



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 15, 2024—Third 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:

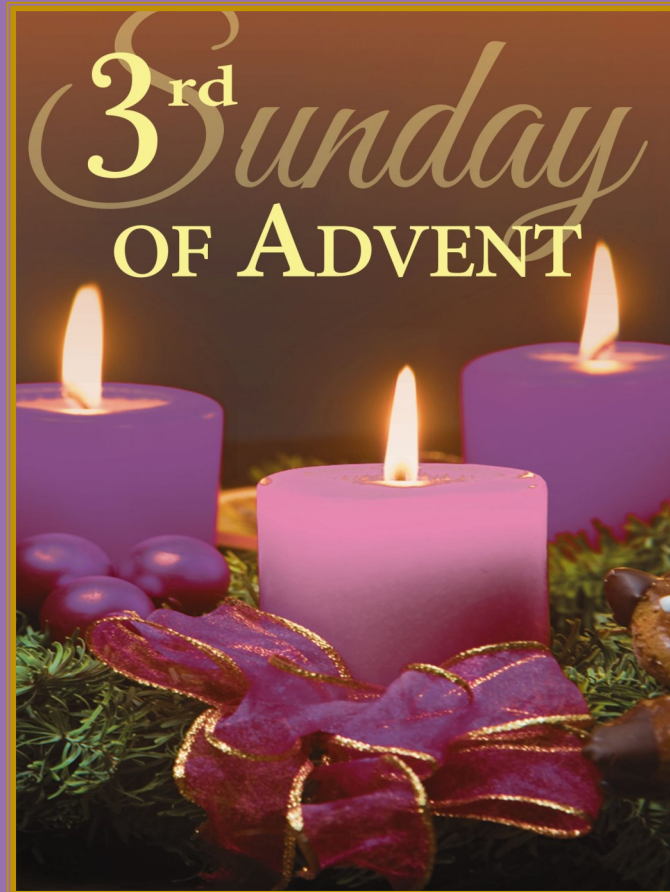
Wednesday 7:30-9:00 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule:

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

Weekday Mass Schedule:

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



**3rd Sunday
OF ADVENT**

*Rejoice
in the
Lord
always!*

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, DECEMBER 14TH

~4:00 pm - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (family)

Lector: Kathy Leis

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

~8:30 am - † Jennifer Clements (MB)

Lector: Donnie Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

~8:30 am - Sharon Evenson's Family (D&SE)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

~5:00 pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~5:30 pm - † Nick Kneifl (S&CC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

~8:30 am - † Alice Silha (D&JD)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

~4:00 pm - † Bob Strittmater (CS)

Lector: Donnie Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND


~8:30 am - Our Parish Family

Lector: Donna Clements

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ Contributions for the past week ~

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Envelopes (39) : | \$ 2,810.00 |
| Plate collection: | \$ 211.00 |
| Christmas flowers: | \$ 245.00 |
| Christmas Envelope: | \$ 50.00 |
| Retirement for Religious: | \$ 479.00 |
| Immaculate Conception mass: | \$ 111.00 |
| Votive candles: | \$ 145.26 |
| Total: | \$ 4,051.26 |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | 2024-25 Goal: | \$23,335.00 |
| | Pledged: | \$ 14,983.00 |
| | Received (35) : | \$ 12,760.00 |
| | Remaining Amount Due: | \$ 10,575.00 |

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 16** ~ 9am-6pm Confessions at Cathedral
- **December 18** ~ Religious Education Christmas Party
- **December 18** ~ 6:15pm Confessions at St. Peters
- **December 24** ~ **Christmas Eve**
4:00 pm at St. Joseph Parish
8:00 pm at St. Peters ~ Middle Ridge
- **December 25** ~ **Christmas Day**
8:30 am at St. Joseph Parish
10:00 am at St. Peters ~ Middle Ridge
- **January 1** ~ Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- **January 5** ~ 8:30 am 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

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



Third Sunday of Advent

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. We rejoice because we are celebrating the day of Christ’s birth, we recognize Jesus’ daily presence in our midst, and we wait for Christ’s return in glory.

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John is asked, “What must we do?” There are three outstanding things about John’s message. He began by demanding that people should share with one another. Let the tax-collectors be good tax-collectors, let the soldiers be good soldiers. People had a duty to serve God where God had placed them.

John the Baptist, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. We must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat others justly. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives.

As Advent quickly moves along, I encourage you to take some time to reflect upon the great mysteries we celebrate at this time of the year. Incarnation shows how much God loves us. Be prepared to receive Him. The Sacrament of penance is an important part of our Advent preparation for a worthy celebration of Christmas.

Wish you grace filled Gaudete Sunday!

Have a blessed Advent ~ Live Jesus

Fr Biju MSFS



On Dec 7th Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals from 16 countries at a consistory at St. Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican. One is from Fr. Biju's home state. Msgr. George Jacob Koovakad, 51, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State who is responsible for organizing papal trips. Please keep in your prayers.

~ PARISH NEWS ~



Reminder for Food Donations:

Please bring any food donation to the back of church. These food items will be taken to a local food pantry to assist families in need.

PCCW NEWS:

Thank you to everyone that brought bars/cookies and to those who helped out serving lunch at the auction this past Tuesday. Many hands do make light work. It was a successful event for the PCCW.



We will be hosting Bingo again this year on

January 19th and February 16th

Mark your
Calendars

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus Came Into the World to be Our Model of Holiness

Jesus, God of the universe, the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, humbled Himself and took on human flesh, being born as a tiny infant in Bethlehem. The New Testament highlights the fact that Jesus' entire Earthly life was dedicated to loving and serving each person He met. Today, Jesus is our model of unconditional love in giving Himself to us in the holy Eucharist. Through receiving Him in holy communion, we are strengthened to follow Jesus' example of giving ourselves in love and service to others. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, help us to read the Bible so that we can learn to follow Your example of self-giving love in all circumstances.

This week, read how Mary responded to the “hint” from the angel Gabriel to go and serve Elizabeth, who was with child in her old age through a miracle of God in Luke 1:36-56.

~Winter Labyrinth Walk (in-person) Wed, Dec 18
Drop in any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In the days leading up to the Winter Solstice, you are invited to walk the FSC's indoor canvas labyrinth. This is a silent, self-guided meditation. Plan on at least a half-hour, but you are welcome to spend as much time walking and reflecting on the experience as you like. For those new to the labyrinth, we'll provide a brief introduction.

~The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer On January 1st, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames is launching The Rosary in a Year podcast! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, explain the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear.



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Retirement Fund for Religious: Our women and men religious 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 last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

~Advent Sets the Stage for Christmas Joy

Even if you are too busy or exhausted from all that you desire to accomplish during Advent, you can ask the Holy Spirit to give you a hunger for Christ's presence. He will answer that prayer. Planning the specified time for prayer each day is important; otherwise, it can so easily fall by the wayside. Further, making a good confession during the season of Advent is something you don't want to miss. Your burden of guilt and the weight of sin will be taken away, which leads to healing and interior freedom. This cleansing from sin allows more room in your heart for the Christ Child. You can also fast from TV programs or desserts or other things that you like a little too much, which in the end, really don't satisfy your heart. Fasting helps increase your hunger for Christ.

Please know that it is not too late to begin the internal preparation for the coming of the Christ Child! During these days, prepare your heart so that the birth of the Christ Child coming as your Savior is your greatest gift on Christmas Day.

~Franciscan Spirituality Center has two upcoming programs on Zoom for anyone feeling grief or sadness. You can participate from the comfort of your home. All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation.

LONGEST NIGHT: AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

December 19 (Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m.)

Presenters: Sarah Hennessey, FSPA, and Karna Marks

Investment: Freewill offering (payable online)

Through prayer and conversation, we will embrace the longest night (the approaching Winter Solstice) and remember that all of our feelings and memories are valid during this time.

GRIEF CIRCLE six-week series January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18

(Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.) Facilitators: Jean Pagliaro and Julie Connelly

Investment: \$70 for the series (or pay just \$35 with discount code GRIEF50)

Phone #: 608-791-5295 Website: www.FSCenter.org

email: fscenter@fspa.org This virtual group is for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. It is a place to share your thoughts, feelings and concerns about what is happening to you; where you can talk about your loss with other people who understand, because they also are grieving also.

Cemetery News

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

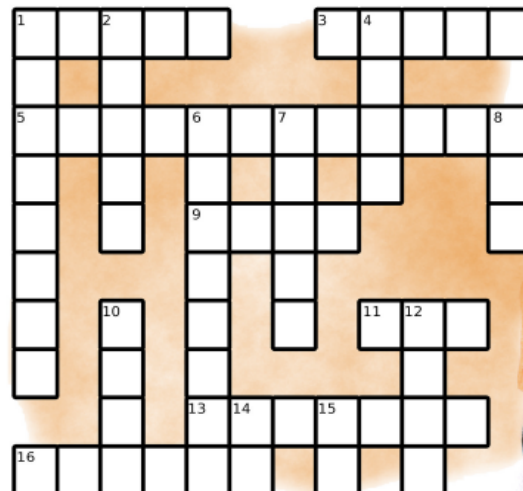
Burial specifications:

~ 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

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.
a=across
d=down



Brothers and _____ (13a): Rejoice in the _____ (12d) always. I _____ (3a) say _____ (14d) _____ (2d): rejoice! Your _____ (6d) should be known _____ (15d) all. The Lord is _____ (9a). _____ (4d) no anxiety at _____ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and _____ (1d), with _____ (5a), make _____ (10d) requests known to _____ (8d). Then the _____ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will _____ (7d) your hearts and minds in _____ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE



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

* 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

ALWAYS
pray
and
NEVER
give up!

Stewardship Prayer: That we may take time every day to show our gratitude to God, who is the ultimate giver of all gifts.