



~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, December 2nd

~ 8:30 am—† Randy Bahr (MB)  
 ~ 4:00 pm—† John, Bernice, Steve, and Sam Mashak  
 Lector: Jim Weber (J&SM)  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 3rd

~ 8:30 am—† Joe Murphy (B&DC)  
 Lector: Paula Silha  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, December 4th

~ No Mass

TUESDAY, December 5th

~ 5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
 ~ 5:30 pm —† John Thurk & Sara Rose Hougom(ST)

THURSDAY, December 7th

~ 8:30 am—† Jim Hesselberg (RH)

FRIDAY, December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 6:00pm—Charlie and Darlene Hundt's Anniversary

Lector: Donna Clements  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

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



**Contributions for the past week**

Adult Envelopes(36) :	\$ 2,178.30
Plate collection:	\$ 307.00
All Saints Day:	\$ 10.00
Votive candles:	\$ 125.50
Christmas flowers:	\$ 430.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,050.80</b>

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 4 (Monday)** - No mass
- **December 4**—6:00 pm Choir practice-Christmas masses
- **December 6**—Religious Education Classes
- **December 8**— 6:00 pm mass *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (Holy day of obligation)
- **December 13** 6:00 pm Confessions -Parish (+5 Rel ED)  
7:00 pm Confessions—Religious Educ
- **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 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 phone #788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com) if you would like to schedule mass intentions. Or 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



**First Sunday of Advent**

This week the universal church, marks the beginning of our church year with the season of Advent. It is a season of preparation. It is said “Advent has two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the solemnities of Christmas, in which the first coming of

the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of these minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s second coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight”

In the Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) Jesus exhorts us to take heed and watch, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. The watchful person is the one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment; and at the same time, it wards off the allure of the many vanities of the world.

There are many ways during Advent that we can prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating Jesus’ birth at Christmas. You may want to pray more, participate in the Mass during the week, have an Advent wreath or nativity scene as part of family traditions. The sacrament of penance is an important part of our Advent preparation for a worthy celebration of Christmas.

Advent calls us to “watch”, to be “alert” to the presence of God in the love of family and friends, to find the true meaning and purpose of our lives in moments of compassion, forgiveness, and generosity.

*May you have a blessed advent.*

*~ Live Jesus ~*

*Fr Biju MSFS*



**WE ARE THE DIOCESE**  
**DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL**  
2023-2024



**St. Joseph Parish’s Goal**

**\$21,915.00**

Recently, you should have received a letter regarding the Diocesan Annual Appeal. **Please prayerfully discern how you can contribute** to our shared mission to worship God, teach the Catholic faith and serve the needs of the human person.

~ PARISH NEWS ~

Heartfelt Sympathy and prayers to the family of

**Kay Roesler**

Kay passed away on Wednesday, Nov 29th

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Wednesday, December 6th at 11:30 am with visitation from 9:00 am until time of mass.



† *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord* †



**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 2nd, 3rd, 9th, & 10th. Drawing will be on Saturday, December 16th(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 ~

~The Eucharistic Revival is meant to stir a deeper love for the incredible Gift of our Eucharistic Lord. The Eucharist is Jesus! Let us grow in our understanding and love for this incredible Gift. How do we get to know Jesus better?

We get to know Jesus better by being with Him “in person.” We do that at Sunday Mass. At the Mass, Jesus is present personally and truly in the Holy Eucharist. He meets us there, and He wants to listen to and 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 the prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-3.

**“We desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit”**

~ DIOCESAN NEWS(cont.)~

**~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, WI. 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**

The annual collection in parishes for the national Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 9-10. Religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit significantly from this national collection. You can help. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend. There will be a second collection. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

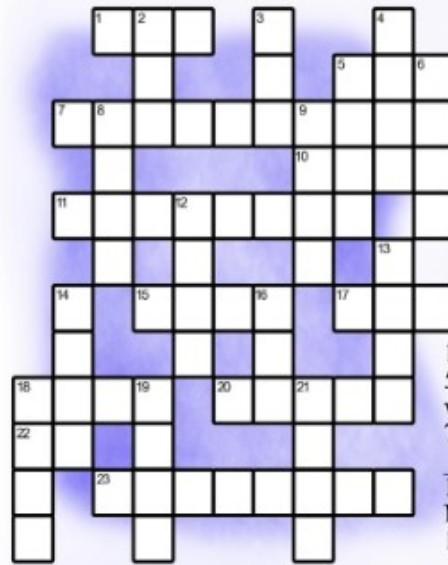
**~Pilgrimage for Life - January 17-21, 2024**

We are excited to offer the Pilgrimage for Life. We will be traveling by coach bus to Washington, DC to participate in the annual March for Life. This opportunity is for anyone ages 13 and up. The estimated cost is estimated to be \$400 per person. Parishes/Schools wishing to get a group to join us will have their participants complete the registration online by filling out all of the required forms and pay a non refundable deposit of \$100. The remainder of the fee will be paid to the parish/school. All information and registration link can be found at <https://dioc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life/>



~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

*Immaculate Conception Cross-Word*



Fill in the blanks to do this puzzle about Our Lady.

**ACROSS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was without sin.
5. God \_\_\_\_\_ that Mary would do His will.
7. She was the \_\_\_\_\_ Conception.
10. God watched \_\_\_\_\_ Mary.
11. God decided to \_\_\_\_\_ her from sin.
15. Mary's soul was not stained- it was \_\_\_\_\_.

17. God's Son became \_\_\_\_\_.
  18. He is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  20. When the time was \_\_\_\_\_, the angel came to Mary.
  22. She said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ the handmaid of the Lord.
  23. She had no \_\_\_\_\_ sin, so she was always ready to obey.
- DOWN:**
2. Whatever God wanted she would do for \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. She brought the Saviour into the world for \_\_\_\_\_ and me.
  4. She teaches us to love God and \_\_\_\_\_ sin, which offends Him.
  5. God had decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Mary from all sin.
  6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ God, how would you make your mother?
  8. The name of God's mother is \_\_\_\_\_.
  9. She did every single thing out of \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
  12. He had preserved her \_\_\_\_\_ from every stain of sin.
  13. Before she was even a little \_\_\_\_\_ she was chosen by God.
  14. We all have original sin because of \_\_\_\_\_ ...
  16. ... and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, who committed the first sins.
  18. They had chosen to disobey God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  19. Since then, every other person\* was \_\_\_\_\_ with original sin.
  21. Mary was the daughter of the holy saints, \_\_\_\_\_ and Joachim.



**The Season of Advent**

The word Advent means "comings," and it has a threefold character:

- 1: A season that directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
- 2: A season to prepare us for Christmas—Christ's first coming to us

3: A season in which we seek a deeper awareness of Jesus' coming to us, present in each moment of every day—as indeed, He is Emmanuel, "God with us"; He comes to us most especially in the Holy Eucharist.

The readings from the Sacred Scriptures during the four Sundays of Advent assist us in focusing our attention on these "comings." The First Sunday of Advent emphasizes Christ's Second Coming (which is also the ongoing theme for weekday Masses until Dec. 16). The Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent is Mark 13:33-37, and we see the theme of the Second Coming in Jesus' words: "Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come." His words call us to be watchful in prayer, ready for the Lord to come again. This is not meant to be about fear or worry, but we are to "wait in joyful hope." For this time of waiting, the Advent Wreath draws a family together around the lighting of one of the four candles, each representing a week of this season. It is a special time to pray a Rosary, or a decade of the Rosary, and focus on the Joyful Mysteries that call to mind the events of Christ's birth.



**Upcoming Dates of Community Events:**

- December 9 (9:00 am): Town of Greenfield Town Hall  
-St. Joseph Ridge Holiday Craft Show
- December 9 (8:00 until gone): Holy Trinity  
-Cookie Walk and Craft Sale
- December 9 (7:30-1:00): Mary Mother of the Church  
-Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

**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)