

St. Joseph Ridge Parish

W2601 State Rd 33 • La Crosse • Wisconsin • 54601

December 5, 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
sjrp2601@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

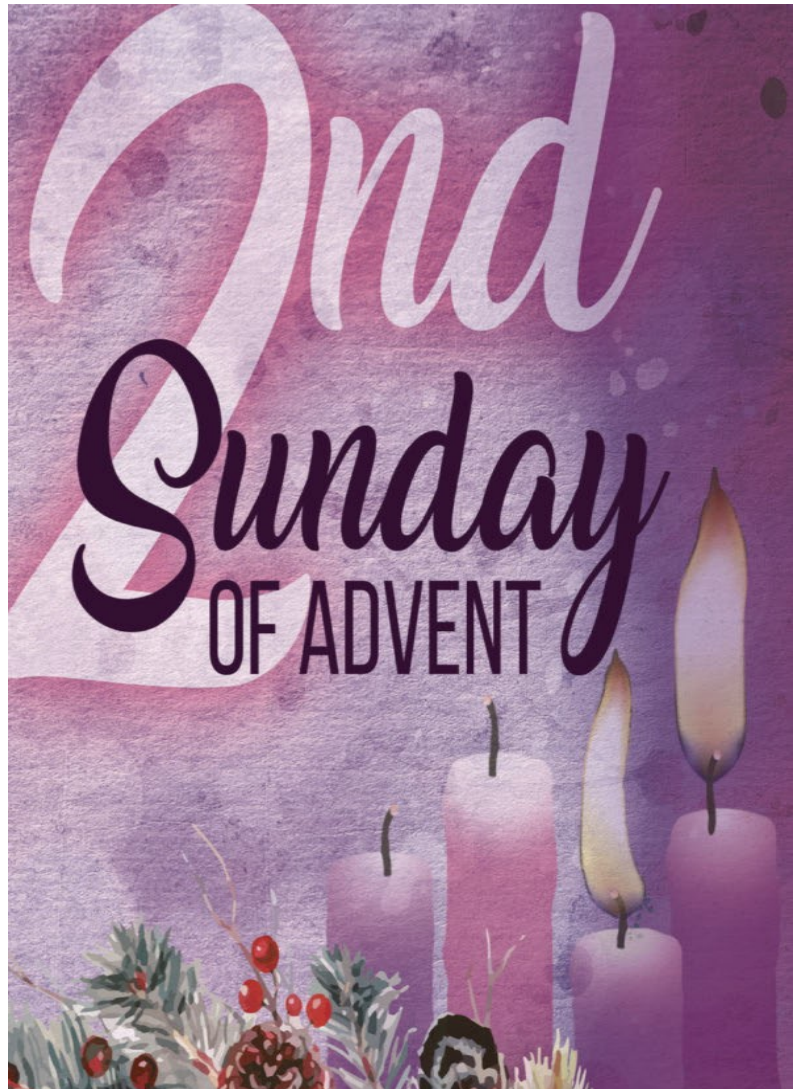
Dave Brown608-792-1006
dbrown039@centurytel.net

MUSIC

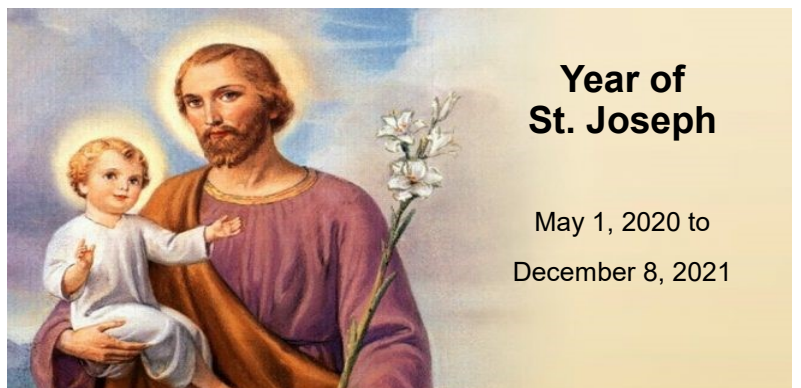
Stacy Burns, Coordinator.....608-769-8828
jsburns0093@gmail.com
Leland Gregorich, Accompanist

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



*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths." -Lk 3:4*



PARISH INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, December 6th

St. Nicholas

-5:30pm Mass -†Ray Wuensch

TUESDAY, December 7th

St. Ambrose - Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

-8:30am Mass -†Geri Hess

WEDNESDAY, December 8th

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

-6:00pm Mass -†Alvina and Ike Clements

THURSDAY, December 9th

St. Juan Diego, Cuauhtlatotzin

-8:30am Mass -Philip Hess family, living and deceased

SATURDAY, December 11th

3rd Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -Our Parish Family
Lector: Teresa Brown Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 12th

3rd Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Joe Murphy
Lector: Donna Clements Ushers: Volunteers

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 7 ~ Daily Mass changed to 8:30 AM**, no 5:30 PM Mass this day.
- **December 7 ~ PCCW Christmas Party** at the Ridge Restaurant, social at 6:00 PM, meal at 6:30 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

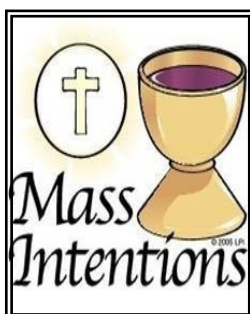
Confessions

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).



Mass Intentions 2022

We have openings for **weekday** intentions: Mar 21, 28, & 31. Apr 4, 14, 18, 21, & 28. We have open **First Saturdays**, 8:30 AM beginning March 5th. Next **Weekend** Mass openings: Apr 30. May 28 or 29. Jun 11 or 12 and 18. For questions contact the parish office 788-1646 or sjrp2601@gmail.com. Mass Intentions envelopes are available in the back of church.



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.

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2021-2022		
12/3/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Received	\$13,540.00	\$11,305.00
Target Amount	\$21,850.00	\$21,850.00
Under Target	(\$8,310.00)	(\$10,545.00)
Number of families contributing: 32		
Percent goal pledged: 61.97%/Received: 51.74%		

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—182 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(30):	\$1510.00
Offertory:	\$194.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$390.00
Gun Raffle Ticket sales:	\$950.00
Book Donations:	\$10.00

Thank You!

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



Second Sunday of Advent

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

Eighty years ago on Tuesday, December 7, 1941, shortly before 8:00 am in Honolulu on the island of Oahu, many people were in church praying, waking up at home or spending a quiet Sunday morning. That peace and tranquility was dramatically destroyed in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor that began a few moments after 8:00 am. 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. As we gather this Sunday to worship, 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.

This week as we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent the gospel, presents before us the familiar figure of John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming.

This week we also celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on 6th December and Immaculate Conception on 8th December (Holy Day of Obligation). I do encourage you to attend Mass on Wednesday. "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) apostolic constitution by Pope Pius IX. It defines the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This dogma proclaims that our Blessed Mother was conceived without original sin. It refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother Anne, even though the gospel we hear at Mass this day is about the conception of Jesus. The relevance of this feast for us is to see in Mary an example of what God can do in a person and what we can do, if we put ourselves in God's hands and at God's service as Mary did.

Happy Feast of St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception!
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.

2022 Envelopes

Your envelope boxes for 2022 are now available in the back of church. Please help us save on mailing expense by picking yours up today. If you cannot find your box or you do not currently use envelopes and would like a box please leave a message at the parish office.



Celebrating a 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2022?

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

Give in Thanksgiving-Retirement Fund for Religious

"I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education" writes a donor. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

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 coming soon. .

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 22nd will be our Rel Education Christmas Party!

The party will be from 6 - 8 PM for all students, parents, and teachers. There will be a few crafts and a movie AND we will do some caroling (weather permitting). **We are looking for parents to help** with the parity, please let Stacy or Paula know if you are able and willing.

Fri. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Children's Program 3:30 PM and

Mass at 4 PM This will involve the children and choir singing appropriate songs while some act out the Christmas story. There are NO lines, but acting out, in a very simple fashion! Focus of actors will be grades 1-5 but older students may act as well. We need older students to sing in the choir and/or help out with the younger children. **PLEASE email Stacy Burns regarding attendance of Christmas Eve Mass AND if your student is able and willing to participate.**



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: dailycatholicgospel.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

Christmas Concert to benefit A Place of Grace - Dec. 5

Sunday, December 5, 2 pm in the San Damiano Chapel, 900 Franciscan Way, La Crosse on the Viterbo Campus. Music will be provided by Prairie Smoke with special guests Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM and Polly Pappadopoulos with comments from Tom Thibodeau. Cash and non-perishable food donations will be joyfully received. Due to Covid, masks are required for the concert.

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 Walijewski, 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

Saint John the Baptist Word Puzzle

*Here is a prophesy about Saint John the Baptist.
Use the words from the list below to fill in the
blanks. The letters that are in circles fit into the
matching spots at the bottom.*

A voice of one ³_____ out
in the desert:
" ⁵_____ the way of the Lord,
make straight his ²_____.
Every valley shall be _____ ⁷_____
and every _____ ⁸_____ and hill
shall be made low.

The winding roads
shall be made _____¹_____,
and the _____⁶_____ ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see
the salvation of _____⁴_____." 

GOD MOUNTAIN
PATHS STRAIGHT
ROUGH PREPARE
FILLED CRYING



What was St. John the Baptist?

$$\overline{1} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{6} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{8}$$

Isaiah 40:3-5

Answer: A Prophet.

St. Peters, Middle Ridge

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

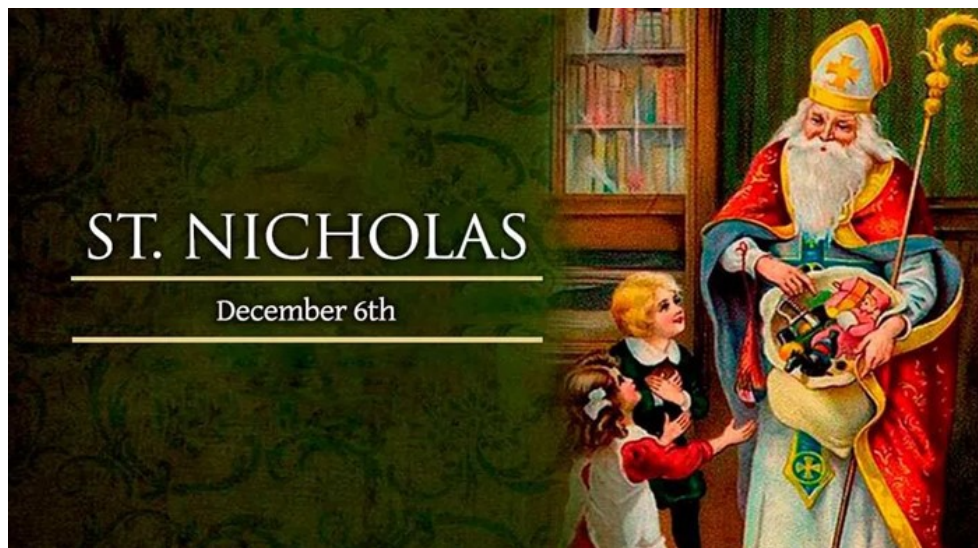
Weekend Mass: Sat. 8:00 PM and Sun. 10:00 AM

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 sirp2601@gmail.com



ST. NICHOLAS

December 6th

Family Resource The Joy of Giving

The-Joy-of-Giving

It's common to look forward to the gifts we'll receive at Christmas. But as we learn about the life of St. Nicholas – from which we derive our “Santa Claus” – we will quickly find that it is more blessed indeed to give than to receive.

As Christmas approaches, most of us spend time making lists of presents that we hope to receive. Advent is an appropriate time to learn about the life of St. Nicholas and to remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Nicholas was born during the third century in a village that is located in modern-day Turkey. His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian. Sadly, they died in an epidemic while he was still young. Nicholas obeyed Jesus' words to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor.” He used his whole inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering. The church recognized his total dedication to God and declared him Bishop of Myra while he was still a young man. Nicholas was known across the region for his generosity to people in need, for his love of children, and for his concern for sailors. You can find many legends about his life on the Internet and in library books. This special day celebrates the stories of his generosity and goodness. The life of St. Nicholas has much to teach us.

A saint of the Catholic Church, his Feast Day is December 6.

This Advent Season, challenge your family to approach Christmas by focusing on St. Nicholas as the model of giving. Rather than focusing on what you and the rest of your family may receive, think about what your family can give. In addition to money, you can offer the gifts of time, talent or treasure for others here at home – and for your mission family far away.

Ask family members to think of meaningful, non-material gifts they have received (*a compliment, a word of encouragement, a helping hand, etc.*) and to share the story of those gifts. Brainstorm ways in which each member of your family can give rather than receive – and to do so for the Missions. Ask each person to choose at least one way to give time, talent and treasure for each week of Advent. Here are a few suggestions:

- Commit to praying daily for children, especially for troubled young people.
- Collect non-perishable food from neighbors and family. Take those items to a local food pantry.
- Write a letter to your members of Congress or governor, telling what you think should be done to help poor families.
- Place your MCA donation container (box) on your dinner table. At every meal, after you give thanks for the food, place a donation in the box .
- Call someone you know who is experiencing sorrow to offer comfort.

Invite everyone to write down their good actions on small pieces of paper, notecards or self-stick notes and place them in a special place. Conclude your time together with the following *Prayer for A Giving Heart*.

Good and gracious God,

You have always been so generous to us.

Teach us what it means to give without expecting anything in return.

Make each one of us grateful for all we have.

Create in us, Lord, a heart that gladly gives.

May the hope of Jesus be seen in our hearts, our words, and our actions, throughout this Advent Season.

Help us remember the greatest gift shown to us – the Christ Child.

Inspire us to respond to the needs of those around us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.