

DEC 20, 2020

4th 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.

4th Sunday
of Advent

God with us.

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

Capacity limited to 100
people during social
distancing. Reservation
required to attend Mass.

PARISH DIRECTOR

NANCIE CHMIELEWSKI

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Parish Support - December 2020

	ACTUAL <i>as of 12/4/20</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Dec.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$17,416.00	\$105,000.00
Offertory.....	\$233.00	\$7,500.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: December 2020

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income	\$415,510.26	\$463,210.02
Operating Expenses	\$344,571.52	\$435,999.98

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/20	\$69,882.96
Donations	\$ 15,520.65
Expenses	\$ 2,027.87
Balance (12/4/2020)	\$83,375.74

THANK YOU!

Our Lady of Lourdes is grateful for your continued support of all our ministries. We are blessed by your generosity!

Help support OLOL every time you shop on smile.amazon.com/!

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NOTES FROM NANCIE

Our hope is the reality of God with us.

Emmanuel—God with us. This is the hope and the promise of ages past, present, and yet to be. We highlight this hope in Advent and celebrate its reality on Christmas Day. In fact, we break open this great promise and reality all year long, but the word, Emmanuel, rings most poignantly at this time of year.

This past year has been pretty awful in many respects. No argument there! And yet, God has been and continues to be with us through all of the suffering, difficulty, and uncertainty. I would guess that many of us are preparing to celebrate Christmas this year in ways never expected. (The Chmielewski clan is zooming and creating a Christmas dinner “competition” ala Chopped!) Many of you will not be in church, but will gather virtually in prayer. The day will probably be simple and that is not necessarily a bad thing.

Even though our best loved traditions may fail to live up to the realities of past years, we can still celebrate the reality of God with us. Let us remember to thank God for what we do have. Let us remember our neighbor or relative who is alone and isolated. Let us find ways of being the hands and feet of the one who came into this world in the flesh. Let us strive to always hope.

With continued hope for a blessed Christmas,
Nancie Chmielewski and the entire OLOL staff

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

DEVOTION

Devotion is commitment to something we care about deeply. It is passionate focus on our life’s purpose. It is wholehearted service to an endeavor that we love. Discernment is the first step in discovering what is worthy of our devotion. What is my “yes”? What calls me so strongly that I cannot resist, knowing that it is truly mine to do?

Can you answer the questions above as Mary had to do in the Gospel today?

This fourth Sunday of Advent, are you ready to make a commitment to the coming of Christ in a fresh way in your life this year? What will you do?

SUN 20

MON 21

TUE 22

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

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

3:0 pm Food Pantry Drive-thru Pk Lot

COMMUNITY LIFE

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Stan Spryszak

From

David & Diane Meyer
Virginia & Clarence Robe
John & Cheryl Sele
Erik & Patricia Thoresen
Piontkowski Family

End of the Year Contributions

You are reminded that contributions for calendar year 2020 must be dropped in the collection by the weekend of December 26/27 or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. 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 2021 contribution.

Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must have dropped them off in the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by noon on Thursday, December 31, to receive credit for 2020. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

Did you know that your IRA can help Our Lady of Lourdes?

Individuals who are 72 or older may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 to Our Lady of Lourdes or a qualified charity from their IRAs without any tax liability as a "QCD."

To pursue this method of donation or as your pledge, please contact your IRA custodian to begin the process.

FORMATION

GIFT

Thank you for a successful first half of the year! We continue in the new year with two sessions in January. On Sunday, January 10, Juliana Vazquez Krivsky will present on the Catholic Social Teachings. Her presentation will consist of seven videos that are five minutes or fewer, each dedicated to one of the seven Catholic Social Teachings. Our seventh session will be led by Dr. Timone A. Davis on Sunday, January 31.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

WED 23

**Building Open
9:00 am–3:00 pm**

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm**

THU 24

Building Closed

5:00 pm Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

9:00 pm Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

FRI 25

Building Closed

8:00 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

10:30 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED



WORSHIP

Christmas Liturgies

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm (**Full**) and 9:00 pm
Friday, December 25 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (**Full**)

Please register online at ololmke.org/sunday-mass-prayer-services-and-reflections/ or call the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316 by Monday, December 21. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate anyone without a reservation. We will, of course, publish our Christmas liturgy online.

A Brief Christmas Reflection

This isn't how Christmas is supposed to be! That phrase keeps repeating itself to me as I look at the holidays this year. I never anticipated that my first year as the full-time liturgist here would include limiting the number of people who can attend the Christmas liturgies. I never thought I would have to worry about keeping people safe when they walked through our doors. I expected Christmas celebrations to be with lots of our extended family.

I am certainly not alone in those feelings. The pandemic has uprooted so many traditions we have around Christmas. I think that is made more painful because our Christmas traditions are so sentimental—we give gifts, we prepare special recipes, and we gather with family and friends from near and far away.

I love those sentimental traditions, but when I read and reflect on the Gospels for Christmas, I am reminded that Jesus' birth was anything but sentimental. Matthew's story tells us of Joseph wanting to divorce Mary. Luke's story reminds us that Mary experienced childbirth in a barn.

Christmas is made up of wonderful sentimental traditions, but it is also the story of our God who loves us and became one of us, born into regular, unsentimental circumstances. While we love to envision the angels of the heavenly host singing of Jesus' birth, this year seems to be the year we're noticing the manure in the stable. The story is still sacred. Our celebrations, even though they'll be small, are still sacred. Our communal prayer, whether in person or on a video screen, is still sacred. God is with us!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,
Deb Steppe
Director of Liturgical Ministries

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

Medical College of Wisconsin Diabetes Education Study

Are you 65 or older? Do you have diabetes and high sugar? Are you African American or Latino? The Medical College of Wisconsin is holding a diabetes research study in your community. Compensation will be provided for your participation.

To receive more information and find out if you are eligible, call (414) 955-2128.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 22, January 19

Drive-thru pickup for the Food Pantry is in the south parking lot and is open from 3:00 pm–4:30 pm on the above dates. Two prepacked bags will be given to each car.

Food Pantry

Please drop off bagged food at the handicap entrance, Monday–Friday, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm.

Most needed items: pasta; cereal; Knorr sides, both rice and pastas; and canned beets, carrots, and potatoes. **Please watch the expiration dates.** Non-perishable items only, please. Learn more at ololmke.org/food-pantry.

SAT 26

5:00 pm Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

SUN 27

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

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTMAS 2020

What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we pray the Nicene Creed we profess, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

These familiar words echo the prologue of John's Gospel, which is read at Christmas. John proclaims, "What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5) I draw your attention to the Creed and John's Gospel to emphasize the profundity of describing God as Light and Life. Out of the infinite ways to describe Christ, light and life are given to us as preeminent and essential descriptions.

The key to understanding this is the celebration of the Incarnation. The Son of God did not become man to prove a point, become rich, powerful and popular, or punish the wicked. It is all too easy to look at the life of Christ in these terms because of our human tendencies to want to be rich, famous or powerful. In doing so, the Gospels become a biography among many other great people who did great things.

However, that is not why God became man; He became man to save us from the darkness of sin and the punishment of death. When we profess this truth, we allow Christ to reorient our lives. No longer is He just another great person to listen to or admire; He becomes the Light and Life of our lives.

Whatever you have faced this year, from the joyous occasions to suffering and sadness, I pray that you will entrust them to Christ at Christmas. May the Light and Life you receive be the gifts you share with your family and loved ones this year. I trust in God. I trust in His Word. Merry Christmas!

With a heart full of gratitude for your faithfulness, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee

DISCIPLESHIP

A Christmas Prayer

Dear God,

We celebrate the birth of Jesus, His life and love; His teachings and works; His steadfast resistance; His suffering, death, and resurrection.

We celebrate the most nonviolent life in all of human history. The greatest peacemaker the world has ever seen. We celebrate how His life and love continue to disarm, heal, and transform us all.

Bless us that we might be peacemakers, people who love one another, loving our neighbors and loving our enemies. Bless us that we might be a new Christmas people, who, like Mary and Joseph, welcome Christ into the world. May we see Christ in the poor, serve Christ in the world's children, raise Christ through our nonviolent actions, and bring Christ's gift of peace on earth to fruition in our lives and in our work.

Amen!

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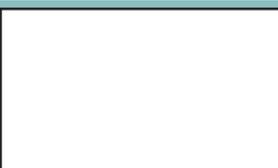
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