



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass and Communion Services

WEEKEND

Sat: 4:00 pm

Sun: 8:00 am | 10:30 am

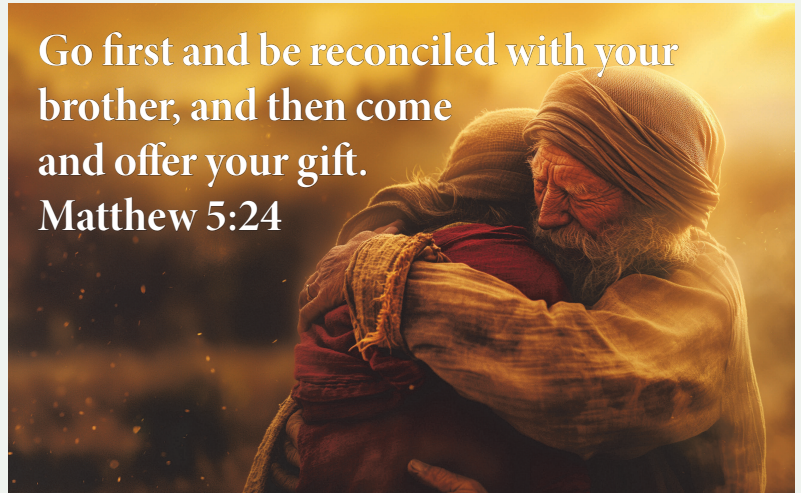
WEEKDAY

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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ololmke.org/become-a-member



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Notes from Deb

Lent is coming! Duck!

That quote is from a friend—a Jesuit priest. His humor affirms how many of us have struggled with Lent over the years:

- What am I going to give up?
- What if I can't pray like I'm supposed to?
- What if I'm not ready to get into this heavy season?

If you have had any of those thoughts, you are not alone! I would invite us all to think about Lent a little differently. Let's let this Lent be a time of seeking **shalom**—seeking peace—seeking a sacred balance in our lives. Perhaps this year our Lenten discipline will be about being gentle with ourselves or letting go of the activities in our lives that take us down and keep us from experiencing God's love.

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 18. We have services at 12:00 pm and at 7:00 pm.

I have once again crafted an online Lent retreat. This can be found at ololmke.org/lent-prayer/. The retreat is based on the daily bible readings and is designed to take just a few minutes each day. There are lots of other Lenten prayer activities as well, including Lenten Evening Prayer, and Stations of the Cross.

However you choose to enter into this sacred season, please know that you are being held in prayer.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, February 15

8:00 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Suriano)	Church
10:30 am	OCIA Reflection	Rm 3
11:30 am	Environment Change	Church

Monday, February 16

1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
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Tuesday, February 17

1:00 pm	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
5:30 pm	Pink Umbrella	Rm 7
6:30 pm	Season for Nonviolence Prayer Service	Church

Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

12:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Church
6:00 pm	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Rm 3
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Church

Thursday, February 19

3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Choir Rehearsal	Church
5:30 pm	Pink Umbrella	Rm 7
6:30 pm	Oktoberfest Mtg.	Rm 3
6:30 pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Church

Friday, February 20—Office Closed

6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	Virtual
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Saturday, February 21

4:00 pm	Mass (Burkert)	Church
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Sunday, February 22

8:00 am	Mass (Marco)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
10:30 am	OCIA Reflection	Rm 3

Stewardship Update

Parish Support - December 2025

	ACTUAL as of 1/29/26	BUDGETED for January
Reg. Envelopes	\$95,728.87	\$87,916.67
Offertory	\$2,735.91	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: January 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$659,683.52	\$587,063.31
Op. Expenses	\$575,703.01	\$561,117.11

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/21/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$87,734.67
Expense	\$29,293.26
Balance (1/22/26)	\$404,646.63

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of **Mike Cassidy**
From **Anita Kowalski**

Oktoberfest Meeting

Thursday, February 19
Topic: Music and Activities

All are welcome to plan the music and family fun activities for Oktoberfest!

Virtue of the Week

Discernment

Discernment is assessing the wisdom to discover what is essential and true. Choosing not to rush decisions, we seek to distinguish the true from the false, then choose the best path. Reflecting in silence creates space for our deepest perceptions. We open ourselves to clarity. It often takes time! We become alert to the messages that come in subtle and surprising ways. We wait for the truth. Discernment empowers us to be guided by grace.

The Samaritan woman and Jesus go back and forth and, in the process, Jesus teaches her and comes to tell her about her life's path. He urges her to find and apply the underlying truth that brings about the greater good.

Do you have a mentor in your life who listens and helps you discern your path? What role does prayer have?

A community within the community

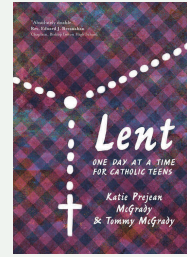


celebrating soon.

Formation

Lent Booklets available for Youth Grades 7-12

We have “Lent One Day at a Time” booklets for our youth in grades 7-12. Youth in these grades should pick one up outside the Formation Ministry Office (Room 2). Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18.



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. We are also looking for 11th and 12th graders who may want to come back as peer leaders for this retreat. Contact Tanya if you are interested in being a peer leader.

Worship

A Journey Together

On Ash Wednesday, we will enter the sacred season of Lent. This “springtime” of the church year is often likened to a journey—a journey into the desert—a journey toward Easter. It is a time for introspection, pruning away spiritual debris, and refocusing on God through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Opportunities abound during Lent—just read the rest of this bulletin—but let us zero in on just The Penitential Rite that occurs during the liturgy.

The Penitential Rite

The Penitential Rite (Penitential Act) occurs at the beginning of the liturgy when the faith community gathers, acknowledges their sins, and asks for God’s mercy in preparation to celebrate the Eucharist. During Lent we will spend a little more time on this rite than we do any other time of the year.

We are the Body of Christ. Being a single, diverse, yet unified body, the sin of one member affects the health and purity of the whole.

In our liturgies during Lent, we as a community come together to reflect on the sins we may have committed. The presider will allow us time to reflect, and then, as a community, we will hold hands and recite the Confiteor. This symbolizes that we are all sinful, and we need each other to do better and to heal. We will then be led in song to express the need for God’s never-ending mercy.

The Church, which is holy and at the same time a community of sinners, is conscious that her members need a continuous conversion to worthily participate in the sacred mysteries. This explains how from the very beginning public repentance of sin was necessary before the Eucharistic celebration. The Penitential Rite is a concrete expression of this reality by the presider and the faithful, who humbly recognize their sins.

In the Didache, a document composed towards the end of the first century, is written: “Gathered together on the Lord’s Day, break bread and give thanks, after having confessed your sins, so that your sacrifice may be pure.”

Spotlight

Unsung Disciples: Our Faith Community

During the February 7 and 8 weekend, our faith community celebrated the Our Lady of Lourdes feast day. Our parish leaders prepared us through the February 1 bulletin by providing the background and chronology of the apparitions that St. Bernadette Soubirous experienced. We also learned that on the feast day weekend, we would celebrate the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. A bulletin insert provided an explanation of the sacrament as well as a description of the actual process. Both resources, so thoughtfully prepared, deepened our understanding and experience of this feast and communal sacrament.

Fr. Dave Cooper and Fr. Peter Drenzek led the 4:00 pm participants in the Anointing. Fr. Dave reminded us that there is a difference between cure (a medical experience) and healing that involves a spiritual dimension. He referenced the centurion in the Gospel who asked for healing of his servant based on his faith in Jesus' power. The centurion's faith was rewarded.

I was blessed to walk with Fr. Dave as he moved among the community and anointed our sisters and brothers choosing to receive this communal sacrament. It was beautiful to watch the young, middle-aged, and older community members choose anointing and to see spouses, friends, and others reach toward the anointee or place their hands on them. As Fr. Dave christened their forehead and hands and prayed the blessing, some closed their eyes, some looked only at Fr. Dave and others looked at their hands. Their faces and bodies radiated peace, calm, comfort, and hope. Most of all, though, each person's faith in what was happening shone through. Each showed their vulnerability by seeking the sacrament. What a witness to their own belief; what a witness to the belief in the community! May God reward each of these disciples' faith with healing and may our community continue to support their faith.

Judeen Schulte, Parish Council Member

Discipleship

Shalom

Ash Wednesday heralds the arrival of Lent. There will be so many opportunities to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ during this spiritual season. This Lent, our faith community will focus on the theme of "shalom." The full meaning of shalom is more than just "peace" and includes concepts like wholeness, completeness, harmony, 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. As a faith community, we will work together this season to achieve "shalom."

Upcoming Discipleship Events

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." Come to learn how to achieve the shalom that only God can provide – wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, and serenity. You are welcome to attend one or all. These services will be live-streamed.

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.

The Little Black Books for Lent

Available in the lobby now! | 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.

Outreach

Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to the Christmas Giving Tree! We were able to provide gifts for almost 400 children at Prince of Peace and St. Hyacinth schools. We also purchased 10 pairs of winter boots that we donated to Prince of Peace. This donation will enable students without boots to be able to go outside for recess in the winter.

Grief Support

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, March 7 and 21 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.

Communication

Journeying into a new frontier!

Disciples on the Journey: A New Parish Podcast

Beginning February 15, Our Lady of Lourdes is launching "Disciples on the Journey," a monthly podcast featuring the voices and stories of our own parishioners. Each episode highlights how everyday people live out their faith—in family life, at work, through parish involvement, and in service to others. These conversations are simple, honest, and rooted in real experience. Their purpose is to encourage and strengthen all of us as we follow Christ together.

Listening is easy and completely free. You can use the Spotify app on your phone, tablet, or computer. Just open Spotify, tap "Search," and use the camera icon to scan the podcast code. You can also scan the QR code below with your device's camera or visit <https://bit.ly/4sDQqEt> to go directly to the podcast page. Choose any episode, press play, and listen whenever it fits your day—no schedules, no cost, no special equipment.

A new episode is released on the 15th of each month. We hope you'll take a few minutes to hear the stories of fellow parishioners and be inspired in your own walk of faith.

"Come, follow me." (Matthew 4:19)

Scan using your phone:

Scan using the Spotify app:



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.

March – Food Sort at Feeding America

Looking for something to do in March? We only have 8 spots left for Feeding America on Saturday, March 14, from 9:00 am-11:30 am. Kids as young as 10 can participate in this one as long as there is an adult accompanying them. Contact Tanya Gross if you want to participate.

Service Booklets

Liturgical Service Booklets were distributed to all teens in Grades 7-10 at the last GIFT session. A reminder to look over the opportunities and choose one area where you will participate through June 2026. We will confirm those areas at the next GIFT session.



More information coming after Easter!

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