



# St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

## March 23, 2025 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

### 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

**Repent  
says  
the Lord;  
the  
kingdom  
of  
heaven  
is at  
hand**



**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE (608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com) TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:**

- ◆ Joining the Parish
- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ 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  
davidteresabrown457@gmail.com  
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, MARCH 22ND**

~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family  
 Lector: Bill Weber  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD**

~8:30 am - † Darrel and Terry Miller (T&MP)  
 Lector: Sally Miller  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**MONDAY, MARCH 24TH**

~5:30 pm - † Ken & Lois Davis (J&SD)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH**

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
 ~5:30 pm - † Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky (M&CM)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH**

~8:00 am - † Stan Hundt (S&SM)

Note different time this week

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH**

~4:00 pm - John Thurk & Sara Rose Hougom (ST)  
 Lector: Kathy Leis  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH**

~8:30 am - † Arnold Meyers (L&DC)  
 Lector: Donna Clements  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **March 23** ~ 2:00 pm Bingo hosted by PCCW
- **March 25** ~ Bible Study (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **March 26** ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
- **March 26** ~ Religious Education classes
- **April 1** ~ Bible Study (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **April 1** ~ 7:30 pm Finance Council meeting
- **April 2** ~ 6:30 pm Confessions at St. Joseph

~ 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 July 1, 2024, Mass stipend fees are **\$20**

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (40) :	\$ 2,570.00
Plate collection:	\$ 171.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 15.00
Easter flowers:	\$ 140.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,896.00</b>

LENT  
 IS A TIME  
 FOR TRUTH

CHRISTIANS, CALLED BY THE CHURCH TO PRAYER, PENANCE, FASTING AND SELF-SACRIFICE, PLACE THEMSELVES BEFORE GOD AND RECOGNIZE THEMSELVES; THEY REDISCOVER THEMSELVES"

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II



2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
<b>Pledged:</b>	<b>\$ 21,538.00</b>
Received (46) :	\$ 20,578.00
<b>Amount Due-after pledges:</b> <b>Due June 2025</b>	<b>\$ 1,797.00</b>



**If you pledged an amount, please honor your pledge by making the contribution by June 1, 2025.**  
**Thank you for your generosity**

~ PASTOR LETTER ~



**Third Sunday  
of Lent**

~ Stewardship Reflection ~

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that — a gift. Let's take a moment to reflect on this profound truth. None of us knows how much time we have, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor.

Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to illustrate this truth further. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree, hoping it will bear fruit. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well?

The season of Lent is a time to carefully reflect on how we spend our time. Do we make God our priority, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give the next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or misplaced priorities on our use of time. Remember, God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time, knowing that our potential for spiritual growth is limitless with His grace.



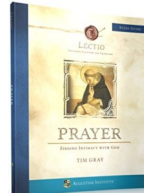
**What is a Jubilee?**

The concept comes from the Old Testament, where God commanded its observance every 50th year (Lev. 25:10). The Vatican states, "A Jubilee Year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity." During this Jubilee year, you are invited to pray for

greater hope. Ask God to increase the gift of hope in You. Further, make simple acts of hope by saying "For You O Lord are my hope...my trust is in You" (Ps. 146:5)

~ PARISH NEWS ~

**BIBLE STUDY**



**"Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God"**

The Bible Study continues on Tuesday evenings. The video and the study guide prompts wonderful conversations regarding the intimacy of prayer.

**Thank you** Lisa Meyer for leading;

If you are interested in attending—all are welcome, please come Tuesday evening to the school hall.

Any questions, please contact Stacy Burns (608-769-8828)

**Cemetery Flower Order**

Forms to order flowers are located in the back of church. Prices are the same as last year. \$100 to order the urn, if needed, and flowers, or \$40.00 for just the flowers if you already have the urn. Please return your order form and payment by Sunday May 4.



**PCCW** will be hosting  
**Bingo this Sunday**



**March 23rd 2:00-4:00 pm**

Bingo cards will be \$1.00 each. All monies collected will be paid.

Snacks and soda available for purchase.

Come & enjoy playing Bingo with friends and family!

**High School Students Scholarship Opportunity**

The **PCCW** is offering graduating high school seniors that will be attending college in the fall an opportunity to apply for a scholarship. To apply please submit a short essay describing your involvement in the parish and plans for future schooling, a transcript of their grades and photo if available. Please mail to the parish office - W2601 St Rd 33 La Crosse, WI 54601 or put in the collection box at church. Applications are due by May 11th.

**Next PCCW meeting: Monday, April 21st 6:30 pm**

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

**A Minute with Jesus: Spend time in Jesus' Presence and you will Gradually Come to Know that Jesus is Indeed There.**

The desire to strengthen your faith requires some action on your part. It helps to go to the church and spend time with the mindset that Jesus is there. Take your problems and speak with Jesus. Even if you leave without anything seemingly having happened, you will gradually come to know Jesus is indeed there. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: **Lord, help me to spend a few minutes in church and speak with You.**

This week, read how Jesus appears to Thomas who was not present when He first appeared to the apostles after His Resurrection. Thomas, when He does see Jesus, falls before Him and says "My Lord and My God" (John 20:19-29).

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~**Birthright Baby Bottle**—This weekend is the end of the Birthright Baby Bottle campaign. Please return the Birthright baby Bottles. are due

~**St. Mary's Men's Club Spaghetti and Pasta Dinner-Coon Valley**  
The Men's Club will be hosting a spaghetti and pasta dinner on March 29 from 4-7 PM at St. Mary's Church, Coon Valley. \$12 adults, \$5 kids under 12, and children under 3 free. Get a plate of spaghetti or pasta with sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, coffee, milk or water and ice cream for dessert. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

~**Mary Mother of the Church Fish Fry—March 28th** 4:30 to 7:00pm  
Dine-in or carry-out. Choose from baked or fried cod served with coleslaw, baked potato or fries, and a roll. A two piece dinner is \$13.00 and three piece dinner is \$16.00. Kids menu is grilled cheese, fries and fruit for \$5.00. Beer, wine and dessert will be available at dine-in for additional cost.

~**Mass of Reparation | March 27, 2025 at 10am |St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, La Crosse** Bishop Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Reparation on March 27th and every clergy, religious and lay person is invited and encouraged to attend.  
What is a "Reparation Mass"? "It is when we humbly and truthfully acknowledge our sins and surrender ourselves with confidence into the loving and merciful arms of our heavenly Father. In the words of Pope Francis, we offer the heart of Christ a new possibility of spreading in this world the flames of his ardent and gracious love. We give him permission to remove all the barriers we have created and unleash his unconquerable Love upon ourselves and upon the world. That is reparation. From start to finish reparation is a divine work, wrought by Jesus in his Passion and Resurrection. We, the members of his Body, get to participate in it."

~**Morning of Reflection:** The Founder of W.I.N.E., Women in the New Evangelization, Kelly Wahlquist, is our speaker for this morning get together. It starts at 9 a.m. April 5, 2025, at the Cathedral. She is a dynamic and inspiring speaker that travels the United States with her message to be witnesses of our faith and part of the New Evangelization. This is an opportunity to have a wonderful conclusion to your Lent that will sustain you through the rest of this Jubilee year. All Catholic Women are welcome. There will be a light breakfast served and there is NO COST to anyone. It is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, Court 1183, and the La Crosse Deanery Council of Catholic Women. For more information call or text Kay Kesler at: 608-780-0485 and to let her know how many people are coming.

*The Solemnity  
of the  
Annunciation  
of the Lord  
March 25*



The Annunciation is, according to the Gospel of Luke, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with the astonishing news that she would conceive and bear a son through a virgin birth and become the mother of Jesus Christ. Her "yes" changed the course of history!

**How is God inviting you to say "yes" to Him today?**

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

*The Burning Bush Word-Find*

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

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this story.



The left over letters tell what the Israelites in Egypt wanted:

A \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."



*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 our world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and influencers and lead them to harmony
- \* For all who struggle to care for loved ones, may the Lord in his mercy offer provision for their needs, .
- \* 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)

