



2nd Sunday of Easter

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

Honest Thomas

In our Gospel for today, we hear of Jesus appearing to the disciples two times after the Resurrection. The apostle Thomas was not present at the first appearance, and he says that he won't believe that Jesus rose from the dead unless he could place his hands in Jesus' wounds.

That moment of spiritual/emotional honesty gave Thomas the unfortunate moniker "Doubting Thomas" for all time.

Yes, Thomas doubted, but he was being honest! His heart was most certainly broken at Jesus' death. He was probably filled with regret as well for not staying by Jesus through his most difficult moments. Thomas' inability to take in the fantastic news of the Resurrection certainly makes sense.

I would suggest that Thomas' honesty is something to emulate. I don't think God wants us to pretend to believe, to pretend to be happy, or to pretend to understand. God wants our honesty. This Gospel reminds us that faith does not mean never questioning. It means bringing our questions, our fears, and all that is in our hearts to God and being open to God's loving response.

In this Easter season may we all continue to grow in our love for God and for one another. Please know of my continued prayers.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, April 12

Hallway Art Show

Community Weekend

8:00 am	Mass (Lewis)	Church
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert) (Baptisms)	Church
11:30 am	OCIA Final Gathering	Rm 3

Monday, April 13

9:30 am	Active Nonviolence	Rm 9
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Building & Grounds	Rm 3

Tuesday, April 14

10:30 am	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
1:00 pm	Art Guild Open Studio	Rm 4

Wednesday, April 15

9:00 am	St. Matthias School Retreat	Hall A Church
9:30 am	Mass	Church
10:15 am	Morning Faith Group	Hall C
12:30 pm	Euchre Card Group	Rm 10
6:00 pm	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Rm 3

Thursday, April 16

6:30 pm	Youth Advisory Council Mtg.	Rm 9
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Friday, April 17—Office Closed

Saturday, April 18

Hallway Art Show

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

Sunday, April 19

Hallway Art Show

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



Have a
blessed
Easter
season!

Stewardship Update

Parish Support - April 2026

	ACTUAL as of 4/2/26	BUDGETED for April
Reg. Envelopes	\$9,881.94	\$61,916.67
Offertory	\$0	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: April 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income*	\$849,908.72	\$818,348.30
Bequests**	\$72,593.08	
Op. Expenses	\$731,562.74	\$805,502.24

Improvement Fund Updates

Reg. Balance 7/1/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$162,182.64
Expense	\$53,439.19
Balance (4/2/26)	\$454,948.67

*Op. Income reflects the total of envelopes and Offertory collections. Bequests are not added to Op. Income.

** We received a bequest in the amount of \$10,000 from a former parishioner. The note stated that he always felt that Our Lady of Lourdes was his home.

Love One Another Campaign (LOA)

The LOA Campaign made its final payment back into the Improvement Fund for money paid out from the Improvement Fund during the parking lot and landscaping project. Final payment was: \$68,509. Thank you **everyone** for your continued support of the LOA Campaign.

The Quarterly distribution amount for the LOA Campaign was incorrectly stated in the March 29, 2026 bulletin. The **correct deposit amount is \$36,951.65.**

Virtue of the Week

Certitude

Certitude is an attitude of faith, confidence, and certainty. It is taking bold steps forward after discerning what we believe to be true, and trusting that all will be well. We don't allow fads and the ways of the world to control us. Certitude begins by deeply exploring a belief or decision through prayer and contemplation. Each step we take is sure and unwavering.

Again, Jesus' first words, "Peace be with you," are both a blessing and a reminder that the apostles are not at peace. Reflect on the story of Thomas. Would you be like Thomas and need proof of Jesus' presence? Thomas gets a bad rap but doesn't Jesus set up the reality for all of us? How did you first come to believe?

Formation

Next GIFT Session - April 25, 2026

It is time to RSVP for the GIFT Spring Service Day on Saturday, April 25. Please RSVP and register for the GIFT Spring Service Event by Monday, April 20. <https://ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/milwaukee-riverkeeper-spring-cleanup-2026/>

GIFT is teaming up with the Social Justice Committee for this session which takes place from 9:00 am–12:00 pm on Saturday, April 25. We will be gathering at Jackson Park to help in the Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Clean Up for the service event, so please dress appropriately for the weather. We will end with a pizza lunch from 11:30 am–12:00 pm at the Parish Hall. After you register using the link above, you will be directed to the Milwaukee Riverkeeper Jackson Park sign-up, as there are waivers to complete, and you will need to choose your shirt sizes.

Youth Advisory Council

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 16, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm in Room 9. Anyone in grades 7-12 is welcome! Please contact Tanya Gross with any questions.

Save the Date!

We will be having a youth social event on Saturday, May 2. Watch the bulletin for more details. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited. We are looking for some adults to help out with this event. Contact Tanya Gross for details.

Worship

Shalom - Peace Be With You

Imagine a scene of peace and take some time to deeply enter that place. Whatever the picture you painted, chances are that it did not align with the scene from today's gospel reading. Today's gospel text places us in a secret meeting place with locked doors, and emotions of fear and doubt. Jesus is presented to the disciples with the description of all his afflicted wounds.

Yet, it seems clear that Jesus wants us to feel his peace in turmoil, in fear, in doubt. Jesus does not ask us to banish our wounds when we come into his presence, not even at Easter when we are supposed to be full of joy.

"Peace be with you" are the words of Jesus to us.

Peace be with you when you have not seen, as the disciples saw, and yet believe.

Blessed are you not because life will always be easy and you will never have to suffer.

But blessed are you because you have linked yourself to a power greater than yours who wants and will sustain you, to the power that raised Jesus from the dead, and the power that will bring us everlasting peace.

Excerpt from St. Stephen's Church publication

Thank You

As we look back at our celebrations during Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter Sunday, we are filled with much gratitude. Our work is complete and rewarding because of all of you who give of your time so generously. Whether you were a lector, usher, movement minister, bread maker, musician, singer, clergy or lay leader, sacristan, server, A/V minister, emcee, environment decorator, printer or stapler, eucharistic minister—and any others we didn't mention, including all those behind-the-scenes—we are grateful for you. And to those who came to pray, sing, and be family and community together, we are so glad you were here!

Jim Wielgosz, Director of Worship Ministries

Anne Van Deusen, Director of Music Ministries

Spotlight

Open Wide Our Hearts: Can we see others as God sees them?

The recent Lenten reading from 1 Samuel said, "...not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." Those blessed with the gift of sight witness countless images every day: a bird in flight, a fancy car, or perhaps an enticing slice of cake. These images don't elicit much inner dialogue about their value. But when we see people around us, on TV, or in social media and make judgments about their value and worth based on the color of their skin, their age, whether they have tattoos or piercings, what they are wearing, or whether they have physical or cognitive challenges this becomes problematic.

Of course, as human beings, we are only able to see the outward appearance of any other human being. But what would happen if that gift of sight were suddenly removed? No more cake to see, no more nature to behold, no more gazing at a work of art. But also, no more knowing the shade of someone's skin, whether they are able-bodied or have a disability, what they are wearing. All outward appearances eliminated. All judgments based on those appearances, gone. What if, for the briefest time, we made ourselves blind to appearances and could only "see" people for who, and not what, they are? See someone for what is in their heart, mind, and soul. Isn't that what we, as followers of Jesus, strive for?

Finally, do you imagine that there is racism in heaven? Is there division based on your sexual orientation, IQ, or wealth? Do they mock those with disabilities or is everyone seen as a child of God?

Whatsoever you do to the least of these...

Mary Yank, OLOL Social Justice committee

Discipleship

The Mystical World of Icons

May 13 | 6:30pm

Religious icons have been a part of Christianity from its earliest days. This introduction to them will explore their history, meanings, spirituality—including the prayer method known as "gazing," and how they are created, which is known as "writing." Parishioner Jim Gill will be presenting this session. Jim has had an interest in Icons since his college days and has been writing about (painting) them since 2010.

Registrations can be made at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or by calling the Parish Office.

Men's Spirituality Group

May 14 | 6:30 pm

Join our brand-new monthly Men's Spirituality Group. All men are welcome to gather for real life conversations of how to live the Gospel in our day to day lives. Through prayer and reflection we will explore our role as brothers in Christ. This group will meet on the second Thursday of each month (excluding July and August).

More detail is available at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or by calling the Parish Office.

What is a Parish Ambassador?

You may have heard of the term "parish ambassador" and wonder what that even means. Maybe you have never heard of this ministry within our faith community. Well, here are a few points to educate you on this wonderful ministry and what is the role of a parish ambassador:

- Smile and say hello to all those they meet.
- Engage people with conversation or small talk.
- Listen to the needs of the person and address those needs.
- Reach out to the visitor or new member to make them feel welcome and comfortable.
- Be knowledgeable of parish events and the facilities.
- Be the "face" of OLOL beyond our walls by extending that hospitable presence everywhere they go.

More detail is available at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ or by calling the Parish Office.

Outreach

SVDP Blood Drive—Save the Date

Our Lady of Lourdes
Monday, May 11, 2026
1:30 pm–6:00 pm

Did you know that every two seconds someone in America requires a blood transfusion? From trauma patients to those battling cancer, your donation can make a lifesaving impact.

You're invited to donate and become a hero at our upcoming blood drive. Registration after Masses will begin April 25. You can register online now at https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11636675

All Saints Church Update

In February, the All Saints Hot Meal Program was listed on the monthly donation request slips for the first time, and the final amount collected was an amazing \$1,852.00! What a generous community we have at Our Lady of Lourdes! Thank you to all the OLOL disciples who heeded Jesus' call to "feed the hungry." Your generosity will provide a substantial boost to the meal program.

Going forward, the All Saints Meal Program will be listed on the donation request slips on a rotating basis along with other non-profits such as St. Ben's, the OLOL Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, and others. In addition, please watch the bulletin for an opportunity to serve at the meal program during the summer months. Volunteers have mentioned that it is a very rewarding experience.



Youth Service Opportunities

April Service Project

The service opportunity for the month of April is the GIFT Service Project with Milwaukee Riverkeeper. Even if you are not regularly a part of GIFT, please feel free to join the group. Watch for notification about registration.

May Service Project

The May service project will be helping the OLOL Our Common Home Garden Group with spring clean-up of the garden in preparation for planting. Date is TBD. Watch the bulletin for more details.

June Service Project

We will be serving at the All Saints Meal Program on Tuesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 18. We are asking for youth and young families to fill these time slots. Volunteers need to be at All Saints from 4:00 pm–6:30 pm. We will be serving guests from 5:00 pm–6:00 pm. Please contact Tanya Gross for further details if you are interested in signing up.

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of **Pat Galaska**

From **Jim Zuzack**

Julie Yort

Michael Jones and Janice Poppendieck

In loving memory of **Mike Cassidy**

From **John and Sharon Croft**

Ruth Cassidy

In loving memory of **Jim Bickler**

From **Joan Bickler**

In loving memory of **Marion Holtz**

From **Your children**

April Active Nonviolence Corner

Today's reality forces us to consider our stance regarding war and nonviolence. The Beatitudes, as written in Matthew, are very familiar to us and provide direction in this time. Through John Dear's eyes, we explore a more comprehensive Christian understanding of the Beatitudes. Value lies in reading through the entire article to gain a clearer understanding of how and why we are the Beatitudes and how to live them out. As we recognize the reality of war and lack of care for the human person, we are complicit and culpable if we do not act. Go to ololmke.org/active-nonviolence-corner/ to access April's Active Nonviolence Corner.

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Women's Spirituality Retreat

"Rooted in Christ: Recognizing Fullness in Our Lives"



*"I have come that they may have life
and have it in abundance."*

John 10:10

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am-3:45 pm
at Our Lady of Lourdes church

Join us for a day to pray and explore how to live our lives to the "ful" - prayerful, grateful, purposeful, hopeful, and peaceful. We will laugh and pray while forming community. All women of the parish are welcome.

The retreat will be co-directed by Anne Schmidt, Rebecca Szymanski, Mary Osep, Deb Steppe and Tanya Gross

Contact Tanya Gross with questions

- Email grosst@ololmke.org
- Call (414) 545-4316 ext. 115

Lunch will be provided as well as beverages throughout the day.

**Please cut and return to the Parish Office (Attn: Tanya Gross) with the \$25 fee by
May 1, 2026.** (Checks made out to Our Lady of Lourdes)

Name _____

Cell # _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Cell # _____

Any allergies or special dietary needs _____