

October 1, 2023

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 3:00pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:15pm Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday | 6:30pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday | 8:30am

Holy Days & Holidays

Consult bulletin.

Eucharist Adoration

Wednesday | 9:00am - 10:00pm

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Confession

30 mins prior to Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Make arrangements with the Parish Office six months prior to proposed wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism

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 contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140



OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

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LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS TRUSTEES

Charlotte Mulroy, Sue Schultz

PARISH COUNCIL

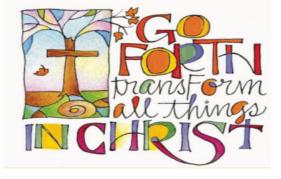
Mike Buchanan, Dan Flynn, Ginny Morgan, Allen Schmitz, Ty Buesgens, Renee Schultz, Leticia Fogarty, Cindy Berger, Joan Bruggemeier, Sandy Schroers, Bob Smith, Tim Murphy

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Jessica Fogarty, Loni Scheff, Jason Palo, Kelli Berger

FINANCE COUNCIL

Dan Neisen, Maria Tracy, Jerome Flaherty, Joe Vandermark, Jim Koepp



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

Say Yes to God!

God gives us all good things and has created us for himself. He also offers us complete free will and expects us to respond with freedom. In choosing the good we make our response out of complete freedom; when we choose evil we lack the freedom to be sons and daughters of a gracious God.



Jesus teaches a parable about the problem parents may have with uncooperative children. There are choices to be made and we have free will to react to the opportunities that present themselves. Jesus instructs us by this story to make a response to God. Do we want to be like the first child who said no, but then later went about the parent's request or like the second child who claimed to do the will of the parent, but never did?

We know that God is patient with us as we desire to improve our relationship with Him. When we hear God's word, we must act upon it and not refuse his will. God wills our good and offers us limitless possibilities to grow in holiness. That's what we must seek in this life so that we can be fully content with God in eternity.

May we always say yes to God, use our free will to help us grow in holiness and allow the sacraments to penetrate God's love within us! I will be on retreat this week praying for our parish and ask your prayers for me.

God bless you!

Father Michael Kaluza

Legacy Tree Program

Our Lady of the Prairie will be offering the opportunity to be a part of our history long into the future by purchasing a Legacy Tree in remembrance of your loved ones. More details to come.





CCW Meeting Council of Catholic Women Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in Roedel Hall



Richard Beach Mary Jo Gregory Eileen Effertz Bob Koenig Deacon Bob Raleigh Bud Steen Sara Meyer David Clark Nicole Koepp Merlin Bartels

If you know of someone who would like to have their name added to the prayer List, please notify the bulletin editor. A name will be listed for <u>four weeks</u>. Please get the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing.



STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

For the Week of September 24, 2023

Weekly Collection Goal for Month \$8,344.00
9/24/2023 Collection (Week 11) \$7,745.00
Current Week Deficit (-) \$599.00
Church Painting Collection \$445.00
Maintenance Collection\$1,422.00
Attendance at Saturday 4:15pm Mass
Total Number of Registered Active Families

*Collection week includes envelopes and loose total for that weekend collection.

Automatic Contributions

Did you know your contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking, savings, or credit card account? For more information call the parish office at 952-873-6564 or check out our website.







CHURCH PAINTING

Collected as of 09/24/2023 \$347,265.64

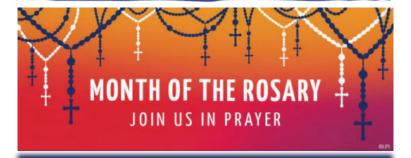
Anticipate completion by Nov. 1st

Daily Masses

are held in the Roedel Hall gathering space.

Sunday Masses

are held in the Parish Hall.





October

Respect Life Month & Month of the Rosary

Please offer your daily Rosary for the intention "That the life of every person from conception to natural death will be in our laws and cherished in our hearts."

Memorare

Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, or sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee O Virgin of Virgins my Mother. To thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen



Weekly Calendar with Readings		
Monday 2 October	Exodus 23:20-23 / Psalms 91:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 10-11 / Matthew 18:1-5, 10	
Tuesday 3 October	Zechariah 8:20-23 / Psalms 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7 / Luke 9:51-566:30 pm I Mass ⊕Father Kaluza at retreat / Father Hessian presiding• 7:00 pm I Small Group Leader Formation #3 in Roedel Hall (after Mass)• 7:00 pm I KC Meeting in Parish Hall	
Wednesday 4 October	Nehemiah 2:1-8 / Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 / Luke 9:57-62 8:30 am I Mass d. Brent Meyer (anniversary of death) Father Kaluza at retreat / Father Hessian presiding • Coffee & donuts after Mass	
Thursday 5 October	Nehemiah 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12 / Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11 / Luke 10:1-12 8:30 am I Mass	
Friday 6 October	Baruch 1:15-22 / Psalms 79:1-2, 3-5, 8, 9 / Luke 10:13-16 8:30 am I Mass † d. Teresa Fritz Father Kaluza at retreat / Father Hessian presiding OLP students attending Children's Rosary Pilgrimage at Cathedral of St. Paul	
Saturday 7 October	Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29 / Psalms 69:33-35, 36-37 / Luke 10:17-24 2:30 pm I Miranda Flannery & Travis Yockey Wedding at St. Brendan's Church in Green Isle 4:15 pm I Mass ☆ Liv. & d. Members of Dan Murphy Family Lector: Sarah Williams EMHC: Betty Weldon, Charlotte Mulroy Ushers: Scott Williams, Chris Weldon, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew Saxe, Addy Saxe Greeters: Dan Flynn	
Sunday 8 October	Isaiah 5:1-7 / Psalms 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 / Matthew 21:33-43 / Philippians 4:6-9 8:00 am I Mass ⊕ For the Parish Lector: Sheila Hendricks EMHC: Sheila Hendricks, Sharon Schmitz Ushers: Allen Schmitz, Ray Soller, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Henry Hennen, Luke Hennen, Peter Hennen Greeters: Richard & Sharon Beach 10:00 am I Mass ⊕ d. Michael Fogarty Lector: Sandy Schroers EMHC: Rick Morgan, Terry Feddersen Ushers: Jim Covington, Ben Covington, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Kenzie Berger, Mason Berger, Cole Chessen Greeters: Troy & Nora Wermerskirchen • Treats & Fellowship after both 8 am & 10 am Masses (Catholic United Financial) • 7:00 pm I Marriage Encounter in Roedel Hall	



O.L.P. School News

September, 2023

200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

A Note from the Principal . . .

Students, teachers, families, and staff are off to a terrific start of the 2023-24 school year! Saint Benedict is our September Saint. Welcoming and warm hospitality are a couple of Saint Benedict's charisms.

There are two field trips scheduled for September: grades 4-6 Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park; grades PreK-2 Ferguson's Apple Orchard.

We are enjoying our preschool in the main school building. They bring much joy and blessings each day.

Our first round of reading and math fall testing will be completed September 29. A data coach will be meeting with our teachers to discuss results.

Our library is now moved to the first floor of the Holy Childhood building. Thanks to Georgine Gansen and Judy Otto for all of their hard work in getting the library ready for the school year. We are blessed to have our Catholic school. We thank our Parish for your prayers and support.

Mrs. Sheila Hendricks, Principal

A Word from Father Michael . . .

As we begin a new school year, it is an exciting time with lots of anticipation. We expect this to be a year filled with the love and joy of learning, growing in holiness and devotion. Each Friday the children will be singing at Mass, generously sharing their talents with all who are able to worship that day. I hope that you will come for the joy that the children will share.

There is great enthusiasm in our halls with teachers dedicated to the Catholic mission of the school and families making sacrifices to ensure that their children will receive a Catholic education. I am very grateful for all that so many do to continue the tradition of our school. Please help to spread the word that our parish and school are moving in positive directions. You help to share the enthusiasm and joy all over Belle Plaine and I am appreciative.

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School 2023 Marathon of Prayer September 29 through October 18

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Our Marathon of Prayer is quickly approaching. We are very excited to participate in the prayers and walking to support our school and pray for all of those who have requested our prayers. All families. Preschool through 6th grade are invited to participate. If each student raises \$200 we will reach our overall school goal of \$6000. The proceeds from the Marathon play an instrumental portion of our annual budget. It helps supply core and supplemental curriculum along with helping with the overall budget to run the school. We are grateful for everyone who supports our school. Students will be walking a total of 20 laps over a three day period and will be praying a specific prayer for each lap.

- 1. Prayers of thanksgiving to God
- 2. Prayer for Catholic Schools
- 3. Sick & dying
- 4. Souls in purgatory
- 5. The hungry/homeless
- 6. Priest and deacon vocations
- 7. Rosary
- 8. Prayers of blessings from God
- 9. Prayer for Students
- 10. Local, national and global leaders
- 11. Abortion
- 12. Cancer survivors & sufferers
- 13. The imprisoned and lonely
- 14. Rosary
- 15. Those fallen away from their faith
- 16. Prayer for teachers
- 17. Beatitudes
- 18. Prayer for parents
- 19. Prayer for grandparents
- 20. Rosary

Here's what's happening in the classroom . . .

Our Preschool Year is off to an amazing start! We have a total of ten friends that attend our half and full day programs. Students have already acclimated to our routine and are enjoying being in the classroom. Our days are filled with art projects, water play, dress up, blocks, music & stories. Outdoor Time in the play yard has been a blessing; such a great opportunity for exercising our big muscles and exploring God's Creation. September 25th – October 1st we will have a Dd Dinosaur theme and







October begins with Ee Earth theme. Watch your student's gray folders for Scholastic Book Orders and Email/Facebook for highlights from upcoming events. Blessings,

Mrs. Ross

Here's what's happening in the classroom (continued) ...



Hi Families.

Welcome back to the 2023-24 school year! Can't believe we are already at the end of September. Our class has made wonderful adjustments from being at tables last year to sitting at a desk this year! Big transition for young children. Once a week we clean our desk and make sure everything is in the right order.

We have been working on rules, routines, and respect. This goes right along with our Social Studies lesson, Governing the People: being good citizens. Next we will discuss government services and choosing good

leaders. In our Mystery Science we are learning about Animal Characteristics and Habitats. The next two weeks will be biodiversity, Habitats, Species, and Engineering (why frogs say 'ribbit' and how to get more birds to your bird feeder!).

Both 1st and 2nd have been reviewing addition with different strategies and next subtraction. In our Believe and Read first grade has been reviewing letter sounds and sight words, second grade diagraphs and spelling rules. Superkids has us working on nouns and pronouns, sh, ch, tch, and second grade nouns and pronouns and adding adjectives!

First grade religion just finished learning about who the three persons are in the Blessed Trinity. Our next chapter talks about Mother Mary and the Holy Family. Second grade finished a chapter about when we became followers of Jesus: Pentecost and will be starting: We belong to the Catholic Church.

Blessings to all, Happy Fall!

Mrs. Hennen



We have gotten off to a fantastic start in Mr. Lopahs' 4th, 5th, & 6th grade class! Students are already in the swing of things with several spelling tests, math "Quests", Science and Social Studies Quizzes, and a Book Report already in bag. They are also doing an amazing job leading Children's Mass each Friday morning and are showing excellent leadership skills for our little ones.

In addition to all the learning we have several fun features in our room, from the Hall of Fame which highlights student achievement, the "Let's Play" Behavior Chart

where students work hard to earn a Fun 'Fri-yay' privilege, and the MVP where we feature a different Saint each week. This month we focused on St. Teresa of Calcutta, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Matthew, and the Archangels.



Music classes have begun at OLP! We have a few band students from our 5th and 6th grade classes this year. Our younger students are refreshing their Children's

mass repertoire and really singing out during Mass. Preschool students have been so excited and eager during our music classes and very attentive during Children's Mass. I look forward to a wonderful school year! - Mrs. Carolyn Gleason



Welcome back to school everyone! We have had a great first few weeks in kindergarten. Students have been trying lots of new activities and routines, as well as getting to know everyone in our class and school. We have been practicing being good friends and helpers while at school. How can we show kindness and love others like Jesus loves us?

In our Believe and Read program, the kindergarteners begin the year by practicing pre-writing skills including proper writing posture and pencil grip as well as letter sounds an names. In math the focus has been on sorting things into groups by size, shape, and color. Our math words of the week were alike, similar, and different.

It's going to be a great year of fun and learning! God Bless! - Mrs. Schroers







Septemper 21, 2023 6:00 p.m. Gathering Space

Welcome and Our Father

Introductions

Attendees: Jess Kurvers, Ashley Simon, Kim Baltus, Loni Scheff

PTA: why we have it and how it works

The PTA is a parent led group that helps fundraise money for field trips, student activities, teacher appreciation and other school activities. In our small school community we need ALL parents to participate. It is a great way to connect with the school and parish community, the teachers and other OLP families.

There is over lap in the PTA and all school (general school budget) fundraisers. Mostly this is a budget/book keeping distinction. Again because of our size, all parents will be asked to participate in the planning and execution of all fundraisers as needed.

PTA Leadership

The current leadership structure is President and Vice President. At some point we would like to add a secretary and treasure. We would like to have the leadership transition every year or two to keep the idea fresh and replace outgoing parents (kids that have graduated from OLP, moved ect) If you are interested in PTA leadership talk to Jess or Ashley

PTA Fundraisers

2023/24 fundraisers

- Back to School Out of Uniform (raised \$220)
- 9/30 Spaghetti Dinner
- 9/30 thru 10/18 Fall Prayer Marathon (Information coming soon)
- Dec Christmas Out of Uniform Sale
- Jan- Catholic Schools week Waffle Breakfast
- Feb/March Catholic United Ticket Sale and possible St Patricks Day Fundraiser
- April Gala
- May Stuff The Truck

PTA supported events

Field Trips/bussing Birthday Mass Teacher Appreciation Gifts/Meals

Special Events and Activities

VIRTUS

In order to volunteer in classrooms, at lunch or on field trips you MUST be SAFE ENVIRONMENT CREDENTIALED through VIRTUS. You can be certified online and it takes about 90 minutes. If you are not SEC certified and you would like to be please contact Jess or Kelly Pumper in the office.

Spaghetti Dinner

We NEED YOU!!! Many hands make light work! Please sign up for a shift and invite your friends, family and neighbors! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49ACAE2BA0FD0-44361014-spaghetti

Prayer Marathon

The 2023 Prayer Marathon has been reworked this year in order to more fully connect the students to the prayers and intentions of the marathon. Information will go home with students this week. Staff is excited about the changes and

the connection we hope the students will make with the prayer intentions made during the marathon.

Gala Team

We are hopeful to have a GALA TEAM to take the leadership this year. We are looking for 2-3 people to join the Gala Team. Commitment would include 1 meeting this fall and 1-2 meetings a month Jan-April. Please reach out to Ashley or Jess if you are interested in being on the Gala Committee.

BAND APP

The PTA uses The Band App for communications. (Emails are also used and those are sent via FRONT DESK from OLP)

If you haven't done so already please use the QR Code at the end of these minutes to join the PTA Band. This app allows us to send reminders and information outside of office hours.

Thanksgivings and Hail Mary

Jess Kurvers, PTA President



Religious Education Program registration is taking place now for Wednesday classes starting on October 25.



On Monday, October 2, we honor and commemorate the Holy Guardian Angels. Hopefully, all of our OLP students find themselves in the favorable habit of praying their Guardian Angel Prayer daily. Even more so, those of us who have lived long enough to have been to [the place where the devil dwells] and back a time or two, have hopefully never been far from the ancient practice of asking our Guardian Angel to pray for us, and be ever at our side to light and

guard, and to rule and guide. The great Abbot, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, put it much better than some DRE schmuck ever could, when speaking of the blessed wonders of these devoted spiritual beings. In one of his surviving Twelfth Century sermons, quoting from Psalm 90 (Psalm 91 in newer Biblical Translations) to drive home his point, he said... "In every place show respect to thy Angel. Let gratitude for his benefits incite thee to honor his greatness. Love this thy future coheir, the Guardian appointed for thee by the Father during thy childhood. For though we are sons of God, we are as yet but children, and long and dangerous is our journey. 'But God hath given His Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. In their hands, they shall bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt walk upon the asp and the basilisk; and thou shalt trample underfoot the lion and the dragon.' Yes, where the road is smooth enough for a child, they will content themselves with guiding thee, and sustaining thy footsteps, as one does for children. But, if trials threaten to surpass thy strength, they will bear thee up in their hands. Oh those hands of Angels! Thanks to them, what fearful straits we have passed through, as it were without thinking, and with no other impression left upon us, than that of a nightmare suddenly dispelled!"

May we all be ever grateful for the daily protection and encouragement to those whom God's love commit us here, and may we all be open to the inspirations of our Guardian Angels! Can I get an "AMEN!"?

Mark Simons, Director of Religious Education



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Blessings to all: Gerald , Carman Meyer & family



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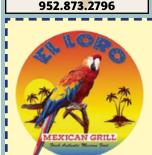
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