Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

November 22, 2026

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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

3722 S. 58th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053
(414) 545-4316

ololmke.org
office@ololmke.org
/ololmke
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@ololmke

Join the Parish

ololmke.org/become-a-member

Patricia Fabian (Administration) fabianp@ololmke.org	**Marc Puechner (Communications)** puechnerm@ololmke.org
Bill Goulding (Deacon) gouldingb@ololmke.org	**Cindi Roark (Finance)** roarkc@ololmke.org
Tanya Gross (Youth & Adult Ministry) grosst@ololmke.org	**Deb Steppe (Parish Director)** stepped@ololmke.org
Paul Kuenzi (Maintenance) kuenzip@ololmke.org	**Steve Szymanski (Child Ministry)** szymanskis@ololmke.org
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



Notes from Deb

Thanksgiving & Advent

Thanksgiving is this week! Please join us on Monday, November 23, at 6:30 pm for our Thanksgiving prayer service followed by a pie social. We all have so much for which to be grateful, including being a part of this parish family. Let's begin Thanksgiving week with prayers of gratitude and plates of pie!

The sacred, short, and really busy season of Advent begins next weekend. Holiday parties, shopping, baking, and family get-togethers fill up the four short weeks before Christmas. Those endeavors are all wonderful, and yet they can obscure the beauty and sacredness of the season.

As in years past, I have crafted an online Advent retreat to make the season a little more prayerful. The retreat is based on the daily scripture readings and takes just a few minutes each day. There are entries from Sunday through Friday of each week.

It is helpful to read the scripture readings of the day ahead of time; helpful, but certainly not necessary. Feel free to use the retreat in whatever way fits into your schedule. You may want to do the retreat all six days of each week that are listed, or you may want to skip around and tune in when time allows. Do whatever best nourishes your spirit and fills your heart. The retreat can be found at ololmke.org/advent-prayer/.

Know of my prayers, my love and my gratitude for you all.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

Calendar

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

Monday, November 23

1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Prayer Service and Pie Social	Church

Tuesday, November 24

10:30 am	SVDP Mtg.	Rm 3
1:00 pm	Art Guild Mtg./Class	Rm 4
3:30 pm	Spirit & Grace Reh.	Rm 10
6:00 pm	Finance Council Mtg.	Rm 9

Wednesday, November 25–Parish Office Closed at 12:00 pm

Thursday, November 26–Parish Office Closed–Thanksgiving



Friday, November 27–Parish Office Closed

Saturday, November 28
Christmas Giving Tree
Haiti Craft Sale

4:00 pm	Mass (Lewis)	Church

Sunday, November 29
Christmas Giving Tree
Haiti Craft Sale

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

Parish Support - November 2026

	ACTUAL as of 11/5/26	BUDGETED for October
Reg. Envelopes	**$16,359.88**	**$72,750.00**
Offertory	**$1,010.00**	**$3,750.00**

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Op. Income	**$337,219.66**	**$414,487.50**
Bequests	**$500.00**	
Op. Expenses	**$388,578.10**	**$428,357.73**

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/26	**$437,986.31**
Donations	**$9,829.52**
Expense	**$56,915.30**
Balance (11/5/26)	**$390,900.53**

Community Life

Avoid things falling between the cracks!



We have a secure inside drop/mailbox for any items you want to submit to the office that is always available if the building is open. This box is clearly labeled and right next to the office door. It can only be opened from inside the office and is checked daily. We ask that everyone please refrain from sliding things in between the glass windows at the front office and use the mailbox.

Catholic Social Teaching

Today's gospel is a familiar one. Jesus describes the Father separating the "sheep from the goats." The sheep are those who showed mercy and generosity to "these least ones." The goats are those who neglected the needs of the least. The social justice application is obvious; when we are charitable to "the least," we are charitable to God and vice versa.

Who are "these least ones?" Who does our culture shun and neglect? Who doesn't have a voice in powerful spaces? The very young and very old, the poor, the sick, the addicted, the mentally ill, the abused... we could all go on and on.

This reading brings to mind the two feet of social justice. One is direct service (feeding, visiting, clothing, etc.). The other foot is systemic change. We need to consider the root causes of suffering and work to alleviate them.

Some of us excel at charitable works. Others excel at advocacy. Perhaps we can challenge ourselves engage in the one we find more difficult, because serving our sisters and brothers in need requires both.

Formation

GIFT December 6: St Francis, The Little Poor Man from Assisi, Model for Many

Join us at GIFT on Sunday, December 6, at 9:00 am in the Hall as Sr. Diana De Bruin presents on St. Francis and why so many people are intrigued by St. Francis' example. St Francis is being followed by so many today. What values did he live by that drew people to him in his life and still stir in our hearts today to help us to create the "kin-dom" of God here on Earth? How does Francis view all of creation?
If you are not signed up for GIFT, but wish to attend this session, please call the office.

Christmas Eve Gospel Dramatization

Mark your calendars for a Christmas Eve tradition at OLOL, as children in GIFT grades 3 & 4 will dramatize the Gospel as it is read at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve liturgy. This is especially helpful for younger children to understand why we celebrate Christmas.



Calling All Youth in Grades 7-12!

Our next Youth Action Council (YAC) Meeting is Thursday, December 10, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm, in Room 9. Join us for some prayer, some fun, and some planning for future events. Your input is needed!

Worship

Our Community, in the Larger Community

There's something new hanging in the hallway between our church space and the Parish Hall—a bulletin board where you can find information about activities that members of our church family are doing both in our own building and out in the community. Concerts, shows, art fairs, etc. will be posted there. Take a look, and you'll already see that two of our youth are performing in "Matilda, Jr." with Forte Theatre at the end of January.

The Thrill of Hope: An Advent Musical Celebration

Come join our OLOL choir members and cantors, as we celebrate the heartwarming message of the holiday season on **Sunday, December 6, 4:00 pm**. Accompanying the singers will be a 7-piece instrumental ensemble, along with poetry readings by several youth and adult parishioners. You'll even have the opportunity to sing along! This one-hour concert is perfect for all ages, so bring your family and friends. While a free-will donation basket will be available, there is no cost to attend the concert.

Reminders of Upcoming Fun

For more details on the following activities, please see both previous and future bulletins, or call Director of Music Ministries, Anne Van Deusen.

- **Christmas Tree Lighting** – Friday, December 4, 6:45 pm. Join in singing carols around the tree on the triangle where Forest Home Ave, Oklahoma Ave and S. 43rd street intersect.
- **All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914** – Runs December 11-22. This stunning true story is produced by Vanguard Milwaukee, is performed at Calvary Presbyterian Church (the big red church on 10th/Wisconsin), and features our very own cantor Tomás Dominguez.
- **Greg Hartmann, Classical Pianist** – Friday, February 19, 6:30 pm, at Our Lady of Lourdes. Enjoy an evening of beautiful solo piano music.

Spotlight

A few weeks ago, while attending GIFT, a quote was shared during our session: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." Now, I have heard this many times before but for some reason, on that particular day, the phrase kept rolling around in my head. Of course, I tied that back to another favorite passage in the Bible. Corinthians 12:4-11 talks about all the different gifts each of us has: the gift of faith, the gift of healing, the gift of knowledge, or the gift of prophecy, just to name a few. The passage ends by saying, "It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts." While that passage isn't the Gospel, I truly believe that that Corinthians passage could be the very essence of preaching the Gospel without words but by using all the gifts that the Spirit has given us.

As we head into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, what are some of your gifts that can preach the Gospel by spreading love and care for each other without words? Are you a baker or cook who might be able to create a meal for someone who is hungry? Do you have the gift of knitting to create a warm blanket for someone who is cold? Are you blessed with the gift of deep faith to hold all those in need in your prayers? At Our Lady of Lourdes, we are filled with many disciples so generously preach the Gospel without using words all the time by giving of their many gifts!

Denise Haussy
Pastoral Council

Discipleship

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.

Advent Calendars

Advent Calendars are available on the tables inside the church space doors. Please 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 this Advent season.

Advent 2026 Virtual Retreat

The Advent online retreat will be available once again. Led by Parish Director, Deb Steppe, we will be gifted with something to reflect upon each day of the upcoming Advent season. This is a quick and simple Advent prayer opportunity. The introduction will be available November 23 and the retreat will begin November 29. This is available on our parish website at ololmke.org/advent-prayer/.

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

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

December 1, 15, and 29

Most needed items: Chef Boy R Dee, canned soup (both creamed and regular), canned fruit, cookies, and saltines. Please remember to check expiration dates. ololmke.org/food-pantry

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.

Christmas Giving Tree

Just a reminder that the Christmas Giving Tree has begun. Please stop in the corridor to select a tag to buy a gift for a child. All gifts are due back, wrapped and with the tags securely attached, by Sunday, December 6.

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.

Welcome New Parishioners

October 2026

Nancy and Roman Alvarez Jr.
Sage Calderon
Linda Krysiak
Braden Kundert
Soren Miller
Ann and Jon Neal
Ronald and Janice Pogodzinski

More Community News from Our Neighbors

Blessed Sacrament Cookie/Bake Sale
Saturday, December 5 | 3:00 pm–6:00 pm
Sunday, December 6 | 8:00 am–12:00 pm

Blessed Sacrament Christian Women are hosting a cookie/bake sale located in the Church Hall (Elevator Accessible). All treats are homemade. Some gluten free items will be available.

Blessed Sacrament is located at 3100 S. 41st Street, Milwaukee.

Communications

Stay Connected During Winter Weather

One of the lessons every Wisconsinite learns is that weather can change quickly! With many new families and parishioners joining our community in recent years, this is a good time to share how Our Lady of Lourdes Parish communicates weather-related closures and cancellations.

When we need to close the building or cancel activities, our first notifications are sent through the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish App ololmke.org/allabouttheapp/ and our new text alert system https://ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/inclement-weather-and-safety-alert-text-agreement/. These are the fastest ways to receive accurate information directly from the parish. If texts and apps are not your thing, you can sign-up for email alerts at https://ololmke.wufoo.com/forms/group-email-request/.

After notifications are sent, updates will also be posted on our website Home page and Facebook and Instagram pages. We additionally submit notices to local television stations. Above all, please use common sense and stay safe. Conditions can vary greatly across the Milwaukee area, and your safety always comes first.

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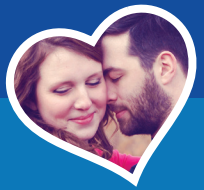
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Haiti Craft Sale

After all Masses
November 28-29, 2026



Due to the continued unrest in Haiti, we are unable to send a parish group to visit, but we still have some inventory from past years and have acquired items from other sources. Please come support our sisters and brothers in Haiti by purchasing some Haitian crafts.

This is beneficial in several ways:

- **Directly supports the artists in Haiti by providing a much-needed market for their crafts**
- **Supports our parish's twin, Outreach to Haiti, and their work in Haiti. All profits from the sale go directly back to them**
- **Provides advocacy for Haiti by exposing the people of Milwaukee to some of the beautiful crafts created by the Haitian people**
- **Provides a source of unusual, yet beautiful, Christmas gifts for the members of Our Lady of Lourdes to purchase. Every purchase made will connect the buyer directly to the Haitian people and Outreach to Haiti**

PLEASE STOP BY THE PARISH HALL AFTER MASS NEXT WEEKEND!

We accept cash or check. Tanya Gross will be there once again with her artwork and will do credit card sales for us. 10% of her sales also goes to Outreach to Haiti.

Mesi Anpil (Thank you very much)!