



~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH**

*Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH**

*Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH**

*Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*  
 ~ 5:30 pm—† Marilyn Marx (D&MS)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH**

~ 8:30 am —† Jim Hesselberg (TV)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH**

~ 8:30 am—† Jennifer and Kimmy Clements (MB)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH**

*Second Sunday in Ordinary time*

~ 4:00 pm—† Gerald Kneifl (DK)  
 Lector: Teresa Brown  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH**

*Second Sunday in Ordinary time*

~ 8:30 am— Our Parish Family  
 Lector: Paula Silha  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **January 10**—Religious Education Classes
- **January 16** - 7:00 pm Pastoral Council meeting  
 - 7:30 pm Finance Council meeting
- **January 17**—Religious Education Classes
- **January 22—February 5th**—Father Biju will be going home to India to see family.

~ ENHANCE YOUR FAITH ~

**\* Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Tuesday: No Adoration ~ 8:30 am 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](mailto: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(28) :	\$ 1,610.00
Plate collection:	\$ 138.91
Christmas (5):	\$ 1,210.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 25.00
Jan. 1st plate collection:	\$ 84.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 215.00
Initial Offering:	\$ 21.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,303.91</b>

	2023-24 Goal:	\$21,915.00
	Pledged:	\$8,930.00
	Received:	\$8,360.00
	<b>Remaining Amount Due:</b>	<b>\$13,555.00</b>

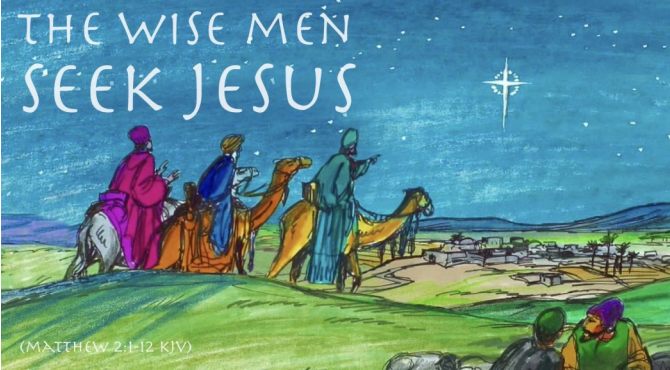
**Donations:** Here are some ways to contribute:

- 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



~ PARISH NEWS ~



**Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

A gift for all of us

On Monday we celebrate Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It marks the end of the Catholic Church's Christmas Season. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a "second epiphany" revealing his divinity and mission of Jesus after The Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is associated with the "visit of the Magi" – "Three Wise Men," sometimes called the "Three Kings" – whom tradition holds followed a star to Bethlehem to worship the newborn Messiah with gifts of "gold, frankincense and myrrh." The Gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12, however, is the only Gospel to mention the "wise men." It does not give their number, does not identify them as "kings," and does not say "when" they visited.

But this "visit" has a significant purpose. It fulfills the promise that Savior is born in Bethlehem. He is the long-awaited Divine Messiah, foretold by the Old Testament prophets, revealed as the Son of God, and recognized as such by those who witnessed his presence on earth as the source of human salvation by God. The Good News of the feast of epiphany of the lord is that Christ comes to save us all even the gentiles too.

We read in the gospel the magi presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Gold, a symbol of royalty, represents his kingship; frankincense, used in worship, points to his divinity; and myrrh represents his humanity, particularly in his passion and death. The Magi brought gifts to Jesus. Yet, Jesus gave us the gift of His own very self. Epiphany reaffirms that God is truly with us. Let's offer him ourselves as a gift with our weaknesses, our poverty of spirit, and our pains along with goodness and blessings that we have received.



Happy New Year

Live Jesus

*Fr Biju MSFS*

**Fr. Biju to Visit Family**

Fr. Biju will be going to India to visit his family from Jan. 22 through February 5th. During those days he is away, if anyone wishes to be remembered in his daily Mass or prayed for, let him know.

If you have an intention, place it in an envelope marked "Fr Biju Masses" and drop it in the collection.



**2024 Calendars are Here**

Feel free to pickup a beautiful 2024 parish calendar today. This calendar reflects on the Eucharistic Revival and contains all the important liturgical dates for the year.

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

**~A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival**  
**Wise men came to worship Jesus**

Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The wise men gave precious gifts to the Savior, gifts for a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They knew that Jesus was a great king, even though He looked like a small Child. Jesus gives us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

*Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. But, thank You for giving us **the most precious Gift** of Yourself in the Eucharist.*

This week, read how the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts in Matthew 2:1-12

**~"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. 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/> There is a whole day of events that are listed on the Diocese website.

**THE EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE** day will begin with a Eucharistic Procession. The Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be ending their time in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on the morning of June 7, 2024 and entering into the Diocese of La Crosse. Bishop William Patrick Callahan will greet Bishop Robert Barron, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, to transfer the Eucharistic Procession from the Diocese of Winona-Rochester to the Diocese of La Crosse. This historic moment will be an opportunity for people of all generations to join in the Eucharistic Procession as we journey to the La Crosse Center where we will immediately enter into Mass. Participants in this Eucharistic Procession do not have to buy a ticket for the rest of the day if they do not plan to stay for the event.

~ DIOCESAN NEWS(cont.) ~

**~Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

Couples: do you want to give each other something really special? How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at (563)920-9419. Upcoming weekends are February 16-18 in Marshalltown, April 12-14, 2024 in Epworth and September 27-29 in Dubuque.

**~50th Wedding Anniversaries**

If you will be celebrating 50 years of Marriage in 2024, please email the parish office at [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com) or call (608)788-1646 The diocese has a celebration to honor the marriages of 50 years.

**~"Behold: God is With Us" Young Adult Retreat - January 27, 2024**

The world needs Jesus. Our souls need Jesus. Out of God's abundant love for us, He became man: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). All 18-35 year olds are welcome to join us for a day of enriching talks, silent prayer/reflection, small group discussion, adoration, confession, and Mass. Most importantly, learn how to remain connected post-retreat to a lively community of young adults striving for Sainthood. This day-long retreat will occur at Blessed Sacrament Parish in La Crosse, WI. Check-ins will begin at 8:30am and the retreat will conclude after the 4:30 pm vigil Mass. An optional after party will take place to follow! Lunch will be provided! All of this and more for the low cost of \$20. Let us behold the Lord together! Register here: <https://argentasoftware.com/interfaces/49870/frmEventTicketSalesForm.aspx?EventID=4042>

*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](mailto:Sjrp2601@gmail.com)

ALWAYS  
pray  
and  
NEVER  
give up!

**2024 Epiphany Blessing of the Home**

If a priest is present, he leads; otherwise, the head of the family is the leader.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

**Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of them be holy and filled with the spirit of happiness and peace, love and affection. May the spirit of pardon and affection reside with us and be always ready to heal our divisions. May the spirits of joy and laughter, hope and faith, playfulness and prayer, compassion and love be perpetual guests in our home. May God's holy blessing rest upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

EPIPHANY CROSS-WORD

Fill in the blanks in the story to find the words for the puzzle!

Around the time that \_\_\_\_\_ (2d) was born, some wise men from the \_\_\_\_\_ (8a) saw in the sky a special \_\_\_\_\_ (9a) at \_\_\_\_\_ (13d) rising, and followed it to \_\_\_\_\_ (11a) the newborn Saviour. First they came to Jerusalem where \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) went to ask \_\_\_\_\_ (15a) Herod if he knew where the new King would be born.

\_\_\_\_\_ (12d) Herod did not know, he called the priests and scribes, who told them that the Baby would be born in \_\_\_\_\_ (18a). Then Herod told a \_\_\_\_\_ (17d) and said that he wanted to go and honour the Baby King too, and told the men to return once they had found him and tell him where the Baby was. The men were \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) when they found Jesus with his mother \_\_\_\_\_ (4d), and they did him homage, giving their gifts of \_\_\_\_\_ (16a), \_\_\_\_\_ (1d) and \_\_\_\_\_ (4a). But \_\_\_\_\_ (3d) night an angel appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (6a) them and told them to \_\_\_\_\_ (14a) go home by another road, since King \_\_\_\_\_ (5d) wanted to kill Baby Jesus.



As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi above the exterior doorways using the blessed chalk, the following prayer is prayed:

Inscription for the year **2024: 20 + C + M + B + 24**



**Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us as we welcome them with respect and kindness. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of God's loving care. May we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, Jesus, Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**