Meditation

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 24:37-44

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing – someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief – not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

Father John Muir

©LPi

Discipleship

Advent is Here!

Advent is a Christian season of preparation that begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts for four weeks. It commemorates the first coming of Jesus Christ and anticipates his second coming. As disciples of Christ, we are encouraged to spend time in prayer reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation.

What Advent means:

- The coming of Christ: The name "Advent" comes from the Latin word for "coming" or "arrival." Christians observe this season as a time to reflect on Jesus' birth at Christmas and to look forward to his return in the future.
- A period of preparation: It is a time to prepare one's heart and mind for the celebration of Christmas and to focus on our spiritual preparation for his future coming, rather than just the commercial aspect of this holiday season.

Common Advent traditions:

- Advent wreath: A wreath with four candles, with one lit each Sunday. The candles often represent hope, peace, joy, and love.
- Advent calendars: These calendars mark the days leading up to Christmas. Our Lady of Lourdes has created an Advent Calendar for our faith community that focuses on the GIFT theme this year of "Activating the Body of Christ". Each day requires an action that is done for the common good. These take-home calendars are located on the movable cart in the front lobby – or contact the Parish Office if you would like one sent to you.
- Church services and prayer: Many churches hold special services during Advent, often with reflections and scripture readings focused on a specific theme. Our Lady of Lourdes is offering Advent Evening Prayer Services on the four Sundays of Advent at 4:00pm. Deacon Bill Goulding and Parish Director, Deb Steppe, will alternate leading these each Sunday evening. The theme is "When You Pray, Move Your Feet." Please make the time to join us and escape the hectic pace of the season.

Outreach

Giving Tree

Reminder, all Giving Tree gifts are due back next weekend!

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 2 and 16

Most needed items: canned beets and carrots, and regular sized brown grocery bags.

Thanks for your ongoing support to the pantry. God bless.

Please watch expiration dates.

ololmke.org/food-pantry

Outside our Walls

Jackson Park Tree Lighting

The Jackson Park Community Association and North Shore Bank will be sponsoring the 37th annual Jackson Park Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 5, at 6:45 pm on the triangle of South 43rd Street, West Forest Home Avenue, and West Oklahoma Avenue. Please join Mayor Johnson and local dignitaries for caroling, followed by a reception across the street at North Shore Bank. Refreshments will be served. Meet your friends and neighbors on this festive night as we welcome the holiday season with the singing of carols around the tree!



Communications

A Fresh Look for Our Bulletin!

You may have noticed something different about this week's bulletin—and you're right! We're excited to unveil a new design that reflects both a shift in technology and a renewed vision for how we communicate.

With Microsoft officially retiring Publisher, we've transitioned to digital platforms for constructing the bulletin. This change has opened the door to re-imagining its layout, style, and overall feel.

This redesign is still a work in progress, and your feedback is essential. If you are visually challenged or find that spacing, contrast, or font choices make the bulletin difficult to read, please let us know. We want to ensure that everyone in our community can access and enjoy the information we share.

Thank you for growing with us as we embrace new tools and fresh possibilities.

Advent Prayer Page

Our Advent Prayer Page is up and running. Here you will find the Virtual Retreat, Advent Kindness Challenge, recordings of the Advent Prayer Sessions, and other resources to help you walk your Advent journey. You can find our Advent Page at ololmke.org/advent-prayer/.

Advent Kindness Challenge

Let's Cover the Church in Love!

This Advent season, we're inviting you to be part of something beautiful. Something bold. Something that reflects the heart of Christ in action.

Starting the First Sunday of Advent, you'll find tables at each church entrance filled with strips of paper. These aren't just paper—they're the seeds of a movement. A movement of kindness, compassion, and Christ-like love.

What's the Challenge?

Simple: **Do random acts of kindness.** Hold a door. Share a meal. Call someone who's lonely. Forgive. Encourage. Serve.

Every time you do something that reflects the love of Christ, write it down on a strip. Then, each weekend, bring your slips and place them in the basket beneath the Christmas trees in the sanctuary.

There's no limit. No quota. Just a call to keep loving, keep giving, and keep showing up for others.

Our Goal?

To cover the church with kindness—literally. We want to see those slips multiply and fill the space with visible reminders of what it means to live as Christ taught us. Imagine walking into church and seeing the building adorned with hundreds of acts of love. That's the kind of Christmas spirit that transforms hearts.

Why It Matters

Advent is a season of waiting, of preparation, of hope. But it's also a season of action. Christ came into the world not just to be admired—but to be followed.

This challenge is more than a project. It's a declaration:

We are a community that chooses kindness.

We are a people who reflect Christ's love.

We believe that small acts, multiplied, can change everything.

So, grab a strip. Make a difference. And let's see just how much love we can pour into this sacred space.



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