

**Chancery Bulletin** - **Vol. 8, No. 12.3 | December 12, 2023**

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As of Dec. 12

[](http://www.diolc.org/events)

To get your parish events listed on the diocesan calendar, [diolc.org/calendar](http://diolc.org/calendar), and in *Catholic Life* magazine, please send an email to [datebook@diolc.org](mailto: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 call Pam Willer at 608.788.1524 for more information.

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**For Your Parish Bulletin:  
Advent: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ’s Coming**The Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent focuses again on John the Baptist who wanted to relate to others what he knew to be true; that Christ is the Light of the world. If we follow Jesus, we won’t walk in darkness because we will have the Light of Truth that leads to eternal life.

This theme of light is also apparent in creation. The days of Advent are the darkest days of the year. On December 21, we will experience the winter solstice which marks the shortest day and longest night. And then as we approach Christmas, it begins to reverse, with more light and longer days, pointing to the birth of the Christ Child – the true Light shining in the darkness.

As we string up Christmas lights on the tree and on the house, we want to remember that these lights refer to Christ who is the Light of the world. Further, it is important to allow the Light of Christ to shine from our hearts. Let us ask God for one small way to share the Light He has placed in our hearts such as visiting a lonely person.

As John bore witness to Jesus Christ through telling others about Him, let us speak about the real meaning of Christmas with others and invite people to come to church on Christmas. We need to welcome people back to our Mass celebrations in which we hear the Word of God and receive the Holy Eucharist – the same Christ Child born in a manger in Bethlehem.

A brief bulletin entry for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 24) is available here: [diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts](https://diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/)

**Bulletin Insert:  
The “O Antiphons” of Advent**  
For the final days of Advent, December 17 to the 24, there are beautiful “O” Antiphons that are prayed each day before the Gospel. These short “O” Antiphons are traditional titles of Christ: “O Wisdom,” “O sacred Lord,” “O Root of Jesse’s Stem,” “O Key of David,” “O Radiant Dawn,” “O King of all the nations,” and “O Emmanuel” which means “God with us.” These traditional titles for the Savior connect the coming of Jesus Christ with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Click here for the bulletin insert: [diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts](https://diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/)

**Christmas Welcome Card and Epiphany Blessings of the Home** 2024 are available here: [diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts](https://diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/)

**For Your Parish Bulletin:  
*A Minute with Jesus* during the National Eucharistic Revival  
Jesus wants to stay with us always.**Jesus loves each one of us so much that He gives Himself to us in Holy Communion at Mass. We receive Jesus Himself. When the priest prays the words of Jesus over the bread and wine at Mass, they are no longer bread and wine but the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus gives Himself to us because He wants to stay with each one of us always.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for always wanting to stay with us. This week, read from Scripture about the birth of the Christ Child in Luke 2:1-7

Bulletin editors: For proclamations entitled *A Minute with Jesus* for upcoming weeks, click here: [diolc.org/eucharist/learn](https://diolc.org/eucharist/learn/).

**Catechetical Leader Information:**

**Advent 2023 — Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

It was requested that age-appropriate Examinations of Conscience be developed for children and young people preparing to go to confession. Grades 2-3, 4-5, 6-9 and 10-12 are available here: [diolc.org/catechesis/catechetical-leaders-info](https://diolc.org/catechesis/catechetical-leaders-info/)

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

The 2023-24 BEET grant application window is now open. The method for applying for the BEET grant for the 2024-25 fiscal year is to complete an online Google Form (application). The deadline for submission is Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, 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. 26, 2024.

The instructions and the application form are on the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization main webpage, and by clicking here: <https://diolc.org/schools/beet-grant/> 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.

**(Reminder) “the ANSWER” Eucharistic Rally |June 7**

**The La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI**

“the Answer” Eucharistic Rally will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the first day that the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of La Crosse. “the Answer” Eucharistic Rally will begin with a Eucharistic Procession across the Cameron Street Bridge in La Crosse. It will end at the La Crosse Center where the rest of the rally will take place. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, powerful speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagize, and Josh Rosa, music from Luke Spehar, and plenty of vendors. The cost for this event is only $15 per person. This rally is for middle and high school youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. Tickets will go on sale December 15, 2023. You can find more information about the event by visiting[**https://diolc.org/the-answe**r](https://diolc.org/the-answer) or by using your smartphone’s camera to scan the QR code to the right. For such an important event, it would be amazing if every parish brought a bus full of parishioners.

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**For your parish bulletin** (*weekends after the collection*):  
**Our religious women and men offer gratitude.**   
A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

**Attention parish bookkeepers**:  
All donations for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** should be run through parish bookkeeping and then submitted payable to the Diocese of La Crosse with “Retirement Fund for Religious” in the memorandum line. Thank you.

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*Director: Christopher Carstens – 608.791.0161 |* [*ccarstens@diolc.org*](mailto:ccarstens@diolc.org)

**Christmas Mass Schedule:**The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on Dec. 24. Morning Masses will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while Masses on Sunday evening will observe the Vigil for Christmas. Catholics are to attend Mass twice for these two occasions—once for the 4th Sunday of Advent (either on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 23 or during any Mass on Dec. 24), and once for Christmas (either on the evening of Dec. 24 or during the day on Dec. 25).

**RCIA: To Pastors, Pastoral Associates, and RCIA Coordinators:**Bishop Callahan wishes to send Christmas greetings and words of encouragement to those currently participating in the RCIA process. Please return by Dec. 15 [this form](https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Candidate-Catechumen-names-form.pdf) requesting the names of catechumens preparing for entry into the Church at the Easter Vigil and candidates seeking full communion.

**Upcoming Liturgical Calendar Advisories:***From the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship*On **Sunday evening, Dec. 31**, the Mass of the Holy Family is celebrated, while at the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is used. In celebrations with the people, however, Evening Prayer II of the Holy Family may take place. Because Holy Mary, Mother of God falls on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated, and Funeral Masses are permitted.

According to the Roman Missal, “Where the Solemnity of the Epiphany is transferred to Sunday, if this Sunday occurs on Jan. 7 or **8, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is** celebrated on the following Monday” (Proper of Time). Therefore, this Feast will take place on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, with only one reading before the Gospel. The First Week in Ordinary Time begins on the following day, Tuesday, Jan. 9, and the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.

**Televised Mass Schedule for Christmas:**· Eau Claire, Channel 18, at 5:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.  
· La Crosse, Channel 19, at 5:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.  
· Marshfield (Public Access), Channel 990, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.  
· Stevens Point (Public Access), Channel 984 and Channel 3, at 12:30, 3:30, and 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.  
· Trempealeau County (Public Access), Channel 18/618, at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.  
· Wausau, Channel 12, at 5:00 and 6:00 a.m. on Christmas Day  
· Wausau (Public Access), Channel 980, at 12:00 noon on Christmas Day.  
· Wisconsin Rapids (Public Access), Channel 985 and Channel 3: *To be determined.*

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*Director: Teresa Brown – 608.791.2679 |* [*tbrown@diolc.org*](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org)

**DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE**

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its [policies and procedures](http://www.diolc.org/files/safe-environment/PoliciesandProcedures.pdf), seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or [intakeagent@diolc.org](mailto:intakeagent@diolc.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: [diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting](https://www.diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting). **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the [diocesan website](http://www.diolc.org/files/safe-environment/PoliciesandProcedures.pdf). If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or [tbrown@diolc.org](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).

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**(Reminder) For Your Parish Bulletin:**

**Pilgrimage for LIFE – Join us!! | Jan. 17-21 | Washington D.C.**

*Adults - Youths - Families: Your pro-life witness is needed more than ever!* Come with us by coach bus to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual March for Life. For ages 13 and up, $400/person.Parish or school groups must have each participant complete the registration online, fill out the required forms and pay a non-refundable deposit of $100. The remainder of the fee will be paid to the parish or school. For more information and to register, visit [diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life](https://diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life/) or scan the QR code to the right.

**Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) celebrates Safe Haven “Baby Box” legislation,**

“...Authorizingnewborn infant safety devices (also called baby boxes) under the state’s safe haven law….. Act 79 authorizes the installation of newborn infant safety devices in hospitals, fire stations, and law enforcement agency buildings where a parent can anonymously relinquish an infant under the age of 72 hours. This law embraces both mother and child, providing women with a last resort that protects their own safety and that of their child. It gives birth mothers the security of knowing that their children will find love and stability.” 

To read more, [click here](https://www.wisconsincatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/WCC-Celebrates-New-Safe-Haven-Baby-Box-Law.pdf), or scan the QR code to the right.

**For Your Parish Bulletin:**

**Join the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) Advocacy Network** 

Receive the latest news and policy alerts sent from the WCC. Subscribers receive the bi-weekly Capitol Update and frequent Action Alerts via email. Stay up-to-date on policy news and help mobilize Catholics across the state on urgent matters that require immediate action. Each Action Alert summarizes an emerging issue with analysis based on Church teaching, along with a suggested “call to action” on what you can do and which policymakers to contact to ensure your voice is heard. To join, visit [wisconsincatholic.org/advocacy-network](https://www.wisconsincatholic.org/advocacy-network/) or scan the QR code to the right.

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*Director: Jeff Reiter – 608.791.2653 |* [*jreiter@diolc.org*](mailto:jreiter@diolc.org)

**Diocesan Annual Appeal:**In mid-January 2024, we will send a follow-up mailing for any parish that announced and who had their homes mailed between and including the weekends of Nov. 18/19, 2023, and Dec. 16/17, 2023. The expected in-home date will be Jan. 27/28, 2024. We encourage any parish who wishes to include a letter from the pastor or finance council to submit a Word document. Please include the parish number in the file name. The deadline to submit a letter is Jan. 05, 2024.

The next scheduled mailing will be our Holy Week mailing. The Holy Week Mailing will be focused on

* Parishes over goal those who gave in the last two years (2021 & 2022) but have not yet given this year (LYBUNTS and SYBUNTS).
* Parishes under goal will have all those who have not yet supported the DAA mailed (LYBUNTS, SYBUNTS, and Never/New).

If you need more pledge forms, please contact [Sarah Komperudskomperud@diolc.org](mailto:skomperud@diolc.org); we will order more. Please allow 14 days for delivery.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

**Weekly Stewardship Quotes** (shorter bulletin reflections):  
October-December

* <https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Stewardship-Bulletin-Reflections-Oct-Dec-2023.pdf>
  + Spanish Version

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Stewardship-Bulletin-Reflections-Oct-Dec-2023-Spanish.pdf>

January - March 2024

* <https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Stewardship-Reflections-Jan-March-2024.docx>
  + Spanish Version

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Stewardship-Reflections-Jan-March-2024-Spanish.docx>

**Weekly Stewardship Prayers of the Faithful:**October-December

* <https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Oct-Dec-2023.pdf>
  + Spanish Version

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Oct-Dec-2023-Spanish.pdf>

January - March 2024

* <https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Stewardship-Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Jan-March-2024.docx>
  + Spanish Version

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Stewardship-Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Jan-March-2024-Spanish.docx>

**Stewardship Bulletin Reflections for Weekends:**

* 12/17

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/12.17.23-stewardship-bulletin-announcements.pdf>

* 12/24

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/12.24.23-stewardship-bulletin-announcements.pdf>

* 12/31

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/12.31.23-stewardship-bulletin-announcements.pdf>

* 01/07/24

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/01.07.24-stewardship-bulletin-announcements.pdf>

**Stewardship Homily Reflections:**Stewardship reflections for your homily development:

* For Weeks 12/17 - 01/07/24:

https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Homily-Guide-12.12.23.pdf

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*Director of Vocation Recruitment: Fr. Nate Kuhn – 608.791.2666 |* [*nkuhn@diolc.org*](mailto:nkuhn@diolc.org)

**Please include the following intercession for vocations for your Sunday prayers of the faithful:**That those who feel a call to and desire for single blessedness, marriage, for priesthood and for religious life may find the courage to say yes to what God asks of them.

**Consider adding a vocations paragraph to your parish bulletin:**Below is an example – they will be changed each week. Feel free to use any or all of them.

What Are *You* Looking For?

The first question that Jesus asks in John’s Gospel is, “What are you looking for?” He is speaking to John’s disciples as they follow after Him, desiring to know who Jesus is and what His mission is all about. After the disciples respond, Jesus gives them an instruction, “Come and you will see!” Whether we can hear it or not, that same question is being asked to you. What are YOU looking for? So often, we find ourselves searching, not knowing exactly where to go or what to do in life. We seek things that will hopefully fill the emptiness and longing that we have in our hearts, but nothing seems to satisfy them. The real answer to this can be found in Jesus’ response as He invites each of us to follow after Him, to get to know Him, and to follow the path He has placed before us. For some men, that path is a very special invitation to walk in Jesus’ footsteps as a priest. 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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**Evenings of Recollection:**

If you plan to attend Dec. 14 in Mosinee or Dec. 19 in Lima, please RSVP to Renee’ at rorth@diolc.org

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No items this week.

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