

NOV 24, 2024

Solemnity of Christ the King



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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

NOTES FROM DEB

Happy Thanksgiving!

This week, we celebrate the most spiritual of secular holidays, Thanksgiving. Growing up, my mom hosted this holiday, and my memories are sweet and funny. The house was always full—especially as the family grew. One of the last years my mom hosted the dinner, I was charged with among other things, setting the table. That year I decreed “festival seating” for those under 18 because the house was so full. Kids sat on beds, couches, even the living room radiator to eat their dinner.

While my memories are tender and lovely, I am keenly aware that not everyone has idyllic holidays. Not all families are healthy, not all families have the resources for great feasts, and some of us are alone. The families who gather despite political divides may find the holidays more challenging this year. Grieving for loved ones who have passed away can be especially heavy as well. For many of us, the joy of gathering on Thursday will have the bitterness of an empty seat at the table. I too will be tasting that bitterness myself this year.

May you find blessings, joy, and gratitude this Thanksgiving. While some things may be tough, we are all blessed with this wonderful “church family” of Our Lady of Lourdes, and we are so blessed with God’s abiding, faithful love that reaches us despite weird politics and cranky relatives. Please know my gratitude for each of you.

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 4:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

WED 9:30 AM

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DEB STEPPE

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

End of the Year Contributions

You are reminded that contributions for calendar year **2024** must be dropped in the collection by the weekend of **December 28/29** or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2024. A check dated December 31 or earlier, but not in our possession or in a valid postmarked envelope and received after January 1 is a 2025 contribution. Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must drop them off in the Parish Office or the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by **12:00 pm (noon) on Tuesday, December 31**, to receive credit for 2024. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 24

Giving Tree

8:00 am	Liturgy (Drenzek)	Church
9:00 am	Sacrament Prep	Hall
10:30 am	Liturgy (Schramm)	Church
11:30 am	Environment Change	Church

Monday, November 25

8:15 am	Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention	Rm 6
1:00 pm	Sheepshead Group	Rm 10
6:30 pm	Discipleship Institute Planning Mtg.	Virtual

Tuesday, November 26

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.	Hall A
6:00 pm	Finance Council Mtg.	Rm 9
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group	Rm 3

Wednesday, November 27

Office Closes at 12:00 pm

8:15 am	Autism Intervention	Rm 5
8:15 am	Autism Intervention	Rm 6

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving—Office Closed

9:00 am	Thanksgiving Liturgy	Church
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Friday, November 29—Office Closed

Saturday, November 30

Giving Tree

4:00 pm	Liturgy (Jurkus)	Church
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Sunday, December 1

Giving Tree

8:00 am	Liturgy (Burkert)	Church
10:30 am	Liturgy (Burkert)	Church

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Ronald Piontkowski, Donna Zacher, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Marion Holtz
From
Karen Holtz

Learn How to Play Sheepshead

Would you like to learn how to play Sheepshead? Father Bill will be offering a three session course on consecutive Mondays from November 25–December 9, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please call the Parish Office to register.

OUTREACH

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 8.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 3 and 17

Most needed items: soups (both condensed and not, canned fruit, canned meats), bar soap. Thanks for your ongoing support to the pantry. It is because of you that we can provide food to the needy. God bless.

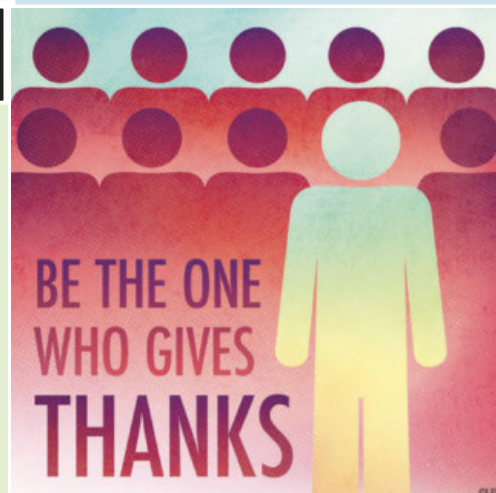
Please watch expiration dates.

ololmke.org/food-pantry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

In today's gospel, Pilate asks Jesus "Are you the King of the Jews?" The concept of "king" brings to mind someone with tremendous political influence, wealth, and power. The world tells us to seek power. Our faith teaches us to provide preference to the poor and vulnerable. The world tells us to seek wealth. Our faith teaches us to protect the rights of everyday workers. The world tells us to be influencers. Our faith teaches us to live in solidarity.

As followers of Jesus, we work to build God's kingdom on Earth—a community not built by climbing above, but by kneeling down. Jesus replied to Pilate, "you say I am a king." On this day of the Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us remember the sort of king Jesus is and the kind of leader he calls us to be.



SPOTLIGHT

Open Wide Our Hearts: Thought Provoking Sermon

Fr. Bill gave a recent sermon about divorce and asked for input from the congregation. Some comments seemed to suggest that if only a couple worked harder, communicated better or were more prayerful, their marriages could be saved. The implication that God wants people staying in marriages that might be abusive, unhealthy or contain infidelity is hard to fathom. Yes, challenges can be overcome, but only the couple knows the dynamics at play and the toll staying in a troubled marriage may take. The Church's stance on divorce and the onerous process it entails seems incredibly punitive and isolating rather than compassionate and consoling. Do we worship a God of love and acceptance or condemnation and judgment?

Whatsoever you do to the least of these...

Mary Yank, Social Justice Committee

FORMATION

GIFT December 8: Hope Does Not Disappoint

Steve Szymanski will lead us in an exploration of 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 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.

Gospel Dramatization on Christmas Eve

In a Christmas Eve tradition at OLOL, 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. Please plan on joining us.

DISCIPLESHIP

This Thanksgiving

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

Author Unknown



WORSHIP

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Don't miss out on these great opportunities!

Tree Lighting Ceremony—December 6 at 6:45 pm

Are you looking for a fun opportunity to get into the holiday spirit and share the joy of the season with our neighbors? Help us lead the caroling at the Jackson Park Community Association Tree Lighting Ceremony. Simply meet at the intersection of W. Oklahoma Ave./Forest Home Ave/S. 43rd Street at 6:30 pm. Song sheets will be provided, and there are refreshments following the lighting of the tree.

OLOL Christmas Choir

Would you like to sing in the choir on Christmas Eve? We'd love to have you with us! You only need to attend the following three rehearsals and one Mass:

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

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

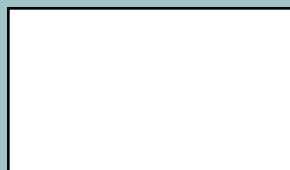
Scripture Readings for November 30/December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 | Psalm 25 |

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 | Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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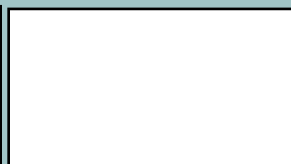
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