

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

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

**August 24, 2025**

*Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

August  
Month of  
the  
Immaculate  
Heart of  
Mary



**Pastor**

*Father Sen*

Fr. Sengole Vethanayagam  
(715) 615-1774

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday..... 4:00 PM  
Sunday ..... 8:30 AM

**WEEKDAY SCHEDULE**

**ADORATION**

Tuesday ..... 5:00 PM

**MASS**

Tuesday ..... 5:30 PM  
Thursday ..... 8:30 AM

**CONFESSIONS**

3:30—3:45 pm (before Saturday 4:00 Mass)  
or by appointment

**PARISH OFFICE**

Barb Mikshowsky-Administrative Assistant  
Office hours vary, please call 608-788-1646 to  
leave a message or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)  
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday

**St. Peter's Parish, Middle Ridge**

(608) 452-4680

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday..... 8:00 PM  
Sunday ..... 10:00 AM

**WEEKDAY MASS**

Wednesday..... 8:00 AM  
Friday..... 8:00 AM

**MAKE EVERY  
EFFORT TO ENTER  
THROUGH THE  
NARROW DOOR,  
BECAUSE MANY,  
I TELL YOU,  
WILL TRY TO  
ENTER AND WILL  
NOT BE ABLE TO.**

Luke 13:24 NIV

**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  
Lorie Liss-DRE

**PARISH FINANCE  
COUNCIL**

Mary Jo Hess-Secretary  
Terry Dickman  
Dave Brown-(Bldg & Grnds)  
and Cemetery Rep  
Barb Braun  
Dan Steiger

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

Director:  
Lorie Liss

*'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](mailto:davidteresabrown457@gmail.com)  
Rick Meyer

**MUSIC**

Stacy Burns, Coordinator  
608-769-8828  
[jsburns0093@gmail.com](mailto: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, AUGUST 23RD**

~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family

Lector: Kathy Leis

Servers: Volunteers

Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH**

~8:30 am - † Leo &amp; Shirley Servais (W&amp;JG)

Lector: Lorie Liss

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH**

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~5:30 pm - Schermerhorn Family (J&amp;PS)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH**

~8:30 am - † George &amp; Evelyn Miller (T&amp;MP)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH**

~4:00 pm - † John Thurk &amp; Sara Rose Hougom(ST)

Lector: Jim Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST**

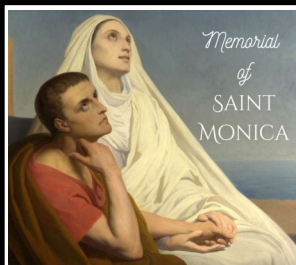
~8:30 am - † Bob Strittmater (CS)

Lector: Dan Steiger

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

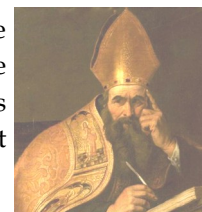
## ~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- August 26—7:00 pm Finance and Pastoral Council meeting



On August 27th, we honor St. Monica, whose steadfast prayers and faith led her son, St. Augustine, from a life of wandering to become one of the Church's greatest saints. May we, like her, never cease praying for our loved ones to find Christ.

On August 28th, we'll celebrate St. Augustine! Once a restless seeker, he was transformed by God's grace and his mother, St. Monica's prayers, into a great Doctor of the Church.



St. Joseph Parish PCCW Will be sponsoring a



~ Chicken Q ~



Catered by Pogy's

Saturday, September 13th

11:00 am ~ until gone

Pre-Sale tickets (\$12.00) will be sold after mass on the following weekends

Aug. 23 & 24 and Aug. 30 & 31

## ~ Contributions for the past week ~

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Envelopes (43):  | \$ 3,052.00        |
| Plate collection:      | \$ 325.00          |
| Votive candles:        | \$ 133.75          |
| Initial offering:      | \$ 4.00            |
| Assumption collection: | \$ 273.00          |
| <b>Total:</b>          | <b>\$ 3,787.75</b> |

First Reading: Isaiah 66: 18-21

Second Reading: Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13: 22-30

God's desire is that we love him and serve him and are united to him for eternity. We are called by baptism to the salvation that he offers through his Son. What matters is our response to that loving and life-giving invitation: how we live out our lives as faithful disciples makes the ultimate difference. It is our witness that will encourage others to hear and respond to God's call to them.

## ~ 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 - Call the office (608)788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com) to arrange the anointing of the sick.

## \* Confession

3:30—3:45 pm before 4:00 pm Mass or by appointment.

## \* 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 is \$20.00**

~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The readings remind us that merely calling ourselves Christ's disciples isn't enough. To be genuine followers, we must live for Christ every day and in every part of our lives. This kind of life requires strength and discipline.

Intentionally and consistently offering the Lord the best of our *Time*, *Talent*, and *Treasure* through a stewardship lifestyle is a form of spiritual discipline. Stewardship, which involves managing and sharing our resources in a way that honors God, is a key spiritual discipline. These spiritual disciplines teach us to become increasingly aware of God's constant provision for us, and they keep us on the narrow path that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven. The more we embrace this way of life, the more we can be "trained" by the Lord in the ways of true discipleship. Though difficult, these disciplines become a source of spiritual strength.

Our Lord Himself talks about the challenging path to the Kingdom of Heaven in today's Gospel reading from Luke. He is asked, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Jesus replies, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." This narrow path, though difficult, is the path of true discipleship. Attending Mass on Sunday while living as if Christ is an afterthought the rest of the week does not make us disciples. Moreover, this attitude toward our faith is an unfair and unloving response to our good God, who has given us everything we have and are.

Jesus does not want us to go through the motions of faith merely. He wants much more from us and for us. He desires a deep, personal relationship with each of us, inviting us to become His holy disciples. This is not a burden; it is a privilege. However, it does require discipline—the discipline of a stewardship way of life.

## THE RENEWAL PROJECT

Simple. Achievable. Life Changing.  
"Behold, I make all things new." – Revelation 21:5

The Renewal Project is not a checklist or a program—it's a personal invitation for you to engage with your faith on your time and on your terms. Rooted in prayer and community, this diocesan-wide effort encourages each of us to take a simple step deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ. You will find a variety of invitations to help you reflect, grow, and respond to the Lord in your daily life—whether as parents, couples, singles, or students. It's about opening your heart to His presence and letting Him renew you from the inside out. To learn more and begin your journey, visit [here](http://diolc.org/renewal) (<http://diolc.org/renewal>) or use your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the right.



~ PARISH NEWS ~

### Religious Education

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. We commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.



### • Mark your calendars for Chicken Q on September 13th!

• **Wedding Anniversary Blessing:** At the first weekend masses in September (6th & 7th), Father Sen will bless all of the *Wedding Anniversaries* for the month of September. This Wedding Anniversary Blessing will continue for each subsequent month at the first weekend masses.

• **Birthday Blessings:** At the second weekend masses in September (13th & 14th), Father Sen will bless the September *Birthdays*. The *Birthday* Blessing will continue each subsequent month at the second weekend masses.

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

### ~ Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know "the God of All Hope" (Rom 15:13)

In the Book of Genesis, when Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil, they let their trust in their Creator die in their heart and, abusing their freedom to do good, they disobeyed God's command. All personal sin committed subsequently is disobedience toward God and lack of trust in His goodness. God is perfect goodness and only wants what is best for us. After this Original Sin, God did not stop loving our first parents, as shown through His promise of a Savior who would rescue us from the consequence of being separated from our Heavenly Father. The promise was kept as Jesus came to rescue us from Satan, sin and eternal death. Let us ask Jesus to strengthen the gift of hope in us, to trust in His goodness.



### ~Celebrate Rural Life Day - Sept. 22, 2025 - Warrens, WI

Join us for the 44th Annual Rural Life Day at the Van Wychen Family Farm in Warrens on Monday, Sept. 22! Mass with Bishop Battersby at 10:00 AM will be followed by awards, the blessing of farm animals, crops, and machinery, and a delightful lunch. The Van Wychen Farm is located at 3365 Auger Road, Warrens,



### ~Healing Service – Sacred Heart Church~Cashton~ Friday Sept 12

Come and experience God's supernatural love! Join us at Sacred Heart Church, Cashton on Friday, Sept. 12 for Adoration & Confession at 4:30 PM, Mass at 5:30 PM, and Healing Prayer to follow. This evening is not only about physical healing but also about encountering Jesus and meeting the Divine Physician, who heals the heart, mind, and soul. Jesus promised, "They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:17) Contact: Sara Clements, 608-385-5285

Pray That we invest more of our time and our talent in building up our treasure in heaven.

## ~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**~Pilgrimage to Mexico with Fr. Tim Oudenhoven - Marian Messengers February 8-13.** Come and visit Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr. Tim Oudenhoven. We will be walking the actual steps of St. Juan Diego and learning firsthand of the incredible message and mission that Mary has for us! For More information visit: [www.marianmessengers.org](http://www.marianmessengers.org) or call 800-842-4842 (Select International Tours in partnership with Theology of the Body Institute)

**~Mass of Hope and Healing | Sep 23 | Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman:** Bishop Gerard Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman. This Mass will be offered for anyone grieving the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, accident or infant death. A book of remembrance will be available before and after Mass for those who would like to inscribe the name(s) of their child (ren). Votive candles will be given to families before Mass in remembrance of each child. Candles will be lit and carried forward by family members, just before the entrance procession, and placed before the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After Mass, refreshments will be served along with a display of resources and books in the Gathering Space.



**~Pins & Pirouettes Save the Date! Saturday, October 11.** Come support the Aquinas High School Dance and Wrestling teams by watching their fun partner performances!

**~National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) | November 20-23, 2025 | Indianapolis, IN**

It is with great enthusiasm and a profound sense of purpose that we write to invite you and your youth to join us for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) See the official website [here](#) or by using your camera's smartphone to scan the QR code to the right. NCYC is a vibrant, faith-filled event that brings together young Catholics from across the nation to celebrate their faith, deepen their relationship with God, and connect with peers who share their spiritual journey. It is an event that promises to inspire, empower, and ignite the hearts of our youth, helping them to grow in their faith and become active, engaged members of our Church community with a mission to go and make disciples.



**Dear GOD,**

*As we send our children back to school,  
we pray for Your protection and guidance.  
Keep them safe from harm, both physically  
and emotionally. Help them to find friends  
who will support and encourage them.  
Give them wisdom as they face challenging  
situations. And help them to always remember  
that you with them, no matter what. AMEN*

## ~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

### Being Punished...

In today's second reading, Saint Paul wrote to the Hebrews about being disciplined by God. When we are young God wants our parents to make sure we behave well. When we don't behave He wants them to discipline us so that we will learn to be good.



Our parents don't punish us just because they are angry at us; they do it because they really love us and want us to learn to be better. Saint Paul says that the Lord disciplines the people that He loves.



Being punished is a painful thing, but we will be happy once we have learned our lesson and become a better person. Saint Paul says, "make a straight path for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." He means that when you are punished, you should stop doing the wrong thing so that you won't be hurt worse from the punishment, but will get better instead. So the next time you are disciplined or punished, remember that God is allowing it to help you become a better person. If you can, even thank God for giving you the chance to make up for your sin and learn a good lesson!



**With one voice, let us bring to our heavenly Father our prayers for this day.**

- † For all members of the Church, may God bless our efforts to bring the risen Jesus to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- † For public authorities, may God help them in their efforts to defend the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- † For widows and widowers, and for peace and consolation in the face of the challenges they face, let us pray to the Lord.
- † For the sick and the homebound of this community, may God grant them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- † For the faithful departed, may they enjoy eternal bliss with our Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- † For our own special intentions, let us pray to the Lord

**Loving Father, please hear and answer our prayers, we ask, through Christ our Lord.**

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)

