



# OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## WEEKEND MASSES

*Saturday:* 4:15 p.m.

*Sunday:* 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

*Monday:* 11:00 a.m.

*Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:* 8:30 a.m.

Consult bulletin for special Holy Day  
and holiday schedules.

## SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

*Conversion & Reconciliation*

*Saturday:* 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Sunday:* 7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

*Monday:* 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

*Tuesday:* 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

*Wednesday:* 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

*First Friday:* 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Tuesdays & Wednesdays:*

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

*Thursdays:* 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

## OFFICE HOURS

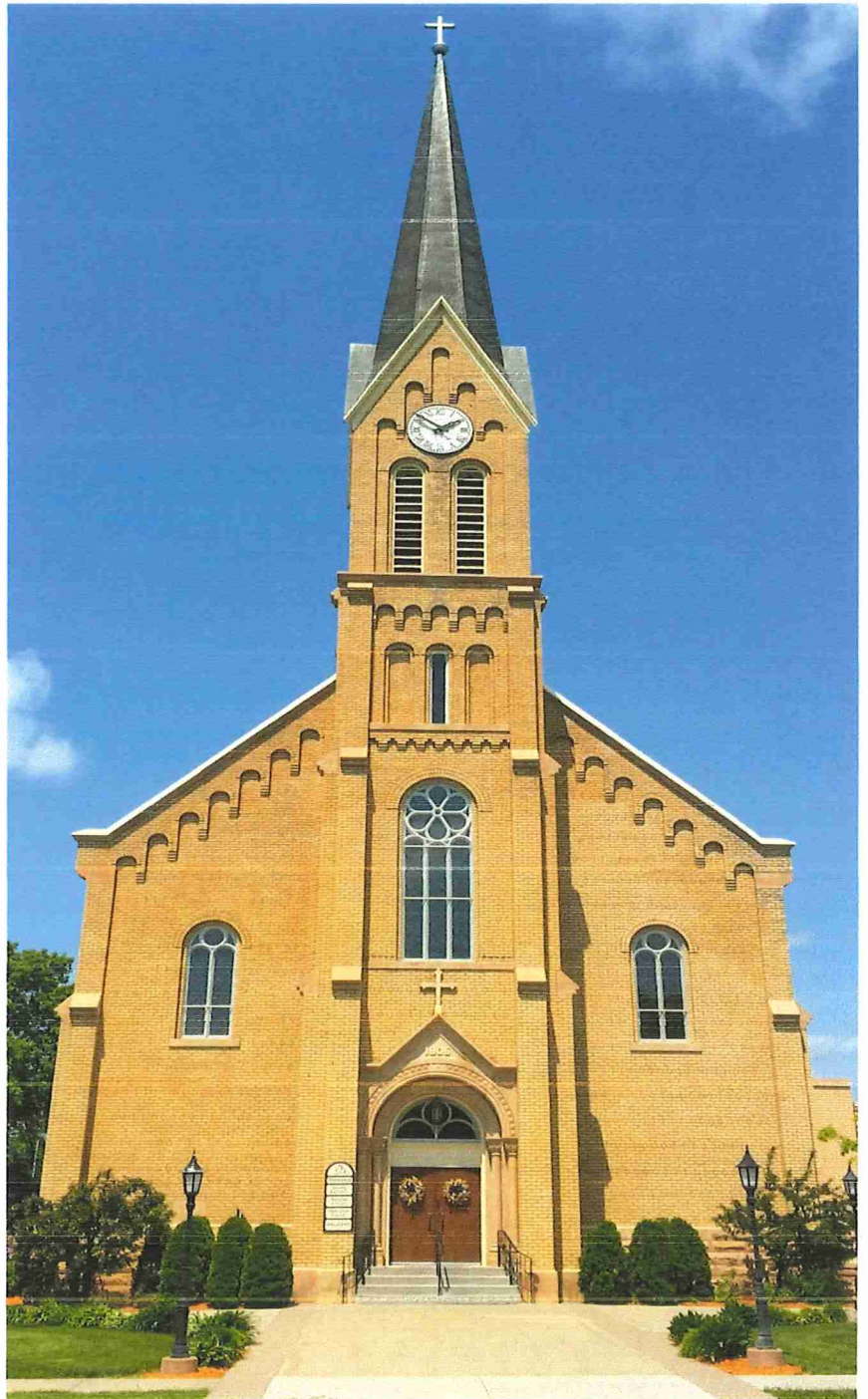
*Weekdays:* 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:

*Make arrangements with Parish Office  
six months prior to tentative date.*

## BAPTISMS:

*Congratulations! Thank you for accepting and caring for one of God's greatest gifts. As part of Baptism preparation, expectant parents are required to attend Mass weekly. Please speak to Fr. Brian Lynch after Mass during the second trimester of pregnancy to begin the formal preparation process. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.*



200 East Church Street • Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011  
952.873.6564 • [www.ourladyoftheprairie.com](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie.com)



**THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR****Yoga in School**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of the Prairie:

I am concerned about the practice of yoga in public elementary schools. Though I have not taken the time to do a thorough investigation, what I am hearing suggests that yoga has become a compulsory component of local public elementary education, and that unless parents of students do something to intervene, it can be assumed that local elementary school students are practicing yoga at school.

Yoga has origins in the Hinduism, a non-Christian religious and philosophical tradition originating in India. The exercises, expressions, and postures of yogic practice are built upon erroneous pre-Christian understandings of gods (yes, small g and plural), human persons, and the relationships between these beings.

The problems with yoga in elementary education include the following: 1. those who teach yoga in a public elementary school are neutral at best neutral regarding the truth about God ( yes, big G and singular), human beings, and relationships between them, and have neither the interest nor the ability to teach the truth about God and the human person; 2. if teachers of yoga do their job well, children are likely to want to go deeper into the practice of yoga and become even more proficient and advanced in yoga by embracing the erroneous non-Christian beliefs about gods and the human person on which yoga is built.

At Our Lady of the Prairie School, we teach the truth about God and the human person. This includes our belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead in his very same body that was nailed to the cross so that you and I can enjoy eternal life in our own resurrected bodies when he comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

There is so much good and true religion to teach that there is no place for yoga at Our Lady of the Prairie School. The benefits of Catholic education are truly out of this world!

All the Best in Christ,  
Fr. Brian Lynch

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Pastor, Rev. Brian Lynch - [blynch@olp.church](mailto:blynch@olp.church)  
Robert Raleigh - Deacon - 952-873-6688

**PARISH OFFICE**, 952-873-6564

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 - 3:00pm  
Kris Koehler - Business Administrator  
Kelly Pumper - Administrative Assistant

**OLP SCHOOL & LITTLE PRAIRIE PRESCHOOL**, 952-873-6564

Wendi Alessio - Principal of Parish School, Preschool Director

**FAITH FORMATION**, 952-873-6564

Patrick Schroers - Youth/Religious Education Coord.  
Loree Heinkel - Religious Education Assistant

**LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:****Trustees**

Charlotte Mulroy  
Sue Schultz

**Finance Council**

Kevin Berger  
Jerome Flaherty  
Tammy Kottke  
Lisa May  
Dawn Skluzacek

**Parish Council**

Joan Bruggemeier  
Maureen Daly  
Jim Gerres  
Randy Koepp  
Julie Lenz

Rick Morgan  
Joe Murphy  
Mike Pingalore  
Renee Schultz  
Chuck Valek

**Prep Board**

Rebecca Rupp  
Sarah Williamson

**School Advisory Council**

Michele Giles  
Rose Kolden  
Ashley Simons  
Kristen Strauss  
Joe Vandermark

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

The Catholic Church is the Church founded by Jesus Christ; it is the same Church mentioned in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. The term "Catholic" means "according to the whole;" it was used early in the Church's history to distinguish her from a number of other gatherings whose teachings and practices were not true to the authoritative teachings of Christ's apostles. All human persons are invited and encouraged to accept the salvation offered by Jesus through His one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church by living the sacramental life offered by the Catholic Church. It is the mission of Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church to offer this life to the people of Belle Plaine, Minnesota and its environs.

If you would like to become Catholic, please contact Fr. Brian Lynch in person or by email at [Blynch@olp.church](mailto:Blynch@olp.church).



### OLP School News

2018-19 Registration Information NOW Available!



We are now accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. Scholarships are available. Please call or stop in the office for more information.



## Catholic United Financial



Please join us after both masses on **Sunday, April 22** for coffee, homemade cinnamon rolls and bars provided by Catholic United Financial. While there, come say hello to our new area Sales Representative, Eve Hennen!



### 18th Annual OLP School Gala THANK YOU!

Our winners of the drawing for the 18th Annual Gala were:

- \$5,000 Dennis, Dan, Brad and Mike O
- \$3,000 John and Mary Murphy
- \$2,000 Ken Neisen
- \$1,000 Penny Keating
- \$1,000 Dennis, Brad, Austin and Jake

Thank you to all who donated items to make up such wonderful FULL baskets, and to all who attended to show support for our Catholic School.

A special thank you to the families and teachers that signed up to work a shift.

Thank you to Kelly Pumper for tracking all our ticket sales, Dan Neisen and Ryan Neisen for helping to sell our tickets, and to Joe Fahey for being our Auctioneer. It really takes a lot of dedicated people to make this a successful event. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

### Prayer for Our Country:

O Most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He, alone, is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life.

Amen

### EVENT DATE CHANGE:

**The Noteables--Spring Concert,  
"Musical Memories"  
Sunday, April 29, 2018  
4:00 p.m.  
Le Sueur-Henderson  
Middle/High School  
Auditorium  
901 E. Ferry Street  
Le Sueur, MN 56058  
Admission FREE**





Monday, April 23, 2018



**Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church & School**  
200 E Church Street  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011  
www.ourladyoftheprairie.com  
952-873-6564

**Director of Faith Formation:** Patrick Schroers  
pschroers@ourladyoftheprairie.com  
**Assistant:** Loree Heinkel  
lheinkel@ourladyoftheprairie.com  
Fax # 952-873-6717

# THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Rebecca Rupp and Sarah Williamson for all their efforts for the Bingo Fundraiser! Despite the approaching winter weather, we had a great turnout and many amazing prizes were won. It was a fun and successful event!

Thank you to all the donors!



**MAY 2, 2018 6:15 pm**

We welcome Super Bowl Champion **MATT BIRK** to Our Lady of the Prairie!

All are welcome to attend!

## Faith Formation for Children & Youth

### FAMILY PROGRAM

Keep working on your family storybooks.  
On **April 29**, the books will be displayed at the Project Fair / Family Day.  
The activity will be the **CREED** game!

### 7-9 PREP

**April 25**

Last Day 6:15 pm Mass

Students come to Mass with your family!

Interested in being on the PREP Board? The Board is an advisory board to the PREP office and all the ministries that are offered through the PREP program.  
Next meeting is **April 24** at 6:30 pm

## 2nd Grade Sacrament Year

Practice with your children on how to receive Communion. They will also practice this at the workshop.

### TRANSUBSTANTIATION

What does this word mean?

Please bring your banners with to the Workshop  
**Apr 28** First Communion Workshop, 8:30 am

## Confirmation

6:00 pm Mass and Meeting on **April 29\***

\*Parent Meeting after Mass

**Date Change:** Sending Mass for Confirmation is moved from May 13th 10:00 am Mass to **May 20th 6:00 pm Receiving Mass**

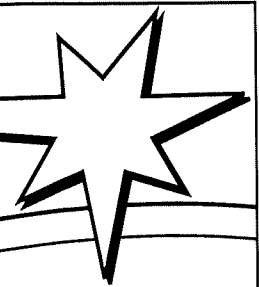
## Important dates for your calendar

**May 4** First Friday, Confessions 3-9 pm, Stations 6:30 pm, Adoration 7-8 pm.

**May 6** First Communion Mass, 11:30 am

**May 17** Confirmation at St. Dominic's, 7 pm

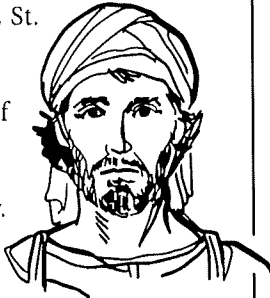
**June 11-15** VBS



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Joseph the Worker

As a carpenter, St. Joseph, earthly father to Jesus, used the work of his hands to serve his family and community.



He taught his Son his trade, working side-by-side in his shop. Jesus also learned dedication, integrity, and the dignity of work from the example of his earthly father.

As the protector of the Holy Family and the spouse of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is an example of strength and obedience and devotion to God.

### Our spiritual GPS

Children understand the importance of maps. When we want to travel somewhere new, a map or GPS can show us how to get there. The 10 Commandments are our spiritual GPS – if we follow them, we will get where we want to go.

*"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me"* (Matthew 18:4-5).



## Parenting tips from the Mother of God

God chose Mary to be the Mother of his Son, and gave her the preparation she needed to do the job. Jesus thought so highly of the mother she became, that his dying thoughts were of her. During this month for mothers, we can take parenting tips from the Mother of God:

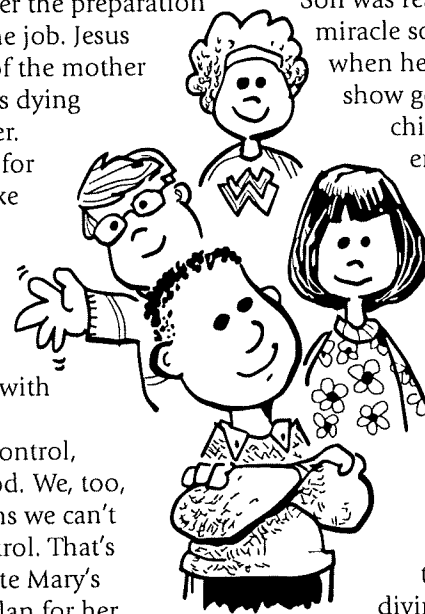
*"May it be done to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). When faced with events beyond her understanding or control, Mary leaned on God. We, too, encounter situations we can't understand or control. That's when we can imitate Mary's trust in God. His plan for her worked out better than she could have dreamed. The same will be true for us.

*"Do whatever he tells you"*

(John 2:5). Mary knew when her Son was ready for his first public miracle so she gently nudged him when he hesitated. We, too, can show gentle confidence in our children's competence and encourage them to reveal their strengths when they hesitate to believe in themselves.

*"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart..."* (Luke 2:19).

When the extraordinary happens, our first impulse is to tell someone. We want advice or attention. Yet, throughout life with her divine Son, Mary kept to herself and reflected in private moments. She sought only God's counsel because he knows best.



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in history is to bring people to her Son. "The Virgin Mary... is clearly the mother of the members of Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #963).

When Jesus hung on the cross, Mary and St.

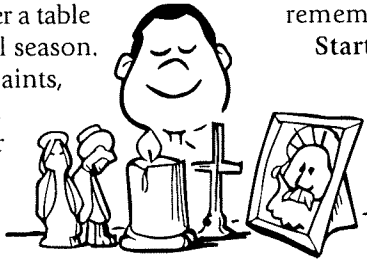


John were there (John 19:26-27). Jesus told her, "Woman, behold your son," and to John, "Behold your mother." At that moment Mary became the mother of us all. Because of her special relationship to Jesus, she is the perfect intercessor for us.

## Make your home a church

Your home can be a domestic church in which you meet God every day. Try these suggestions for creating a sacred space:

**Give prayer a central place in your home.** Cover a table with a special cloth in the color of the liturgical season. Add a crucifix and small statues or pictures of saints, a family Rosary, a Bible, and add a candle. Leave space to kneel before it. No space for a prayer table? Fill a large basket with pillows, your Bible and some Rosaries, and take it wherever you can gather for prayer. Use it often.



**Add sacred objects.** Put a crucifix in every room, add holy water fonts, put up icons. Displaying sacred objects in each room of your home will help your family to remember that God is always with you.

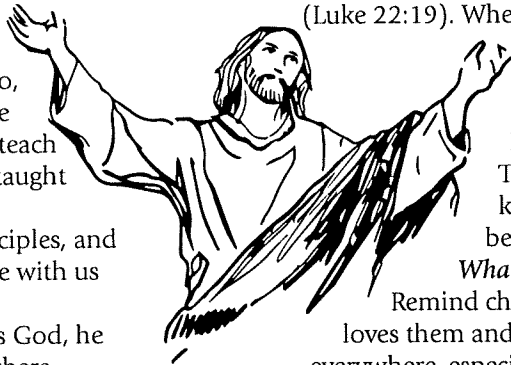
**Start personal spiritual traditions.** Pick days that are special to each of you – birthdays, patron saint feast days, anniversaries. Sing favorite hymns, recite prayers that you write yourselves. Read your favorite Scripture story or verse.

### Scripture LESSON

**Matthew 28:16-20,**  
**"I will be with you always."**

Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the mountain-top in Galilee so the crowd with them could see the Resurrected Christ and get their final instructions: to go, baptize and make disciples, and to teach them all he had taught them. Jesus also promised his disciples, and us, that he will be with us always.

Because Jesus is God, he is present everywhere. However, we encounter him in a special way in the Sacraments, especially in Holy Communion. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed



them and gave them to his disciples, saying, "This is my body ... (this is my blood) ... Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). When the priest prays

over the bread and wine at Mass, they become Jesus' Body and Blood. This is how Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always.

*What can a parent do?*

Remind children that Jesus loves them and is with them everywhere, especially in the Sacraments. Tell them that in every Catholic church where the Eucharist is kept, Jesus is really present, waiting to spend time with them.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker (1st century).** Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

**May 20 – Pentecost (1st century).** Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

**May 27 – St. Augustine of Canterbury (604).** Despite mistakes and failures, Augustine persevered as a missionary in rough and dangerous

times in England. Wisely, he purified and retained local customs into Christian rites. His efforts would eventually bear fruit in the conversion of England after his death.

**May 30 – St. Joan of Arc (1431).** The patron saint of France, St. Joan was inspired by God in a vision to lead the French to victory during the Hundred Year's War against England. Her troops successfully freed Orléans from the English. She was captured, sold to the English, and falsely accused of sorcery. She was canonized in 1920.



### Parent TALK

When my father died, we began visiting the cemetery regularly to pray for him. I noticed that some of the

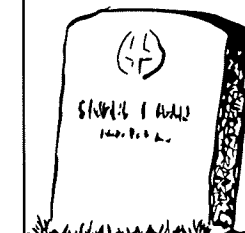
surrounding graves looked neglected. They had dead flowers or mildew obscured the name on the stone. It was sad that the people buried there had no one

to take care of their memorials.

Prior to our next trip, we picked up cleaning supplies. We spiffed up the tombstones and cleaned up the areas around the graves. We said a prayer over each tombstone we cleaned for the person it named.

"Why are we doing this?" Tessa asked. "The dead people won't care."

I explained that caring for graves and praying for the people they contain is considered "burying the dead" – one of the Corporal Works of Mercy the Church asks us to do for others. I reminded the children that whatever kindness we do for others, we do for Jesus.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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# Storybook Project Fair

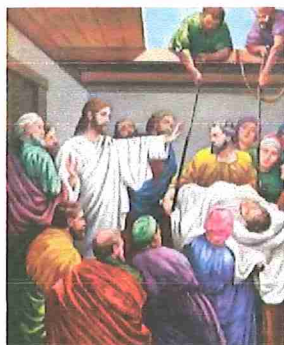
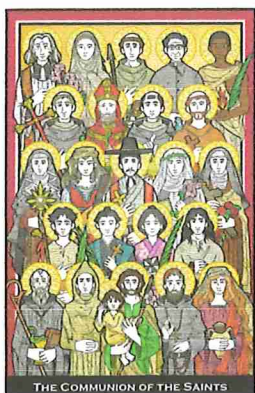
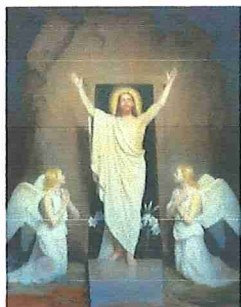
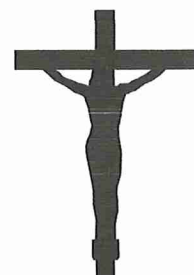
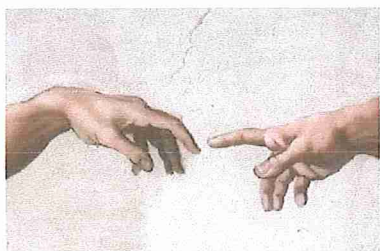
Come see what the families in the Family Program have done this year! Storybooks will be on display. **THE CREED** was the main focus this year. We learned about all 12 Articles (see below).

We are truly blessed with dedicated parents and have all grown in our faith!

Thanks for making it an exciting year. Let's celebrate!

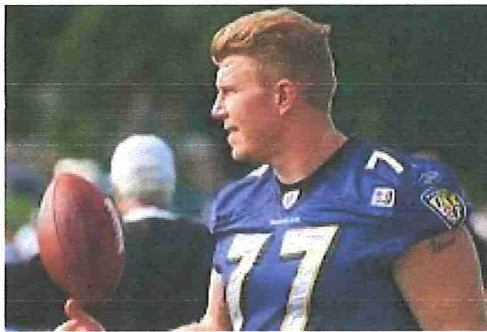
## April 29, 2018

## After the 10 am Mass



FOR GOD  
SO LOVED  
**THE**  
WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,  
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM  
**SHALL**  
**NOT**  
PERISH  
**BUT**  
HAVE  
ETERNAL  
**LIFE.**  
**JOHN**  
**3:16**

**OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE  
WELCOMES  
FORMER NFL PRO BOWL CENTER  
MATT BIRK!**



*Catholic. Husband. Father. Harvard graduate. 15 year professional football player, NFL veteran. Super Bowl Champion.*

**May 2, 2018, 6:15 pm**

**All are welcome!**

**Join us in the church**

**No ticket necessary**



**Our Gifts to the Lord**

Weekly Collection Goal for April 1st 2018	\$6,047.50
<b>4/15/18 Collection Week 42</b>	<b>\$4,272.92</b>
Total Contributions July 2017 – to date	\$335,831.06
Contribution Goal for July 2017 – to date	\$334,440.00
<b>Budget Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,401.06</b>
Number of registered Families	552

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**Did you know your contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking, saving or credit card account? For more information call the parish office 952-873-6564 or check out our website [ourladyoftheprairie.com](http://ourladyoftheprairie.com)**  
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Please remember Our Lady of the Prairie in your will & other estate planning.

**Calendar of Events**

- Tuesday, April 24, 2018**
- Church Night Meetings 6:00pm
- Wednesday, April 25, 2018**
- PREP Grades 7-9 Last Class
- Saturday, April 28, 2018**
- First Communion Workshop 8:30am - Noon
- Sunday, April 29, 2018**
- PREP K-6 Family Day
- Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, May 1, 2018**
- Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00pm
- Wednesday, May 2, 2018**
- PREP K-6 Parent Workshop 6:15pm
- Thursday, May 3, 2018**
- CCW Meeting 7:00pm
- Friday, May 4, 2018**
- 1st Friday 3:00-9:00pm Confessions, 3:00pm Chaplet, 6:30 Stations of the Cross
- Sunday, May 6, 2018**
- 1st Communion Mass 11:30am
- Tuesday, May 8, 2018**
- Liturgy Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Friday, May 11, 2018**
- May Crowning (School Mass)
- Saturday, May 12, 2018**
- Church Cleaning 9:00am—Noon
- Sunday, May 13, 2018**
- Sunday Evening Mass 6:00pm

**Welcome Visitors and Guests**

If you have just moved into our community, we encourage you to register as members of our parish. To do so, please call the office during normal business hours 952-873-6564 or visit our website at [www.ourladyoftheprairie.com](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie.com) and go to \*Register on the home page.

**Ministry Schedule**

**April 28-29**

	<b>4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>8:00 am.</b>	<b>10:00 am.</b>
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Server Crew	J. Teal C. Hartman	M. Daly S. Schroers

<b>USHERS:</b>	J. Fogarty J. Hartmann	B. Smith R. Soller J. Soller J. Edberg	H. Jeurissen J. Klein J. Miller P. O'Brien
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**LECTORS:** C. Schultz    J. Aslakson    S. Schroers

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Deacon Bob R. Koepp K. Heitkamp J. Hartmann B. Weldon	Deacon Bob K. Aslakson J. Aslakson B. Doheny T. Koenig	Deacon Bob M. Daly M. Turmes P. Covington K. Vandermark Nora W.
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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER FOR SHUT-INS:**

Sue Halloran 952-873-4435  
 Pat Fogarty, Diane Hanson

**Greeter Ministry**

**April 22nd**

8 AM - Tim & Sue Halloran  
 10 AM - Al & Dorothy Bartolomei

**Mass Intentions**

- Mon. (23) 11:00 am - d. Ella Kern DOB
- Tue. (24) 8:30 am - d. Joseph H. Ott
- Wed. (25) 8:30 am - d. Rosella Riesgraf
- Fri. (27) 8:30 am - d. liv. & d. Mem. Of the Harold Gray Family
- Sat. (28) 4:15 pm - Members of the CCW (Madonna Circle)
- Sun. (29)** 8:00 am - d. Dick Meyer  
 10:00 am - For the Parish  
 6:00 pm - d. Agatha Tholkes

**Readings For The Week Of April 23, 2018**

<b>MONDAY</b>	Acts. 11:1-18;/John 10:1-10
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Acts. 11:19-26;/John 10:22-30
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	1 Peter 5:5b-14;/Mark 16:15-20
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Acts. 13:13-25;/John 13:16-20
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Acts. 13:26-33;/John 14:1-6
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Acts. 13:44-52;/John 14:7-14
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Acts. 9:26-31;/1 John 3:18-24;/ John 15:1-8



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**STRAIT SMILES**  
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Dr. Monique Baune, General Dentist  
Dr. Mora Cervena, General Dentist  
Dr. Jason Anderson, Orthodontist  
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