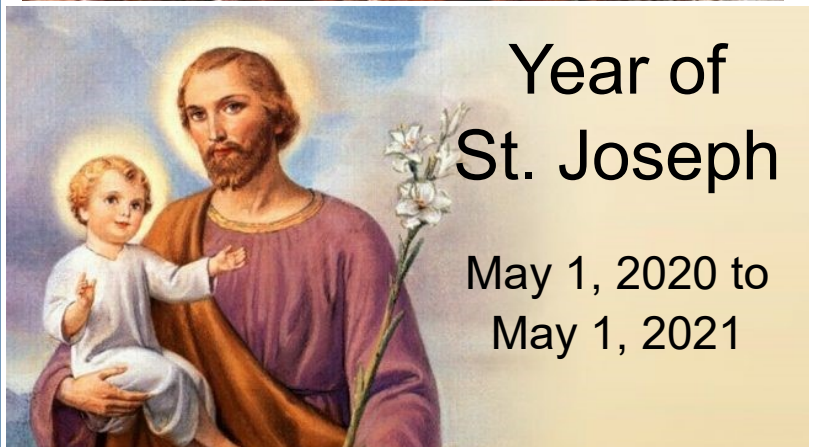


*W2601 State Rd 33 • La Crosse • Wisconsin • 54601*  
*December 6, 2020*

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

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



**PARISH INTENTIONS**

**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

**MONDAY, December 7th**

*St. Ambrose*

-5:30pm Mass -†Samuel Mashak

**TUESDAY, December 8th**

*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

-5:00 pm Adoration  
-5:30pm Mass -†Ike Clements

**THURSDAY, December 10th**

*Weekday (NOTE MASS TIME CHANGE FOR THIS DAY)*

\*\*\*-5:30 pm\*\*\* Mass -†Kathleen Malzacher

**SATURDAY, December 12th**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

-8:30 am Mass ~

**SATURDAY, December 12th**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

-4:00pm Mass -†Terry Miller  
Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Volunteer

**SUNDAY, December 13th**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

-8:30am Mass -Our Parish Family  
Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Volunteer



**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 8** ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass at St. Joseph Ridge 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 10** ~ **Mass Time Change** -Mass will be at 5:30 PM not 8:30 a.m, (this day only, regular schedule next week)
- **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
- **December 24** ~ **Christmas Eve Mass: 4 PM & 7 PM**
- **December 25** ~ **Christmas Day Mass: 8:30 AM**
- **December 30** ~ NO Religious Education Class

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

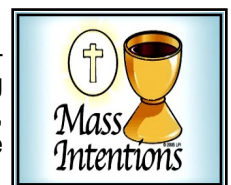


**HIS CHURCH**  
IS STILL HERE + IT STILL PROVIDES  
**IS YOU AND ME**

WE ARE THE DIOCESE	Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021		
	12/4/2020	Total Pledged	Total Payments
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2020-2021	Pledged/Received	\$11,520.00	\$10,660.00
	Target Amount	\$20,615.00	\$20,615.00
	Under Target	(\$9,095.00)	(\$9,955.00)
	Number of families contributing: 31		
	Percent goal pledged: 55.88%/Received: 51.71%		

**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 29th-182 envelope holders**

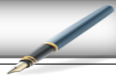


Adult Env.(27 Rec'd):	\$1635.00
Offertory:	\$53.00
Christmas Flowers(4):	\$195.00
All Saints(1):	\$5.00
Thanksgiving:	\$50.00

**Thank You!**



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



**"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."**

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Sunday of the season of Advent. Each year on the Second Sunday of Advent our Gospel reading presents us with the familiar figure of John the Baptist. This year we read Mark's account of John's preaching. "John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." To receive the messiah, John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan. A sign of conversion. To repent genuinely is one of the hardest things in the world: yet it is basic to all spiritual changes and progress. Genuine repentance must include the subtle sins of the spirit, often so elusive that they are unrecognized and so deceptive that they assume the shape of angels. As we move on to the second week of the Advent I invite you to reflect ways of personal renewal.

Seventy-nine years ago tomorrow (December 7, 1941) we relive the memories of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor that began a few moments after 8:00am. President Franklin Roosevelt called it, "...a date which will live infamy..." Over 2400 people (whose average age was 23) died that day in the attack. Thousands of others (both military and civilians) lost their lives in the resulting Second World War. I encourage you to keep all those who have died in war in your prayers. Remember especially, to keep the men and women, presently serving in the armed forces, in your prayers. Also pray for restoration of peace in war-torn places.

This week we also celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception. This year Immaculate Conception is not a holy day of obligation. I do encourage you to attend the mass on that day. "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin..." (Ineffabilis Deus - Latin for "Ineffable God"), apostolic constitution by Pope Pius IX. It defines the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Happy Feast of St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception!

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Reminder:** If your child will be absent, please contact Teresa Brown or your child's teacher. Thank you for your consideration. Also, 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

### Signup to Attend Christmas Mass



If you are planning to attend Mass for Christmas, please signup for a Mass in the back of church. For safety reasons we need to keep the crowd to the 25% capacity or 70 Persons. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### Liturgical Ministry Volunteers

Fr. Biju needs your help! If you are an usher, lector, Eucharistic minister or server and able to attend mass, please contact Teresa Brown at 608-787-0883 or email her at: [dbrown039@centurytel.net](mailto:dbrown039@centurytel.net) to indicated you availability, especially for the Christmas Masses. Your time and talents are appreciated!

### Advent Confession Opportunity

The Cathedral will not be holding their annual Advent open confession day this year. However, Fr. Biju will be offering Confessions on December 16th at St. Peter Parish from 6-9 PM.



### Donation in Memory of Paulette Hundt

We would like to thank the anonymous donor who gave a generous gift in Memory of Paulette Hunt. Your contribution has enabled us to purchase a new head microphone for priest use.

### Help Our Elders.

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today we pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please be generous at next weeks collection.

### Activities for Advent and Christmas

**The empty manger:** Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds.



**The Jesse tree:** The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree.

## DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

### Daily Advent Reflections – 3 great choices. Choose from one of the following:

- Chris Stefanick – Unshakeable Joy Sign up for a FREE 26-day Advent retreat with Chris Stefanick and Cardinal Cantalamessa. With 26 days of joy-filled videos and daily reflections, made specifically to fit your busy schedule, we know that YOU can unlock the secret to Unshakeable Joy TODAY. Go to [coaching.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy](http://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy) to register for FREE.
- Bishop Robert Barron – Daily Gospel Reflections Sign up for free daily reflections by Bishop Barron by clicking here: [adventreflections.com/](http://adventreflections.com/)
- Matthew Kelley – Dynamic Catholic with Daily Gospel Reflections Sign up for free video meditations on the Gospel Reading for each day of Advent. Go to [dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever)



### 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](http://diolc.org/advent)

### 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 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.

### Heroic Men

If you haven't done so, check out the Heroic Men website <https://heroicmen.com/>. It is a 100% FREE Catholic streaming platform designed especially for men who want to discover (or re-discover) the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. Offering more than 100 feature-length films, TV shows, documentaries and short films, Heroic Men seeks to source the best Catholic media available and bring it all to you, all in one place.

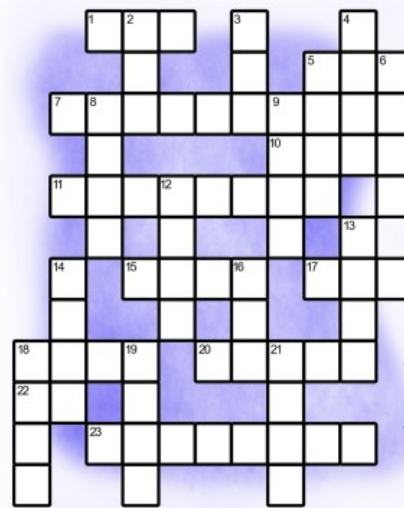
### The Advent Wreath

For an explanation of the Advent Wreath, go to <https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The-Advent-Wreath.pdf>

**Support the Beautiful Work of Catholic Charities** Catholic Charities provides warm shelter and clothing to homeless people, gives material assistance to those in need, helps families struggling to provide Christmas gifts for their children, assists birthmoms in crisis and parents wishing to adopt, and does so much more. Please consider supporting this great work, whether you can help financially, through volunteering, through your prayers or all three. To learn more, visit [cclse.org](http://cclse.org) and click on "Get Involved."

## KIDS CORNER

### Immaculate Conception Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks to do this puzzle about Our Lady.

#### ACROSS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was without sin.
5. God \_\_\_\_\_ that Mary would do His will.
7. She was the \_\_\_\_\_ Conception.
10. God watched \_\_\_\_\_ Mary.
11. God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ her from sin.
15. Mary's soul was not stained- it was \_\_\_\_\_.

17. God's Son become \_\_\_\_\_.
  18. He is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  20. When the time was \_\_\_\_\_, the angel came to Mary.
  22. She said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ the handmaid of the Lord."
  23. She had no \_\_\_\_\_ sin, so she was always ready to obey.
- DOWN:
2. Whatever God wanted she would do for \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. She brought the Saviour into the world for \_\_\_\_\_ and me.
  4. She teaches us to love God and \_\_\_\_\_ sin, which offends Him.
  5. God had decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Mary from all sin.
  6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ God, how would you make your mother?
  8. The name of God's mother is \_\_\_\_\_.
  9. She did every single thing out of \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
  12. He had preserved her \_\_\_\_\_ from every stain of sin.
  13. Before she was even a little \_\_\_\_\_ she was chosen by God.
  14. We all have original sin because of \_\_\_\_\_ ...
  16. ... and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, who committed the first sins.
  18. They had chosen to disobey God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  19. Since then, every other person\* was \_\_\_\_\_ with original sin.
  21. Mary was the daughter of the holy saints, \_\_\_\_\_ and Joachim.

\*Except Saint John the Baptist, who, according to tradition, was freed from original sin - 'filled with the Holy Spirit' when his mother was greeted by Mary who was expecting Jesus.

Answers: Across: 1. she 5. saw 7. immaculate 10. over 11. preserve 15. pure 17. man 18. lamb 20. ready 22. am 23. original Down: 2. him 3. you 4. hate 5. save 6. were 8. Mary 9. love 12. soul 13. baby 14. Adam 16. Eve 18. laws 19. born 21. Anne

### 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](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)





# Advent

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## Preparing for the Coming of Christ

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A familiar hymn that is usually sung during the beautiful season of Advent is *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. The lyrics help us to understand the essence of Jesus coming to us as our Savior.

Each verse of this hymn begins with a prayer that starts with the phrase, “O Come,” and includes an Old Testament reference to Jesus—the Messiah. The first Old Testament mention of the Messiah is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile  
here, until the Son of God  
appear. (Refrain):

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Israel needed rescue from having been exiled in a foreign land. We also need to be rescued – from sin and selfishness. When we sing this song, we can remember the depth of God’s love for us by sending His Son, Jesus—God taking on human flesh—to rescue us from our sins, which harm us and others.

This next reference is to the Messiah’s infinite wisdom and knowledge. In His wisdom, God revealed to us His plan of loving goodness. We would receive access to the Father through Jesus, who came to reunite us with the Father after the Original

Sin of our first parents. We are reunited with the Father through sanctifying grace – God’s own divine life – that we receive through the channel of His Sacraments.

O come, thou wisdom, from  
on high, and order all things  
far and nigh; To us the path  
of knowledge show, and teach  
us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

In this song, another reference is to the Messiah’s power and might. This verse captures the scene in Exodus 19:16; the Lord appeared on Mount Sinai through the signs of a cloud and a trumpet blast to the Israelites whom He had saved from the captivity of Egypt. God gave Moses His Laws of Love so that we would know how to live to stay close to Him.

O come, O come, thou Lord of  
might, Who to Thy tribes, on  
Sinai’s height. In ancient times  
didst give the law, in cloud  
and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

In this stanza, we pray that the Messiah will rescue us from the devil, the “father of lies,” who hates God and seeks to lead us away from Him. Jesus won this victory of freedom from sin for us but we have to cooperate with His grace to resist temptation and sin and receive His salvation.

O come, thou rod of Jesse’s  
stem, from Satan’s power  
deliver them; From depths  
of hell Thy people save, and  
give them victory o’er the grave.  
(Refrain)

The Messiah is from the line of David. We pray that He will open the gates of Heaven which were closed through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. The “key” to open the gates of our home in Heaven was Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.

O come, Thou Key of David,  
come, and open wide our  
heav’nly home; Make safe  
the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

In this last verse, we understand that Jesus is the desire and delight of every human heart. It is He who brings the peace and joy that we all long for and He alone is the source of these greatest gifts.

O come, Desire of nations,  
bind, in one the hearts of all  
mankind, bid every strife and  
quarrel cease, and fill the  
world with Heaven’s peace.

During these challenging times, we must never forget that Jesus is always present. He is God, King of the Universe, and everything is still ultimately under His Providence. As He promised, He will bring together all things for good as we place our trust in Him. May we come to know, in a deeper way, the peace and joy of Jesus this Christmas.

By Ann Lankford, Director for  
Catechesis & Evangelization



DIocese of LA CROSSE





"We don't know what the future holds, but it's all God's work," says Sister Theresa McGrath (*center*), 86, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, for nearly 70 years.

# Retirement Fund for Religious

**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

In good times and bad, Sister Theresa and the senior religious shown here have devoted themselves to God's work. Together with nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, they educated the young, tended the sick, and ministered to the needy. Today, they pray for a hurting world. Yet many US religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Covid-19 has only increased these challenges. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

**Please give at your local parish.**

Collection for this fund will be next weekend December 12/13, 2021. Please use the envelopes included in your boxes or pick up one from the back of church. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Parish. Thank you!

**[retiredreligious.org](https://retiredreligious.org)**

**To donate by mail:**

National Religious Retirement Office  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194  
*Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.*

Above, from left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ, 91; Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO, 95; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI, 86; Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU, 93; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79.  
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