



4th 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

Merry Christmas!

As we enter into these last few days of Advent, please accept my wishes for a most blessed Christmas season.

Our Christmas liturgies are:

**Wednesday, December 24, at 4:00 pm**

**Wednesday, December 24, at 9:00 pm**

**Thursday, December 25, at 9:00 am**

Our Christmas liturgies always gift us with visitors—from friends and family to folks in the neighborhood looking for a Christmas Mass. I have no doubt that everyone who joins us this week will receive a warm welcome from all of us. Thank you for the genuine hospitality that you will give those folks and the hospitality that you share with our visitors throughout the year. Time after time, visitors will tell me how welcome they felt joining us. That says so much about the love of this parish family.

May these holy days surround you with love, peace, contentment and joy.

Know of my prayers for you all.

Your shepherd,  
Deb Steppe

## Calendar

### 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

### Monday, December 22

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

### Tuesday, December 23

9:00 am	Environment Change	Church
10:30 am	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
1:00 pm	Art Guild Class	Rm 4
6:00 pm	Finance Council Mtg.	Rm 9

### Wednesday, December 24—Office Closed

4:00 pm	Mass (Burkert)	Church
9:00 pm	Mass (Burkert)	Church

*Christmas Eve*

### Thursday, December 25—Office Closed

9:00 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
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*Merry Christmas*

### Friday, December 26—Office Closed

### Saturday, December 27

4:00 pm	Mass (Abert)	Church
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### Sunday, December 28

8:00 am	Mass (Cooper)	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Schramm)	Church



## Stewardship Update

### Parish Support - November 2025

	ACTUAL as of 11/30/25	BUDGETED for November
Reg. Envelopes	\$76,528.15	\$77,916.67
Offertory	\$3,804.74	\$3,750.00

### Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$445,640.62	\$390,503.32
Op. Expenses	\$369,161.60	\$394,394.46

### Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/21/25		\$346,205.22
Donations		\$73,041.91
Expense		\$21,033.26
Balance (11/26/25)		\$398,213.87

## Community Life

### Welcome New Parishioners - November 2025

Stephen Bablitch & Mary Skalecki  
 Carl & Pat Brust  
 Daniel & Megan Estrada  
 Jayson Hernandez  
 Bob & Nancy Sherwood

### Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Darleene Regan, Gene Miller, Kathy Madole, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Virtue of the Week

### Presence

Presence is to exist or be physically located in a place. It also refers to a person's bearing, personality, or the impressive way they carry themselves. Being "present" in a place is a state or fact of existing. In the Gospel, we hear the story of Mary and Joseph's acceptance of the reality of Jesus. They choose to be present to their role.

Can you practice presence as your "present" to each person you interact with this holy season? How can you fully listen? How can you fully give your attention to what you are doing? That's a gift!

## Formation

### New Years Eve Potluck!

It's almost here! Join us on Wednesday, December 31 at 4:00 pm for Mass, then stay for a parish-wide dinner and 6:00 pm New Year's countdown. Bring a dish to share, enjoy activities for all ages, and let's celebrate together! RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/4x3xjr78> or call the Parish Office today!

### Fleece Blankets

We're excited to come together once again to create cozy fleece blankets for local homeless shelters and warming houses. This is a fun, hands-on, intergenerational activity where every blanket made brings comfort and hope to someone in need. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 24, and keep an eye on the bulletin for more details!

### Gospel Dramatization on Christmas Eve

Join us for a Christmas Eve tradition at OLOL! During the 4:00 pm liturgy, children in GIFT grades 3 and 4 will bring the Gospel to life through a special dramatization as it is proclaimed. This beautiful presentation helps younger children—and all of us—experience the true meaning of Christmas in a memorable way. Please plan on joining us!

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## Worship

### Celebrate With Us!

We hear time and time again that the liturgies at Our Lady of Lourdes are what draws people here. Below are the times of upcoming liturgies during the busy holiday season:

#### Christmas Liturgies

December 24 – 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm

December 25 – 9:00 am

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27 – 4:00 pm

December 28 – 8:00 am and 10:30 am

#### Solemnity of Mary, the Mother God (New Year)

December 31 – 4:00 pm only (no liturgies on New Year's Day)

Following this liturgy, you are invited 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.

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3 – 4:00 pm

January 4 – 8:00 am and 10:30 am



### Christmas Prayer

Loving God,

help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the magi.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May this holy season make us happy to be your children,  
and find us sharing Christ with the world

Amen.

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## Spotlight

### Unsung Disciples: Spirit and Grace Choir

When you look out your window in the winter, isn't the view enhanced by a little light snow on branches made bare by the chill? Just like the snow, Spirit and Grace Choir decorates Masses and other events at Lourdes. As director Anne Van Deusen "weaves" the soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices, a beautiful sonic scene is created to the delight of all in hearing distance. You may also think that everyone in the choir is so talented, unlike yourself – but wait! The choir is made up of fellow parishioners who may not read music or play an instrument. What brings it all together is a simple joy in singing and a dedication to attending rehearsals 2-3 times per month, September to June—that's where the real magic happens! All are welcome to join!

If the frequency of practice is a deterrent, there are also short-term seasonal choirs. You'll hear the Christmas Choir on December 24, but you can also participate in the Easter Vigil Choir, the Pentecost Choir or the Oktoberfest Polka Mass Choir. Each of those requires a shorter commitment (3 or 4 evening rehearsals) but has the same result of beautifying our liturgies and making them more inviting.

It's a little ironic that this regular bulletin feature is called *Unsung Disciples*, when it is these disciples who are doing the singing. Perhaps you may not know the names of everyone who sings in the choir. But if you are drawn to the beauty of music, come to a choir practice. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, from 3:30 pm–5:00 pm. Join in the singing and through this ministry, you will find a deeper way to praise God, and the choir will no longer be *unsung* to you.

Cathy Markwiese, Pastoral Council

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## Discipleship

### Who Was Joseph?

- Matthew and Luke both describe Joseph as being a descendant of King David from the line of Judah. When an angel appears in a dream to exhort Joseph not to divorce his wife Mary, the angel tells Joseph to have courage by invoking his royal pedigree: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife" (Mt 1:20).
  - Famously, the Gospels never record Joseph saying a single word. It has been said that this silence has "its own special eloquence" that "reveals in a special way the inner portrait of the man."
  - The Gospels describe Joseph as "a just man" (Mt 1:19), meaning one who took God's law seriously. This is corroborated not only in the fact that the Holy Family "went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover" (Lk 2:41), but also in Joseph and Mary's decision to present Jesus in the Temple 40 days after His birth.
  - Matthew's Gospel records an angel visiting Joseph in a dream on no less than three occasions: encouraging him not to divorce Mary, warning him to flee with his family to Egypt in the middle of the night, and instructing him to return to Israel after Herod's death. Joseph then receives a fourth dream warning him not to take his family back to Judea as he had planned, prompting him to head north to Galilee instead.
  - While we don't know exactly what Joseph's financial status would have been as a carpenter (Mt 13:55), we do know that when he and Mary bring the baby Jesus to the Temple, the offering they make—"two turtledoves or two young pigeons" (Lk 2:24)—is the offering the Law prescribed for families who could not afford to sacrifice a lamb.
  - Part of what makes Luke's account of the finding of Jesus in the Temple so fascinating is that it shows us that Joseph was still alive when Jesus was twelve years old (see Lk 2:42) and for some time after that. This tells us Joseph was with Jesus throughout much of the "hidden years" which the Holy Family spent in Nazareth.
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## Outreach

### Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

**December 30, January 13 and 27**

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

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

Please watch expiration dates.

[ololmke.org/food-pantry](http://ololmke.org/food-pantry)

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## Communications

### Keep Your Wallet Merry and Bright

Online scams have become more sophisticated. The best defense is slowing down, verifying before clicking, and protecting your personal information.

#### 1. Phishing & Delivery Scams

Watch for emails/texts claiming "package undeliverable" or "account locked." Don't click links. Go directly to the retailer or delivery service's official website.

#### 2. Pause Before You Buy

Be wary of limited-time deals that look "too good to be true." Compare prices and check the retailer's reputation before purchasing.

#### 3. Verify Websites and Apps

Fake shopping sites and cloned apps are surging. Stick to official apps and trusted retailers. Avoid links listed under "Sponsored."

#### 4. Protect Your Payment Info

Use credit cards or secure payment services (PayPal, Apple Pay, Google Wallet) instead of debit cards. Enable transaction alerts so you're notified of suspicious charges.

#### 5. Strengthen Account Security

Use unique, strong 12-16 character passwords or passphrases. Activate biometrics (fingerprint or face recognition) when available. Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) on all shopping accounts.

#### 6. Keep Devices Updated

Outdated software leaves you vulnerable.

#### 7. Monitor Accounts Frequently

Check bank and credit card statements during the season. Report suspicious activity immediately to minimize damage.

## Archbishop Grob's Christmas Letter

Hello Everyone,

After a season of watching and waiting, at the Christmas Midnight Mass we hear the wonderful words:

"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Isaiah 9:1

Can you imagine for a moment being a part of the nativity scene? Forget the sanitized view born from nativity plays – beautiful though they are – the stable is a dark and muddy place. It is quaint and almost forgotten. In this humble place a cry pierces the night: an infant is born and swaddled in rags. For all intents and purposes, this could be any baby in any place in the world. But what unfolds in this scene is a miraculous birth that forever changed the world. The Savior of the world is not a king born in a grand palace with finery, but an infant born of poor parents in a modest stable.

It's hard for us to imagine who would take offense at a baby born in a manger—a defenseless infant in such a lowly place. Yet even then, some did. And still today, many turn away. But God holds nothing back. He enters our darkness, our "stables," our forgotten places. Jesus comes to us not as a princely dignitary who rules with power and decree, but as one meek and humble of heart, bringing light to our darkness and inviting us into a life of humility, gentleness and grace.

Through his miracles and mercy, Jesus shows us that everyone – especially those pushed to the margins – is worthy of dignity and love. He continues to invite us to see his presence: in the beauty of creation, in the love of family and friends, and most profoundly, in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

My hope and prayer for you this Christmas is that your heart will be filled with the light of God's inbreaking love – that the eternal Son may shine into your life, your heart and your family. May his light, which no darkness can overshadow, fill you with peace, joy and freedom that the world cannot give.

May God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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# THE EPIPHANY MITTEN TREE



**Our Lady of Lourdes  
will be collecting  
hats, mittens,  
gloves, and scarves.**

**Please consider donating.  
Children and adult sizes  
needed.**

**All contributions are given to  
Gaenslen School and  
Ascension Family Care Center  
to help keep those in need  
warm this winter!**

**DROP OFF:  
January 3-11**

***Thank you for your generosity!***