

December 26, 2021



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



THE HOLY FAMILY

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4pm
Sunday 8am & 10am
Tuesday–Friday 7:30am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:15-3:45 or
by appointment.

Contact the parish office to register,
schedule a baptism, schedule a wedding
(six months notice required), and to
request the Sacrament of the Sick.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 8am–3pm

FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Thursday 8am–Noon

SCRIP

Scrip is sold before and after all week-
end Masses and in the parish office on
Fridays from 8am–3pm.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Requests are due to the office by Mon-
day in written format.

PARISH STAFF

788-5483

Rev. Brian D. Konopa

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Pastor

frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Richard Sage

ext. 8

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Parish Secretary

secretary@mmoclacrosse.org

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ted Knutson

784-8585

President

Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka 782-5998

Principal, Cathedral School

Kate Moll

782-5564

Principal, Blessed Sacrament School

Angela Koblitz

783-5483

Principal, St. Patrick School, Onalaska

Denise Ring

Principal, Aquinas Middle School 784-0156

Principal, Aquinas High School 784-0287

OUR MISSION

Mary, Mother of the Church
parishioners are called to be the
People of God, formed by the
Holy Word and nourished by
the Holy Eucharist. We joyfully
share our faith and gifts of time,
talent, and treasure. We are
committed to serve all God's
people in the building of the
Kingdom.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

From the Pastor and Parish Staff

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and Merry Christmas!

May Christ's peace reign in your hearts and in your homes!



Serving you in the name of Christ is an honor and a privilege. May 2022 be a special year of grace for all of us.

Family Is Important at Christmas

We make an extra effort to be with family at Christmas time...often times leaving our own comfortable homes, grimacing a bit as we brace for a trip that might include snow and freezing temperatures, loading a trunk full of gifts and "just-in-case-items," and perhaps adding an overnight expense to our budget. We do all this to share conversation and meals with family...sometimes with the awareness that our family relationships aren't as good as we experience with our own neighbors and co-workers back home. And yet we travel, because family is important.

Our family of faith is also important...and imperfect. It can seem easier to stay at home and say a little prayer, but it's important to remain engaged in the family of faith. That's why we came to Mass for Christmas.

In heaven, there is only one family. God is shaping that family right here on earth. The start of a new year is a great time to renew our commitment to this family and our weekly family gatherings.

Being registered and being active in a local parish is important. It might not always be exciting, but it's important because it's important to be part of the family.

- ◆ If you're not registered in a parish, call your local church. First, you may need to spend a couple months visiting area parishes to find one you're most comfortable with. Consider Mary, Mother of the Church!
- ◆ If you're already registered in a parish but not the church-going type, make an extra effort...as you did today.
- ◆ If you're holding back because you were married outside the Church—whether it's your first marriage or not—contact a priest and he can guide you through the necessary steps.
- ◆ If you have been a faithful church-goer, perhaps it's time to be involved in some parish ministry.

May your New Year be full of grace, happiness, and family.

Yours in Christ, Father Konopa

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1 is not a holy day of obligation because it lands on a Saturday. However, there will be a Vigil Mass on Friday, Dec. 31 at 4PM for this solemnity.

Sacristans, Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters, Gift Bearers, and Servers are needed for this

Mass. Please consider helping if you are available. Go to www.mmoclacrosse.org and click on the Ministry Scheduler link at the top of the page, or call Rose at 788-5483, ext. 2.

Casting a Vision for the Parish

What comes after Building Our Future Together? Where do we focus our parish resources, especially our time and our energy? Where is the Lord leading us? What is the new vision? What new ministries are we called to establish?

Father Konopa has posed these questions to various groups in October and November and would like to bring the fruit of these discussions to the entire parish. All are invited to a ground-level gathering on the weekend of January 15-16 in the Parish Hall following weekend Masses. We won't be able to answer all these questions in 35-45 minutes, but this will be a foundational presentation on the future direction of Mary, Mother of the Church. The 2020-2021 Parish Prayer speaks to this new vision:

Heavenly Father,

"Building Our Future Together"
has been a journey of trust.

Through your Son,
you have inspired us

to raise the funds for building projects.

Now you ask us to raise the faith in human hearts.

This is the deeper mission:

more than buildings,
you desire human hearts.

Send your Holy Spirit to help each of us
to receive your love more fully
and to deepen our personal commitment
to Jesus Christ.

Create an openness to new ministries
and new ways of reaching out to others.

May our buildings be places
where more and more people gather in faith
to experience your love.

May we respond to your saving goodness
as we build our future together
on our faith in Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Parish Office Hours We will be closed during the Christmas Season on Dec. 30-31.

KQEG-TV Sold

On Nov. 30, KQEG was sold to WKBT and we have been inquiring about broadcasting our Mass. In the meantime, we continue to live stream our 4 PM Vigil Masses and post them on our YouTube channel which is accessed on our website: www.mmoclacrosse.org.

The Diocese of La Crosse celebrates Mass every Sunday on Channel 19 at 9:30 AM. On December 25 a special Christmas Mass will be broadcasted at 10 PM on Channel 19.

Mary Mother of the Church

Time for a New Ministry Schedule



We will soon begin working on a new Ministry Schedule that will run from February 1 through April for Lectors, Cantors, Servers, Sacristan, Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters and Scrip Sellers. Please submit any "Can't Serve Dates" through the online scheduling tab on the parish website, www.mmoclacrosse.org under Ministry Scheduler or by calling the parish office, 788-5483, ext. 2 by Jan. 18.

Please consider actively signing up for other Masses: Ash Wednesday (Mar. 2), Holy Thursday (Apr. 14), Good Friday (Apr. 15), Holy Saturday (Apr. 16).

Parish Social Join us Thursday, January 6 after the 7:30 am Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee, conversation and fellowship.

MMOC Weekly E-Bulletin

The weekly e-bulletin was switched a couple months ago to a new format and carrier. If you have not been receiving it or would like to receive it, contact Rose, Parish Secretary at 788-5483 ext. 2.

Communion Calls The following parishioners will receive Communion in their homes the first week of January: Jean Weigel; Gerald Sheehan; Catherine Larson; Margaret Bakkum; Carol Weis; Julie & Steven Pitsch; Lone Ross; Judy Van Voorhis; Joyce Ruetten; Barb Herlitzka; Dorothy Winchel; Mary Flottmeyer; Dick Rady. If you know of someone who would like to receive the Eucharist in their home, please call the parish office at 788-5483.

2022-2023 ACS

On Monday, January 17, 2022, enrollment for the 2022-23 Aquinas Catholic Schools school year begins! If you are interested in exploring your options when it comes to education, we would be happy to show you what Aquinas has to offer. Current Aquinas families can also begin the re-enrollment process at that time.

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

Please join us for our upcoming open house dates at Aquinas High School & Middle School:

AHS: Monday, January 10 at 6pm

AMS: Wednesday, January 12 at 6pm

For more information, contact:

AHS: Jennifer Small at 784-0287

AMS: Jenna or Gina at 784-0156

Scrip Card Update

Marcus Theater scrip will no longer be available for immediate sale. It can be ordered in allotments of \$25 and picked up at the parish office or at church.

Family Life

New Parishioners MMOC is delighted to welcome Mark and Angela Binsfeld and family; Sarah McKenzie and family to the parish.

Welcomed to the Waters of Baptism

Congratulations to Josephine Rose Vegel who was baptized on December 18. We welcome you to God's family with great joy!

Religious Education

Holiday Schedule There will be NO CLASS for K-5, Edge and LifeTeen on the following Wednesdays: December 29 Happy New Year, and January 5 Catechists Meeting.

Classes resume for K-5, Edge, and Life Teen on Wednesday, January 12.

PCCW and Men's Club

The women of the PCCW and the Men's Club members will meet for a meeting and social on Wednesday, January 5, at 6:00 pm in Parish Hall. Ladies bring a hor d'oeuvres to share.

All are welcome to come for fellowship and create new friendships!

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." -Mother Teresa



The Cookie Walk wants to extend a very deep appreciation to the parishioners of Mary Mother of the Church for what you gave towards the 2021 Cookie Walk - you gave it your love, from signing up to make something to stepping in and doing something for the first time, and everything in between. Challenged by the wintry season we are in and the times we are going through currently as a country, each of you helped to make it continue to be a success. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. Special wishes filled with our love goes out to you and your families for a very Blessed holiday season. The total amount brought in from the Cookie Walk will be shared at a later date.

-The Cookie Walk Committee

Door Prize Winners: Sara Groetsch, Cory Helke, Becky Sans Crainte, Andre Schuttenhelm, Dan Skiles, Chris Thornton. Thank you to Kwik Trip for donating the gift cards!

Raffle winners: Staycation basket, Donna Neuman; Raise Your Glass wine basket, Virginia Horstman; Set of 3 rockers, Bonnie Feehan; Mystery box, Marilyn Jaekel.



Social Justice

Right To Life Signature Ad

For those wishing to have their names included in the Sunday, Jan. 23 La Crosse Tribune ad on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade, there will be volunteers collecting signatures and donations to cover the cost of the ad before and after all Masses on Jan. 8-9. A suggested donation of \$3 per name or \$5 per family is requested to help cover the cost.

Warming Center

December 26 meals and milk provided by: Barbara Stetzer, Virginia Horstman, Mary Calkins, and Deacon Sage. Food should be delivered to the Warming Center, 413 South 3rd St. by 6:00 PM.

Finance

Diocesan Annual Appeal

Please return your pledge card...even if "\$0" or "prayers only" is the response. There are extra pledge cards available on the Usher's Table in the gathering space of the church. The target goal for our parish is \$106,530. Currently we have heard from 25% of our families. Thank you!



End of the Year Donations Please have any donations you wish to be included for the 2021 tax year, into the parish office by 12 noon on Tuesday, Dec. 28 or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2021 Due to IRS requirements, anything sent through the mail postmarked after Dec. 31, 2021 cannot be posted to your 2021 contributions.



Liturgical Roles: Jan. 1-2, 2022

Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 p.m. Jerry Roesler (**Deacon**)
Mark Misch, Mary Olson
- 8:00 a.m. Mary Jo Schumacher (**Deacon**)
Dave Imhoff, Nancy Imhoff
- 10:00 a.m. Terri Pedace (**Deacon**)
Mary Olson, Barbara Hauke

Lector

- 4:00 p.m. Jerry Iverson, Mary Olson
- 8:00 a.m. Bob Mahr, Linda Elsen
- 10:00 a.m. Polly Berendes, Barbara Stetzer

Server

- 4:00 p.m. BJ Gerling, Keegan Gerling
- 8:00 a.m. Ryann Klar, Martin Logue
- 10:00 a.m. Amelia Kainz, Louie Berendes

Cantor

- 4:00 p.m. Nancy Misch
- 8:00 a.m. Pattie Nimocks
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Kulas

Musician

- 4:00 p.m. Christopher Carskadon
- 8:00 a.m. Christopher Carskadon
- 10:00 a.m. Christopher Carskadon

Sacristan

- 4:00 p.m. OPEN
- 8:00 a.m. Sue Groetsch
- 10:00 a.m. Carol Forer

Gift Bearer

- 4:00 p.m. OPEN, OPEN
- 8:00 a.m. Steve Klar, Erin Klar
- 10:00 a.m. Chuck Berendes, Polly Berendes

Greeter

- 4:00 p.m. Jon Mason, Joe Riemer, Steve Schaub, Neil Kumm, Ella Schuttenhelm, Sam Horman, Chris Schlegel, Lead-OPEN
- 8:00 a.m. Cindy Klar, Brian Logue, Peggy Baumler, Joan Weissenberger, Pat Burns, Donna Burns, Allan Baumler, Lead-Bob Klar
- 10:00 a.m. Jordan Stratman, Mike Wintheiser, Brenda Wintheiser, Charlotte Berendes, Christine Kainz, Trisha Stratman, Gabriella Stratman, Lead-Robb Pretasky

Scrip Seller

- 4:00 p.m. Vickie Kloss, Kevin Moyle
- 8:00 a.m. Kerry Groetsch, Karen Perry
- 10:00 a.m. Max Byington, Tammy Byington

December 26, 2021

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

7:30 AM † Dr. Gerald Miller
by Marie Miller

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

7:30 AM † Edna Schumacher
by Gloria Biesen

Thursday, December 30, 2021

7:30 AM † Norbert Hegenbarth
by Marie Meyers

2:00 PM † Connie Goodreau
Hillview by Steven and Mary Schaub

Friday, December 31, 2021

4:00 PM † Pat Tanner
by Gloria Biesen

Saturday, January 1, 2022

4:00 PM † Don and Lorraine Helfrich
by Joanne Dierkop

Sunday, January 2, 2022

8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:00 AM † Henry Becker
by Elaine Becker

The Rosary is prayed before each weekday Mass
Tuesday through Friday beginning at 7:05 am.

Building Our Future Together

All musical instruments play a unique role in the liturgical life of our church. In 2018 we were blessed with a gift of a grand piano for the main level. In 2022 we will be blessed with a gift of another grand piano and a new organ for the choir loft. After much research, we decided to go with a digital organ over a pipe organ.

In November we tried two different digital organs in our space each for two weeks. While two weeks is not nearly enough time to become completely acclimated with an instrument or to fine-tune the instrument for our space, it did give us a good feel for each organ. Both organs were very nice instruments and each one had its strengths.

We put out a survey to our musicians and choir members asking for feedback. The results were split, some preferred the Rodgers organ, while others preferred the Allen. Both instruments would have been a great addition to our music program. We paid particular attention to the musician's feedback as they will be the ones playing the organ in the future. We learned musicians liked features from both organs, such as rocker stops which light up to let you know they are on, three manuals (or keyboards), and the Allen organ's general design.

After much research, thought, and prayer we have decided to purchase an Allen organ. Allen does have an organ in stock that meets our needs and includes many of the features which the musicians found they liked from both instruments.

Financially, the two instruments were virtually the same cost. Gratefully, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the entire cost was covered. Thus the organ

choice was able to be made on our evaluation and preference of the various qualities and features of the instrument. The Allen organ company will hold this instrument for us until we are ready to put it in the choir loft. Music ministry is looking forward to the choir loft remodel project and the new instruments!

Merry Christmas!



Glory to God in the highest!
My precious Lord, Jesus,
I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth.
Your love for us is unfathomable,
it is glorious
transforming,
awe-inspiring,
and deeply personal.
You chose to come and dwell among us,
being born into poverty, rejection and humility.
Yet Your mother knew whom she bore,
Her heart was filled with the tenderest love
as she adored her Child and her God.
Help me, dear Lord,
to come to love You with the heart of Your mother.
Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor
shepherds.
Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth
and change my life on account of this perfect gift of
Yourself.
I love You, dear Lord Jesus.
Help me to love You with all my heart.
Newborn Savior of the World,
I trust in You.
Mother Mary and St. Joseph,
Pray for me and for all.
Amen.

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