Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

November 15, 2026

33rd 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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Join the Parish

ololmke.org/become-a-member

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Notes from Deb

A few words about our Gospel.

For those who listen to my Wednesday Table Reflections, you know that I am not a fan of these end times readings we have as our liturgical year draws to a close. Even so, I found myself touched by the parable Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, especially around the third servant. That servant says, "…so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground."

That led me to think of all that we do (or what we avoid doing) out of fear. We avoid tough conversations or choose to skip seeking help. We choose not to try something new and sometimes we even lash out at others because we are afraid. Fear is a natural response to threats. It keeps us safe and helps us prepare for difficult situations; however, when fear keeps us from doing what is right or taking care of ourselves, or being the disciple God calls us to be, then we have some work to do.

It's good to remind ourselves that Jesus says repeatedly throughout the Gospels to fear not, to be not afraid. And it's good to remind ourselves that as a human being Jesus understood our fears and felt them himself.

As we journey together, building God's kin-dom let's be courageous! Let's take a risk or two to try something new or to build a connection with someone. And when our fears get to be too much, let's share those with Jesus. He gets it.

Know of my love and my prayers for each of you.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

Sunday, November 15

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

Monday, November 16

11:30 am	Resurrection Choir	Rm 9
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Discipleship Planning Team	Virtual

Tuesday, November 17

3:00 pm	Food Pantry	Rm 7
5:30 pm	Wilson Park Neighborhood Watch Group	Hall A
5:30 pm	Adoption Support Group	Rm 6

Wednesday, November 18

9:30 am	Mass	Church
10:15 am	Wednesday Morning Faith Group Social Thanksgiving Potluck	Hall C
12:30 pm	Euchre Card Group	Rm 10
6:00 pm	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Rm 3

Thursday, November 19

3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, November 20–Parish Office Closed

Saturday, November 21

Christmas Giving Tree

10:00 am	Thrill of Hope Reh.	Rm 9
11:00 am	Walking Through Grief Together	Rm 3
4:00 pm	Mass (Schramm)	Church

Sunday, November 22

Christmas Giving Tree

8:00 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
9:00 am	GIFT	Hall
10:30 am	Mass (Burkert)	Church
11:30 am	Environment Change	Church

Parish Support - October 2026

	ACTUAL as of 10/29/26	BUDGETED for October
Reg. Envelopes	**$63,580.11**	**$68,500.00**
Offertory	**$4107.55**	**$3,750.00**

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: October 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	**$319,138.53**	**$326,900.00**
Bequests	**$500.00**	
Op. Expenses	**$376,287.13**	**$345,872.98**

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/26	**$437,986.31**
Donations	**$8,924.64**
Expense	**$56,915.30**
Balance (10/29/26)	**$389,995.65**

Community Life

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Mary Kaniewski
From John Kaniewski

Virtue of the Week

Certitude

Certitude is an attitude of faith and confidence. It is taking bold steps forward after discerning what we believe to be true, and trusting that all will be well. We don't allow the fads and ways of the world to control us. We hear a higher calling. We lead our lives by moral principles. We explore a belief or decision through prayer and contemplation. When clarity comes we trust it. Certitude helps us engage our will and take decisive action. Even if we stumble or fail, we don't allow doubt to distract us from what we know.

How does having certitude give you faith in your decisions?

Who or what helps you persevere in service of your purpose?

Gather your family or friends and pray for certitude.



Formation

Next GIFT Session is Sunday, November 22 at 9:00 am

Fr. Joe Juknialis, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, will be our presenter for the adult session. His presentation, Advent Spirituality, will look at how our lives echo some of the biblical lives that surface during the Advent season. He will also will at paths for prayer that will help with maintaining peace in the busyness of the coming days. Advent is right around the corner!

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

House of Peace Food Boxes

Thank you to all who donated food and to all who helped us sort the food and pack the boxes on Saturday, November 14. You are making the holidays a little brighter for families in our greater Milwaukee community. Thank you for your generosity!

Worship

The Advent Candle in the Window



The tradition of placing a lit candle in the window during the holiday season is a beautiful practice rooted in centuries of history, carrying deep meanings of welcome, hope, and community. While many view it as a cozy decorative touch, this glowing custom began as a silent form of communication and a beacon for weary travelers.

Historically, a candle in the window was a literal sign of hospitality. In early America, homes were often isolated by vast distances and dark, unlit roads. A flame in the window signaled to travelers that they could find food, shelter, and a safe place to rest. It was an unspoken promise that the people inside were ready to welcome a stranger with open arms.

The tradition also holds profound religious and cultural significance. When practicing Catholicism was forbidden in Ireland, families would place a candle in their window on Christmas Eve to silently signal to priests that it was safe to enter and perform Mass. To disguise the religious meaning from authorities, families explained that the light was meant to guide Joseph and Mary to shelter, as there was no room at the inn.

Similarly, the colonial American tradition evolved into a celebration of the safe return of a family member, often a sailor or a soldier, serving as a guiding light to lead them back home.

Today, whether using a traditional wax candle or a modern electric version, keeping a light in the window remains a powerful symbol. It reminds us to practice kindness, offer hospitality, and share warmth during the darkest days of the year. It represents a message to our neighbors that our home is a place of peace and goodwill. What a wonderful message to display during the Advent season!

Spotlight

Unsung Disciples

Every weekend, the collections taken at our 4:00 pm Saturday, 8:00 am Sunday, and 10:30 am Sunday Masses do much more than help balance a budget. They help sustain the life of Our Lady of Lourdes. Those gifts support the everyday essentials of parish operations, including staff compensation, utilities, and building maintenance. Just as importantly, they make possible the worship, faith formation, and ministries that bring us together, help us care for one another, and allow our parish to serve the wider community.

That's why we have something worth celebrating.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, OLOL experienced an **8% increase in weekly Mass collections**. This happened at a time when many households were feeling the pinch of higher grocery bills, gas prices, and other everyday expenses. The increase reflects the generosity of longtime parishioners as well as those who have more recently made OLOL their spiritual home.

To us, that says something important. It tells us that our parishioners believe in what we are doing together and want to see our community continue to grow and thrive.

We also know that generosity looks different for everyone. Some people can contribute more than others, and that is simply the reality of life. Whether you place $1 in the basket each week or $20, your contribution is part of something larger. Together, those gifts give our parish a stronger foundation for tomorrow. No gift is too small to deserve our gratitude.

So, to all of you, please know that your support has not gone unnoticed. You are helping keep the lights on, the doors open, and our mission moving forward.

On behalf of the Pastoral Council, thank you sincerely for your faith, your generosity, and your continued commitment to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Jim Stamatakos

Pastoral Council Member

Discipleship

Little Blue Books for Advent

The popular Advent daily prayer guide is back! Make the Little Blue Book your Advent companion and take it with you anywhere. The books are now available in the front lobby.

Advent Calendars

Advent Calendars will be available beginning next weekend on the tables inside the church space doors. Please plan to take one home and hang it in a prominent place. Perform a different act of kindness each day of Advent until you complete the whole calendar. Each activity will help you build the Kin-dom that we will hear more about during the Advent season.

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

November 23 | 6:30 pm

As the holiday approaches, we will pause as a faith community to give thanks for our many blessings, share in scripture, and lift up our hearts in prayer. Please mark your calendar and join us as we gather in gratitude. A pie social will follow in the Parish Hall.

The Infancy Narratives: Scriptural Accounts of the Birth of Jesus

December 7 | 6:30 pm

Presenter: Jim Gill

Angels, shepherds, stars, and kings are all part of the stories of Jesus' birth found in the Gospels, and each carry rich meanings that would have been apparent to their original audiences, but maybe not to us. In this presentation we'll explore these stories from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew leading to a deeper experience of hearing them again this year.

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

Outreach

Grief Support

The Walking Through Grief Together group will meet twice next month, December 5 and 19 starting at 11:00 am in Room 3. No need to register. This group provides a safe setting for sharing and support with others going through loss.

Haiti Craft Sale

Our annual Haiti Craft Sale will be held on Saturday, November 28, and Sunday, November 29, after all Masses. We will have Haitian art and food products available. Tanya Gross will also have her artwork available with a percentage of her profits going to Outreach to Haiti. This allows us to utilize her ability to take credit cards for sales.

Youth Service Opportunities

Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 16 | 5:45 pm–7:15 pm
(includes a 15-minute practice before we start singing)



Help us continue the tradition of singing Christmas carols at Clement Manor. You don't have to be a great singer, just bring your enthusiasm and holiday spirit! Festive dress encouraged! Wear those fun Christmas sweaters and hats! Youth and their families are invited. Contact Tanya Gross if you are interested in attending.

Fleece Blanket Making for the Homeless

Saturday, January 9 | 1:00 pm–4:00 pm



Join the Fleece Blanket Making community at Our Lady of Lourdes in making blankets for homeless shelters and warming houses in Milwaukee. No experience necessary. This is a great intergenerational activity. We will provide instructions.

We purchased fleece in bulk so you don't have to purchase it ahead of time. Purchase blanket kits from Tanya Gross prior to January 9 for $40.

Join the Wednesday Faith Group for Holiday Fellowship!

The Wednesday Faith Group invites you to celebrate the season with two special gatherings filled with good food, friendship, and community. For 50 years, parishioners have gathered on Wednesday mornings for prayer, conversation, and fellowship. Friendships are strengthened, stories are shared, and new members are always welcomed.



Thanksgiving Potluck
Wednesday, November 18
Following 9:30 am Mass

Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish and join us for a wonderful potluck celebration. Whether it's a treasured family recipe, a classic side dish, or a favorite dessert, your contribution will help make the meal special. Most importantly, bring yourself and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners.

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 16
Following 9:30 am Mass

Celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Wednesday Faith Group at our annual Christmas Party. This year's event will feature a catered meal and plenty of holiday cheer. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks, but be sure to mark your calendar now.

The Wednesday Faith Group is a welcoming community where faith, friendship, and fun come together. You don't need to be a regular attendee to join us. Whether you've participated for years or are curious about visiting for the first time, we'd love to meet you.

Come pull up a chair, share a meal, and experience the warmth of Wednesday mornings at OLOL!

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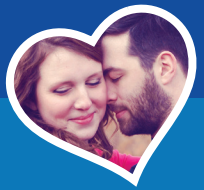
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CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Please stop in the meeting room hallway, beginning November 21, to select a Giving Tree gift tag and purchase a Christmas gift for a child from a local parish. Requested items to buy are on the tags. Please leave your first name and a phone number for us on the bottom tag and leave that tag on the board. Please, only take the small colored tag.

You do not need to buy everything on the list. The suggested spending amount is $25.

Please return the wrapped gift with tag attached to the cart in the meeting room hallway no later than December 6.

For some of the hundreds of children we serve, this will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry, year after year. Your kindness is truly appreciated by those we serve.