

2026

Our Lady of Lourdes
Guidebook
& Directory





3722 South 58th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053
Phone: (414) 545-4316
Fax: (414) 541-2251
Email: office@ololmke.org
Website: www.ololmke.org
Social Media: Find us on Facebook,
YouTube, Instagram, and Spotify podcasts
(Search "Our Lady of Lourdes Milwaukee")

Greetings all!

Thank you for being a part of the Our Lady of Lourdes Community! We strive to be a parish that prays well, welcomes everyone, and serves God's people near and far.

This Guide Book is a great resource for all that is going on in the parish including our ministries, service opportunities, staff contacts, and parishioner information.

I invite you to take some time with this resource. Even though you may be a seasoned parish member, you may find ministries that may be of new interest to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have as well as suggestions for continuing our ministries and growing our discipleship. Thank you for being a part of our parish family!

Your shepherd,

Deb Steppe
Parish Director

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church
coming to know the Kingdom of God by being Christ to the world.

Vision Statement

Our Lady of Lourdes is a way station where all are welcome.

By freely sharing our gifts, we build community.

Energizing prayer and worship nourish us
on our journey of transformation.

We are called also to evangelize and witness to the world,
committing our creativity to the service of justice and compassion.

Worship Schedule

Weekend Mass	Saturday	4:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00 am, 10:30 am
Weekday Mass	1st & 3rd Wednesday	9:30 am
Communion Service		
	2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday	9:30 am
Reconciliation	1st & 3rd Wednesday	after 9:30 am Mass or by appointment

Sacramental Celebration

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on five weekends throughout the liturgical year within the context of a weekend liturgy. We look forward to being a supportive community in which the whole family grows in faith. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

First Reconciliation

First reconciliation is prepared for and received during the second grade and is done in conjunction with preparation for the sacrament of first Eucharist. Parents and children will work together throughout the year to prepare for these sacraments. In addition, children and parents are required to be enrolled in GIFT at least the year prior to second grade. Since faith development is an ongoing journey, continued involvement in faith formation (GIFT) beyond reception of these sacraments is highly encouraged. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

First Eucharist

First Eucharist is prepared for and received during the second grade and is done in conjunction with preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation. Parents and children will work together throughout the year to prepare for these sacraments. In addition, children and parents are required to be enrolled in GIFT at least the year prior to second grade. Since faith development is an ongoing journey, continued involvement in faith formation (GIFT) beyond reception of these sacraments is highly encouraged. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Confirmation

Confirmation is prepared for and received during the junior year in high school (any youth at least 16 years of age who has participated in Christian formation or Catholic high school). As with all sacramental preparation programs, youth must be in formation for at least the entire year prior to the year the sacrament is celebrated (i.e. sophomore year). The process consists of formation sessions (primarily GIFT), service, an interview, choosing a sponsor, a two-day retreat, and a commitment to prayer and faith sharing. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring.

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the first Saturday of the month after all liturgies. In other times of need, you may request anointing from the presider prior to any weekend liturgy. You may also contact the Parish Office during office hours, or the Parish Director, Deb Steppe, at (414) 545-4316, Ext. 113, and we will alert a priest. It is best, if possible, that you seek this sacrament while the recipient can be present to the ritual.

Hospital Visitation

Because of current federal laws, hospitals no longer inform us when parishioners are admitted. Parishioners or their families need to contact the Parish Office by phone or email so we may make a hospital visit and/or celebrate the anointing of the sick.

Christian Marriage

It is necessary to contact the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316 a minimum of six months prior to the date of your wedding to make the necessary arrangements.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

OCIA, formerly Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), is the process by which a person 18 or older becomes an active member of the Catholic Church. It is for unbaptized adults, those baptized in another tradition, or those baptized Catholics who have not been raised in the Catholic tradition.

Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC)

OCIC, formerly the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) is the process for children of catechetical age (6-17) who are seeking Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

Parish Staff

Deb Steppe, Parish Director

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 113

stepped@ololmke.org

Deb is the pastoral and spiritual leader of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. She was appointed by the Archbishop ListECKI in 2023 and has been given responsibility for the spiritual life of our parish, its administration, and its physical plant. Deb oversees the pastoral needs and life of this faith community.

Patricia Fabian, Director of Administrative Services

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 125

fabianp@ololmke.org

Patricia serves in a key parish management position as a staff resource in support of the parish director, fulfilling parish administrative needs in finance, building and grounds, personnel, stewardship, and communications. Patricia directs these efforts within the framework of shared ministry in Christian and Catholic values.

Bill Goulding, Deacon
(414) 545-4316
gouldingb@ololmke.org

Bill's primary ministries include baptisms, weddings, funerals, and weekend Masses, including preaching.

Tanya Gross, Director of Formation Ministries
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmke.org

Tanya serves as the administrator of the parish OCIA and OCIC programs and the Intergenerational Youth Ministry program. She coordinates the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Tanya's focus is formation from 7th grade to adults. She co-coordinates and implements our whole community faith formation program—GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) and the Discipleship Institute, which is another avenue of formation ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Paul Kuenzi, Custodian
(414) 545-4316

Paul is our full-time custodian. His position is primarily responsible for providing janitorial services for the parish. Paul sets up, takes down and provides cleaning services for parish activities within our facility. Paul works primarily on the 2nd shift with frequent evening and occasional weekend hours.

Ken Marshman, Maintenance Engineer
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 118
marshmank@ololmke.org

Ken is the lead technician for the management, maintenance, and repair of the entire parish complex and grounds. He collaborates with the director of administrative services and the Buildings and Grounds Committee to review and assist with major projects.

Julie Petri, Administrative Assistant
(414) 545-4316, Ext. 111
petrij@ololmke.org

Julie is the welcoming face of our Parish Office both at the office window and on initial incoming phone calls. She has many communication and clerical responsibilities within the parish community and with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. She also assists the Faith Formation Team in implementing their programs and works with the sacramental preparation programs of baptism, reconciliation, Eucharist, confirmation, and marriage.



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Marc Puechner, Director of Communications and Technology Integration

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 112

puechnerm@ololmke.org

Marc organizes all the traditional forms of parish communication such as the bulletin and inserts, monthly stewardship mailings, and bulletin boards as well as the digital forms of communication—bulk emails, website, parish app, and social media. He also organizes our Audio/Visual Ministry and is the point person for all the A/V tools for our worship and gathering spaces.

Cindi Roark, Stewardship Associate

(414) 545-4316 Ext. 122

roarkc@ololmke.org

As a stewardship associate, Cindi is responsible for record keeping of parish contributions, deposits, and accounts payable as well as providing other administrative support.

Steve Szymanski, Director of Child Ministries/Director of Social Justice

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 127

szymanskis@ololomke.org

Steve serves the children of the parish from birth through grade six. He coordinates the preparation for the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, and Eucharist. He also oversees the Children's Liturgy of the Word program. As a formation team member, he co-coordinates and implements our whole community faith formation program—GIFT (Generations in Faith Together). Steve is also the director of social justice and serves as the staff liaison to the Social Justice Committee.

Anne Van Deusen, Director of Music Ministries

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 116

vandeusena@ololmke.org

Anne oversees the music ministry department, planning music and preparing the various vocal ensembles, cantors and instrumentalists. She creates the orders of worship and weekend slideshows to assist in participation at our services. As a worship team member, she helps to design and lead all weekend liturgies, Holy Days, weddings, funerals and special events.

Jim Wielgosz, Director of Worship Ministries

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 117

wielgoszj@ololmke.org

Jim provides direction and leadership for the worship experience in our faith community. He works with staff, worship team members, presiders and parish volunteers to fashion prayerful, inspired worship services including weekend liturgy, seasonal prayer services and services for sacraments.

Parish Collaboration

We collaborate with St. Gregory the Great and St. Matthias on various events where we can help each other throughout the year. St. Gregory the Great School offers a discounted tuition rate for Our Lady of Lourdes parish families and participation in the school athletic program by those participating in the GIFT program at OLOL.

St. Gregory the Great Parish & School

3160 South 63rd Street

Milwaukee, WI 53219

Parish Office: (414) 543-8292

School Office: (414) 321-1350

Website: <https://www.stgregsmil.org/>

St. Matthias Catholic Parish

9306 West Beloit Road

Milwaukee, WI 53227

Parish Office: (414) 321-0893

Website: <https://www.stmatthias-milw.org>

Stewardship Time-Talent-Treasure

As you review the information contained in this guidebook, it is easy to see that Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is a warm and welcoming place, vibrant in faith. Our parish community knows the joys of receiving and sharing the blessings we have been given. We embrace our responsibility as God's stewards giving of our time, talent, and treasure, knowing that our sacrifices are being used to deepen our own spiritual life and, in turn, the spiritual life of our parish. In working together, we remain strong and continue to thrive.

Time and Talent

The stewardship of time and talent calls us to search out our talents, nurture them, help them grow and then generously share both our time and talents in service to all of God's people. We all have something to share, that we are good at or that we especially like to do. Our parish family is not only in need of your talents, but we recognize the responsibility we must help you nurture them and give you opportunities to use them.

If you haven't already found your opportunity, please take some time to reflect on the ministry offerings within this guidebook and let us know if you would like to join a group or volunteer for a project. We invite every parishioner to participate in at least one parish ministry each year. Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of the beliefs we profess and celebrate. By bringing diverse talents to various projects, committees and ministries, every member of our parish community has the opportunity to serve and live out their baptismal call.

Treasure

The work of our parish requires your support—active, prayerful, and financial. Each one of us is important to the life and ministries that thrive at our parish.

In our parish, we ask new parish families to make a financial stewardship pledge. Our parish also asks all families to renew their stewardship commitments annually. This is done so that we can make meaningful decisions concerning our ministries and plan the programs that will be carried out in the following year. The amount each parish family gives will be different because the resources of each family are different. Every family is asked to discern their pledge through prayer and give in proportion to what you have been blessed with but give sacrificially.

Living as faithful stewards of God's gifts is the best gift we can offer. God will do the rest! We are all partners in this journey of faith! May we continue to be blessed by our most wonderful Lord!

GIFT **(Generations in Faith Together)**

GIFT is our parish's innovative approach to faith formation for everyone. As its name implies, the program provides an opportunity for singles, seniors, couples, and families/households to grow in faith together. The GIFT coordinators have received extremely positive feedback from participants of all ages in this program.

GIFT takes place on 12 Sundays and 2 Saturday a year from September through May. These sessions take place from 9:00 am-10:20 am unless otherwise noted. For households with school-aged children, we expect that you will attend all sessions. For everyone else, we would love to have you present at each session as well, but you have the option of signing up and paying for individual sessions.

The GIFT sessions include an opening activity that is an introduction to the theme of the session and breakout sessions that allow for different ages to receive religious education in a developmentally appropriate manner.

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GIFT Calendar 2026-2027

Our theme for the year is “Walking in the Footsteps of Christ”

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Saturday, November 14, 2026 (1:00 pm-3:30 pm) – Service Project

Sunday, November 22, 2026

Sunday, December 6, 2026

Sunday, January 10, 2027

Sunday, January 31, 2027

Sunday, February 21, 2027

Sunday, March 14, 2027

Sunday, April 11, 2027

Saturday, April 24, 2027 (9:00 am-12:00 pm) - Service Project

Sunday, May 2, 2027 – (9:00 am – 12:30 pm) - Includes 10:30 Mass and full meal

Contact: Steve Szymanski at (414) 545-4316, Ext. 127 or Tanya Gross at (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115

GIFT Core Team

The GIFT Core Team helps to plan and evaluate each GIFT session. Some experience in planning processes and our Catholic teachings is helpful, but not necessary. A sincere desire to explore and plan for the whole community is necessary. This team meets five times between August and May.

GIFT Catechists

Adults (21 and older) are needed to teach our faith to children at the following levels: K4-K5, Gr. 1-2, Gr. 3-4, Gr. 5-6, Gr. 7-8, Gr. 9-10, and Confirmation. Lesson plans and materials for each session are provided.

Catechists are asked to work together to implement each session. In-service training, safe environment training, and continuing education are required. The catechist should be a person of faith actively involved in the liturgy and life of the parish.

If you enjoy working with children and youth and desire to share your faith, you are invited to call our faith formation directors for more details. The rewards are not just in heaven!

GIFT Aides

Teens and adult helpers are needed to assist the catechists with the activities and needs of the children and youth. In addition, we need help in the nursery for children under the age of 4.

Contact: Steve Szymanski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 127 or Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115

Discipleship Institute

The Discipleship Institute of Our Lady of Lourdes has two roles/responsibilities:

1. Forming disciples in the “way” of Jesus, who is the model for our way of living.
2. Continuously nurturing Christ’s disciples by having His vision, His message, and His way of life ingrained in our daily lives.

The Discipleship Institute continues the formation process of disciples by offering programs, events, opportunities and discussions for families and adults of the parish. This includes:

On-Going Scripture Discussions

Breaking open Sunday scripture readings, seasonal Scripture readings (Advent/Lent), and various books of the Bible. The Women’s Spirituality group meets on the first Wednesday of the month. The Men’s Spirituality Group meets on the second Thursday of the month. A Sunday Scripture reflection meets weekly on Thursdays at St. Matthias.

Book Discussions

We will dissect books on various topical issues that will bring forth well-rounded and educated disciples.

Prayer-Spirituality

We plan and promote evenings of reflection and retreats.

Parish Ambassadors

Parish Ambassadors are living representatives of the welcoming community we are. They are discipleship in action. Parish Ambassadors take what they already know of Jesus – His values, His vision, His message, His way of life and apply it to their lives.

We provide and promote continuing education/formation in the Synodal process for all ministries and/or council members.

Building Bridges

We address current “hot topic” issues facing us as disciples, thereby building bridges between cultures and different ways of thinking to create dialog rather than division.

Stewardship of the Earth

Programs featuring information and/or resources for a healthy environment such as the parish community garden (Our Common Home Community Garden under the guidance of UW Extension), which can provide fruits and vegetables for our food pantry or for Oktoberfest.

Theology-Faith Formation

We offer and promote continuing education of the adults of the parish, provided by priests and lay professionals.

Disciples on the Journey Podcasts

Disciples on the Journey is a monthly audio program featuring parishioners of our faith community who share how they follow Jesus Christ in their everyday lives. In each episode you hear real stories of faith lived out by ordinary disciples.

The Discipleship Institute works very hard to collaborate with various parish ministries (listed below), to provide information and opportunities to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

GASIC (Gay and Straight in Christ)

Gay and Straight in Christ (GASIC) welcomes, supports, and affirms LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) persons, their families, friends, and those who wish to stand in solidarity with them in Christ. This ministry works to help the LGBTQ+ community find comfort in taking its rightful place within the Catholic community.

GASIC strives to provide the message that our community is open to all persons as a welcoming Christian community. We affirm the love of Christ for everyone and offer a place of worship for any who may have felt unwelcomed or disenfranchised in the Catholic faith. God does not discriminate. We do not discriminate.

All monthly conversations are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm unless otherwise noted. You may attend in person (Room 9) or via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us or know of someone who would benefit from this group, please join us!

For more information or to receive a link to the Zoom meetings, kindly contact the Parish Office.

The Art Guild

The Art Guild looks at spirituality through art. The group meets monthly and provides open studios in various mediums. Then once a year they facilitate a display of art by the parishioners and a mosaic also done by parishioners. We profess our faith through art.

Our Common Home Community Garden

Our Common Home Community Garden is a sacred space that reflects the mission and vision of Our Lady of Lourdes. This community encourages its residents to share their unique talents and be co-investors in the outcome. The garden is managed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. To rent a plot contact Extension Milwaukee County Garden Rental Desk at (414) 615-0538 or email: Milwaukee.Garden.Rentals@extension.wisc.edu.

We invite all parishioners and their friends to participate in these programs. We especially invite young adults who might want to meet people and get more involved in their faith community. We fully support the GIFT formation program and want to be the place where adults can grow in their role as a disciple of Christ.

The Discipleship Institute Team: Cathie Slater, Jim Wielgosz, Rebekah Dubrosky, Z. George Slupski, Lorie Skeff, Tanya Gross

OCIA

(The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

OCIA is a process that can be characterized in this way:

“[OCIA] is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God’s help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fruitfully.”

[The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: A Pastoral Commentary, J. Michael McMahon, 19.]

There are four periods that belong to this process:

1. Precatechumenate—Inquiry and pondering
 2. Catechumenate—scripture, faith sharing, catechesis
 3. Purification/Enlightenment—intense spiritual preparation
 4. Mystagogia—celebration of the sacraments/Easter season
- Each of these periods involve different forms of programming to aid participants in their journey. For example, during the precatechumenate stage, candidates focus on fellowship by participating in check-in meetings.

OCIA Informational Meetings

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic? OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Info Meetings are a welcoming space to explore what it means to become a full member of the Catholic Church. These gatherings are for adults who are unbaptized, baptized in another Christian tradition, or baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation. This is a time of exploration, not commitment, where you can learn about the OCIA process, ask questions, and reflect on where God is calling you. If you’re considering beginning the OCIA journey in 2027, you’ll need to attend at least one informational meeting.

Informational meetings will be held in-person in Room 9 from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm on Sunday, October 25 and 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm on Monday, November 9. Please call the Parish Office to RSVP.

Children and teens seeking initiation participate in a parallel process called OCIC, and families are invited to learn more during these sessions as well.

The OCIA program also has opportunities for people to share their faith with the candidates:

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Companions

Companions work with persons on Sunday mornings from January through the Easter Vigil. Team members may take turns facilitating sessions and inviting candidates’ participation. It is helpful if persons serve as OCIA sponsors before becoming team members but is not required.

Parish OCIA Sponsors

Any confirmed Catholic who is willing to walk with a person seeking to become a Catholic can become an OCIA sponsor. The sponsor needs to be willing to share one's faith with another and to put the candidate's needs before his/her own. Sponsors are not expected to be experts in the faith; rather, they are asked to be honest and open with their candidate as they continue to grow themselves. Sponsors are asked to come to most of the sessions, which usually coincide with the 10:30 am liturgy. This involves a commitment of three to six months.

Contact: Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmke.org

ARISE

(Association for Religious Instruction, Special Education)

ARISE is a collaboration of six parishes that provides quality special religious education for their parish children, teens and adults who are challenged with disabilities.

ARISE serves students who have varying degrees of learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and emotional disabilities, including but not limited to Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Depending on the specific needs of the student, he/she is placed in a specialized classroom, an inclusive classroom, or a combination of these.

To date, the parishes that have joined this collaboration are St. Alphonsus, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great, Holy Assumption, St. James, Our Lady of Lourdes.

All classes and meetings are currently held at the ARISE collaboration site, St. Gregory the Great, South 60th Street and Oklahoma Avenue. For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Lety Gutierrez-Kenny
ARISE Coordinator
St. Gregory the Great Parish & School
3160 S. 63rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 543-8292 Ext. 210
lgkenny@stgregsmil.org

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a vehicle for the parish to fulfill the pastoral mission of Jesus and the Church at Our Lady of Lourdes. It does this by developing Catholic identity, promoting evangelization, and fostering stewardship. The Council strives to build a community of disciples who recognize their baptismal calls to lives of holiness, witness, and service. The Council advises the Parish Director in all matters of ministry and parish life. New members join the Council each September following a process of prayerful discernment.

The Council is comprised of ex officio and at-large members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, participants in the parish worship life, especially Mass and the sacraments, and at least 18 years of age.

The Council meets 10 times each year on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings last one and a half hours.

Contact: Deb Steppe, Parish Director..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 113
stepped@ololmke.org

Finance Council

Per Archdiocesan Council Norms:

The Finance Council provides advice and guidance to the Pastor or Parish Director in the administration of parish assets. The Council prepares the parish budget, any budgets for extraordinary expenditures, and reviews financial statements. The Council monitors the financial condition of the parish, including regular financial reviews/audits as well as the internal financial controls by following the recommendations in the audit/review. The Council provides assistance in the formulation and communication of an annual financial report to the parish community as required by Canon 1287.2.

The Council is the consultative body in all parish financial matters.

The Council is comprised of 5-7 members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, registered members of the parish, participants in the parish worship life (especially Mass and the sacraments) and at least 25 years of age. Members are selected because of their familiarity with financial matters and financial expertise.

Per the OLOL Finance Council members, we summarize our responsibilities as:

- To monitor & maintain the financial status of the parish through prudent use of its monetary resources.
- To understand and respect all groups' and committees' financial needs and help them meet their objectives.
- To communicate regularly and transparently to keep parishioners informed and to invite them to play their vital role as stewards funding the parish's ministries & mission.

The Council meets 10 times each year on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Contact: Deb Steppe, Parish Director..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 113
stepped@ololmke.org

Administration

Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the physical condition of the parish property. They are charged with the care, upkeep and improvements of the landscape and structures of our parish grounds. This committee identifies and articulates the needs of the parish in this area and makes recommendations to the Finance Council.

Contact: Al Marifke..... (414) 545-6109
amarifke@wi.rr.com

Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee monitors the administration of parish policies regarding employment, staffing, compensation, benefits, performance management, employee relations, and compliance with state and federal employment laws. Meetings are held as needed.

Contact: Patricia Fabian (414) 545-4316, Ext. 125

Community Life

Community Weekend

Community Weekend exists to help make Our Lady of Lourdes a welcoming place. We sponsor socials after weekend liturgies several times a year to give all parishioners a chance to get to know each other. Commitment is at your availability. New ideas or suggestions are welcome! Please volunteer!

Contact: Mary Mueller (414) 380-9666
mcjakemuel@aol.com

Funeral Hospitality

The Funeral Hospitality Committee assists any family that requests a reception either for a wake or after a funeral at Our Lady of Lourdes. Committee members assist with table setup, serving and cleanup for funeral receptions or catered luncheons held in the church hall.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group provides a safe space for men to come together to share experiences and concerns while supporting each other on our spiritual journeys. All gatherings are grounded in Catholic social justice and tradition, while openly exploring contemporary issues and challenges faced by men today. Join us to explore your faith, build brotherhood, and grow spiritually. The group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in Room 6 (except July and August).

Contact: Deacon Bill Goulding..... (414) 545-4316
gouldingb@ololmke.org

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair is a unique parish event, a “fun”-raiser, held annually in October. This is a great opportunity for families with children of all ages to play together or volunteer together. Planning begins in February and event sign-up occurs in September. Many friendships have begun through involvement with Oktoberfest!

Oktoberfest has five goals: to build community at OLOL, to introduce OLOL to the larger local community, to celebrate art and talent, to support the social justice issue of buying local from small businesses, and to raise funds for the parish. Artisans sell quality handmade items on one side of the campus while on the other there is food, music, and activities for all ages. Polka liturgy occurs on Oktoberfest weekend. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed to plan, move furniture, serve food and beverages, greet guests, support family craft activities, and assist with the basket and 50/50 raffles.

Contact: Barb Webber(414) 377-9177 tbwebber89@gmail.com,
Tanya Gross(414) 545-4316, Ext. 115 grosst@ololmke.org

Wednesday Morning Faith Group

The Our Lady of Lourdes Wednesday Morning Faith Group is a parish ministry that strives to give members of the community a place to pray, socialize, and enjoy a bite to eat. We meet every Wednesday after the 9:30 am Mass or Communion service in the Parish Hall. Special events are scheduled throughout the year for the enrichment of everyone. All are welcome!

Contact: JoAnn Godkin..... (414) 828-7172
joanngodkin@gmail.com

Women’s Spirituality Group

The Women’s Spirituality group will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 pm–8:00 pm in Room 6. This group gathers to reflect on the Sunday readings and bible study with and led by other women from the parish.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Formation Ministries

The parish has many ways of reaching out to share our faith and love of God. Below are the main ministries, but we are always open to new ways to teach, dialogue and action our faith.

Additional Youth Ministries

Intergenerational Youth Ministry

OLOL's intergenerational approach to youth ministry aims to find unique ways to celebrate fellowship and connection. Our goal is to create a vibrant community where all generations come together to grow in their faith, share their experiences, and support each other. Attendees of all ages are encouraged to invite their friends to these events. This ministry will include social events that encourage interaction between different age groups. Specific information about each event can be found on the OLOL website and in the bulletin.

Contact: Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmke.org

Retreat Small Group Leader

A retreat is held yearly for every grade level. For grades 5-10, these day-long events are held at a site in the community or at Our Lady of Lourdes. People are needed to help with the experience of the day (for example, meal programs and nursing home experiences). Retreats for Confirmation are one-night overnight. Your help with leading a small group of teens requires openness to their ideas and feelings and a willingness to share your faith. The basic requirement for this role is a love and respect for teens.

For grades 5-6 Contact: Steve Szymanski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 127
szymanskis@ololmke.org

For grades 7-11 Contact: Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmke.org

Youth Service Opportunities

Many opportunities to serve in the parish and larger community exist for youth regardless of whether they are in the GIFT program. Teens and families are presented with these opportunities to serve and asked to choose at least four each year with one of them being liturgical service. Confirmation candidates have more in-depth opportunities because it is an integral part of their preparation for the sacrament. Parents are asked to join us for many of these opportunities. Service opportunities are shared in the bulletin, at GIFT sessions, and via email.

Contact: Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmke.org

Outreach Ministries

Our outreach work includes the ministries of pastoral care, social services, social justice, and evangelization. Its scope includes outreach to both the parish membership and the larger community, either in the neighborhood or beyond.

Pastoral Ministry

Walking Through Grief Together

Our Lady of Lourdes holds a support group for adults experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one due to death and/or any kind of loss. This group provides a safe and confidential setting for sharing and finding support with others who are also experiencing loss whether the loss is within the last few weeks, months, a year, or a few years ago. Give yourself permission to share your pain and explore healing with others. Experienced group leaders offer knowledge and guidance and will facilitate group discussion to help participants work and heal through their grief journey.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Lazarus Bereavement Committee

Volunteers minister to families grieving the loss of a loved one. Ministers pray for family members as well as contact them with a series of “Care Note” cards mailed throughout the year following the loved one’s death. Members sponsor a yearly remembrance service during the month of November for those who have passed away during the year and all others who have lost a loved one. We hold two meetings per year, spring and fall. Attendance at meetings is not mandatory. If you enjoy writing notes and would like to help us reach families through the Care Note program, please consider joining this ministry.

Contact: Eileen Dunning..... (414) 543-6114
edunning@sbcglobal.net

Ministry to the Homebound

This rewarding ministry comprises persons who go into the residences of our home-based parishioners to visit socially, to take communion, and to pray. Training for visitation is provided. An evening of reflection is offered once per year to gather our visitors and provide them an opportunity to prayerfully reflect upon their experiences.

Contact: Deb Steppe, Parish Director (414) 545-4316, Ext. 113
stepped@ololmke.org

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry consists of volunteers who have chosen to serve Jesus and our community by praying for the needs of others. Everyone is invited to join in intercessory prayer for those experiencing difficulties. Members pray in their own homes in their own way.

Contact: Mary Crisp (414) 543-1158

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This is an inspiring movement for people who enjoy knitting or crocheting while they pray for others in need. Our website contains instruction videos if you are new to this craft. All donations can be turned into the main office at any time. The finished prayer shawls are blessed at a weekend liturgy and taken to the shawl recipient by a home visitor. The shawl becomes a tangible expression of your prayer, and it fosters a greater connection between the community and those in need.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Social Services

Lourdes Food Pantry

St. Vincent de Paul Society administers the food pantry which provides non-perishable food items to those in need in the Lourdes community. This assistance is made possible by the food and monetary donations of our congregation. The pantry is located in Room 7 and is open every other Tuesday from 3:00 pm-4:30 pm.

Contact: Sharon Piotrowski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 121

Outreach to Haiti

The parish has established a twinning relationship with Outreach to Haiti in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The twinning committee works to educate the parish community about the plight of the Haitian people and the work of Outreach to Haiti. Additionally, it has a booth at Oktoberfest and holds a separate craft sale of Haitian-made gifts to raise funds for our twinning efforts, particularly for the Education Scholarship program. We have had groups travel to Port-au-Prince in the past and are hoping to resume travel to visit Outreach to Haiti in the future.

Contact: Ralph Stewart (414) 412-5842
rael1956@sbcglobal.net or Tanya Gross (414) 545-4316, Ext. 115
grosst@ololmlke.org

St. Ben's Meal Program

Volunteers representing OLOL serve a complete meal at St. Benedict the Moor Parish on the second Wednesday of each month. Volunteers participate by cooking and serving the meal or by donating food or baked goods.

Contact: Mel and Joan Hynek (414) 427-1450
mhynek@wi.rr.com or jhynek@wi.rr.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society serves the parish and its neighbors through a variety of service projects, including filling requests for food, furniture, and other necessities; and addressing various needs of our parishioners. We also serve at the St. Vincent de Paul Southside meal program at Crossroads Kitchen. New members are always welcome to join us in our mission to serve the needy.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Social Justice

Human Concerns Committee

Connects with various outreach activities sponsored by the parish. Members work toward assisting the less fortunate of the greater Milwaukee area by providing help and support to local agencies which feed, shelter, advise, and assist our neighbors in need.

Contact: Parish Office (414) 545-4316
office@ololmke.org

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) is committed to building a just society for all. SJC partners with other Southeastern Wisconsin parishes in addressing issues that affect society. We educate parishioners and promote actions on a variety of issues such as fair trade, healthcare, housing, hunger, human trafficking, immigration, racism, and environmental concerns. Catholic Social Teaching guides our choices and actions. Together we explore links between faith and life, and theology and ethics.

The SJC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month (no meetings in July or August). Dates or locations may change, so always check the calendar.

Contact: Steve Szymanski (414) 545-4316, Ext. 127
szymanskis@ololmke.org

Worship Ministries

Music Ministry

Our Music Ministry program is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities. If you enjoy singing and/or playing a musical instrument, please consider joining this vibrant ministry. We strive to bring creative collaboration to our worship services, encouraging our parishioners and guests to participate fully in the music during our worship time. In addition to our regular Sunday morning and funeral choirs, we have several seasonal choirs. You are invited to join as many of these as you'd like.

Contact: Anne Van Deusen, Director of Music Ministries

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 116.....vandeusena@ololmke.org

Cantors

Cantors function as the main song leader and psalmist at each liturgy. They are experienced singers who read music and prepare independently for their ministry. They are scheduled based on individual availability.

Spirit & Grace Choir

For music lovers of all ages. No audition is required. This group leads music 2-3 times a month at the 10:30 am Sunday Mass, as well as special services throughout the year. Rehearsals are currently held from 3:30-5:00 pm on Thursday afternoons (see bulletin or parish calendar for specific dates).

Resurrection Choir

This ensemble leads the music for our funeral services. Rehearsals are held periodically throughout the year. Resurrection Choir members are on call and participate whenever their schedule permits them to serve. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

Seasonal Choirs

Are you looking for a way to participate on a shorter-term basis? One or more of the following choirs may be the perfect fit for you, as each of these groups requires minimal rehearsal time. Vocalists and instrumentalists are welcomed. Event dates/times are listed below. Rehearsal commitments vary for each choir – please check the bulletin or parish calendar for specific dates.

Polka Mass Choir & Ensemble – Help create the festive atmosphere as part of our annual Oktoberfest Artisan Fair.

Rehearsal – One rehearsal in early October

Liturgy – Saturday, October 10, 4:00 pm

Christmas Choir – Help us share the spirit of the season on Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals – 3 or 4 rehearsals in November/December

Liturgy – Thursday, December 24, 9:00 pm

Easter Vigil Choir – Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, along with welcoming our OCIA and OCIC candidates to our community.

Rehearsals – 3 or 4 rehearsals during Lent

Liturgy – Saturday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Pentecost Choir – Join us as we wrap up the Easter season, filling the church with the holy spirit.

Rehearsals – 3 rehearsals during Easter season

Liturgy – Sunday, May 16, 10:30 am

Instrumentalists

We welcome all types of instrumentalists to enhance our music.

Flexibility and individual preparation outside of liturgy are required.

Worship Ministries

Worship is the work of the people! The spirit of worship we experience would simply not be possible without the work of many hands. We invite you to participate in one or more of the worship opportunities listed below. Where needed, training will be provided.

Contact: Jim Wielgosz, Director of Worship Ministries

(414) 545-4316, Ext. 117.....wielgoszj@ololmke.org

Worship Team

Members of this team meet monthly to evaluate the worship life of our community and envision liturgies or prayer services for all seasons, sacraments, and feast day celebrations.

Liturgical Art and Environment

Do you have a talent for art and design? Join the team that maintains a beautiful, hospitable, and spiritually engaging worship space that honors the changing seasons of the liturgical year.

Lectors

Lectors help us break open the Word by proclaiming the scriptures at liturgy. You must be comfortable speaking in public. Individual preparation is required. Scheduling is based on your availability.

Eucharist Ministers

Everyone is invited to actively bring the Eucharist to others by helping with the distribution of Communion. All you need to do is take a communion tag prior to liturgy. Training will be provided upon request.

Altar Servers

Servers of all ages are welcome to assist the presider in a variety of ways during liturgy. You can choose the liturgy that best fits your schedule. Training will be provided.

Sacristan-Servers for Funeral Liturgies

Responsibilities include set-up and clean-up, as well as assisting the presider during the funeral liturgy. Training is provided and you would work along with an experienced sacristan until you feel ready to serve on your own. A flexible schedule is a plus as funerals can be scheduled at various times. You will be added to a rotating list with other funeral sacristans.

Weekend Sacristan

Sacristans are a vital part of our weekend worship, as they complete many tasks to prepare our worship space. This includes lighting candles, setting out the bread and wine, preparing items for use at the altar, and after-liturgy clean up. If you like behind-the-scenes work, this is an ideal ministry for you. Training is always provided.

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeter/Usher)

Greeters and ushers are asked to come at least half an hour before liturgy begins to greet people as they arrive. Other duties in this ministry are assisting with seating, helping with the collection, and distributing bulletins at the end of liturgy. Training will be provided by other “seasoned” ministers.

Ministry of Sacred Movement

People of all ages are invited to participate in our Sacred Movement Ministry. Based upon your ability and desire, this ministry can range from simple processions carrying incense, ribbons, or banners, to group movement, individual dance, and choreography. Training and rehearsals are provided by the coordinator - Rosalita Villa.

Contact: Rosalita Villa..... (414) 305-1639
divinemovement@sbcglobal.net

Worship Space Audio/Visual Ministry

Full, active, and conscious participation in liturgy is a call to all of us from the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. We are urged to engage in liturgy through various means that speak to all people. The A/V ministry employs technology to encounter liturgy inside and outside our walls. You don't have to be tech-savvy to be a part of this ministry. If you can turn on a laptop and press an arrow key, you are qualified! For those looking to have fun with our technology, we also live-stream our 4:00 pm liturgy and welcome more people to provide that ministry.

Training on our equipment is provided.

Contact: Marc Puechner..... (414) 545-4316, Ext. 112
puechnerm@ololmke.org