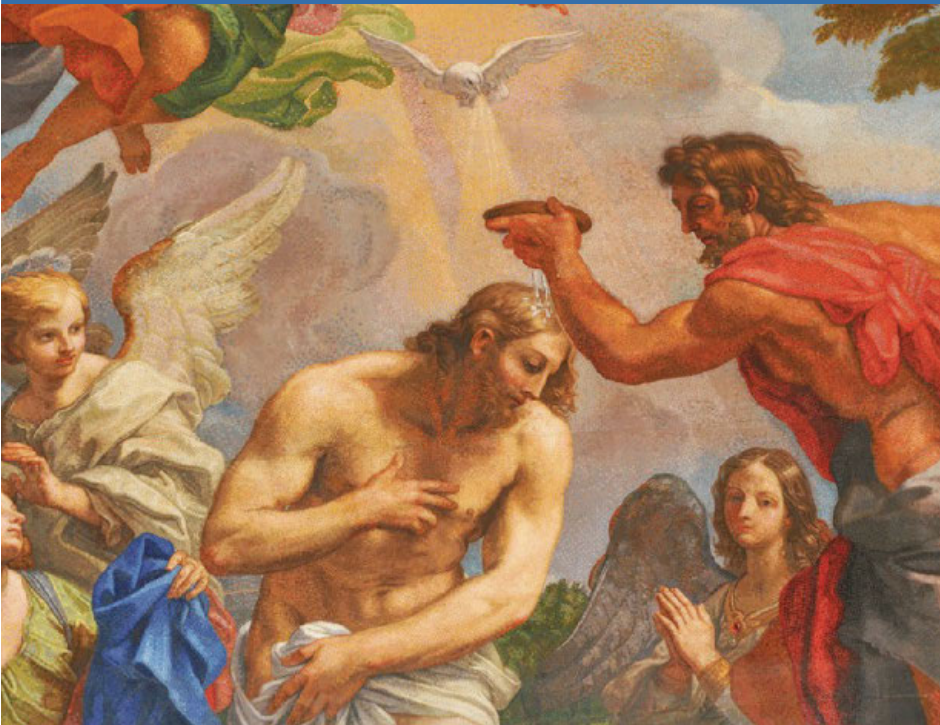


January 9, 2022



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

ext. 7

Pastor

frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org

Rev. Mr. Richard Sage

ext. 8

Deacon

rsage@mmoclacrosse.org

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ext. 5

Ministry with the Elderly and Sick

kathy@mmoclacrosse.org

Therese van Oss

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tvanoss@mmoclacrosse.org

Andy Foley

ext.6

Buildings and Grounds

afoley@mmoclacrosse.org

Mary Jo Lium

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Sacred Music

mjlium@mmoclacrosse.org

Holly Gorman

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Finance Assistant

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Rose Wegner

ext.2

Parish Secretary

secretary@mmoclacrosse.org

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784-8585

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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 Baptism of the Lord

Health Update from Deacon Sage 1/3/2022

My dear family and friends, at the end of Mass last weekend Father Konopa gave a prelude to this message regarding my health. I'm grateful to Father for his unwavering support and kindness to me during this illness. His spiritual support has been sustaining and a great consolation to Mary and me.

It has been just over 3 years since being diagnosed with bladder cancer (specifically, urothelial carcinoma). This cancer was identified as being particularly virulent, aggressive. Early on, the treatment was aimed at keeping the cancer contained in the bladder and to eradicate it before it would spread to other areas. However, a year ago it was discovered that the cancer had spread to area lymph nodes as well as the prostate. It was decided that major surgery was needed, but prior to surgery, chemotherapy would be the best option in order to be sure any "stray" microscopic cancer cells outside the surgery area would be destroyed.

After the surgery this past May, it was felt a preventative treatment would be appropriate. Accordingly, I began an immunotherapy treatment in early August. However, in a CT scan during a 3-month follow-up to surgery revealed the cancer had spread to the liver. We continued the immunotherapy treatments. A CT scan on October 18 indicated the immunotherapy treatments I had been receiving since early August had not had any impact on the cancer. However, after a biopsy on September 4, some of the tissue was genetically tested and a mutation was found that might be treatable with a new oral chemotherapy, Balversa that targeted the identifying mutation. I began taking the chemotherapy daily beginning October 29.

Unfortunately, on December 17 a follow-up CT scan in Rochester revealed that Balversa was not having any effect. Not only had the cancer-affected areas in the liver grown, cancer has now spread to the right lung. The doctors advised to stop taking the Balversa as it was having no positive effects and the side effects were quite nasty. Consequently, I'm taking a needed "break" from cancer treatment as the oncologists are conferring on what may be the next option to try. I hope that by the end of January they will have some new recommendations.

As Father Konopa mentioned last weekend, and perhaps you have observed, my strength and stamina have greatly diminished and side effects from the Balversa have not gone away. I have been doing less, and being less involved here at the parish over the past several months. However, in light of current developments, I need to withdraw even more from some duties, including some of my office time. Working with Father and our Finance Assistant, Holly Gorman, we have arranged for Hawkins Ash CPAs, LLC to take over some of our accounting needs and Holly will take over some of my duties. In addition, Andy Foley has been doing an outstanding job overseeing much of the building projects that I had previously done and he is ready and capable of stepping forward to complete Building Our Future Together.

This has been quite a journey for Mary and me and also for my family. Family is also a reason I need to cut back on some activity at the parish. While our children are relatively nearby they are not here in La Crosse. Mary and I would like to spend a little more time with them. For example, we have planned to take a family vacation the week of January 16 to a resort. We're planning time together visiting, playing games, reading and keeping the fireplace stoked (I'm not going snowmobiling!).

You and the parish of Mary, Mother of the Church have been a tremendous support to Mary and me, and we are so grateful. Thank you for the prayers, good wishes, and many offers of assistance. In many aspects, here among you we have found the real person and presence of our savior, Jesus Christ. We rely upon and trust in the Divine Mercy and love of Jesus. May Jesus, His mother Mary, and foster father Joseph be with us as we journey together as one.

Yours in Christ, Deacon Sage

Mary Mother of the Church

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 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 vision. 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.

MMOC TV Mass

WKBT is the new owner and manager of KQEG. They are unable to broadcast our online TV Mass live the way KQEG would do it. Our two options are 1) record a Sunday Mass earlier in the week or 2) broadcast Mass on a one-week delay. As an example, in order to broadcast our Easter Sunday Mass our church would need to be decorated for Easter during Holy Week for recording or we would need to broadcast Palm Sunday on Easter Sunday. Neither option is practical.

We will continue to live stream our 4PM Vigil Mass and post them on our YouTube channel through our website: www.mmoclacrosse.org.

The Diocese of La Crosse celebrates Mass every Sunday on Channel 19 at 9:30 AM. This Mass is pre-recorded.

Time for a New Ministry Schedule



We will soon begin working on a new Ministry Schedule that will run from February 1 through May 1 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).

MMOC Weekly E-Bulletin

The weekly e-bulletin was switched several 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.

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

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret Bakkum, Barbara Faust, Mark Hayes and Lori Monk. Our prayers and sincere sympathy are extended to the families and friends who mourn their loss. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

Religious Education

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

PCCW

The Cookie Walk Committee would like to say an enormous thank-you for all that was done and to congratulate the parish for its very special success. This year the Cookie Walk made \$9,031.22.

Social Justice

Pray for Dobbs and our Supreme Court Justices

Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health is the Supreme Court case that could overturn Roe v. Wade—the decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states. Nine justices stand between life and death for millions of innocent children and their mothers. The hearing began Dec. 1, with a ruling expected in June. Please fast and pray for God's grace to touch our Supreme Court justices. Pray for them by name: John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Stephen Breyer. For more information and resources, visit Pray-forDobbs.com.

Holy Hour for Life

On Saturday, January 22 there will be Eucharistic Adoration at 9:00 AM. This is the anniversary date of Roe v. Wade. Come join us and pray for life.

Right to Life Signature Ad In the back of church this weekend, sign up to have your name included in a pro-life ad in the La Crosse Tribune on Jan. 23. This is a testimony to life! A donation of \$3 per name or \$5 per family is requested to help cover the cost.

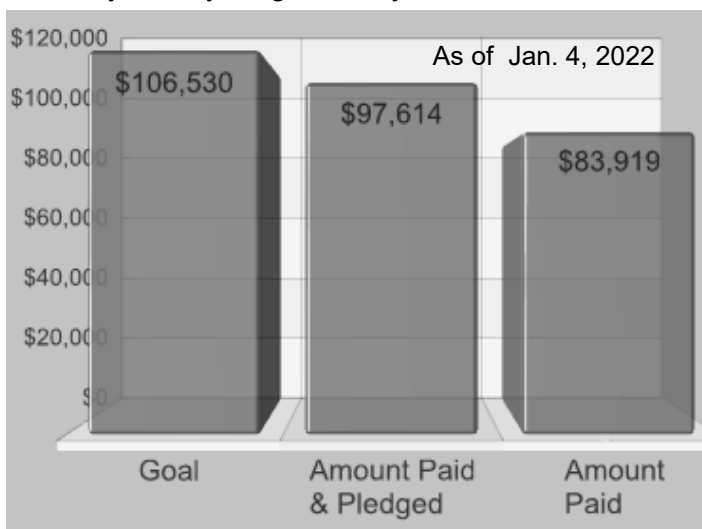
Warming Center

January 9 meals and milk provided by: Pat Muehr, Kerry & Sue Groetsch, Amy Korger and Andrea Logue. Food should be delivered to the Warming Center, 413 South 3rd St. by 6:00 PM.

Finance

Diocesan Annual Appeal

Currently we have heard from 28% of our families. There are extra pledge cards available on the Usher's Table in the gathering space of the church. Thank you for your generosity!



Due to space constraints, the Christmas Flower tributes will continue in the next bulletin.

Liturgical Roles: January 15-16

Minister of Holy Communion

- 4:00 p.m. Larry Weibel (**Deacon**)
Jerry Roesler, Mark Misch
- 8:00 a.m. Anita Olson (**Deacon**)
Janice Berry, Nick Berry
- 10:00 a.m. John Conzemius (**Deacon**)
Kathy McGettigan, Lori Hammes

Lector

- 4:00 p.m. Sue Ernster, Mary Olson
- 8:00 a.m. Bob Mahr, Nancy Steinhoff
- 10:00 a.m. Bill Brendel, Mary Jo Swartout

Server

- 4:00 p.m. BJ Gerling, Keegan Gerling
- 8:00 a.m. Michael Lium, Martin Logue
- 10:00 a.m. Emily Krejchik, Harper Solverson

Cantor

- 4:00 p.m. Peter Schmitz
- 8:00 a.m. Lisa Conzemius
- 10:00 a.m. Kristine Gasch

Musician

- 4:00 p.m. Mary Jo Lium
- 8:00 a.m. Mary Jo Lium
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Jo Lium

Sacristan

- 4:00 p.m. OPEN
- 8:00 a.m. Jane Vogel
- 10:00 a.m. Linda Gillette

Gift Bearer

- 4:00 p.m. Ellie Kath, Tony Kath
- 8:00 a.m. Linda Kaiser, Ron Kaiser
- 10:00 a.m. Jim McGettigan, Kathy McGettigan

Greeter

- 4:00 p.m. Mike Weissenberger, Patrick Hogan, Kevin Moyle, Neil Kumm, Brian Logue, Kellie Schmitz, Joe Riemer, Lead-Chris Schlegel
- 8:00 a.m. Peggy Baumler, Deke Stanek, Sue Groetsch, Kerry Groetsch, Pat Burns, Donna Burns, Erica Stanek, Lead-Allan Baumler
- 10:00 a.m. Marcus Klar, Jerry Kernan, Anne Kernan, Andrew Schwartz, Riley Klar, Phil Klar, Elie Klar, Lead-OPEN

Scrip Seller

- 4:00 p.m. Heidi Schlegel, Dee Sauer
- 8:00 a.m. Karen Perry, Mary Genz
- 10:00 a.m. Kimberly Krejchik, Sheri Skelton

January 9, 2022

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

7:30 AM † Richard Sagerar
by Jackie Sagerar

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

7:30 AM † Bernadette Schumacher
by Her Family

Thursday, January 13, 2022

7:30 AM † Rita Nowicki
by The Nowicki Family

2:00 PM † David Grayson
Hillview by Thomas and Pat Nelson

Friday, January 14, 2022

7:30 AM † Marion Pahs
by Mark and Sue Halter

Saturday, January 15, 2022

4:00 PM † Winnie McGuire
by Jeffrey and Julie Grip

Sunday, January 16, 2022

8:00 AM † Howard Olson
by Knights of Columbus Council 839

10:00 AM Pro Populo

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

Building Our Future Together

The December 19 bulletin listed a number of projects to be accomplished in 2022 to address the final part of Phase IV of Building Our Future Together. The major emphasis is on the church entrance (narthex), church restrooms, and choir loft. Last week's bulletin focused on the main floor and this one will focus on the choir loft.

Music ministry is a strength of our parish life and the Music Room in the Religious Education Center has offered wonderful support to our dedicated musicians. We will attempt to provide the same support in the choir loft.

On December 14, representatives from Audio Architect (church sound system) and Wenger (Music Room riser and sound panels) came to our church for acoustical analysis: to discuss the goals for preferred sound and for best location of musicians and speakers.

-In the choir loft there are multiple levels/steps; each one is about 5½ feet wide and runs the length of the space. The two lowest levels will be

filled in; therefore, when entering the loft from the stairs, that level will become the lowest level in the entire choir loft. This will require raising the safety railing at the edge of the choir loft. Since the platform lift will make the choir loft wheelchair accessible, the flooring needs to be level. This "open floor plan" will also provide extra flexibility for placement of the new digital organ, the grand piano, and our instrumentalists.

-The "straight-lined" terrazzo riser will be replaced with a "semi-circle" riser (similar to the Music Room in the Religious Education Center) so choir members can hear each other better and sit with greater comfort.

-The Chamber room once housed pipes from the organ; now it will be reduced in size so the open floor plan is expanded.

-Speakers for the new digital organ will be placed along the back wall and inside the Chamber room.

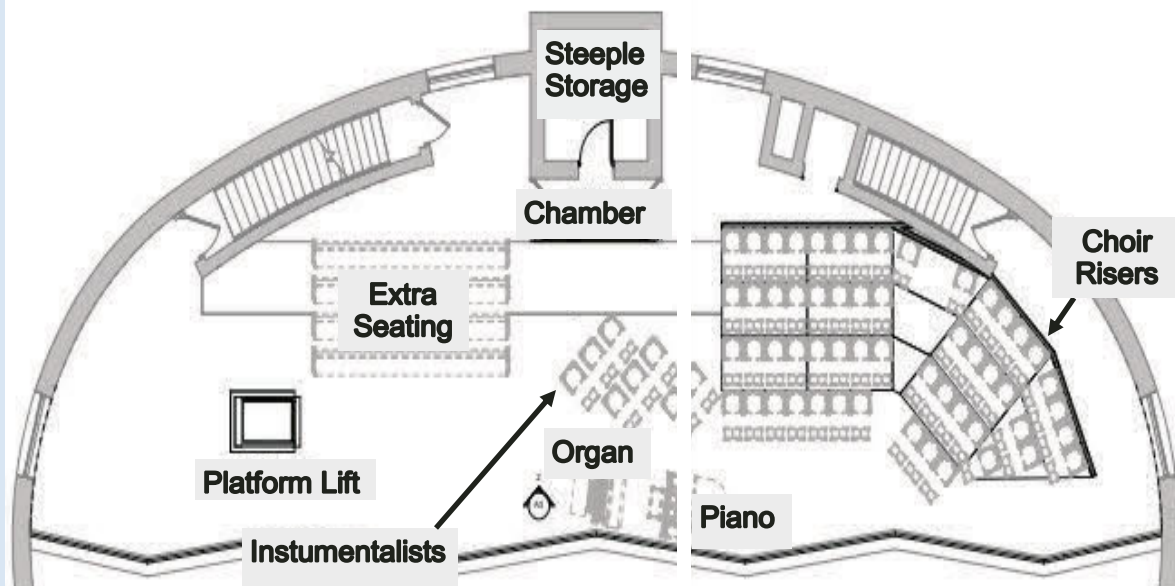
-Access will be opened to the steeple's support structure in order to add storage space. A door will be installed as part of this goal.

At the December 14 meeting, the "Loop System" was discussed with Audio Architect. This system works with personal hearing aids to overcome background noise. We learned about additional technology options which use FM frequency. We hope to learn more about the new technology and add this to our 2022 projects.

We are grateful to our Director of Sacred Music Mary Jo Lium and for the many musicians who have provided beautiful music during the Christmas Season as well as other liturgical seasons of the year. We are delighted to offer them this support.

Our current timeline anticipates these renovations to begin after Easter (about May 1).

Thank you for the generosity which is accomplishing these projects. Please keep our parish and the success of this year's projects in your prayers as we Build Our Future Together.



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