



# Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*All for Jesus, through Mary*

**Welcome Booklet**

**WEEKEND MASSES**

SATURDAY            4:15pm  
SUNDAY              8:00am  
                             10:00am

**DAILY MASSES**

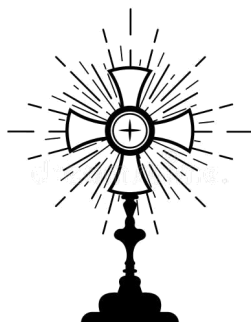
TUESDAY            6:30pm  
WED - FRI           8:30am

**RECONCILIATION**

30 minutes before every Mass.

**ADORATION**

24/7 every day of the week in the Adoration Chapel.  
Contact the Parish Office for a one time registration. You will be given the entrance code.



**PARISH OFFICE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

SEPT - MAY  
MON - FRI            7:30am - 3:30pm  
SUMMER HOURS  
MON - THUR 8:00am - 3:00pm

## PARISH STAFF

### Pastor

Fr. Michael Kaluza      mkaluza@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Business Administrator

Kelly Pumper      kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Administrative Assistants

Anita Glisczinski      aglisczinski@ourladyoftheprairie.com

Bonnie Weber      bweber@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Director of Religious Education

Mark Simons      msimons@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Principal of Parish School & Preschool Director

Sheila Hendricks      shendricks@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Facilities Manager

Patrick Schroers      pschroers@ourladyoftheprairie.com

### Cemetery Caretaker

Keith Heitkamp      heitkampkeith@gmail.com



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
SAINT PAUL &  
MINNEAPOLIS

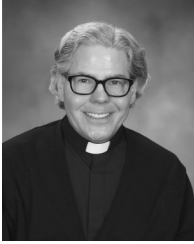
**Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis**

777 Forest Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

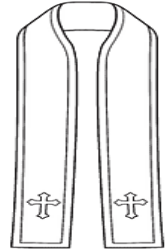
Phone: 651-291-4400

Email: [hello@archspm.org](mailto:hello@archspm.org)

**WELCOME**



Our parish is filled with amazing people dedicated to faithful worship of God and love of neighbor. The history of our parish is also the history of Belle Plaine! It has grown with our town and been a consistent source of caring for people.



It takes all of us to be a part of the community to serve the many needs to foster a deep loving relationship with God. To practice and share our Catholic faith takes much effort and we rely on the many volunteers to participate. Our faith is a great treasure meant to be shared and enjoyed.

There are many opportunities for you to contribute to the life of our parish and I hope that you will take advantage of the many ministries offered and choose to take an active role of service. Let us always hold one another in prayer and spread the message of the Gospel to all!

God bless,

Father Michael Kaluza

**OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL**

Serving PreK-6th grade students.

Our Lady of the Prairie School is dedicated to embracing the whole child by guiding them

spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically. Our school

follows the principles of the Roman Catholic faith and instills its core values in a nurturing, multiage classroom environment where all students thrive in the Light of Christ.

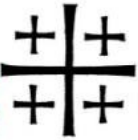


- Sheila Hendricks, Principal



## PARISH COUNCILS

### PASTORAL COUNCIL



The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to act as a consultative body to the pastor for the life and mission of the church in the parish, promote a spirit of unity and mutual support within the parish faith community, develop and utilize the talents, knowledge, experience, vision and faith commitment of all parishioners and parish organizations, promote a means of dialogue between clergy and the laity of the parish, participate in the life and mission of the universal and diocesan Church, and to be a visible witness of the message and service of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the people in the local community. The group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month following 6:30pm Mass. For more information contact Allen Schmitz (612) 483-1781

### FINANCE COUNCIL



An active and well-formed Parish Finance Council is an important and necessary support to the Pastor in fulfilling his duty of being a good steward of parish resources. A Parish Finance council supports the good governance of a parish and helps there be accountability to the diocese and to the parishioners. Our Lady of the Prairie's Finance Council is composed of members with the appropriate expertise and a love for the Church and its mission. The Finance Council provides the Pastor with valuable advice and assistance in the execution of parish finance administration duties. The Finance council also helps the parish maximize its financial resources and avert potential financial problems. For more information please contact Kelly Pumper (952) 873-6564.

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)



The School Advisory Council (SAC) of Our Lady of the Prairie is established to assist the pastor and the Principal in the governance of this parish school. The SAC's responsibilities are to oversee school policies and actively engage in long range planning and school fundraising. Also, they serve as strong advocates for OLP. Members are parishioners and/or parents of OLP students. One term is for three years. Meetings take place on OLP Leadership evenings along with the Finance and Parish Councils.



## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### LITURGY COMMITTEE



The Liturgy Committee learns about sacred liturgy and prepares a plan to execute liturgical seasons. It is comprised of leaders of each liturgical ministry along with representatives from each Mass time. For more information, please contact Tracy Chessen (612) 240-0561

### SACRISTANS

This ministry is for any confirmed and faithful Catholic who is at least 18 years of age and has a desire to prepare the Sanctuary to celebrate the Mass under the direction of the Parish Pastor. Training is available for both Sunday Sacristans and Daily Sacristans. For more information contact Lois Huber (952) 994-8911.

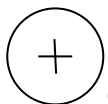
### LECTORS



The Lector ministry is for anyone who has an understanding of the Liturgy and has a desire to proclaim the Living Word of God to Our Lady of the Prairie parishioners. Your time commitment includes an initial training, occasional update trainings, and careful

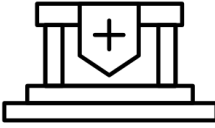
preparation of your select Scripture prior to the Mass time at which you serve. To get involved in this ministry, contact Maureen Daly at (952) 687-1501.

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



This ministry would be a good fit for anyone who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation) and wants to assist the pastor in serving Our Lady of the Prairie within the liturgy. You will have the opportunity to select a Mass time preference. Contact the parish office for the next training opportunity and to sign up to serve the parish in this capacity.

## ALTAR SERVERS



Altar servers assist the priest during the Mass. Training for this ministry is open to all persons following their First communion. Servers are assigned various roles based on age and experience, including cross bearer, and candle bearer. For more information please contact Fr. Michael Kaluza through the parish office (952) 873-6564.

## USHERS

Ushers direct people to seating in the sanctuary and overflow rooms. They assist people with special needs, like helping them out of their cars and into the church., and direct parishioners and guest out of the service in an orderly fashion.

Ushers collect the offerings. They maintain order during the service while supporting pastoral staff and other ministry leaders by distributing hymnals, bulletins, and handouts.

Ushers are attentive to what is going on and are willing to meet needs as they arise. For more information on joining this integral service contact Jim Covington (952) 873-3396.

## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY/GREETERS



Greet people as they arrive at church and make them feel welcome. If you have a desire to prayerfully create an environment where people arriving for Mass feel wanted and comfortable, so that God can more clearly speak to their hearts, this ministry might be a good fit for you! Their gracious manner as they distribute worship materials, attend to the special needs of parishioner, help parents with children, and assist the elderly helps set the tone which pervades the entire parish. Hospitality ministers are asked to arrive 30 minutes before Mass and are scheduled to serve. Contact Sandy Schroers (952) 873-4243, or Joan Brueggemeir (952) 873-6797 to join the Hospitality team and better equip our parish to come together as the Body of Christ at Mass.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

All members of the Body of Christ are invited to unite in songs of prayer with the Communion of Saints, for the greater Glory and Honor of God and His Kingdom. At Our Lady of the Prairie you can choose to serve in one or more choirs. If you are a musician interested in serving at Our Lady of the Prairie, please contact Marilyn Murphy or Colin Schultz, our Directors of Music and Liturgy.

Marilyn Murphy (952)292-1462  
Colin Schultz (952) 277-9576



### SONG LEADERS

Sing at Our Lady of the Prairie 4:15pm Saturday Masses, and on Holy Days throughout the year.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir sings one Sunday a month during the school year, typically at the 10:00am Mass. This choir rehearses on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00pm in the Our Lady of the Prairie School Music classroom.

### OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CHOIR

The choir sings on Sundays at the 10:00am Mass throughout the year and all Holy Days. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00am in the church choir loft.

### CANTORS/INSTRUMENTALISTS/ ORGANISTS

If interested, please contact Colin Schultz (952) 277-9576

### FUNERAL CHOIR

The Funeral Choir sings at many of the funerals held at Our Lady of the Prairie and are contacted as needed via text message with the funeral date and time.



## PARISH LIFE AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES



### WELCOME MINISTRY

Our hope is that everyone who visits Our Lady of the Prairie Church will experience the warmth and joy of being a part of the parish family. Our welcome ministry provides resources for each new member of our Church with important information about various ministries and group activities that offer new parishioners opportunities to be active in their Parish. For more information please contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564.

### ART & ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

If you consider yourself artistic, creative, or handy, the Art & Environment team would love to have you assist in preparing an appropriate environment for parishioners to set their hearts and minds on Heaven and celebrate the Mass. The Art & Environment team could use both men and women to plan, prepare, and reset spaces for each liturgical season. Contact Sue Halloran (952) 873-6322.

### HOMEBOUND COMMUNION MINISTRY

(Kingsway and The Lutheran Home)



If you find yourself having 1-2 extra hours a week and have a desire to take the Holy Eucharist to individuals confined to their homes, this ministry might be a good fit for you! With training provided, adults with Safe Environment training will serve residents at Kingsway and The Lutheran Home. This ministry's primary goal is to meet their faith needs and to provide inclusion for our events on a regular basis. To serve in the ministry, contact Ty Buesgens (952) 270-5012, or Michael Buchanan (952) 356-9647.

### GREEN THUMB MINISTRY



If you enjoy planting and maintaining indoor and outdoor plants to enhance the beauty of the parish, this ministry is for you! Anyone able to lift water jugs and with a few spare hours a week can share in the responsibilities of this year-round ministry. Contact Ginny Morgan (701) 212-3109, or Lois Huber (952) 994-8911.

### PARISH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

If you find yourself having a free morning, afternoon, or full day during your week, consider volunteering in Our Lady of the Prairie office. Support office staff by answering the phone, directing visitors, and helping with other day-to-day activities! To join our team contact Administrative Assistant Anita Glisczynski.



### DUSTING ANGELS

This ministry is for anyone with a desire to assist with maintaining the sacredness of the liturgy through bi-monthly cleaning Our Lady of the Prairie Church. Watch for bulletin announcements.

### FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY



Anyone who is interested in assisting the parish find fellowship and form relationships with coffee and donuts would be a great addition to the Fellowship team. Trained Fellowship Ministers are scheduled about once a month and asked to arrive 20 minutes before Mass to prepare donuts and coffee and stay about 20 minutes after Mass to set out the donuts and coffee, address any shortages, and cleanup afterwards. Contact the following to help our parish further cultivate communion with one another:

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Becoming a Knight of Columbus can transform your life! As a Knight, you have the opportunity to support your parish, give back to your community, grow in your faith and gain exclusive access to our top-rated insurance program to protect your family. The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. They stand together in faith, dedicated to uphold the principles they cherish while lending their support and strength to parish, home and fellow Knights. The Knights meet on the 1st Tuesday of each Month in the Parish Hall. Please contact Rick Morgan (701) 261-9969.

## CATHOLIC COUNCIL OF WOMEN (CCW)



The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is a vital part of the Parish's support network. All registered women of the parish are members. We care for the Altar and the sanctuary, serve funeral luncheons, and help the Liturgy committee with receptions. We give back to the PREP and school programs. We meet six times a year, the first Tuesdays of Oct. Nov. Feb. April, May, Aug. CCW is affiliated with Deanery, Archdiocesan and National levels. With them we help support many other groups/charities. Please contact Janice Teal (952) 873-2998



### Marriage Encounter

Contact the Marriage Encounter Lead Couple  
email: [bpme.olpcomm@gmail.com](mailto:bpme.olpcomm@gmail.com)



### Catholic United Financial (CUF)

Eve Hennen (952) 873-3220

## SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE



The Seven Sisters is a group of women committed to making a weekly visit to the Blessed Sacrament to pray specifically for our pastor, Father Michael. We have one group of "sisters". Each has chosen a specific day of the week to make a Holy Hour for our pastor. We are part of a worldwide apostolate based out of the Archdiocese of St. Paul,

Minneapolis. Our year officially begins in June with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, but you may join at any time. To learn more about joining Seven Sisters in our parish, contact Ginny Morgan at [vmorganginnylou@gmail.com](mailto:vmorganginnylou@gmail.com) or (701) 212-3109.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULTS



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

### *A Journey of Faith*

OCIA is a process developed by the Catholic church for prospective converts to Catholicism who are interested in joining the Catholic faith. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices through periods of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment, and formation. Those participating are invited to attend Mass on Sundays, become increasingly involved in the activities

of the parish. The OCIA team will walk with those considering joining the Catholic faith in this wonderful journey towards Christ and His Church. Please contact the parish office at (952) 873-6564 to continue your discernment of entering the Catholic Church.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION for CHILDREN



RCIC is a learning opportunity to help form children over the age of 7 years into the Catholic faith. It is for those children who have never been baptized or have been baptized into another faith who would like to become Catholic and participate in the Sacraments. Please contact Father Kaluza, Pastor (952) 873-6564.

## BAPTISM



The Baptism Program consists of three, one-hour classes taught by a trained Core Team, which prepare and equip both the parents and godparents to raise the child to be baptized in the Catholic faith, and cultivate holy friendships alongside other parents in the parish. The class is required of first time parents and every three years.

Please contact the parish office (952) 873-6564 to enroll in our Baptism program!

## FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION



Our First Sacraments Program consists of prayers and First Sacrament curriculum. Our first graders learn to communicate with the Lord through the learning of prayers alongside their parents, which lays the foundation for encountering the Lord and His Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receiving His Truly Present Body and

Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Through rich visuals and relatable content, our second graders are prepared, alongside their parent, to receive the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist by instilling in them a life-long love for their faith.

Wednesday night classes for students with parent involvement help facilitate this process, cultivate community for our families, and assist parents in raising their children in the Catholic Church. To learn more, contact Mark Simons, Religious Education Director (952) 873-6564.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK



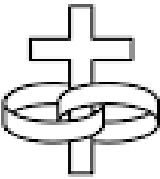
This Sacrament of Healing is available for any baptized Catholic whose health is in critical condition due to an illness. Please contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564 to schedule an appointment with our priest to receive this sacrament.

## CONFIRMATION



The Confirmation, Chosen from Ascension, program at Our Lady of the Prairie is open to all students beginning in 7th grade. From documenting the ways the Lord is speaking to you during the Sunday liturgy, to participating in class on Wednesday nights and a retreat to review and deepen your understanding of Catholicism and grow in relationship with the Lord, and meeting regularly with a sponsor who will walk with the student into eternity, our robust two-year Confirmation program provides a foundation and an opportunity for our students to boldly practice their faith into adulthood. Please contact Mark Simons, Religious Education Director (952) 873-6564.

## MATRIMONY

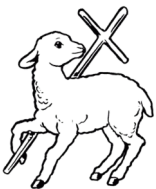


The Sacrament of Matrimony should be a very sacred and blessed event. To honor this reality, the Church has certain laws and guidelines a couple must follow in order to prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. The process of preparation should begin at least six months in advance to the desired wedding date. The Archdiocese of St. Paul/Mpls requires the following components: the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple communication, Understanding, and Study) inventory, Natural Family Planning Seminar, and basic instruction from the priest and a marriage preparation couple. To learn more about this process, contact the parish office (952) 873-6564.





## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



### CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Otherwise known as CGS, this Montessori-based Catholic formation program seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, “hands-on” learning environment for children within an atrium, in which both the children and their catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the essential mysteries of the Catholic faith as revealed in the Scriptures and the Liturgy. This program is open to children ages 3-6, or those in Preschool and Kindergarten and currently offered on Wednesdays from 6:20pm to 7:30pm, during our regular faith formation night. Level s 1 & 2 will be offered at Our Lady of the Prairie School. Please contact Maureen Daly (952) 687-1501 to enroll your child.

### WORD OF LIFE

Our faith formation program for grades 1-8 runs during the school year on Wednesday nights from 6:20-7:30pm.

This year, our parish will be using the “Word of Life” curriculum, which will continue the walk started in the CGS atrium, and lead our younger students through the Catechism with vivid sacred art reflections, stories of the saints, games, role-plays, and critical thinking questions to provide them an opportunity to reflect on the Lord working in their own lives. Please contact Mark Simons, Religious Education Director (952) 873-6564.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

At the time of publishing, the Adult Faith Formation program was in the stages of development. Please direct your interest in this program to Mark Simons, Religious Education Director (952) 873-6564 to receive up to date information.

**ABOUT OUR PARISH**

When Belle Plaine was founded in 1854, the nearest Catholic church was in Shakopee, Minnesota. In 1856 the first Catholic settlers, mostly Irish, began migrating to Belle Plaine. A priest from Shakopee, Father Cornelius Wittman, O.S.B, would come several times a year, on irregular days, due to Sunday being reserved for his Shakopee parish, and celebrate Mass in one of the homes of the Catholic Belle Plaine residents.



In 1860, the Belle Plaine Catholic Community decided to build a church. This church was located in block 145 (Sacred Heart Church site) and was named St. Martin. Later, St. Martin's Catholic Church would become Sacred Heart Catholic Church. At this time, there were roughly 100 Catholic families living in Belle Plaine, mainly of Irish and German descent.

In 1868 the 40 families of German descent decided to split from the existing predominately Irish Catholic church and build their own church, one that would be spoken in their native language. A new church located just south of the present church was built in 1871; the new church was dedicated on December 8, 1871, and was named for the Princes of the Apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul. The church that was originally built was not extensive but served the German parish for more than thirty years. Hence, beginning in 1903, a plan to build a new church began. The last service in the old church was held on Sunday, September 17, 1905, and the new church's dedication took place on November 14, 1905.

In 1972, the Archbishop Coadjutor of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese, Reverend Leo C. Byrne ordered Sacred Heart and St. Peter and Paul parishes to consolidate due to a shortage of priests. It was decided that St. Peter and Paul Church would remain, as it had a rectory, grade school, and convent, and the Sacred Heart parish house was to be the home of presiding priest. Sacred Heart Church was closed for regular worship services on December 1, 1972, but upon special request, parishioners could use it for

weddings and funerals up until December 1, 1974. In 1988, the decision to dispose of the Sacred Heart church was made, and in March of 1989, the Church was torn down.

A new name for consolidated church was decided; the new parish's name was to be "Our Lady of the Prairie." The Catholic community was back to the beginning of their roots in Belle Plaine, with the Irish and Germans, worshipping together.

## CEMETERIES

Purchasing a grave site can be accomplished by stopping in the parish business office during normal business hours. However, it is advisable to call ahead to ensure that someone will be available to assist. A purchase agreement will be filled out, with a copy given to the owner for his or her records. A copy of the cemetery rules and regulations will also be provided at that time.



**PETER & PAUL CEMETERY**  
East South Street  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

**SACRED HEART  
CEMETERY**  
South Ash Street  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

### CHURCH ETIQUETTE

As we all come together each week to worship, the following gentle reminders are intended to protect the sacred environment of our Liturgies and to respect those around us.

#### COMMUNICATION DEVICES



Please silence all cell phones and pagers before entering church.

#### ARRIVING ON TIME



Please arrive for Mass on time. Remember in season to allow extra time to park. Where unforeseen circumstances arise and Mass is in progress, please be discreet as possible when taking your seat.

#### LEAVING BEFORE THE FINAL BLESSING

Mass is not over until we receive the final blessing and the Presider has left the altar. Just as you would not leave the table at home before the meal has ended, we ask you to stay for the final blessing.



#### ATTIRE

As we enter the House of our Lord for our most important meal of the week, we ask that you dress appropriately, showing a Christian respect for others and ourselves.



#### BOOKS AND MATERIALS

Please place books back in the pew holders and return or dispose of printed materials including homilies, worship aids, and trash.



**PARTICIPATION FORM**

Please complete this form, cut it out, and return it to the parish office, collection basket, or after-hours drop-box located in front of the church.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Main Cell

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Family Member	I'm interested in:

Called to *Serve*  
joyfully and actively.



**Our Lady of the Prairie**  
**Catholic Church**

200 East Church Street  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011