

~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, December 30th

~ 4:00 pm—† Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky (M&CM)
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, December 31st *Feast of the Holy Family*

~ 8:30 am— † Leo & Shirley Servais (W&JG)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, January 1st—*Solemnity of Mary*

~ 8:30 am—† Stanley and Steve Hundt (S&SM)
 Lector: Sally Miller
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

TUESDAY, January 2nd

~ 5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
 ~ 5:30 pm—† Joseph & Clara Bina (MB)

THURSDAY, January 4th

~ 8:30 am—† Mary Hilby Weiner (TP)

SATURDAY, January 6th

~ 8:30 am—† John Thurk (DS)
 ~ 4:00 pm—† Reiny & Darlene Kammel (DS)
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, January 7th

~ 8:30 am— † Curtis Strittmater (CS)
 Lector: Jim Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 31st**—Anniversary of Fr. Biju’s Ordination
 Congratulations Fr Biju and God Bless you for your dedication and faithful guidance to our Parish.
- **January 1**—8:30 am Mass—*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*
- **January 3**—Religious Education Classes
- **January 7**—*Epiphany of the Lord*
- **January 16** - 7:00 pm Pastoral Council meeting
 - 7:30 pm Finance Council meeting

~ 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 there are envelopes are in the back of church.

Contributions for the past week

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Envelopes(50) : | \$ 5,375.00 |
| Plate collection: | \$ 212.00 |
| Retirement for Religious: | \$ 20.00 |
| Christmas (58): | \$ 3,760.00 |
| Christmas Offertory: | \$ 632.00 |
| Christmas flowers: | \$ 20.00 |
| Votive candles: | \$ 164.00 |
| Total: | \$10,183.00 |

☞ Thank you Money Counters! ☞



2023 End-of-Year Contributions. All donations for the 2023 tax year must be dated on or before December 31st and received by December 31, 2023. Any donations dated after Dec 31st will be posted to the 2024 year contributions.

FROM THE PASTOR



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

~ Stewardship Reflection ~

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are a model for all families! And just as the Holy Family is holy, our families, too, are called to be holy. This may seem like a daunting task at times! Yet, as Christian stewards we know that this holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

Our First Reading, from the book of Sirach, teaches us about reverence and honor of the members of our family. No matter our age, we are called to serve and honor our family members. Sometimes loving and serving those closest to us can be the hardest. But we have to remember that our families are a gift from God, and it is in serving them that we show our gratitude for this gift.

What more can we do to honor the blessing of family? St. Paul shares in our Second Reading a word of advice on how we can do just that. He calls us to put on "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." This is how we ought to treat our family — with the love, compassion and mercy that God gives to us. God has been so generous to us, so let us "[give] thanks to God the Father" by being good stewards of His love and mercy in our homes, and to our family members both near and far.

Believe it or not, God has a plan for our lives, too. Oftentimes, we get in the way of what He has in store for us. Although our plan might be "good," God's plan is great and will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice.

As we celebrate this Christmas season with joy and gladness for our Savior, let us deepen our commitment to Him through the love and service we give our family members, and the trust and surrender we place in God to take care of us each day.

~ PARISH NEWS ~

Meat Raffle Fundraiser

\$100 Meat Basket Winner: Nick Clements
Ham Basket Winner: Christopher Pundzak
Turkey Basket Winner: Steve Miller

Thank you to Steve's Meats for the generous additions to the meat basket.

Thank you to Dave and Teresa Brown for coordinating the Ham Basket and the Turkey Basket.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



The family of Kay Roesler would like to **THANK** the St. Joseph Parish community for their prayers, thoughtfulness, and support to our family. A special "Thank You" to Father Biju for his prayers and spiritual support. Our thanks to the choir for the beautiful music and also thank you to Polly Hilby and the rest of the church ladies who made and served lunch. Your kindness during this time will never be forgotten.

Gratefully from the Family of Kay Roesler

Heartfelt Sympathy and prayers to the family of

Reiny Kammel

Reiny passed away on Friday, December 29th



† May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. †

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

~A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival

Jesus came to earth as an infant, born of Mary. Mary was prepared to be the Mother of our Savior; by God's favor she was created "full of grace" and free from sin. The Savior – Jesus – was to be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Jesus will remain with us throughout our life as we receive Him in the Eucharist. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: *Jesus, thank You for the gift of Mary, Your Mother, through whom the world received You as our Savior.* This week, read how this glorious news was revealed to the Shepherds in Luke 2: 8-20



I want to take a moment to **Thank** the many people who help make our parish so special. **Thanks** to all who decorate the Church for Christmas. **Thanks** to Ushers, Lectors, Altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Eucharist, Sacristans, CCD teachers, music director, choir members, PCCW officers/members, funeral lunch workers, money counters, grounds keepers, administrative assistant and members of the different councils. Also would like to **Thank** all the volunteers who without being recognized offer their help in their own capacity.

Thank You for all the Christmas cards and presents including cookies. I want to let everyone know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Fr. Biju

~ DIOCESAN NEWS(cont.)~

~New Year's Eve Blessing of Time

12/31/23 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration will host a New Year's Eve service — Evening Prayer with the Exposition for Peace and the Blessing of Time — in Mary of the Angels Chapel at St. Rose Convent on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 6:00 p.m.

~“The ANSWER” Eucharistic Rally Tickets are now on sale!

The time has come to say “Yes!” to this life-changing event that will be held June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center. Discounted tickets are now available for purchase. However, you may also want to check with your parish office as there are some parishes that have already begun purchasing group tickets and reserving buses for this event. Please check out the official website for all the detailed information. The registration link is found at the following link <https://diolc.org/the-answer/>

~Save the Date: Franciscan Federation Virtual Retreat

January 14, 2024 OR February 4, 2024

Begin 2024 journeying together with your Franciscan sisters and brothers at a unique Franciscan Federation virtual retreat designed to inspire, connect, and transform. Our speakers will bring their Franciscan wisdom to the themes of Greccio (the crib), Journeying, and Francis’ Stigmata (the cross) on this special day of reflection and sharing. We will discover, together, how events that occurred 800 years ago continue to transform us today. More information will be available soon!

~Pilgrimage for LIFE – Join us!! | Jan. 17-21 | Washington D.C.

Adults - Youths - Families: Your pro-life witness is needed more than ever! Come with us by coach bus to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual March for Life. For ages 13 and up, \$400/person. Parish or school groups must have each participant complete the registration online, fill out the required forms and pay a non-refundable deposit of \$100. The remainder of the fee will be paid to the parish or school. For more information and to register, visit diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life

PRAYER TO JESUS

Jesus, I believe in you. Jesus, I hope in You.

Jesus, I want to love You with all my heart.

Jesus, I thank You for having come to dwell in me as I receive You in Holy Communion.

I welcome You into my heart and I ask you to “crowd out” whatever might be there that is not of You.

And I desire to give You full reign as my Lord, my Savior and my King.

Thank You for giving Your life for me on the Cross, loving me this much and allowing me to receive You into my heart in this present moment.

And now that You are so close to me, please help me love You more and more, and serve You by loving the people around me. Amen.

Praying and focusing on this one prayer throughout the entire year will allow you to encounter the Person of Jesus and to deepen your friendship with Him. You will become more attuned to Jesus’ True Presence in the Holy Eucharist and His continual Presence within you. By receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, you are united with Him; the most intimate union with Him on earth.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Holy Family Word-Find

L G O D S E L F L E S S
O M H V J E F A E J A C
C O O P E R A T I O N A
H T L C S L M H S S H R
I H Y H U E I E H E L P
L E O O S A L R A P O E
D R T M A R Y H R H V N
H O M E H N J A E E E T
F A I T H R O P E A C E
F O S T E R Y P P O O R
P E R F E C T Y C A R E



See if you can find all these words about the Holy Family in the puzzle!

Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

- | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|
| CARE | GOD | LOVE |
| CARPENTER | HAPPY | MOTHER |
| CHILD | HELP | MARY |
| COOPERATION | HOLY | PEACE |
| FAITH | HOME | PERFECT |
| FAMILY | JESUS | POOR |
| FATHER | JOSEPH | SELFLESS |
| FOSTER | JOY | SHARE |
| | LEARN | |

The best way to be like the Holy Family:

_____!

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 give 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