



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

March 9, 2025 ~ *First 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



Jesus said to him in reply

"One does not live on bread alone".

"You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone shall you serve".

"You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

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 8TH

~4:00 pm - † Earl Martin (RM)
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

~8:30 am - † Bill Patterson (SP)
 Lector: Lorie Liss
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

~5:30 pm - Msgr Hundt (S&SM)

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
 ~5:30 pm - † Larry Silha (D&JD)

THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH

~8:30 am - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (Kammel family)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

~4:00 pm - Lynnette Woyak (LG)
 Lector: Cecilia Sawaya
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

~8:30 am - † Gerald Kneifl (Kneifl family)
 Lector: Sally Miller
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **March 11 ~ Bible Study begins** (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **March 12 ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**
- **March 12 ~ Religious Education classes**
- **March 18 ~ Bible Study** (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **March 19 ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**
- **March 19 ~ Religious Education classes**
- **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.

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 (41) :	\$ 2,260.00
Plate collection:	\$ 275.00
Initial offering:	\$ 4.00
Easter flowers:	\$ 225.00
Votive candles:	\$ 169.50
Total:	\$ 2,933.50

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 19,138.00
	Received (45) :	\$ 15,408.00
	Amount Due-after pledges: Due June 2025	\$ 4,197.00

STATIONS OF THE CROSS or WAY OF THE CROSS

This is a prayerful biblical meditation of 14 incidents from the Gospel accounts and traditions of the journey of Jesus from Pilate's house to being placed in the tomb.

Wednesdays during Lent (March 12—April 9th)

† 7:00 pm at St Joseph's
 † 7.30 pm at St Peter's



~ PASTOR LETTER ~



First Sunday of Lent

The Season Lent has begun. This is a time of penance, purification, and conversion. Every first Sunday of Lent brings us meditation on Jesus being led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where He faces intense temptations from the devil. This happens immediately after his Baptism by John in the Jordan. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt to freedom.

This episode of Jesus in the wilderness not only reveals Christ's victory over sin and His total reliance on the Word of God, but it also serves as a powerful reminder that our journey of faith requires perseverance, trust, and active engagement with God's grace. Jesus' resistance to temptation is a testament to His active commitment to the Father's will.

In our own faith journey this lent, let's reflect on how we can resist the "temptations of the wilderness" in our lives. Let this lent be a special time to exam how each of us is living our Christian life. Let these days be a time of spiritual renewal. Let these be a time to participate in the Mass either in person or virtually every day. Let it be a time of personal prayer, reading the Holy Scripture, setting aside some of our blessings to be a blessing to others. Let these be a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation; participate in the "Stations of the Cross"; join the Bible Study being offered at our school hall visiting the sick and those in nursing homes and doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy.

Thanks to Steve and Sally Miller for Lenten decorations

We will have the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays 7 pm at St Joseph and 7.30 pm at St Peter.

Wish you a grace filled lent

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

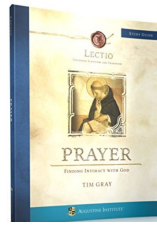


Lent: Step out of your comfort zone and "Unplug" for 15 minutes!

During the season of Lent, we are called to become less attached to the things of this world. In "giving up" 15 minutes on the phone each day, this time becomes available for quiet reflection. A compelling way to deepen your friendship with Christ is to read one chapter from sacred Scripture each day. How about starting with the Gospel of Luke, which includes the full life of Jesus? Read from your Bible or search Luke 1 Bible Catholic or click here: bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/1

~ PARISH NEWS ~

BIBLE STUDY



"Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God"

With a clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy.

In six video sessions Lectio: "Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God" captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love.

The Bible study includes:

- The Lectio Divina approach of Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Contemplating
- Penetrating questions and insights for the six video sessions
- Additional resources for a fuller understanding and application
- Daily reflections to deepen the meaning of prayer in your life

Tuesdays evenings at the St. Joseph school hall

March 11, 18th, 25th,

April 1st, 8th, 15th

Please contact Stacy Burns (608-769-8828) to sign up (so study guides can be ordered).

There will be a suggested fee (not required) of \$25.00 to cover the cost of the booklet

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus: As you take "steps forward," your faith in Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist will grow

We cannot simply convince ourselves through reason that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. One of the best ways to grow in this faith is to spend some time in conversation with Jesus, truly present in a Catholic Church. Go there and share something with the Lord that is on your heart. You will notice that probably without saying or feeling anything special, you will leave with a quieted heart. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:



Jesus, help me commit to spending some time in conversation with you in Church.

This week, read about how we can always find Jesus in His Father's house in Luke 2:41-51.

~Mary Mother of the Church Fish Fry—March 14th & 18th 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.

~An Opportunity for a Deeper Experience of God's Presence - Jubilee of Hope 2025

You are encouraged to participate in this Jubilee of Hope to receive God's gifts and experience His presence in a much deeper way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines hope as "the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817). Ask God to increase the gift of hope in you. Further, make simple acts of hope by saying, "Jesus, I trust in You." For further details, visit diolc.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Annual fundraiser for Birthright of La Crosse.

Birthright is an international volunteer organization with a La Crosse chapter since 1976. Birthright is available to those with an unintended pregnancy to provide information, a listening space, and love, along with referrals and emotional and spiritual support when needed. The campaign will conclude the weekend of March 22-23, 2025.

The bottles are available to take home on the tables back of church. Thank you and know your pro-life support will be appreciated by moms, dads, and babies to be.



~Aquinas Middle School Play—"The Secret Garden"

7:00 pm on Thursday, March 13 & Friday, March 14

~Registration Open: "Still the Answer" Eucharistic Rally

You are invited to join faithful from across the diocese on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at the Pablo Center in Eau Claire for a new opportunity to pause, reflect and renew our embrace of the gift of the Eucharist, as Jesus continues to give us His body and blood, strengthening us through life's joy, sorrows and challenges. The day's events will include a river walk procession, Mass, engaging speakers, live music and Eucharistic adoration. Take this time to remember how much you need Jesus - and that He is Still the Answer for you, for your family, for your parish and for the world. Visit diolc.org/still-the-answer for further details and to register.

*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.
- * 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

❖ Stewardship Reflection ❖

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" - Isaiah 6:8

Every day, in little and big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger, or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we need to pay more attention. When you hear God's calling, dare to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord."



Stewardship Prayer:

That we give God the "first fruits" of our gifts – our first and best time in prayer, charitable works in ministry participation, and financial support of our parish mission and community outreach.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

**First Sunday of Lent
March 9th, 2025**



Luke 4:1-13

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?

Lent:

Getting ready for Jesus' death and resurrection

Lent is the special time when we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. We get our souls ready by doing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



PRAYER is talking with God.

We need to talk with God even more than we need to talk to our family and friends. Lent is a good time to get into a habit of talking with God every day.



FASTING is eating less than you normally would. It's a good idea to give up a little something you like for Lent. Giving things up helps us remember we need God, not just food.

ALMSGIVING means giving to those who are in need. It helps us to be generous like God. Maybe you have a bit of money you can give to the poor or to the Church.

