

PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 31

~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ † Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky
 Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, January 1

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Ken Hess
 Lector: Gary Hess
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, January 2

~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Curtis Strittmater

TUESDAY, January 3

~ 5:00 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Peggy Arentz

THURSDAY, January 5

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Francis Schmidt

SATURDAY, January 7

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Paul Hundt
 ~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ † Larry Silha
 Lector:
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, January 8

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Donald Burns, Sr
 Lector:
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers



Confessions

First Saturday after Morning Mass or
 3:30—3:45 pm before 4:00 pm Mass
 or by appointment

Please contact Fr. Biju to set up a time.

MASS Intentions

Please contact the Parish office if you would like to schedule mass intentions.

Parish office phone #788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com.
 Also Mass Intentions envelopes are in the back of church.

PARISH CALENDAR

- **January 4** ~ Religious Education Class
- **January 7** ~ Anointing of the Sick after 8:30 am Mass
- **January 7** ~ Baptism of Arthur Mihalek
- **January 9** ~ 6:30 pm Informational meeting regarding the "Inspired by the Spirit" Campaign
 Everyone is welcome to attend!
- **January 11** ~ Religious Education Class
- **January 12** ~ 6:30 pm Finance Council Meeting
- **February 17** ~ Family Fun night

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Father Biju will be available for anointing of the sick after the first Saturday mass of each month. Please contact him directly if you or a family member would like to receive the sacrament.

Every Tuesday evening at 5:00 until mass at 5:30 pm



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—180 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes:	\$7,243.23
Offertory:	\$ 618.80
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 100.00
Religious Retire. fund:	\$ 20.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 100.00
Christmas:	\$5,245.00
Votive candles:	\$ 84.00
Initial Offering:	\$ 2.00

Thank You!

Thank you Money Counters!

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.

FROM THE PASTOR



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God



* * * * *

Happy New Year to all! Today, on New Year’s Day, we celebrate the second of the three solemnities of the Christmas season: the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mary’s divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God’s invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: “Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary’s role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God’s redemptive plan. Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

The precise title “Mother of God” goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form Theotokos (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church’s teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin Theotokos. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: “Praised be the Theotokos!” The tradition reaches to our own day.

It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary’s divine motherhood brings a further note of Christmas joy. It is also a day of prayer for world peace: May, Mary who is the mother of the Prince of Peace bring peace to our families and the world through Jesus.

There is going to be a meeting regarding the Inspired by the Spirit Campaign on Monday January 9, 2023 at 6:30 at the St Joseph School Hall. This meeting will be with Jeff McSweeney who is a representative from the Lynch company which is helping the diocese with the appeal. He will be able to clarify any questions about this campaign. Its open to everyone. Your presence is recommended.

On 31st Dec 2002 I was ordained. I will be completing 20 years/ 240 months/1043 weeks 4 days/ 7,305 days/175,320 hours. Its been a journey of blessing. One third of my ministry was in United States and the rest in India. Thank you for being part of my journey to know God. Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy New year !!!

~ Live Jesus

Fr Biju MSFS



PARISH NEWS

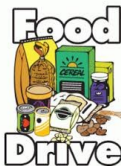
SAVE THE DATE — 2nd Annual Fundraiser!

Fun Night — Friday, February 17th

We will be having a gun raffle and cash raffle included in this fundraising event. Gun Raffle tickets are available for pick up for those who want to sell them. They can be picked up after mass (see parish council member) or by contacting Fr. Biju.

Cash raffle tickets are now available.

Please pick up your envelope in back of church.



Reminder for Food Donations:

Please bring any food donation to the back of church. These food items will be taken to a local food pantry to assist families in need.

Our Parish welcomes

Arthur Gregory Mihalek

who will be receiving the

Sacrament of Baptism on January 7th



DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

~BE A SPIRITUS MISSIONARY

Do you know a young adult who lives out their faith and is eager to share it with others? SPIRITUS Ministries is looking for Catholics, between 19-29, who want to grow in leadership, holiness and inspire the next generation of youth to live out their Catholic faith. As a SPIRITUS missionary, you'll live in community by gender, travel to schools and parishes throughout Wisconsin, and inspire 5,000+ youth in grades 2-12 through retreats. Missionaries receive one-on-one mentoring, spiritual direction, food, lodging, monthly allowance, health insurance, and a \$3,000* completion stipend. There is no fundraising required. For more info visit: spiritusministries.org/beamissionary Want a taste of Missionary life? Register for a [Come & See Weekend!](#) Email Sarah at recruiter@spiritusministries.org Or give us a call at (920) 722-8918 ext. 7 to learn more!

~A Minute with Jesus ~ Jesus came to earth as an infant, born of Mary Mary was prepared to be the Mother of our Savior; by God’s favor she was created “full of grace” and free from sin. The Savior – Jesus – was to be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Jesus will remain with us throughout our life as we receive Him in the Eucharist. Let’s pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, thank You for the gift of Mary, Your Mother, through whom the world received You as our Savior.

This week, read how this glorious news was revealed to the Shepherds in Luke 2: 8-20

~CALIX – For Help with Addiction from a Catholic Perspective Do you or a family member or friend need help with an addiction concern? Or, do you just need someone to talk with? You can reach out to a member of CALIX. CALIX (<https://www.calixsociety.org/>) is an association of Catholics in addiction and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program. You can make a confidential call to 612-383-8232 (Jim R.) or 651-587-4668 (Jim B.), for information on meetings and recovery support. You need not disclose your name.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont'd

~Marriage Enrichment and Parenting Resources

For Your Marriage Website – <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/>
This website from the USCCB helps couples at all stages of life to understand and live God's plan for happy, holy marriages.

Teaching the Way of Love - <https://twl4parents.com/>
This website is full of encouragement and tips for parents to continue to be the primary educators of their children.

~Help Catholic Charities love our Neighbors in Need

Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbors in need in so many ways, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst, to giving hope and support to moms before and after birth, to working with married couples looking to adopt, to assisting the poor and people with disabilities. Find out more, and how you can help, at <https://cclse.org/>

~GIVEN Retreat - Sat., Jan. 28, 2023 (8:30 am—3:00 pm)—Boyd, WI

GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating or engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, and adoration, prayer and reconciliation.

GIVEN retreats help couples foster a deeper relationship that is rooted in Jesus Christ and His Church. Speakers will be Ted and Julie Imgrund and Michael and Jacqueline VanHemmert. Cost: \$45 per couple

For more information, contact Chris Rogers at crogers@dioc.org

Register here: GIVEN Retreat for Couples - Boyd

<https://argentasoftware.com/interfaces/49870/>



**Relationship with GOD
More than just SUNDAY**

Living the Joy of the Holy Family

The Sunday following Christmas celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. We should first acknowledge that the Holy Family experienced tremendous challenges, including the perplexing mystery of the virgin birth, the flight from their homeland to protect the infant Jesus from murder by King Herod, and panic over losing Jesus in the Temple when He was just twelve. And yet they lived with joy as they trusted our Heavenly Father to bring them safely through it all.

Let's take a closer look at how our families can live the joy of the Holy Family. What does it mean to be "holy"? Contrary to what some expect, being holy does not mean to stop having fun or walking around with a stoic expression. Being holy, simply put, means that you want to become the family that God intended, to be the "best version" by living with greater love and joy. How can your family become holy?

Let's start with a few practical ideas from the Pope. He asks parents to "waste time with their children." His invitation stresses the importance of just being together and developing relationships which bring life to the family. He also provides vivid imagery in his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel" by encouraging us not to be "sourpusses" but, instead, to radiate joy by smiling more and frowning less. It is tempting to dismiss this as too simple. Yet, these challenges help a family increase in holiness. Pope Francis also suggests that a family who desires to be holy will use three words often in their everyday life: 'Please', 'Thank you', and 'Sorry'. These words are essential! All too often, the impact and significance of these simple words are overlooked. Yet, these simple words of civility clearly recognize each family member's basic human dignity and helps each to grow in love and holiness.

ACTIVITY CORNER

God's Mother and Our Mother

Today, on the very first day of the new year, we celebrate the feast of the greatest saint in Heaven! Before He even made the world, God knew that He would make Mary to be His mother. When the time came that Jesus should come into the world He sent His angel Gabriel to tell Mary that God wanted her to be His mother. Because Mary was obedient and loved God she said "Yes" to Him.



God gives us mothers to look after us and feed and teach us. He chose Mary, who was the most perfect woman, to look after His Son, Jesus. She loved Him with all her heart and took the best care of Him that any mother ever did for her children.

When Jesus was dying on the cross He gave His mother to us. So now we have His holy mother Mary for our mother in Heaven! Today we thank God for His holy mother. Can you remember to pray to Mary today and every day this year? She loves us because she is our mother and wants to help us every day!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- 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.
- Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or
email sjrp2601@gmail.com