



# Queen of the Apostles

## CATHOLIC PARISH

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### PARISH OFFICE

• • • • •  
**Telephone:** (608) 372-4516  
**Mailing Address:** 303 West Monroe St, Tomah  
**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-3:30pm  
Friday: 9:00am-1:30pm  
**Website:** [www.queenoftheapostlestomah.com](http://www.queenoftheapostlestomah.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Monsignor David C. Kunz  
*dkunz@diolclergy.org*  
**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Samuel C. McCarty  
*smccarty@diolclergy.org*  
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Robert G. Riedl  
*dcnbobriedl@gmail.com*  
**Business Manager:** Cindy Bailey  
*cbailey@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Maintenance:** Jeff Atteln  
*jatteln@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Parish Secretary:** Katie Pierce  
*psecretary@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Cemetery Sexton:** Kevin Kuderer  
*stmaryscem@gmail.com*  
**PCCW Co-Presidents:** Nicole Foat, 815-990-6046; Kelly Honish, 343-7623  
**KC Grand Knight:** Jon Burbach, 608-315-2099

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

• • • • •  
**Director of Religious Ed:** Jon Burbach  
*dre@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Telephone:** (608) 372-4516 x3

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• • • • •  
**Telephone:** (608) 372-5765  
**Principal:** Debra Pfab  
*office@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Secretary:** Lisa Bliznik  
*school@queenoftheapostlestomah.com*  
**Office Hours:** 7:30am-3:30pm



## 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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DECEMBER 26, 2021 • THE HOLY FAMILY

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**St. Mary Church — 303 West Monroe Street, Tomah**

Saturday.....4:00pm

Sunday.....7:30am, 9:00am and 10:30am

**St. Andrew Church — 203 May Street, Warrens**

Saturday.....6:00pm

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## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St. Mary, Tomah

Tuesday.....5:30pm

Wednesday-Friday.....8:00am

Liberty Village Assisted Living, Tomah

First and Third Wednesdays.....10:00am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday.....4:30pm-5:15pm

Thursday.....5:00pm-6:00pm

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday.....4:00pm-5:15pm

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### **BAPTISM**

Are you a new or expectant parent? Baptism is the sacrament of initiation that welcomes your child into the Catholic Church and our parish community. Parents must complete baptismal preparation prior to their child's reception of the sacrament. Please contact Jon Burbach to schedule a class at 372-4516 x3.

### **MARRIAGE**

At the time of engagement, but not less than six months prior to the wedding, please call the parish office to arrange for marriage preparation and to schedule your specific wedding date.

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK/HOME VISIT**

Please contact the parish office for any sacramental ministry (anointing before a planned surgery, severe illness, etc.) or visitation to the sick or homebound.



As of December 17, 2021  
**179 families have pledged**  
**\$84,923.**

It is with everyone's help we will achieve our parish's goal of \$90,690 and a 50% participation rate!

## *Gospel Reflection*

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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"GOD IS  
LOVE.  
WHOEVER  
LIVES IN  
LOVE LIVES  
IN GOD  
AND GOD  
IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE

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## 50th Anniversary Jubilee

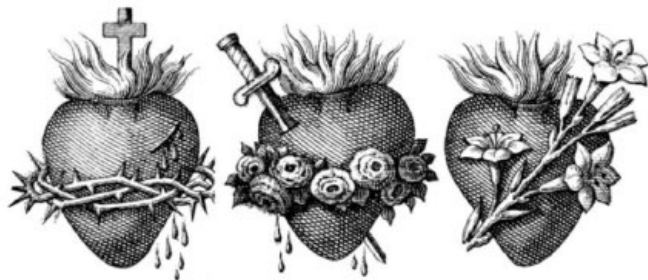
Are you and your spouse celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2022? The Diocese of La Crosse is once again hosting a 50th Anniversary Jubilee Mass in the summer of 2022. If that's you, or someone in your family from our parish, please contact the parish office by December 28.

### Three Holy Hearts

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's immense love for humanity, with a wound in its side and a crown of thorns representing the damage of our sins. A cross is implanted in it, representing the sorrow inflicted during his life and passion.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is where St. Luke writes she "kept all these things" (Luke 2:51) she learned as mother of Jesus. It represents her love for Christ and the World, even as it is pierced with a sword (from Simon's prophecy in Luke 2:35). The image of burning with love, surrounded by roses, is similar to the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Chaste Heart of St. Joseph is wrapped in lilies, a sign of his purity and holiness as the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and foster father of Jesus.



### March for Life

The March for Life is back again this year and the Diocese of La Crosse is organizing a pilgrimage to Washington D.C. from **January 19-23**. This pilgrimage is a fun and exciting adventure, participating in standing up for the rights of those who cannot fight for themselves.

**Who can go?** Anyone age 13 and older. Families are encouraged to attend together and there is a discount for families of three or more attending.

**What is the Cost?** Cost per person before December 31st is \$395 (\$375 family discount) and includes travel, hotel, and some meals. The cost increases after December 31st. Fundraising opportunities can be organized to assist with the cost for those interested.

**When would we leave/get back?** Departure is about 4pm on January 19, with return the afternoon of January 23.

Please contact Jon Burbach as soon as possible if you are interested in making this pilgrimage by phone at 372-4516 x3 or by email at [dre@queenoftheapostlestomah.com](mailto:dre@queenoftheapostlestomah.com).

## Intentions for The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

### Sunday, December 26 The Holy Family

7:30 AM Deceased Members of the  
LeSavage Family  
9:00 AM Ralph Pampuch  
10:30 AM *Pro populo* of Queen of the  
Apostles Parish

### Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

*Adoration* — 4:00pm-5:15pm  
*Confession* — 4:30pm-5:15pm (DK)  
5:30 PM Barb Grygleski

### Wednesday, December 29

8:00 AM Jerry and Rosie Haun

### Thursday, December 30

8:00 AM Muggs Johnson  
*Confession* — 5:00pm-6:00pm (SM)

### Friday, December 31

8:00 AM George and Agnes Matyas  
5:30 PM *Vigil*: Beth Kirchoff-Zirfas

### Saturday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Pat Precour  
  
Vigil Mass  
4:00 PM *Pro populo* of Queen of the  
Apostles Parish

*St. Andrew* — *Warrens*

6:00 PM Rhonda Zingler

### Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 AM Marie Wacker  
9:00 AM Ralph Vitous  
10:30 AM Dave Vandervort



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

*Thank You*

Catholic Financial Life would like to thank the Queen of the Apostles Parish for their support this past year. We had matching funds for our school in June, which we matched and donated \$1,000. We also had a Bake Sale in November for the Neighbor for Neighbor Food Pantry, and with matching funds, we sent them a check for \$1,100.

Keeping Current with  
**Queen of the Apostles**  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL



*A Holy Icon*

When I was growing up, we lived several hours away from my grandparents. With five children and a small farm, my family only made the trip to visit a couple times a year. My grandparents only visited us on important occasions and, with the exception of one grandmother who lived into her 90s, they all passed away while I was still fairly young. As a consequence, I did not have a close relationship with any of them, except the one grandmother who I started visiting more often when I was older. It is hard to build a meaningful relationship with someone you only visit a few times a year.

As Christians, the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith (CCC 234). We are all baptized “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” There is much we don’t understand about the Trinity, but we do know that God is a community of persons. In other words, God is relationship. Made in His image and likeness, we are made for relationship, both with Him and with each other. In that regard, the Christian family is an icon (image) of the Holy Trinity. The relationships within our families are meant to be a reflection of that of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we remember that while all families are icons of the Trinity, the most fitting is the Holy Family which serves as an example for our own families. Like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, our relationships with each other can be a reflection of our relationship with God. I’m sure you’ve heard the adage “The family that prays together, stays together.” Well, it’s usually true that the family that prays and worships together has stronger, healthier relationships with each other and with the God.

Back to my grandparents... As I said, I developed a closer relationship with one of my grandmothers. When I was deployed to Iraq, she wrote me regularly and told me she prayed a Rosary for me daily. For that, I was and still am very grateful and it absolutely strengthened our relationship. She was an icon for me in her devotion to the Lord and her family. I invite you today to reflect on the Holy Family and consider your own family relationships. How are they icons of the Trinity and how can they grow to better realize what we were created to be?

Merry Christmas!

Peace,  
Jon

## School News

**\*\*Partnering with parents to provide Catholic formation and quality education extending beyond the classroom\*\***

**School Office:** (608) 372-5765

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm

**December 23-31:** No School — Christmas Break

Football Mania — Week 14 Winner  
Daniel Willis — \$25

## Religious Education

Director of Religious Ed: Jon Burbach  
Religious Education Office: 608-372-4516 x3  
[dre@queenoftheapostlestomah.com](mailto:dre@queenoftheapostlestomah.com)

**Sunday, December 26**  
Level 9: No Class

**Wednesday, December 29**  
Levels K-5: No Class  
Levels 6-8, 10: No Class

**Sunday, January 2**  
Level 9: No Class

**Wednesday, January 5**  
Levels K-5: Class — 6:00pm-7:00pm  
Levels 6-8, 10: Class — 6:30pm-7:45pm

## The Christmas Octave

Only two feasts are deemed worthy of a liturgical octave, Christmas and Easter. The Christmas Octave runs from Christmas Day (December 25th) until the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary (January 1st), with related feasts being celebrated during that time period. These include St. Stephen (Dec. 26), St. John (Dec. 27), the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28) and The Holy Family (Sunday following Christmas).

Liturgically, the Church walks us through the Gospel’s infancy narrative. This is encouragement to take these mysteries to prayer, to greater reflect on this Child and the wonders of His birth, and to personally and intimately come to a fuller understanding of Who He is. Not just as a Church Figurehead, but in relation to each one of us specifically.

Thus the feasts, celebrated together as an octave, are meant to help propel us forward in our comprehension of Christ.

On the final day of the Christmas Octave, we get an answer as to who this Child is: He is God. We rejoice in this together—as it is another Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics—and we honor Mary, the sacred God-bearer.



## Feast of 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. —Luke 2:51–52*



On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly “just man.” Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus’ public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God’s love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God’s divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family.

*My Catholic Life*

## **Mary, Mother of God — January 1**

There are four central beliefs in Christianity that directly involve the Blessed Virgin Mary;

- Mary was conceived in Her mother’s womb in a right relationship with God, that is, without original sin (CCC 490).
- Mary was a virgin throughout her life (CCC 499).
- At the end of her life she was assumed into heaven body and soul (CCC 966).
- Mary is the Mother of God (CCC 495).

These doctrines are not, however, about St. Mary. They are about the mission and person of Christ. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke record the birth of Christ to make clear that God is His father and St. Mary, a human being, is His mother. We hear that in today’s Gospel (Luke 2:16 – 21). The shepherds go to see the child Jesus and tell people the message they had received from the angel, “I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10 – 11). Jesus Christ is the Divine Word who is the human being who will offer Himself for our salvation.

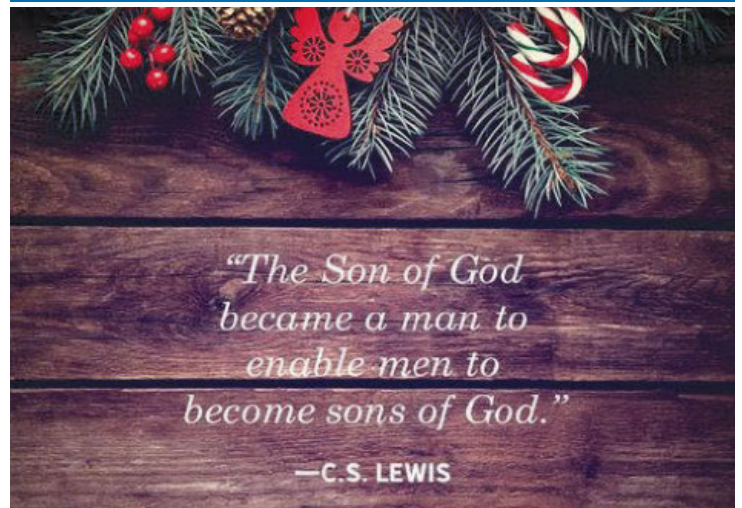
As the mother of our savior Jesus Christ, St. Mary certainly should be given due honor in the Church, but her role is really much deeper. Mary became the Mother of God because she humbly consented to participate in the salvation God chose to bring about. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Church holds up before us the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Her cooperation with God’s plan of salvation. The words of Mary, when she accepted Her role in salvation history, are a prayer, a prayer that you and I should say every day, “let it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38).

### Mass Times

**December 31 at 5:30pm**

**January 1 at 9am**

*This Solemnity is not a holy day of obligation this year, but what better way to kick off the New Year than to celebrate our Blessed Mother?!*



*“The Son of God  
became a man to  
enable men to  
become sons of God.”*

**—C.S. LEWIS**

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