



~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

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

MONDAY, December 18th

~ 8:30 am—† Bill Patterson (SP)

TUESDAY, December 19th

~ 5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
 ~ 5:30 pm —† Alice Silha (JD)

THURSDAY, December 21st

~ 8:30 am—† Jim Malin (M&LM))

SATURDAY, December 23rd

~ 4:00 pm—† Karen Williams (RK&family)  
 Lector: Kathy Leis  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 24th

~ 8:30 am— Our Parish Family  
 Lector: Jim Weber  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 24th—Christmas Eve

~ 4:00 pm—† George & Evelyn, Darryl, and Terry  
 Lector: Bill Weber Miller (T&MP)  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, December 25th—Christmas Day

~ 8:30 am—† Robert & Alice, Larry, Bill, and Patty  
 Lector: Donna Clements Silha (JD)  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**Contributions for the past week**

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes(33) :     | \$ 6,917.00       |
| Plate collection:         | \$ 167.00         |
| Immaculate Conception:    | \$ 345.00         |
| Retirement for religious: | \$ 492.00         |
| Christmas flowers(3):     | \$ 95.00          |
| Votive candles:           | \$ 115.50         |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>\$8,131.50</b> |

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 18** 9:00-6:00 pm Confessions at Cathedral
- **December 20** 6-8:00 pm Religious Educ Christmas party
- **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
- **December 27**—No Religious Ed classes
- **January 1**—8:30 am Mass—*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

~ 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.

|  |                              |                    |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | 2023-24 Goal:                | \$21,915.00        |
|  | Pledged:                     | \$8,130.00         |
|  | Received:                    | \$7,535.00         |
|  | <b>Remaining Amount Due:</b> | <b>\$14,380.00</b> |

|                              |              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                              | 5-year Goal: | \$140,000.00       |
|                              | Pledged:     | \$148,225.00       |
|                              | Received:    | \$54,920.00        |
| <b>Remaining Amount Due:</b> |              | <b>\$85,080.00</b> |

FROM THE PASTOR



**Third Sunday of Advent**

“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light”.  
(John 1:8)

Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called “Gaudete” Sunday. “Gaudete” is Latin for “rejoice”. The rose-colored vestments and rose candle on our Advent wreath remind us that we are halfway through the Advent season. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John’s Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. Prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus’ existence with God since the beginning of time. In John’s Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world’s darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. When the Jewish authorities question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. He tells them “I am not the Christ.” John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus’ presence in our midst. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

Pope Francis turns 87 on this Sunday. Please keep him in your prayers. Pope Francis revealed that he will be buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome in a recent interview. He explained that he had decided on this because he said he has a “great devotion” and “a very great relation” to the revered Byzantine Icon of Our Lady, Protectress of the Roman People (“Salus Populi Romani”). Six of his predecessors are also interred in the basilica: Honorius III (1150-1227), Nicholas IV (1227-1292), Pius V (1504-1572), Sixtus V (1521-1590), Clement VIII (1536-1605) and Clement IX (1669- 1669).

*Wish you grace filled Gaudete Sunday!*

*Live Jesus ~ Fr Biju MSFS*



**3rd Sunday of Advent**

*“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means trust God; He will provide all you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the day.

“Give thanks in all circumstances” means thank God even in dire situations. Suffering helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

~ PARISH NEWS ~



**Meat Raffle Fundraiser**

Last chance to buy a ticket this weekend. Winner will be drawn after Sunday (Dec 17th) 8:30 am mass  
Prizes: 1—\$100.00 meat basket and 2 smaller meat/meal baskets.  
\$5.00 tickets will be sold after mass on December 16th & 17th.

**Religious Education:** Wednesday, Dec 20th we will host our Christmas Party for ALL students and teachers from 6 - 8 PM. Parents are also welcome to attend but please let me know so I can have enough Pizza there. Please call Stacy Burns (608)769-8828  
**CHRISTMAS EVE!** There will be **no pageant** this year but we would like to try to involve students in other ways. Mass is on Sunday, Dec 24th at 4 PM, the choir will be starting to sing around 3:30 PM.

**Religious Ed Students-PLEASE let Stacy know if you will be attending the Christmas Eve (4 pm) mass.**



~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

**~A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival**

Jesus wants to stay with us always.

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 for always wanting to stay with us. This week, read from Scripture about the birth of the Christ Child in Luke 2:1-7

**~Retirement Fund for Religious**

**Our religious women and men offer gratitude.**

A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious.

**~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.

*“My Soul rejoices in my God”*

~ DIOCESAN NEWS(cont.)~

**~What Are You Looking For?**

The first question that Jesus asks in John's Gospel is, "What are you looking for?" He is speaking to John's disciples as they follow after Him, desiring to know who Jesus is and what His mission is all about. After the disciples respond, Jesus gives them an instruction, "Come and you will see!" Whether we can hear it or not, that same question is being asked to you. What are YOU looking for? So often, we find ourselves searching, not knowing exactly where to go or what to do in life. We seek things that will hopefully fill the emptiness and longing that we have in our hearts, but nothing seems to satisfy them. The real answer to this can be found in Jesus' response as He invites each of us to follow after Him, to get to know Him, and to follow the path He has placed before us. For some men, that path is a very special invitation to walk in Jesus' footsteps as a priest. If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, please contact me at: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

**~Support Project Milk this Season of Thanksgiving & Advent**

Help the Diocesan Rural Life Committee spread hope and joy by contributing to Project Milk. Founded in 1984 to help feed the poor children of Casa Hogar in Peru, Project Milk provides whole milk powder to the orphanage and the surrounding community. Each year the Rural Life Committee seeks to raise enough money to ship 40,000 lbs. of milk powder at an approximate cost of \$80,000. One hundred percent of your monetary gift is used to feed these children and the poor. To give, visit <https://frjoesguild.org/donate/>, and select "Project Milk" as designation.

**~Amen App** The Amen app is the free Catholic prayer app that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture. You are welcome to register for this app from the Augustine Institute by clicking here: [www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/amen](http://www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/amen)



~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

**Who Will Lead You to God?**



Today's Gospel reading tells us about Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. At first people thought that he might be the saviour they were all waiting for, but he was very clear when he told them that he wasn't- there was one coming after him Who would be the truly great One.

Sometimes we hear about great or important people. We know about movie stars and singers and government leaders. Who are some important people you know of?



Do those people that you've thought about help to bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and give good example? Or do they lead people away from God by doing wrong things or making fun of God's truth?



We can know which people are really great by thinking about whether they lead us closer to God, like Saint John the Baptist did, or further away from Him. Which sort of people do you want to follow?



**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](mailto:Sjrp2601@gmail.com)