



2nd 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.)



Connect

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Notes from Deb

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

I think we as Catholics tend to struggle with this sacrament. No one likes to admit to making unhealthy or unwise choices as individuals, nor do I think anyone likes to admit that many of the sins of our lives are social sins—sins against the common good and freedom of others. Yet these sins are a part of our lives—they give us burdens to carry and become our obstacles to knowing and feeling God's love for us.

In these complicated, sometimes difficult days, with so many of us carrying a lot on our shoulders, perhaps this is a good time to let go of the burdens that don't need to be there, and we can do that with the sacrament of reconciliation. Our communal celebration of the sacrament takes place on:

Wednesday, December 10, at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

I truly appreciate how we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes. In this service we humbly admit to one another that we have made poor choices, and together we ask for forgiveness. We do this surrounded by music and scripture and the support of the community. We leave the service feeling the grace of God's forgiveness.

Know that you are held in prayer, and I hope to see you on Wednesday!

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

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

Monday, December 8

12:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Mass	Church
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:00 pm	Christmas Choir Reh.	Church
6:30 pm	Building & Grounds	Rm 3

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 am	Human Concerns	Rm 3
10:30 am	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
12:00 pm	Art Guild Potluck	Hall C
1:00 pm	Art Guild Open Studio	Rm 4

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 am	St. Ben's Meal Prep	Kitchen
10:15 am	Morning Faith Group	Hall C
12:00 pm	Communal Reconciliation	Church
7:00 pm	Communal Reconciliation	Church
7:00 pm	GASIC	Rm 3

Thursday, December 11

9:00 am	Stewardship Mailing Prep	Rm 4
6:00 pm	OCIA Information Mtg.	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Social Justice Cmte.	Rm 3

Friday, December 12—Office Closed

Saturday, December 13

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

4:00 pm	Mass (Burkert)	Church
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Sunday, December 14

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

8:00 am	Mass (Suriano)	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
4:00 pm	Advent Evening Reflection	Church

Stewardship Update

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we fast approach the end of another year, we remind you that contributions for calendar year 2025 must be received by the weekend of **December 27/28** or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2025. A check dated December 31 or earlier, **but not in our possession or in a valid postmarked envelope** and received after January 1 is a 2026 contribution.

Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must have dropped them off to the Parish Office or in the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, December 31, to receive credit for 2025. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

Office Holiday Hours:

Closed: December 24, December 25, and January 1
Please use Outside Drop Box.

Open: December 31—8:30 am—4:00 pm



Virtue of the Week

Endurance

Endurance is our ability to withstand adversity and hardship. We practice perseverance and patience when obstacles arise, open to the lessons they bring. We don't give up or feel hopeless about ourselves. We hold on. Endurance hones our character and seasons our souls. Weathering the inevitable challenges in our relationships deepens trust and loyalty. When trouble comes, endurance gives us the strength to stay the course.

The second reading today assures that with endurance and encouragement we might have hope and harmony. In what areas of your life do you need more harmony? How can that bring hopefulness?

Formation

Gospel Dramatization on Christmas Eve

In a Christmas Eve tradition at OLOL, children in GIFT grades 3 & 4 will dramatize the Gospel as it is read at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve liturgy. This is especially helpful for younger children to understand why we celebrate Christmas. Please plan on joining us.

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!). See the flyer in this bulletin with **all** event details!

Worship

Active Participation

The Catholic Church teaches that the liturgy is the "summit of the Church's activity" and the "source of all her power," being the public and official worship of God. It is a sacred action and a participation in Christ's priestly office, where God is glorified, the faithful are sanctified, and a dialogue is created between the Creator and the created. The liturgy emphasizes the "active participation" of the faithful through their minds and bodies, not just as spectators.

We hear time and time again that the liturgies at Our Lady of Lourdes are what draws people here. The dynamic worship we experience and treasure would not be possible without the work of many, many hands. We invite and encourage each of you to consider how you can actively participate and donate your time and talent. If you are already participating, make a resolution to try something new. Take on a ministry as a family. Over the next few weeks, we will highlight some of the ministries that welcome your active participation.

Minister of Hospitality (Greeter/Usher)

This ministry offers the opportunity to greet parishioners and guests who come to worship at Our Lady of Lourdes. Hospitality Ministers are the first impression people receive when they arrive. Greeters are asked to arrive at least one half-hour before liturgy begins to greet people as they come in. They assist with seating, help with the collection and distribute bulletins at the end of liturgy. Consider taking on this ministry as a family or with a friend!

Weekend Sacristan

This ministry prepares the worship space for liturgy. This can include opening doors, turning on the lights, lighting candles, and setting out the bread and wine used for liturgy. At the end of liturgy, the sacristan also helps to put things away in readiness for the next liturgy. Currently we have a particular need for sacristans for the 10:30 am Sunday liturgy.

Training is provided for any ministry. If interested, please contact Director of Worship Ministries, Jim Wielgosz.



Spotlight

When Voices Unite

More and more people from nearby parishes come to OLOL each week because they love the energy and sincerity of our liturgy. Our worship is deeply human—rooted in tradition yet full of the spirit of renewal Vatican II envisioned.

Though Our Lady of Lourdes and All Saints Catholic Church have different histories and neighborhoods here in Milwaukee, they share the same heartbeat. Both are lively, faith-driven communities that value service, inclusion, and engagement. Since opening in 1958, OLOL has welcomed people from all walks of life to live the Gospel through service and discipleship. All Saints formed in 1994 when five historic Milwaukee parishes united to face city challenges with compassion, cooperation, and a firm commitment to justice.

OLOL offers its GIFT intergenerational faith formation program, six music groups that energize our worship, and ministries like Gay and Straight in Christ (GASIC) that remind us inclusion isn't an idea—it's who we are. All Saints brings the same heart through Bible studies, youth programs, and a renowned food pantry and meal service feeding both body and soul in Milwaukee's central city.

The All Saints Gospel Choir filled the sanctuary at OLOL on Saturday, November 15, with a sound that could only be described as joy made audible. Their rich, powerful voices made our 4:00 p.m. worship a shared celebration of God's love and Christ's presence among us.

Both parishes thrive because people do more than attend Mass. They serve, sing, cook, teach, welcome, and love. That's what it means to be Church.

When we sing together, as we did that Saturday night, something divine happens. The sound carries beyond the walls—into Milwaukee and out into the world—a living echo of faith, community, and the kind of love that refuses to stay quiet.

Jim Stamatakos
OLOL Pastoral Council

Discipleship

Advent Kindness Challenge

During Advent, good deeds can be done through family activities, community service, or personal acts of kindness to others. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we have an Advent Kindness Challenge going on throughout the Advent season.

You may have noticed tables filled with strips of colored paper at the entrances to the church. These strips of paper are for the Advent Kindness Challenge. The concept is very simple. As you do random acts of kindness during the Advent season, take a strip and write down the "good deed" you have done. Place the completed strips in the basket located under the large Christmas tree in the church space. The challenge is to do as many good deeds as possible so we can cover this sacred space with kindness - literally. There is no limit to how many strips you can contribute! Go out and do as much good as you can!

Below you will find some helpful ideas:

- Donate to a local food pantry: Collect non-perishable food items or make a family shopping trip to donate to a food bank or our own food pantry.
 - Organize a toy drive: Gather new or gently used toys and books to donate to a local shelter, hospital, or a "giving tree" program.
 - Volunteer together: Help at a soup kitchen, a local animal shelter, or a community center.
 - Help a neighbor: Offer to shovel snow, run errands, or help with other tasks for an elderly or busy neighbor.
 - Write thank-you notes: Send a thank-you note, email, or make a video for someone who has helped or inspired you.
 - Pay for someone behind you: Buy coffee for the person in the car behind you at a drive-thru.
 - Give compliments: Make a point to give someone a sincere compliment, like a store clerk or a stranger.
 - Leave a surprise for service workers: Leave a small gift, a basket of snacks, or a thank-you note for your mail carrier, garbage collectors, or delivery drivers.
-

Outreach

Giving Tree

Giving Tree gifts are due back at this time. The schools will be picking them up this week. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on Wednesday, December 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 December 11, at 6:30 pm, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities by visiting our webpage at ololmke.org/social-justice/.

Communications

Bulletin Content Through the Holidays

As we progress through the holiday season and into our journey of Advent, it is good for us to remind everyone that our bulletins are printed by an outside publisher that distributes bulletins to churches throughout the country. With that service comes pushed up print dates due to the holidays. It also means that sometimes we cannot get items like condolences, memorials, and funerals published when they come in. Depending on space and timing these items may be published later than anticipated.

We ask you for your understanding as we try to do our best to publish information as we get it. Be sure to watch our website and other forms of communication for up-to-date information.

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 Gospel Reflection

Matthew 3:1-12

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating "locusts and wild honey" (Mark 1:6). It's not just a strange historical detail. It's a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw – barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But, I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we're each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it's time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith—prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It's time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That's the honey. Savor it!

John didn't avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we'll be ready—really ready—for the coming of Christ.

Father John Muir
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Please join us for a

NEW YEAR'S EVE *Potluck*

Hosted By Intergenerational Youth Ministry

An OLOL Community Event

Wednesday, December 31, at 4:00 PM

Please RSVP using the QR code below or call the Parish Office.



Hello! I am excited to invite you to our second annual OLOL **NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK!** This event, hosted by our Intergenerational Youth Ministry program, offers a chance for us to come together as a parish family to share food, fellowship, and memories, as well as welcome the New Year.

Event Details:

- 3:30 pm–4:00 pm – Drop off your dish in the Parish Hall
- 4:00 pm – New Year's Eve Mass
- 5:00 pm – Potluck Dinner
- 6:00 pm – Happy New Year! (our 6 o'clock is London's midnight!)
- 6:00 pm–6:30 pm – Hall Cleanup (volunteers welcome!)

What to Bring:

To ensure a variety of food, we are asking each household to bring a dish based on the first letter of your last name (these dishes can be store-bought or homemade):

- **Last Name A-G:** Entrees or Main Dishes (consider bringing a dish that is a holiday tradition in your household)
- **Last Name H-M:** Desserts (sweet treats to end a lovely meal)
- **Last Name N-Z:** Appetizers or Salads (think finger foods or other small bites, pasta salads, fruit salads, or traditional leafy salads)

The Parish will supply plates, napkins, cutlery, cups, coffee, water, and New Year's Punch (non-alcoholic).

Please bring your dish at serving temperature with any necessary serving utensils. Our steam tables and warming oven will be available to keep the dish at serving temperature.

How to RSVP Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/NYEatOLOL or through the Parish Office.

This event will fellowship and fun New Year's activities for all ages. We look forward to seeing everyone at this event as we welcome the New Year with gratitude and hope.

Blessings,

Tanya Gross

Tanya Gross
Director of Formation Ministries