



# St. Joseph Parish *of* St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

**December 8, 2024—Second 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



*Prepare for PEACE*

## 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 7TH**

~8:30 am—† Sharon Zibrowski (J&amp;SB)

~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family

Lector: Kathy Leis

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

~8:30 am - † Joyce Clements (L&amp;DC)

Lector: Dan Steiger

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH***Celebration of the Immaculate Conception*

~5:30 pm - † Salome Korn (S&amp;CC)

Lector: Paula Silha

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**~5:00 pm - *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

~5:30 pm - † Madonna Bahr (Leis family)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**

~8:30 am - † Therese Hess, Robert Dowiasch Jr. (CB)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

~4:00 pm - † Reiny &amp; 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

## ~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **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 ~ 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**



*Joyfully Wait  
for Jesus*

## ~ 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](mailto: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

## ~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (33) :	\$ 3,000.00
Plate collection:	\$ 253.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 185.00
Christmas Envelope:	\$ 300.00
Thanksgiving offertory:	\$ 194.00
Misc. donations:	\$ 90.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,022.00</b>

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 14,303.00
	Received (32) :	\$ 12,055.00
	<b>Remaining Amount Due:</b>	<b>\$ 11,280.00</b>

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



LUKE 3:1-6

Prepare  
the Way  
of the  
Lord

## Second Sunday of Advent

Quite likely you have a long checklist of things that you need to do before Christmas, which is now only three weeks away. But is “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” on that list? Advent is the time given to us to revive our hopes for the glorious coming of our Savior. St John teaches us to *prepare the way for the Lord*. But it is not about the path in a literal sense, but rather about our hearts, about our conversion, that is, cleansing ourselves from sins, about getting rid of pride and selfishness, about smoothing out roughness in dealing with our neighbors, about acting for what is good. And so, we have to make our own lives a straight path to God, a path without potholes we can fall into nor compromises that can send us on a detour. This is our task. Let us not waste the time that is given to us - let us convert ourselves and pray for the conversion of others.

Next Wednesday is advent confession at St Joseph. There will be one more priest assisting me from 6.15 pm. Please make yourself available to prepare for Christmas. How are valleys filled in, mountains made low, paths made straight, and rough ways smoothed? There is only one answer : Repentance!

Normally on December 9 we celebrate the feast of SAINT JUAN DIEGO but this year we celebrate the feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. This is a major feast—in fact a Holy Day of Obligation—for the Church in the United States of America. This year is an exception with the feast not being a holy day of obligation. But we do have masses in both churches. Mary as the Immaculate Conception is the Patron Saint of the United States and Brazil.

Have a blessed advent

Live Jesus

*Fr Bijū MSFS*



### Solemnity of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

[not a Holyday of Obligation this year]

*When we imitate Mary's faith and trust,  
the power of God can work through us.*

Mary is the new Eve, mother of God and our mother. Through her and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son became incarnate. To prepare her for this role, she was freed from sin from the moment of her conception. As her trust and faith in God brought Jesus into human history, so our trust and faith in God allows us to be a vessel of his good works.

~ 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

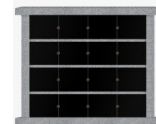
Non-members: \$1,000.00

#### 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 so that we might know God's love.

It is deeply moving to read these words from Scripture: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). During this holy season of Advent, we want to take time to ponder the meaning of Christmas, as proof of God's love for us. The Nativity of Our Lord celebrates the point in history when the Son of God took on human flesh for our Salvation – an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, in order to offer Himself for us on the Cross, and now, give Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

**Heavenly Father, help me to realize how much You love me in that You sent Your Son on the first Christmas as my Savior.**

This week, read how the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that She would be the Mother of our Savior in Luke 1:26-38.



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths;  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God*



## ~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**~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. A labyrinth is a single path that has been used as a walking meditation for prayer and reflection since ancient times. For many, it is symbolic of a pilgrimage and can help bring about clarity, peace and healing. 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.

Note: If you would like to bring younger children to experience the labyrinth, we ask that you visit between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Freewill offering Registration is appreciated but not required.

**~ Retirement Fund for Religious: Support a lifetime of service.**

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 21,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

**~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.

**~Advent: A Time of Preparation** Advent is to be spent preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and eternal death. This focus of spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation can be difficult to maintain in the hectic hustle and bustle of the materialistic side of this sacred season. An important point for Advent is to keep everything simple by placing a limit on shopping and baking, while setting aside time for quiet prayer and for simply being with family members. Most of us don't need more gifts, but rather more time with each other. It is an opportunity to gather the family and prepare by remembering the darkness that pervaded the time of the people of God as they awaited the birth of the Savior.

## **~DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:**

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its [policies and procedures](#), seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or [intakeagent@diolc.org](mailto:intakeagent@diolc.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: [diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting](http://diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting). Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the [diocesan website](#). If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or [tbrown@diolc.org](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).

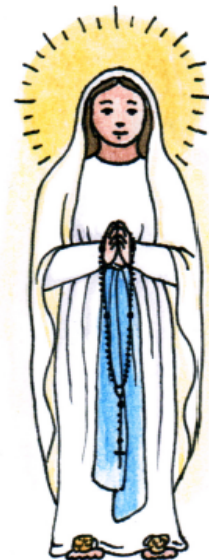
## ~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

### *Immaculate Conception Word-Find*

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

*See if you can find the words that are written in CAPITALS.*

*The leftover letters spell the name of a special prayer we can say to Mary on her feast day.*



This year, December 9th is the feast day of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. That is a name for MARY that means that GOD made her WITHOUT SIN because he had CHOSEN her to be the MOTHER of HIS SON. Her SOUL was FREE from ORIGINAL sin even before she was BORN. All her life she KEPT her HEART PURE and without the STAIN of sin. Mary NEVER OFFENDED God, and with his GRACE, she spent her whole life LOVING JESUS.



*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](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)

**ALWAYS**  
*pray*  
and  
**NEVER**  
*give up!*

**Stewardship Prayer: That we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.**