



# Our Lady OF THE Prairie

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 17, 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.

#### Bulletin Announcements

If you would like to post in the bulletin, please send an email to: [bulletineditor@olp.church](mailto:bulletineditor@olp.church) by noon on Monday for the following Sunday.

### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140



200 East Church Street | Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011  
952-873-6564 | [www.ourladyoftheprairie.com](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie.com)

## PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

### PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |  
mkaluza@olp.church

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Anita Gliszinski | Janis Buesgens  
frontdesk@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### PRINCIPAL OF PARISH SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Sheila Hendricks |  
shendricks@olp.church

### FACILITIES MANAGER

Patrick Schroers  
pschroers@olp.church

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mark Simons |  
msimons@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### CEMETERY CARETAKER

Keith Heitkamp |  
heitkampkeith@gmail.com

## 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 Brueggemeier, Sandy Schroers, Bob Smith, Tim Murphy

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Loni Scheff, Jason Palo, Kim Baltus

### FINANCE COUNCIL

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

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday", which is Latin for "rejoice!" There is great joy in our Advent preparation. We anticipate something spectacular and realize that it calls for us to be ready.

The prophet Isaiah writes about this great joy in our first reading. It is pure joy to do the work of God. Jesus has shared that joy with us in doing the work he began in his ministry. Mercy and justice are the work of God and we have been invited to share in those divine labors!

Saint Paul writes to the Thessalonians in the Second Reading to rejoice always and our lighting of the rose-colored candle reminds us to rejoice during this holy season of preparation and waiting!

We are told in the Gospel about Saint John the Baptist's testimony to the light. Jesus is the light of the world and the light of our eyes. During these days of darkness, the lighting of the Advent wreath reminds us of Jesus first coming and his return to find us joyful in recognizing his presence in the world and sharing that Good News!

Next weekend we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on Monday, December 25th. As Catholics we must attend Mass for each celebration. Archbishop Hebda has reminded us that there is no "two for one" possibility. Therefore, Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses are celebrated on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We will celebrate Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday at 3 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Christmas Day Masses are at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

God bless you,  
Father Michael Kaluza



  
*Pronouncement of Intent to enter into the*  
**Banns of Holy Matrimony**  
Anthony Williams & Kelly Huber  
December 27, 2023  




*Please pray for . . .*

Richard Beach  
Mary Jo Gregory  
Bud Steen

Sara Meyer  
Bob Koenig  
Merlin Bartels

Special Intention  
Mary Pat Murphy  
Dick Hayden

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 four weeks. Please get the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing.







**STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE**  
**For the Week of December 10, 2023**

Contribution amounts & attendance not available at time of printing due to holiday submission deadlines.

**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



Stop by the Parish Office to schedule  
*Mass Intentions*  
Weekend & Weekday  
Openings in 2024

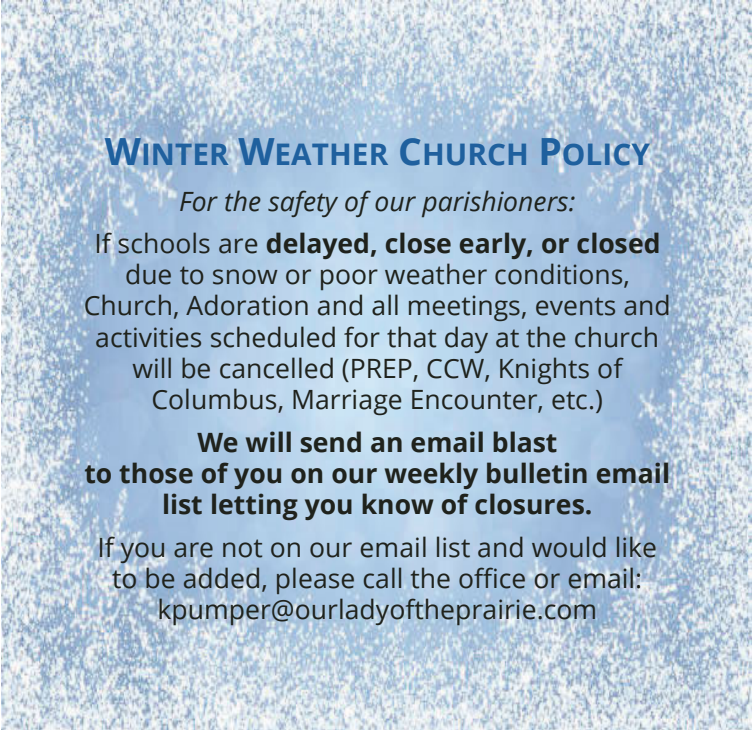


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PARISHIONERS & GUESTS**  
We're happy to have you with us  
today!



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**We are close to achieving our goal.**  
Please consider putting **Your Faith In Action** by making a donation. CSAF partners with 20 varied outreach ministries, to serve the poor, support life, and strengthen the Catholic faith.

**WINTER WEATHER CHURCH POLICY**  
*For the safety of our parishioners:*  
If schools are **delayed, close early, or closed** due to snow or poor weather conditions, Church, Adoration and all meetings, events and activities scheduled for that day at the church will be cancelled (PREP, CCW, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, etc.)  
**We will send an email blast to those of you on our weekly bulletin email list letting you know of closures.**  
If you are not on our email list and would like to be added, please call the office or email: [kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com](mailto:kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com)



**WALKING THROUGH THE  
DECEMBER SAINTS**  
A Christmas Musical  
Presented by  
Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School  
PreK - 6th Grade  
Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
Beginning with Mass at 6:30 pm  
*Receive beauty, truth, and goodness  
in your Advent season. All are welcome!*

Weekly Calendar with Readings

<p>Monday <b>18</b> December</p>	<p><i>Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25</i></p>
<p>Tuesday <b>19</b> December</p>	<p><i>Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25</i> 1:30 pm   Mass at Kingsway † d. Rev. Jeffrey Huard 6:30 pm   Mass † d. Betty Tupy • 7:00 pm   PreK-6 Christmas Musical</p>
<p>Wednesday <b>20</b> December</p>	<p><i>Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38</i> 8:30 am   Mass † d. Michael Fogarty • Coffee &amp; donuts after Mass • Religious Education Classes K-8</p>
<p>Thursday <b>21</b> December</p>	<p><i>Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45</i> 8:30 am   Mass † d. Kevin Schmitt 2:00 pm   Mass at Lutheran Home † d. Rev. Jeffrey Huard</p>
<p>Friday <b>22</b> December</p>	<p><i>1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56</i> 8:30 am   OLP Children's Mass † d. Francis, Leona, &amp; Robert Huber</p>
<p>Saturday <b>23</b> December</p>	<p><i>Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66</i> 4:15 pm   Mass † d. Teresa Fritz <b>Lector:</b> Charlotte Mulroy <b>EMHC:</b> Betty Weldon, Charlotte Mulroy, Dan Flynn <b>Ushers:</b> Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Andrew Schmidt, Evan Schmidt, Elijah Williams <b>Greeters:</b> Patrick &amp; Charlotte Mulroy</p>
<p><i>4th Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>Sunday <b>24</b> December</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p>	<p><i>Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40</i> 8:00 am   Mass † d. Susan Fahey <b>Lector:</b> Ken Skluzacek <b>EMHC:</b> Sharon Beach, Sheila Hendricks, Sharon Schmitz <b>Ushers:</b> Dr. Tim Halloran, Tim Murphy, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal <b>Greeters:</b> Mark &amp; Leticia Fogarty</p> <p>10:00 am   Mass † For the Parish <b>Lector:</b> Sandy Schroers <b>EMHC:</b> Paula Covington, Jim Covington, Rick Morgan <b>Ushers:</b> Peter Feddersen, Jim Gerres, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Kaiden Palo, Jaxson Palo, Volunteer <b>Greeters:</b> Rick &amp; Ginny Morgan <b>Eucharistic Minister - Kingsway:</b> Carmen Meyer <b>Eucharistic Minister - Lutheran Home:</b> Georgine Gansen</p> <p>3:00 pm   Christmas Vigil Mass † <b>Lector:</b> Volunteer <b>EMHC:</b> Dan Flynn Volunteers (2) <b>Ushers:</b> Volunteers (4) <b>Servers:</b> Volunteers (4) <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers</p>
	<p>4:15 pm   Christmas Vigil Mass † liv. &amp; d. Gerald &amp; Helen Buesgens Family <b>Lector:</b> Volunteer <b>EMHC:</b> Volunteers (3) <b>Ushers:</b> Volunteers (4) <b>Servers:</b> Cole Chessen, Volunteers (3) <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers</p>



**Our Lady of the Prairie  
Council of Catholic Women  
Flower Fund Donations  
CHRISTMAS SEASON**



**Excess donations will be used for altar  
flowers during other times of the year.**

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_





**Belle Plaine Council 1503**

**Pancake  
and  
Sausage Breakfast**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**8am-12pm**

**Parish Hall**

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**Proceeds go to Special Olympics 2026 USA Games**

**Knights of Columbus Volunteer Assignments:**

If you cannot commit to the designated time or are not listed, please contact a committee member. We hope to see all Knights and their families attend this fundraiser for a worthy cause. If you do not see your name feel free to show up and help out.

**Committee:** Jason Palo [chuckles648@gmail.com](mailto:chuckles648@gmail.com)  
(612) 716-4636 Cell

<b>8:00 - 10:00</b>	<b>10:00 - 12:30</b>	
Jim Covington	Kurt Aslakson	Al Bartolomei
David Fahey	Chris Fahey	Dave Brueggemeier
Dan Flynn	Terry Feddersen	Mike Buchanan
Jim Fogarty	Kent Blada	Troy Wermerskirchen
Tim Halloran	Steve Heinkel	
Eric May	Greg O'Brien	
Jason Palo	Zak Heinkel	
John Walsh	Joe LeJeunesse	
Colin Schultz	Jeff Klein	
Ben Covington	Patrick Mulroy	
John Watzl	Matt Saxe	
Scott Renne	Michael Berger	
Brad Schultz	Kevin Berger	
Brian Schultz	Brian Berger	
Pat Schultz	Aaron Schroers	
Zach Teal	Pat Schroers	
Jeffery Teal	Michael Schroers	
Pat Schatz	Bob Smith	
Chris Weldon	Chad McGowen	



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
MINNESOTA 2026**



# KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024**

**8:30-9:00** CHILDREN'S MASS LED BY OLP SCHOOL.  
COME CELEBRATE THE MASS WITH OUR STUDENTS.

**9:00-9:20** KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATIONAL  
MEETING IN KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM.  
PARENTS ARE FREE TO LEAVE FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

**9:30-12:30** KINDERGARTEN READY STUDENTS WILL SPEND  
THE MORNING EXPLORING THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM  
AND WILL RETURN TO PRESCHOOL FOLLOWING LUNCH OR  
CAN BE PICKED UP BY PARENT

**RSVP**

[ASIMONS@OURLADYOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM](mailto:ASIMONS@OURLADYOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM)



OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
200 E. CHURCH STREET BELLE PLAINE



# PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 18

5:30-6:30PM

BRING YOUR PRESCHOOLER  
MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED  
FOLLOWED BY A CLASSROOM TOUR  
MEET THE PRESCHOOL TEACHER &  
EXPLORE THE ROOM



Our Lady of the Prairie  
Catholic School

ATTENDEES GET  
ENTERED IN A  
DRAWING FOR A  
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GIFT CARD



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**Our Lady of the Prairie  
Catholic School**  
Belle Plaine, MN

# REFERRAL PROGRAM

Refer a friend to our faith-based  
Pre-K through Grade 6 school  
and receive

**\$1000 tuition credit for EVERY new  
family you refer to enroll!**



## DETAILS:

- A ONE-TIME \$1000 TUITION CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH OLP FAMILY WHO REFERS A “NEW FAMILY” TO OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR.
- THE “NEW FAMILY” MUST COMPLETE ONE FULL YEAR (SEPTEMBER-MAY) AT OLP BEFORE THE TUITION CREDIT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE REFERRING FAMILY’S TAD’S ACCOUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR.
- A NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE SECURED A REFERRAL CREDIT.
- IF THE REFERRING FAMILY HAS MULTIPLE CHILDREN ENROLLED AT OLP, THE CREDIT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE YOUNGEST CHILD’S TUITION AGREEMENT.
- FAMILIES CAN REFER MORE THAN ONE “NEW FAMILY” AND RECEIVE ADDITIONAL \$1000 ONE-TIME TUITION CREDIT FOR EACH ADDITIONAL “NEW FAMILY” THAT ENROLLS.
- REFERRALS ARE NOT RETROACTIVE AND BEGIN UPON THE LAUNCH OF THIS PROGRAM.
- PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO PRINCIPAL’S DISCRETION AND TERMINATION AT ANY TIME.



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**Brent W. Meyer**  
**39**  
 Blessings to all:  
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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