



Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 24, 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

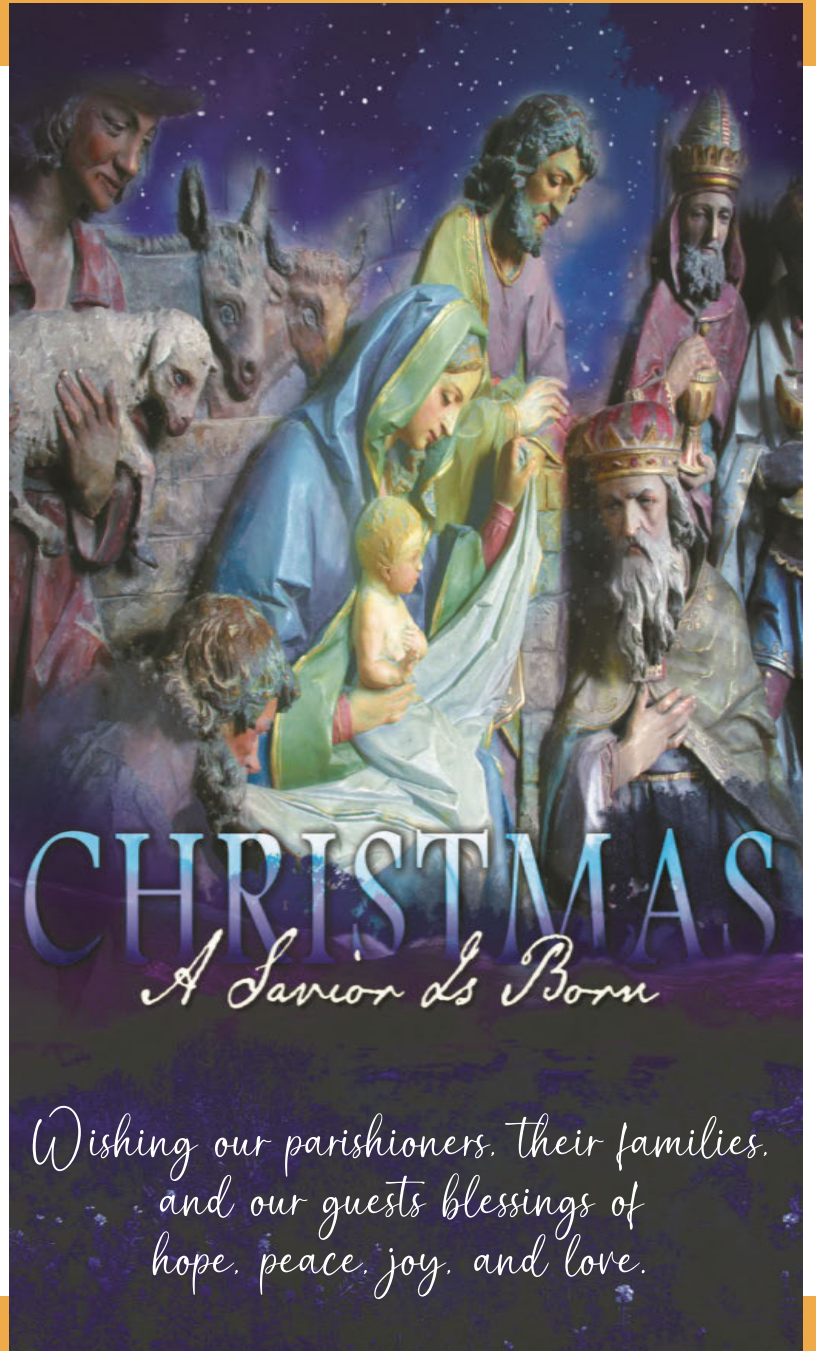
Congratulations! Thank you for accepting and caring for one of God's greatest gifts. As part of Baptism preparation, expectant parents are required to attend Mass weekly. Please contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.

Bulletin Announcements

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

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140



CHRISTMAS
A Savior Is Born

*Wishing our parishioners, their families,
and our guests blessings of
hope, peace, joy, and love.*

200 East Church Street | Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011
952-873-6564 | www.ourladyoftheprairie.com

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

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mkaluza@olp.church

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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 Koeppe

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

The Power of God and Our Response

In the first reading at Mass we hear about King David wanting to do something great for God. He wants to build a temple for the Most High God to dwell. Yet he learns through the prophet Nathan that it is in fact God who does great things for us! As we mature in our spiritual lives, this becomes the great lesson that God indeed turns everything upside down. Our humanity gets in the way of us recognizing our existence before the creator. Rather, God is the one who takes the initiative to accompany his family wherever they go. God's kingdom endures forever and God is the one who allows humanity to respond to God's invitation to be friends. This is a mighty and powerful lesson that we continue to learn time and time again. It is repeated in Scripture and experienced in our faith life.



In the Gospel, Mary understands that God's power is at work. She recognizes that without God, she cannot do anything. But with the help of God, she can accomplish great things. She freely receives the blessings that God has bestowed upon her and makes a response of faith. We recognize her trust and hold her as a great model for all of us to make a similar response of trust and faith in the great things that God allows to happen in our lives.

We think that we do God a favor by coming to Mass, when in fact we need to learn that it is God who does us a great favor by allowing us to come to Mass. It is God who planted the seed of faith in our hearts and gave us the gift of free will. It is God who sent his Son to be our friend and redeemer to heal us and restore us to become sons and daughters. God initiates a great plan for our salvation and invites us to make a response. As Mary teaches us, what seems impossible is always possible for God. Therefore, our response to God's blessing is in fact a gift that God gives to us.

As we conclude Advent, let us consider how God has powerfully worked in our lives and how our preparation this season is a response to the love that God bestowed upon us. In our parish we recognize all the blessings that we have received. In recognition of those blessings, may we be ready to welcome the Christ child as the one who makes all things possible!

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza



Richard Beach
Mary Jo Gregory
Bud Steen

Sara Meyer
Bob Koenig
Merlin Bartels

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

Weekly Collection Goal for Month	\$8,344.00
12/10/2023 Collection (Week 24)	\$7,143.80
Current Week Deficit	(-) \$1,200.20
Church Painting Collection	\$755.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$2,855.00
Immaculate Conception	\$1,393.00
Attendance at December 7, 6:30pm Vigil Mass	127
Attendance at December 8, 8:30am Mass	133
Attendance at December 8, 6:30pm Mass	81
Attendance at Saturday 4:15pm Mass	239
Attendance at Sunday 8:00am Mass	172
Attendance at Sunday 10:00am Mass	184
Live stream views of Mass	44
Total Number of Registered Active Families	486
Total Number of Registered Active Members	1,293

*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.

**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 2024-26 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 2026-26 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.

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

**CATHOLIC SERVICES
APPEAL FOUNDATION**
SERVE · SUPPORT · STRENGTHEN

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Yet, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay and You the potter; we are all the work of your hands."

Let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **Feb 9-11, 2024** and **May 3-5, 2024** both in Buffalo, MN.

For more information: call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-234-7440, or visit them at twincitieswwme.org.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones! Please know of my prayers for each of you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior and the true Light.

I feel so grateful that the light of Christ was seen so clearly this fall as so many of you participated in our Small Group Leadership formation, enabling our Archdiocese to embark on a new adventure as we invite our faithful to embrace small groups this coming Lent. I feel excited to be part of this Archdiocese at this time! I am so grateful for the commitment of your pastor and parish staff, as well as to you and your fellow parishioners who are leading this effort.

Please know of my continued prayers for you, your loved ones and your parish this Christmas. I ask that you also pray for me, for the clergy who generously minister in this Archdiocese, and for the amazing parish staff members who serve so many in so many ways.

Sincerely in Christ,



Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis



Celebration of Baptism

Veda Sloane Johanson

daughter of
Taylor & Erin Johanson
December 16, 2023

Our Lady of the Prairie's

New Parishioners

WELCOME

We're glad you're here

Joseph & Rachel Scheffler

Alison and Lydia

Mike & Shirley Carney

Please make them feel at home in their new parish community.



Knights of Columbus®



Belle Plaine Council 1503

Pancake & 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
(612) 716-4636 Cell

8:00 - 10:00

Jim Covington
David Fahey
Dan Flynn
Jim Fogarty
Tim Halloran
Eric May
Jason Palo
John Walsh
Colin Schultz
Ben Covington
John Watzl
Scott Renne
Brad Schultz
Brian Schultz
Pat Schultz
Zach Teal
Jeffrey Teal
Pat Schatz
Chris Weldon

10:00 - 12:30

Kurt Aslakson
Chris Fahey
Terry Feddersen
Kent Blada
Steve Heinkel
Greg O'Brien
Zak Heinkel
Joe Lajeunesse
Jeff Klein
Patrick Mulroy
Matt Saxe
Michael Berger
Kevin Berger
Brian Berger
Aaron Schroers
Pat Schroers
Michael Schroers
Bob Smith
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



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


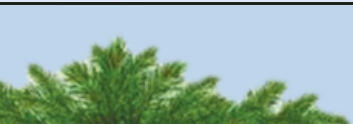

ATTENDEES GET
ENTERED IN A
DRAWING FOR A
COBORNS
GIFT CARD



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Weekly Calendar with Readings

<p>Monday 25 December</p> <p><i>The Nativity of the Lord</i></p>	<p><i>Isaiah 52:7-10 / Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 / John 1:1-18 / Hebrews 1:1-6</i></p> <p>8:00 am Mass † d. Cy Goettl Lector: Marcia Makowski EMHC: Volunteer (3) Usher: Volunteer (4) Server: Volunteer (4)</p> <p>10:00 am Mass † liv. & d. Dan Murphy Family Lector: Volunteer EMHC: Volunteer (3) Usher: Volunteer (4) Servers: Cole Chessen, Volunteers (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Closed / No School - Christmas Break 	
<p>Tuesday 26 December</p>	<p><i>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Psalms 31:3-4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21 / Matthew 10:17-22</i></p> <p>6:30 pm I Mass † d. Terry Fahey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Closed / No School - Christmas Break 	
<p>Wednesday 27 December</p>	<p><i>First John 1:1-4 / Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 / John 20:2-8</i></p> <p>8:30 am I Mass † d. Dan, Sheila & Colleen Murphy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No School - Christmas Break • Coffee & donuts after Mass • 4:00 pm Kelly Huber and Anthony Williams Wedding • No Religious Ed Classes / Classes resume January 3rd 	<p>While there will not be any Catechists or kiddos stirring at OLP this Wednesday night, on behalf of all of us in the Religious Education Program, may the celebration of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord stir your hearts to their very depths. Wishing you all a most blessed and Merry Christmas!</p>
<p>Thursday 28 December</p>	<p><i>First John 1:5-2:2 / Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8 / Matthew 2:13-18</i></p> <p>8:30 am I Mass † d. Peggy Herrmann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No School - Christmas Break 	
<p>Friday 29 December</p>	<p><i>Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 / Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 / Luke 2:22-35</i></p> <p>8:30 am I Mass † d. Teresa Witt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No School - Christmas Break 	
<p>Saturday 30 December</p>	<p><i>First John 2:12-17 / Psalms 96:7-8, 8-9, 10 / Luke 2:36-40</i></p> <p>4:15 pm I Mass † For the Parish</p> <p>Lector: Sue Schultz EMHC: Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz, Sarah Williams Ushers: Jim Fogarty, Joe Hartmann, Volunteers (2) Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew Saxe, Addy Saxe Greeters: Sharon & Allen Schmitz</p>	
<p>Sunday 31 December</p>	<p><i>Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 / Luke 2:22-40 / Colossians 3:12-21</i></p> <p>8:00 am I Mass † d. Jeff O'Brien Lector: Tim Halloran EMHC: Susan Cole, Bob Fahey, Janice Teal Ushers: Allen Schmitz, Ray Soller, Volunteers (2) Servers: Henry Hennen, Luke Hennen, Peter Hennen Greeters: Bob & Dorene Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Choir Practice <p>10:00 am I Mass † d. Michael Fogarty Lector: Rick Morgan EMHC: Terry Feddersen, Jason Palo, Karen Vandermark Ushers: Johan Miller, Jeff Klein, Volunteers (2) Servers: Stella Scheff, William Scheff, Volunteer Greeters: Terry & Karen Feddersen Eucharistic Ministers: Janice Teal (Kingsway) / Sue Halloran (Lutheran Home)</p>	

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

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