

St. Joseph Parish *of* St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 21, 2025 ~ *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

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
*‘Thank you
for your
time and
talent to
support our
parish.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Director:
Lorie Liss

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 20TH

~4:00 pm - **†** Madonna Bahr (DL)
 Lector: Bill Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

~8:30 am - **†** Alice Silha (JD)
 Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
 ~5:30 pm - **†** Jean Meyers (D&LC)

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH

~4:00 pm - **†** George, Evelyn, Darrel & Terry Miller
 Lector: Bill Weber (T&MSP)
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH

~8:30 am - **†** Brent & Carlie Clements (S&CC)
 Lector: Donna Clements
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

~4:00 pm - **†** Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky (M&CM)
 Lector: Cecilia Sawaya
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

~8:30 am—**†** Karen Williams (J&SD)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (37):	\$ 4,382.00
Plate collection:	\$ 252.25
Christmas flowers:	\$ 10.00
Votive candles:	\$ 108.05
Immaculate Conception(Holy Day):	\$ 25.00
Retirement for Religious:	\$ 50.00
Total:	\$ 4,927.30

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.*

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 22** ~ 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

~ 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 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. **Mass Intention offerings are \$20.00**



~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~



Fourth Sunday of Advent

As our Advent preparations end and Christmas fast approaches, this week's readings should demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do but offer our lives in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give? Recognizing God's perfect love inspires us to live out our faith through active service and gratitude.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, who obeys God's call through the message of an angel. Let us follow his example by actively listening and responding faithfully to God's call in our own lives.

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born, and it was he who cleaned and prepared it for Mary and Jesus, demonstrating active service. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, comfort, and well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph, his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, by reflecting on how we can give our lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Romans 1:1-7;

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall? Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to "pivot from maintenance to mission"

Weekly updates are available by clicking on QR

Code on the right or on this link

<https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>



~ PARISH NEWS ~

◆ **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.

◆ **Retirement Fund for the Religious:** Thank you to those who made a contribution to the Retirement Fund for the Religious. **Envelopes can be found in the back of church.**



◆ **Christmas Caroling:** Join the Choir to carol this Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3pm. We will meet and coordinate to carpool and bring musical Christmas cheer to senior parish members. We will include new homes as well as those visited in past years, visiting as many houses as time allows.

◆ **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Confessions are being heard on Monday, December 22nd at the St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. Several priests will be available to hear confessions on Monday 9 AM to 6 PM.



~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

~**Advent: Jesus is Our Hope**~ 1 Tim. 1:1) The Advent hymn *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* is a prayer of hope, asking that by the grace of the Holy Spirit we allow Jesus to reign in our lives. It is Jesus' perfect actions of His life, crucifixion, death and resurrection that are the "all-sufficient merit" that saves us and makes us ready for eternal life in heaven. In essence, this is a prayer for deep personal surrender to God and a plea for salvation through Christ's work, because we are not able to save ourselves by our own doing. Let us open our hearts with great hope to encounter the living Christ Child on Christmas, especially when we receive the Holy Eucharist.

The fourth verse: By Your own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone; By Your all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Your glorious throne.

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.



Hiring for Two Positions at the Diocese:

The openings for the Diocesan Graphic and Media Designer position and the Digital Evangelist position are located at the diocesan open position webpage <https://diolc.org/jobs/> and on Indeed.

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Worldwide Marriage Encounter is coming to the Diocese of La Crosse | February 13-15, 2026 | Sparrow's Nest, Sparta,

Looking for a way to rekindle the love and romance in your marriage? Your marriage is your most important human relationship. This powerful experience of discovery helps you renew your commitment, deepen your intimacy and reignite the passion that brought you together. Space is limited visit this website to apply and save your spot. <https://wwme.org/contact/>

~Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat | April 25-26, 2026 |

Franciscan Spirituality Center 920 Market St. La Crosse, The Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat provides sacramentally married couples with an opportunity to begin their spiritual journey together (or deepen it if it already exists). The retreat can fruitfully be attended by any sacramentally married couple. The retreat includes daily Mass, talks, and time for couples to encounter the Lord together. The retreat also serves as an introduction to the Domestic Church movement for those interested in beginning formation in a Domestic Church circle. For more information see website Scan the QR Code to the right, or click here to register!



~Mardi Gras—Save the Dates:

Royal Reveal: Wed, January 8, 2026; 5:00 pm at the Freighthouse
Mardi Gras Ball: Sat., January 32, 2026, 4:30pm Radisson Ballroom

~Mission Trip to Casa Hogar!

Join St. Peters Parish for a Life-Changing Mission Trip to Casa Hogar ~ August 2026, You'll 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. If interested, contact our Parish Office at (608)

Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is less than a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



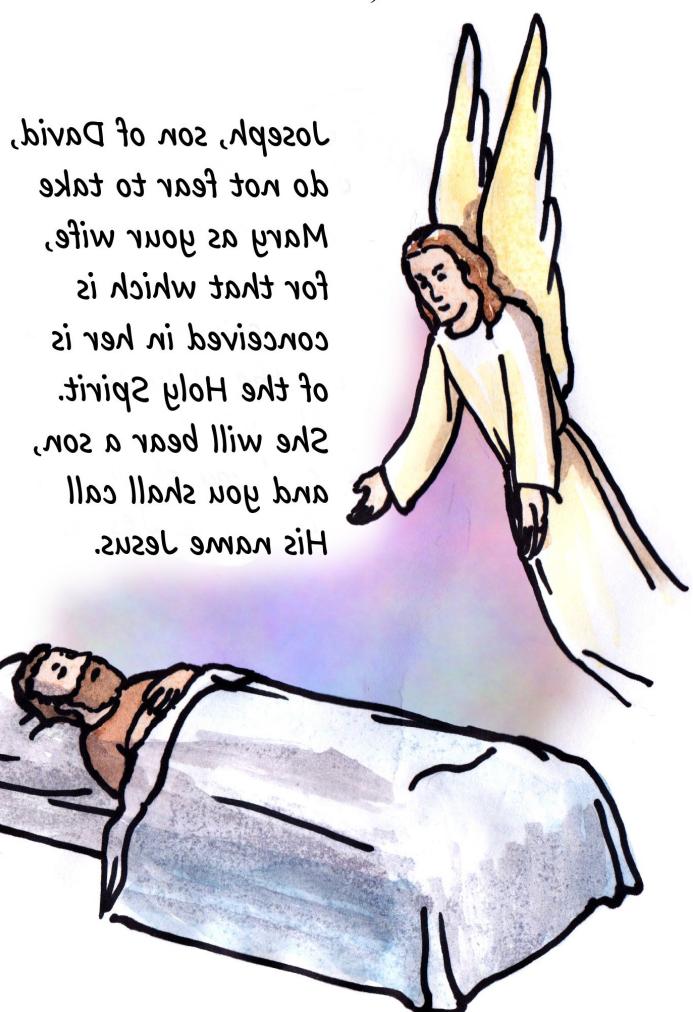
God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.



~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21st, 2025



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say?

Look in a mirror to find out!

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 who will be traveling during this blessed season that they will have safe travel and wonderful Christmas celebrations, we pray to the Lord...
- † For all those who have lost loved ones during the past year that they will find comfort in family, friends and neighbors, peace in the coming of Jesus and hope for healing in the new year, we pray to the Lord...

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

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com