

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

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 14, 2025 ~ *Third Sunday of Advent*



*“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (Jas 5:8) ”*

## **Pastor Father Sen**

Fr. Sengole Vethanayagam  
(715) 615-1774  
frsengolevema@gmail.com

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Paula Silha—Administrative Assistant  
Barb Mikshowsky - Bookkeeper  
Office hours vary, please call 608-788-1646  
sjrp2601@gmail.com

### **CONFESSIONS**

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

## **St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph Ridge** (608) 788-1646

### **Weekend Mass Schedule**

1st Saturday of the month .... 8:30 AM  
Saturday ..... 4:00 PM  
Sunday ..... 8:30 AM

### **Weekday Schedule**

#### **ADORATION**

Tuesday ..... 5:00 PM

#### **MASS**

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

## **St. Peters Parish, Middle Ridge** (608) 452-4680

### **Weekend Mass Schedule**

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

### **Weekday Schedule**

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

#### **ADORATION**

Wednesday .... 7:00 PM with  
Benediction at 8:05 PM

## **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  
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 13TH**

~4:00 pm - Jennifer Clements (MB)

Lector: Jim Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family

Lector: Dan Steiger

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~5:30 pm - † Reiny &amp; Darlene Kammel (J&amp;SD)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**

~8:30 am - † Stan and Steve Hundt (S&amp;SM)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

~4:00 pm - † Madonna Bahr (DL)

Lector: Bill Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21TH**

~8:30 am - Alice Silha (JD)

Lector: Paula Silha

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

## ~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- ♦ **December 17 ~ 6—8:00 pm** Confessions heard at St. Joseph/St. Joseph Ridge (*CCD students at 6pm, parish members following*)
- ♦ **December 17 ~** Religious Education Christmas Party following Confessions
- ♦ **December 22 ~ 9:00 am to 6:00 pm** Confessions @Cathedral 9:00 am to 6:00pm
- ♦ **December 23 ~** No Religious Ed Classes
- ♦ **December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Mass times**  
~4:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph/St. Joseph Ridge  
~8:00 pm Mass at St. Peters/Middle Ridge
- ♦ **December 25 ~ Christmas Day**  
~8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph/St. Joseph Ridge  
~10:00 am Mass at St. Peters/Middle Ridge
- ♦ **January 1—New Year's Day**  
~8:00 am Mass at St. Joseph/St. Joseph Ridge  
~10:00 am Mass at St. Peters/Middle Ridge

## "Catholic Life" and "Eucharistic Celebration"

Mass times as of January 1, 2026:

Saturday Mass—4:00 pm

Sunday Mass—**8:00 am**

Tuesday Mass—5:30 pm

Thursday Mass—**8:00 am**1st Saturday of the month Mass—**8:00 am**

## ~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (37):	\$ 2,246.00
Plate collection:	\$ 250.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 320.00
Votive candles:	\$ 133.48
Immaculate Holy Day offertory:	\$ 401.85
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,317.85</b>

## ~ 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 with

*Spending time with our Dear Lord!!!*

\* **Anointing of the Sick**—Call Father Sen at (715) 615-1774 or 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 Saturday 4:00 Mass or by appointment.

\* **Mass Intentions**

Weekday and weekend mass intentions are available in Jan. and forward Please contact the Parish office phone 608/788-1646, use envelopes in the back of church, or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com). **Mass Intention offerings are \$20.00**



2025-26 Goal:	\$23,975.00
Pledged:	\$ 9,410.00
Received:	\$ 8,435.00
<b>Amount Due:</b>	<b>\$ 15,540.00</b>

Updated amounts were not available this week.

~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~

~ PARISH NEWS ~



### Third Sunday of Advent

Good news, Christian stewards — we are making progress in our Advent journey, and it's time to pause and rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will return in victory one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are full of reminders of God's ultimate victory over suffering and injustice, and they encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to living as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world today. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we wait for the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." "Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us, Christian stewards, as we face the challenges of daily life in our broken world, especially during the hectic days before Christmas when stress can cause us and those around us to be less than our best. St. James reminds us that we have the power to choose our response to both the major strains and minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude by "making our hearts firm" through practicing patience with others and refusing the temptation to complain.

Remember, we have the choice to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, regardless of the circumstances we face. This is a source of hope and optimism that can guide us through the challenges of our daily lives.

♦ **The book '7 Pillars of Catholic Spirituality'** will be given out at the Christmas Masses. Parish members are welcomed to help distribute these to families on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses. Contact Lorie Liss, 715/630-4809 to volunteer at either service.

♦ **Altar Servers needed:** This is a great way for your child to learn about and participate in service. Students in grade 3 through 12, public, parochial, or home-school, are welcome. Contact Lorie 715-630-4809, Fr. Sen or email the parish before Christmas. We are trying to bring back this important and meaningful service to our parish and it cannot happen without YOU!

♦ **Retirement Fund for the Religious:** Your gift ensures that senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests receive the support they need. Please consider a gift to those who have given a lifetime. **You can find envelopes in the back of church.**



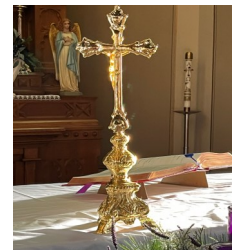
### Sincere Sympathy to the family of Eleanor Sullivan

who passed away on Dec. 5, 2025. A Memorial Mass was held 12/13/25. We send thoughts and prayers for Evelyn and her family.

### New Altar Cross

Memorials in memory of Evelyn Rutz-Thorton supported the purchase of the crucifix.

Thank you to the family.



~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

~Advent: **Jesus is Our Hope** (1 Tim. 1:1)  
The Advent hymn Come, O Long Expected Jesus states that He fulfills all the prophecies about the coming of our Savior. Jesus is born a helpless child, but He is the King of kings who establishes the kingdom of God on earth who desires to reign in our heart as the Christ. Let us stay focused during these days of Advent that Jesus is our only hope, asking Him to increase this gift within us.

The third verse:

Born your people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Your gracious kingdom bring.



*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to you, O Israel*



### Diocese Listening Session Updates:

This summer and fall, 3,622 people participated in 40 listening sessions to help launch Rebuild My Church, an ongoing effort of renewal and pastoral planning for our Diocese. Stay tuned for regular updates. You can view a recording of the listening sessions by visiting this QR code. Thank you St. Joseph Parish members who took time to participate.





~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~The **Jubilee Year of Hope** officially ends on January 6th when Pope Leo XIV closes the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. A Mass to close the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of La Crosse will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman by Msgr. Richard Gilles, 10 a.m. on December 28th. All are welcome.

~**Mission Trip to Casa Hogar!**

St. Joseph Parish is invited to join St. Peters Parish for a Life-Changing Mission Trip to Casa Hogar! Get ready for an unforgettable adventure! In Aug. 2026, students are invited to travel to Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Peru—a home filled with joy, faith, and hope.

Participants will serve alongside incredible families, help with community projects, grow in friendship, and experience the vibrant culture of Peru. This is more than a trip—it's a chance to make a real impact and let God work through you in amazing ways.

Contact Lorie Liss 715/630-4809 for more information.

~**Help Catholic Charities Love our Neighbors in Need:**

Catholic Charities provides support to our neighbors in need in many ways, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst (especially in winter) to giving hope and support to moms before and after birth to working with married couples looking to adopt, to assisting the poor and people with disabilities. Especially in this holy season of Christmas, find out how you can help by visiting [cclse.org](http://cclse.org).

~**Job Opportunities:** Two part-time positions are available:

**Disability Services Support Specialist:** Work with adults who have developmental, cognitive, and physical needs in our day services program.

**Driftless Pass Education Specialist:** Provides support to students enrolled at Driftless Pass through mentoring, behavior management, and tutoring based on their IEP. Assists teachers and paraprofessionals in maintaining a safe learning environment.

These are hourly positions. Learn more or apply today at: <https://cclse.org/employment-opportunities>

# GAUDETE SUNDAY

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

## Third Sunday of Advent December 14th, 2025



*Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.*

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?*

*Connect the dots to find out!*

*Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

**Trusting in God's merciful and abundant love, we bring our prayers and petitions to him.**

+ For the Holy Church of God throughout the world, that as she celebrates the birth of Christ, she may grow in holiness, we pray to the Lord...

+ For all those who do not yet believe in Christ, that they may know that today a Savior is born for them, we pray to the Lord...

+ For peace in the world, that nations may resolve their conflicts by giving themselves over to Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray to the Lord...

+ For those who are alone or abandoned, for the oppressed and the hungry, the homeless and the unborn, we pray to the Lord...

+ For all those who have died, that by the power of Christ's birth on earth, they may be born in heaven, we pray to the Lord...

**God our Father, we beg you to hear and grant our prayers, through Christ our Lord.**

**ALWAYS  
pray  
and  
NEVER  
give up!**