



# Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Congregation

## Christmas 2011 Newsletter



### Welcome Home!

Deb Hamm, Pastoral Associate

Every Christmas, our churches are overflowing with members of God's family rejoicing at the birth of our Savior. For some, it has been awhile since you've joined us. There are many reasons that may be true. Perhaps you are visiting family in the area. Perhaps you have been attending Mass elsewhere. Perhaps you've been hurt in some way by the Church in the past. Whatever the reason, we welcome you home. We are so glad you have come to join us in this wonderful celebration of God's love for us.

We invite you to join us again. If you, or someone you know, has been away awhile and would like to speak to someone about returning, or if you would like to learn more about becoming Catholic, please feel free to contact one of our co-pastors or myself (contact information is on the back page of the newsletter) or our deacon, Gerry Malueg (contact the O.L.L. parish office). We would be happy to speak with you.



*From the Co-Pastors, Pastoral Associate, Parish Staff, and Parish Council, Christmas Blessings to **All** the Members of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish!*

To our members who have not attended Mass at O.L.L. recently, we invite you to join us for Mass and other parish activities in the coming year. You are always welcome at O.L.L.! To those who regularly attended Mass this past year, we greatly appreciate your continued support of the parish, and we look forward to worshiping and serving with you again throughout 2012.

### ***O.L.L. WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE***

#### **Sunday, January 1**

8:30 a.m.: St. Mary Chapel,  
Random Lake

11:00 a.m.: St. Nicholas Chapel,  
Dacada

#### **After January 1 Sundays**

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.:  
St. Mary Chapel,  
Random Lake

### What a Year!

Lowell Barrington,  
Parish Council Chair

Last Christmas, parishioners of O.L.L. had just met to discuss and vote on merging with our cluster's other parishes. A large majority (77%) of the nearly 150 people in attendance voted to remain a separate parish. In the year since, we have seen many positive events strengthen O.L.L. parish, including:

- We had Capuchin priests help out in the spring at the 8:30 Mass, allowing two weekend O.L.L. Masses.
- We worked with the other parishes in the cluster to create a ministry plan, including a blueprint for a new bi-parish cluster.
- Via the Family Program, we continued to bring in speakers and open their talks to parishioners.
- We welcomed our new co-pastor, Fr. Todd Budde, and have greatly appreciated his and Fr. Dick Fleischman's efforts this year to bolster and develop our parish.
- We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the current St. Nicholas Chapel, with a polka Mass, a picnic, games, and activities.
- We had an inspiring parish mission, led by Fr. Richard Hart.
- We had another successful Ham Dinner and Fall Festival.
- We created a new Outreach Committee to help O.L.L. better connect to its members and to the broader community.

As we welcome the New Year, let us all pray that 2012 continues to renew our parish family and our Catholic faith.

### Thanks to Fr. Tom Neitzke

O.L.L. welcomes back and thanks Fr. Tom Neitzke, who is presiding at two of our Christmas Masses again this year. Fr. Tom, a Jesuit priest who grew up in Port Washington, was ordained and celebrated his first Mass in June of 2010. His parents, Ted and Julie Neitzke, now live in Random Lake.

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## *O.L.L. & the Milwaukee Capuchins*

The past year at O.L.L. included a number of events involving the Capuchins of the St. Conrad Friary in Milwaukee. This started in January with a talk by Fr. Martin Pable on sharing our Catholic faith. Fr. Pable and Fr. Richard Hart also served as “help-out priests” in the spring, presiding at our 8:30 Sunday Masses on a regular basis. Finally, Fr. Hart led a very successful parish mission event in September, which focused on the topics of evangelization and outreach. We had a very good turnout at each of the week’s events, culminating with a Thursday evening Mass.

Building on this parish mission experience, the O.L.L. Parish Council recommended that we create a new committee focused on outreach to Catholics in the area and the Adell-Cascade-Dacada-Random Lake communities more broadly. We are extremely grateful for all of the help that Fr. Hart, Fr. Pable, and other Capuchins provided O.L.L. this year. They helped reenergize the parish and set the stage for our renewed focus on outreach activities in 2012.

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## Selected Upcoming O.L.L. Activities

- ★ *January 8<sup>th</sup>*: Dennis Sylva talk, “Faith, Family, and Handling Stress,” 9:30 a.m.
  - ★ *January 15<sup>th</sup>*: Coffee and donuts after the 8:30 Mass.
  - ★ *January 19<sup>th</sup>*: Outreach Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
  - ★ *January 29<sup>th</sup>*: Catholic Schools Week open house, book fair and brat fry.
  - ★ *January 30<sup>th</sup>*: O.L.L. School Family Night at the Five Pillars.
  - ★ *February 5<sup>th</sup>*: Janaan Najeeb talk, “Understanding Islam,” 9:30 a.m.
  - ★ *February 12<sup>th</sup>*: Coffee and donuts after the 8:30 Mass.
  - ★ *February 19<sup>th</sup>*: Jennifer Christ talk, “Different Styles of Prayer,” 9:30 a.m.
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## *O.L.L. Family Program: Faith Formation, Service*

Two Sundays per month during the fall through the spring, the Religious Education Family Program meets in the O.L.L. School gym following the 8:30 Mass. After sharing in refreshments, the children head to religious education classes, while their parents stay to participate in activities designed to encourage their own faith formation. These activities often include speakers brought in to address particular topics of interest to O.L.L. parishioners. (Parishioners interested in these talks are welcome to come over after the 8:30 Mass for refreshments and the speaker session.) Following the speaker’s presentation and a question and answer period, the students return from their classes and join their parents in the gym to work on a family project. The morning concludes with a religious-themed song and a closing prayer.

Sometimes, the Family Program sessions involve a single faith formation activity, where parents and children participate together for the entire session. Examples include a recent session on the physical features of the chapel and their meanings, as well as a community service activity. The service activity took place in late October, when the Family Program families helped people in need with yard work and other housework. Following a short prayer activity in the gym, more than twenty O.L.L. families went out into the community, working at a number of sites across the Adell-Cascade-Dacada-Random Lake area. The kids and adults from the Family Program worked hard but had a good time, interacting with each other and with those they were helping. More important, they put into action our Catholic commitment to social justice and service to others.

Families interested in participating in the Sunday morning Family Program are welcome to contact Terry Mahler, O.L.L.’s director of religious education at 920-994-8033 or mahlert@archmil.org. Parishioners without children in religious education are also encouraged to look for announcements of speaker sessions and take advantage of the opportunities to enhance their Catholic faith.



Above, during their service day in October, members of the O.L.L. Family Program assist elderly Random Lake couple with autumn yard cleanup.



### ***O.L.L. Youth Ministry Activities***

O.L.L. continues to have an active and successful youth ministry program. Overseen by O.L.L.'s Director of Religious Education, Terry Mahler, youth ministry activities extend the religious education experience for the parish's middle and high school students.

Opportunities include mission trips in the summer, where middle and high school students serve the less fortunate in other parts of the United States. O.L.L. has traditionally sent a large number of its school-age members on summer mission trips. The week-long trips provide the participants with an example of Catholic social teaching in practice, help grow their Catholic faith, and develop their commitment to serving those in need in their own area. O.L.L. students travel with students from our cluster and region of Wisconsin but also work alongside fellow Catholic students from across the country.

In addition, the parish's high school students participate in events like the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), while the middle school students have the chance to participate in the NET Ministries retreats. The most recent NCYC took place in November in Indianapolis. NCYC brings together tens of thousands of Catholic youth for a weekend of faith and fellowship. Participating youth from O.L.L. get the chance to worship and learn alongside a huge number of young Catholics, all demonstrating a commitment to their faith. The NET retreats bring area middle school students together under the guidance of trained Catholic youth group leaders. The students enjoy activities, songs, and skits that combine fun and faith formation.

You can help encourage these activities by the youth of our parish! Support their fundraising efforts (such as soup sales after Mass, stock sales, and Pizza Ranch nights). Please also offer them your prayers as they develop and share their faith. Call Terry Mahler with any questions at 920-994-8033.

### **Human Concerns: Reaching Out to Those in Need**

O.L.L.'s Human Concerns Committee has continued its admirable work over the last few months, both for the parish and for the community at large. In October, for example, the Human Concerns Committee organized the Eternal Life Tree. This tree was decorated with pictures or holy cards of deceased loved ones from the parish. Providing a focal point for the celebration of All Souls and All Saints Day and a way to remember those who have gone before us, the tree remained up during the month of November.

Throughout the fall and winter, Human Concerns volunteers collected items for the area food pantry. Working with their counterparts from other area churches, volunteers from O.L.L. also knitted and crocheted beautiful scarves, mittens, and hats for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Tree. Their efforts mean many people in need in the area will have an easier time staying warm this winter. The committee also organized a "Secret Santa" gift list for residents of Gables on the Pond in Random Lake and Waldo. Interested parishioners received suggestions for gifts, which the Human Concerns Committee members delivered to Gables' residents in December. This month, Human Concerns also oversaw the Advent Giving Tree, located in the front of church. The tree had ornaments on it with items needed for Mary's Room in Sheboygan, OLL School, and our local food pantry. (Mary's Room, connected to the St. Vincent DePaul store on the north side of Sheboygan, helps needy mothers with newborns and toddlers.) The Human Concerns Committee members distributed the collected items.

These are only some of the examples of what the Human Concerns Committee does. They rely on the generosity of our parishioners, but their hard work and dedication to serving others makes certain that this generosity helps people in need across the area.



At left, students from Our Lady of the Lakes School perform in the annual school Christmas program on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The students put on a wonderful show, with their talents and faith on display for all to see. Great job!



### **O.L.L. School Strategic Plan**

In January, the Associate Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese, Patrick Lofton, will meet with members of the Parish Council, School Committee, Finance Committee, and other interested individuals to develop a strategic plan for Our Lady of the Lakes School. We appreciate the support of the Archdiocese as we set specific goals for our school in the years ahead.



## Frequently Asked Questions about the New Roman Missal

Starting with the first Mass of Advent, Catholics began using a new Missal, the set of texts (antiphons, prayers for the day, Eucharistic Prayers, and blessings) that are needed for Mass. Below are a few frequently asked questions about the new Missal, which will hopefully address some of the questions you may have about the changes in the wording of the Mass.

*Q. When the priest says "The Lord be with you," why is the response "And with your spirit," instead of "And also with you"?*

A. The text in Latin is "*Et cum spiritu tuo*," so the new translation is a more exact reflection of the original words.

*Q. Why the change in the Nicene Creed from "one in being with the Father" to "consubstantial with the Father"?*

A. The translation of the Nicene Creed into Latin used the term "*consubstantialem*," for which "consubstantial" is the best English translation. In addition, "consubstantial" clearly expresses that the Father and Son are of the same substance. Some argue that "one in being" was misleading. Since God gives all of us our being and essence, each one of us could, to an extent, be thought of as "in being" with the Father. "Consubstantial" shows Jesus' uniqueness, which this section of Creed addresses.

*Q. Aren't there more important things we could be doing as a Church?*

A. The Church's mission in the world is one of loving service and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. This work is at the heart of the Church every day and finds expression in many ways. The words and actions of the Mass form a central act of the Catholic Christian community. Together they express our faith -- we pray as we believe. So, our words and actions in the Mass matter deeply. The importance of the Mass in the life of the Church demands that we give it time and attention and take great care in its words and actions.



Thanks to all the parishioners who supported the Faith in the Future Campaign! Your contributions funded several key initiatives, including our new, money-saving heating system and our ongoing support of the great missionary work of Sr. Johannes Klas in Guatemala.



Thanks also to everyone who has supported the capital campaign for the new O.L.L. School and Parish Center roof. Not only did the old roof often leak, but the new roof is significantly more energy efficient. The campaign has been quite successful, but additional funds are still needed.

Please also consider supporting the new capital campaign to repair one of the large stained glass windows on the west side of St. Nicholas Chapel.



## Our Lady of the Lakes Contact Information

### Co-Pastors Contact Information:

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Susan Risch, Secretary; email: rischs@archmil.org  
Marilynn Birenbaum, Bookkeeper  
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### School Contact Information:

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### Religious Educ. Director Contact Information:

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### Parish Council Members:

Lowell Barrington(Chair), James Steffen (Vice Chair),  
Jennifer Huiras (Secretary), John Buhler (Trustee),  
Gary Feider (Trustee), Joseph Birenbaum,  
Daniel Bushard, Karen McCabe, Bernadette Mondloch,  
Tom Schinner, John Witters