



**PARISH INTENTIONS**

**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: Paula Silha Ushers: Volunteers

**MONDAY, December 20th**

Advent Weekday

-8:30am Mass -†Bernice Hellwig (NO 5:30pm Mass)

**TUESDAY, December 21st**

St. Peter Canisius—First Day of Winter

-5:00pm Adoration  
-5:30pm Mass -†James Malin

**THURSDAY, December 23rd**

St. John of Kanty

-8:30am Mass -†Connie Goodreau

**FRIDAY, December 24th**

Christmas Eve

-3:30pm Children's Christmas Program  
-4:00pm Mass -†George Evelyn, Terry & Darryl Miller  
Lector: Bill Weber Ushers: Volunteers

**SATURDAY, December 25th**

Christmas Day

-8:00am Mass -†Clarence, Theresa, Pauline & Patty Gotz  
Lector: Sally Miller Ushers: Volunteers  
-4:00pm NO MASS

**SUNDAY, December 26th**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

**PARISH CALENDAR**

- **December 20 ~ Daily Mass at 8:30 AM—NO 5:30pm Mass this Day** (Fr. Biju helping with confessions at the Cathedral).  
~All day confessions the Cathedral in La Crosse 9 AM - 6 PM
- **December 22 ~ Christmas Party, 6:00 PM** for all students and parents.
- **December 24~Children's Christmas Program 3:30pm 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 27 ~ NO daily Mass**
- **December 29 ~ No RE Classes, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**
- **December 30 ~ Pastoral Council Meeting 7 PM**
- **December 31 ~ Fr. Biju's Anniversary of Ordination**
- **January 5 ~ RE Class (Gr 1-5, 6-6:55 PM; Gr 6-10, 7:00-8:15 PM)**
- **January 12 to February 7 ~ Fr. Biju on Vacation in India visiting family**
- **January 12 to February 7 ~ No weekday Mass**  
Weekend Mass as scheduled

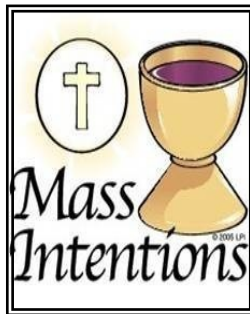
**Confessions**

December 22, 2021 at St. Peter Parish from 6 PM until no people present or First Sat. after Mass or by appointment (contact Fr. Biju directly to set up a time).



**Mass Intentions 2022**

We have openings for **weekday** intentions: Mar 21, Apr 4, 18, & 28. May 2, 5, 9, 16, 19, 23, & 30. 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. Mass Intentions envelopes are 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**

	12/17/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Received		\$15,530.00	\$13,325.00
Target Amount		\$21,850.00	\$21,850.00
<b>Under Target</b>		<b>(\$6,320.00)</b>	<b>(\$8,525.00)</b>
Number of families contributing: 37			
Percent goal pledged: 71.08%/Received: 60.98%			

**GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD**

Last Week in Giving—182 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(46):	\$4,514.00
Offertory:	\$122.00
Christmas Flowers(11):	\$400.00
Funeral Choir:	\$75.00
Christmas Env.(2):	\$540.00
Retirement Fund for Rel(9):	\$375.00
Gun Raffle Ticket Sales:	\$780.00
Immac. Concep. Offertory:	\$128.00
Immac. Concep. Env (17):	\$530.00

**Thank You!**



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wow, we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. On this last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before he was born. The Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child.

Mary and Elizabeth, both were totally overtaken by God's actions in their lives. For one person, pregnancy ends the scourge of barrenness while the other concludes the fulfillment of promise of savior. They sang of the Lord who loves, forgives, redeems, and renews them, and acts in tangible ways to fulfill the divine promise.

Mary's faith and her openness to God allowed Him to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. The visitation, which is the focus of today's Gospel, expresses joy at the recognition of Jesus. As Elizabeth tells, "For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

We must always be looking for signs of God's presence in our lives. We can see Him in everyday moments if we just open ourselves to the possibility. I wish you grace filled Advent journey as we long to hear those words, "Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you," we are invited this week to behold the God-made-flesh. Let our Advent, rekindle in us our own deep desire for God: to hear, see, and touch Him.

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju



**The Season of Thoughtful Reflection and Repentance**

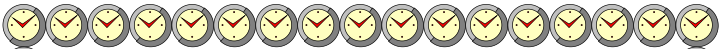
Parish Christmas Wish Items

With the return of full Mass, we hope to see more children serving again. In doing so, we want to have a safe procession. It is our wish to purchase **new processional candle holders** that the children carry. The new holders have a clear glass globe surrounding the candle to avoid wax dripping onto the floor or the children. The new brass acolyte candle holders are \$169.95 each and we need 2 for a total of \$339.90. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the holders, place your contribution in an envelope marked "processional candle holders" and place in the collection basket, Thank you!

PARISH NEWS

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.



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.



February Friday Fun Night—Save the Date

Mark your calendars—February 25, 2022 for the big event from 6-10 pm

Cash Raffle

In addition to the gun we are also hosting a cash raffle and need your help. Each family is asked to help sell or purchase 24 cash raffle tickets. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. These tickets are in the back of church in an envelope by family name. Please pick yours up today.

Gun Raffle

Tickets are \$10 each 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 (only 500 will be sold, less than 50 tickets still available).

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.

All proceeds from the raffles will be used to help with buildings and grounds maintenance/repairs in the parish.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the event.

Religious Give Thanks-Retirement Fund for Religious

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious Collection. Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Fr. Biju to Visit Family Next Month

Fr. Biju will be returning to India to visit his family from January 12 through the first week of February 2022. Those days if anyone wish to be remembered in daily mass or prayed for let him know. If you have an intention, place it in an envelope marked "Fr Biju Masses" and drop it in the collection.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## KIDS CORNER



**Wed. Dec. 22nd**

### Religious 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.**



Luke 1.39-45

*Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?*

*Use the code to find out!*

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Answer: Blessed are you among women!



### 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)

## DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

### Televised Mass Schedule for Christmas

- Eau Claire, Channel 18, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- La Crosse, Channel 19, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Livestream from the Cathedral at Midnight on Christmas Eve (with Bishop Callahan), and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas morning [diolc.org/live](http://diolc.org/live).
- The Mass for Christmas is also available any time on the Diocesan Facebook page and website, [diolc.org](http://diolc.org).

### Bishop Callahan's Christmas Video Message

Bishop Callahan has recorded his Christmas video message for you at: <https://youtu.be/-FbheRLg4e!>

### 2022-2023 ACS ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEGINS SOON

On Monday, January 17, 2022, enrollment for the 2022-23 Aquinas Catholic Schools school year begins! If you are interested in exploring your options when it comes to education, we would be happy to show you what Aquinas has to offer. Current Aquinas families can also begin the re-enrollment process at that time. Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

**Please join us for our upcoming open house dates at Aquinas High School & Middle School:**

- AHS Open House: Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6pm
- AMS Open House: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6pm

### 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/yva/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life-2022/>

### Help those Devastated by Recent Tornadoes in Several States

Assist families and communities affected by the recent devastating tornadoes in Kentucky and at least 5 other states. Visit Catholic Charities' website- [CCLSE.org](http://CCLSE.org) -click on "Donate Today," and enter "tornado relief" and your gift amount in the "general donations" box.





# Advent

## “Getting Ready”

Advent is the time that we set aside for preparing our hearts before the annual celebrations of Christ’s birth on Christmas. The Incarnation – God becoming man – is the turning point of history. Our Heavenly Father loves us so deeply that He promised to send us a Savior after the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. And He kept His promise! The Son of God was born in Bethlehem in order to give His life for us on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven, so that we “may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10) Living life to the full means having a relationship with Jesus in prayer, growing in the light of truth that Christ revealed to us, and being united with Him in the Sacraments. This is no small matter, and of course, we want to take this time during Advent to prepare – “get ready” – to receive Christ anew this Christmas.

The priest’s vestments during Advent are purple, the color of penance and sacrifice. They are a constant reminder of our need to get ready – to be cleansed and purified. How does one go about preparing? Advent is a season for stepping back from our busy

lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God’s Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This can also include something like not having dessert occasionally, or turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. Or this can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices so that during this season of grace we might have an open, welcoming heart with room to receive Jesus.

We will be surprised how these long-held Catholic traditions of preparing allow us to see and understand truths that may be hidden from our “human eyes.” In the silence of prayer, the Lord will give us new insights, that we may see with “spiritual eyes” and understand better the wonder of the mystery of Jesus who is our Savior. As we remember His coming as the Christ Child in Bethlehem, and know He is with us in each present moment – He who is “Emmanuel, God with us” – we also look forward to His Second Coming in glory. Intentionally remembering – preparing, pondering, praying with our hearts – is essential

because unfortunately without this we are bound to forget. Be encouraged to ask for the grace of this “remembering” and you will have a truly blessed Christmas this year!

By Ann Lankford

Please cut out the following Scripture and place it on the refrigerator where you will be reminded often that you are preparing for the coming of the Christ Child.

**“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God with us” (Matthew 1:23).**



DIocese of LA CROSSE