



Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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. (Holidays may have earlier deadlines)

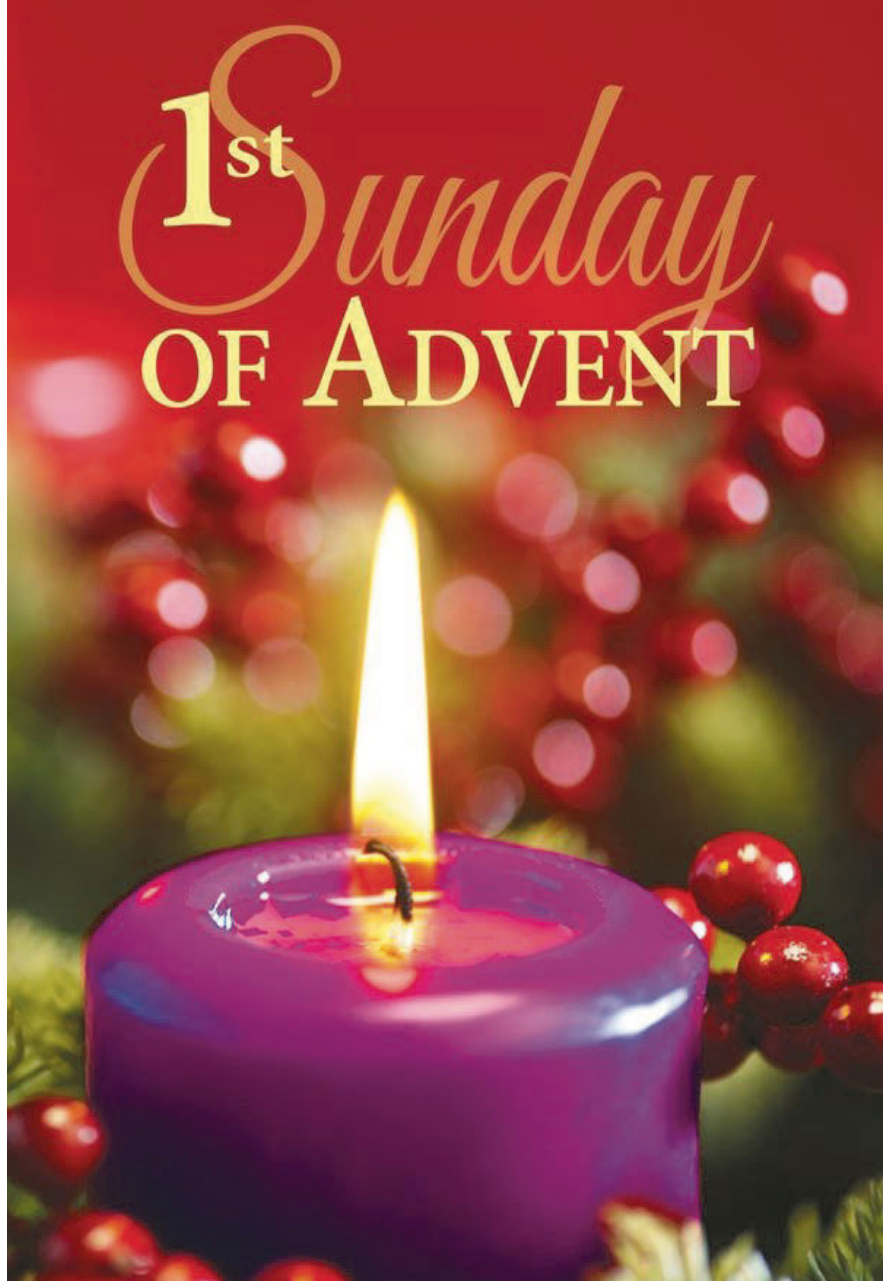
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140

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

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday
OF ADVENT



The Prophecy Candle (purple) represents Hope

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.*

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Anita Gliszinski | Bonnie Weber
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, James Fogarty, Brian Berger, Joan Brueggemeier, Bob Smith, Susan Cole, Greg O'Brien

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Loni Scheff, Danielle Campos, Kim Baltus

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Natalie (Covington) Ruiz
Jordan Ruiz
David May
Dylan May
Sean Alander
Alex Vandermark

and for all military members & their families.

If your family has an enlisted service member, please contact Ginny Morgan: (701) 212-3109 (leave a message).

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

New Liturgical Year

This weekend the Church marks the start of a new year. We also begin the liturgical season of Advent, a time of patient waiting in hope. Advent is a Latin word meaning "coming." Our Scriptures celebrate Christ's coming in history two millennia ago, his coming in our present lives, and Jesus' future advent when God's plan for our salvation reaches its fullness!

Jeremiah's prophecy speaks of a divine promise filled with hope for a future arrival of a Messiah to offer God's chosen people safety and security. In some of the darkest days of the Israelite exile, Jeremiah reminds the people of God's promise and God's justice. Trusting in God, we can be confident that we are not forgotten and that God will restore right relationships.

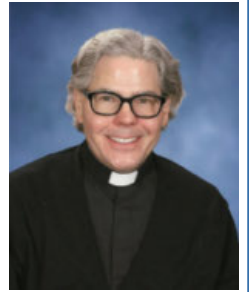
Jesus reminds us to be vigilant so that we might be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. He will return to secure our future and we want to find ourselves in right relationship with his Church so that we can be fit to enter into eternity with him. While sin and darkness pervade the earth, God's kingdom is filled with love and justice. All that is good and desirable is found with God; without God, there is nothing good or desirable. Therefore, we are to anticipate the good things that await those who follow God's ways and live in God's light.

Our journey to heaven is not in vain and we have not been forgotten or left behind. We pray confidently that Jesus is our savior and we know that God's promise has been fulfilled in the coming of his Son. May this time of waiting be for us a period to deepen our relationship and reform our lives. Jesus will return and we want to be prepared!

May our new church year be filled with many blessings for our parish and families!

God bless you!

Father Michael Kaluza



Prepare your hearts for the Lord . . .



ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE
Wednesday, December 4
6:30 PM

Several visiting pastors will hear confessions.



PRAYER LIST

If you know of someone you would like added to the prayer list, please notify the bulletin editor or Parish Office. Obtain the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing. Names will remain on the list for four weeks.

Bud Steen	Rajen Sidhu
Bob Koenig	Don Morrison
Matt Hennen	Dave Buesgens
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Eileen Effertz
Ron (Franny) Gerres	Elmer Lambrecht
Mona Bentfield	Lisa Pobuda



**Belle Plaine
Police Department
10th Annual Toy Drive**

The Belle Plaine Police Department will be accepting donations of brand new toys for children in need. All donated toys will be distributed to local children whose families are unable to purchase gifts this holiday season. This is an opportunity to help someone in need.

November 13 - December 23

Toy distribution to families will begin on Wednesday, December 11. Although we will collect toys until Monday, December 23, we ask that you donate before December 11, so families can have a good selection of toys to choose from.

- All toys should be new and unwrapped.
- Gifts are accepted for children up to 17 years of age.
- Realistic looking toy weapons and gifts with food will not be distributed.

While purchasing items for smaller children is a pretty simple task, donors often wonder what to get pre-teens. We recommend sporting equipment, board games, books, hand-held electronics and gift cards.

Drop off locations will be at the City of Belle Plaine, Hardware Hank, Coborn's, First National Bank, Cornerstone State Bank, Matt Saxe Chevrolet-Buick, **Our Lady of the Prairie Church**, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church and the Belle Plaine Police Department.

Feel free to contact Belle Plaine Police Department with any questions (952) 873-4307.

Families in need of toys can call the Belle Plaine Police Department Monday through Friday (7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) to make a reservation.



Retirement Fund for Religious

**Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.**

Collection on December 7 & 8

The Best Gift

Tuesday, December 17
following 6:30pm Mass

Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic Church

*A Christmas Musical
Performed by
Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic School Students*

* Kingsway Performance
Wednesday, December 18
9:30am

This multigenerational play is based on a grandparent sharing the true story of Christmas.


Come share in the joy of discovering the best gift ever, the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Council of Catholic Women



CCW Meeting

Tuesday, December 3
after 6:30pm Mass in Roedel Hall.
*All ladies of the parish are
welcome and encouraged to attend.*



ADORATION CHAPEL

- ◆ Spend time with our Lord anytime at your convenience
- ◆ Accessible 24 Hours
- ◆ No length of time required
- ◆ Call the Parish Office for detailed information and to complete a quick one time registration.

Holiday Boutique
Dec 7th 3:00-6:00pm
Dec 8th 9:00am-Noon.
OLP Church
200 E Church St - Rodel Hall
 Join us for holiday shopping while supporting OLP School students.

Visit the Parish Office to submit
Mass Intentions
 Weekend & Week Day Openings In 2025

WINTER WEATHER 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

Stewardship
 ATTEND SERVE GIVE GROW

For the Week of November 17, 2024

Weekly Collection Goal: \$8,344.00

COLLECTIONS

Date	Amount
11/17/2024	\$6,679.00
Deficit	(-) \$1,665.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, November 16	
4:15 pm	202
Sunday, November 17	
8:00 am	149
10:00 am	210

Collection & attendance totals for 11/24 were not available due to an early print deadline.

Total Registered Active Families 486
 Total Registered Active Members 1,293

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.

Welcome Booklet
 If you are interested in a ministry offered by our Parish, please pick up a **Welcome Booklet** from the back of the church or in the Parish Office. Opportunities to serve and contact numbers are listed there.



Empowering men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their communities.

Join Today at
www.kofc.org/join
 or by scanning QR Code



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 2

No Mass
6:30-8:00 pm Consecration to Jesus thru Mary in Roedel Hall

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 pm Mass
7:00 pm KC Meeting in Parish Hall
7:00 pm CCW Meeting in Roedel Hall

Wednesday, December 4

8:30 am Mass
12:00 pm Ecumenical Lunch
5:00-7:00 pm Women's Small Group in Conference Rm
6:20 pm Religious Education
6:30 pm Advent communal Penance

Thursday, December 5

8:30 am Mass
6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conference Room

Friday, December 6

8:30 am Mass

Saturday, December 7

4:15 pm Mass
3:00-6:00 pm Holiday Boutique

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Mass
9:00 am Choir Practice
9:00 am-12N Holiday Boutique
10:00 am Mass
Treats & Fellowship after both Masses - hosted by CCW

Saturday, December 7, 4:15 pm

Greeters: Volunteer
Lector: Sue Schultz
EMHC: Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz, Volunteers (2)
Ushers: Keith Heitkamp, Randy Schumacher, Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz
Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew "Gus" Saxe, Addy Saxe
Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 am

Greeters: Mark & Leticia Fogarty
Lector: Janice Teal
EMHC: Janice Teal, Sharon Beach, Sheila Hendricks, Volunteer
Ushers: Tim Murphy, Tim Halloran, Allen Schmitz, Volunteer
Servers: Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal
Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am

Greeters: Terry & Karen Feddersen
Lector: Sandy Schroers
EMHC: Rick Morgan, Terry Feddersen, Jason Palo, Karen Vandermark
Ushers: Caleb Wermerskirchen, Ben Covington, Max Wermerskirchen, Peter Feddersen
Servers: Kaiden Palo, Jaxson Palo
Gift Bearers: Volunteer
EMHC: Carman Meyer (Kingsway), Sue Halloran (Lutheran Home)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 02 Dec	†	No Mass
Tue 03 Dec	6:30 pm	† d. Rev. Lawrence "Larry" R. Johnson
Wed 04 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Pauline Holcomb
Thur 05 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Carl Gansen
Fri 06 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Mary Farrell
Sat 07 Dec	4:15 pm	† d. Bob Johnson
Sun 08 Dec	8:00 am	† For the Parish
	10:00 am	† d. Teresa Fritz

READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2024

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/
Mt 17:9a, 10-13



This year, December 8th occurs on the Second Sunday of Advent. In accordance with liturgical and canon law, the liturgical celebration of the Immaculate Conception is for this year transferred to Monday, December 9, 2024.

The Holy See has recently clarified that, in contrast to the prevalent understanding in the United States, as reflected even in the official *Ordo* published for the dioceses of our Province, the usual obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on the Solemnity applies even when the celebration is transferred to December 9.

Subsequent to the publication of that decision, I learned that many, if not most, of our parishes have already established their Mass schedules for December 8 and December 9 in reliance on the *Ordo* and past practice and not anticipating that December 9 would be a Holy Day of obligation. Given the difficulty of adjusting schedules and finding sufficient priests at this late date for the celebration of additional Masses on December 9, I hereby

**DISPENSE FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
ON DECEMBER 9, 2024**

This dispensation applies to those faithful domiciled or physically present in the territory of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on December 9, 2024.

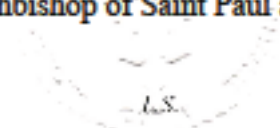
Those who are able to observe the Solemnity by participation at Mass are strongly encouraged to do so. All who enjoy the benefit of this dispensation are exhorted to commemorate the Immaculate Conception in another fitting manner, such as by reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or reflecting on the readings for the day, or engaging in prayer either individually, with others, or as a family.

As we each honor this special day dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, the Patroness of the United States of America, let us reflect on her unique role in salvation history and ask her intercession for this nation.

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of November, the Solemnity of All Saints, in the year of Our Lord 2024.

Susan Mulheron
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs

Most Reverend Bernard Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



**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.**

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In Memory Of: _____

Event Sponsored by OLP Catholic United Financial Council

Christmas Cookies

BY THE DOZEN

Accepting Orders now through Dec 10th.

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Orders can be picked up December 16-17th in Roedel Hall.

Place order by returning this form in the drop box, Or call Eve Hennen at 952.367.6844. Checks made payable to Catholic United Financial.

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“In the quiet corners of service, women and men religious have dedicated their lives to others. Your donations help us honor their lifelong devotion with the care they so richly deserve.”

Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92, center

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Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Our aging religious need your help. Like those pictured here, more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually, for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation is crucial and can help bridge this gap, providing critical support for their essential care, medicine, and daily needs. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:
Father Maury Smith, OFM, 87;
Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92;
Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, FSGM, 72.
Visit retiredreligious.org/2024photos
to meet the religious pictured.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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(Arch)diocese _____

Data Preference (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and may be used and stored in the records of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Retirement Fund for Religious.

Yes, I agree.

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In loving memory of:
Brent W. Meyer
 Blessings to all: Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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