



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33 • La Crosse • WI 54601

December 10, 2023—Second Sunday of Advent

PASTOR

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS
715-495-2338
bchennala@diolclergy.org

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00 pm
Sunday.....8:30 am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

First Saturday Mass.....8:30 am
Monday5:30 pm
Tuesday.....Adoration.....5:00 pm
 Mass.....5:30 pm
Thursday.....8:30 am

CONFESSIONS

-First Saturday after 8:30 am Mass
-3:30—3:45 pm (before Saturday Mass) or by appointment

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- Joining the Parish
- Weddings or Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick
(also call Fr. Biju cell phone)
- If you are home-bound and would like to be visited

PARISH OFFICE

Barb Mikshowsky.....608-788-1646
Bulletin deadline:Wednesday
sjrp2601@gmail.com
Office hours vary, call or email with questions

Fr Biju also serves

St. Peter's Parish, Middle Ridge
(608) 452-4680

Adoration: Wednesday...7:30-9:00 PM

Weekend Mass: Saturday.....8:00 PM

Sunday.....10:00 AM

Weekday Mass: Wednesday.....8:00 AM

Friday.....8:00 AM



**“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”**

Mark 1:3

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dave Brown-Cemetery Rep
Teresa Brown,
Lori Clements -PCCW Rep
Stan Clements
Ann Degenhardt
Terry Dickman-Finance
 Council Rep
Bob Kotek
Bill Weber-Secretary
Stacy Burns-CRE

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Mary Jo Hess-Secretary
Terry Dickman
Dave Brown-(Bldg & Grnds)
 and Cemetery Rep
Barb Braun
Dan Steiger

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Coordinator:
Stacy Burns

*‘Thank you
for your
time and
talent to
support our
parish.*

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Lori Clements-President
Mary Jo Hess-Treasurer
Jill Murphy-Secretary
Polly Hilby-Funeral Prep

Cemetery Sexton Building & Grounds

Dave Brown 608-792-1006
dbrown039@centurytel.net
Rick Meyer

MUSIC

Stacy Burns, Coordinator
608-769-8828
jsburns0093@gmail.com

Accompanist

Leland Gregorich
LuAnne Gregorich
Mary Beth Smith

Sacristan:

Sally Miller

“Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.” John 12:26

~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, December 9th

~ 4:00 pm—† Leona Pittman (J&KS)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 10th

~ 8:30 am—† Joyce Clements (L&DC)
 Lector: Donna Clements
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, December 11th

~ 5:30 pm—† Shirley Servais (JD)

TUESDAY, December 12th

~ 5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~ 5:30 pm—† Madonna Bahr (Leis family)

THURSDAY, December 14th

~ 8:30 am—† Jennifer Clements (MB)

SATURDAY, December 16th

~ 4:00 pm—† Kenneth & Lois Davis (J&SD)
 Lector: Teresa Brown
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 17th

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

Contributions for the past week

Adult Envelopes(28) :	\$ 1,991.00
Plate collection:	\$ 337.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 10.00
Christmas(2):	\$ 60.00
Christmas flowers(9):	\$ 265.00
Total:	\$2,663.00

	2023-24 Goal:	\$21,915.00
	Pledged:	\$7,280.00
	Received:	\$6,965.00
	Remaining Amount Due:	\$14,950.00

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 13** 6:00 pm Confessions—until all are heard
- **December 18** 9:00-6:00 pm Confessions at Cathedral
- **December 20** 6-8:00 pm Religious Educ Christmas party
- **December 23 & 24** — Fourth Sunday of Advent regular mass schedule (Sat-4:00pm; Sun-8:30am)

Christmas mass schedule

- **December 24** - 4:00 pm St. Joseph Parish
8:00 pm—St. Peters —Middle Ridge
- **December 25** - 8:30 am St. Joseph Parish
10:00 am—St. Peters—Middle Ridge



~ ENHANCE YOUR FAITH ~

* **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tuesday evenings at 5:00 pm until 5:30 pm Mass

~ 8 Ways to Pray During Eucharistic Adoration ~

- Read Spiritual Books
 - Ask for Intercession
 - Meditate
 - Offer a Holy Hour
 - Write a Prayer Journal
 - Read the Scriptures
 - Pray Spontaneously
 - Ask the Saints for help
- Spending time with our Dear Lord!!!*

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

* **Confession**

First Saturday of each month after 8:30 am 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 phone #788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com if you would like to schedule mass intentions. Or envelopes are in the back of church.

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Parish!

	5-year Goal:	\$140,000.00
	Pledged:	\$148,225.00
	Received:	\$53,627.50
Remaining Amount Due:		\$86,372.50

FROM THE PASTOR



Second Sunday of Advent



“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

Each year on the Second Sunday of Advent our Gospel reading presents us with the familiar figure of John the Baptist. In today’s Gospel, we hear the words from the first reading quoted. We see the ultimate fulfillment of those words in John the Baptist and the person of Jesus Christ. God’s full presence has come to dwell with His people through the Incarnation. John the Baptist we see him announcing the coming of the Messiah and helping people prepare their hearts to meet Him by “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” John was preparing the people to encounter the living God as He would walk among them and minister to them through His preaching and healing.

As we enter the second week of the season of Advent, we are going to be caught up in preparations for Christmas and all the celebrations surrounding that Holy Day. Since this year’s Advent is the shortest in many years (only three weeks instead of the usual four), it will make us feel very rushed and even totally unprepared as Christmas suddenly comes upon us. This is true not only about all the external preparations (decorations, shopping, sending greetings, gift buying and wrapping, etc.) but also about our spiritual preparations. So, ask ourselves how do I prepare myself?

Just like in the Gospel, the first step is repentance of our sins so we can receive God’s forgiveness. John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan. A sign of conversion. Take the opportunity this Advent to heed the call of today’s readings to repentance by visiting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God is waiting there to offer you, His forgiveness.

This week we have a collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Have a Blessed Advent!

Live Jesus ~ Fr Biju MSFS



~ PARISH NEWS ~

Meat Raffle Fundraiser



The Parish Pastoral Council will be conducting a Meat Raffle in December.

Prizes: 1—\$100.00 meat basket and 2 smaller meat/meal baskets. \$5.00 tickets will be sold after mass on December 9th, 10th, 16th & 17th. Drawing will be on Sunday, December 17th(do not need to be present)

PCCW Christmas Party

All women of the parish are welcome to attend!



**Sunday, December 10th
at The Ridge**

Social 5:30 pm ~ Dinner 6:00 pm
Full menu, Dutch treat.

\$\$\$ **2023-2024 PCCW Dues are \$13.00** \$\$\$

**All women of the parish are members of PCCW.
Dues can be mailed to rectory or put in collection basket in an envelope marked “PCCW”. Thank you**



~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

~A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival

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 two parts to betrothal: marriage and, after one year, sharing a common home.

~Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe—December 12th

Nearly 500 years ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico. The Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th. All are invited to celebrate at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in La Crosse. The day includes a Bilingual Mass offered by Cardinal Burke. Learn more at <https://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/events/solemnity-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe>

~Retirement Fund for Religious

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously. There are extra envelopes at the entrances.

~ DIOCESAN NEWS(cont.)~

~800 Year Anniversary of the Nativity

Immerse Yourself in the Nativity Story through the following events:
In 1223, wanting to emphasize the humble circumstances of Jesus's birth and to inspire the local people to more deeply appreciate the Christmas story, St. Francis set up a live Nativity scene in a cave in the quaint Italian village of Greccio. The scene, also called a crèche, included live animals and a hay-filled manger to recreate the birth of Jesus as described in the Gospels. Please join us in honoring this timeless legacy:

The Greccio Experience: A Display of Nativity Scenes

Nov. 29 - Dec. 17, 2023 Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Sundays: 1 - 5 p.m. CT (use parking lot entrance)

San Damiano Chapel, 900 Viterbo Drive, La Crosse
Crèches (Nativity scenes) from around the world will be on display for self-guided tours.

Community Mural: "For Unto Us a Child is Born"

Dec. 4 - 15, 2023 Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT | Mondays and Thursdays: 5 - 7 p.m. CT Franciscan Spirituality Center,
All are welcome to stop by the Franciscan Spirituality Center to take part in this 12-by-5 foot community mural paint-by-number experience. Painters of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate. No registration is required and all supplies will be provided.

Baby Item Drive

Dec. 4 - 21, 2023 Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT
As we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the crèche and contemplate the humble beginnings of Baby Jesus, let's extend our hands to the infants of today. Join our baby item drive to honor this special occasion. Your contributions will echo the love and care shown to the holy infant by benefiting Centro Latino, Family & Children's Center, Hope Restores and The Parenting Place.

The Nativity Experience

Dec. 16, 2023 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CT Franciscan Spirituality Center,
Discover the magic of the Christmas story through a hands-on approach to the Nativity scene. We will explore this story and our own stories connected to the symbols of the biblical scene through reflection, discussion, art and a tour of the Nativity scenes on display at Viterbo University's San Damiano Chapel. Visit fscen.org for more information and to register by Dec. 11.

FOLLOW fspa.org/centenary FOR DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

A	Z	I	O	N	B	O	S	O	M	T	H
R	T	E	S	O	E	L	M	L	O	R	D
M	I	G	H	T	H	A	E	R	U	S	J
S	D	R	E	C	O	M	P	E	N	S	E
S	I	S	P	I	L	B	S	W	T	F	R
T	N	A	H	H	D	S	A	A	L	U	
R	G	G	E	N	T	L	Y	R	I	O	S
E	S	A	R	I	F	E	E	D	N	C	A
N	S	T	D	C	C	A	R	R	Y	K	L
G	O	H	M	J	U	D	A	H	I	N	E
T	B	E	F	O	R	E	H	I	G	H	M
H	G	R	U	L	E	S	Y	O	U	N	G



Find the words in CAPITALS in today's first reading in the puzzle. Then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end!

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

Prayer for Second Advent

*Comforting God, You have touched my heart and told me not to fear.
Thank you for offering me your gentle love.
You speak tender words to the darkness in my heart and offer gentle care in warm arms outstretched to welcome me home.
You know me so well, and I feel my heart rise in your familiar presence.
There is a flicker of hope.
Finally I will let my life be touched by the strength of your courage and I will rejoice in the news that my Saviour is near.
Amen.*

ALWAYS pray and NEVER give up!

With trust in God's goodness, let us offer our prayers

- For those who are sick or suffering in any way, may the healing and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ come upon them and given them comfort and peace.
- For a greater respect for life throughout the world, from conception through natural death.
- For the people of Israel and Gaza whose lives have been affected by the acts of war.
- For parents in this faith community, the first teachers of the faith, may the Spirit guide their efforts in instructing their children.
- For the elderly who are homebound or unvisited, may the Lord fill them with his presence and comfort them with friendship.
- The intentions listed in our parish book of prayer.

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email Sjrp2601@gmail.com