



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Our Feast Day!

We will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at all the liturgies on the weekend of February 7/8! This is a lovely opportunity to celebrate Our Lady and to pray for healing—for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for our world. As part of the liturgies, we will offer the sacrament of anointing of the sick after the homily.

Lourdes, France is a sacred place and has been the location of dozens of miracles since St. Bernadette Soubirous experienced her visions of the Blessed Mother. I can confidently say that Our Lady of Lourdes Milwaukee is a sacred place as well. Here we pray with beauty and fervor. We continually look for new ways to build God's kin-dom, and we welcome all who come to our door. And at the 10:30 am liturgy that weekend, we will welcome new members of our parish family as we celebrate two baptisms.

Our Catholic faith is a gift to us—from beautiful sacraments to sacred history. We have much to celebrate.

As I pray for you, please pray for me.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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Calendar

Sunday, February 1

8:00 am	Mass (Cooper)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Schramm)	Church

Monday, February 2

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

Tuesday, February 3

1:00 pm	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
5:30 pm	Pink Umbrella	Rm 7
6:00 pm	Baptism Prep	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group	Rm 3
6:30 pm	Season for Nonviolence Prayer Service	Church

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Choir Rehearsal	Church
5:30 pm	Pink Umbrella	Rm 7
6:00 pm	Valentine's Day Service Project	Rm 10

Friday, February 6—Office Closed

7:00 pm	A Night on Broadway	Church
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Saturday, February 7

Celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

Community Weekend

Homeless Collection

Art and Mosaic Intake

4:00 pm	Mass (Cooper)	Church
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Sunday, February 8

Celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

Community Weekend

Homeless Collection

Art and Mosaic Intake

8:00 am	Mass (Schramm)	Church
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10:30 am	Mass (Lewis)	Church
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Stewardship Update

Parish Support - December 2025

	ACTUAL as of 1/15/26	BUDGETED for January
Reg. Envelopes	\$49,645.86	\$87,916.67
Offertory	\$1,621.16	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: January 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$609,769.97	\$587,063.31
Op. Expenses	\$490,503.72	\$561,117.11

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/21/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$78,694.67
Expense	\$29,293.26
Balance (1/15/26)	\$395,606.63

Memorials

In Memoriam

In loving memory of **Ben Litwin**

From

Patricia Sheehan

Michael and Carolyn Payne

Bonnie Steindorf

Michael and Patricia Brophy

Carol Pellegrini

Mark and Annete Arndt

Paul Olson

Joseph and Susan Fousek

Lora Rosenbaum

Richard and Susan Lehfeldt

L. A. Owens

Nanette and Curtis Lingsweiler

Julie Meloy

Carol and Clark Bohnert

Linda Moore

Mary Ruffolo

Virtue of the Week

Honesty

Honesty is being truthful, sincere, open, and genuine. We are content and confident to be ourselves. We see ourselves and others clearly. We do not exaggerate to impress others. We refuse to lie, cheat, or take what is not ours. We strive to keep our promises. We admit mistakes even when we know someone may be disappointed or angry. We stand tall, knowing we have true value in being who we are.

Like the readings from Zephaniah and 1 Corinthians, Jesus emphasizes the role of humility in the quest for the good life. He celebrates spiritual poverty and meekness as traits that characterize a blessed life.

Can you read the Beatitudes with honesty and see how you are doing in living each one? Which one is a strength and which one needs to be strengthened? Can you commit to work on them?

Formation

OCIA Beginning on February 15

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly known as RCIA) sessions will begin on Sunday, February 15. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Tanya Gross as soon as possible so that we can plan appropriately for you.

Next GIFT Session – Active Christianity: Faith is the Driving Force - February 22, 2026

Mike Kolz, a Theology teacher for 40 plus years at the high school level, will be our next presenter. Join us as he talks about Christianity being a faith that requires action. As we try to walk in the footsteps of our Lord, it is expected that we do as Jesus did. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved You." To love as a Christian, we are called to actively serve. In this session, we will discuss the ways we can emulate the path and actions of Jesus in our effort to bring about the Kingdom here on Earth.

If you do not regularly attend GIFT and wish to attend, please call the Parish Office for details.

9th and 10th Grade Retreat

Our 9th and 10th graders will be on retreat on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 am–5:00 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes. If you have a teen in these grades and have not gotten information about this retreat, please contact Tanya Gross as soon as possible. Please remember to keep these youth in prayer.

Youth Advisory Council

We had our first meeting and brainstormed a bunch of ideas. Now we need to put some plans around those ideas. Anyone in grades 7-12 can join us on Thursday, March 5, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm in Room 9 to help with the planning. Please contact Tanya Gross with any questions.

Worship

Celebrate our Feast Day!

Next weekend, our faith community will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at all weekend liturgies. As part of the celebration, the sacrament of anointing of the sick will take place during all liturgies. This will allow all in attendance the opportunity to observe or take part in this beautiful sacrament.

The story of Our Lady of Lourdes recounts the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor French peasant girl, in a grotto in Lourdes, France, in 1858. These apparitions led to a world-renowned pilgrimage site known for miraculous healing waters that came from a spring that Mary instructed Bernadette to uncover. Mary was revealed as the "Immaculate Conception" and the site is now a shrine that attracts millions seeking healing, hope, and spiritual renewal.

The Apparitions & Bernadette

First Sighting (February 11, 1858): Bernadette, gathering firewood near the Grotto of Massabielle, saw a beautiful lady in white, with a blue sash and yellow roses on her feet, praying the rosary.

Daily Visits: The Lady appeared to Bernadette daily for two weeks, asking her to pray for sinners and to have a chapel built at the grotto.

The Spring: On February 25, the Lady told Bernadette to "drink of the spring." Bernadette dug in the mud, uncovering a trickle that became a freshwater spring, now famous for healing.

Identity Revealed: On March 25, the Lady revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," a title that confirmed her identity for Church officials.

Aftermath & Legacy

Church Approval: After investigation, the Catholic Church approved the apparitions in 1862, acknowledging their authenticity.

Pilgrimage Site: Lourdes became a major pilgrimage site, with millions visiting the healing waters and leading to numerous confirmed miraculous cures.

St. Bernadette's Life: Bernadette entered a convent in Nevers, France, living a humble life until her death. She was later canonized as a saint in 1933.

Our Lady of Lourdes is now a beloved title for Mary. Her apparitions are a powerful symbol of God's love and maternal care. Her feast day (February 11) also serves as the World Day of the Sick.

Spotlight

Is hope alive?

Hope—an overworked word. As I sat at my computer after the shooting in Minneapolis, devastated and frustrated, I asked myself, “Pat, how can you dare to write about hope at a time like this? How hypocritical!” I needed a break. During that break, I tuned into the January 7, 2026, Wednesday Table Reflection (<https://youtu.be/WDE9L1pSmU>). The day’s scripture readings and Deb’s reflection pulled me out of my despondency. The first reading spoke about love, and that God’s love is always with us. In the gospel, Jesus calmed the storm and the apostles’ fear as they huddled in the boat. “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” (Mark 6:45-52)

Deb’s comments about these readings of chaos, fear and love gave me much encouragement. She stated that there will always be chaos in our lives, from the everyday challenges of family living to unrest worldwide. Fear sometimes blinds us just as it blinded the apostles who did not recognize Jesus as he approached on the stormy waters. I was reminded that love drives out fear.

So, where do I feel love today? Where do I find hope? Let’s start with the Kindness Links that recently hung in our church, each link representing an act of love. Think about the number of city and statewide churches and community organizations and volunteers that provide free groceries and meals. Then there are the many organizations that focus on job placement, immigration, housing, LGBTQ challenges, and healthcare. Let’s not forget all those folks who stand in solidarity at vigils to support immigrants and protest injustice. Also working with committees and seeing others do the same. All of these actions give me hope! Reading scripture and listening to the weekend homilies give me hope! Deb ended her reflection with this statement: “Acknowledge the chaos, acknowledge the fear, but look for the love.”

Patricia McKay, Pastoral Council Member

Discipleship

Lent is Coming!

Soon the season of Lent will be upon us and there will be many opportunities to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. This Lent, our faith community will focus on the theme of “shalom”. What is the meaning of shalom? Isn’t this a Jewish greeting?

The full meaning of shalom is more than just “peace” and includes concepts like wholeness, completeness, well-being, security, and prosperity. Derived from a Hebrew root meaning “to be complete,” shalom encompasses a state of being where everything is intact, nothing is missing, and relationships—with oneself, others, and God—are put right. It can be used as a greeting or farewell, with the speaker wishing the other person a full sense of well-being, or it can describe a state of no conflict, such as a peace treaty between nations. As a faith community, we will work together this season to achieve “shalom.”

Upcoming Discipleship Events

The Little Black Books for Lent

Available in the lobby beginning the weekend of February 7/8 | Free will offering suggested.

The Little Black Book for Lent 2026 is a popular, pocket-sized daily devotional book. This little book will guide us through prayer, fasting, and reflection on Jesus’ Passion. This year the focus is on the Gospel of Mark, with short, scripture-based readings and reflections. Developed by the late Bishop Ken Untener, it encourages about six minutes of daily quiet time during your Lenten journey. Call the parish office if you need to have the book sent to you.

Stations of the Cross (Online)

Friday, February 20 | 6:30 pm | Online Event – ZOOM

Please join us for a unique prayer experience, all from the comfort of your warm and cozy home. We will walk the Stations of the Cross online using prayer, music, and visuals. This is a great way to begin the Lenten journey. You must register for this event at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or by calling the Parish Office.

Lent Evening Prayer Service

Deacon Bill Goulding and Deb Steppe will alternate hosting Evening Prayers throughout the season of Lent at 6:30 pm on the following Thursdays: February 19, 26, March 5, 12, and 19. Our theme will be “Shalom.”

Outreach

Collection for the Homeless

February 7 and 8

We are collecting items for Repairers of the Breach, a daytime shelter for the homeless, on 14th and Vliet.

Bring any of the listed items with you to church between February 7-8. Leave them in the large container in the meeting room hallway.

Please donate only the items listed below.

- Men's boxers - all sizes
- Men's t-shirts - all sizes
- Men's socks - all sizes
- Coffee
- Laundry soap
- Single use razors
- Single use shampoo
- Single use deodorant

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

February 10 and 24

Most needed items: personal hygiene, condiments (please **no yellow mustard**), and jelly. Remember to check expiration dates.

Additionally, a sincere thank you to everyone for supporting the pantry. Because of your efforts we have been able to provide basic needs for many.

ololmke.org/food-pantry

Communication

Is it real or is it AI?

It's amazing what can be done by people and their tools when they know how to use them. Sometimes for good, sometimes for bad, and sometimes the results are unintended.

AI can save you loads of time writing a document or creating a specific looking graphic. It also can gather information from many websites at once to give you a firm answer on a question.

AI can also be used to do some pretty creative things like the popular videos of dogs protecting children and boxes exploding on porch pirates.

Sadly, AI is also used for crime and creating false information. Pictures, videos, and sound are altered to fool the viewer. Social media and ads on websites are a minefield for these traps.

Check the source and make sure it is a trusted, well-known site. Just because it is on the internet doesn't make it true, especially now. Take a breath and check your emotions. Cybercriminals count on you acting rashly.

Community Life

Women's Spirituality Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 4

6:30 pm–8:00 pm

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

Social Justice

Season for Nonviolence Weekly Prayer Services

Every Tuesday, February 3-March 31

6:30 pm

In these days of turmoil, uncertainty, and heavy hearts, we need each other and we need prayer. Join us every week as we journey through this season in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jesus. As Gandhi said, "you must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Service Opportunities

Teen Service Program (Grades 7-12)

Each month, we are offering opportunities to serve both our parish and the greater Milwaukee community—an amazing way to live out our faith in real, meaningful ways. Please contact Tanya Gross with questions or interest.

February – Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans

Join us in spreading kindness this Valentine's Day! We're partnering with the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI) to create heartfelt cards for veterans in our community. Drop in any time between 6:00 pm-8:00 pm on Thursday, February 5, in Room 10 and bring your creativity! No RSVP needed.

March – Food Sort at Feeding America

Looking for something to do in March? We have reserved a spot with Feeding America on Saturday, March 14, from 9:00 am-11:30 am. Learn about what Feeding America does in our community and then help them sort the food they get in bulk. The time flies by! Kids as young as 10 can participate in this one as long as there is an adult accompanying them. Space is filling up and we have a limited number of slots so sign up early!

In addition, in upcoming GIFT sessions, we will share a full list of ways to get involved at Mass, including behind-the-scenes roles for those who prefer a quieter contribution.

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All Saints Gospel Choir Concert

Celebrating Black History Month



WHAT

Come and enjoy an inspiring evening of song and reflection by All Saints Gospel Choir in honor of Black History Month.

WHEN

Friday, February 27, 2026
6:30 p.m.

WHERE

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
3722 South 58th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53220

The concert will be followed by fellowship and refreshments.

PLEASE REGISTER AT

www.ololmke.org/social-justice/ or call the Parish Office at 414-545-4316.

SPONSORED BY

OLOL Social Justice Committee

ADMISSION IS FREE

A suggested donation of hygiene items* for distribution through All Saints Church would be appreciated.

** New Hygiene Items are requested. These include soap & body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, along with hand sanitizer, body wipes, feminine hygiene products, razors, combs & brushes, nail clippers, lotions and facial cleansers.*

Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer for Healing



O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy,
health of the sick, refuge of sinners,
comforter of the afflicted,
you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings;
look with kindness on me.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes,
you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary,
where you dispense your favors;
and already many sufferers have obtained
the cure of their infirmities.

I come, therefore, with complete confidence
to implore your maternal intercession.
I will endeavor to imitate your virtues,
that I may one day share your glory,
and bless you in eternity. Amen.

Anointing of the Sick - Explained

The sacrament of anointing of the sick is a Catholic ritual where a priest anoints a gravely ill or elderly person with blessed oil, offering spiritual strength, comfort, peace, and forgiveness of sins, uniting them with Christ's Passion, and sometimes restoring physical health or preparing them for eternal life. It provides grace to endure suffering, strengthens hope, and can be received multiple times, not just at the point of death, for serious illness or old age.

Who Can Receive It?

- Any baptized Catholic who is seriously ill, in danger of death, or experiencing the frailty of old age.
- People facing major surgery or chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, or serious mental illness.

What Happens During the Sacrament?

- **Laying on of Hands:** The priest places his hands on the sick person, a sign of blessing and invocation of the Holy Spirit.
- **Prayer:** The priest offers prayers for healing and strength, drawing from Scripture (like James 5:14-16).
- **Anointing with Oil:** The priest anoints the forehead and hands with the Oil of the Sick (blessed olive oil).
- **Words:** The prayer accompanying the anointing asks the Lord to help them with the grace of the Holy Spirit and to free them from sin, raising them up.

Effects of the Sacrament:

- **Spiritual Healing:** Forgives sins, provides peace, courage, and hope.
- **Unites us with Christ:** Shares in Christ's suffering, giving meaning to suffering (Redemptive Suffering).
- **Preparation for Eternal Life:** Prepares the soul for its journey to God.

Key Understanding:

- It's a powerful sacrament for the sick, not just the dying, symbolizing God's healing touch and presence in suffering.

*This sacrament is offered the first weekend of each month after all liturgies. Join us the weekend of February 7/8 to experience this beautiful sacrament **during** the liturgy – and celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes!*