

FEB 2, 2025

The Presentation of the Lord



# Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Simeon blessed them  
and said to Mary his  
mother, "Behold, this  
child is destined for the  
fall and rise of many  
in Israel." - Lk 2:34a

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

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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

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# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Parish Support - January 2025

	ACTUAL <i>As of 1/19/25</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Jan</i>
Reg. Envelopes .....	\$74,770.92	\$87,222.47
Offertory.....	\$3,168.25	\$3,333.37

## Budget Updates Fiscal Year: January 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$681,647.40	\$572,473.02
Operating Expenses.....	\$497,660.68	\$539,284.98

## Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/24..	\$169,666.89
Donations.....	\$ 239,104.52
Expenses.....	\$84,543.86
<b>Balance (1/10/2025)</b>	<b>\$324,227.55</b>

**THANK YOU!**

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

## 2024 Catholic Stewardship Appeal (11/21/2024)

Donations:..... **\$38,923.40**  
Goal is \$61,175 ..... 63.62%

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

### Candlemas

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, commemorating Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus at the Temple 40 days after his birth. Dating back to the fourth century, this feast day used to be called Candlemas, and it included the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession. Despite being Catholic my entire life, having 12 years of Catholic education, and a graduate degree in pastoral studies, I never learned about Candlemas!

As I reflect on this feast day, I can see the ancient wisdom of blessing candles—blessing the light, in these dark days of winter. The holidays are behind us and spring is still more than six weeks away—candlelight brings on emotional warmth and comfort. It evokes the sacred and reminds us of God’s light and love.

It is not only the weather that’s cold and dark. Many of us are struggling—with illnesses, with concerns about our dear ones, with financial worries, and with worries about our country. We may not be able to fix any of that for those who are struggling, but we can be light. We can listen to their stories, we can give them a hug, we can share simple kindnesses. We can let the love in our hearts shine like a light in their darkness.

Know of my continued prayers.

Your shepherd,  
Deb Steppe

## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

### Loyalty

Loyalty is unwavering commitment to the people and ideals we care about. We are steadfast through good times and bad. Even when others disappoint us, we are resilient and forgiving. We invest in our relationships and do what it takes to keep them whole and strong. We stand by our true friends whatever the cost. Above all, we must be true to ourselves and loyal to what we know is right.

In the Gospel, we hear of Mary and Joseph following their traditions. They meet Simeon and Anna who give them some new insights into the promise of their son, Jesus. As Jesus grows in strength and wisdom, what was the role of Mary and Joseph? What is the role of all parents?

**SUN 2**

*Collection for the Homeless*  
8:00 am Liturgy (Suriano) Church  
9:00 am GIFT Hall  
10:30 am Liturgy (Marco) Church

**MON 3**

1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

**TUE 4**

10:30 am SVDP Mtg. Rm 3  
6:30 pm Faith Sharing Group Rm 3

## COMMUNITY LIFE

## FORMATION

### Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Fr. Mike Strachota and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Wednesday Faith Group

All are welcome to join Sr. Diane on February 26 at 10:45. She will have a presentation on her experiences in Nogales, Mexico. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend.

### Donut Sunday: February 16

Come to our table... it's filled with donuts!

Join us on Sunday, February 16, at 8:45 am, as we find nourishment through fellowship and sweet treats before our GIFT session that day. RSVP here. Please include number of people from your household that will be attending in your RSVP. **Please call the Parish Office if you are not registered for GIFT and would like to join us for this session.**

### Prison Ministry & Doing Time Together at GIFT on February 16

Deacon Tom Hunt will share his experiences working in prison ministry and family support. He leads Doing Time Together, a support group for families experiencing incarceration. Doing Time Together is an interfaith support group dedicated to working through the issues faced by families whose loved ones are currently incarcerated or returning back to the community. Tom Hunt serves as deacon at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Please join us at 9:00 am in the Hall on Sunday, February 16. **Please call the Parish Office if you are not registered for GIFT and would like to join us for this session.**

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD/CANDLEMAS

**Question:** Luke's Gospel is the only one to mention the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. What is Luke trying to communicate here and what connection does it have with Mary?

**Answer:** February 2 is exactly 40 days after Christmas. Jewish law (Ex 13:2, 12) dictated that Jesus, as the firstborn, be consecrated to God. This was done by the parents as they presented their Son in the Temple.

Jewish law further specified (Lv 12:2-8) that a mother was ritually impure after giving birth, and that she had to wait a set period of time (forty days for a boy) before she was to offer a sacrifice to the Lord for purification.

The convergence of these two Jewish regulations occasions Luke's account of both the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary. These days the liturgical emphasis is more on the Presentation of Jesus. Luke highlights the role of Simeon and Anna, two righteous Jews who recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and praised God for being able to see and experience such a marvel in their lifetimes.

Simeon's prayer concerning the special role of Jesus states that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." This phrase eventually originated the custom of blessing candles on this day which were to be used in the ceremonies, rituals, and processions throughout the church year. Thus February 2 is also known as Candlemas Day. This day is indeed a rich feast to be savored.

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**WED 5**

**THU 6**

**FRI 7**

9:30 am Liturgy Church  
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C  
7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Rm 3

3:30 pm Spirit & Grace Reh. Church

**Office Closed**

# WORSHIP

## When God Whispers

“You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply—it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something—the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2025, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker—for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi

## Scripture Readings for February 8/9 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8 | Psalm 138 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Luke 5:1-11

**SAT 8**

Hallway Art Show Intake  
Collection for the Homeless  
Souper Bowl Weekend  
Welcome Weekend

10:00 am 5th/6th Grade

Retreat

Off Site

4:00 pm Liturgy (Lewis)

Church

**SUN 9**

Hallway Art Show Intake  
Collection for the Homeless  
Souper Bowl Weekend  
Welcome Weekend

8:00 am Liturgy (Drenzek)

Church

9:00 am Sacrament Prep

Hall

10:30 am Liturgy (Cooper)

Church

# OUTREACH

## From St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we learn of the first sword in Mary’s heart—the knowledge of her Son’s death. Though many would live forever in fear, Mary found courage in faith in the Lord.

Your gift to the poor can bring the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, in loneliness and dread.

## Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: February 11 and 25

Most needed items: cake mixes, canned beets and carrots, and cookies. 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](http://ololmke.org/food-pantry)



Donate treats  
to your local  
animal shelter.



# SPOTLIGHT

## Love and Commitment

Valentine's Day has always been special in my family. My parents, who fell in love during World War II by writing letters to each other, were married on February 14. Family lore says the day was challenging—very cold and icy; pictures show at least a foot of snow in mid-Missouri. They were married for 38 years before my dad died.

As with all marriages and long-term relationships, my parents' life together was filled with many trials and many blessings. Throughout their commitment and service to each other, to our family (immediate and extended), and to our local and church communities was unwavering and rooted deeply within their faith. At a recent December wedding of their great-granddaughter, I was amazed and a little awed to witness the young couple's commitment to similar values as David Haas' "Servant Song" was sung at the conclusion of their exchange of vows.

The song's lyrics clearly speak of many manifestations of love: "We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load." Having witnessed my parents' life together and my grandniece's life with her new husband so far, it's clear there are many types of "loads." Yet my parents and grandniece persisted.

Many of you within our parish community are witnesses too, to walking together in "good and bad times" and to the honoring of the commitments you've made to your spouse or partner. Thank you for showing us love in action. May your hearts be happy on Valentine's Day.

Judeen Schulte, Pastoral Council member



## DISCIPLESHIP

### All-Saints Gospel Choir Black History Celebration—An Evening of Gospel Music

Friday, February 28  
7:00 pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

We may never see the end of racism in our lifetime; however, this does not mean that we can't pray for it or ask God to move on our behalf. For those of us who have never been a victim of racism, consider what it would be like for you to wake up every day and be watched intently as you enter a store or place of business. Imagine going to work and being paid much less than a white colleague. Life can be a great struggle for many people. For those of us who have the means, ask God where we can be of help to those who are the victims of racism. There is no better way to be the hands and feet of Jesus than to help those in need.

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# An Evening of Gospel Music

**Who:** All Saints Gospel Choir

**Date:** Friday, February 28

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Where:** Our Lady of Lourdes

Free admission: Suggested donation of hygiene items for distribution through All Saints Church.

The musical program will be followed by fellowship in the Parish Hall.

**Register at** [ololmke.org/social-justice/](http://ololmke.org/social-justice/)  
or call the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316

Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Committee

# 2024 Christmas Memorial Flowers

## Memorial From:

Douglas & Rose Aird  
John & Susan Albrecht  
Theresa Arnsdorff  
Theresa Arnsdorff  
Gerald & Pamela Badura  
Janet Bickel  
Joan Bickler  
Marilyn Borzymowski  
Kenneth Brugger  
Steven & Mary Jo Cardenas  
Jaime Crespo  
Mary Crisp  
Patrick & Cynthia Damiano  
Shirley Dolgner  
David & Eileen Dunning  
Patricia Galaska  
Jenny Galloway  
Vincenza Gawin  
Anne Gloudeman  
Gregory Golenbiewski  
Eugenia Grant  
Barbara Groh  
Daniel & Diane Gronseth  
Carol Huber  
Dona & James Hutter  
Elaine & Gregory Jackson  
Luke & Amy Jones  
John Kaniewski  
Jenny Keats  
Kathleen Kosiboski

## In Memory Of:

John & Mary Egan  
Susan Rose Albrecht  
Jim Arnsdorff & Douglas Hardy  
Douglas Hardy, Jim Arnsdorff  
  
Donna & Kathleen Bickel, my sisters  
Jim Bickler  
Jerry Borzymowski  
Judy Brugger  
Marian Trinko  
Sigredo Soto  
Nickolas & Catherine Crisp  
Deceased Members of Damiano & Kunesh Families  
Christine & Michelle Rogan  
  
Ned & Carol Galloway  
Thomas J Gawin  
Ruth, Wade, Joan, Mary Ellen  
Max & Doloris Golembiewski  
Bill Grant, Raymond & Estelle Konz  
Ray & Leah Groh  
Paul & Betty Buddenhagen  
Greg Huber  
Donald & Gladys Kopp  
Russell Jackso, Eaysarao Lazo, Mom & Dad  
  
Blahowsky & Kaniewski Families  
Lois & Warren Keats  
Rich Kosiboski, Brian Crawford,  
Norma & Harold Wegert, Isaiah Richard Kosiboski  
Mary Jane Thompson, David Martin Reed &  
Mary Ann Reed, Blanche & August Kosiboski,  
Bob & Rose Kosiboski, Judy Kosiboske





# 2024 Christmas Memorial Flowers

## Memorial From:

Ronald Laux  
Jaime & Nancy Lehrer  
  
Roxanne Lewandowski  
Rosanne Liebl  
Barbara Lukaszewski  
Tom Maher  
Janet Michalets  
Georgiana Moos  
Sally Olewinski  
Heladio & Yolanda Ortega  
Marlene Paaske  
Clementine Ratkowski  
Mary Repinski  
Jean Rich  
Joan Ruff  
Mary Ruffolo  
Ronald & Kathleen Rutkowski  
  
Pauline Sattler  
Patricia Sereno  
George & Jenni Sladky  
Audreyan Springer  
Sister Judith Ann Vander Grinten  
Virginia & Wilber Way  
Dennis & Carol L Wojtecki  
Rosalind Wolf  
Gerald Youretz  
John & Leslie Zaganczyk

## In Memory Of:

George & Lucy Laux  
Parents: Don & MaryAnn Brandhagen,  
Aunt & Uncle: Rolly & Elaine Acker  
  
Jack F Liebl  
  
Nancy Maher  
Larry Michalets  
Jim Moos  
Olewinski, Smyk & Nowak Families  
  
Harry Paaske  
Ratkowski - Lemanski - Ogurek Families  
Stan Repinski  
James Rich  
Alger & Ruff Families  
Jane Lancour, Denise Schuppert  
Clem & Angeline Drzewiecki,  
Gil & Eleanor Rutkowski  
Zeidler & Sattler Families  
Sereno & Zanchetti Family  
  
Ronald Springer  
Joseph & Frances Vander Grinten  
Deceased Parents  
Parents of Dennis & Carol L Wojtecki  
Thomas Wolf  
Elizabeth Youretz  
Alex & Martha Zaganczyk

