

DEC 1, 2024

1st Sunday in Advent



# Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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coming to know  
the kingdom of God  
by being Christ  
to the world.

“May the Lord  
make you increase  
and abound in love  
for one another  
and for all.”

1 Thes 3:12



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

#### EUCCHARIST:

**SAT** 4:00 PM

**SUN** 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

**WED** 9:30 AM

#### PARISH DIRECTOR

**DEB STEPPE**

Office: (414) 545-4316 x113

#### CONNECT:

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# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Parish Support - November 2024

	ACTUAL <i>as of 11/18/2024</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Nov</i>
Reg. Envelopes .....	\$40,0139.90	\$87,222.47
Offertory.....	\$1,764.00	\$4,999.95

## Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income .....	\$345,647.38	\$379,288.36
Operating Expenses.....	\$325,919.02	\$388,521.34

## Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/24...	\$169,666.89
Donations.....	\$11,146.76
Expenses.....	\$83,376.50
<b>Balance (11/18/2024)</b>	<b>\$97,437.15</b>

**THANK YOU!**

*Our Lady of Lourdes is greatly  
blessed with your continued  
generous support  
of all our ministries!*

## 2024 Catholic Stewardship Appeal (9/23/2024)

Donations: ..... **\$27,735.00**  
Goal is \$61,175..... 45.34%

Donors: ..... **135**  
# of donors: 1,010..... 13.37%  
Participation goal..... 15.6%

**DECIDE TO LEAD**

[www.CatholicAppeal.org](http://www.CatholicAppeal.org)

## NOTES FROM DEB

### Advent

Today we begin the season of Advent. It is certainly a beautiful, sacred time in the church calendar—and probably the most hectic time in the secular calendar! Shopping, parties, gatherings, and giving gifts are wonderful, but can overshadow the sacredness of these days.

Once again, I have crafted an online Advent retreat to help us all stay grounded in our faith during these busy December days. I will have an entry for every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday of Advent, and I'm designing it so that every entry takes just a few minutes each day.

The retreat, based on the readings of the day, will include guided meditations, psalm prayers, music, and reflections on scripture. The retreat can be found at [ololmke.org/advent-prayer/](http://ololmke.org/advent-prayer/) on our website.

Your shepherd,  
Deb Steppe



## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

### Strength

Strength is the inner power to withstand whatever comes. It is our capacity to endure in the midst of tests. We grow in strength when we tackle life's challenges with courage and determination. We stay strong when we recognize that suffering is a thread woven through the design of our lives, not to make us unhappy, but to transform us with grace.

In the Gospel, Jesus directs believers to "not become drowsy" to "be vigilant" and to pray.

How has your strength helped you to face the struggles of daily life? Can you share a time when prayer gave you the strength you needed?

## SUN 1

*Giving Tree*  
8:00 am Liturgy (Burkert) Church  
10:30 am Liturgy (Burkert) Church

## MON 2

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5  
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6  
11:00 am Sheepshead Tutoring Rm 10  
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

## TUE 3

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5  
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6  
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7

## COMMUNITY LIFE

## FORMATION

### Welcome New Parishioners October 2024

Victoria Flask  
Barbara Lentz  
Joshua and Sarah Sikorski

### In Memoriam

In loving memory of  
Elaine Acker

From  
Gerald C Boeckmann  
Marvin and Karen Tebbe  
Brian and Diana Dulle

### Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 8  
8:30 am–12:30 pm  
Saint Barnabas Church  
Orchard Street Site Cafeteria  
1533 South 71st Street, West Allis

All you can eat cheese omelets or scrambled eggs breakfast with all the sides and fixings.

Adults: \$15  
Children (3-10): \$7  
Children (under 3): **Free**

One **free** picture per family with Santa. Additional picture(s) available with a donation. Pictures will be taken from 9:00 am–12:00 pm. A bake sale, raffles, and kids' games are also available.

Questions, please call (414) 774-3010 or check our website of [westalliscatholic.org](http://westalliscatholic.org) and look under Holy Assumption Site Events

### Hope Does Not Disappoint at GIFT Next Sunday

Who couldn't use some hope these days? Please join us at GIFT next Sunday, December 8, at 9:00 am in the hall, as we explore the jubilee year that begins on Christmas Eve and runs through 2025. This is also our Donut Sunday. Join us on December 8 from 8:45 am–9:00 am for some sweet treats and fellowship before GIFT. RSVP to [tinyurl.com/adventdonuts](http://tinyurl.com/adventdonuts) by December 3 to get a donut! If you have any dietary restrictions that need to be considered, please let Maggie know before December 3 as well.

### New Year's Eve Potluck: An OLOL Community Event

Join us in celebrating New Year's Eve as a parish family! This New Year's Eve Potluck kicks off with 4:00 pm Mass, followed by a community dinner and festive activities, including a 6:00 pm countdown (midnight in London!). Keep an eye out for a flyer in next week's bulletin with **all** the event details!

## HALLWAY ART SHOW

### Attention to Art Gallery and Mosaic Participants,

The Art Guild will be doing our annual fund raiser of our Mosaic Project. We will distribute 6-inch canvases (the weekends of December 7/8 and 14/15) to anyone that would like to participate. We encourage you to do any type of artwork that inspires you. In the past, people have painted, used verses, stickers, ceramics, and many items to enhance the canvases. You may go on the Our Lady of Lourdes Art Guild Facebook page to view the past Mosaic Projects to get some ideas. The completed canvases are to be turned back in to the Art Guild the weekend of February 8 and 9.

The Art Guild is pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring the Hanging Art Gallery again this year. Anyone can join us in this activity, by submitting original artwork that is able to be hung in our Hallways. In years past, we have had a variety of items ranging from paintings, fabric art, wooden pieces, stained glass, etc. There is no charge for entry if you are a member of the Art Guild and a small fee if you are not a member. We allow up to 4 pieces per person. We will be taking the art pieces in for hanging on the weekend of February 8 and 9. More details to follow as we get closer to the dates.

These are really a fun and creative way to get through some of those January Blues when it is too cold to go outside, or you are just wanting to hunker down with a project to stay warm and cozy in front of the fireplace or heat vent. Get those creative juices flowing and see how artistic you can be!

**WED 4**

**THU 5**

**FRI 6**

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5  
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6  
9:30 am Liturgy Church  
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C  
6:30 pm GIFT Core Team Virtual  
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 3

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5  
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6  
3:30 pm Spirit & Grace Choir Church  
6:30 pm The Chosen:  
Holy Night Hall C

**Office Closed**



# WORSHIP

## An Advent Reflection

“Lest the Word be far from us, God prepared his coming.  
 One who longed to share our fate, made with us his dwelling.  
 In the midst of you, is One you do not know.”  
 (Huub Oosterhuis)

How often do we recognize that God is in our midst? Do we see God’s presence in our family and friends, the stranger, the poor, those different from us, or those we don’t like or even consider our enemies?

The Church gives us the season of Advent to ponder the awesome mystery of the Incarnation: God’s birth into the human condition long ago, and God’s presence among us today. It comes during a chaotic time of the year when societal expectations pull us into a frenzy of shopping, decorating, parties, and family obligations. Yet we are asked (challenged?) to pause for prayer and reflection on this mystery of God’s indwelling presence among us.

Advent is about active waiting. But for what do we wait? What is it we long for? What needs to come to birth in our hearts? Waiting is not something we do well as we wait in lines, in traffic, for test results, for recovery, or for friendship or love. It helps to be mindful that in many other cultures people wait for things like clean water, basic shelter, sustainable work, and an end to war and oppressive leaders. Still, most of us would prefer to eliminate waiting altogether.

Our Advent waiting is meant to be both an inward and outward practice. When we can name what it is we are waiting for and what it is that needs to be born anew in our hearts, it will lead us to ways we can bring to birth a more kind, loving, generous, compassionate and forgiving world, building God’s “kin-dom” here on Earth.

“Then let patience be your guide, walk in ways of justice...  
 God touches all who live on earth,  
 makes a home among us.”  
 (Huub Oosterhuis)

### Scripture Readings for December 7/8

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 | Psalm 126 | Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 | Luke 3:1-6

# OUTREACH

## Giving Tree

Reminder, all Giving Tree gifts are due back next weekend!



### CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 1:

If you need to wait  
 in a line, don't  
 immediately pull  
 out your phone.  
 Experience the  
 feeling of waiting  
 and offer up a  
 prayer for someone  
 you know in need!

## SAT 7

## SUN 8

*Giving Tree*  
 Art Guild Mosaic Canvas Distribution  
 11:00 am Walking Through  
                   Grief Together           Rm 3  
 5:00 pm Liturgy (Burkert)       Church

*Giving Tree*  
 Art Guild Mosaic Canvas Distribution  
 8:00 am Liturgy (Cooper)       Church  
 10:30 am Liturgy (Abert)       Church

## COMMUNICATIONS

## SPOTLIGHT

### Bulletin Content Through the Holidays

As we progress through the holiday season and into our journey of Advent, it is good for us to remind everyone that our bulletins are printed by an outside publisher that distributes bulletins to churches throughout the country. With that service comes pushed up print dates due to the holidays. It also means that sometimes we cannot get items like condolences, memorials, and funerals published when they come in. Depending on space and timing these items may be published later than anticipated.

We ask you for your understanding as we try to do our best to publish information as we get it. Be sure to watch our website and other forms of communication for up-to-date information.

### The Slow Down

It's early December, and for many, that means things are very busy! We bake cookies, decorate, shop for presents, and visit with family and friends. In my house, it seems every weekend is filled with some sort of holiday to-do, and most weeknights are spent getting ready for the weekend to-dos. Everything seems to move so fast that sometimes we can lose sight of the "why." We bake cookies to share with family, friends, and neighbors to show love and care. We decorate the house to bring cheer and happiness to those who come into our homes and passersby. We purchase gifts to show how much we love and value the people in our lives. We go to celebrations to be near to those we love. If you think about it, all the things we do boil down to one concept—showing others we love them, just as Jesus loves us. For me, I need to remember to slow down amongst the hustle and bustle to remember that it is all about showing love to others in this most wonderful time of year. Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God," says it all! What does slowing it down look like for you during the Christmas season? What does remembering what it is all about mean to you? I encourage each of us to take time to slow down during this busy time to remember what it's all about and lean into the love.

Denise Haussy, Pastoral Council Member

## DISCIPLESHIP

## STAFF EMAIL

### Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night

Thursday, December 5  
6:30 pm  
OLOL Hall C  
Facilitated by: Jim Wielgosz

Some things just go together. Cookies and milk. Fall and football. How about *The Shepherd* and *The Messengers*? You know—the two *The Chosen* Christmas specials? Of course they go together. But here's the thing: they've actually never been together. Until now.

Call it regifting if you like, but we've taken these episodes from Christmas' past and woven them together into your Christmas present. Freshly recut and remastered, the two are now one seamless story about the birth of Jesus—Christmas with *The Chosen: Holy Night*.

All are welcome! No registration required!

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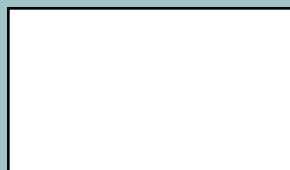
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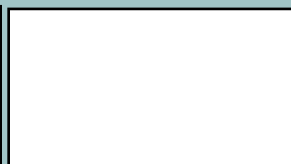
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Joy in the Waiting

# Advent

# Kindness Calendar

*Pick one activity to do each day during Advent*

**Clean your room without being asked**

**Attend a seasonal event**

**Sit with someone new at lunch**

**Call the person who serves you by name**

**Resist temptation to be cruel in words or actions**

**Compliment someone rather than criticize**

**Say good morning and good night to family members**

**Spend time doing volunteer work**

**Call someone you usually don't call**

**Write a note or card to someone**  
**No text or email**

**Tell family members you love them**

**Use a person's name when greeting them**

**Leave a note somewhere for someone to find**

**Wrap gifts with family or friends**

**Go ice skating**

**Drive around to see Christmas lights**

**Send a thank you note to someone who made an impact on you**

**Create a new Christmas tradition**

**Make a snow angel**

**Donate a toy to a toy drive**

**Sing or listen to Christmas music**

**Acknowledge service workers with a compliment**

**Donate to the Giving Tree**

**Get to know someone new at church or in your neighborhood**

**Build a snowman**



# Advent Kindness Calendar

*Pick one activity to do each day during Advent*



				Find a quiet place and just relax
			Return a stray grocery cart	Give attention to someone sad or who needs help
		Tip a bus or cleaning person and say Thank You	Sit in a new seat at church and introduce yourself	Protect the earth: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
	Get to know people who are different - showing acceptance	Send a note to someone who is away at college or alone.	Hold the door for someone and smile	Have a family meal with no cell phones, iPads, TV, or screentime
Take good care of all animals	Post a positive comment on a social media platform	Be aware of the beauty around you	Donate to a food pantry	Buy a stranger's meal
Go for a walk and pick up litter/trash	Let someone with fewer items cut in front of you in line.	Give a snack, drink, or treat to a delivery driver	Let someone take the primo parking spot	Compliment employees to their store manager
Wave and smile to people who walk or drive past you	Ask someone how they are doing and <u>really</u> listen to their answer	Bake and share Christmas cookies	Say "please" and "thank you"	Watch a holiday movie with family/friends