



25th 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.)



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Are you envious
because I am
generous?"
Thus, the last will
be first, and the
first will be last."
- Mt 20:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001-1998-1970 CCB

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ololmke.org/become-a-member



Notes from Deb

March 15 and 16, 2027–Parish Mission!

I am excited to announce that in collaboration with St. Matthias Parish, we will be having Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. joining us for two nights of parish mission.

Fr. Greg is the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Homeboy has changed the lives of thousands of men and women. It stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of love. Fr. Greg is the author of several books including *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, *Forgive Everyone Everything*, and *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*.

Fr. Greg's books tell his story, the story of Homeboy, and are grounded in God's unconditional love for everyone. Fr. Greg reminds us that everyone is unshakably good and we belong to one another. He also has a wonderful sense of humor that shines through all his works.

I have read Fr. Greg's books and every one of them have touched me in a deep way. So, mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information in the coming months.

Know of my prayers and know that you too are unshakably good!

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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Ken Marshman (Maintenance) marshmank@ololmke.org	Anne Van Deusen (Music Ministry) vandeusena@ololmke.org
Julie Petri (Admin. Asst.) petrij@ololmke.org	Jim Wielgosz (Worship Ministry) wielgoszj@ololmke.org

Calendar

Sunday, September 20

8:00 am	Mass (Lewis)	Church
9:00 am	Sacrament Prep	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Heinze)	Church

Monday, September 21

1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Life After Hate	Hall

Tuesday, September 22

1:00 pm	Art Guild Mtg./Class	Rm 4
3:00 pm	Food Pantry	Rm 7
6:30 pm	Art Guild Meet and Create	Hall

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

12:00 pm	Women's Grief Support Group	Hall C
3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Choir Rehearsal	Church
6:30 pm	Oktoberfest Mtg.	Rm 3

Friday, September 25—Parish Office Closed

Saturday, September 26

4:00 pm	Mass (Drenzek)	Church
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Sunday, September 27

8:00 am	Mass (Suriano)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Lewis)	Church

Parish Support - August 2026

	ACTUAL as of 8/31/26	BUDGETED for August
Reg. Envelopes	\$57,075.12	\$63,167.00
Offertory	\$4,318.55	\$3,000.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: August 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$139,437.66	\$141,925.00
Bequests	\$500.00	
Op. Expenses	\$139,859.17	\$163,875.64

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/26	\$437,986.31
Donations	\$4,481.76
Expense	\$34,394.00
Balance (8/31/26)	\$408,074.07

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Gertrude Kropidlowski
From her beloved family and friends

In loving memory of Stella and Victor Witkowski
From Theresa Arnsdorf

In loving memory of Douglas Hardy and James Arnsdorf
From Theresa Arnsdorf

Oktoberfest Meeting

Thursday, September 24 | 6:30 pm

Topic: Pulling it all together. Important meeting for leaders
We are synchronizing details for Oktoberfest!



Virtue of the Week

Commitment

Commitment is caring deeply about a person, a goal, or a belief. Once we discern a direction, we go for it wholeheartedly. We don't hold back, second-guess our decision, or hesitate to act on it fully. We set goals and achieve them. We make promises and keep them. We go the extra mile. We are faithful to our relationships and don't allow problems to make us waver. Keeping our commitments strengthens our inner integrity. It deepens our capacity to carry responsibility with grace.

What are you most committed to at this time in your life?

If you ever broke a promise, what did you learn from that experience?

Formation

Next GIFT September 27

Join us on Sunday, September 27, as we mark the Season of Creation with Dean Muller, the president of Wisconsin for Environmental Justice. Dean will present on "Sacred Stewardship: A Future Sustained by Faith." As stewards of creation, faith communities are rising as a profound force for healing our wounded earth. This presentation explores how diverse religious traditions are uniting—both with one another and with secular partners—to cultivate a more resilient, life-sustaining world. By sharing stories of hope and intentional action, we will illustrate how our sacred duty to protect the planet fosters deep collective responsibility and a legacy for future generations.

If you haven't registered for GIFT, you can still do so at ololmke.org/gift/. If you have questions about GIFT, please contact Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross, or Director of Child Ministries, Steve Szymanski. If you are not registered for GIFT, but wish to attend, please call the Parish Office.

Youth Action Council

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 pm. We will be doing service together as a group helping the Oktoberfest team put the finishing touches on the building in preparation for a fun-filled weekend. If you would like to volunteer for Oktoberfest during the weekend, please see the sign-up sheets in the classroom hallway or the electronic version at ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/oktoberfest-volunteer-form/. Youth volunteers are important!

Confirmation Candidates

If you haven't scheduled your interview with Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross, please do so ASAP. This should be completed by the end of September. Contact her by email or by calling the Parish Office.

Worship

Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis of Assisi is universally recognized as the patron saint of animals and the environment. Every year around his feast day, which is October 4, communities worldwide gather for a beloved tradition, the Blessing of the Animals. This custom directly connects St. Francis's profound spiritual relationship with the natural world and serves as a beautiful reminder of our role as caretakers of God's creation.

St. Francis did not view animals merely as property or tools, but as vital members of God's extended family. He famously referred to them as his "brothers and sisters," believing that all living things reflect the love of the Creator. There are two famous stories from his life that highlight this bond:

- Preaching to the Birds: St. Francis once stopped to preach to a flock of birds, thanking God for their feathers, wings, and freedom. The birds allegedly stood still and listened, flying away only after receiving his blessing.
- Taming the Wolf of Gubbio: When a fierce wolf terrorized a local village, Francis brokered a peace treaty. He convinced the wolf to stop attacking, and in return, the villagers agreed to feed the animal for the rest of its days.

When we gather together and bring our pets to be blessed, we honor St. Francis's legacy. The blessing celebrates the unconditional love and companionship our pets provide, while renewing our commitment to practice responsible stewardship over the Earth.

We invite you to bring your furry, feathered, or scaled family members to our annual Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 am on the East Lawn area. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move into the Parish Hall.

Spotlight

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair 2026: October 9-11

Last year we hosted a busload of people that came from the Hartford area for our Fish Fry and dancing. They raved about Oktoberfest. They discovered us while searching for Oktoberfest related events. Yes, we do advertise in many different areas with a mindful eye on the budget.

Truth be told, though, **you** are OLOL's best advertising. Please continue to spread the word to bring a crowd to our campus event. Here are some ideas:

- Proudly display a yard sign
- Display posters at your work, school, or favorite meeting place.
- Carry handbills in your purse or car and distribute them!
- Use the handbill as a postcard and mail it to a friend
- Like and share Oktoberfest Artisan Fair Facebook posts
- Follow Oktoberfest Artisan Fair on Instagram and like and share our posts.
- Invite friends and family by phone, personal conversations and email.
- Text pictures of the menu and information to friends.
- Take a walk around your neighborhood and drop off handbills.

We have made a change concerning the yard signs. From now on, instead of a date, the yard signs will read "the second weekend in October." We hope that you will keep the signs and metal frames from year to year. This will help our environment and our expense budget. No room to store them at your home. Yes, you can bring them back to OLOL after the event and we will store them.

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair Team

Discipleship

Finding Spiritual Balance in a Chaotic World 2.0

September 29 | 6:30 pm | Presenter: Ann Le Baron

As we transition into fall, have you noticed life becoming a bit more chaotic and harder to balance? You are invited to join us for an evening to hit pause, reflect, and discover practical, meaningful ways to improve your life balance while nourishing your mind, body, and spirit. While this "2.0" session builds on skills from our previous spring workshop, it is fully self-contained—everyone is welcome, whether you attended the first session or are joining for the first time.

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark

October 26 | 6:30 pm | Presenter: Jim Gill

Get ready for Mark! Most of the Sunday readings, beginning when the new church year starts on the first Sunday of Advent, will come from the Gospel of Mark. This presentation will familiarize you with Mark's writings as a whole. This will allow you to have a deeper understanding of the passages you will hear.

Registration is strongly recommended for both events and is available by calling the Parish Office or online at ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/.

Men & Women's Retreat Opportunity

October 22-25

Bill and Jeanne Goulding invite you to attend a mixed retreat they are coordinating at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh. The retreat is for adult men and women. You could even attend with an adult child or grandchild!

The accommodations include private bedrooms with private baths. The retreat house is located on a sprawling former estate on Lake Winnebago. Join them for three days and nights of plentiful food and comfortable lodging, all in an amazing setting. If you have questions about this retreat, please contact Deacon Bill at CeltDeac58@gmail.com or visit the Jesuit Retreat House website at jesuitretreathouse.org/.

Outreach

World Day of Migrants and Refugees September 27, 2026

As part of our parish's efforts to identify and confront racism in our midst, we offer this reflection:

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." —Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Grief Support

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, October 3 and 17 in Room 3 starting at 11:00 am. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

Communications

Stay Informed: New Text Alerts for Weather Closings and Safety Notifications

As we approach the colder months, we want to make sure every parish household has the information they need when weather or safety concerns affect parish events. This year, we are introducing a **new text-alert option** for inclement weather closings and urgent safety notifications.

In the past, we used a different provider for text messaging, but that service has been discontinued. We are starting fresh with a new system, which means **everyone who wishes to receive text alerts must sign up**, even if you received messages from us in previous years. Your old subscription will not carry over.

Text alerts are just one part of our broader communication plan for weather-related changes. Beginning in October, we highlight all the ways you can stay informed—from our website and app to local news stations and social media. You can explore all of these methods and sign up for the new text alerts by visiting ololmke.org/weather-cancellation-alerts. Signing up takes less than a minute and ensures you receive timely, reliable information directly on your mobile device.

We encourage you to enroll, especially since Wisconsin weather can be unpredictable, and this simple step helps us keep our community safe, informed, and connected.

Direct link to text alert sign-up:
<https://ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/inclement-weather-and-safety-alert-text-agreement/>

Xaverian Missionaries Gala Auction Fundraiser

If you are interested in a good dinner for a good cause, please join the Xaverian Fathers and friends on Saturday, October 10, for their 63rd Annual Mission Gala Auction Fundraiser. The event will take place at the Homewood Suites (right next to IKEA on Drexel Ave.)

Mass at 5:00 pm. Beer, wine and soda at 6:00 pm followed by dinner and dessert. A raffle, where 6 people will win \$500 each plus other fun raffles, games, and a great silent auction.

The cost is \$100 per ticket, which includes complimentary beer, wine, and soda; dinner and dessert; and entry into the main (money) raffle.

Proceeds of this very enjoyable event directly benefit the Xaverian Missionaries in their projects to help the poorest of the poor, here in the U.S., as well as overseas.

If you would like to attend, have any questions, or would like further information, feel free to contact Linda at the Xaverian Mission office: (414) 421-0831.

No Entrance Fee!

craft fair

September 27, 2026

from 10am to 3pm
at St. Gregory the Great Parish
3160 S. 63rd Street

4th Annual

Come one, Come All!
Support our Church & School by supporting these artists who have come out to sell their self-made creations. Entrance is on 60th & Oklahoma Ave. parking lot. Enter at Door #11.

For information on becoming a vendor, contact Kris Kodaski at kkodaski@aol.com

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IN OUR COMMUNITY



AT THE HEART
OUR HISTORY

"What is your church doing today?" In 1833, young college student Frédéric Ozanam and five friends responded by forming the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Society is represented in Milwaukee County in 41 church groups.

FROM THE HEART

VISITS TO OTHERS IN NEED



What stands out is our person-to-person contact with people in crisis. Society members help others in their community with emergency assistance such as food, personal or household needs. They meet regularly to reflect on the services they provide.



IN THE HEART
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." Our faith's tradition of compassionate care and love for the most vulnerable is put into action.

BE THE HEART

WE NEED YOU! JOIN US!



In this time of great need, has your heart been moved to help relieve distress in our community? We invite you to follow your heart and serve with us.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
HOW TO GET INVOLVED?



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