



28th 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.)



Connect

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ololmke.org/become-a-member



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Notes from Deb

WELCOME!

On this Oktoberfest weekend, our campus has been transformed into wonders of art, food, fun, and blessed community. Many thanks to all who made this celebration possible. Thank you to all on the Oktoberfest committee and thank you to the many folks who are serving food, welcoming volunteers, tending bar, selling popcorn, making s'mores, washing dishes, and so much more! The success of this weekend is because of the hard work of many, many hands.

Thank you to all who are visiting us this weekend! Whether you visit us once a year or once a week, please know that you are always welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes. I hope the warmth of this parish family touches your heart, and you come back to pray – and celebrate – with us again and again.

Please know of my prayers and my love.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe



Calendar

Sunday, October 11

Oktoberfest

9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

Monday, October 12

1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10
6:30 pm Building and Grounds Rm 3

Tuesday, October 13

10:30 am SVDP Mtg. Rm 3
1:00 pm Art Guild Open Studio Rm 4
6:30 pm Exploring Our Faith Rm 3
6:30 pm GIFT Core Team Rm 2

Wednesday, October 14

7:00 am St. Ben's Preparation Kitchen
9:30 am Mass Church
10:15 am Wednesday Morning Faith Group Social Hall C
7:00 pm GASIC Rm 9

Thursday, October 15

9:00 am Stewardship Mailing Preparation Hall C
6:30 pm Men's Spirituality Rm 10

Friday, October 16—Parish Office Closed

Saturday, October 17

House of Peace Food Collection
Blood Drive Sign-up

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

Sunday, October 18

House of Peace Food Collection
Blood Drive Sign-up

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

Parish Support - September 2026

	ACTUAL as of 9/24/26	BUDGETED for September
Reg. Envelopes	\$41,562.43	\$65,500.00
Offertory	\$2,547.40	\$3,750.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: September 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	\$191,216.39	\$220,350.00
Bequests	\$500.00	
Op. Expenses	\$196,731.17	\$251,873.48

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/26	\$437,986.31
Donations	\$6,779.76
Expense	\$48,184.00
Balance (8/24/26)	\$396,582.07

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Annemarie and Richard Fredricks
and Margaret Anne Fredricks
From George and Jenni Sladky

Virtue of the Week

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is overlooking mistakes and letting go of resentment. Forgiveness frees us from the needless pain of reliving a hurt over and over. Forgiveness doesn't make a wrong choice right; it brings the generosity of spirit to release it. It brings a blessed opportunity for a clean start. Self-forgiveness moves us forward, ready to do things differently, with compassion for ourselves and faith that we can change. Forgiveness opens the door of hope.

Can you share a time with someone when you asked for forgiveness and the joy it brought when you received it?

How did you respond when someone asked you to forgive them?

How does forgiving change us?



Formation

Next GIFT Session

Sunday, October 18

At our next GIFT session, Clare Houston will offer opportunities for reflection on how we are co-creators of beauty in our neighborhoods and world. She will touch on Dostoevsky's sentiment (popularized by Dorothy Day), "The world will be saved by beauty," especially in the context of solidarity with those who are not able to easily find it because of their socioeconomic situations.

Clare is a resident of the Harambee neighborhood and participates in life at St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House and is a former member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC).

If you are not registered for GIFT, but wish to attend, please call the Parish Office.

Confirmation Candidates

The first candidate and sponsor event is Sunday, October 25, from 5:30 pm–7:30 pm. at St. Matthias Church, 9306 W. Beloit Road, Milwaukee, WI 53227. All candidates/sponsors will meet for dinner & activities. If you haven't chosen a sponsor yet, please talk to Tanya prior to this event.

Also, if you haven't scheduled your confirmation conversation with one of the individuals listed in your packet, please do so ASAP. Your first confirmation conversation should be completed by the end of October.

Save the Date – Movie Night

Friday, October 23 | 6:00 pm | Parish Hall

To celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), we will be showing the movie *Coco*. Come and learn more about this Mexican tradition and why we set up an ofrenda in our lobby. All ages welcome!

Please RSVP via the QR code or call the Parish Office by Wednesday, October 21.



Worship

A Hearty Welcome (Herzlich Willkommen)

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, y no habla ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or cannot carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you are "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you are more Catholic than the Pope or have not been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over sixty but have not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are recovering or still addicted. We welcome you if you are having problems, or you are down in the dumps, or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think Earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here just because Grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and ended up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!



Spotlight

Speaking Truth to Power

"How do you speak truth to power?" Fr. Bill Burkert often asks for parishioner insights during his homilies, with this question posed recently. The first speaker wisely commented about the importance of safeguarding our message from immediately being rejected with carefully chosen words and demeanor. The last comment touched me deeply. A parishioner spoke about having difficulty hearing very different messages or versions of truth given by people using the Holy Bible, our very same beloved Book, as their inspiration or evidence. Nearly every day, we hear scripture used to justify wars, block humanitarian aid, support unlawful detentions, vilify others that look or act a certain way, and kill in the name of justice. The debate concerning the death penalty is a prime example.

Pope Francis changed Catholic Church teaching regarding capital punishment in 2018, and Pope Leo XIV recently reaffirmed that stance. "The Catholic Catechism (paragraph 2267) teaches that the death penalty is inadmissible and that the Church works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Yet, the whole world seems to be gravitating toward violence and hatred. The year 2025 saw a 78% rise in recorded executions globally. The United States had an 88% increase in prisoner executions in 2025, going from 25 to 47 persons killed by our government.

Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has stated, "God affirmed the death penalty for murder as He made His affirmation of human dignity clear."

Perhaps Ezekiel 33 (NLT) has a better understanding of human dignity, Jesus' mercy and God's justice than Dr. Mohler and supporters of capital punishment. "I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness. O people of Israel. Why should you die?"

Mary Botsford

Social Justice Committee

Discipleship

Gay and Straight in Christ (GASIC)

October 14 | 7:00pm

Gay and Straight in Christ welcomes, supports, and affirms LGBTQ+ persons, their families, and 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.

All meetings are hybrid, in person or virtual, from 7:00 pm–8:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. For more information go to ololmke.org/gasic/ or contact the Parish Office.

Men's Spirituality Group

October 15 | 6:30 pm

All men are welcome to gather for real life conversations on how to live the Gospel in our day to day lives. Through prayer and reflection we will explore our role as brothers in Christ. This group normally meets the second Thursday of each month, but due to Oktoberfest, the date has been changed for the month of October only. The group will meet in Room 10.

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

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

Outreach

St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on Wednesday, October 14. Please bring fresh cut vegetables, hard-boiled eggs, and bakery to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, or no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday.

ololmke.org/st-bens/

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

October 20, November 3 and 17

Most needed items: peanut butter (both crunchy and creamy), tuna, frosting, graham crackers, jelly, oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, and baked beans. Please remember to check expiration dates.

ololmke.org/food-pantry

SVDP Blood Drive

Our Lady of Lourdes

Tuesday, October 20

1:30 pm-6:00 pm

Did you know that only 4% of Americans donate blood, even though 37% are eligible? If just 1% more of Americans donated blood, shortages would disappear. Every donation matters and every pint can help save up to three lives.

In-person registration will continue after all Masses next weekend or you can go online now and register at ololmke.org/blood-drives/.



Combined Collections is the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's twice-yearly participation in the USCCB National Collections. Instead of multiple second collections, parishioners receive two mailings each spring and fall.

This appeal supports Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Home Missions, Peter's Pence, World Mission Sunday, and the Church in Latin America, which strengthens families, supports Catholic education, and fosters vocations throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Help those in need through global Catholic ministries. Make your gift today at

archmil.givingfuel.com/combinedcollections

Learn more at

archmil.org/events/fall-combined-collections

Disciples on the Journey Podcast

Cathie Slater's interview premieres Tuesday, October 15.

Cathie shares her journey of faith in this month's episode on the Our Lady of Lourdes podcast channel. A preview clip of her podcast will be available at tinyurl.com/OLOLDotJ.

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

"I lean a lot on prayer. Prayer is very helpful. I would also say trust the process. I think a lot of people have questions and doubts, and those are okay, and you should question, and you should have doubts. You're human. But I just think stay the course, no matter how difficult.

"Reach out to people that can help you. But don't get discouraged because I did for a long time, and I found that the more I reached out and the more I stayed the course and leaned on my prayer, I found what I needed. And it wasn't right away. I remember talking to my dad about I had some difficult times in my life, and I would pray and I would say, 'I don't think God's listening to me.'

"And he told me, this is probably the most influential thing my dad ever told me. He said, 'You're on God's time. You will get the answer when he feels it's right for you. When you're open to whatever he's trying to tell you, you'll know.' And he was right."

Find out more about Cathie's journey by listening to her podcast. You can find her interview at:

tinyurl.com/OLOLDotJ

Podcast cover for Disciples on the Journey, featuring a golden statue of the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus. The text reads: "Disciples on the Journey", "A Catholic storytelling podcast", "Presented by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church", "SCAN TO LISTEN" with a QR code, and "tinyurl.com/OLOLDotJ".

Advertisement for "Love—Until the Last Breath" featuring a close-up of hands holding each other. The text reads: "LOVE—Until the Last Breath", "Our lives are gifts from God.", "Assisted suicide, which denies the dignity of human life, is gaining influence in our world. This Respect Life Month, we are reminded that intentionally causing the death of an innocent person is always wrong, regardless of the circumstances or a person's condition. Throughout October, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is providing opportunities to learn more, including presentations at parishes. Go to www.archmil.org/love-until-the-last-breath for details.", a QR code, and the "ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE" logo.



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