



St. Joseph Parish *of* St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 1, 2024—First Sunday of Advent

PASTOR

Fr. Biju C 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
Monday 5:30 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

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 Schedule:

Saturday..... 8:00 pm
Sunday..... 10:00 am

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Wednesday..... 8:00 am
Friday 8:00 am



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 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, NOVEMBER 30TH

~4:00 pm - † George & Evelyn Miller (T&MP)
 Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

~8:30 am - † Alice Silha (D&JD)
 Lector: Sally Miller
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

~5:30 pm - † Heather, Benjamin, Simon Kramer (R&BM)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

~5:00 pm - *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
 ~5:30 pm - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (Family)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

~8:30 am - † John, Bernice, Steve, and Samuel
 Mashak (D&SS)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

~8:30 am—† Sharon Zibrowski (J&SB)
 ~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

~8:30 am - † Joyce Clements (L&DC)
 Lector: Dan Steiger
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 4** ~ Religious Education Classes
- **December 9 ~ 5:30 pm Celebration of the Immaculate Conception**
- **December 11** ~ 6:15 pm Confessions at St. Joseph
- **December 12** ~ Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- **December 16** ~ 9am-6pm Confessions at Cathedral
- **December 18** ~ Religious Education Christmas Party
- **December 18** ~ 6:15pm Confessions at St. Peters
- **December 24** ~ 4:00 pm Christmas Eve
- **December 25** ~ 8:30 am Christmas Day
- **January 5** ~ Bishop Battersby will celebrate mass at St. Joseph Parish



~ EMBRACE YOUR FAITH ~

* **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tuesday evenings 5:00 pm - 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**

If you would like to schedule mass intentions, please contact the Parish office phone #788-1646 or there are envelopes in the back of church or email sjrp2601@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions Fee change

In accordance with a decision of the Bishops of Wisconsin, starting on July 1st, Mass stipend fees are \$20

The following dates are available in December for masses:

Thursday, December 12 ~ 8:30 am

Tuesday, December 17 ~ 5:30 pm

Monday, December 23 ~ 5:30 pm

Christmas Day, December 25 ~ 8:30 am

Please call or email to request a mass for any of these dates.

Reminder:
Mass intentions
are now \$20.00

~ Contributions for the past week ~

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Envelopes (25) : | \$ 1,295.00 |
| Plate collection: | \$ 140.00 |
| Christmas flowers: | \$ 285.00 |
| Total: | \$ 1,720.00 |

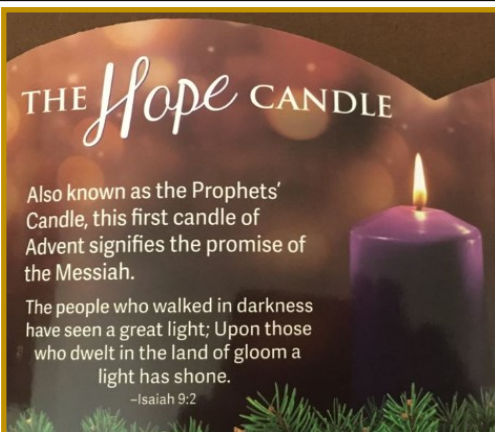
First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28 34-36

As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand. We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



First
Sunday
of
Advent

“Waiting for Christ”

We have entered the urgent and powerful season of Advent, a time to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus — born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our judgment day is coming, too, when we will have to give an account for all that God has given us during our lifetimes.

Our readings for the first week of Advent are not just about the urgency of preparation of one's life; they also offer us practical advice, calling our attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, “Wake up! Get ready!” and guide us as we enter this season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life.”

How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or too much worry about our lives. During Advent, we must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying on my material blessings as my source of comfort or security?

Am I living for the moment or the coming of the Lord? Get ready, He's coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder, and let this preparation inspire us to action.



POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

That this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Learn about the Jubilee Year:

<https://catholiclife.dioc.org/2024/11/19/jubilee-2025-what-it-is-and-how-to-participate/>

~ PARISH NEWS ~

★ ★ PCCW News ★ ★

The PCCW will be providing the lunch at the auction at St. Joseph Equipment on Tues. Dec. 10th. Help will be needed in preparing the food ahead of time and serving the day of the auction.

If you can help in any way, please contact Lori Clements at 608-786-2927 or 608-780-5212

Cemetery News

There will be a price increase on the Cemetery plots and Columbarium niches—starting January 1, 2025.

Below are the details:



Cemetery Plot fees:

Parishioner: \$500.00

Former Parishioner: \$700.00

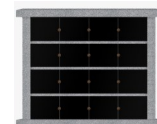
Non-members: \$1,000.00

Columbarium Niche fees:

Parishioner: \$700.00

Former Parishioner: \$850.00

Non-Members: \$900.00



At time of burial, there is a charge for opening of grave or niche. Below are the fees:

Plot opening (full burial): \$550.00

Plot opening (cremation): \$400.00

Niche opening: \$75.00

Burial specifications:

~ Only one casket and one cremain, OR two cremains per plot.

~ Two cremains per niche (Columbarium)

Any questions or inquiries, please contact David Brown, our Cemetery sexton at (608) 792-1006

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus came into the world to save us by reconciling us with God

Through the original sin, Adam and Eve separated themselves from God. They lost the gift of grace – God's very life within them. They were no longer united with God in a relationship of love. Further, there was nothing Adam and Eve, or you and I, could do to fix the problems instigated by the original sin, above all, our separation from God. The “Good News” is that Jesus came to be among us as our Savior, to reconcile us with God. To accomplish this, Christ established one Church and instituted seven sacraments. Still today the sacraments are the means through which we receive God's gift of grace, His divine life within us. This shows how much God loves us: He wants to be so close that He wants to dwell within us! The holy Eucharist is the greatest of the sacraments by bringing us into the closest union with Jesus on Earth. Let us prepare our hearts before Mass every Sunday for so great a Gift! Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, thank You for coming for us on the first Christmas, as well as Your coming to us most especially in the holy Eucharist on Christmas. This week, read how the prophet Isaiah announced the coming of the Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-3.



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~St. Nicholas of Myra Celebration for Children

Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, **December 1** (1:00-4:15).

~St. Nicholas Celebration: A Feast of Generosity

December 6 (Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.): This family-friendly event honors traditions related to the beloved saint known for his generosity. Supper, treats, crafts, stories and a surprise visit are part of the festivities. In the spirit of the season, participants will have an opportunity to take gifts over to Mayo Clinic Health System. Donations appreciated. Franciscan Spirituality Center -<https://www.fscenter.org>



St. Nicholas ~ December 6th

a 4th-century bishop of Myra, is the inspiration for Santa Claus. Known for his generosity, he secretly left gold coins in the shoes of those in need, a tradition that still exists in many cultures today.

Nicholas of Myra died on 6 December 346, giving rise to the present Feast of Saint Nicholas. The saint was entombed in St. Nicholas Church, Demre, though in 1087, Italian soldiers transferred his remains to Italy, where they were enshrined in the Basilica di San Nicola and are held to this day.

~**Mayo La Crosse Auxiliary and Aquinas Impact** are collecting diapers, baby wipes, infant clothing, and other baby essentials from **November 29th- December 14th**. Please drop off your donations at Moka on West Avenue in La Crosse, Mayo Clinic La Crosse Cafeteria entrance or the lobby in the Mayo La Crosse Hospital. All donations will be distributed to local families through Catholic Charities in La Crosse.

~ Retirement Fund for Religious:

The annual collection in parishes for the National Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for the weekend of **December 7-8**. 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 week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 21,000 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.

~St Mary's Craft Show~ Coon Valley

on Saturday, December 7—8:00 am-2:00 pm (Coon Valley Village Hall)

~Cathedral Christmas Bazaar (St. Joseph Workman Cathedral)

on Saturday, December 7 from 8 am - 2 pm in the church undercroft.

~Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

on Saturday, December 14 from 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

~Holy Trinity Cookie Walk

on Saturday, December 14, from 8:00 am-1:00 pm.

~Join Tens of Thousands at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Sign up for the Pilgrimage for Life, Jan. 22-26, our diocesan participation in the national March for Life in our nation's Capital. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults, families, and young people to bear witness to the sanctity of human life. To learn more, visit diolc.org/pilgrimageforlife,

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

The Second Coming Word Puzzle

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Fill in the missing letters from today's first reading and copy them to finish the last line.

The days are c _ _ ming (5), says _ _ he (14)

Lo _ _ d, (10) when I will f _ _ llfill (9) the
p _ _ omise (6) I made to the _ _ ouse (2) of Israel
and Judah. In tho _ _ e (13) days, in that tim _ _ ,
(3) I will raise up for _ _ avid (7) a just shoot; he
shall d _ _ (8) what is right and jus _ _ (1) in the
_ _ and.(4) In those days _ _ udah (11) shall be safe
and Jer _ _ salem (12) shall dw _ _ ll (17) secure;
th _ _ s (15) is what they shall _ _ all (16) her:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17



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

ALWAYS
pray
and
NEVER
give up!

* For all who are sick, may Christ who knew pain and suffering in his own life, fill them with healing and hope.

* For Luke Sawaya and Will Sawaya as they journey to priesthood and Brother Matthew Kotek as he continues his religious path.

* For all struggling with depression or anxiety, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and grant them healing & comfort.

* That those who feel a call to and desire single blessedness, marriage, priesthood and religious life may find the courage to say yes to what God asks of them.

* For all the military men and women who are supporting our freedom.

* For the elderly who are homebound or unvisited, may the Lord fill them with his presence and comfort them with friendship.

* For the intentions listed in our parish book of prayer.

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com

Stewardship Prayer: That we have the courage to share our faith story with others and accompany them on their journey.