



**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

*Empowered by our Baptism, we give witness to the values of Christian unity, service, compassion & justice.*

**A Testament to Christ**

**Pastor**

Fr. James Riley Kurzynski  
715-832-2504 ext. 104  
jkurzynski@diolclergy.org



**Main Office** - 715-832-2504  
www.saintolafparish.org

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Dee Bouley ~ ext. 105  
dbouley@saintolafparish.org

**Director of Faith Formation**

Dennis Kurtz ~ ext. 103  
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**Sites for up-to-date info:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintOlafEauClaireWi/>

<https://twitter.com/SaintOlaf3220>

<https://www.facebook.com/StOlafCatholicChurchFaithFormation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintolafmensclub/>

PCCW Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091654986282>

**Celebration of Eucharist**

Saturdays: 5:00 pm  
Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30 am

**Penance**

Saturdays: 4:15 – 4:45 PM or by  
appointment with Pastor.

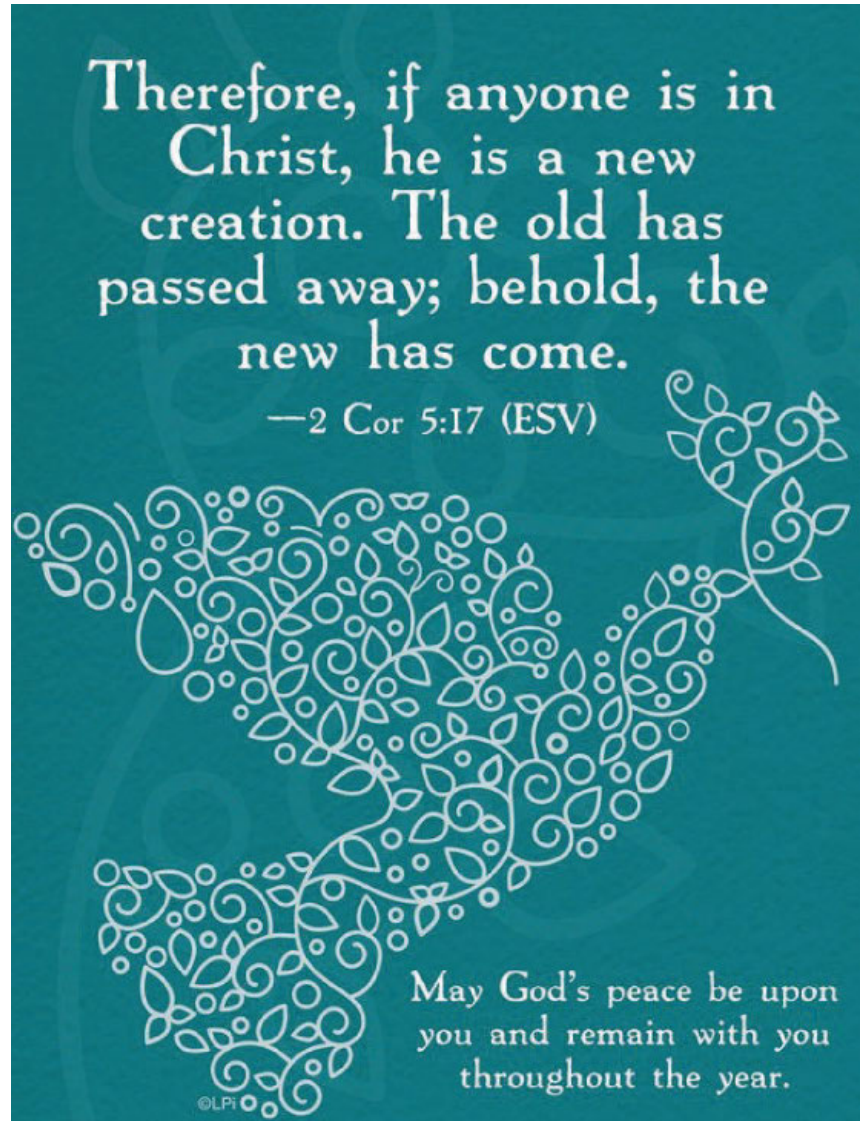
**Parish Mission Statement**

*We, the Catholic family of St. Olaf, believe ours is the mission of Jesus Christ.*

*We live & proclaim the Gospel through prayer, liturgy & action.*

*We accept the challenge to live in the Gospel, to love others as Christ loves us, & to be models of Christian stewardship.*

*Empowered by our Baptism, we give witness to the values of Christian unity, service, compassion & justice.*



**3220 MONROE ST., EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703  
PO BOX 1203, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702-1203**

# **Questions about St. Olaf . . . .** **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm **A Testament to Christ**

## **Parish Mailing Address:**

**St. Olaf, PO Box 1203, Eau Claire WI 54702-1203**

## **TO BECOME MEMBERS OF ST. OLAF**

We would like to meet with you personally. Call & make an appointment to register with Michelle Zanon. Her schedule is flexible so you can meet at your convenience.

## **PENANCE**

Saturdays 4:15–4:45 PM or by appointment with Pastor.  
 Penance services & individual Reconciliation are held during the seasons of Advent & Lent.

## **ST. OLAF PRAYER CHAIN**

Prayers can be for spiritual, physical, or emotional needs. Examples include prayers for the sick, for guidance in decision-making, for marital difficulties, for mental health problems, for safe journey, in thanksgiving for. Use first names only. To start a prayer call:

Dianne Froze 715-834-3626 (mornings)  
 Rose O'Donnell 708-525-3130 (afternoons)  
 Carolyn Charais 480-226-2024 (evenings—5pm to 9pm)  
 E-mail prayer requests to bddroesler@gmail.com

## **REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Central Office—715-830-2273

## **Parish Stewardship**

### **Offerings received to support our Faith Community**

#### **Adult Envelope/Holy Days Giving**

December 17, 2023..... \$3,221.00

#### **Offertory**

December 17, 2023.....\$638.00

#### **Debt Retirement Giving**

December 17, 2023.....\$851.00

#### **Year to Date June 2023**

Adult Envelope/Holy Days .....\$463,420.28

Amount budgeted.....\$475,000.00

Offertory .....\$23,970.26

Amount budgeted.....\$13,840.00

*Thank You* 

**To everyone who is continuing to send in their weekly & monthly contributions a big thank you! Your commitment to St. Olaf is greatly appreciated. You are all in our prayers.**

## **MAKE A PLANNED GIFT**

We hope that you will consider including the St. Olaf Parish in your estate or financial plans for the future.

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

Monday, January 1—Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**NO DAILY MASS**

Tuesday, January 2—Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

8:30 AM † David Smith

Wednesday, January 3—The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 Jn 2:29–3:6/Jn 1:29-34

8:30 AM † William Randall Sr.

Thursday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42

8:30 AM †

Friday, January 5—St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51

8:30 AM †

Saturday, January 6—St. André Bessette, Religious

1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

5:00 PM † Allen Balaz

Sunday, January 7—The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

8:30 AM † Deceased members of the Men's Club

10:30 AM Parishioners and Guests

**To schedule a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office at 715-832-2504 x100. Suggested stipend is \$10/Mass**

[@saintolafparish.org](mailto:saintolafparish.org)

Diocese of La Crosse Masses can be viewed on Channel 18, at 9:30 a.m. Sundays or online at [diolc.org/live](http://diolc.org/live)

## **\$CRIP NOTES & NEWS**

CURRENT SALES—DECEMBER 18, 2023 \$7,330.00 .....<sup>ORDERS</sup>29

SALES FISCAL Y-T-D (7/1/23-12/11/2023) \$96,381.00

FISCAL YTD RETURN TO PARISH: \$3,931.79

**We NEED Scrip Sellers for Weekends after Mass!** Please contact Michelle in the business office to sign up! (715-832-2504 x101)

## **NOW OFFERING**

 **RaiseRight.**

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## Family Formation & Religious Education

K-6: January 7 after 8:30 am Mass  
7-10th Grade: January 3, 2024!

Confirmation Theme for January: Option for the Poor & Vulnerable



# THANK YOU!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the parish for their continued support for the Sharing Tree. Thank you again & have a wonderful holiday season.

### What Is Happening in RCIA?

On the First Sunday of Advent we celebrated the Rite of Welcoming at the 5:00 Mass. Danielle Havenor was accepted as a candidate & declared her intention to enter into the full Communion of the Catholic Church. In RCIA we have been discussing Divine Revelation, Original Sin, the Trinity & the Pascal Mystery. Please pray for Danielle as she continues her journey of faith. Welcome Danielle!



### Eau Claire Deanery Positions Available

The Eau Claire Deanery of Catholic Women currently have positions available on the executive board. If you are interested in getting involved with the Deanery (one level above your parish PCCW) now is your chance. They currently have the following positions available: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, & SECRETARY. If this is something that you are interested in pursuing you can contact Julie Brindle, the past president of the Deanery. Her contact information is [julianna.brindle@gmail.com](mailto:julianna.brindle@gmail.com).

General questions can be answered by Deb Sundblad, as she is the Treasurer, [red\\_deb1@hotmail.com](mailto:red_deb1@hotmail.com).

### Special News for Knights of Columbus JFK Council 1257 members,

please pick up State Raffle Tickets, located in the gathering area, as we no longer can mail them out. When returning, please drop them off at the Parish office during working hours or bring them to a meeting.

**Our next Council meeting will be held Tuesday January 9, at 7p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Center.**

Each month our Knights of Columbus recognizes a Family from parishes throughout Eau Claire. The Family of the month is chosen for their efforts in helping out our parish communities in special ways. **The recipients for the month are Gary and Jan Liedl, from St Olaf Parish. Your time and talent is appreciated.**

### St. Olaf Parish is currently looking for:

- ♦ 3 Members for the Parish Pastoral Council
- ♦ Scrip sellers before & after Mass
- ♦ Cup & Gift Bearers for mass-sign up on the ministry clipboard



### SNOW IS HERE

Volunteers are needed before weekend Masses to shovel snow. Please call the parish office if you are able to help. 715-832-2504 x 100.



## ST. OLAF'S MEN'S CLUB



### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY

St. Olaf Parish  
2407 North Lane, Eau Claire, WI  
(on the North side near the Airport)

#### 2024 DATES:

JANUARY 5TH & 19TH  
FEBRUARY 2ND & 16TH  
MARCH 1ST, 15TH & 22ND  
APRIL 5TH

#### The Menu for the Sit-Down Meal:

BATTER-FRIED or BAKED FISH  
FRENCH FRIES or BAKED POTATO  
VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR & COLESLAW  
PRICES: \$14 Adults, \$5 Children (5 to 12)

Younger ones eat free

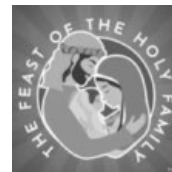
(Walk-Up Carry-Outs Available)

CARRY-OUT 3-PIECE DINNER \$14




Serving from 4:00-7:00 PM

### Notifications:

Parish Office Closed January 1 & 2, 2024  
No Daily Mass on January 1, 2024



## Meetings & Gatherings

Monday - 1/1	Tuesday 1/2	Wednesday - 1/3	Thursday - 1/4	Friday - 1/5	Saturday - 1/6	Sunday - 1/7
NO Daily Mass	NO Daily Mass Parish Office Closed	6:15pm-7:30pm Religious Education	5: 30 PM-Bible Study (GS)	Parish Offices Closed 4-7pm Fish Fry (PC)	5 PM Mass	8:30 AM Mass K-6 Family Faith Formation 10:30 AM Mass
						

## MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS - JANUARY 6 & 7

### 5:00 pm Saturday

Lector: Brad Kupczak

Servers: Bonnie Gibson & Carter Atkinson

### 8:30 am Sunday

Lector: Marlene Johnson

Servers: Allie & Gabe Liedl

### 10:30 am Sunday

Lector: Stacy Knudson

Servers: Julianna & Catherine Lemanski-Trujillo



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

### The Gift of Family

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us. Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — Father John Muir

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

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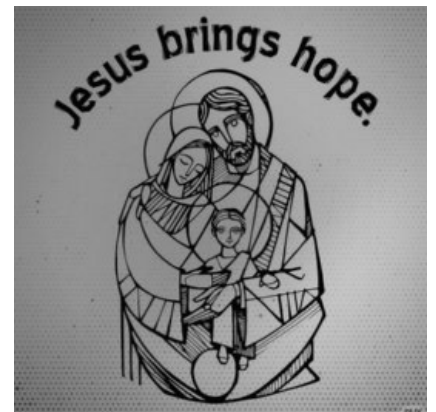
**Soup Supper**  
**January 13th**

St. Olaf is hosting a Soup Supper Potluck Social on  
**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Following the 5:00 p.m. Mass

Here's your chance to share your favorite soup—  
And recipe if you wish! Or you may want to  
Bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

Please indicate what you wish to bring.

All are Welcome!





# Christmas Flowers

## *In Memory of:*

Bert & Jeanette Seibel  
Walter & Rose Schwartz  
Paul Seibel  
Barb Dunham  
Mary Frances Berthold  
Roger & Donna Falkenburg  
Terumi Wanserski  
Vince & Rita Wagener  
Elmo & Harriet Korn  
Donovan & Dolores Jensen  
David & Russell Smith, Harold & Carole Cook,  
Russell & Colletta Smith & Louise & Myrtle Cook

Judy Sires  
Linda Marie Kolo  
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Frances Marek  
Amelia Kolo  
Donald & Elaine Sydejko  
Conrad & June Bjelland  
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Deceased members of the Wanichek Family  
Ann & Doc Kinnick  
Marvin & Katherine Piwoni  
Louie & Jo Walta  
Deceased members of the Beal Family  
Phillip O'Donnell  
Bill, Fran & Lorraine Dresden  
Patricia Dresden Prock  
Bob Woodruff  
John & Julie Guite  
Deceased members of the Teslaw Family  
Deceased members of the Skaw Family  
Jerry Hoehl  
Darin Bowe  
Jim Gottfredsen  
Baby Chloe Eichman  
Kyle Gottfredsen  
Bill Wolf  
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Clem & Dorothy Bowe  
Larry & Suzanne Bowe  
Roger LaFaive

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by Connie & Lee Bremer  
by Tom & Marilyn Day  
by Lou & Billie Walta  
by Lou & Billie Walta  
by Marie Lelivelt  
by Cathy McCann  
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by Mary Woodruff  
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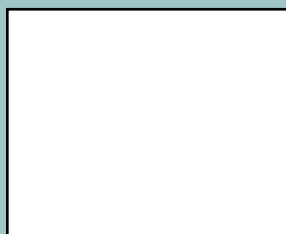
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