

St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

March 30, 2025 ~ *Fourth 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

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



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 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

MONDAY, MARCH 31ST

~5:30 pm - † Don Weber (J&DW)

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~5:30 pm - † George & Evelyn Miller (T&MP)

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD

~8:30 am - † George Bahr (MB)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

~8:30 am - † Emil Bahr (MB)
 ~4:00 pm - Bill Patterson (SP)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH

~8:30 am - † Evelyn Rutz-Thornton (AH)
 Lector: Dan Steiger
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- 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 with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm
- April 8 ~ Bible Study (after 5:30 pm mass)
- April 9 ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph
- April 9 ~ 6:30 pm Confessions-St. Peters/Middle Ridge
- April 14 ~ 9:00 am—6:00 pm Confessions at St. Joseph Workman Cathedral, La Crosse
- April 17 ~ Holy Thursday mass at 7:00 pm
- April 18 ~ Good Friday mass at 3:00 pm
- April 19 ~ Easter Vigil—mass at 8:30 pm
- April 20 ~ Easter—mass at 8:30 am

Fr Biju's last mass at St. Joseph Parish will be on
 ✦ Tuesday, April 22nd (5:30 pm) ✦

After mass, there will be a Reception for Father Biju. A light meal will be served. Please plan to attend to thank Father Biju for his years of ministry at St. Joseph and St Peters Parishes/ to wish him well at his new Parishes.

~ 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

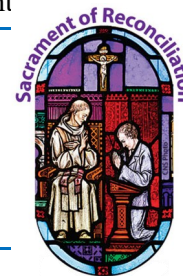
First Saturday of each month after 8:30 am Mass or 3:30—3:45 pm before 4:00 pm Mass or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Biju to set up a time.

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



~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (34) :	\$ 1,681.00
Plate collection:	\$ 291.00
Easter flowers:	\$ 25.00
Votive candles:	\$ 126.00
Total:	\$ 2,123.00



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

2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
Pledged:	\$ 21,788.00
Received (47) :	\$ 20,828.00
Amount Due-after pledges: Due June 2025	\$ 1,547.00

Thank you for your generosity

~ PASTOR LETTER ~



† *Fourth Sunday of Lent* †

This weekend we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday. This Sunday of Lent marks the mid-point in the Lenten preparation for Easter. Laetare in Latin means rejoice. Like Gaudete Sunday, Laetare Sunday provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character.

The word of God this weekend invites us into a profound reflection on the mercy of God and the reality of human sinfulness. In Luke’s Gospel, we see the Pharisees and scribes accusing Jesus, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them. But Jesus, through the parable of the Prodigal Son, reveals the depth of God’s love and the shared sinfulness of all humanity.

At first glance, among the two sons the younger son seems to be the main subject. His reckless choices and return to his father in desperation paint the portrait of a sinner seeking mercy. The hard-working, law-abiding, self-righteous older son reveals a more subtle but equally harmful sin: pride. He refuses to celebrate his brother’s return, claiming his own righteousness as justification. Both sons, in different ways, are distant from their father’s heart, and both are in need of reconciliation. There may be a temptation in us to focus on the sins or perceived flaws of others while neglecting our own need for repentance. But Jesus calls us to a deeper, more sincere introspection of one’s own life and submit it to God.

* Prayers for Deacon David J. Allen, serving as Deacon at Blessed Sacrament Parish in La Crosse, is also appointed Parish Director of St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge and St. Peter Parish in Middle Ridge, effective April 24, 2025. I like to welcome him to our parish and wish him God’s blessings.

* We had the Mass of reparation for at the St. Joseph Cathedral of the Workman, March 27th. This is part of the Presbyteral Renewal – Marian Renewal in the Diocese of La Crosse. In the words of Bp Battersby “I intend to grant a partial indulgence to those who will participate in this act of reparation either in person or by video”. You are requested to pray for the bishop, the priests, the deacons, religious and laity of the Diocese.

* I had come to both the parishes on 27th of Aug. 2019. This Sunday it will be 5 years 7 months 3 days. I was blessed to be here with you. Thank you for all your love and concern. Before I go, I would like to get some feedbacks from you if possible. There will be a box in back of the church meant to drop off your thoughts and suggestions regarding my ministry.



Below is the address of the rectory where I will be staying from 24th of April:

St Wenceslaus Catholic Church,
146 Main St,
Milladore, WI 54454

Have a blessed lent!

Live Jesus ~ Fr Bijw MSFS

~ PARISH NEWS ~



Our Parish welcomes
**William Joseph
Weber**

who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism
this Sunday, March 30th (during 8:30 am mass)
Blessings to William and his family!

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.



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.

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: Our Response is Thanksgiving

When we receive Jesus, we want to thank Him for the total gift of Himself to us. This Gift of the Eucharist empowers us to live our lives with thankful hearts as we follow Him with trust and commitment. Let’s read and pray this right now and every day this week: *We have a Heavenly Father who loves each one of us, in an absolutely unique way as expressed in Scripture: “Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow caused by change” (James 1:17).* In thanksgiving, let us pray the *Our Father* prayer, remembering both *our Heavenly Father and our earthly father.*



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Pancake Breakfast in Coon Valley, Palm Sunday, April 13th.

American Legion Post 116 will be having a pancake breakfast at the Coon Valley Legion Hall. Serving 8:00—Noon. Meal will consist of pancakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy.

~**Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign** The Birthright Baby Bottle campaign ended last weekend. Please return the Birthright baby Bottles or if you want to contribute, you can write a check to Birthright and put it in the offertory.

~**Fish Fry—St. Charles (Genoa)**

Come enjoy a delicious Fish Fry at St. Charles School (cafeteria) 707 Eagle St., Genoa on April 4th. Eat in or take it to go Fish Dinners will be served from 5:00—7:00 pm or until gone. Dinner includes: 3 pieces of cod fish, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans and a bun for \$15.00 Drinks and desserts sold separately

~**April 26 - "Faith & Recovery: Catholic Keys to Freedom from Substance Abuse"** All are invited to a breakfast program featuring two extraordinary speakers:

- Joe McGivney – A lifelong alcoholic whose brain was so damaged it led to his being institutionalized with an incurable psychosis, until one morning he woke up suddenly and completely healed.
- Keaton Douglas – Executive Director of the **iTHIRST** initiative and creator of the **iThirst** Spiritual Companionship Training, which forms lay leaders and clergy for the mission of accompanying those suffering from substance use disorders and their families. For more information and to register at Holy Cross Diocesan Center, visit diolc.org/faith-recovery

~**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. All Catholic Women are welcome. There will be a light breakfast served at NO COST. It is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, 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.

~**Chrism Mass | April 15, 2025 |Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman** The Chrism Mass is one of the diocesan highlights at which the Bishop blesses the oils for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, the Anointing of the Sick, and consecrates the Sacred Chrism used in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. Priests also renew their priestly promises at this Mass, and the faithful pray for them. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on April 15, at 10:30 am at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. Please consider attending!

~**Aquinas Booster Club Auction April 5 Golden Ticket Raffle**

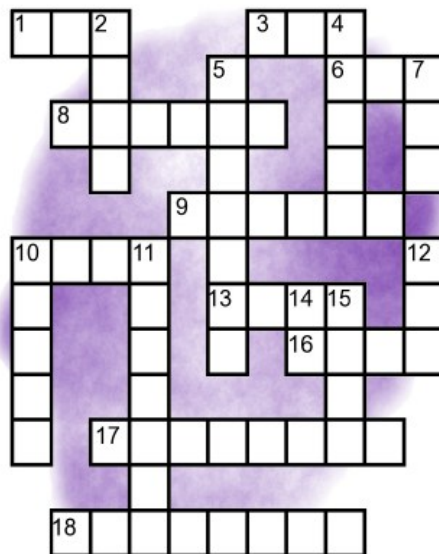
Tickets for the Golden Ticket Raffle are on sale NOW! What is the Golden Ticket Raffle?: The winner of the Golden Ticket Raffle will get to choose one of the 16 exclusive live auction items before the auction goes live! How to purchase a Golden Ticket: Contact a Booster Club Officer or Denise Knutson at the AHS front desk Cost: \$100 / ticket Attendance is not required to win!

❖ Stewardship Reflection ❖

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." - Joshua 5:12 Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they could enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land, the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings may change over the years, but it is essential to trust that God will always provide us with all we need.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Psalm 34 Cross-Word Puzzle



Use these words to fill in the blanks for the crossword puzzle:

- FROM
- TERRORS
- PRaise
- SET
- GLORIFY
- LET
- HIS
- ANSWERED
- NAME
- ON
- SEE
- TASTE
- THAT
- HUMBLE
- ITS
- TIMES
- SOUL
- MAKE
- TOGETHER

10D and 12D 10A the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all 4D,

His 9A is always 14D my lips;

In the Lord my 2D shall 15D 6A boast.

The 8A shall hear and be glad.



5D the Lord with me.

17A 3A us praise

1A 16A.

I sought the Lord

and he 18A me,

13A all my 11D he 7D me free.

*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

ALWAYS
pray
and
NEVER
give up!