



The Epiphany of the Lord

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

20 + K + M + B + 26

Growing up, the Feast of the Epiphany was a big deal at my home parish – St. Casimir in Hammond, Indiana. A predominantly Polish parish, we celebrated Kolędy. Sometime around Epiphany, the parish priests would bless every home in the parish and write an inscription with chalk above the front door. The inscription began with the first two digits of the year, followed by the legendary initials of the Three Kings, ending with the last two digits of the year. This was a lovely tradition, with an opportunity to share some hospitality with the priests.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we have over 1,000 families spread across six counties! As much as I would love to come and visit with every one of you, Kolędy would not be practical here. In that spirit, I offer you this blessing for the new year:

May God bless you and keep you in this New Year
May Divine Light guide your steps,
May God’s grace strengthen your heart,
And May the peace of God dwell in your home.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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Calendar

Sunday, January 4

Mitten Tree

8:00 am	Mass (Suriano)	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Lewis)	Church

Monday, January 5

9:30 am	Active Nonviolence Planning Mtg.	Rm 9
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10

Tuesday, January 6

10:30 am	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
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Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

6:30 pm	Social Justice Cmte.	Rm 3
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Friday, January 9—Office Closed

Saturday, January 10

Mitten Tree

1:00 pm	Community Mosaic Class	Rm 4
4:00 pm	Mass (Marco)	Church

Sunday, January 11

Mitten Tree

8:00 am	Mass (Cooper)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
11:30 am	Environment Change	Church

Stewardship Update

Parish Support - December 2025

	ACTUAL as of 12/11/25	BUDGETED for December
Reg. Envelopes	\$46,579.53	\$87,916.67
Offertory	\$929.00	\$5,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$494,422.01	\$490,086.65
Op. Expenses	\$411,907.57	\$477,756.17

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$74,176.79
Expense	\$21,033.26
Balance (12/11/25)	\$399,348.75

Love One Another Update

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the Love One Another campaign on behalf of Our Lady of Lourdes. We just received our quarterly distribution (ending on 9/30/2025) from the total collected of \$20,223.35 we received our distribution of **\$9,797.40**.

If you are new to the parish or would like to contribute to this investment in our future endeavors, please call the Parish Office and we will provide you with the information you need.

Community Life

Women's Spirituality Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 7

6:30 pm–8:00 pm

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

Virtue of the Week

Appreciation

Appreciation is seeing the good in life. It is recognizing the gifts that come our way and showing gratitude for them. When we express appreciation to others, we mirror the virtues we see in them. Love thrives on appreciation. Intimacy grows deeper when we know we are seen and valued. As we do the spiritual work life calls us to do, it is important to appreciate our own efforts and to acknowledge our progress. We value the learning even in the painful times. We don't waste a single day.

All three readings today reflect on light, enlightenment and letting that be our guide. Can we take the opportunity to appreciate those events or people who help guide us? How can you show appreciation? How do you accept it graciously?



Formation

Next GIFT Session—Nonviolence—January 11

Join us Sunday, January 11, at 9:00 am in the Hall for a GIFT session on nonviolence led by the Active Nonviolence group. Jesus' call to a nonviolent lifestyle is a commitment that takes intention, learning, and practice. Join us as we celebrate nonviolent heroes, explore our conflict styles, learn about nonviolent communication, and practice using what we learn.

Teen Service Program (Grades 7-12)

We're excited to launch a new service program for teens! Each month, we'll offer opportunities to serve both our parish and the greater Milwaukee community—an amazing way to live out their faith in real, meaningful ways. Have ideas for service locations or know your teen has a passion for a particular organization? Contact Tanya Gross—we'd love your input!

Fleece Blankets on January 24

We're excited to come together on Saturday, January 24, from 1:00 pm-3:45 pm to create cozy fleece blankets for local homeless shelters and warming houses. This is a fun, hands-on, intergenerational activity! Due to fleece fabric availability locally, we will have fleece blanket kits that can be purchased. If you can't make the date but want to donate to help defray the cost of the kits, please contact Tanya Gross. Watch next week's bulletin for a flyer insert with details.

Worship

Keep the Kindness Going!

Thank you and congratulations to this amazing faith community of Our Lady of Lourdes! You accepted the Advent Kindness Challenge and crushed it! When you were asked to do simple random acts of kindness during Advent, you exceeded all expectations.

You **are** a community that chooses kindness! You **are** a people who reflect Christ's love! You **do** believe that small acts, multiplied, can change everything!

For the Christmas season, the love you poured out during Advent covered our worship space and beyond. Well done, disciples! But don't stop now! Let's keep that festive spirit of giving going into the new year! There are plenty of things we can keep on doing to extend Christmas all through 2026:

- **Donate Essentials:** Give coats, gloves, hats, toiletries, or canned goods to shelters.
- **Support Animal Shelters:** Donate pet food, blankets, or toys.
- **Help Elderly Neighbors:** Shovel snow or help with groceries.
- **Pay it Forward:** Buy coffee for a stranger or leave a kind note on a windshield.
- **Write Thank You Notes:** Send cards to teachers, service workers, or people who've impacted your life.
- **Cook for Others:** Make a batch of soup for a neighbor or family member.
- **Connect:** Call or visit a lonely family member or friend.
- **Declutter & Donate:** Clean out your home and give away toys, clothes, and appliances.
- **Be Eco-Friendly:** Conserve water, take public transport, or recycle more.
- **Soup Kitchens:** Help serve hot meals to the homeless.
- **Hospitals:** Make cards for those in hospitals or hospice – from kids to seniors!
- **Local Charities:** See what your local food bank or shelter needs.

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the real work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart." — "The Work of Christmas Begins" from
The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations by Howard Thurman

Spotlight

Renewing Spirit and Purpose this New Year

As a new year dawns, many of us set resolutions aimed at healthier habits, stronger relationships, or career growth. This year, I'm trying a faith-based resolution in hopes that it will offer more than a chance for self-improvement and guide me to an experience of spiritual renewal. Instead of focusing on "What do I want to achieve?", I will focus instead on "Who is God calling me to be?"

Instead of pledging to exercise more or save more money, a faith-based resolution could include committing to daily prayer, reading Scripture regularly, or joining a small faith group for fellowship and accountability. These practices strengthen both personal discipline and foster a deeper sense of connection with God and neighbor. Putting faith in action through service is another meaningful option. Volunteering in the community, mentoring a young person, or reaching out to someone who is lonely or in need are compassionate acts that reflect the heart of Jesus and remind us that renewal is not just inward but outward as well.

Forgiveness and gratitude can also be powerful resolutions. Letting go of old hurts and cultivating a thankful spirit frees the heart for joy and peace. Romans 12:2 tells us, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Transformation begins when we align our hopes and habits with God's purposes. Resolutions are less about perfection and more about progress—about walking faithfully day by day in the direction of grace.

My deadline for this article is before the first of the year, so I am still discerning my resolution. As the new year unfolds, I pray every resolution will draw us closer to the One who makes all things new. With faith as our foundation, even the smallest beginnings can lead to lasting change.

Cory Anshus, Pastoral Council

Discipleship

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is an international ecumenical observance where Christians of different denominations come together to pray for unity within the Church. It typically lasts for eight days and runs from January 18–26 this new year. The theme for 2026 is "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4).

The primary purpose of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is to remember Jesus' prayer that his disciples "may be one" (John 17:21) and to pray for the fulfillment of that vision.

Upcoming Discipleship Events

From the Garden to the Empty Tomb: Mapping God's Family Tree

Tuesday, January 6 | 7:00 pm | St. Alphonsus Catholic Church | Room 400

Presented by Dr. Dan Scholz

Scripture offers us a surprisingly counter-cultural way to think about humans belonging within God's family tree. We will explore what this family tree looks like, from creation to the coming age. Call (414) 421-2442 for more details.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sunday, January 18 | 3:00 pm | Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Save the date! After last year's success, the clergy of the Green Corners, a group of clergy from Greendale, Greenfield, and Hales Corners, have decided to host another ecumenical prayer gathering for unity. More information about the theme and focus of the service will be shared closer to the date.

The Psalms—Faith's Prayerbook

Tuesday, January 20 | 6:30 pm | Room 10 | Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

For millennia, the Psalms have formed the backbone of prayer for people of faith. In this evening of enrichment, we will explore their origins, types and use in prayer throughout time, including in the Eucharistic Liturgy and the Liturgy of the Hours. We will complete the evening by praying the Evening Prayer.

Register online at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute or call the Parish Office.

Outreach

Mitten Tree

We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for Gaenslen School and Ascension Family Care Center to help those in need keep warm this winter. Children and adult sizes are needed. Donations can be dropped off through January 11.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: 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

Communications

Change isn't always easy, but it is always inevitable.

Over the last 18 months, four new staff members joined our pastoral team replacing people who had been in their positions for a good period of time. When change like this happens, many of us will default to a "we've always done it **this** way" response to any change new people bring to an organization.

We are a parish that prides ourselves at accepting people for who they are. Fresh eyes bring fresh perspectives. Different people mean different ways of taking in and processing information, organizational methods, and execution of tasks. New personality types mean different needs to be met to avoid stress and conflict.

When change happens, some people will ask, "Why are we changing that?" while others will say, "It's about time!" Change will never be 100% approved, but change will happen 100% of the time.

You will continue to see changes to "how we do things" as our new staff members settle in. Some of these changes will help them serve you better. Others will help staff be more efficient at their jobs.

One thing is for sure, over the lifetime of this parish, not much, if anything, administratively and ministerially is done the same way as when OLOL first opened its doors. Twenty years from now, the same will be said about how we did things in 2026.

Seasonal Reflection

The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak – to say, "I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough." Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking – really, truly knew. They were seeking "the newborn king of the Jews," yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don't see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don't know how many of them there were. We don't know their religion. We don't know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice – that one deep within you – tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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