



3rd 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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ololmke.org/become-a-member



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Notes from Deb

I spent some time reflecting on this Third Sunday of Advent. When I was a child, I used to love this day; the pink candle lit on this weekend reminded me that Christmas and all those presents were coming soon. As an adult, that pink candle often meant that I had less than two weeks to get everything done: presents to purchase and wrap, recipes to find, cleaning to do, parties to attend, etc.

Now that I'm older, I am trying to get a little more balance in my Advent season. Yes, there is still lots to do, but I'm trying to take care of myself as well. I'm less worried about how clean the house will be at Christmas when the family arrives and more concerned about making sure everyone is comfortable. I find that I am less concerned about buying the perfect gift and more focused on spending time with those I love. Do I have a perfect balance in all this? No. Will I still be in a cleaning frenzy before the family arrives on Christmas Day? Probably.

Our culture has made this a hectic season with lots of stressful expectations—not exactly what Advent is about. In these last 11 days before Christmas, I invite you to join me in dialing back the stress a bit. Let's take some deep breaths, maybe even take a walk, and let's take some time to pray (you can join the Advent online retreat at any time at ololmke.org/advent-prayer/).

Know of my continued prayers.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, December 14

Haiti Craft Fair in the Hall

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

8:00 am	Liturgy (Suriano)	Church
10:30 am	Liturgy (Burkert)	Church
4:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer	Church

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

3:00 pm	Food Pantry	Rm 7
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Wednesday, December 17

9:30 am	Mass	Church
10:15 am	Morning Faith Group	Hall C
12:30 pm	Euchre Group	Rm 10

Thursday, December 18

Friday, December 19—Office Closed

Saturday, December 20

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

11:00 am	Walking Through Grief Together	Rm 3
4:00 pm	Mass (Schramm)	Church

Sunday, December 21

Mosaic Canvas Distribution

8:00 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
9:00 am	Christmas Eve Drama Rehearsal	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
4:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer	Church



Stewardship Update

Parish Support - November 2025

	ACTUAL as of 11/26/25	BUDGETED for November
Reg. Envelopes	\$74,141.80	\$77,916.67
Offertory	\$3,569.74	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$442,948.48	\$390,503.32
Op. Expenses	\$372,057.23	\$394,394.46

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/21/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$73,001.91
Expense	\$18,100.26
Balance (11/26/25)	\$401,106.87

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Jeffrey Javorek
From Mary Beth Javorek

In loving memory of Tom McKean
From Donna VanWynsberghe

Virtue of the Week

Humility

Humility is being modest, humble, and unpretentious. We consider other's views and needs as important as our own. We willingly serve others and accept help when we need it. We accept the lessons life brings, knowing that mistakes are often our best teachers. We do not shame ourselves or others with the illusion that we are perfect. We give our best, and trust that it is enough. Humility reminds us to be thankful for our successes rather than boastful.

For the second weekend, John the Baptist is a huge part of the story. Jesus has the disciples send John a message and tells the disciples he is a great prophet but not as great as the least in heaven. John always claimed to be the messenger announcing the coming of Jesus. How can this Scripture remind us of the importance of remaining humble? How can you use your gifts and still remain humble?

Formation

New Years Eve Potluck!

Celebrate New Year's Eve with your OLOL family! Join us on Wednesday, December 31, for 4:00 pm Mass, followed by dinner, and a fun London-style countdown at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/NYEatOLOL or call the Parish Office to let us know you're coming!

OCIA Informational Meeting

If you missed the December 11 informational meeting but want to be a part of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly known as RCIA), please contact Tanya Gross as soon as possible so that we can plan appropriately for you. We will begin sessions in early February.

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.

Worship

Advent Evening Prayer

Our Advent Evening Prayer continues for two more weeks. Please join parish director Deb Steppe, Deacon Bill Goulding, our musicians, and cantors for a half hour of prayer on Sunday afternoons, December 14 and 21, at 4:00 pm. This time of prayer and reflection helps us continue our Advent journey, bringing some quiet to a busy, noisy season.

Advent Kindness Challenge

Two weeks ago, we began our Advent Kindness Challenge. We asked all of you to do random acts of kindness and then write about them on the small strips of red, green and gold paper that you can find in the lobby and scattered throughout the building. By now, you should be seeing evidence around our facility of the good works being done outside these walls. Let's keep it up! Keep practicing kindness so that we can cover more of our space with your good deeds.

If you are worshipping from home or from afar, we still encourage your participation. You have several options for sharing your random acts of kindness:

Request slips be sent to you.

Write your comments on a 1" x 8.5" strip of paper (any color) and send it to us.

Email Jim Wielgosz with your random acts, and he will complete a strip for you.

This Kindness Challenge helps us declare:

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.

New Year's Eve schedule

This year we will ring in the new year on Wednesday, December 31, beginning with Mass at 4:00 pm, celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Following this, we'll go into the Parish Hall for a potluck dinner and a toast to ring in the new year. All of this will finish by 6:00 pm (midnight in London). This was a fun event last year, and we look forward to celebrating with you again this New Year's Eve.

Spotlight

Open Wide Our Hearts

"It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering." *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), the last Encyclical of Pope Francis.

When my father, a second-generation Irishman, was in his 60's he told me he wore a mustache to hide the racial characteristic that proved the Irish were descended from apes, a long upper lip. A belief in "White Supremacy," which was used to justify European colonialism, stated that all people of color and the Irish were descended from apes while other white Europeans descended from human beings. Bigotry and racism have lingered for centuries. We are witnessing its many effects: the rounding up, incarcerating, and deporting of brown and black immigrants and the ongoing inequality between white and non-white Americans in income, home ownership, education, infant mortality, health care, incarceration rates, and more. We pray, probably daily, "Thy kingdom come." We must **work** daily for that kingdom to come, first, by acknowledging **America's Original Sin** and then by working for policies that will level the playing field, by being informed, by making the decision to be an anti-racist. But where can we start? Here are a few suggestions: *Disunity in Christ, Just Mercy, The Crucible of Racism*.

They say, "Time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Andy Warhol

Eileen O'Connor
Social Justice Committee

Discipleship

Rejoice! The Lord is Near!

This weekend we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday," the Third Sunday of Advent. The Latin word "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" On this Sunday, we take a short hiatus from the mostly penitential, somber nature of Advent and rejoice in the nearness of the celebration of Christmas. One may also note that the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose colored. Rose signifies joy.

Christian joy goes beyond a mere emotion and, therefore, supersedes circumstances. The joy we have in Christ can remain regardless of what challenges we are facing in life. That is because we know God is in control of our circumstances. God is faithful. We too must be faithful by following God's will and allowing grace to transform us. This is the path that leads to true joy.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, here are some key themes to reflect on in this third week of Advent:

- Rejoice in God's presence: The central message is to "Rejoice in the Lord always" because "The Lord is near". This joy is not an emotion but a state of being, rooted in the security of God's love and the coming of Christ.
- Signs of salvation: Jesus' answer to John the Baptist's question about his identity points to the evidence of his work—the blind see, the lame leap, and the deaf hear. Look for these signs of God's presence and salvation in your own lives and the world.
- Humility and greatness: The figure of John the Baptist is a model for this Sunday. His humility was the key to his greatness, as he understood his role was to prepare the way for Jesus, not to seek glory for himself.
- Action and obedience: The joy of this season is not meant to be passive. It should move us to prepare a place for Christ in our lives, to listen to God's will, and to share our joy by acting with kindness and love toward others.

Don't forget the Advent Kindness Challenge! Doing random acts of kindness brings great joy!

Outreach

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

December 16 and 30

Most needed items: hygiene products (body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, dish detergent (small sizes, not travel sizes)), Spaghetti 'O's, cookies, canned beets, carrots, potatoes, spaghetti sauce.

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

Please watch expiration dates.

ololmke.org/food-pantry

Grief Support

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, January 3 and 17, in Room 3 starting at 11:00 am. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

Communications

Cancellation and Closing Notifications

We had an earlier than usual snow event at the end of November that caused us to close the building and cancel Mass, which makes this a good time to remind everyone how we communicate building and event notifications during inclement weather.

First alerts will go out through our app notifications and email. 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, so we will continue to use every means necessary to alert people about closings and cancellations. If you do have a smartphone, we encourage you to download our app.

We also ask you to use your best judgment about traveling in bad weather, especially snow and extreme cold. If you don't feel comfortable driving in bad weather, then don't. We would prefer you to be safe and warm rather than risk an accident. Watching our live stream will at least keep you connected to the community. We had 116 households join us online on November 30 due to the weather, so you would not be alone.

Advent Reflection

Gospel Meditation

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting – that which points to Christ?

Father John Muir

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