

DEC 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



“Prepare the way
of the Lord.”

Luke 3:4

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

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - November 22, 2024

	ACTUAL <i>as of 11/25/2024</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Nov</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$58,276.25	\$87,222.47
Offertory.....	\$2,427.55	\$4,999.95

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: November 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$364,884	\$87,222.49
Operating Expenses ...	\$342,761	\$388,521

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/24...	\$169,666.89
Donations.....	\$11,816.76
Expenses.....	\$83,376.50
Balance (11/22/2024)	\$98,107.15

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

NOTES FROM DEB

Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with our holy day liturgy beginning at 12:00 pm. The Immaculate Conception is our belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born without original sin.

As beautiful of a belief as that is, I think it makes it harder in some ways to relate to Mary as a human being. Her sinlessness makes her seem so different from us. Very often the depiction of Mary in popular culture shows her to be more porcelain than human. Her smile is often serene and perfect. I've seen images of Jesus laughing, but not Mary. It's easy to forget that she was as human as you and I. Mary was an unwed, pregnant teenager who struggled and worried, and who loved and laughed just as we do.

The difficult thing, I think, about a distant image of Mary is that when we see her so perfect, she becomes less of a role model for us. We lose the sense that we too are called by God to do miraculous things—miraculous things like keeping a family together during tough times, or caring for elderly parents and young children, or working two or three (!) jobs to put food on the table.

May we all share in her courage as we bring the presence of Jesus into our world.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Cooperation

Cooperation is working together for the good of all. It is the willingness to stand side by side and use the different gifts each of us has to offer. We seek common goals in service of a unified vision. We blend our abilities to create something none of us could achieve alone. With cooperation, we help one another to share the load. Together we accomplish greater things.

In the First Reading we hear, "because of your partnership for the gospel," and in the Gospel we hear, "Prepare the way of the Lord." How does our working cooperatively accomplish these things in our parish?

SUN 8

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

MON 9

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
11:00 am Sheepshead Tutoring Rm 10
12:00 pm Immaculate
Conception Liturgy Church
1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10
6:00 pm Christmas Choir Reh. Church

TUE 10

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:30 am SVDP Mtg. Rm 3
1:00 pm Art Guild Mtg. Rm 4

COMMUNITY LIFE

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Richard Kosiboski

From

Kathy Kosiboski & family
(Ross, Ronald, Tonya, Ryan,
Russell, Tiffany)

Women's Spirituality

Due to the reconciliation service the Women's Spirituality group is cancelled for December 11 and will resume on January 8th.

Martin Luther King Prayer Service

Saturday, January 28

1:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Church

1937 N. Vel Philips Ave., Milwaukee

Dr. King was a man of God who allowed scripture to guide him and motivate him. The prayer service is a way to experience his message and re-dedicate ourselves to the causes Dr. King stood for and gave his life for. The service engages and challenges attendees to look within and ask, "How are you living God's call for you? How are you being Christ-like in your homes, in your communities, in your churches, in the world?"

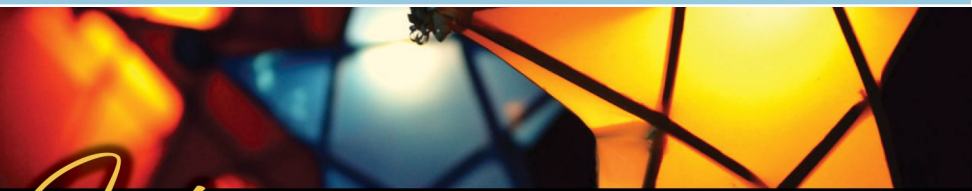
FORMATION

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children (OCIA)

Join us for the next OCIA check-in meeting on Thursday, December 12, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm. Although the official OCIA process begins in Lent, these monthly meetings offer an opportunity to meet others and learn more. If you or your child are interested in receiving the sacraments, this meeting is for you! Contact Maggie Russell, Director of Formation Ministries, at the Parish Office for Zoom details.

Christmas Eve Gospel Dramatization

Join us 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.



Join us FOR SIMBANG GABI

The Filipino community invites you to a devotional, nine-day series of Masses in preparation for Christmas.

Mass | Music | Food | Fun

December 15 – 23, 2024

Simbang Gabi is the annual Filipino festival commemorating the Advent season, with a devotional nine-day series of Masses. Scan here or visit the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for more information.
archmil.org/simbang-gabi



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

WED 11

THU 12

FRI 13

7:00 am St. Ben's Meal Prep Kitchen
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
12:00 pm Advent Communal Reconciliation Church
7:00 pm Advent Communal Reconciliation Church
7:00 pm GASIC Virtual

8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 5
8:15 am Autism Intervention Rm 6
9:00 am Stewardship Mailing Preparation Rm 4
6:30 pm Social Justice Cmte. Rm 3
6:30 pm OCIA Info Session Virtual

Office Closed

WORSHIP

OUTREACH

Advent Offerings

Advent Kindness Calendar

This year, our Liturgy Committee has been focusing on how we experience “joy in the waiting” during the season of Advent. Along with that came the idea to help spread the joy – to ourselves, to our family and friends, to our community, and to the world. Please be sure to grab an Advent Kindness Calendar. This paper includes 50 ideas, generated by all of you. You can also download and print a copy from our website at ololmke.org/advent-prayer/ under “Online Resources.” Choose one activity per day throughout Advent. Together, we’ll spread more joy than we can imagine!

Immaculate Conception

Because the feast day lands on a Sunday this year, we will gather to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Monday, December 9, at 12:00 pm. We hope you will take a break from the busyness of the season and share this time praying with each other.

Christmas Choir Begins This Monday

Come share your holiday spirit with the rest of our community by singing with our Christmas Choir. All ages and abilities are invited. Signing up ahead of time is helpful, but not required. You can simply come to our first rehearsal to get involved.

Please note: Attendance at all three rehearsals is required to help us become the best ensemble we can and prepare for Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals: Mondays, December 9 and 16, 6:00 pm–7:15 pm
Monday, December 23, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Mass: Tuesday, December 24, 9:00 pm (meet at 8:15 pm)

Advent Reconciliation – Wednesday, December 11, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Again, in the midst of the busyness of the season, we remind ourselves of the ways we are called to be Christ in the world, and we reflect on the times we may have not done our best. Having the support of others, as well as being that support for others, is a helpful way to refocus our actions. It reminds us of the anticipated joy of the season, led always by our love for Christ and for one another.

Scripture Readings for December 14/15

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a | Isaiah 12 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:10-18

Giving Tree

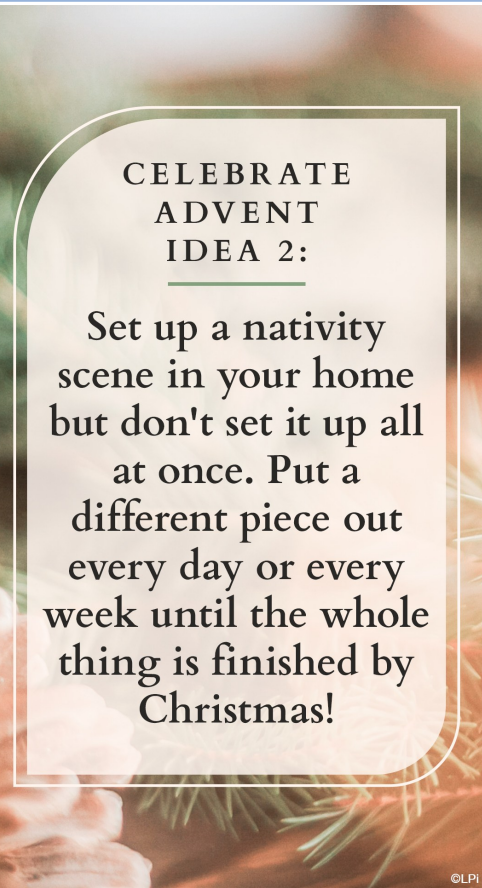
Giving Tree gifts are due back at this time. The schools will be picking them up this week. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Ben’s Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor’s meal program on Wednesday, December 11. Please bring food donations to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, or no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday. ololmke.org/st-bens/

Social Justice: An Invitation

The Social Justice Committee seeks to educate and awaken people to the issues of justice that confront society today. We meet monthly on the second Thursday. Our next meeting is December 12, at 6:30 pm, in Room 3. We invite you to be our guest to learn more about our mission and activities.



CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 2:

Set up a nativity scene in your home but don't set it up all at once. Put a different piece out every day or every week until the whole thing is finished by Christmas!

SAT 14

SUN 15

Haiti Craft Fair
Art Guild Mosaic Canvas Distribution
Welcome Weekend
5:00 pm Liturgy (Lewis) Church

Haiti Craft Fair
Art Guild Mosaic Canvas Distribution
Welcome Weekend
8:00 am Liturgy (Schramm) Church
10:30 am Liturgy (Burkert) Church

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Avoid Holiday Shopping Scams

It's the holiday shopping season which means cybercriminals looking to take advantage of well intentioned people. Use these tips to help guide your online shopping to avoid scams.

- Stick to reputable retailers.
- Use a credit card for online purchases.
- Avoid impulse donations. Research the charity to make sure it is legit.
- Delete unsolicited messages about orders you never made or unexpected deliveries. Look up the retailer's phone number from their website if you feel you need to confirm or check your credit card statements.
- Avoid clicking links in emails. Go directly to retailer websites through a browser.

Open Wide Our Hearts

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Isaiah 1:17

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 was one of the most significant achievements of the Civil Rights Movement. Ever since its passage, efforts have been and are being made to dismantle it. One provision of the VRA required states with a history of discriminatory voting practices to submit any changes in voting laws to the federal government.

In 2013, the Supreme Court held this provision to be unconstitutional. Currently, 36 states have laws requiring photo IDs to vote. While obtaining a photo ID is an easy process for many of us, that is not true for everyone. Please see the following article for some good information on voter ID requirements and people on the margins:

<https://www.democracymatters.com/analysis/how-id-requirements-harm-marginalized-communities-and-their-right-to-vote>

Justice demands that every American citizen eligible to vote should be able to vote.

"If you want peace, work for justice." (St. Pope Paul VI)

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Committee

DISCIPLESHIP

STAFF EMAIL

Advent Longing

Spirit of Life and Love,
Our hearts are filled with longing.
Longing for a world with more hope
and less despair;
Longing for more happy hearts and
fewer hungry mouths;
Longing for a life of more
connection and less isolation;
Longing for love rather than hate;
Longing for a future of less
consumption and more compassion;
Longing for peace and less violence;
Longing for leaders that speak truth;
Longing for a nation that
acknowledges injustice and works to makes things right;
Longing for a present with each of us doing what we can to end racism and
all forms of oppression.
Come Lord Jesus!



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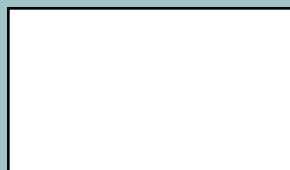
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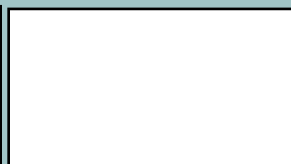
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Haiti Craft Sale

**After all Masses
December 14-15, 2024**

Due to the continued unrest in Haiti, we were unable to send a parish group to visit this year, 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 crafts.

This is beneficial in several ways:

- **It directly supports the artists in Haiti by providing a much-needed market for their crafts.**
- **It supports our parish's twin, Outreach to Haiti, and their work in Haiti. All profits from the sale go directly back to them.**
- **It provides advocacy for Haiti by exposing the people of Milwaukee to some of the beautiful crafts created by the Haitian people.**
- **It 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!

Mesi Anpil (Thank you very much)!



Please join us for a

NEW YEAR'S EVE *Potluck*

An OLOL Community Event

Hosted By Intergenerational Youth Ministry

Tuesday, December 31, at 4:00 PM



Hello friends!

I am excited to invite you to our second OLOL Community Celebration of the year, our **NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK!** This event, hosted by our Intergenerational Youth Ministry program, offers a chance for us to come together as a parish family, sharing food, fellowship, and joyful memories to welcome the New Year.

Event Details

- 3:30 PM–4:00 PM – Drop off your dish in the Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM – New Year's Eve Mass
- 5:00 PM – Potluck Dinner
- 6:00 PM – Happy New Year! (our 6 o'clock is London's midnight!)
- 6:00 PM–6:30 PM – Hall Cleanup (volunteers welcome!)

What to Bring

To ensure a variety of food, we are asking each household to bring a dish based on the first letter of your last name (these dishes can be store-bought or homemade):

- **Last Name A–G:** Appetizers or Salads (think finger foods or other small bites, pasta salads, fruit salads, or traditional leafy salads)
- **Last Name H–M:** Entrees or Main Dishes (consider bringing a dish that is a holiday tradition in your household)
- **Last Name N–Z:** Desserts (sweet treats to end a lovely meal)

The Parish will supply plates, napkins, cutlery, cups, coffee, water, and New Year's Punch (non-alcoholic).

Please bring your dish at serving temperature with any necessary serving utensils. Our steam tables and warming oven will be available to keep the dish at serving temperature.

How to RSVP

Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/NYEatOLOL or through the Parish Office.

This event will be delightfully packed opportunities for festive fellowship and fun New Year's activities for all ages. We look forward to seeing everyone at this joyful event as we welcome the New Year with gratitude and hope.

Brightest Blessings,



Maggie Russell
Director of Formation Ministries