

St. Joseph Ridge Parish

W2601 State Rd 33 • La Crosse • Wisconsin • 54601

November 28, 2021

PASTOR

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS...715-495-2338
bchennala@diolclergy.org

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

(limited capacity 125 persons)

Saturday.....4:00pm

Sunday.....8:30am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

First Saturday Mass.....8:30am

Monday5:30pm

Tuesday.....Adoration5:00 pm

Mass.....5:30pm

Thursday.....8:30am

CONFESSIONS

First Saturday after Mass or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE

Amy Stafslie, Admin. Assist.....608-788-1646

Bulletin deadline:Wednesday

sgrp2601@gmail.com

Open most Tuesdays and Fridays

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Coordinators: Stacy Burns and Paula Silha

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dave Brown (Cemetery Rep), Teresa Brown, Lori Clements (PCCW Rep), Stan Clements, Ann Degenhardt, Terry Dickman (Finance Council Rep), Bob Kotek, and Bill Weber (Secretary), Stacy Burns and Paula Silha (CRE's)

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Lori Clements (President), Mary Jo Hess (Treasurer), Jill Murphy (Secretary), Polly Hilby (Funeral Prep)

CEMETERY SEXTON

Dave Brown608-792-1006

dbrown039@centurytel.net

MUSIC

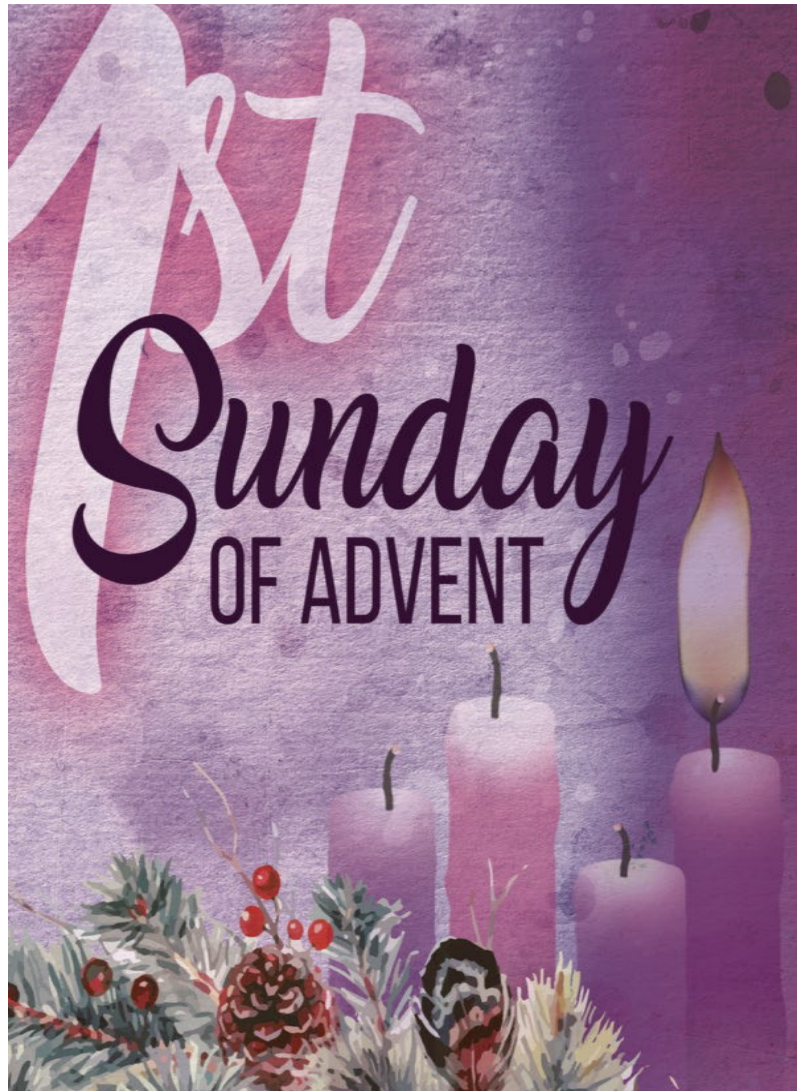
Stacy Burns, Coordinator.....608-769-8828

jsburns0093@gmail.com

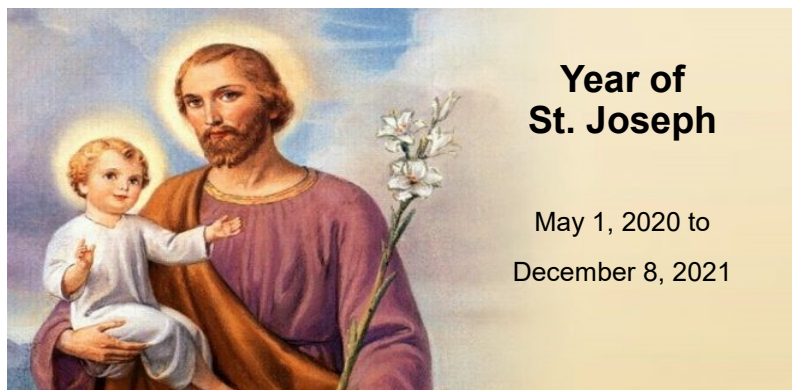
Leland Gregorich, Accompanist

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- 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



"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." - Lk 21:27



PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, November 27th

1st Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -†Alice, Robert, Patty and Billy Silha
Lector: Paula Silha Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, November 28th

1st Sunday of Advent

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

MONDAY, November 29th

Advent Weekday

-5:00pm Adoration
-5:30pm Mass -†Allen and Joe Gerke

TUESDAY, November 30th

St. Andrew, Apostle

-5:30 PM Mass -†George and David Walter

THURSDAY, December 2nd

Advent Weekday

-8:30am Mass -Robert Dowiasch Family (living and deceased members)

SATURDAY, December 4th

St. John Damascene—First Saturday

-8:30am Mass -†Irene Powell

SATURDAY, December 4th

2nd Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -†John, Bernice, Steve and Sam Mashak
Lector: Jim Weber Ushers: Volunteers

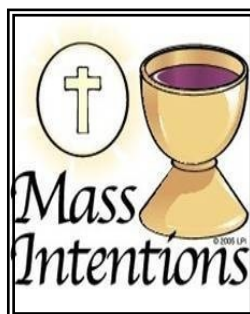
SUNDAY, December 5th

2nd Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Carol and Frank Seebauer
Lector: Sally Weber Ushers: Volunteers

Mass Intentions

We have openings for **weekday** intentions: Feb 24, Mar 3, 14, 17, 21, 28, & 31. We have open **First Saturdays**, 8:30 AM beginning March 5th. Next **Weekend** Mass openings: Apr 2 & 30, May 1 & 28 or 29. For questions contact the parish office 788-1646 or sjrp2601@gmail.com. Mass Intentions envelopes are available in the back of church.



PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 1** ~ RE Class (Gr 1-5, 6-6:55 PM; Gr 6-10, 7:00-8:15 PM)
- **December 8** ~ The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary, **Holy Day of Obligation**
8 AM Mass, St. Peter Parish *Correction from last week
6 PM Mass, St. Joseph Parish
~ No regular RE Class, Mass for All
- **December 11/12**~Retirement Fund for Religious Collection
- **December 14** ~ Finance Council Meeting, 7 PM
- **December 15** ~ RE Class (Gr 1-5, 6-6:55 PM; Gr 6-10, 7:00-8:15 PM)
~ **Confessions for All**, 6 PM until no persons present, a second priest Fr. Hilary from Viterbo will be assisting
- **December 16** ~ Pastoral Council/Fundraiser Meeting, 7 PM. Discussion on Synod and Fundraiser, open to all who wish to attend.
- **December 20** ~ All day confessions the Cathedral in La Crosse 9 AM - 6 PM

Confessions

December 15, 2021 from 6 PM until no people present or First Sat. after Mass or by appointment (call or message Fr. Biju directly to set up a time).



WE ARE THE DIOCESE	Diocesan Annual Appeal 2021-2022		
	11/23/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
	Pledged/Received	\$12,895.00	\$10,885.00
	Target Amount	\$21,850.00	\$21,850.00
	Under Target	(\$8,955.00)	(\$10,965.00)
	Number of families contributing: 27		
	Percent goal pledged: 59.02%/Received: 49.82%		

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—182 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(33): \$1365.00
Offertory: \$158.00
Christmas Flowers: \$40.00
Votive Lights: \$68.25

Thank You!

Donations: Here are some ways to contribute:

- 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 in the church donation box
- **Mail in** your weekly/monthly offering to parish office (W2601 State Road 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.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we begin the season of Advent. A time of preparation. It's a new liturgical year for the church. We move from Year B, where we focused on the gospel of Mark, to C with Luke's gospel. The first two weeks of Advent call our attention to the second coming of Christ and last two weeks of Advent on His first coming. There are many ways during Advent that we can prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas. You may want to pray more, participate in the Mass during the week, have an Advent wreath, or create family traditions. No matter what you do, remember the reason you are preparing. It is about Jesus. The sacrament of penance is an important part of our Advent preparation for a worthy celebration of Christmas. Fr. Hilary, OFM will be coming to St. Joseph and St Peter to help hear confessions and offer God's forgiveness. Reconciliation service on Wed, December 15 at St Joseph and December 22 at St Peter. At both churches it begins at 6 p.m. until the last person.

Also, we will have the blessing of Advent Wreath on this weekend during Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. An Advent wreath is a wreath with four candles. Usually, there are three purple candles and one pink candle. Purple symbolizes penance and rose/pink symbolizes joy. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, which is also called, Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

As we prepare in Advent for Christmas, I have some information for you about Mass times.

December 8th is the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*. It is a holy day of obligation. On that day we have 8 a.m. at St Peter and 6 p.m. Mass here at St Joseph.

Christmas Mass Times

- *Christmas Eve* (Friday, Dec. 24th) - 4:00 p.m. at St Joseph and 8:00 p.m. at St Peter.
- *Christmas Day* (Saturday, Dec. 25th) - 8:30 a.m. at St Joseph and 10:00 a.m. at St Peter.

There will be no vigil Mass on Saturday 25th December (4pm and 8pm) at either St Joseph or St Peter. Regular Mass times will resume on Sunday morning December 26th.

May you have a blessed Advent!

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

PARISH NEWS

PCCW Christmas Party

This party is open to all ladies of the parish and will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at The Ridge Restaurant, starting with a 6 PM social and dinner at 6:30 PM. **Please sign up** on the sheet in the back of church, so we may prepare for the number attending.

In Case You Missed It—Check out the last issue of Catholic Life featuring Steve and Sally Miller

"A Tradition of Saying 'Yes' to the Church"

Steve and Sally have been volunteering for years in our Parish and we are grateful, from setting up for Mass. to maintaining the votive candles, to decorating the church, their efforts do not go unnoticed. Be sure and thank them for their service. Their caring for our church, along with many other volunteers, is what helps make St. Joseph Parish feel like home.



February Friday Fun Night—Fundraiser

Gun Raffle

Tickets are \$10 each (only 500 will be sold) and will be available after Mass or by contacting the Parish office or Fr. Biju. **Parishioners are encouraged to pick up tickets to sell**, so that this fundraiser is a success for our parish. Money and stubs can be put in an envelope and dropped in the collection basket at church.

- 1st Prize: Ruger American Camo 350 Legend
- 2nd Prize: Weatherby 12 ga, Automatic
- 3rd Prize: Browning A-Bolt Synthetic 243
- 4th Prize: Legends LSI Pointers 12 ga. Automatic
- 5th Prize: Savage Axis XP-243 w/scope

Save the date: Friday, February 25, 2022

More information about the evening event to follow in December.

Celebrating a 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2022?

We are looking for couples who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2022. Please leave a message at the Parish office with

The Advent Wreath—When you have a simple Advent Wreath on your family dinner table and light a candle for each week of Advent, you pray together and enter more deeply into the proper preparation for Christmas. A wreath can be assembled by simply using evergreen limbs from a tree in the yard and four candles.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Parents join us this Wednesday
December 1st at 6:55 PM**

This is the first week of Advent, a very special time of year. Parents please join us in the school basement this coming Wed at 6:55 PM for a short Advent message. We look forward to seeing you!



DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

Daily Advent Reflections – 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. Visit reallifecatholic.com to register.

Bishop Robert Barron – Daily Gospel Reflections. Sign up for free daily reflections by Bishop Barron by clicking here: dailygospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel

Matthew Kelley – Dynamic Catholic with Daily Gospel Reflections. Sign up for free video meditations on the Gospel Reading for each day of Advent. Visit dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html

Praying with Scripture: A beautiful way to prepare for the Birth of our Savior is to take a few minutes each day reflecting on a Scripture passage that describes the events leading up to Christmas. Go to diolc.org/deeper and click “Praying with Scripture” for a Prayer Card with 7 Scriptures or click on “Mysteries of the Rosary” for a Prayer Card with the five Joyful Mystery

ST. MARY’S ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW ~ SAT, DEC 4, 2021

Come join the fun and find that one of a kind gift for the Holiday Season from several local vendors and crafters. Open from 8:00 AM-1:30 PM at the Coon Valley Village Hall, 108 Roosevelt St. Concessions available throughout the show. Visit our website: stmarycv.org and click on the Craft Show tab for information, or contact Nancy Peters at 608-790-6034 Peters@mwt.net

Wednesday, December 8: Celebrate the Immaculate Conception & Close of the Year of St. Joseph

Bishop William Patrick Callahan will preside at the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday, December 8, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman to celebrate both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation) and the Close of the Year of St. Joseph. Join us for this special celebration honoring both the Blessed Mother and her spouse, St. Joseph, either in person or via livestream at diolc.org/live.

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale—Dec 11 (MMOC)

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 11, at the Parish Hall located at 2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Homemade cookies will be sold by the pound, plus homemade Candies, Breads, Pies, Handcrafted Items and Scrip Gift Cards available for sale. Serving Continental Breakfast and Lunch (homemade soup and chili). Raffles and hourly Door Prizes.

Cookie Walk and Bake Sale—Dec. 11 (Holy Trinity Church)

St. Anne's Ladies of Holy Trinity Church at 1333 13th St S, La Crosse are having a Cookie Walk and Bake Sale Saturday, December 11 from 8:00 a.m.-Noon. Pre-boxed cookies (1 and 2 pound packages), some cookies on trays, breads, pikes, bars and cakes. NO CRAFTS.

New Comic Book on the “Champion of the Poor”

A new action-packed, full-color comic book biography tells the inspiring life story of Father Joe Waligowski, priest of the Diocese of La Crosse and founder of the Casa Hogar orphanage in Peru. From his days as an impressionable young boy in Michigan, where he discovered a unique call to the priesthood, to his daring adventures as a missionary in South America, readers are immersed into the heroic actions of a courageous *Champion of the Poor*. To see sample pages and to pre-order, visit: voyagecomics.com/fatherjoe

KIDS CORNER



Advent word search



ANGEL
ANTICIPATION
CANDLES
EMMANUEL
FOUR
HOPE
JESUS

JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHT
LOVE
MARY
PEACE
PINK

PREPARATION
PURPLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
WAITING
WREATH



Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- 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 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

Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

Taking time during Advent to prepare ourselves spiritually can result in a truly meaningful Christmas Day and Christmas Season - the celebration of the birth of the most important Person in all of history: Jesus Christ. There are traditional customs of our Catholic Faith that provide us with important ways to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child.

Advent, which means *coming*, is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This time is to be different than our ordinary routine. It is not meant to be a time of celebration, as that really begins on Christmas Eve. An important point for Advent is to keep everything simple. That is, do not try to do too much shopping or baking, but take time for being with family members and to pray together. Advent is to be spent preparing our hearts spiritually for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and eternal death. This focus of spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation can be difficult to maintain in the hectic hustle and bustle of the materialistic side of this sacred season.

During Advent we sing beautiful hymns, such as *Come O Long Expected Jesus* and *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. In this holy season, we can ask Jesus to come and heal one area of difficulty in our lives. We need His help. In joyful expectation, we can trust that Jesus will help us with our struggle.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confession during Advent frees us from the effects of sin, such as selfishness, anger, lack of forgiveness, guilt, bitterness. As our heart is purified, there is more room for Christ to bring us His joy.

We can arrive ten minutes early for Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass, to read the Bible passages from the missalette. The Readings walk us through the steps of God's unfolding plan to send His Son as our Savior. In pondering the Scriptures, it is helpful to choose a word or phrase that stood out and think about the reason why this caught your attention.

The Advent wreath, with its rich symbolism, helps us to stay focused on this time of preparation. A wreath can be assembled by simply using evergreen limbs from a tree in the yard and four candles. The wreath made of evergreens – which retain their green, vibrant life throughout the year - signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ Who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and Resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The light of the candles shines in the darkness, which is most evident during this time of the year which is darker due to shorter daylight hours. We use candles in the Advent wreath and put lights on a Christmas tree and

possibly on and around our homes, signifying the coming of Christ Who is the Light of the world. After all, **Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God** (See John 3:19-21).

The Advent wreath contains three purple candles and one rose candle. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, the day of rejoicing, because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when our preparation is now half over and we are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time and some prayers prayed together as a family.

The preparation of our heart for Christmas will make the coming of Emmanuel – God with us – mean so much more. We will be blessed with the grace to know that Jesus is truly our Savior. And, receiving the Christ Child in Holy Communion will be the highlight of our Christmas Day.

By Ann Iankford



Diocese of LA CROSSE