



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

July 26, 2026

17th 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.)



17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
- Mt 13:44

Connect

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Join the Parish

ololmke.org/become-a-member



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Notes from Deb

The Wise Ones with Us

Today is the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis established this celebration in 2021, assigning it to the last Sunday of July so that it would be close to the feast day of Jesus' grandparents, Joachim and Anne. Pope Francis, in announcing this celebration, said:

"The Holy Spirit still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly today: their voice is precious because it sings the praises of God and safeguards the roots of peoples. They remind us that old age is a gift and that Grandparents are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young."

While I don't have any memories of my own grandparents, I certainly have memories of our sons with theirs. Although Mike and I always tried to show our sons unconditional love, they always experienced that with their grandparents—unconditional love, wisdom, gentleness, and so much more.

I am grateful to Pope Francis for instituting this feast day. I'm grateful to all the elders in our parish family. We all have been the recipient of their wisdom, their love and their gentleness.

May all grandparents and elders know God's many blessings and our heartfelt gratitude.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, July 26

Children's Sock and Underwear Drive

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

Monday, July 27

1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
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Tuesday, July 28

3:00 pm	Food Pantry.	Rm 3
4:00 pm	Serving at All Saints	Offsite
6:00 pm	Finance Council Mtg.	Rm 9

Wednesday, July 29

9:30 am	Communion Service	Church
10:15 am	Wednesday Morning Faith Group Social	Hall C

Thursday, July 30

9:00 am	Introduction to Virtues Training	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Oktoberfest Mtg.	Rm 3

Friday, July 31—Parish Office Closed

9:00 am	Introduction to Virtues Training	Rm 10
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Saturday, August 1

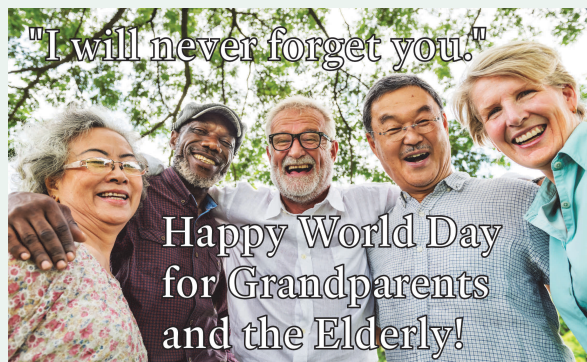
St. Vincent de Paul School Supply Collection

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

Sunday, August 2

St. Vincent de Paul School Supply Collection

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



Parish Support - July 2026

	ACTUAL as of 7/16/26	BUDGETED for July
Reg. Envelopes	\$51,637.25	\$60,283.00
Offertory	\$1,498.80	\$2,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$54,278.47	\$68,333.00
Bequests	\$0.00	
Op. Expenses	\$24,658.98	\$81,722.82

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/26	\$433,070.54
Donations	\$1,468.00
Expense	\$0.00
Balance (7/16/26)	\$435,119.54

Community Life

Welcome New Parishioners

June 2026

Richard Buschmann
Anne Prestwor
Sandra Smith and William Knotek
Barbara Somers
Yessenia Torres

Our Condolences

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

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Arthur Kobza
From Mary Pautz

Catholic Social Teaching

Today's gospel reflects on the lengths we should go to for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus speaks in similes to compare the Kingdom of Heaven to things of great value which people joyfully work to obtain. The kingdom—or kin-dom—requires work on the part of each of us. We build it brick by brick, following the examples of Jesus: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, comforting the suffering, sacrificing for others, and offering forgiveness. We don't stumble upon the Kingdom of Heaven—we are active builders. Twice, Jesus describes people selling all they have to obtain the kingdom. We build the kingdom with our generosity, our detachment from material wealth and finding joy in serving.

Formation

GIFT Registration

Did you know that GIFT is open to our entire OLOL family? To register and get more details, go to our website at ololmke.org/gift/. Our first session will be on Sunday, September 13. If you have questions about GIFT, please contact Tanya Gross or Steve Szymanski.

Reconciliation and First Eucharist at OLOL

Is your child starting **1st** grade this fall? Be ready for the sacraments of reconciliation and first Eucharist by registering for GIFT this fall. To be eligible for sacrament preparation, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee requires that children be in religious formation one year prior to the year of sacrament reception. GIFT begins Sunday, September 13. Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 GIFT year. See ololmke.org/gift/ for more details. Contact Director of Child Ministries, Steve Szymanski, if you have any questions.

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. Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 GIFT year. See ololmke.org/gift/ for more details. Contact Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross if you have any questions.

OCIC/OCIA at OLOL

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a spiritual and pastoral journey for adults seeking to join the Catholic Church. It is designed for both unbaptized individuals (catechumens) and already baptized Christians (candidates) preparing for confirmation and first Eucharist. The process emphasizes faith formation, prayer, discernment, and integration into the parish. A similar age-appropriate process is used for OCIC (Order of Christian Initiation of Children). If you or someone you know is interested in OCIC or OCIA, please contact Tanya Gross. The process begins with an interview with the catechumen or candidate.

Worship

The Master Storyteller: Why Jesus Taught in Parables

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus used short, vivid stories known as parables to explain the mysteries of God. The Greek word for parable, parabole, means to "throw alongside". Jesus did exactly that. He placed common, earthly situations alongside profound spiritual realities to illuminate them for His listeners.

Instead of presenting purely abstract concepts, Jesus crafted stories about sowing seeds, lost coins, and building on solid rock all of which we have heard over the past several weekends. This masterful teaching method served several distinct purposes:

- **Reveal and Conceal:** Jesus explained to His disciples that parables served a dual purpose. To those with humble and receptive hearts, the stories revealed the mysteries of the Kingdom. For the proud or indifferent, the parables remained confusing puzzles, veiling the truth from those who rejected His message.
- **Engage the Imagination:** By utilizing familiar elements from daily life, Jesus awakened the imagination and emotions of His audience. Parables require active listening and deep reflection, often forcing hearers to correct preconceived assumptions.
- **Meet Listeners Where They Are:** Jesus used parables to bridge the gap between divine holiness and everyday human experience. Stories like the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son vividly illustrate God's boundless love in ways listeners could easily understand and retell.
- **Invite Discipleship:** A parable does not merely state a moral; it requires the listener to step into the story and choose their response. Jesus evaluated His audiences to see if they possessed the motivation to seek out the deeper meaning and follow His path.

As you reflect on the teachings of Jesus, consider revisiting these timeless stories. Because the truths within them are so rich, each time you read a parable, it can speak directly to your changing life circumstances and draw you closer to the heart of God.

The lessons Jesus embedded in these stories continue to resonate deeply with modern believers, shaping how we understand what is required of us as disciples.

Spotlight

Everyday Stewardship - Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

What Is God Asking of You?

What are you willing to give for the sake of the kingdom of God? Often, we begin a discussion like this with a story or a few leading thoughts. However, if we are to be serious about who we claim to be as Christians, there should be no beating around the bush. The question is not only important for each of us and our relationship with our God, but it should be important for the relationship each of us has with the entire Body of Christ. Like any good team or family, I need you to have my back, and I need to have yours. If one of us is going to lay it on the line and be all in for our faith, then we all need to be as well.

If only all the Christians of the world felt the same way. In some parts of the world, Christians are still being martyred for their faith. Others must worship underground and avoid the government-led police. Then there are those who seem to take faith for granted, and because little is asked by their friends or parish, they give nothing. It is quite a contrast of situations.

On this day, it may seem like little is being asked of you and I by God. Is that because we aren't being asked or because we aren't listening? If you are counting on me and I am on you, we should figure this out sooner than later. Of course, I suspect we actually do know the answer, don't we?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi

Discipleship

Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue at Deer Creek Senior Village

July 29 | 6:00pm

People of all faiths and no faith, all spiritualities, and theologies gather in small groups to share a meal and participate in a moderated discussion using a proven model, evoking deep exchanges about lived experiences and the role of faith and/or spirituality in their lives. Through exploration and dialogue, participants learn about the beliefs and traditions of others within an atmosphere of respect and understanding and are empowered to stand as witnesses for tolerance and inclusion.

The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee sponsors this event. Visit their website today to register and to receive more information <https://www.interfaithconference.org/amazing-faiths-project>.

Prayer Service of Remembrance: Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Garden

August 6 | 7:00 pm

The Social Justice Committee is planning a prayer service in remembrance of the 81st anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan in 1945. Hiroshima was devastated on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, causing tens of thousands of deaths, radiation sickness, and long-term social and environmental consequences. Please join us in the Our Common Home Community Garden (the north side of the church) for a prayer service to remember and mark this somber anniversary. Please bring a lawn chair. We will meet in the church if it rains.

Beyond Our Walls

Check out the section on the Discipleship Institute webpage entitled "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. Visit ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/ to see all that is available to you.

Outreach

Active Non-violence Corner

The holiday parades, picnics and fireworks are over and suddenly July is half gone, but there is still time to savor summer. Seek what feeds your soul; breathe in the blessings of nature; take time for reflection and prayer; have fun with loved ones; and be good to yourself.

The new Active Nonviolence summer content is available on the website. As with Part 1, you will find words of inspiration, as well as suggestions for learning and action. Go to ololmke.org/active-nonviolence-corner/ to see "Growing in Active Nonviolence – Summer 2026, Part 2." Enjoy the rest of summer!

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.

Senior Safety Presentation: Fall Prevention and Wellness

Our Wednesday Faith Group is pleased to welcome Andy Sajdowitz, a nursing student at Herzing University, who will be graduating in December 2026 with his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Andy has a strong passion for serving the senior and geriatric community, and he is eager to share practical, meaningful ways to stay safe, steady, and confident in daily life.

On Wednesday, July 29, Andy will offer a special presentation on Senior Safety with a focus on Fall Prevention. This important topic touches many of us—whether for our own well-being or for the care of loved ones—and Andy's training and enthusiasm make him a wonderful guide.

The morning will begin with 9:30 am Communion service, followed by the presentation at 10:30 am. Afterward, blood pressure readings will be available for anyone who wishes to participate.

A light lunch will be provided, so we kindly ask that you RSVP to the Parish Office to help us plan appropriately.

We hope you'll join us for this informative and encouraging session. Your presence enriches our community—and your safety matters deeply to us.

Disciples on the Journey Podcast

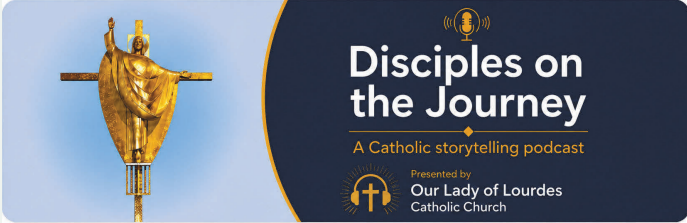
Marc Puechner's "Disciple on the Journey" Podcast premiered Wednesday, July 15. Marc shares his journey of faith and his passion for music and prayer in this month's episode on the Our Lady of Lourdes podcast channel.

Here's a quick excerpt from Marc's episode:

"I guess I usually describe myself as a Catholic who loves the tradition, but also I'm not afraid to gently poke it with a stick when the Spirit seems to be saying, 'Hey, maybe look over here instead.' I'm certainly rooted in the Church, it's my home base, but I'm also very aware that life is messy and people don't come with a rule book approved shape.

So, I try to approach faith with a mix of curiosity, discernment, and a healthy respect for the fact that sometimes the Spirit absolutely does not care about the footnotes. For me, it's less follow every rule exactly as written, and more use the rules as a compass, not a cage. Empathy matters. Discernment matters. Actually, listening to people matters. And if that means stepping outside the lines once in a while, then I trust God can handle that. So Catholic, contemplative, curious, and occasionally willing to color outside the lines when love requires it."

Find out more about Marc's journey by listening to his podcast. You can find his interview at: <https://tinyur.in/dotjod>



The banner features a golden statue of the Christ of the Miracles on the left. The right side has a dark blue background with the podcast title "Disciples on the Journey" in white, followed by "A Catholic storytelling podcast" and "Presented by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church" with a small logo.

SCAN TO LISTEN



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LOLO Oktoberfest Basket Raffle 2026

We thank the generous Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners for the beautiful baskets you donate each year for the Oktoberfest Artisan Fair! Here is the information you have been waiting for!

DONATING INFORMATION

- It is **essential** that you sign up on the Oktoberfest Basket Raffle Information Board (classroom hallway) to reserve a spot on the table and to facilitate ticket printing.
- We are limited to 60 baskets in total. Limit of 1 donated basket per family.
- Sign-up begins late August 2026.
- Create your own theme or choose a theme on the Oktoberfest Basket Raffle Information Board
- Gift Cards and Certificates are very popular too.
- Be aware that occasionally there may be a need to combine or rearrange basket items.

CONTENT

- Only new items
- No perishables

DELIVER AND DEADLINE

- **All baskets must be at LOLO by September 20, 2026.** Sorry no exceptions! Great coordination is required involving tickets, placement planning, and basket security.
- Express your creativity with a fully assembled and cellophane wrapped basket. (We can wrap it if you are unable to do so.)
- All gift cards must be delivered to the office for security issues.

Ticket information at the event

- State law requires *1 first and last name* per ticket, complete address and phone number.
- Bring your mailing labels with you to Oktoberfest. Then just add your phone number.
- Law also requires that tickets not be folded, bent or altered.

Questions? Please contact Barb Lukaszewski at lukaszbkds@gmail.com



Oktoberfest 50/50 Raffle 2026

Ticket sales will begin the weekend of August 1, 2026. You can help by selling tickets to friends, neighbors and colleagues to participate.

WINNING INFORMATION

- No need to be present to win. Winning ticket will be pulled on **Sunday 10/11/26 at 1:00 PM**
- OLOL and the winner will share the jackpot equally.
- Winnings will be reported to the IRS regardless of age of winner.

SALES

- Begin the first weekend in August and will run every weekend before and after Masses depending on volunteer availability.
- There must be at least 2 unrelated people selling tickets at all times. If someone doesn't show up for a shift, and a replacement cannot be found, tickets will not be sold or taken in at that Mass. You may still take unlimited blank tickets to sell if one person is there.
- Money is collected when completed tickets are returned to the ticket box after mass.
- Cash or Checks made out to Our Lady of Lourdes
- Tickets and money can be placed in the metal drop box outside the church in a sealed envelope labeled Oktoberfest 50/50.
- Tickets are available throughout Oktoberfest.
- Sales end 10/11/26 at 12:30 PM.

STATE LAW REQUIRES

- 1 first & last name per ticket
- Complete address (mailing labels with 1 name are acceptable)
- Phone number
- Tickets may not be bent, folded or altered.
- Tickets and payment must be turned in to designated ticket sellers before or after Mass, or during Oktoberfest.
- No tickets can be mailed to OLOL.
- No tickets can be turned into the OLOL office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have 15 minutes before and after a Mass to sell tickets in August and September, we want you! Sign up on volunteer board outside the office.

Questions? Please contact Andrea Graham at andreamgraham64@gmail.com



Saint Vincent de Paul

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Your donations of school supplies will help enrich the lives of many children at Prince of Peace school.



Donate August 1-21.
Collection box located in lobby area.