

PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 10

~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ † George and Evelyn Miller
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 11

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

MONDAY, December 12

~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky

TUESDAY, December 13

~ 5:00 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Ken Hess

THURSDAY, December 15

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Jennifer Clements

SATURDAY, December 17

~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ Our Parish
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 18

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Angeline Dickman
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 14** ~ Religious Education class
- **December 14** ~ 6:00 pm Confessions at St. Peter's Middle Ridge
- **December 19** ~9:00 am-6:00 pm Confessions at Cathedral in La Crosse
- **December 21** ~ Religious Education Christmas party 6:00 pm Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
- **December 24** ~ *Christmas Eve*
 ~ 4:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph Parish
 ~ 8:00 pm Mass at St Peter's/Middle Ridge
- **December 25** ~ *Christmas Day*
 ~ 8:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph Parish
 ~ 10:00 am Mass at St Peter's/Middle Ridge



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—182 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(30):	\$2,110.00
Offertory:	\$ 535.00
All Saints Day env:	\$ 10.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 235.00
Religious Retire. fund:	\$ 50.00
Christmas env:	\$ 350.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 400.00

Thank You!

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.

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.

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



“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.”

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week’s Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person of John the Baptist. John’s preaching was persuasive as many repented of sin and believed in the coming of Messiah. Many were baptized by John in the wilderness, too. John received the honor of being the only prophet who was able to point his finger to Messiah in the flesh, Jesus Christ. Within the narrative of Matthew, John the Baptists helps establish the identity of Jesus. But in today’s gospel John is not so sure. He sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. To express his doubt and his disappointment he sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. May the lord help us with graces to acknowledge and accept him as our savior.

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. For those planning on celebrating the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas, I remind you to be sure to note the times when confessions will be offered at both the churches and at the cathedral.

Tomorrow, December 12, we 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. Happy feast to everyone.

In 1988, the Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders. There will be a second collection after communion at Masses today 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.

May God bless you and Live Jesus,

Fr Biju MSFS

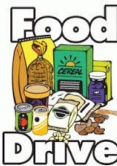


PARISH NEWS

Fun Night Fundraiser—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 will be distributed to all parish families after Christmas.



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.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

Diocesan Annual Appeal for 2022-2023

As you know, the fall is traditionally the time of year when we conduct our Diocesan Annual Appeal to support the wonderful ministries of our Diocese. This year will be slightly different. The Annual Appeal for the 2022-2023 year has been incorporated into the *Inspired by the Spirit* Campaign. This comprehensive, all-parish campaign effort began in parishes this past spring and is being conducted throughout this fall and through the first half of 2023. It will not only incorporate and support the ministries through the Diocesan Annual Appeal but will also provide an opportunity for every parish in the Diocese to raise funds for their own parish needs, the Diocesan Center, and the new Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin.

Our parish is assigned to the second block of the campaign timeline. You will be hearing more details in the coming months. Please begin to pray about your commitment to this campaign and know that we will be inviting you to participate after the New Year. While the *Inspired by the Spirit* campaign will include this year’s Diocesan Annual Appeal, it will benefit our own parish and the larger Church of La Crosse for years to come.

Celebrating a 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2023?



We are looking for couples who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2023. Please leave a message at the Parish office (608) 788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com with your name and wedding date!

~**Eucharistic Revival:** A Minute with Jesus for the third week of Advent Does Jesus understand everything about me? Jesus knows exactly what you are feeling and understands. Where you are, Jesus has been; He shares every joy and every pain with you. Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: If you have something painful in your heart, speak with Jesus about it and give it to Him. This week, read from Scripture how the angel appears to Joseph and guides him to take his wife Mary into his home in Matthew 1:18-25. Note: Mary and Joseph were married in the Jewish tradition, which is referred to as being betrothed. There are 2 parts to betrothal: marriage and then, after one year, sharing a common home.

~Looking for Fresh Christmas Trees?

Available Hwy 33 east of LaCrosse Call and leave a message at 608-667-5805 for further details.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont'd

~RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

This weekend we support the aging religious by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for years for small stipends. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps pay for medications, nursing care and other needs for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

~Parish Advent Series

Parishioners are invited to participate in the Advents Series that will help to prepare for Christmas. The following are the titles and presenters of these recordings. The recordings are 40 - 45 minutes, with discussion questions provided. People may be part of an organized group at the parish or watch virtually from home. The videos are available here: diolc.org/catechesis

- 3rd week of Advent: Offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father with Msgr. Richard Gilles
- 4th week of Advent: "Source and Summit" of the Church's Life with Father Steven Weller

~SILENT NIGHT: AN ADVENT SINGING BOWLS EXPERIENCE (IN-PERSON) DECEMBER 17 • Saturday, 6-7:30 pm

Presenters: Tom Roberts and Viterbo University's 9th Street Singers choral ensemble Freewill offering. Registration deadline: December 16 Please join us for an evening of Taize-style prayer paired with the deeply meditative sounds of Tibetan singing bowls and beautiful choir music and hymns for the season. This is a unique opportunity to reflect on your spiritual journey in a gathered community that shares varied faith traditions. Please gather at San Damiano Chapel located on the campus of Viterbo University for this event. Limited space is available, so advance registration is required.

~Annual Live Nativity Tour with Casa Hogar

December 15 at 7 pm. During Advent, the Casa Hogar family has the tradition of creating nativity scenes in each family's apartment, the cafeteria and the church—10 nativity scenes in all. The amount of time and work put into making the fields, rivers, shepherds, kings, animals, stables, and Holy Families is amazing. Msgr. Joseph Hirsch and the children of Casa Hogar will guide you from family to family to enjoy each nativity scene. For Zoom link go to homeajpm.org/events Facebook link: <https://fb.me/e/44jCGGbk0>

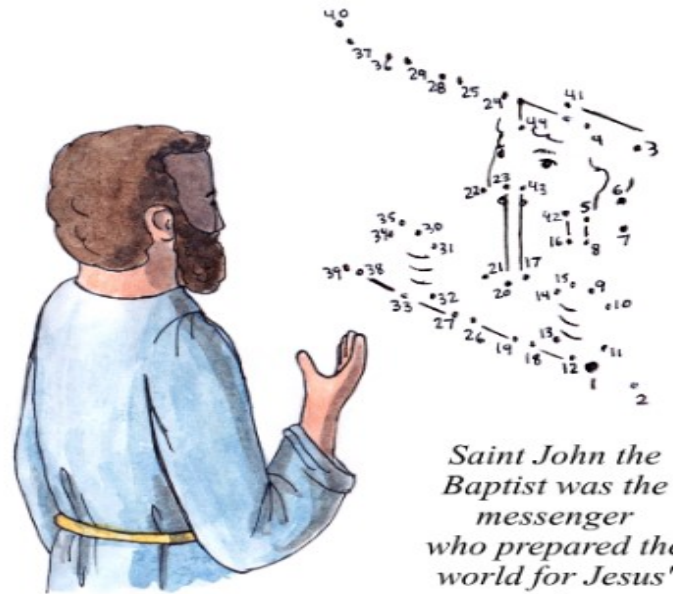
ACTIVITY CORNER

Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.



Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE -
December 12th**

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe, that in your apparitions on Mount Tepeyac you promised to show pity and compassion to all who, loving and trusting you, seek your help and protection. Accordingly, listen now to our supplications and grant us consolation and relief. We are full of hope that, relying on your help, nothing can trouble or affect us. As you have remained with us through your admirable image, so now obtain for us the graces we need. Amen



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