



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE
Serving the 19 counties of West Central Wisconsin

Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 9, No. 12.2. | December 17, 2024

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Officials

The Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, makes the following announcements:

The Reverend **Juan Pedro Roblez Baltazar** is taken off of Administrative Leave and is returning to active ministry as Associate Pastor of St. Bronislava Parish in Plover, effective December 13, 2024.

The Reverend Monsignor **David C. Kunz** is appointed Vicar for Clergy effective December 17, 2024 until July 1, 2025.

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Chancery Office

Chancellor Very Rev. William Dhein – 608.791.2655 | wdhein@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Events

As of Dec. 17

Tuesday, December 24

All Day - Christmas - Curia Offices Closed -
Dec. 24-31

Sunday, December 29

11:00 AM - St. Patrick Parish 24-hour
Adoration - Mauston (Day 1/2)
401 Mansion St, Mauston

Monday, December 30

11:00 AM - St. Patrick Parish 24-hour
Adoration - Mauston (Day 2/2)
401 Mansion St, Mauston

Friday, January 3

4:00 PM - St. Olaf Parish Men's Club
All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry - Eau Claire
2407 North Ln, Eau Claire

Saturday, January 4

6:00 PM - Immaculate Conception Parish
Pizza Saturday - Eau Claire
Immaculate Conception Church, 1712
Highland Ave, Eau Claire

Sunday, January 5

9:30 AM - Immaculate Conception Parish

Doughnut Sunday - Eau Claire
Immaculate Conception Church, 1712
Highland Ave, Eau Claire

Sunday, January 12

2:00 PM - St. Matthew Parish Mass and
Healing Service - Wausau
St. Matthew Catholic Church, 229 S 28th
Ave, Wausau

Thursday, January 16

All Day - National Religious Freedom Day

Friday, January 17

4:00 PM - St. Olaf Parish Men's Club
All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry - Eau Claire
2407 North Ln, Eau Claire

To have your parish events listed on the diocesan calendar, diolc.org/calendar, and in *Catholic Life* magazine, please send an email to datebook@diolc.org. Make sure you include the following details: date, beginning/ending times, event location, description, menu and cost, etc. If you have any questions, please email Clint at cberge@diolc.org for more information.

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**Office for Catechesis & Evangelization**

Director: Ann Lankford – 608.791.2658 | alankford@diolc.org

For your Parish Bulletin: A Minute with Jesus: Jesus came into the world to save us.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” Because there was no room in the inn Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God’s plan for His birth on Earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.

This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

Bulletin editors: For upcoming weeks of proclamations entitled *A Minute with Jesus* for the weeks of Dec. 22 - Jan. 5, 2025, click here: diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/

For Your Parish Bulletin: “Getting Ready”

During these final days of Advent, we want to step back from our busy lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God’s Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This time of penance and sacrifice can include something like

not having dessert occasionally, turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. This can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices so that during this season of grace we might have an open, welcoming heart with more room to receive Jesus on Christmas.

We will be surprised how these long-held Catholic traditions of preparing allow us to see and understand truths that may be hidden from our human eyes. In the silence of prayer, the Lord will give us new insights, that we may see with “spiritual eyes” and understand better the wonder of the mystery of the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

For Your Parish Bulletin: Reflecting on Key Scriptures describing the Coming of the Savior

The final days before the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas are a great time to reflect on the key Scriptures that describe the details, i.e. the dream of Joseph, the birth of the Savior, the angel proclaiming the Good News to the shepherds etc. Visit diolc.org/deeper and click on the downloadable Advent and Christmas prayer card under “Praying with Scripture.”

For Your Parish Bulletin:

(Reminder) The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer

On January 1st, Father Mark-Mary Ames is launching *The Rosary in a Year* podcast with Ascension Press! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear.

Receive a free parish kit to advertise the *Rosary in a Year* podcast by clicking [here](#).

For Church Pews:

(Reminder) Christmas Welcome Card

A Christmas welcome card may be downloaded and placed in the parish pews for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is a convenient way to find out who is seeking God in the vicinity of the parish. A call from a parishioner or a letter from the pastor is a beautiful way to contact them and invite them to further participation. The card is available by clicking [here](#).

Bulletin Insert:

(Reminder) Epiphany Blessing of the Home: January 5

Epiphany means “manifestation.” The first epiphany was the visit of the magi to adore the Christ Child. Their gifts reveal this holy Child’s identity; gold for Christ’s Kingship, incense for His divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice on the cross. It is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and for families to use them for the blessing of their homes the next day. A one-page (updated) Epiphany blessing of the home is available here: diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts

Catechetical Leader Information:

(Reminder) Examinations of Conscience for Grade Levels:

It was requested that an examination of conscience be developed for grades 2-3, 4-5, 6-9 and 10-12. These will be helpful for children and young people as they prepare to make a good

confession before Christmas. Click here to download each of these examinations of conscience:
diolc.org/catechesis/catechetical-leaders-info

(Reminder) Bishop's Education Endowment Trust (BEET) Grants:

The 2024-25 BEET grant application window is now open. The method for applying for the BEET grant for the 2025-26 fiscal year is to complete an online Google form (application). The deadline for submission is Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, with the online application being disabled by 4:30 p.m. A required part of the process is approval by your pastor or dean. The approval deadline for pastors or deans is Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Please note that you must include the name and affiliations of any speaker. Only grants with a named speaker, completed, and signed speaker policy will be considered.

The instructions and the application form are on the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization main webpage, and by clicking here: diolc.org/beet. Since the online application form must be completed in one sitting, the questions on the application form are included with the instructions so that you can prepare your answers ahead of time. Please call the Office for C & E with questions regarding grant applications.

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Office for Communications

Director: Erik Archer– 608.791.2661 | earcher@diolc.org

Online Course on the Eucharist Explores the Source and Summit of our Faith:

Adoremus joins the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation in offering “Mystery and Mission in the Sacred Liturgy,” a series of four introductory courses on liturgical prayer and the sacraments, and taught by Christopher Carstens, Director of the Office for Sacred Worship. The first of these four courses, [Exploring the Source and Summit](#), explores the life-changing encounter that we are invited to have with Christ in the Eucharist and how we can further enrich our devotion to the Lord and his profound self-gift in the liturgy.

This survey of the scriptural and historical development of the Sacrament of the Eucharist will help orient us to a deeper and mystagogical encounter with the Eucharistic Christ in the prayer of the Mass. This six-week course meets live online on Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m. Central, from January 9 to February 13, 2025. Faithful from the Diocese of La Crosse will receive a 25% discount and can take the course for \$150. Anyone interested in participating should [apply at the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation](#) and enter the discount code LACROSSE to waive the application fee. Once a participant has been accepted for the course, a representative from the Avila Institute will follow up by assisting in enrollment, which includes processing the 25% discount.

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Office for Consecrated Life

Director: Sr. Donna Krzmarzick, ISSM – 608.791.2690 | dkrzmarzick@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for the Diaconate

Director: Deacon Robert Riedl – 608.791.2665 | riedl@diolclergy.org

No items this week.

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Office for Marriage & Family Life

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2659 | crogers@diolc.org

For Your Parish Bulletin: Save the Date!

Men of the Cross “Forgiveness and Freedom” | Mar. 8, 2025 | Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse

We are excited to have Bob Kroll as our keynote speaker and Mass with Bishop Battersby. More information is coming soon!

For Your Parish Bulletin:

(Reminder) Upcoming Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille \Retro- vī\Marriage Help Program

Retrouvaille has been a lifeline for marriages for over 45 years. Whether a couple has drifted apart, separated or even divorced, this three-phase program offers hope for all who want to restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships. Affordable, Catholic in origin and open to couples of all faiths, the next program begins with a weekend stay in Wausau area February 14-16, 2025. For local info and fully confidential registration call: 877.922.HOPE (4673). More at HelpOurMarriage.org.

Retrouvaille Resources:

Below are links to the new cover letter to the churches, the updated bulletin announcement series and the new one-page info poster.

Cover letter to churches:

drive.google.com/file/d/1lb1tzBtqOr96nHgSaZZ-p582WMKVEqK6/view?usp=sharing

Updated Bulletin Announcement Series:

drive.google.com/file/d/1uvkhpZszfUtQVdOIMOjeM60AYib-ke0Z/view?usp=sharing

Info Poster: drive.google.com/file/d/1CU-fs5hPDClgygZmVROtI0byvEFj2qum/view?usp=sharing

For Your Parish Bulletin:

(Reminder) “Behold: Prayer of the Saints” Young Adult Retreat | Jan. 25, 2025 | Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse

This retreat is for young adults aged 18-25 and will be held on January 25, 2025, from 9 am-5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in La Crosse. Hear inspiring talks about the prayer of the Saints, foster a deeper Catholic community with other young adults and participate in the life of God via Mass, confession and personal prayer. There are also optional evening socials on

Friday, January 24 at 7 pm at 608 Brewing Co. and Saturday, January 25 at 6 pm at Pizzeria Dolorosa. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a warm meal. Register at tinyurl.com/beholdprayer or by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the right.



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Office for Ministries

Director: Christopher Ruff – 608.791.0161 | cruff@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Missions

Director: Fr. Woodrow Pace – 608.791.2676 | wpace@diolc.org

Gratitude from the Mission Office to you:

May your Advent conclude and Christmas begin under the radiance of God's glory as heaven comes to rest in Bethlehem and salvation is offered to all! Thank you for your commitment to the Missions and for sharing the Good News. Jesus Christ, born our infant Savior in Bethlehem, is with us always in the Eucharist. He is the remedy for all our ills in every place and in every heart when humanity discovers the joys and sorrows of our earthly pilgrimage with Him. Your prayers and financial support open opportunities of faith and life that would remain out of reach for many. Thank you and may God reward your efforts.

Mass Stipends:

If your parish cannot fulfill Mass requests in a timely manner, the Mission Office receives many pleas for stipends from Bishops and Religious Superiors in Mission territories. They assure us that the Mass intentions are fulfilled in a timely and reverent manner. To you they extend their gratitude for trusting them and their priests. We follow the WCC suggested stipend of \$20.00, but any amount is gladly received and forwarded to dioceses and religious orders who are not able to offer salaries to their priests, especially in remote villages and among the poor.

Reminder to Bookkeepers:

Regarding Mission Coop Program (visiting summer missionary appeal), World Mission Sunday (annual October collection), and Missionary Childhood Association (Lenten mite boxes): As we come to the end of the calendar year, now is a good time to reconcile the accounts. If you have any remaining balances for these collections, please forward them to the Mission Office before the end of the year. Tax credit for these programs, if applicable, should be honored on the parish year-end statements. Please call or email the Mission Office with any questions. Thank you.

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Office for Sacred Worship

Director: Christopher Carstens – 608.791.0161 | ccarstens@diolc.org

Televised Mass Schedule for Christmas

- Eau Claire, Channel 18, at 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- La Crosse, Channel 19, at 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Marshfield (Public Access), Channel 990, at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Stevens Point (Public Access), Channel 984 and Channel 3, at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, and Noon and 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Trempealeau County (Public Access), Channel 18/618, at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Wausau, Channel 12, at 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Day
- Wausau (Public Access), Channel 980, at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Wisconsin Rapids (Public Access), Channel 985 and Channel 3: 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Online Course on the Eucharist Explores the Source and Summit of our Faith:

Adoremus joins the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation in offering “Mystery and Mission in the Sacred Liturgy,” a series of four introductory courses on liturgical prayer and the sacraments, and taught by Christopher Carstens, Director of the Office for Sacred Worship. The first of these four courses, [Exploring the Source and Summit](#), explores the life-changing encounter that we are invited to have with Christ in the Eucharist and how we can further enrich our devotion to the Lord and his profound self-gift in the liturgy. This survey of the scriptural and historical development of the Sacrament of the Eucharist will help orient us to a deeper and mystagogical encounter with the Eucharistic Christ in the prayer of the Mass. This six-week course meets live online on Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m. Central, from January 9 to February 13, 2025. Faithful from the Diocese of La Crosse will receive a 25% discount and can take the course for \$150. Anyone interested in participating should [apply at the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation](#) and enter the discount code LACROSSE to waive the application fee. Once a participant has been accepted for the course, a representative from the Avila Institute will follow up by assisting in enrollment, which includes processing the 25% discount. Consider joining us!

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Office for Safe Environment

Director: Teresa Brown – 608.791.2679 | tbrown@diolc.org

Change in Letters of Suitability:

The Office of Safe Environment will once again be providing letters of suitability for Clergy ministering outside of the Diocese. Please include the following information in your request:

- What (arch)diocese is the church or venue located in?
- Name of church or venue where you will be providing ministry
- Address of church or venue where you will be providing ministry
- Reason for visit [i.e. wedding, funeral, con(celebrating) Mass, etc.]

- Date(s) of visit
- Any other special instructions?

Please direct all Letters of Suitability requests to: Teresa Brown and Elizabeth Rogers at tbrown@diolc.org and erogers@diolc.org

It's not too early to send in your completed 2024-25 Safe Environment report. If you need help with the forms or have questions, please contact the Safe Environment Office.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” Isaiah 9:6
Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!



Office for Catholic Schools

Superintendent: Thomas Reichenbacher – 608.788.7707 | treichenbacher@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Social Concerns

Director: Christopher Ruff – 608.791.0161 | cruff@diolc.org

For Your Parish Bulletin:

Annual Ukrainian Christmas Dinner | Jan. 11, 2025

You are invited to a delicious multi-course Ukrainian Christmas dinner hosted by Valentyna Pavsyukova and her Chalice of Mercy mission to Ukraine. The annual fundraiser will feature special guest Vitalii Kryvytskyi, Bishop of Kiev, who will speak about the current situation in Ukraine. Valentyna will also share about the work of Chalice of Mercy, which has delivered over \$80 million worth of medical and humanitarian supplies to her suffering homeland. Don't miss this colorful, faith-filled evening of live Ukrainian music, delicious food, and servers in traditional garb, on Saturday evening, January 11, at the Lilydale Dance Hall & Event Center in Chippewa Falls. For complete details, visit diolc.org/chalice-of-mercy or scan the QR code on the right.



(Reminder)For Your Parish Bulletin:

Join Tens of Thousands at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Sign up for the Pilgrimage for Life, Jan. 22-26, our diocesan participation in the national March for Life in our nation's Capital. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults, families, and young people to bear witness to the sanctity of human life. To learn more, visit diolc.org/pilgrimageforlife, or scan the QR code to the right.



For Your Parish Bulletin:

Pregnant and in distress? Confidential help is available 24/7:

Make a confidential call to Catholic Charities at 844.644.7223 (844.64.GRACE) or text 715.600.6391. To learn more, visit cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant. For additional pregnancy support resources and locations, visit diolc.org/pregnancy-resources.



For Your Parish Bulletin:

This Christmas, Help Catholic Charities Love our Neighbors in Need:

Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbors in need in so many ways, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst (especially in winter) to giving hope and support to moms before and after birth to working with married couples looking to adopt, to assisting the poor and people with disabilities. Especially in this holy season of Christmas, find out how you can help by visiting cclse.org, or by scanning the QR code to the right.



For Your Parish Bulletin:

U.S. Bishops' Action Alert: Urge President Biden to Commute all Federal Death Sentences

As President Biden prepares to leave office, please urge him to commute all current federal death sentences to terms of imprisonment before his term ends. He has an extraordinary opportunity to advance the cause of human dignity by doing so, sparing the lives of the 40 men currently on federal death row. The Catholic bishops of the U.S. have long called for an end to the use of the death penalty. Learn how to make your voice heard on this and other USCCB Action Alerts by visiting votervoice.net/USCCB/home, or scanning the QR code to the right.



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Office for Stewardship & Development

Director: Jeff Reiter – 608.791.2653 | jreiter@diolc.org

(Reminder) Gift Dating for End of Year:

As a reminder, all gifts postmarked 12/31/2024 or earlier will be posted and processed for the calendar/tax year 2024.

Because the calendar year ends midweek and many parish offices are closed or lightly staffed, we will extend the mailing deadline for gifts left at the parish. Diocesan Annual Appeal and Inspired By The Spirit gifts received at the parish must be sent in a parish envelope and postmarked by 1/7/2025 to be included in the 2024 calendar/tax year.

(Reminder) Do Not Send Cash:

We have been receiving cash from parishes. **Please do not send cash;** we cannot handle cash efficiently. If you receive cash or suspect there is cash in an envelope for either the Diocesan Annual Appeal or Inspired By The Spirit Capital Campaign, please deposit it locally and issue us a parish check. Please be sure to include all the donor's information.

(Reminder) Gifts Made Through Brokers and Other Third Parties:

We frequently receive donations in the form of stocks, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), and commodities for the Diocesan Annual Appeal (DAA), The Inspired Campaign, and parishes. However, many gifts arrive without documentation, and brokers and co-op cannot or are reluctant to share donor information.

If a broker or co-op informs you of an incoming donation of this type, please forward the details promptly to the Stewardship and Temporalities Offices. The information will allow us to allocate

the funds appropriately and without delay. Otherwise, the processing and routing of these gifts may be significantly delayed. Thank you for your cooperation!

Our appeal portal has forms for you to provide to your parishioners if they inquire about making such gifts. [Appeal.diolc.org](https://appeal.diolc.org).

(Reminder) 2024-2025 Diocesan Annual Appeal “For We are God’s Co-workers:”

The end-of-year DAA mailing is in homes. Our next planned mailing is scheduled for March 2025. Until then, if your parish has yet to reach its goal, keep the DAA in front of the parish by utilizing [DAA Prayers of the Faithful](#), Bulletin Announcements, and pulpit announcements. These can be found on the Appeal Portal: appeal.diolc.org. The sooner the goal is met, the sooner you can move on.

If you need something for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, check the appeal portal at appeal.diolc.org. If you would like us to create something or need help with anything, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

The [Parish Manual](#) provides a step-by-step process for conducting the three phases of the appeal's launch, including sample scripts for announcement, commitment, and amen weekends. It also includes other tips and activities to help ensure a successful appeal.

Incorporating the [DAA Prayers of the Faithful](#) (on the appeal portal) and the stewardship prayers of the faithful (below) is a great way to keep the annual appeal and stewardship at the forefront.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections for Weekends:

- 12/22/2024
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/12.22.24-stewardship-bulletin-announcement.pdf
- 12/29/2024
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/12.29.24-stewardship-bulletin-announcement.pdf
- 01/05/2025
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/01.05.25-stewardship-bulletin-announcement.pdf
- 01/12/2025
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/01.12.25-stewardship-bulletin-announcement.pdf

Stewardship Homily Reflections:

Stewardship reflections for your homily development:

- For Weeks 12/22/24 - 01/12/25
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Homily-Guide-12.17.24.pdf

(Reminder) Weekly Stewardship Quotes (shorter bulletin reflections):

- October - December 2024
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Stewardship-Bulletin-Reflections-Fall-2024-English.docx

- Spanish Version
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Stewardship-Bulletin-Reflections-Fall-2024-Spanish.docx
- January - March 2025
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stewardship-Reflections-Jan-March-2025-English.docx
 - Spanish Version
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stewardship-Reflections-Jan-March-2025-Spanish.docx

(Reminder) Weekly Stewardship Prayers of the Faithful:

- October - December 2024
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Fall-2024-English.docx
 - Spanish Version
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Fall-2024-Spanish.docx
- January - March 2025
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Jan-March-2025-English.docx
 - Spanish Version
diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Jan-Mar-2025-Spanish.docx

Planned Giving – Leaving a Legacy, Wills, Bequest, and Endowments:

We have tools and information available to parishes that can help individuals leave a legacy. Contact our office for more information or if you would like us to present to your parish.

Planned Giving Bulletin Ads: We have several bulletin ads available for download on the appeal portal appeal.diolc.org/

We have been entrusted with precious treasures passed down from our ancestors, and it's our responsibility to ensure that future generations can also enjoy the splendor and reverence of a well-maintained parish. One way to achieve this is by utilizing the capital campaign and providing the parishioners with information on endowments, trusts, and bequests.

Our estate planning guide can help save hundreds of dollars in legal and financial estate planning costs. We have mailed out several hundred copies per individual request, and each Parish has received a copy. Please feel free to contact our office for additional copies.

Visit diolclegacy.org, our Planned Giving website, to find calculators and more information, sign up for a newsletter, and request specific estate planning guides and information. Our website also provides instructions on doing an IRA rollover, creating donor-advised funds (DAF), beneficiary designations, and stock transfers. diolclegacy.org/?pageID=5

Please contact Jeff Reiter at jreiter@diolc.org for more information on legacy giving, presentations, or ads for your parish bulletin.

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Office for Temporalities

Diocesan Finance Officer: James Reider – 608.791.2668 | jreider@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Vocations

Director of Vocation Recruitment: Fr. Nate Kuhn – 608.791.2666 | nkuhn@diolc.org

Please Include the Following Intercession for Vocations for your Sunday Prayers of the Faithful:

That the daily living of our vocation may transform our suffering world into a place of love, justice and peace.

Consider Adding a Vocations Paragraph to Your Parish Bulletin:

Below is an example and they will be changed each week. Feel free to use any or all of them.

A Call to Serve

There are few things in life that are more uplifting than being able to help someone or be there for someone in need. When we can use our gifts and talents to make someone else's life better, it can bring joy to not just our lives, but to those we can serve as well. Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend. As friends of Christ, we are called to love in this way, to be willing to lay down our life for others. A powerful way to do this is by being a priest of Jesus Christ. He is calling young men to consider this call to serve, to offer their lives out of love for their sisters and brothers. He may be calling YOU! If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, please contact me at: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

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Office for Vicar for Clergy

Administrative Assistant: Renee' Orth - 608.791.2652 | rorth@diolc.org

Evenings of Recollection:

Please RSVP to Renee' at rorth@diolc.org if you plan to attend any of the upcoming Evenings of Recollection.

La Crosse (Jan. 2)
Mosinee (Jan. 16)
Eau Claire (Jan. 28)

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Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2659 | crogers@diolc.org

For Your Parish Bulletin:

(Reminder) “Behold: Prayer of the Saints” Young Adult Retreat | Jan. 25, 2025 | Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse

This retreat is for young adults aged 18-35 and will be held on January 25, 2025, from 9 am-5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in La Crosse. Hear inspiring talks about the prayer of the Saints, foster a deeper Catholic community with other young adults, and participate in the life of God via Mass, Confession, and personal prayer. There are also optional evening socials on Friday, January 24 at 7 pm at 608 Brewing Co. and Saturday, January 25 at 6 pm at Pizzeria Dolorosa. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a warm meal. Register at tinyurl.com/beholdprayer.

(Reminder) Bishop’s Education Endowment Trust (BEET) Grants:

The 2024-25 BEET grant application window is now open. The method for applying for the BEET grant for the 2025-26 fiscal year is to complete an online Google Form (application). The deadline for submission is Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, with the online application being disabled by 4:30 p.m. A required part of the process is approval by your pastor or dean. The approval deadline for pastors or deans is Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Please note that you must include the name and affiliations of any speaker. Only grants with a named speaker and signed completed speaker policy will be considered.

The instructions and the application form are on the Office for Youth and Young Adult main webpage, and by clicking here: diolc.org/beet Since the online application form must be completed in one sitting, the questions on the application form are included with the instructions so that you can prepare your answers ahead of time. Please call the Office for Family Life with questions regarding grant applications.

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