

PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 3

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Ken Hess
 ~ 4:00 pm Mass ~ † John, Bernice, Steve, and Sam Mashak

Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 4

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Joe Murphy

Lector: Jim Weber
 Servers: Volunteers
 Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, December 5

~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Rob Dowiasch

TUESDAY, December 6

~ 5:00 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~ 5:30 pm Mass ~ † Marvin Trinkes

WEDNESDAY, December 7

~ 6:00 pm Mass ~ † Bill Patterson

THURSDAY, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

~ 8:30 am Mass ~ † Alois Rybicki, Jr.
 Lector: Donna Clements

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

PARISH CALENDAR

- **December 3** ~ 8:30 am Mass
 (after Mass Fr. Biju available for anointing of the sick)
- **December 7** ~ Vigil Mass for *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
6:00 pm Mass at St Joseph Parish
 Religious Education class is to attend mass
 7:30 pm Mass at St. Peters Parish-Middle Ridge
- **December 8** ~ 8:30 am Mass *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (Holy day of Obligation)
- **December 14** ~ Religious Education class
- **December 19** ~9:00am-6:00pm Confessions at Cathedral
- **December 21** ~ Religious Education Christmas party
 6:00 pm Confessions at St. Joseph Parish

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.



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): \$1,914.00
- Offertory: \$ 349.00
- Christmas Flowers: \$ 260.00

Thank
 You!



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



Stewardship Reflection

Second Sunday of Advent Season



On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love. This is the essence of Christian hospitality, a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us.

Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." So there is a definite connection between repentance and hospitality.

So how can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives?

- First, we can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers. Thanking God for the times, we said "yes" to Him and asked forgiveness for the times we chose our own will.
- Second, we can go to Confession this Advent.
- Third, we can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace.

Preparing our hearts for Jesus!



"Immaculate Conception"

There's a popular misunderstanding that this feast refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It does not! Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived in the womb of her mother.

This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father Joachim and a human mother Anne.) But it was special and unique in another way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (no.490) explains it this way: "To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

May God bless you

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.

PCCW News:

2022-2023 dues are \$13.00 for the year. All women of the parish are members. You can put your dues payment in the collection basket or mail to the office in an envelope marked "PCCW Dues" Thank you

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.

~**Holy Trinity Cookie Walk Saturday, December 10 from 8:00-Noon** in Leo Hall, 13th and Park St, La Crosse. Large assortment of Fancy Cookies sold by the pound, Baked Goods, Chances on Holiday Baskets and a Quilt Saturday, December 3rd starting at 8:00 am - Craft Show

~**Saturday, December 10th:** Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale at the Parish Hall located at 2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Homemade cookies will be sold by the pound, plus homemade Candies, Breads, Pies, Handcrafted Items and Scrip Gift Cards available for sale. Serving Continental Breakfast and Lunch (homemade soup and chili). Raffles and hourly Door Prizes.

~**Eucharistic Revival:** A Minute with Jesus for Dec. 4th - the second week of Advent—Getting to know Jesus better

We get to know Jesus better by being with Him "in person." We do that at Sunday Mass. At Mass, Jesus is present personally and truly in the Holy Eucharist. He meets us there. He wants to listen to us, as well as speak to us through the Scripture readings and prayers of the Mass. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, give me the desire to read the Bible a few minutes each day. This week, read how Mary responds to the words of the angel about her cousin Elizabeth by going to serve her in Luke 1:39-56.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont'd

~Retirement Fund for Religious Elderly

Catholic sister, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. All of us, in some way or another, have benefitted from their many years of service in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes. Your gift to the national Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medication, nursing care, and more. Envelopes are provided for this collection from your envelope box or to give to those who have given a lifetime. May God reward you.

~The Life of Christ This movie will be showing at the following locations. Join us and bring your family and friends along. Free popcorn and soda are provided. Feel free to bring a bag of candy to share.

- Mon., Dec. 5 9-Noon Murphy Hall St. James
- Tues., Dec. 6 6-9:00pm Parish Hall St. Patrick
- Wed., Dec. 7 1:00-4:00pm Holy Trinity Leo Hall
- Thurs., Dec. 8 9-Noon Parish Hall of St. Patrick
- Fri., Dec. 11 2-5:00 Blessed Sacrament

~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

- **2nd week of Advent:** [Receiving and Adoring Jesus - Communion and Thanksgiving](#) with Fr. Justin Kizewski. Jesus gives us the Gift of Himself on Christmas. Jesus continues to give us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food; He is literally the Bread of Life – supernatural bread that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.
- **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 at the door
Registration deadline: December 16

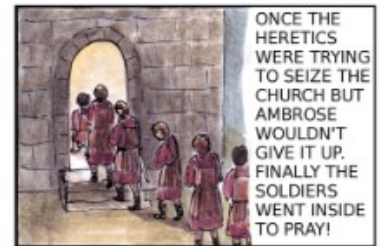
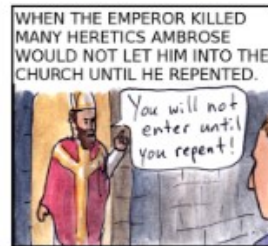
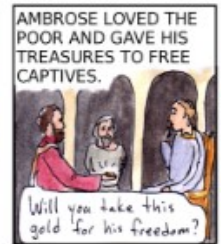
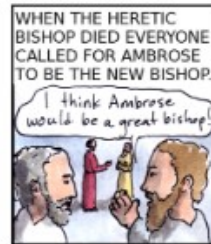
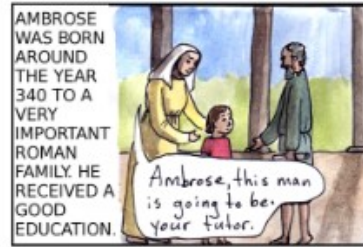
Advent is a time of hopeful waiting. It is a season to anticipate the promise of the Holy One coming to dwell with us. This special evening is a collaboration between the Franciscan Spirituality Center and Viterbo University Campus Ministry. Please join us for an evening of Taize-style prayer paired 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.

Note: We will gather at San Damiano Chapel located on the campus of Viterbo University for this event. Limited space is available, so advance registration is required.



ACTIVITY CORNER

**SAINT AMBROSE
DECEMBER 7**



SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?



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