



# Our Lady OF THE Prairie

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 7, 2024

### 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

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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 |  
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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 Koepp

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

### The Gift of Salvation

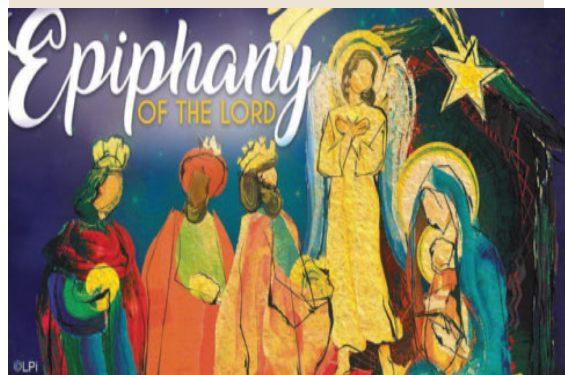
In the Gospel, Saint Matthew tells us that the magi came from far away revealing to us the visiting kings were foreigners. They came to a strange land because they were prompted by their heart to receive something that was so great – a Messiah not only for the Jewish people, but even for those who are from a far distant land. Saint Matthew gives us the message that God intended to offer salvation to all people, Jews and gentiles alike. Saint Paul repeats that theme in the second reading calling the gentiles “co-heirs”. That is the great gift of the Messiah – God wants to redeem sinful humanity and have them be reconciled. The mission of the Son is to be faithful to the will of the Father in restoring humanity and becoming a gift to the Father and offering us an example to follow.

That gift of salvation is continually offered by our loving God for those who respond to the promptings of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit moves us to worship God, just as the Holy Spirit prompted the magi to visit the child Jesus. The Gospel reminds us of the great joy experienced by the magi and how they prostrated themselves to do him homage. That great joy is a gift offered to us as well when we seek the Messiah.

We too can come to visit our King and do him homage in church. At Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we present ourselves to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Jesus waits for us to make a visit. In return for that visit, God freely bestows the gift of salvation upon us who desire to be in relationship with him. That relationship blossoms in the gift of prayer as a means of continually carrying on that relationship with Jesus. During the season of Christmas, may our prayer always be fruitful, and may we be receptive to receiving the great gift of salvation through Jesus Christ!

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza



Richard Beach  
Mary Jo Gregory  
Bud Steen

Sara Meyer  
Bob Koenig  
Merlin Bartels

Dick Hayden  
Sallie Raleigh  
George Doheny

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 24, 2023

Weekly Collection Goal for Month . . . . .	\$8,344.00
12/24/2023 Collection (Week 26) . . . . .	\$16,377.11
Current Week Deficit . . . . .	(+)\$9,033.11
Church Painting Collection . . . . .	\$1,160.00
Christmas Collection . . . . .	\$15,073.50
Attendance at Saturday 4:15pm Mass . . . . .	272
Attendance at Sunday 8:00am Mass . . . . .	141
Attendance at Sunday 10:00am Mass . . . . .	157
Live stream views of Mass . . . . .	61
Attendance at Sunday 3:00pm . . . . .	399
Attendance at Sunday 4:15pm . . . . .	299
Attendance at Monday 8:00am . . . . .	157
Attendance at Monday 10:00am . . . . .	172
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.

**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)

**Testimony and Gratitude for Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School**

We were introduced to Catholic education through a friend at the beginning of COVID. We weren't happy with aspects of the public schools. Had COVID not happened I don't know if we would have made the switch. There was a silver lining.

Our oldest was the first to attend Holy Cross Catholic school as a 7th grader. We were extremely nervous about our decision. She went from several hundred kids in her grade to ten. They didn't have some of the amenities that the public school offered. How would she adjust? Having never experienced small setting private education, we had only assumptions. And you have to pay for it! Boy, all negative reservations quickly dissolved. I cannot believe what we were missing. I can't stress that enough.

Faith based education in a smaller setting outperformed any and all of our expectations. The following year our second youngest started preschool at Holy Cross with our now 8th grade daughter. She was able to sit with him during Mass. Often the older kids would play with their younger siblings and classmates during recess. Sometimes sitting with them at lunch to make sure they finished their food. God's plan usually is beyond our comprehension and this was another example. My daughter's religious education soon surpassed ours and we found ourselves diving deeper into our faith.

The quality of the staff and especially the students and families was something I wasn't prepared for. Our only regret was not starting sooner.

When we moved back to Belle Plaine, it was a no brainer. We have been so happy to have our second youngest at OLP. He loves the staff and his classmates and is thriving. It's such a blessing. Our oldest is attending public school and is adjusting well. She is equipped with tools to handle the ups and downs of high school life she didn't have before. You truly do not know what you are missing. The financial aspect is a small sacrifice. I have spent a lot more on much more foolish things. We are so blessed to have this school in our town.

The Offerdahl Family

**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](http://twincitieswwme.org).



January 12 - February 18, 2024

Grand Prize: \$20,000 cash or a NEW 2024 Chevy Trax

Stop by the Parish Office to schedule

*Mass Intentions*

Weekend & Weekday  
Openings in 2024

\$500 per tree  
(includes planting)

Choose from:  
Autumn Blaze Maple,  
Oak, or Basswood

**Legacy Tree Program**

Be a part of the Legacy Tree Program at Our Lady of the Prairie. Take advantage of this opportunity to beautify the church property by purchasing a Legacy Tree in remembrance of your parents, grandparents and family.

We will plant in the Spring of 2024.

Stop in the parish office for details, or contact Pat Schroers at (952) 288-4801.

**Be a part of Our Lady of the Prairie's history!**

**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](mailto: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

- Al Bartolomei
- Dave Brueggemeier
- Mike Buchanan
- Troy Wermerskirchen







# 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







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## 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

ATTENDEES GET ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR A COBORNS GIFT CARD

ENROLL NOW  
952-873-6564




**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.
- 



TOTUS TUUS  
**TOTALLY YOURS**  
July 13-20, 2024

Coming to Our Lady of the Prairie!  
This year's theme is **The Apostles Creed** accompanied by **The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.**

Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer youth program dedicated to helping young people strengthen and grow in the understanding of their faith in Jesus Christ.  
Mark your calendar, and watch for more information to come.

50<sup>th</sup> Annual





MCCL  
**March for Life!**

2:00 P.M., SUNDAY  
January 22, 2023  
Minnesota State Capitol

Find more information at [mcll.org/march](http://mcll.org/march)

## Weekly Calendar with Readings

<p>Monday <b>8</b> January</p>	<p>Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11</p>	 <p><i>The Baptism of the Lord</i></p>
<p>Tuesday <b>9</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28 Father out of office - Fr. James Devorak Presiding 6:30pm I Mass † CCW Volunteers</p>	
<p>Wednesday <b>10</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39 Father out of office - Fr. James Devorak Presiding 8:30 am I Mass † d. Bernie &amp; Mary Saxe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee &amp; donuts after Mass</li> <li>• Religious Ed Classes</li> </ul>	
<p>Thursday <b>11</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-44 Father out of office - Fr. James Devorak Presiding 8:30 am I Mass † Fr. Joe Steinbeisser</p>	
<p>Friday <b>12</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12 Father out of office - Father James Devorak Presiding 8:30 am I OLP Children's Mass † Deacon Mike Daly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30-12:00 Kindergarten Roundup in Kindergarten Classroom</li> </ul>	
<p>Saturday <b>13</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17 4:15 pm I Mass † For the Parish</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Charlotte Mulroy <b>EMHC:</b> Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz, Sara Williams <b>Ushers:</b> Keith Heitkamp, Randy Schumacher, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Andrew Schmidt, Evan Schmidt, Elijah Williams <b>Greeters:</b> Brad &amp; Sue Schultz</p>	
<p>Sunday <b>14</b> January</p>	<p>1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42 8:00 am I Mass † d. Brent Meyer</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Sharon Schmitz <b>EMHC:</b> Susan Cole, Bob Fahey, Janice Teal <b>Ushers:</b> John Edberg, Paul Guertin, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Henry Hennen, Luke Hennen, Peter Hennen <b>Greeters:</b> Richard &amp; Sharon Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 am Choir Practice</li> <li>• 8:00-12:00 KC Pancake Breakfast</li> </ul> <p>10:00 am I Mass † d. Lorraine Schultz</p> <p><b>Lector:</b> Sheila Schmitz <b>EMHC:</b> Jim Covington, Rick Morgan, Terry Feddersen <b>Ushers:</b> Peter Feddersen, Jim Gerres, Volunteers (2) <b>Servers:</b> Kenzie Berger, Mason Berger, Volunteer <b>Greeters:</b> Jim Covington / Mike Buchanan <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> Pat Schroers (Kingsway) / Ty Buesgens (Lutheran Home)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00 pm - Marriage Encounter Meeting in Roedel Hall</li> </ul>	



**Council of Catholic Women**  
**THANK YOU**  
**Christmas Poinsettias 2023**



**Donated By:**

Mary Pat Murphy . . . . .  
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 Savern Guertin . . . . .  
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 Ralph & Carol Schultz . . . . .  
 Karen Brenke . . . . .  
 Karen Brenke & Pat Kane . . . . .  
 Lynn Feddersen . . . . .  
 Brent & Tracy Chessen . . . . .

**In Memory Of:**

Dan Murphy, Sheila Murphy Ferraro & Colleen Murphy McCreight  
 Joe & Carole Lenz  
 Carl Gansen  
 Martin, Helen, Roger & Tom Schulte  
 Don Guertin + Guertin & Klehr Families  
 Family & Friends  
 L/D Members of the Daly & Barrett Families  
 Dennis & Gertrude Halloran + Frederick & Lois Duede  
 Michael Fogarty + Bud & Marcella Druke  
 Ivan Otto, Harry & Marie Otto + Roy & Idella Mewissen  
 Len Fogarty  
 Tim Randklev  
 Bernard Raleigh & Harold Gray Families  
 Mark V. Kirsch  
 L/D Members of our Families  
 Brent W. Meyer  
 Mike & Pat Glisczinski  
 Susan D. Fahey  
 Joe & Blanche Fahey + Ed Regina Witt  
 Parents & Family of Randy and Mary Koll  
 Mary R. Farrell  
 Brogan Michael Schaefer  
 Theresa Renne  
 Huber & Zweber Families  
 Harold Castor  
 Gloria Graham  
 Jay & Agnes Bailey Family  
 Francis Glisczinski  
 Robert Worm & John Worm  
 Deceased Family and Friends  
 Mary & Harry Gregory  
 Ambrose & Eleanor Kramer Family + Charles Morgan Family  
 Our Parents  
 Jeanette Gerres  
 Jeffry Beach  
 Raymond, Mary, Kevin Duffy  
 Frank & Frances Franck + JoAnn & Don Seaver  
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 E. Michael Newell, Gloria Graham + Lloyd & Lorraine Schultz  
 Mike Newell, Pat Newell & Deb Newell + Donald Schultz  
 Al & Delores Peterka + Urbie & Pat Eischens  
 Jeff O'Brien  
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In loving memory of:  
**Brent W. Meyer**  
 Blessings to all:  
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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