

June 7, 2020



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4pm
Sunday 8am & 10am
Tuesday–Friday 7:30am

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4pm-5pm
or by appointment

Contact the parish office to register, schedule a baptism, schedule a wedding (six months notice required), and to request the Sacrament of the Sick.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 8am-3pm

FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 8am-Noon

SCRIP

Scrip is sold before and after all weekend Masses and in the parish office on Fridays from 8am-3pm.

PARISH STAFF

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OUR MISSION

Mary, Mother of the Church parishioners are called to be the People of God, formed by the Holy Word and nourished by the Holy Eucharist. We joyfully share our faith and gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We are committed to serve all God's people in the building of the Kingdom.

Dear Friends in Christ,

June 3, 2020

Before addressing the results of last weekend's public Masses, I would like to briefly return to a question I posed a few weeks ago: "Do you think our society will change after we're through this? Will things ever be the same again?"

This time I ask in regards to the killing of George Floyd. How incongruous that kneeling – as a position of prayer – became the way someone died: kneeling on someone's neck. What made those four officers think it was OK? On the other hand, what kept the witnesses who were present – protesting and recording this crime – from risking their personal well-being when they believed the man was actively dying?

As important as these questions may be, they are not the most important for us. Why? Throwing stones at people wasn't the way Jesus handled tough situations. For example, when the woman caught in adultery was brought before Him, He made this judgment: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). Everyone was asked to look inwardly.

So, how do I personalize the death of George Floyd? ...What would I have done if I were the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th officer at the scene? What would I have done if I were on the sidewalk witnessing a man being killed? Am I angry about this crime? How angry am I? What do I do with this anger? What blind spots do I have for those who are suffering? ...whether it's tied to racism or any other blindness? What can I do today?

It isn't enough to find the easiest targets to condemn like the 1st officer kneeling on Mr. Floyd's neck or the looters among the peaceful protestors. I need to listen to those who have a right to be angry. I need to respect their anger and grief. I need to accompany them and become more educated. I need to be more attuned to seeing the world through the eyes of others who have different backgrounds than mine. I need to look at this event...and at each person...as Jesus would. I need to speak up.

In the Christian sense of the phrase, I need to "make this personal."

Before concluding this letter, I want to give an update on our public Masses.

First, I would like to thank the 53 volunteers who attended the training sessions! You are the main reason we were able to reopen our church for public Masses again! Thank you! ...especially for doing such a thorough job of sanitizing the church after each Mass!

Secondly, thank you to all who attended! There were about 45-50 people at each Mass. Not many, but many more than the 9 who gathered for online/TV Masses! And it was wonderful! The Diocesan guidelines limit our seating to 25% of capacity, which is 220 for our church; however, social distancing is of greater importance. We will not reach our capacity if social distancing cannot be maintained.

For us, social distancing is using every 1/3 pew (approx. 7 feet apart) and the person sitting next to you needs to be far enough away that you cannot lean over and touch the person (unless you came to church with that person). Once the pews are "filled" (estimated minimum of 115 people), then we will use the parish hall with a capacity of 70 (minimum of 62 with social distancing). Our final overflow is the choir loft (estimated minimum of 35).

At this time, Sunday obligation to attend Mass is still suspended and daily Masses remain private. Bishop Callahan "encourages those over 65 and particularly those with underlying health conditions to stay home." We will live stream the 4 PM Mass on our website, and KQEG-TV will take this live stream and broadcast it on Sundays at 10 AM.

I would like to repeat some guidelines in last week's bulletin:

--On our parish website, we are posting a Virtual Tour to walk-through our procedures.

--Masks are welcomed and encouraged.

--Church doors will be unlocked 30 minutes before Mass begins.

--Seating in church:

-Please follow the directions of the Greeters who will welcome you, provide a worship aid, and assist with seating from the front pew to the back pew.

-It will not be possible to be seated in your favorite pew, receive an "end pew seat," or reserve space for those who are coming later. (If you are waiting for others to arrive, you will need to remain outside until they join you.)

--Please receive Holy Communion in your hands. Directions will be explained at Mass.

--The Parish Hall and Choir Loft are for overflow only. We are called to worship together in church. Additionally, if the Parish Hall is not needed, we won't need to sanitize it.

--Metal chairs along the back are for our Greeters.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. Yours in Christ,

Father Koupa

2020 Man and Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Joseph van Oss and Mary Jo Lium for being recognized as integral members of the parish family who serve us so well, especially in this time of coronavirus pandemic restrictions. We are blessed!

Joseph has been the parish webmaster for many years and put our new sound system and camera to good use a few years ago by recording and posting the 4 PM Mass homilies. In March, this quickly transitioned into live streaming Masses, funerals, and baptisms, as well as recording catechists' lessons to close out the year for our Children's Religious Education Program. He has also helped prepare the parish for the reopening of Masses through the new ministry of Greeters.

Mary Jo has faithfully led our Sunday choir and began directing the New Life Funeral Choir a couple years ago. She's well respected among our musicians, plays the new grand piano so beautifully, and is exceptionally well-organized. She adapted to the new limitations for Holy Week and the Easter season while continuing to adjust her schedule to assist those planning weddings, funerals, and other parish events. Congratulations to Joseph and Mary Jo our Man and Woman of the year!



TV/Online Masses

Good News! Last weekend KQEG successfully used our Live stream of the 4 PM Mass and broadcasted it at 10 AM on Sunday. We will continue this and pay for this valued service. Also the 7:30 AM weekday Masses will also be live streamed on our website until they become public.

New Liturgical Ministries

Ministry of Greeter A new ministry has been created to meet the diocesan regulations for safe, orderly movement in/out of church and for sanitizing the church after every Mass. This ministry will be

simplified when these health directives are relaxed. For now, this ministry is open to those 14-64 years old who are willing to...

- arrive 30+ minutes before Mass
- wear mask and gloves during active ministry times (supplied by parish)
- select among 3 kinds of Greeter options: Welcome (at doors), Worship Aid (distribution), and Seating
- remain after Mass to sanitize pews/chairs, door handles, bathrooms, etc.

We were blessed to have 53 volunteers trained before opening public Masses on May 30-31. We need many more volunteers so we can lengthen the schedule rotation. Training sessions will be 6:30 PM on June 11 (Tues) & 16 (Thurs). No registration needed.

Live Streaming The Sunday obligation is still suspended, at-risk people are encouraged to stay home, and daily Mass will remain private (limited to 9 people). So we will continue to provide televised Mass on our YouTube channel for the foreseeable future. A new lay liturgical ministry has come up during the pandemic: Live-streaming video of celebrations at MMOC, including Masses, Baptisms, weddings, and funerals. This has been deeply appreciated by those who cannot attend. Right now we have one person serving in this role. It would be great to have a few more people to make sure we can cover all events. This ministry requires a bit of tech savvy to operate our AV system and our YouTube channel. Full training will be provided. To learn more about what is involved, please contact Joseph van Oss: webmaster@mmoclacrosse.org.

Year of St Joseph

Why go to Joseph? We know from Scripture that St. Joseph watched over and protected Jesus as He grew up. This is the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph being declared the protector of the Catholic Church. Through Baptism, we became a child of God and a member of God's family, the Church. Therefore, as members of the Church, St. Joseph is our spiritual father and protector. It is Time to Go to Joseph, invoking his powerful spiritual fatherhood before God to help us protect marriage and the family, which is under serious attack in our culture

FORMED

This week on Formed.org we offer a movie for movie night. St. Anthony of Padua, known for helping us find lost things, was known for so much more. His powerful preaching and miracles won countless souls for Christ. The film St. Anthony, Miracle Worker of Padua, beautifully portrays the power of his preaching, love for the poor and oppressed, and the wonders of his miracles.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Individual Confessions will be available Wednesdays 4-5 PM and by appointment. Confessions will not be available on Saturdays as we focus on the orderly seating for the 4 PM Mass.

SCRIP

June 2 Scrip Drive-Up Day Thank you to everyone who purchased scrip, donated items for Catholic Charities, and volunteered. It was a successful day on all fronts and Scrip sales were \$21,930! **Our next Scrip drive-up day will be Friday, June 19 - just in time for Father's Day!**

Helping Seminarian Joe Culligan



Parishioner Joe Culligan will no longer be a seminarian for the Diocese of La Crosse but has joined the Central Province of the Dominicans. He has a student debt from his degree at UW-La Crosse totaling \$36,000. The Dominicans are accustomed to

accepting postulants/candidates with \$30,000 or less, so they are asking Joe to make an effort to raise at least \$6,000. If you feel called to help, please send a donation by June 30 payable to "MMOC" and add "Joe Culligan" to the memo line. All donations will be processed through our Works of Charity account and parishioners will have it credited to their giving history.

Family Life

New Married Love: Two Becoming One retreats – Several retreats were cancelled recently and we are now in the process of rescheduling starting in July. The La Crosse Deanery will host a Marriage Prep Retreat at MMOC on July 11. For the most recent opportunities, visit Marriage Preparation Retreat Schedule <https://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-preparation/before-the-marriage-retreat/marriage-preparation-schedule/>

George Floyd & Protests in American Cities

On May 31, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the following statement:

"The killing of George Floyd was senseless and brutal, a sin that cries out to heaven for justice. How is it possible that in America, a black man's life can be taken from him while calls for help are not answered, and his killing is recorded as it happens?"

"I am praying for George Floyd and his loved ones, and on behalf of my brother bishops, I share the outrage of the black community and those who stand with them in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and

across the country. The cruelty and violence he suffered does not reflect on the majority of good men and women in law enforcement, who carry out their duties with honor. We know that. And we trust that civil authorities will investigate his killing carefully and make sure those responsible are held accountable.

"We should all understand that the protests we are seeing in our cities reflect the justified frustration and anger of millions of our brothers and sisters who even today experience humiliation, indignity, and unequal opportunity only because of their race or the color of their skin. It should not be this way in America. Racism has been tolerated for far too long in our way of life.

"It is true what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, that riots are the language of the unheard. We should be doing a lot of listening right now. This time, we should not fail to hear what people are saying through their pain. We need to finally root out the racial injustice that still infects too many areas of American society.

"But the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us keep our eyes on the prize of true and lasting change.

"Legitimate protests should not be exploited by persons who have different values and agendas. Burning and looting communities, ruining the livelihoods of our neighbors, does not advance the cause of racial equality and human dignity.

"We should not let it be said that George Floyd died for no reason. We should honor the sacrifice of his life by removing racism and hate from our hearts and renewing our commitment to fulfill our nation's sacred promise — to be a beloved community of life, liberty, and equality for all."

Weekly Mass Intentions

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

7:30 AM † Leo and Katherine Hawes
by Pat Mertens

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

7:30 AM † Cox and Grosskopf Families
by Jack and Pat Darling

Thursday, June 11, 2020

7:30 AM † Anna Meyers
by Mike and Jane Vogel

Friday, June 12, 2020

7:30 AM † Christopher and Frances Marx
by Howard and Anita Olson

Saturday, June 13, 2020

4:00 PM † Donald and Lorraine Helfrich
by Their Daughters

Sunday, June 14, 2020

8:00 AM † Pro Populo
10:00 M † Phil Steinhoff
by Mike Pitsch

Father will be saying the weekday Masses privately.
Hillview Masses will be rescheduled for another time.

Building Our Future Together

One of the side benefits of the recent “Stay at Home” quarantine has been much of the work on the church has been accomplished with relatively minor inconvenience.



Picture #1

Ledegar has finished their work on the roof. A final “walk-through” with them was scheduled this past Thursday morning. The steel “capping” that was installed on top of the parapet walls provides a great seal to the rubber membrane that wraps from the rooftop, up and over the top of the parapet wall (see picture #1). Krause Construction was here this past week cleaning the aluminum fascia around the

church, rectory, and offices as well as the spire above the main entrance. All the aluminum that was cleaned looks “like new” – it’s amazing! (See picture #2.) The new lighting on the tower and spire is expected to be installed within the next few weeks (some new fixtures were back-ordered).



Picture #2

The HVAC project is well underway. Infra-Con has completed all the asbestos removal. Buchner’s have completed nearly all of the major demo work (see picture #3); all that remains are the chiller units in church and the office.



Picture #3

When the church, rectory and offices were constructed 60 years ago, the eventual replacement of the main chiller for the church was anticipated in the construction design. A section of cement block wall in the rectory garage was “built to be removed” - it even contained a lintel for needed support. That opening has now been easily made; the old unit can come out and a new one installed (see picture #4). Double doors will be installed in the opening when the installation work is finished. Near the end of July, there will be no air conditioning in church for about two weeks while the new unit is installed.

Buchner’s will install three new hot water boilers



Picture #4

in the old boiler room (picture #5) alongside the current boiler for the Parish Hall. All four boilers will be connected creating a “redundancy” so that if one unit has a malfunction

or failure the others just take over. Thus, there will be a minimal chance of no heat in the buildings.

In other activity, new water heaters in the church and rectory have been installed. While Buchner is here with the HVAC work, they will have a crew install new water lines from 21st Street into the church. Since we received favorable bids on the HVAC project, we are investigating going ahead with the installation of new lighting for the interior of the church. That was part of the “Utilities” section of our Phase IV plans. That work may also commence this summer.



Picture #5

We offer our sincere gratitude to all of you who have made sacrificial pledges/gifts to the parish capital campaign and have been able to continue honoring pledge payments. Thank you so much! Please remember to keep the safety of all project workers, as well as our parish, in your prayers as we continue to Build Our Future Together.

Rite of Initiation for RCIA Candidates

We welcome those who are being received into the full communion of the Catholic Church this Trinity Sunday through the Sacrament of Confirmation and their First Communion: Carla Voyles & Lance Hughey. We look forward to Jon Mason being initiated at a later date through the waters of baptism. Please continue to support them in prayer.



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