

PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -†Thomas McGowan

Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Volunteer

SUNDAY, December 20th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Carol and Frank Seabauer

Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Volunteer

MONDAY, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius

-5:30pm Mass -†Deceased members of the Philip

Hess, Sr. Family

TUESDAY, December 22nd

Weekday

-5:00 pm Adoration

-5:30pm Mass -†Paul and Dorothy Hess

THURSDAY, December 24th

Christmas Eve—NO 8:30 AM Mass this day

-4:00 PM Mass -†George and Evelyn Miller

Lector: Jim Weber or Kathy Shikonya

Eucharistic Minister: Volunteer

Ushers: Joe Shikonya and Volunteer

-7:00 PM Mass -Our Parish Family

Lector: Sally Miller

Eucharistic Minister: Polly Hilby

Ushers: Rick Mikshowsky and Steve Miller

THURSDAY, December 25th

Christmas Day

-8:30 AM Mass -†Allen and Joe Gerke

Lector: Donna Clements

Eucharistic Minister: Volunteer

Ushers: Dave Hanson and La Verne Clements

SATURDAY, December 26th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

-4:00pm Mass -†Ralph and Evelyn Mikshowsky

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 27th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

-8:30am Mass -Our Parish Family

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 23** ~ NO Religious Education Class
- **December 24** ~ *Christmas Eve Mass: 4 PM & 7 PM*
St. Peter Parish 5 PM & 8:30 PM
- **December 25** ~ *Christmas Day Mass: 8:30 AM*
St. Peter Parish 10:30 AM
- **December 30** ~ NO Religious Education Class
- **December 31** ~ *Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God* Mass - 5:30 PM, **NO 8 AM Mass this day**
- **January 1** ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- **January 6** ~ Religious Education Class,
Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **January 13** ~ Religious Education Class,
Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **January 20** ~ Religious Education Class,
Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)

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



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.



WE ARE THE DIOCESE	Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021		
	12/19/2020	Total Pledged	Total Payments
	Pledged/Received	\$13,000.00	\$12,140.00
	Target Amount	\$20,615.00	\$20,615.00
	Under Target	(\$7,615.00)	(\$8,475.00)
	Number of families contributing: 37		
	Percent goal pledged: 63.06%/Received: 58.89%		



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).

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Week of Dec 13th-182 envelope holders



Adult Env.(27 Rec'd):	\$2020.00
Offertory:	\$159.00
Votive Lights:	\$61.00
Retirement Fund for Rel(9):	\$345.00
Christmas Flowers(5):	\$135.00
Christmas(6):	\$540.00
Immaculate Concept(4):	\$90.00

Thank You!

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Mary's Fiat

Our Advent journey reaches a climax with Mary's Story and Mary's "Yes." It is also called Mary's Fiat. In Latin, the word fiat means "let it be done." Mary's fiat was an immediate acceptance of and consent to God's will for her life. Therefore, Mary is presented as the perfect disciple. Those who find out what God wants of them and accept His message as Mary did are Jesus' true followers. Even without giving a chance to what it would bring about she said yes. All these years later, we have come to understand the significance of her choice, but did Mary understand at the time of annunciation? In 1984, Mark Lowry was asked to pen some words for his local church choir, and he wrote a poem that began like this, "*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?....*"

What a wonderful moment when Mary said yes to God. Christ took flesh in her consent and our Savior was born. Jesus is the reason for this season. As we celebrate Christmas, on behalf of St. Joseph Ridge and St. Peter, Middle Ridge Parishes and my own behalf, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas. May the joy, the serenity, and the peace, which Christmas brings fill your heart, your home, and all who are dear to you.

I would like to let you know that the 4pm Mass at St. Joseph Ridge is at maximum capacity; signup is no longer available. So, if you have not signed up at St. Joseph for the 4pm Mass please plan for other masses. Who wants to turn away people on Christmas Eve, when Mary and Joseph could find no room at the Inn? So, PLEASE sign up.

This Monday night of Dec.21st, there is going to be an astronomical spectacle as Jupiter and Saturn will move closer to one another. They will look like a single, bright star. Some call it the star of Bethlehem. A wonderful treat during season of waiting.

On Wednesday, we had a pre-Christmas Mass celebration with the CCD students, thanks to the Teresa Brown and the catechists for organizing.

Wish you Merry Christmas!

May the miracle of His birth brighten your life.

Live Jesus, Fr. Bijou

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.

The Power of Prayer

Amazing news came to the parish office today. For the past two years you have been praying for Rhonda McGowan who has been battling multiple myeloma cancer. The prayers have worked! Rhonda reports she is in deep remission according to the doctors. Thank You!

2021 Contribution Envelopes

Please pick up your 2021 Contribution Envelopes from the back of church after Mass or stop by during open prayer times. Thank you for your continued support of St. Joseph Parish.



Thanks for giving.

"We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious this year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been of tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating to last week's collection.

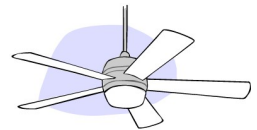
Activities for Advent and Christmas



Secret Saint: choose a family member (and keep your person secret) and become their "Secret Saint" by doing hidden good deeds for him/her this week...like making the bed, leaving a note of love and cheer, or leaving chocolate kiss on their pillow.

Good news!

The main church ceiling fan has been repaired and is running.



DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

Bishop Callahan's recorded Christmas video message is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kklmq9L3rho&feature=youtu.be>

March for Life – Jan. 2 in Madison, Jan. 29 in Washington, D.C. While the Diocese of La Crosse is not taking pilgrims to the March for Life this year, you can choose to participate in the March for Life in Madison on Jan. 2 or the march in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 29. For more information on both, visit <https://www.prolifewi.org/marchforlife>. If you plan to attend the March for Life in Madison, please email cruff@diolc.org or crogers@diolc.org and we will discuss a rendezvous point for pilgrims from our diocese.

 **JESUS** 
is the REASON for the Season!

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

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont.

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 (Dec. 20) or later as recordings at dioc.org/advent

Marriage Preparation Retreats

The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering Married Love: Two Becoming One, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on February 6, April 24, and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

In Search of Young Adults!

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics through retreats and parish youth ministry each year! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit www.spiritusministries.org/beamissionary, contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org, or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information.



Spiritual Practices for Living With Depression: A Retreat with Monica A. Coleman (via Zoom)

January 9, Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, Investment: \$30 to register call 608-791-5295. This virtual retreat will discuss how living with depression challenges common notions of faith, spirituality and religious teachings. During our time together, we will redefine faith in the context of depression. We will discover beliefs and spiritual practices that support and empower individuals who experience depression. If cost is a barrier to attending, please call our office manager Laurie Swan at 608-791-5279 to request a confidential scholarship. This event is sponsored by The Mental Health Coalition of the Greater La Crosse Area.

A VIRTUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS (VIA ZOOM)

JANUARY 6 • Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Presenter: Deb Hansen. Investment: Supplies are included in the price and can either be picked up at our FSC location or mailed to your address if out of town. • Curbside pickup: \$25 OR Supplies shipped: \$30. Registration deadline: December 23. Women's Christmas is rooted in a delightful Irish tradition. On the Feast of Epiphany, the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men to the Infant Jesus, Irish women left the care of their households to the men for a few hours so they could enjoy each other's company away from their domestic responsibilities, especially after the busyness of Christmas preparations. At the FSC, we bring together the tradition of Women's Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany for this special program, offered this year through Zoom videoconferencing and with a theme of Tending Our Hearths and Gladdening Our Hearts. You are invited to leave behind your responsibilities to enjoy the companionship of other women gathered virtually at our home hearths for a time of ritual and reflection for light, healing and gladness.

KIDS CORNER



Write the number of the person beside what they did in the Christmas Story.

1. Saint Joseph

— Announced the joyful news of the Saviour's birth

2. Our Lady

— Commanded that everyone register in their hometown

3. The Shepherds

— Did not have room for the man and his wife

4. The Angels

— Took his wife to Bethlehem

5. The Innkeeper

— Pondered all these things in her heart

6. Baby Jesus

— Went to find the newborn Saviour

7. The Emperor

— Came to save the people from their sins



Answer: 4, 7, 5, 1, 2, 3, 6



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.
- For those fighting cancer, especially members of our parish.
- 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



Advent

“Do Not Be Afraid!”

During these challenging times, when there seems to be so much uncertainty, isolation and anxiety, there are four words from Sacred Scripture, that if we reflect on them and ponder Who speaks these words to our heart, we can experience a great deal of calm, peace and security. Those words are “Do Not Be Afraid!”

During the Season of Advent, we hear two Scriptures in which these words are expressed to both Mary and Joseph. In the first passage, the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she will be the Mother of the Savior and the angel encouraged her to not be afraid.

“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

*But Mary was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name, Jesus” (Luke 1: 26-31).*

In the second passage, an angel came to Joseph in a dream and explained that Mary had conceived a Child through the

power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he should not be afraid to take his wife into His home.

*“Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with Child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:18-21).*

How can the words “do not be afraid” bring us peace? God obviously knows that we deal with an ongoing problem of fear and worry. To help us with this difficulty, the phrase “do not be afraid” is found in the Bible 365 times. That’s a daily reminder from God that we need to live every day with our focus on Him and trust Him. Jesus loves us unconditionally and desires a relationship with each one of us. As we deepen our friendship with Jesus through a daily commitment to converse with Him, we will

come to trust Him more.

Jesus only wants what is best for us. He will protect us and calm the storms in our minds and hearts. All Jesus asks is that we turn our eyes from our fears to Him. This does not mean that life will be perfect, without trials and struggles. But it *does* mean that we can face life’s difficulties with peace and calm, and even deep interior joy as Jesus is with us at every moment, even if we don’t recognize it.

We should have no fear because God loves us and died for us and wants us to be with Him. The power of what Jesus accomplished through His death on the Cross and Resurrection is greater than any difficulty, suffering, problem, evil or fear that we may face. This is why we have hope in Him.

In preparation for the celebration of Christmas, let us break away from busy-ness and spend quiet time each day with Jesus, the Prince of Peace. He knows our worries, and speaks to our heart: *“Peace I leave with you; My own peace I give to you... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27).*

May you experience a truly joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior on Christmas!

By Ann Lankford



Diocese of LA CROSSE



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

(as of 12/19/2020)

Gary and Kathy Bartz, in memory of Bob and Margaret Bartz

Dave and Teresa Brown, in memory of Michael Brown and Mick and Agnes Lucey

Joyce Clements, in memory of Herbert Clements

Carol and Stanley Clements, in memory of Brent Clements, Carli Clements and Eugene
and Luella Leis, and John Leis

Karen and Gregg Fuchs, in memory of Evelyn and George Miller, Darrel Miller and Terry Miller

Bernie Gerke, in memory of Allen and Joe Gerke.

Gary and Mary Jo Hess, in memory of Paul and Dorothy Hess,
and deceased members of the Al and Anna Mae Antony family

Marvin LeJeune, in memory of the William LeJeune Family

Rose Malzacher, in memory of Lawrence Malzacher

Rita Martin, in memory of Earl Martin.

Larry and Mary Marshall, in memory of the Marshall and Austin Families

The Mikshowsky Families, in memory of Ralph and Evelyn Mikshowsky

Mike and Connie Miller in memory of George and Evelyn Miller

Terry and Kathryn Schams, in memory of Gerald Schams and Howard and Delores White

Joe and Kathy Shikonya, in memory of the deceased members of the Shikonya and Pittman Families

Ken and Paula Silha, in memory of Ray and Audrey Korn, Patty Korn Silha, Alice and Robert Silha, Bill
Silha, Bryan Antony, and Marlene and Jacqueline Korn

Carole R. Strittmater, in memory of Curtis Strittmater, and living and deceased member of Maynard and
Emma Olson Family

Eleanor E. Sullivan, in memory of Catherine Sullivan

John and Sylvia Thurk, in memory of Sara Rose Hougom

*We will accept flower donations through Christmas Day. If you have donated and do not see your name on this list,
please contact the parish office. An updated list will be posted in the back of church.*

