

DEC 29, 2024

The Holy Family



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.
- Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we fast approach the end of another year, you are reminded that contributions for calendar year 2024 must be received 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 have dropped them off in the office or the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by **noon on Tuesday, December 31**, to receive credit for 2024. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

Office Holiday Hours: Closed December 24–December 27, January 1, 2025. Please use Outside Drop Box.

Open: December 31 (Regular Hours)

NOTES FROM DEB

Happy New Year!

We are starting something new this year for New Years Eve. Our Mass for the Holy Day, Mary, the Mother of God, will take place at 4:00 pm on Tuesday. Following that liturgy we will have our first New Year's Eve potluck dinner. I'm excited about this event! We do such good work together and heaven knows we pray well together. I welcome this opportunity to play together too. This is a chance to minister to one another, to share some of our favorite foods, and enjoy each other's company. Please contact the Parish Office to let us know that you are coming. We will provide drinks and warming ovens!

Know of my prayers for you all, and may this new year bring peace to our troubled world!

Your shepherd,
Deb Steppe



VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Understanding

Understanding is having clear insight into ideas and feelings. We thoughtfully seek to comprehend the full truth. We are mindful of what is most important. We are deeply present to others with compassion and accuracy, helping them to discern their own clarity. We go the extra mile to put ourselves in another's shoes in order to forgive. We cherish the ability to see the whole picture.

In today's Gospel, Mary asks Jesus, "Son, why have you done this to us?" as she and Joseph had been looking for Jesus for three days. Just close your eyes and put yourself in their place. Who needs your gift of understanding? Enjoy understanding from Joseph's perspective.

["A Strange Way to Save the World"](#)
by Rascal Flatts

SUN 29

MON 30

TUE 31

8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy Church

1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

4:00 pm Mary, Mother of God Liturgy Church
5:00 pm New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner Hall

COMMUNITY LIFE

FORMATION

Welcome New Parishioners

November 2024

Bruce & Colleen Czajka
Joe & Joan Dembosky
William & Jeanne Goulding
Henry Grundle
Diane Guskey
Carolyn Hauptert
Mary Schwalbach
John Tomczyk

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Elaine Acker
From
Gerald C Boeckmann
Marvin and Karen Tebbe
Brian and Diana Dulle

The Incarnation

As we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, may we share God's love by being Jesus to everybody we encounter. Merry Christmas from the formation department at OLOL!

Peace, love, and God's blessings on our entire OLOL family!
Maggie, Steve & Julie

2025 Youth Retreats

Be sure to have these youth retreat dates on your calendar so that you are prepared in the new year!

7th & 8th Grade: Saturday, January 25, from 10:00 am–5:00 pm in Room 6

9th & 10th Grade: Saturday, March 8, from 10:00 am–5:00 pm in Room 6

Confirmation: 10:00 am on Saturday, February 22, overnight to 2:30 pm on Sunday, February 23, in Room 6.

OKTOBERFEST ARTISAN FAIR 2025

Save the date: October 10-11-12 in 2025

Yes, we are planning for 2025! If you would like to be a part of this fun and effective planning team, please contact Barb Webber. We love new ideas!

If you are cleaning or decluttering around the holidays, here are three ways to support Oktoberfest.

Baskets: Large baskets and containers are used for the basket raffle. We will take them any time of year.

Christmas Trees: OLOL is transformed with misfit Christmas Trees during Oktoberfest. The lights do not need to work. They do need to stand up on a sturdy base.

Artists: Find great artists, collect their business cards, and give them to Tanya Gross!

Bring items to the Parish Office. They know how to reach us!

Thank you,
The Oktoberfest Team

WED 1

Office Closed



THU 2

FRI 3

Office Closed

WORSHIP

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
 During this holy season of Christmas,
 we ask for your blessings on all families.
 Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways
 be an inspiration
 to place all trust in you.
 Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times
 of anxiety and uncertainty.
 Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of
 light and love.
 May the grace that encircled the Holy Family
 widen to embrace all families.



For this we pray, Amen.

Mary, the Mother of God

This Holy Day will be celebrated at **4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 31**.
 There will be no New Year's Day Mass.

Following Mass, join us for a night of food, fun, and family by celebrating
 New Year's Eve with your OLOL family at our New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner!
 We'll enjoy a festive countdown to midnight in **London** at 6:00 pm! The cost is
free by bringing a dish to pass. Please RSVP to the Parish Office.

Scripture Readings for January 4/5

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 | Psalm 72 | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Matthew 2:1-12

OUTREACH

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates:

January 14 and 28

Please note the date changes
 from previous bulletins.

2025 Food Pantry Calendar

January 14 and 28

February 11 and 25

March 11 and 25

April 22

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 17

July 15 and 29

August 12 and 26

September 9 and 23

October 21

November 4 and 18

December 2, 16, and 30

Most needed items: spaghetti
 sauce, jelly, Chef boy R Dee,
 condiments, and canned meats.
 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

SAT 4

11:00 am Walking Through
 Grief Together Rm 3
 4:00 pm Liturgy Church

SUN 5

8:00 am Liturgy Church
 10:30 am Liturgy Church



A PRAYERFUL
 NEW YEAR'S
 RESOLUTION
 IDEA:

**KEEP A
 GRATITUDE
 PRAYER JOURNAL
 AND SAY
 A PRAYER OF
 THANKSGIVING
 EVERY EVENING.**

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Broken Record

It feels like we have to keep running these reminders, but unfortunately, bad actors are not quitting, and people continue to get caught.

To avoid email spoofs and scams, stay alert. Pause and take a breath. Never click on unknown links or download unexpected attachments. Verify the sender's email address, looking for subtle misspellings or unusual domain names. Beware of urgent requests for personal information or payment. Use strong, unique passwords and enable two-factor authentication. Regularly update your software to protect against security vulnerabilities. When in doubt, contact the organization directly through trusted channels. Stay informed and cautious to protect yourself from scams.

Stewardship Ties

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption—or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day"—the day we received the gift of eternal family.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi

DISCIPLESHIP

STAFF EMAIL

For the New Year

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger, and our pains, for these are chains that bind us. Let us live each day in the most loving ways. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us keep God in our hearts and praise God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May this new year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love. May God's blessings shower upon all of creation and bestow upon all of us a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.



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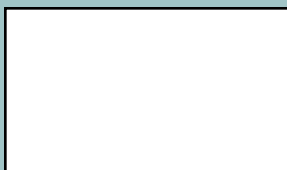
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THE EPIPHANY MITTEN TREE



Our Lady of Lourdes will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves

Please consider donating. All contributions are given to Gaenslen School and Ascension Family Care Center to help keep those in need warm this winter!

**DROP OFF:
January 4-12**

Thank you for your generosity!