

W2601 State Rd 33 • La Crosse • Wisconsin • 54601
November 29, 2020

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS...715-495-2338
danielchennala@gmail.com

(limited capacity 70 persons)

Saturday.....4:00pm
Sunday.....8:30am

First Saturday Mass.....8:30am
Monday5:30pm
Tuesday.....Adoration5:00 pm
 Mass..... 5:30pm
Thursday.....8:30am

By appointment only

Amy Stafslie, Admin. Assist.....608-788-1646
Bulletin deadline:Wednesday
sjrp2601@gmail.com
Open most Tuesdays and Fridays

Teresa Brown, Coordinator.....608-787-0883
dbrown039@centurytel.net

Mary Jo Hess (Secretary), Terry Dickman, Dave Brown (B&G and Cemetery Rep), Barb Braun and Dan Steiger

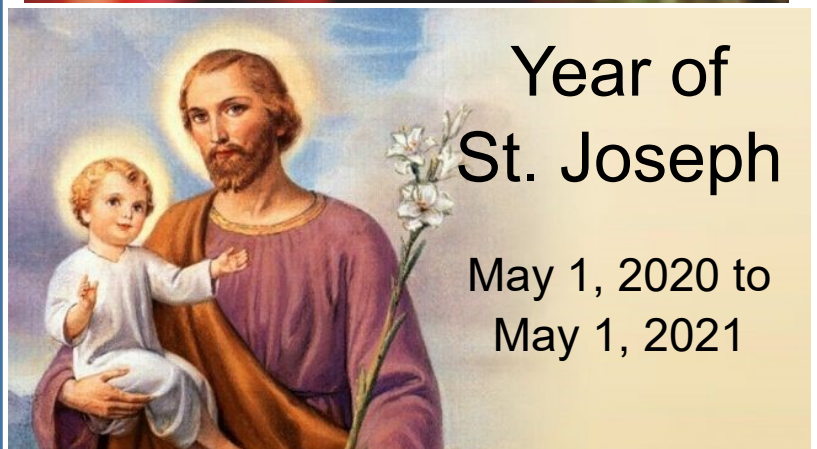
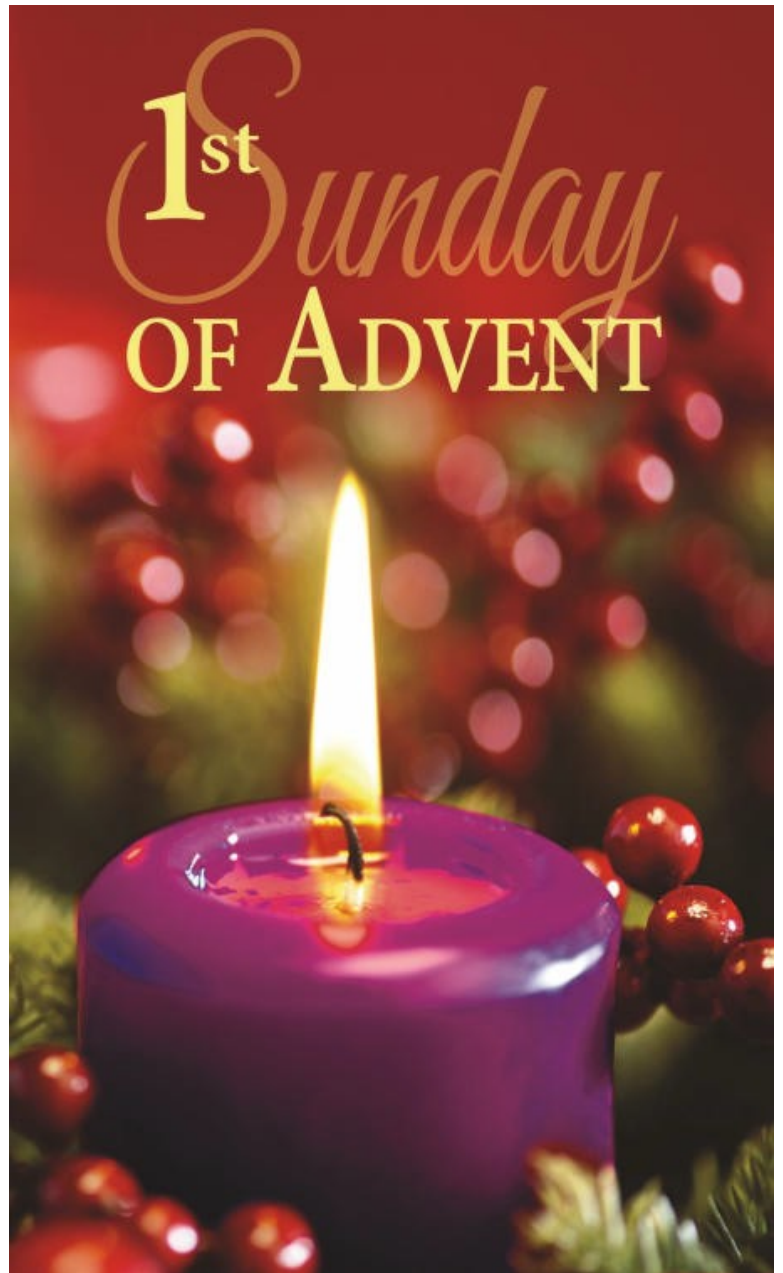
Dave Brown (B&G and Cemetery Rep),
Teresa Brown (RE Rep), Lori Clements (PCCW Rep),
Stan Clements, Ann Degenhardt,
Terry Dickman (Finance Council Rep),
Bob Kotek, Sally Miller, and
Bill Weber (Secretary)

Lori Clements (President), Mary Jo Hess (Treasurer),
Jill Murphy (Secretary)

Dave Brown608-792-1006
dbrown039@centurytel.net

Stacy Burns, Coordinator.....608-769-8828
jsburns0093@gmail.com
Leland Gregorich, Accompanist

- Joining the Parish
- Weddings or Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick (**also call Fr. Biju cell phone**)
- If you are home-bound & would like to be visited



PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, November 28th

First Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -†Robert, Alice, Billy and Patty Silha

Ushers: Larry Mikshowsky and Rick Mikshowsky

Lector: Paula Silha

SUNDAY, November 29th

First Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -Our Parish Family

Ushers: Jameson Rogala and Steve Miller

Lector: Jim Weber

MONDAY, November 30th

St. Andrew, Apostle

-5:30pm Mass -†Steven Thompson

TUESDAY, December 1st

Weekday

-5:00 pm Adoration

-5:30pm Mass -†Deceased members of the Al and Anna Mae Antony Family

THURSDAY, December 3rd

St. Francis Xavier

-8:30am Mass -†Henry Becker

SATURDAY, December 5th

First Saturday

-8:30am Mass -†Marian Roesler

SATURDAY, December 5th

Second Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -The Mashak Family

Ushers: Bob Kotek and Joe Shikonya

Lector: Paula Silha

SUNDAY, December 6th

Second Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Carol Cade

Ushers: John Miller and Nick Clements

Lector: Donna Clements

St. Peters, Middle Ridge

Adoration: Wed. 7:30-9:00 PM

Weekend Mass: Sat. 8:00 PM and Sun. 10:00 AM

Weekday Mass: Wed. and Fri. 8:00 AM

Options to support the Parish:

- Use the online giving portal set up by the Diocese: <https://diolc.org/st-joseph-parish-st-joseph-ridge/> (processing fees will be deducted from your contribution, which average 3% for debit and credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH)
- **Drop off** a contribution at the church during private prayer time
- **Mail in** your weekly/monthly offering to parish office (W2601 State Rd 33, La Crosse, WI 54601)
- If you use online banking and would like make your contribution using **bill pay**, set up St. Joseph Ridge Parish as a payment and the bank will mail it directly to the parish (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 2** ~ Confessions offered for all, beginning at 6 PM, additional priest will assist
- **December 2** ~ Religious Ed Class and confessions
Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **December 8** ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass here at 5:30 PM and 8 PM at St. Peter Parish
- **December 9** ~ Religious Education Class and Confessions. Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6, 7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **December 12** ~ Special Mass for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 8:30 AM
- **December 12/13** ~ Special Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious during Mass
- **December 16** ~ Religious Ed Class and confessions
Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **December 23** ~ NO Religious Education Class

Confessions—Available by appointment.
Please call or message Father directly.



HIS CHURCH
IS STILL HERE + IT STILL PROVIDES
IS YOU AND ME



Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021		
11/27/2020	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Received	\$11,170.00	\$10,310.00
Target Amount	\$20,615.00	\$20,615.00
Under Target	(\$9,445.00)	(\$10,305.00)
Number of families contributing: 29		
Percent goal pledged: 54.18%/Received: 50.01%		

Mass Intentions

We have openings for weekday intentions beginning Dec. 28, 2020, First Saturdays beginning Feb 6, 2021 and weekends beginning Sept 5, 2021. For questions contact the parish office 788-1646 or sjrp2601@gmail.com.



GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

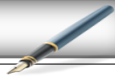
Week of Nov 22nd-182 envelope holder



Adult Env.(12 Rec'd): \$570.00
 Offertory: \$69.25
 Christmas Flowers(3): \$105.00
 Christmas Env(1): \$25.00

Thank You!

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



A Season of Hope and Preparation: Maranatha!

New Year! This weekend the ordo begins with the greetings "the beginning of the year of grace, 2021." This weekend marks the First Sunday of Advent and, with it, the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. Colors in church shift from green (for Ordinary Time) to purple. "Advent has two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the solemnities of Christmas, in which the first coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight" (universal norms for liturgical year and calendar 39).

Days grow shorter, nights longer, and winter invites us to come inside and sit by the fire. Only yesterday, it seems, the leaves were flaming across the hillside. Today, they lay bruised and broken, brought to earth by November winds. They march the end one season and the beginning of another. For us Christians it's a season of hope and preparation. This weekend, Mark comes to us in the Gospel reminding us to be watchful and alert. "Be watchful! Be alert!" Advent is the perfect time to wake up to what matters most.

FEASTS OF MARY - Tuesday, December 8 is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, Patroness of our country. We will celebrate the feast with **Masses, 5:30pm at St Joseph and 8 pm at St Peter.**

On Saturday, December 12 is the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, patroness of the Americas and Respect Life. We will celebrate this feast with a **special Mass on Saturday, December 12 at 8.30 am at St Joseph.**

Thanks to all of you for your prayers. I had a wonderful time with the Lord during the time of retreat and I prayed for all of you.

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

At this time, classes will continue as scheduled, with proper social distancing in place.

Absences—parents, as a courtesy, please contact Teresa Brown or your child's teacher if the student is going to be absent. Teachers are volunteer and their time and effort to prepare lessons is invaluable. However, we understand that absences occur, please do not send your child if they are not feeling well or under quarantine due to contact with a COVID positive person

Unfortunately, with the rise in COVID cases, for everyone's safety, the Christmas Program for this year has been canceled.



PARISH NEWS

Advent Confession Opportunities

The Cathedral will not be holding their annual Advent open confession day this year. However, Fr. Biju will be offering Confessions here at St. Joseph Parish on Wednesday, December 2nd beginning at 6 PM with the assistance of another priest. There will be a second opportunity on December 16th at St. Peter Parish from 6-9 PM.



Word Among Us Booklets—Advent Issue

The beautiful Advent issue is here with daily meditations beginning on November 29th. Feel free to take a copy home with you today.

Christmas Mass—Liturgical Ministries Volunteers

We are offering 3 Mass times for Christmas this year. 4 PM and 7 PM on Christmas Eve and 8:30 AM on Christmas Day. If you are able to be a Eucharistic Minister, usher or lector, please call Teresa Brown at 608-787-0883 or email her at: dbrown039@centurytel.net to schedule a time.

Activities for Advent and Christmas

Advent wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent.



The Nativity scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily.

2021 Parish Calendar

The St. Joseph 2021 calendars are now available for pickup in the back of church. These beautiful calendars contain liturgical dates and Holy Days.



New Lector Workbooks

The workbooks for the new Liturgical Year have arrived. Lectors please pick up your copy in the Sacristy.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can do a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$100,000 a year from your IRA directly to a charity. The distribution won't show up in your adjusted gross income and CAN count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The QCD allows you to be more strategic with your RMD.

Consult your tax advisor before making any decisions. If a QCD is for you, please consider St. Joseph Parish as your charity of choice.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS



Advent Parish Mission

Prepare for the Birth of the Christ Child through the eyes of St. Joseph. Presentations live at 7 PM each Sunday of Advent (Nov 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20) or later as recordings at diolc.org/advent

La Crosse Warming Center

This year has seen a lot of unexpected expenses - change in location, increased 2019-2020 season - increased staffing hours. We need your support. Please donate to our Homeless for the Holidays Appeal. Your donation will stay in this community, providing service to those who are experiencing homelessness! Our item wish list includes: Four Slice Toaster, Backpacks, Bottled Water, Breakfast & Soft Granola Bars, Winter/Waterproof Gloves & Boots, Hand & Foot Warmers, Cleaning Supplies, Men's & Women's New Underwear, Fruit and Applesauce Cups, Men's & Women's Thermal Underwear (Tops and Bottoms), Creamer/Sugar, Laundry Soap/Dryer Sheets. Volunteers are needed also. Check us out at www.cclse.org or call 888-212-4357.

Cookie Walk

Holy Trinity Parish, 1333 SO 13th Street, La Crosse, will host a COOKIE WALK on Saturday, December 12 from 8:00 a.m.-Noon in Leo Hall. Boxed Christmas Cookies will sell for \$7 per pound. Cut-out Cookie Kits (1 dozen cookies, frosting, and sprinkles) will be available for \$10. Questions call Bonnie at 608-519-3016

First Saturday Devotions

First Saturday Devotions are starting again at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join us at 11:15 a.m. for a meditation on the Holy Rosary followed by the Holy Rosary at 11:45 a.m. and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:15 p.m. Confession will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. and also following Mass.

KIDS CORNER

Fill in the Blanks

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the people to be ready for His next coming.

Fill in the blanks with the words at the end and use the letters in squares to fill in the blanks at the end, in the order they come.

You do not ____ [] when
the time will come.

It is like a ____ [] ____ traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places
his ____ [] ____ in charge,
____ [] ____ with his own work,
and orders the gatekeeper
to be on the ____ []

Watch, ____ [] ____;
____ [] do not know

when the [] ____ of the house is coming.

Be ____ [] ____ !

THEREFORE KNOW MAN
EACH WATCH
SERVANTS LORD YOU



Answers: know, man, servants, each, watch, therefore,
you, lord WATCHFUL!

A PRAYER FOR THE First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- For Paula Skoy-Evenson who is battling cancer.
- All those who are suffering from the Coronavirus and those who are working tirelessly to help the ill recover.
- All the military men and women who are supporting our freedom.
- All political leaders, may their decisions be made for the good of all citizens, born and unborn.
- Anyone fighting cancer, especially Rhonda McGowan diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer.
- For Mora Mikshowsky and all children suffering with life threatening conditions and illnesses.
- For all Religious in our Diocese, especially Matt Kotek.
- The intentions listed in our parish book of prayer.

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com

WILLIAM PATRICK



By the Grace of God and

the Favor of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

DECREE

On the Dispensation from Mass on Holy Days of Obligation During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Peace be with you my friends.

Much has happened these last eight months since my March 13, 2020 Decree suspending the obligation for the attendance of the Holy Mass on Sundays. While my prayers have always been for a speedy end to this pandemic it is clear that COVID-19 will continue to affect our communities and endanger our health. When I decreed the suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass I did not envision the need to keep the suspension in place for so long and that it would be affecting our celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas and Mary, Mother of God.

I am very happy that our churches are open and celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and I encourage those faithful, who without undue risk to their health and the health of their loved ones, to attend Mass praying continually for all who are affected by this virus directly or indirectly. I do believe that the suspension of the obligation to attend Mass is still serving a good purpose calming the hearts of many of our faithful who would struggle if the obligation were re-imposed at this time. The Commandment to keep holy the Sabbath and the central importance of the Mass to our faith has never and will never change but in this unique time of pandemic the obligation for attendance under the pain of mortal sin seems inappropriate not only for Sundays but for every day of obligation.

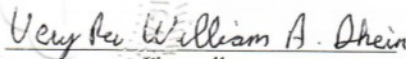
So I Decree that the obligation to attend the Holy Mass not just on Sundays but also on Holy Days of Obligation is suspended until further notice.

The upcoming Solemnities are at the heart of our faith. The wonderful celebration of the Immaculate Conception that points most powerfully to who the child to be born on Christmas truly is gives all of us hope that the promises of Christ will be ours. I ask that you keep these days holy. If you are able in a safe way, please attend Mass. If you have any underlying conditions, care for those who might be vulnerable or have concerns about COVID-19 know that the obligation to attend in person is lifted but our need to celebrate these great Solemnities for our spiritual health has never been greater.

Given at the Office of the Bishop, Holy Cross Diocesan Center, at La Crosse this twenty-third day of November in the year of our Lord 2020, the feast of Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr.


Bishop of La Crosse




Chancellor



DIOCESE of LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

19 November 2020
Year of St. Joseph

Dear Brothers in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

I remain very grateful to Fr. Pace for the timely reminder concerning the reinforcement of our COVID 19 policies. Recently, however, my office has received a number of calls from clergy, as well as the faithful of the Diocese, regarding changes, questions, and comments about our policies. This confusion has prompted me to reinforce the original information you received.

As you are well aware the pandemic is reaching levels of critical concern in our Diocese. Hospitals are reaching capacity, our medical teams are struggling to meet the demands and almost daily I am receiving word from members of the faithful, clergy, and staff who are testing positive, and suffering in various degrees from the virus. In the Spring I published guidelines that I asked each of you to follow and I believe these policies have truly assisted in keeping people safe during this time. As we see the numbers in cases increase and we are soon approaching the Christmas season *I am asking each of you to continue to implement the guidelines with a renewed diligence.* By doing our part in following the guidelines, as previously outlined, we demonstrate the value of everyone working together in charity with a commitment to care for one another. I ask that you please pay particular attention to the following in the coming weeks as we must remain even more vigilant in observing the protocols to allow our faithful to come to Mass without fear of contracting the virus.

- Allowing only 25% capacity of our churches while maintaining social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between people not living in the same household.
- Face coverings must be worn by all individuals, 5 years and older, present within our Churches and office spaces or attending any function associated with the ministry of the Diocese of La Crosse.
- Holy Water fonts and baptismal fonts must remain empty.
- All Missals, hymnals, prayer cards or other paper resources must be removed from pews.
- A cantor and accompanist are allowed, but choirs should not be used.

I recognize that we each have a different perspective of the pandemic situation but I am confident that we can all agree that we have a responsibility of respecting human life. It is with a heavy heart that I hear of situations within our churches where Pastors are not taking the situation seriously, no matter your personal beliefs I have issued guidelines that I have asked you to follow. The faithful look to you to be the role models in their faith community. Together with God's grace we will eventually emerge from this crisis. Lead your people to trust in God. He has not—nor will He abandon us!
In the hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

+William

Your Bishop