

*December 12, 2021*



- 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, December 11th

3rd Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -Our Parish Family

Lector: Teresa Brown Ushers: Volunteers

Servers: John Mashak and volunteer

### SUNDAY, December 12th

3rd Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Joe Murphy

Lector: Volunteer Ushers: Volunteers

Servers: Zachary & Zarina Noronha and Atticus Roman

### MONDAY, December 13th

St. Lucy

-5:30pm Mass -†Irene Powell

### TUESDAY, December 14th

St. John of the Cross

-5:00pm Adoration

-5:30pm Mass -†Ralph and Evelyn Mikshowsky

### THURSDAY, December 16th

Advent Weekday

-8:30am Mass -†John Harper

### SATURDAY, December 18th

4rd Sunday of Advent

-4:00pm Mass -†Jennifer Clements

Lector: Jim Weber Ushers: Volunteers

### SUNDAY, December 19th

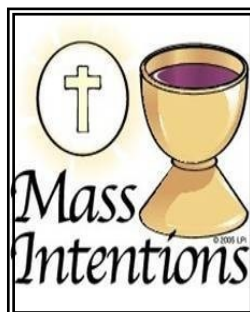
4rd Sunday of Advent

-8:30am Mass -†Arnie and Jean Meyers

Lector: Volunteer Ushers: Volunteers

### Mass Intentions 2022

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

## PARISH CALENDAR

- **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
- **December 22** ~ RE Mass and party OR Christmas Program, 6:00 PM for all students and parents.
- **December 24** ~ **Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 PM** 8:00 PM at St. Peter Parish
- **December 25** ~ **Christmas Day Mass 8:30 AM** 10:00 AM St. Peter Parish
- **December 25** ~ No 4 PM Mass
- **December 26** ~ Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
- **December 29** ~ No RE Classes, Merry Christmas!

### 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		
	12/10/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
	Pledged/Received	\$14,030.00	\$11,825.00
	Target Amount	\$21,850.00	\$21,850.00
	<b>Under Target</b>	<b>(\$7,820.00)</b>	<b>(\$10,025.00)</b>
	Number of families contributing: 34		
	Percent goal pledged: 64.21%/Received: 54.12%		

### GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—182 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(41):	\$2,935.00
Offertory:	\$242.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$165.00
Votive Candles:	\$90.90
Immaculate Conception(4):	\$145.00
Christmas Env.(3):	\$95.00

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**



**Gaudete Sunday**

Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice". The rose-colored vestments and rose candle on our Advent wreath remind us that we are halfway through the Advent season besides reminding us that it is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. As Advent quickly moves along, I encourage you to be sure and take some time for quiet in your life to reflect upon the great mysteries we celebrate at this time of the year. The sacrament of penance is an important part of our Advent preparation for a worthy celebration of Christmas. We have it at St. Joseph on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and St. Peter on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. There will be additional opportunities for confession as the priests of the Deanery will gather for a penance service at the Cathedral on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 6pm.

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. The crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. Luke 3: 10-18, "What should I do?" John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. What does it tell me?

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, we also celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was in 1531 that Mary appeared to Juan Diego (The Feast of St. Juan Diego was celebrated on December 9) on Tepeyac hill outside Mexico City. Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is patroness of the Americas and recently was designated as patroness of Respect Life. Since December 12<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday, the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe is replaced by the Third Sunday of Advent.

There will be a special collection for the Religious Retirement Fund. On behalf of the many retired women religious sisters and retired religious priests and brothers, I thank you for your generous assistance.

Happy Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

**Our Deepest Sympathy to the Families of:**

**Marvin J. Trinken**

who passed away on  
December 6, 2021

He was laid to rest on  
Friday, December 10, 2021

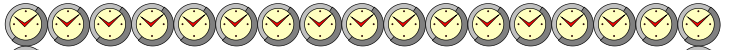


*"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:9-10*

**PARISH NEWS**

**Help aging religious-Retirement Fund for Religious**

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others— educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's special collection (envelopes in your box or in the back of church).



**2021 End-of-Year Contributions**

All donations for the 2021 tax year must be submitted on or before December 31st at 12:00pm. All donations to the office by this time will be posted to the 2021 year-end tax statement. Any payments made after the deadline will post to the 2022 year-end tax statement.



**Celebrating a 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2022?**

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

**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.



**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.

Prizes: **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 party, 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. 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 willing to participate.**

## DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

### Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II Virtual Nativity Tour

December 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm: During Advent the Casa Hogar family has the tradition of creating nativity scenes for each family, the cafeteria and the Church. If you are counting, that is eleven nativity scenes in all. The amount of work and time put into making the fields, rivers, shepherds, kings, animals, stables, Josephs, Marys and Baby Jesus' is amazing. It only seems fair to share all the hard work with you. Join us for the 2nd Annual Nativity Tour on December 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm CST. With this virtual tour the kids will guide you through each family's nativity scene. And because the kids like a little competition, our virtual guests can vote on the top girl house and top boy house. If you have never seen Christmas in Peru, you're in for a real treat! For more information and to get the zoom link, email [nfurger@frjoesguild.org](mailto:nfurger@frjoesguild.org).

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Stocking Stuffer

#### 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](http://voyagecomics.com/fatherjoe)

### 2022 Pilgrimage for Life

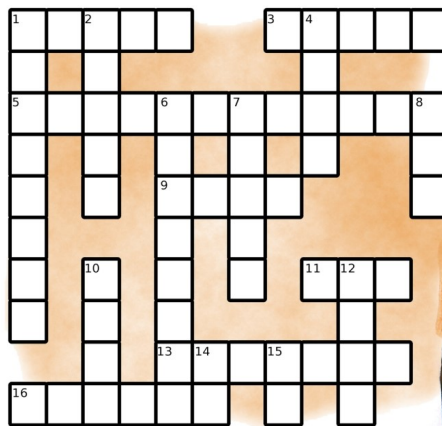
We are excited to announce that we are planning to travel to Washington, DC for the Pilgrimage for Life January 19-23, 2022. Please see the registration letter, tentative schedule, and details found at: <https://diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life-2022/>

### 15 min. with the Scriptures for Advent

A beautiful way to spend quiet time during Advent is to pray with Sacred Scripture that describe the events leading up to the birth of the Christ Child. For simple resources to help prayer become more personal, visit [diolc.org/deeper](http://diolc.org/deeper) and click on "Praying with Scripture" – Advent and Christmas or click on "Mysteries of the Rosary"

## KIDS CORNER

### Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.  
a=across  
d=down



Brothers and \_\_\_\_\_ (13a): Rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_ (12d) always. I \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) say \_\_\_\_\_ (14d) \_\_\_\_\_ (2d): rejoice! Your \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) should be known \_\_\_\_\_ (15d) all. The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ (9a). \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) no anxiety at \_\_\_\_\_ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ (1d), with \_\_\_\_\_ (5a), make \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) requests known to \_\_\_\_\_ (8d). Then the \_\_\_\_\_ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) your hearts and minds in \_\_\_\_\_ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR  
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS  
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION  
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

Answers: Across: 1. peace, 3. shall, 5. thanksgiving, 9. near, 11. 13. sisters, 16. Christ. Down: 1. petition, 2. again, 4. have, 6. kindness, 7. guard, 8. God, 10. Your, 12. Lord, 14. It, 15. to



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