

Growing in the Spirit



CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25, 2022





"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord, and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, and suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest'."

We are all very familiar with the report of Jesus' birth.

We know about the multitude singing, and we are aware of how the shepherds came from the fields to see and worship the child. On this glorious day we are the heavenly host singing and we in a sense are the shepherds who kneel in admiration of this child. This child is like none other. We know that every child changes the world in his or her own way. But the birth of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary does more than change the world. He changes our lives completely. He comes to save us. He comes to embrace us. And He invites each of us to embrace Him.

Most of us are aware that the first four Books of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — are called the Gospels. We also know in general that these Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ — His birth, ministry, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. What you may not know nonetheless is that the first three Gospels, which we call the Synoptic Gospels, are very different from the Gospel of John, from which our Gospel for today comes.

The Gospel of John is unique in many ways. For example, almost 90 percent of the material it contains about Jesus' life is not found in the other three Gospels. Also, you might say that the Synoptic Gospels tend to be more historical while the Gospel of John is more theological. Today's Gospel Reading, which is the opening statement of John's Gospel, is an example of this difference. Note how John describes Jesus' birth: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him. And without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life; and this life was the light of the human race: the light shines in the darkness."

On this magnificent Christmas Day we receive the life, and we receive His light. It is no wonder that all our readings reflect that life and that light and the joy that results. Just listen to the words and phrases we find in the First Reading from Isaiah. These are perfect descriptions of what we should feel on this day: "beautiful; glad tidings; peace; good news; salvation; shout for joy; break out in song." What a summary of this day!

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews complements and affirms the feelings expressed in Isaiah. The writer makes it clear that Jesus is God and that today marks the beginning of salvation for us. This passage from Hebrews parallels our Gospel today in that it is the opening words of the letter to the Hebrews. The first word is "God" as that is where it all begins. God speaks to us in the birth of Jesus, and the author of the letter uses a word to describe Jesus that may be foreign to us: the author speaks of the "refulgence of his glory." Refulgence means brightness or radiance. The original Greek word from which this is translated is apaugasma. That means brightness beyond our understanding. It is as if we cannot see or look upon the Lord — only through the light of Jesus His Son.

The Gospel, as explained previously, speaks of the Christ child in a way that is not found in the other Gospels. Jesus is the Word incarnate. If we review what we know about Jesus, we might say He was from Nazareth or He was born in Bethlehem, or He is descended from Abraham through David. However, John wants us to understand that Jesus has come to us directly from God as He is One with God. He is the Word. Toward the end of His Gospel John states of his Gospel: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Today is day of life and light. It is truly a day on which we must proclaim "Glory to God in the highest."

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR ALL SAINTS & OUR LADY

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm All Saints (Fr. J) - All Saints Family

5:00 pm Our Lady (Fr. T) - Our Lady Parish Family

9:30 pm All Saints (Fr. J) - Dec'd members of the Leon & Katherine Kurczek Family†

Sunday, December 25

8:00 am Our Lady (Fr. T) - Judy Egbert †

9:30 am All Saints (Fr. J) - Ken Seaman †

Monday, December 26 - No Mass

Tuesday, December 27

4:00 pm Our Lady - Tom & Julie Gnewuch †

5:15 pm All Saints - Billi Kaufman †

Wednesday, December 28

8:00 am Our Lady - David Meier †

8:00 am All Saints - Leonard Chier †

Thursday, December 29

8:00 am Our Lady – Jeanette Brenner †

8:00 am All Saints – Clifford & Evelyn Resop †

Friday, December 30

8:00 am Our Lady - Norene Seaman †

8:00 am All Saints - Chuck Seaman †

Saturday, December 31

4:30 pm All Saints (Fr. T) - Dec'd members of the Pribnow Family †

5:00 pm Our Lady - (Fr. A) - Mary Ann Sondalle †

Sunday, January 1

7:30 am All Saints - (Fr. T) - Alan Daus †

8:00 am Our Lady (Fr. A) - Our Lady Parish Family

10:00 am All Saints (Fr. T) - All Saints Parish Family

MEMORIAL LIGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

All Saints Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Dec'd members of the Trochinski, Steckbauer, & Yonke Families

Our Lady Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Ralph, Ann, and Andrea Hartman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingo - Sun. 1/1 - 6:30 pm - All Saints Social Hall

Pro-Life Rosary - Mon. 1/2 - 5:30 pm - frontage road outside the PlannedParenthood facility - Oshkosh

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE ALL SAINTS & OUR LADY

Saturday Dec. 31	All Saints 4:30 pm		Our Lady 5:00 pm	
Lector	Dennis Klak		Jim Mueller	
Eucharistic Ministers	Wayne & Bonnie Lundt		Amy Polcyn	
Ushers			Dan & Lisa Sondalle	
Sunday Jan. 1	All Saints 7:30 am		Our Lady 8:00 am	
Lector	Donna McMartin		Robin Wallenfang	
Eucharistic Ministers	Lawrence & Sharon Nigbor		Nancy Chikowski	
Ushers			Hal & Sheila Pohlman	
Sunday Jan. 1		All Saints 10:00 am		
Lector		Debra Dowen		
Eucharistic Ministers		Mary Hutzler, Joyce Petit		

~ A few notes ~

There is **no** Religious Ed on Wed. 12/28.

Mass at All Saints will be at 8 am on Thurs. 12/29

All Saints Parish office will be closed: Mon. 12/26, Tues, 12/27, Fri. 12/30, and Mon. 1/2/23.

Dear Parishioners,

I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to my dedicated staff, to all those who decorated the church, our music director Erin Mueller, choir, cantors, instrumentalists, liturgical ministers, the children in the Christmas pageant, and the hidden volunteers behind the scenes to keep our church clean and



beautiful. Please give them your thanks when you see them in person.

I am also grateful for all the cards, financial gifts, edible gifts, non-edible gifts for Christmas. Your love, support, and generosity will not be forgotten during this bustling and eventful year of our parish life. I am truly blessed to be your pastor.

Let us continue to pray for each other that we may be faithful in radiating Christ's truth, beauty, and goodness everyday. Salvation has come in Jesus Christ our Lord! God bless,

Father John

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



BINGO! Join us for Bingo on Sunday evenings. Doors open at 5 PM for food and refreshments. Bingo begins at 6:30.

<u>Dec. 25</u> - Christmas - NO BINGO <u>Jan. 1 - KC's</u> Cakes: Bonnie Lundt, Ruth Jodarski

There is still time to make a donation to the Christmas Memorial Fund! Donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, or just to help defray the cost of bringing the beauty of the season into our worship space. Donors and their memorials will be included in a bulletin insert the week after Christmas. Please make sure to get your donations in by noon on Wednesday, <u>Dec. 28</u> to be included in this insert. Donations can be dropped in the collection basket or sent to either parish office. Thank you!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society in Oshkosh has recently expressed its thanks and gratitude for the donations that came from our parishes using the special envelopes provided in your monthly envelope packets. Thank you all for your generosity!

"**Keep Christ in Christmas**" yard signs are available for sale for \$5 each through the Knights of Columbus. Contact Tom Pionke, 920-290-0984 to purchase a sign.

TMIY (That Man is You) has completed its fall session. There will be a brief winter break with NO meetings on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4th. We will resume with the spring session on Jan. 11th and run through April 5th.

End of Year Bookkeeping Notes - The end of the year is fast approaching, but there is still time to make any contributions that you would like counted in the 2022 business year. Please make sure any <u>All Saints</u> contributions get to the office by Wed. Dec. 28th. <u>Our Lady of the Lake</u> contributions need to be received or postmarked by Dec. 31st.

Another thing to consider: Congress has made permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover. If you are 70¹/₂ years old or older, you can make a charitable gift up to \$100,000 from your IRA. Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution and you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given directly from your IRA to charity. Please consider such a gift to your parish. **Welcome!** Emily Krier, Thomas Cismoski, Luke Horvath, and Scott & Sarah Gordon and Family to All Saints Parish Family. We are blessed to have you!

Rest in Peace - Shane Luethe who was buried from All Saints Church this past week. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.



Eucharistic Adoration

All Saints Church has Adoration on Wednesdays from 8:30am—3:30pm. We invite anyone who has time to stop in for a visit with our Eucharistic Lord.

Can you commit to 30 minutes or more once a week on Wednesdays? Please sign up in the gathering space, see Sr. Michaeleen or call the office. The new schedule goes through January 25, and time slots are now in halfhour increments. Even if you are not signed up, you are welcome to come any time, for any amount of time, whether it's an hour or only a few minutes.

For Your Marriage

- Yee-Haw!! Callin' all married couples to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter SQUARE DANCE on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 in St. Ann's gym (323 N Van Buren, Stoughton). Potluck dinner (no nut/peanuts please) followed by 2 hours of guided square dancing by an official Square Dance Caller. So get ready for a night of do-sa-do and swingin' your partner! We will learn as we go, so if you're up to learning something new, enjoying a lot of laughs and getting your heart pumping, this will be a night y'all will remember! There is no cost to attend but free-will donations accepted. Registration is requested but not required (Amy & Jim @ 608-215-5197 or awollangk17@gmail.com)
- Retrouvaille Weekend Is your marriage coming apart? Does separation and divorce seem inevitable? There is hope. Madison Area Retrouvaille is a ministry for struggling marriages. Couples have rediscovered each other and their marriages through this program. A Retrouvaille program is scheduled January 27-29, in Green Lake, WI. Visit www.helpourmarriage.orf for more information and/or for registration.

Mollie B will be back in Berlin on May 21st, 2023! Tickets are now available by contacting Tom Pionke at 920-290-0984. Tickets make great Christmas presents!

All Saints Capital Campaign	Up to <i>\$2 MILLION MATCH</i>			SALL SAINTS CAUNTER P
\$8,388,190.70 raised as of	Pledged-	\$1,151,298		Comments and Comments
As of December 20, 2022!	Matching Pledge-	<u>\$1,151,298</u>	Matching Pledge Goal-	\$2,000,000
Thank you for your generosity!	Matching Pledge Tota	al \$2,302,596	Left to Match-	\$ 848,702

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND FAITH FORMATION

All Saints Regional Catholic School and Religious Education Center Building Update



Despite the cold and snowy weather, progress continues to be made on our future All Saints Regional Catholic School and Religious Education Center. The project continues to move forward on schedule. Please keep this project in your prayers for continued good progress and the safety of all the workers involved!

Save the Date! Bishop Hying is traveling the Diocese of Madison this spring to preach kerygmatic missions, helping people rediscover the life-changing message of the Gospel. In most instances, his talk begins each evening at 7:00pm and is preceded by a holy hour. All Saints will be hosting Bishop Hying February 5-7, 2023. Please mark your calendars to attend one or both days of the parish missions event. Stay tuned for more information regarding times as the date gets closer.

Registration for Camp Gray 2023!

Summer Camp 2023 is going to be our best summer yet! Registration will open on January 24th for returning campers (and those who were on the 2021 & 2022 waitlist) and January 25th for the general public.

Start Planning Now by Checking Out the Session Chart! <u>https://campgray.com/summer-camp/session-chart-2/</u>

Guest Teacher at All Saints Catholic School



Recently the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at All Saints Catholic School had a special guest teacher, Mr. Jerry Bella. He came in and showed the students how screen printing works. He brought his equipment, demonstrated various techniques, and gave each student a tee-shirt with an original design he used at EAA AirVenture. The classes enjoyed his presentation very much, and he plans to come back and teach other industrial art methods.

If you would like to come in and present a talent or subject that you are passionate about, or have students tour your business, please contact Mrs. Dahms at the school office at 920-361-1781. We can help you put a presentation together. The students really enjoy learning about our community and the people in it!



ALL SAINTS (week 24)

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*Weekly Envelope Ge	oal	\$14,600.00
Actual Weekly Offerto	ory	<u>\$19,935.56</u>
Difference		\$ 5,335.56
Envelope YTD Goal:	\$ 3	350,400.00
Actual YTD Total:	\$ 3	<u>316,347.89</u>
Difference:	(-\$	34,052.11)

Give Your "First Fruits" Back to God!		
To Parish5-8%		
To Diocese1%		
To Charities1-4%		

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Would you prayerfully consider treating All Saints / Our Lady of the Lake as one of your children in your will/estate planning? Call your Parish Office for details.

OUR LADY of the LAKE (week 24)

*Weekly Envelope Goal <u>Actual Weekly Offertory</u> Difference		\$3,890.00 <u>\$3,430.00</u> (-\$ 460.00	
Envelope YTD Goal:		3,360.00	
Actual YTD Total:	\$9	<u>3,626.34</u>	
Difference:	Ş	5 266.34	

* Envelopes can be dropped off at either Parish The Parish's expected increased income flow revolves around Christmas and Easter time.





Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church



530 Ruth Street Green Lake, WI 54941

ESTABLISHED 1908

OLOL OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office	
Parish Secretary	Robin Wallenfang
(Monday and Tuesday 8:30 Al	M - 12:30 PM)
Parish Email	OLGLCatholic@gmail.com
Website	https://www.olol.center

All Saints Catholic **Church and Regional School**

Pastoral Council Chair	Nathan Polcyn
Finance Council Chair	Rita Thrasher
Financial Secretary	Betty Rowley
Building & Grounds	Hal Pohlman
Music Director	Erin Mueller
+-	emueller@allsaintsberlin.org

N8566 State Road 49 P.O. Box 269 Berlin, WI 54923

ESTABLISHED 1870

ALL SAINTS OFFICES

Office/School 151 S. Grove Street, Berlin, WI 54923 Parish Office 920-361-5252 Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8 AM - 4 PM Parish Email parishoffice@allsaintsberlin.org

Website allsaintsberlin.org Parish Advisory Council Co-President Amy Wenig Parish Advisory Council Co-President Cathy Hargrave Finance Council President Wendy Seaman

ST. STANISLAUS CEMETERY

Sexton: David LaBuda (cell) 920-290-2581

ALL SAINTS REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Website https://allsaintsberlin.org/catholic-school School Principal Jana Dahms

ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY

Sexton: Roger Mayo 920-361-6161

JOINT STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

PASTOR

Father John A. Silva 920-294-6440/920-361-5252

ASSOCIATE PASTOR Fr. Anthony Thirumalareddy 920-294-6440/920-361-5252

Director of Religious Ed. Michelle Wolff 920-361-5252 mwolff@allsaintsberlin.org

SCHEDULING EVENTS

All parish activities or meetings need to be scheduled on the parish calendar. Please call the parish office.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday - Noon

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish family. Please stop by or call the parish office for information about registering as parish members.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

We are happy to bring the Holy Communion to those confined to their homes. Please notify the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

CONFESSION/ADORATION

All Saints Confession: Saturday: 4:00 PM Sunday: 9:30 AM Tuesday: 5:45-6:15 PM Wednesday: 5:45-6:45 PM

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesday: 5:45-6:45 PM Wednesday: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM Our Lady of the Lake Confession: Saturday: 4:30 PM Sunday: 7:30 AM Friday: 8:30-9:30 AM

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday: 8:30-9:30 AM

Communal Penance Celebrations are scheduled during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

BAPTISM

Baptism dates are arranged through the parish offices. First time parents are required to attend baptism preparation program before the baptism of their child. Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGE

To Schedule a wedding date, call the parish office. The common policy of the Diocese of Madison requires a 6-month minimum notice. We strongly recommend at least one year in advance.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office to arrange individual celebrations.