




Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

750 10th Avenue South • Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin • 54495-4100

Telephone: 715-423-1251 • Facsimile: 715-423-9407

parishoffice@our-lady.org • www.our-lady.org  OLQHWisconsinRapids

Please submit bulletin notices to bulletin@our-lady.org by noon on Monday.



PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Alan M. Guanella, JCL • *Pastor* • fr.guanella@our-lady.org
Fr. Steven Weller • *Parochial Vicar* • fr.weller@our-lady.org
Deacon Thomas C. Anderson • dcn.anderson@our-lady.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 8am–3:30pm • Friday: 8am–12:00 noon
Scrip is available for purchase during parish office hours.

PARISH STAFF

Business ManagerJaneen Sievers
jsievers@our-lady.org
Director of Religious EducationRebecca Zalar
reoffice@our-lady.org
Choir Director.....Mary Englert
Maintenance & GroundsPaul Richmond
Custodian.....LuAnne Birkhauser
Sacristan.....Karen Pagel

CONFESSION

Saturday: 8:30am–9:30am and 3:00pm–3:50pm
First Friday: 8:30am–9:30am with Eucharistic Exposition
• Any time by appointment by contacting the parish office.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Please contact the parish to schedule a baptism meeting and request a date for the celebration of baptism. Parents are encouraged to attend before the birth of their child.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples requesting the celebration of Marriage should contact the parish at the time of formal engagement or at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In case of emergency only, when someone is dying, please call the pastor's emergency line at 715-629-9952. This number is for emergencies only. Those who are seriously ill or have been sick for a long time should receive the Sacraments. Please call the parish to make arrangements or to schedule a non-emergency visit for those who are sick or homebound.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN SCHOOL

Principal Shelley Bruley • Administrative Asst. Jenny Zacher
Tel: 715-422-0982 • www.assumptioncatholicschools.org

NEW PARISHIONERS

All new families are most welcome to the parish and are kindly asked to register at the parish office as soon as possible. A registration form may be downloaded at www.our-lady.org/contact. Current parishioners are kindly asked to inform the office of any address, telephone, or family status changes.

UPCOMING BAPTISM CLASS

The next baptism preparation class date is January 2nd at 5:30 pm. The class fee is \$20. Parents should be registered in the parish. Practice of the faith by parents is expected. Please contact the parish office to register.

PARISH BOOK OF PRAYER

Prayer requests may be written in our Parish Book of Prayer which is located in the gathering area by the offices. A general petition for all prayer requests written in the book is offered at all Sunday Masses.

PRAYER CHAIN: Please call **Mary Kobza** at 715-421-0447 with your intentions.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS

A deanery Sunday evening Mass is held each Sunday night at 6:00 PM at SS Peter & Paul Parish (1150 2nd St. N.)

SACRIFICIAL GIVING FOR DECEMBER 10, 2023

**Financials will be in the next bulletin.
Early bulletin deadline.**

Thank you to Ritchay Funeral Home and Herman-Taylor Funeral Home for donating 2024 Catholic Calendars.



LECTIONARY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89
/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

**Thank you for
supporting
our parish!**

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SANCTUARY CANDLES



The Sanctuary Candles burn the week of December 16 – December 22 in memory of

Joanie & Wayne Wesenberg

By: The Family

December 24th Children's Nativity & Mass

We are in the planning stages for this year's Children's Mass at 4:00 pm on Dec. 24th. If your child age 5 and older would like to participate in the Gospel Narrative, call the church office to sign up (715-423-1251).



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

CITY WIDE ADVENT RECONCILIATION
In place of individual parish penance services this year, there will be a city-wide opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with multiple priests available for confessions.

Sunday, December 17: 12:00 Noon until 6:00 PM
Deanery Mass at 6:00 PM

Held at SS. Peter & Paul Parish, 1150 2nd Street N, Wisconsin Rapids

January Bible Study

Join us for our next Adult Faith Formation Study on The Book of Ruth. Books for this study cost \$13. We will begin on January 4th at 9:00 am in the gathering space. To order a book please get in touch with the parish office.

Grief Support Group- Wisconsin Rapids Deanery "Serenity" Grief Support Group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Gathering Space of St Vincent de Paul Church from 1-2 pm. The next meeting is December 18th.

A **Pro-Life Rosary** will be said on Monday, Jan 8th at 4:00 pm along Eighth Street. All are welcome to join us. We will gather in Grace's parking lot at 3:45.

Mission Rosary Makers—The next date is Wednesday, January 3rd. Please join us in the cafeteria from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. All are welcome to join us.



TV Mass on Spectrum 985 or Solarus 3: OLQH Mass at 9 AM on Wednesday; Diocesan Mass at 6:30 AM on Sunday. Mass is also broadcast on Sunday at 6 AM on WZAW 7.3 (FOX) and at 6:30 AM on WJFW 12.1 (NBC).

What's on Formed.org for Advent?

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree this Advent

FORMED

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection. Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger *Rooted* helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching. Episodes begin on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent, and end on December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Drawing Closer to God

Journey through Advent with the whole family! Art teacher Ms. Kim teaches children to draw different scenes from the Christmas story, including the Annunciation, the shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim highlights key Scripture and details of Catholic tradition. As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections between the big picture of God's story and their place within it.



"KEEP THEM WARM" TREE

During this Christmas season our familiar bare tree, located across from the Parish Office anxiously awaits new children and adult mittens, hats, slippers, clothing, etc.; any new items that will keep our less fortunate friends warm during the cold winter months. If you prefer, new toys for children or useful items for adults are also welcome.

Items will be collected now through December 21st and distributed to area families.

Christmas Blessings to our Parish family!

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Council of Catholic Women (CCW)

"The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action."
~Mother Teresa

Year End Contributions

As the end of the calendar year approaches, you are reminded that charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. The only exception is when a check is mailed: it is applied to the year the check/envelope is postmarked, even if it is received in the next calendar year

If you wish to claim your parish contribution or diocesan annual appeal donation as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes for 2023, you must have your contribution to the parish office (or diocese) by December 31. If you mail it, it must be postmarked on or before December 31st. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Day. The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas are both Holy Days of Obligation where the faithful must attend Mass. Two obligations require attendance at two Masses. Therefore, the faithful should be sure to attend a Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. One cannot "double dip" and satisfy both obligations with one Mass.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses will be held at OLQH at:

Saturday, Dec. 23	Sunday, Dec. 24
4:00 PM	9:00 AM
No 7:30 or 10:00 AM Masses	

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Masses will be held at OLQH at:

Sunday, Dec. 24	Monday, Dec. 25	Monday, Dec. 25
4:00 PM	12:00 Midnight	9:00 AM
No daily Mass on December 26 or 27		

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1
9:00 AM

Not a Holy Day of Obligation This Year



Calling All Crafters!!!

You are invited to join us
for a day of Crafting!
Saturday, January 27, 2024,
from 8am-9pm at
St. Joseph Parish, Stevens Point

Help us to celebrate our
10th year
of crafting at St. Joes!

Bring your crafting tools,
laptops, and supplies.
We will have electrical hookups as well.

Cost is \$40/person

Price includes lunch, dinner, snacks, and beverages
Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

Registration information available at
www.pointcatholicfaith.org/sj-craft
If you need a registration form mailed to you,
please contact the parish office at 715-341-1617.

***Deadline to register is January 16, 2024!!!**

BINGO IS BACK AT ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!!!
Doors will open at Noon with BINGO starting at 1:00PM. Located at Assumption High School gymnasium.
NEW THIS YEAR! Progressive Blackout and a 50/50 Raffle • All Ages Are Welcome
Cash Prizes • Concessions Available • Cash Only
Any questions? Please contact Jill Wruwink, ACS Royal Parents President @ 715-252-3451 or email jilwruwink@gmail.com

BINGO DATES

- September 17
- October 1 & 15
- November 5 & 19
- December 3
- January 7 & 21
- February 4 & 18
- March 3 & 17
- April 7 & 21
- May 5

Proceeds Benefiting Assumption Catholic Schools Royal Parents and weekly individual ACS groups

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, December 17: Council Christmas Party at Our Lady Queen of Heaven cafeteria. Doors will open at 2:30 pm with chowder being served starting at 3:00 pm. Bingo will follow. All members, their wives, and families are invited. The price is \$5.00 per person with those under 12 free.

Reservations are required by December 13th and can be made by calling Bill Plante at (715) 421-1698 or Len Schliesman at (715) 423-1296.

Saturday, December 30: The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Corporate Communion Mass at the 4:00 pm Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven. All members are invited and the Fourth Degree Honor Guard will process.

Religious Retirement

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement.

Post-Abortion Healing Ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse.

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Project Rachel Ministry offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608.860.6698 or email projectrachel@diolc.org.

SERVERS



Saturday—December 23

4:00 pm Dave Anderson, Joe Fidler, Mason Hackman

Sunday—December 24

9:00 am Rick Anderson, Greg Bathke, Paul Richmond

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm Dave Anderson, Joe Fidler

Christmas - December 25

12:00 Midnight John Hokamp, Paul Richmond
9:00 am Rick Anderson, Cade & Christian Statz

HOSPITALITY



Saturday—January 6

4:00 pm Laura Danczyk

Sunday—January 7

7:30 am Shelley Bruley/Kerry Meinel

10:00 am John & Rosemary Hokamp

UPCOMING MASSES & EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

8:00 am Morning Prayer & Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

9:00 am Children's Mass † Gail Seefeldt by: Mom & Dad

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023 *St. Lucy*

8:00 am Mass Collective Intentions

† Gordon Boerner by: Dee Boerner

† Arthur & Russell Lobner by: The Family

† Dan Kluck & Sue Farrell by: Karen Pagel

† John Moerchen by: The Family

† Pat McCarville by: Dan McCarville

† Living & Deceased Members of the Apollonia & Bernard Altmann Family by: Ed & Lois Altmann

1:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE

NO Religious Formation Classes

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 *St. Peter Canisius*

5:00 pm Mass † Jane Campbell by: John & Pat Dekarske

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023

8:00 am Mass † Richard Schmutzer by: The Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023

8:00 am Mass † Pat McCarville by: Dan McCarville

8:30 am Confessions

3:00 pm Confessions

3:30 pm Rosary

4:00 pm Mass † Joanie & Wayne Wesenberg by: The Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

9:00 am Mass † Jim Fieber by: The Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Living & Deceased Children of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023 *NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)*

12:00 am Mass † Eleanor & William Slattery by: The Family

† Michael Hasenohrl & Al Sievers by: The Family

9:00 am Mass † Joe Hokamp by: Dale & Marcy Freeberg

† Bridget, Susan, James & Colleen Bord by: The Family

GREETERS



Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm Volunteers Needed

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Volunteers Needed

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm Volunteers Needed

Christmas - December 25

12:00 Midnight Volunteers Needed

9:00 am Volunteers Needed

LECTORS



Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm John Wasshausen

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Deanna Scholz

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm - TBA

Christmas - December 25

12:00 Midnight Carol Dean

9:00 am Deb Eron

**Hand or Tongue?
What does the Church Think?**



During this Eucharistic Revival, the question has come up about how to receive Holy Communion, and with it, whether to receive on the hand or tongue. The tradition for centuries in the Church has been that the faithful could only receive Holy Communion on the tongue, and then it suddenly changed to also allow reception on the hand (as many may remember) in 1977. What do we make of this?

Briefly, here is the story. Shortly after Vatican II, some bishops asked the pope if it would be possible to allow reception of communion on the hand. The reasons for this request were many, but perhaps chief among them was that there is evidence of at least some ancient custom of receiving on the hand. Vatican II had brought back other ancient customs and prayers into the modern rite, and it seemed to many bishops that communion on the hand was a logical addition to the return to ancient customs. After these requests, the pope decided to consult all of his bishops to inform his decision on the matter. His decision is obviously in the positive, and for the United States, at least, reception on the hand is now an allowable practice.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that the Church usually has a precaution whenever mentioning reception on the hand. With reception on the hand, there is "danger of loss of reverence" for the Eucharist (*Memoriale Domini 1969*). *What does this mean for us? It means that, of course, you are allowed to receive on the hand just as much as you can receive on the tongue. It also means, however, that if any of us do receive on the hand, we best make sure that our reception is respectful and reverent of the Eucharist.*

What does this mean for how we receive the Eucharist? It means that no matter how we receive, it should be in a manner that shows our belief in the Eucharist. Before I was a priest, I have frequently received both ways, and a game-changer for my faith in my day-to-day life was when I started paying attention to crumbs of the Eucharist that might be on my hands. Since the Eucharist is Jesus, and Jesus is God, that means every crumb, no matter how small, is a crumb of God. How does the Eucharist enter our mouths? Is it like a potato chip, or the God of the Universe? Does our carefulness with every possible crumb show to us and others that we really believe? Does our careful preparation of our souls, especially morally and with a recent Confession, show that we really mean our "Amen" when presented with the Body of Christ

In short, when we are asking about whether to receive on the hand or the tongue, perhaps it is a better question to ask whether we are receiving the Eucharist with careful reverence. Each crumb, even the ones we cannot see, are really the precious savior. When we consume and swallow, that is really Jesus we are eating, and every crumb matters. How we handle Jesus at Mass shows a great deal about how we think of Jesus in our heart.

In Christ,
Fr. Steven Weller



We, at Assumption Catholic Schools, wish you a very Merry Christmas with family and friends, old and new. Thank you for joining us at our Christmas Concerts. Your support of Catholic Schools is very important to who we are and how we teach our children to take care of our community.

GUEST TEACHERS NEEDED FOR GRADES K-12

Flexible schedule, fabulous coworkers, and fantastic kids... what more could you ask for? Come join the family at Assumption Catholic Schools. You choose the grade level and the days you are available. Contact Melissia O'Brien at 715-422-0907 for an application packet.

Mission: To inspire excellence and personal growth grounded in Catholic principles and tradition

Vision: A community of academic excellence, Catholic in spirit and culture nurturing integrity and respect.

A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival

Does Jesus understand everything about me?

Jesus knows exactly what you are feeling and understands. Where you are, Jesus has been; He shares every joy and every pain with you. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: If you have something painful in your heart, speak with Jesus about it and give it to Him.

This week, read from Scripture how the angel appears to Joseph and guides him to take his wife Mary into his home in Matthew 1: 18-25. Note: Mary and Joseph were married in the Jewish tradition, which is referred to as being betrothed. There are two parts to betrothal: marriage and, after one year, sharing a common home.

A Note from Father Guanella—Some of you have heard that on November 20, 2023, Bishop William Callahan appointed me Adjunct Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of La Crosse. Some of you have wondered if this means I will be leaving the parish. No, I won't be leaving the parish. This assignment is in addition to my pastorate here. The Adjunct Judicial Vicar is an assistant to the Judicial Vicar of the diocese who works in the Tribunal, usually handling marriage annulment cases. Since I am a canon lawyer, Bishop Callahan has asked me to use my skills in the Tribunal. I might have to be in La Crosse a bit more but I'll be staying put for the time being.




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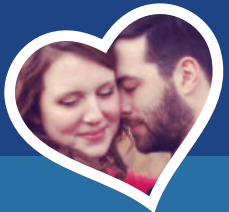
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