



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass and Communion Services

WEEKEND

Sat: 4:00 pm

Sun: 8:00 am | 10:30 am

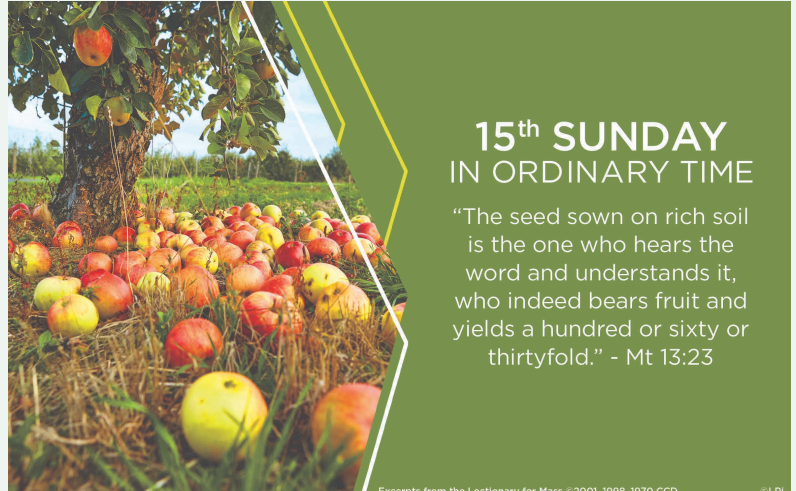
WEEKDAY

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.)




15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME


“The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” - Mt 13:23


Excerpts from the Lectionary for Masses 2001-1998-1970 CCD © LFI

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Notes from Deb

Memorials, Masses, and Budgets

There is a long-standing tradition (13 centuries long!) of Catholics giving a stipend to the Church for a priest to say a Mass for a specific intention. Many parishes continue to use these funds to pay their priests.

This practice can be easily misunderstood. The stipend is meant as a gift for the priest, not a payment for grace. The Church’s official teaching is that no one receives any more grace by having a Mass said than anyone else. The grace of the Eucharist is universal and benefits every person who has ever lived.

All that being said, it is truly lovely to ask for prayers for a concern and to hold the prayers of others in our hearts—whether we are ordained, lay, or religious folk. It is also good to remember, in a special way, our dear ones who have passed.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we pay our priests through our regular budget, we do not accept Mass stipends. We do accept memorial donations. These donations can be in any amount, and we will publish the intention of those memorials in the bulletin.

We are blessed with very generous parishioners and guests. I also know that budgets can be tight for some folks. The price of groceries seems to only be rising these days. Please know that if you cannot contribute to us financially, that is okay. Pray for us! Donate some time! Give us some ideas! All are welcome here!

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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Calendar

Sunday, July 12

8:00 am Mass (Jurkus) Church
10:30 am Mass (Burkert) Church

Monday, July 13

1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

Tuesday, July 14

10:30 am SVDP Mtg. Rm 3

Wednesday, July 15

9:30 am Mass Church
10:15 am Wednesday Morning Faith Group Social Hall C
12:30 pm Euchre Card Group Rm 10

Thursday, July 16

Friday, July 17—Building Closed

Saturday, July 18

Children's Sock and Underwear Drive
11:00 am Walking Through Grief Together Rm 3
4:00 pm Mass (Heinze) Church

Sunday, July 19

Children's Sock and Underwear Drive
8:00 am Mass (Burkert) Church
10:30 am Mass (Suriano) Church

Parish Support - June 2026

	ACTUAL as of 6/30/26	BUDGETED for June
Reg. Envelopes	\$61,986.64	\$67,016.67
Offertory	\$3,412.65	\$2,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: June 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$1,009,791.37	\$961,925.00
Bequests	\$72,593.08	
Op. Expenses	\$1,006,229.41	\$961,075.71

Improvement Fund Updates

Reg. Balance 7/1/25	\$346,205.22
Donations	\$237,451.54
Expense	\$150,585.96
Balance (6/30/26)	\$433,070.54

Community Life

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Harry Fleddermann and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

Virtue of the Week

Idealism

Idealism is having a vision of what is possible and wanting to make a difference. It is caring passionately about what is meaningful in life. Idealists see things as they could be and have faith in the power of change. We put our principles into practice. We don't just accept the ways things are. Idealism doesn't mean that we are idle dreamers. Idealists do something to make things better, making the ideal real.

When you look at things that you know are not right, do you ask, why? Can you imagine a way to right the wrongs you see? How can you make it happen? How does your faith help you put your principles in action?

Introduction to the Virtues Project

"Awakening the Gifts Within" is a fun and interactive two-day introduction to The Virtues Project, facilitated by Terry Rahn and Tanya Gross. Join us on Thursday and Friday, July 30–31, from 9:00 am–3:00 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes to explore practical tools for strengthening relationships, leadership, and positive environments. The registration fee is \$40, which includes meals, refreshments, handouts, and lunch both days. See last week's bulletin insert for more details. Register for this workshop at: ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/awakening-the-gifts-within-virtues-registration/ by July 22. For more information, contact Tanya Gross.

Formation

GIFT Registration is now open!

Registration for our intergenerational religious formation program GIFT (Generations In Faith Together) is now open on the website. Our theme, "Walking in the Footsteps of Christ," will be explored through the lens of Franciscan spirituality—emphasizing humility, joyful simplicity, reverence for creation, solidarity with the poor, being instruments of Christ's peace by fostering reconciliation, compassion, and harmony in our everyday relationships and living the Gospel values. GIFT is open to our entire OLOL family. Our first session will be Sunday, September 13.

If you have questions about GIFT, please contact Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross, or Director of Child Ministries, Steve Szymanski.

Parish Library

Did you know that Our Lady of Lourdes has a lending library and it has books for young kids, teenagers, and adults? There is no formal check out of the books. Simply take the books you want and return them when you are finished. The library is located on the bookshelves outside of Deb's office. Books are changed out every couple of weeks.

Confirmation at OLOL

Do you have a young person starting **10th grade** this fall? Be ready for the sacrament of confirmation by enrolling for GIFT for the 2026-2027 school year. To be eligible for sacrament preparation, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee requires that youth be in religious formation one year prior to the year of sacrament reception. Watch the bulletin and parish website for details on registering for GIFT.

Contact Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross, if you have any questions.

Worship

The Liturgy of the Word

As followers of Christ, we are called to listen to the Word of God and nurture it. We are to allow it to manifest itself in how we act and how we treat those around us.

Let's take a look at the role of the Liturgy of the Word that takes place when we gather each week for liturgy.

Most of the Liturgy of the Word is made up of readings from Scripture. On Sundays and solemnities, there are three Scripture readings. During most of the year, the first reading is from the Old Testament and the second reading is from one of the New Testament letters. During Easter Time, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles which tells the story of the Church in its earliest days. The last reading is always taken from one of the four Gospels.

In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of His Word (cf. Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 51). The Scriptures are the Word of God, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, God speaks to us, leading us along the path of righteousness.

The Responsorial Psalm is sung between the readings. The psalm helps us to meditate on the Word of God.

The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the reading of the Gospel. Because the Gospels tell of the life, ministry, and preaching of Christ, it receives several special signs of honor and reverence. The gathered assembly stands to hear the Gospel and it is introduced by an acclamation of praise. Apart from Lent, that acclamation is "Alleluia," derived from a Hebrew phrase meaning "Praise the Lord!" A deacon (or, if no deacon is present, a priest) reads the Gospel.

After the Scripture readings, the celebrant preaches the homily. In the homily, the preacher focuses on the Scripture texts or some other texts from the liturgy, drawing from them lessons that may help us to live better lives, more faithful to Christ's call to grow in holiness.

Spotlight

Open Wide Our Hearts: Justice for Immigrants

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, inspires reflection about our country's founding principles. The preamble proclaims, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." What a powerful vision of our nation's principles!

Do we, as a country, uphold these values?

Hateful rhetoric vilifying immigrants is frightening. The claim that immigrants are more prone to criminality than native-born citizens is false. The American Immigration Council, a non-profit, non-partisan organization states: "Research has consistently shown that immigration does not increase crime rates in the United States, and many studies suggest that immigrants are less likely than citizens to commit crimes."

Mass deportation is eroding public trust in the federal government. The Constitution guarantees due process rights to all "persons," not only citizens. Non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants, are entitled to fair treatment under the law. The cruelty of separation is devastating to immigrant families. People are suffering due to deplorable conditions in detention centers.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops overwhelmingly approved a Special Pastoral Message on Immigration on November 12, 2025. <https://bit.ly/4w4LzNy>

Here is a key quote from their message: "Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together."

How do we respond, as Catholic disciples?

- Learn about You Are Not Alone, a national initiative of the Catholic Church offering hope, compassion, and practical support to immigrants. <https://bit.ly/4wdDAOr>
- Sign The Cabrini Pledge. <https://bit.ly/44z8zIE>
- Join us Fridays, 9:00 am-10:00 am for a Nonviolent ICE Vigil, 310 E Knapp St, Milwaukee.

Mary Conarchy, OLOL Social Justice Committee

Discipleship

Summer Resources

Are you looking for something to fill your free time this summer? The summer season is an excellent time to visit the Discipleship Institute's Resources page and view some of our past events that you may have missed. You can listen to an audio of the "Who is Mary" discussion that took place. This discussion showcased representatives from the Muslim and Catholic faith coming together to have a discussion on Mary and her role in each faith tradition. There are also guided meditations available for you to use. Check out the Amos and Hosea scripture series that was presented by Harry Fleddermann.

Visit ololmke.org/discipleship-institute-resources/ to find out everything you may have missed or wish to experience again.

Beyond Our Walls

Check out the recently added section to the Discipleship Institute webpage, "Beyond Our Walls." The Discipleship Institute continues the formation process of all disciples by offering programs, events, opportunities and discussions for families and adults of the parish. This new section of our webpage promotes those same opportunities for growth outside our parish. These are neighboring faith communities offering programs or events that will help you nurture your discipleship in various ways, mind, body, and spirit. Go to ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ to see all that is available to you.

Outreach

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: July 28, August 11 and 25

Most needed items: boxed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, pasta sauce, creamed soups, jam, and jelly. Remember to check expiration dates. We are also in need of tall paper grocery bags.

ololmke.org/food-pantry.



Disciples on the Journey Podcasts are available!

Disciples on the Journey is a monthly audio program featuring parishioners from Our Lady of Lourdes who share how they follow Jesus Christ in their everyday life.

In each episode, you will hear real stories of faith lived out in family life, work and daily responsibilities, parish involvement, and in service to others.

These conversations are meant to encourage, inspire, and strengthen all disciples on their faith journey. They will also help foster a sense of community, as you learn more about your fellow faith community members.

You can access the current episodes available by going to the parish website and clicking on the Worship tab at the top of the screen then selecting On the Journey from the drop-down menu. These podcasts are also available on Spotify and YouTube.

A promotional banner for the 'Disciples on the Journey' podcast. On the left, there is a golden statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child, set against a blue sky. To the right, the text reads 'Disciples on the Journey' in a large, white, serif font, with 'A Catholic storytelling podcast' underneath in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below that, it says 'Presented by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church' with a small icon of a cross and a crown. At the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text 'SCAN TO LISTEN' above it. At the bottom right, there is a small image of a church dome with a cross on top, and the URL 'tinyurl.com/OLOLDotJ' in a white, sans-serif font.

Communications

Browser Extensions: Tiny Tools With Big Personality

Have you ever wished your web browser would stop constantly shouting ads at you? Then browser extensions are your new best friends! These small add-on tools snap into your browser and give it extra abilities such as blocking ads, translating pages, managing passwords, wrangling tabs, or just making the internet feel less like a carnival funhouse.

Extensions matter because modern websites love to pile on ads, trackers, and pop-ups like they're auditioning for "Hoarders: Internet Edition". A few good extensions can speed things up, clean things out, and keep your browsing experience peaceful enough that you don't need a post-internet prayer break

Where to Find Extensions (Without Needing a Map)

- **Chrome**—Three dots>Extensions>Chrome Web Store.
- **Edge**—Three dots>Extensions>Edge Add-ons or Chrome Web Store (Edge is bilingual).
- **Firefox**—Three lines>Add-ons and Themes>Extensions.
- **Safari on Mac**—Safari menu>Safari Extensions (opens the App Store).

All major browsers review extensions before listing them, but stick to reputable developers, but if an extension promises to "optimize your aura," maybe skip it. Extensions are available for phone browsers as well, but be sure you are getting one from a reputable source.

Popular Extensions Worth a Look

- **AdGuard**—A reliable ad blocker that keeps your pages clean and your sanity intact.
- **Grammarly**—Because even the holiest among us mistype "receive."
- **OneTab**—For when your tab situation looks like the Oktoberfest volunteer sign-up sheets on the tables in the hallway.
- **Dark Reader**—Gives websites dark mode so your retinas don't file a complaint.
- **Google Translate**—Turns foreign-language pages into something you can actually read.

A few well-chosen extensions can make your browsing faster, safer, and far less chaotic. Consider it digital decluttering minus the sweat and the donation truck to haul it away.

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Children's Sock & Underwear Drive

July 18-July 26

The Milwaukee Chapter of the Ladies of Charity has been clothing Milwaukee school children since 1957. They are a group of 120 women who work to clothe children in need ages 3K- high school. All members are volunteers with no paid positions. The Children's Clothing Center provides free clothing to more than 1,100 children in Milwaukee each year.

LOL has been extremely generous in the past with providing new socks and underwear for these school children. The Human Concerns Committee asks that we once again support them in their mission. Their needs are:

Girls and Boys Socks

Crew socks and socks to the ankle, please no low cut

The Ladies of Charity receive donations of **black** socks from Bombas. Therefore, they are asking for **white and colored**.
(The little girls love the colorful ones!)

Girls and Boys Underwear

Boy's **Boxer** Briefs sizes 4-14

Girl's sizes 4-14

New items only please!

Thank you in advance for the generosity you show these children!

Please drop off your donations in the bins at the West and East Entrances.

For more info visit their website <https://www.locmilwaukee.org>



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Thursday

July 23, 2026

6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes

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Workshop begins at 6:30 pm

Light refreshments will be provided



**Learn more
& register**

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- what it means to be a neighbor; what it means to be a community
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Freewill Donation



Please consider bringing nonperishable food items for food pantry.



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