

PARISH INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, December 19

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Rick Schermerhorn

TUESDAY, December 20

~ 5:00 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Jim Malin

THURSDAY, December 22

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Karen Nordstrom

SATURDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
 ~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ † Jim Malin
 Lector: Bill Weber
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 25 Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
 ~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Clarence, Theresa,
 Pauline, and Patty Gotz
 Lector: Jim Weber
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

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.

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 19** ~ 8:30 am mass (instead of 5:30 pm)
- **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
- **December 28** ~ No Religious Education class
- **January 1**~ Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- **January 4** ~ Religious Education Class

Every Tuesday evening 5:00 mass at pm



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT at until 5:30



GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Last Week in Giving—180 envelope holders



Adult Envelopes(30):	\$2,342.00
Offertory:	\$ 132.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 427.50
Religious Retire. fund:	\$ 473.00
Christmas env:	\$ 110.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 125.00

Thank You!

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

PARISH NEWS



Fourth Sunday of Advent

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As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return.

In our first reading, the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah, that he himself will provide the sign: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and his name will be Emmanuel which means, "God with us." What great love and patience our heavenly Father has shown his people throughout all ages!

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and "takes Mary into his home." Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace — these are truly the best Christmas gifts we could receive.



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.

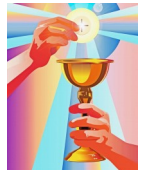
DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

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: 4th week of Advent

Jesus loves each one of us so much that He gives Himself to us in Holy Communion at Mass. We receive Jesus Himself. When the priest prays the words of Jesus over the bread and wine at Mass, they are no longer bread and wine but the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus gives Himself to us because He wants to stay with each one of us always.



Let's pray this right now and every day this week:
Jesus, thank You that You desire to stay with us always.
This week, read Luke 2: 1-7

~Retirement Fund for Religious– Thank you!

A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." God bless you for donating to last week's second collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

~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: dioc.org/catechesis
● 4th week of Advent: "Source and Summit" of the Church's Life with Father Steven Weller



*O come, O come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel*

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont'd

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.

~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 cclse.org.

~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 (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.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Why pray the Examination of Conscience and the Act of Contrition?

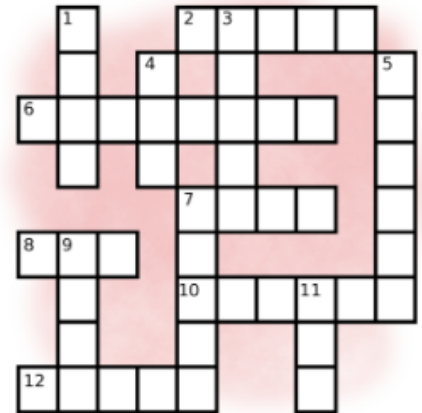
- ~To live a more reflective life and recognize God's presence with you throughout the day
- ~To acknowledge that you have sinned but come to a realization that Jesus died on the Cross for your sins. God loves you very much and is always ready to forgive you.
- ~To understand that Jesus wants to forgive you and will do so with great love
- ~To become more aware of how your sins offend Jesus, others and yourself
- ~To be truly sorry with all of your heart for your sins and truly want, with the help of God's grace, not to sin again
- ~ To not be afraid and to understand that you can tell Jesus anything

ACTIVITY CORNER

Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

- HOUSE
- VIRGIN
- HIGH
- SHEOL
- CHILD
- THE
- DAVID
- HEAVEN
- NAME
- DEEP
- IMMANUEL
- GOD
- MAN



___ 8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your ___ 11D; let it be ___ 7A as ___ 2A or ___ 9D as ___ 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O ___ 3D of ___ 7D! Is it too little for you to weary ___ 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the ___ 10A shall be with ___ 12A, and bear a son, and shall ___ 1D him ___ 6A.



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