

St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 7, 2025 ~ *Second Sunday of Advent*



“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

Pastor Father Sen

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

PARISH OFFICE

Barb Mikshowsky-Administrative Assistant
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 6TH

~8:30 am—† Adeline Clements (R&BM)

~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family

Lector: Kathy Leis

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

~8:30 am - † Gerald Kneifl (Kneifl family)

Lector: Donna Clements

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

~5:30 pm - Our Parish Family

Lector: Paula Silha

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~5:30 pm - † Irene & Larry Trinkes (D&TB)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family

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

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:**
~5:30 pm Mass @St. Joseph
~8:00 pm Mass @St. Peter
- **December 10 ~ Religious Education classes**
- **December 10 ~ 6-8:00 pm Confessions heard at St. Peter/Middle Ridge**
- **December 12 ~ Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- **December 17 ~ Religious Education classes**
- **December 17 ~ 6-8:00 pm Confessions heard at St. Joseph/St. Joseph Ridge**
- **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

"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

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 Intention offering is \$20.00**

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (22):	\$ 1,136.00
Plate collection:	\$ 161.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 390.00
Votive candles:	\$ 133.48
Thanksgiving offertory:	\$ 125.00
Total:	\$ 1,945.48



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

~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~

Second Sunday of Advent

On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations like this: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This captures the essence of Christian hospitality, a key part of living as a good steward. When fully practiced, it can not only transform our lives but also those of others who experience it through us, encouraging and inspiring us to keep this transformative journey going.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us, as stewards, to answer the call of John the Baptist, as seen in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" and he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." There is a deep and enlightening connection between repentance and effective hospitality, guiding us on our spiritual journey.

So, how can we make repentance a regular part of our daily lives? We can include an "examination of conscience" in our daily prayers, thanking God for when we said "yes" to Him and asking for forgiveness for when we chose our own will. We should go to Confession this Advent. We can also reach out to a family member or friend when there is distance or discord and work to make peace. This support and encouragement in our journey of repentance are essential for our spiritual growth.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more welcoming people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and much more open and prepared to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

~ PARISH NEWS ~

♦ **A Big Welcome to Paula Silha as the new Administrative Assistant here at St. Joseph Parish.** Paula is a member of St. Joseph Parish and recently retired after 36 years with La Crosse County working in the Health Dept. Paula brings staff and office organization skills and is eager to assist with parish operations. The office is in the school hall and can be reached by calling (608)788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com

♦ **Rectory:** The furnace in the rectory was replaced on Wednesday. The old furnace was over 35 years old and was needing lots of work. Also, a washer/dryer combo was purchased and will be installed on the mail level of the rectory.

♦ **The book '7 Pillars of Catholic Spirituality'** will be given out at the Christmas Masses. Ladies of the parish, if you would like to assist with this special Christmas project, please come to the school hall this Monday evening after 5:30 Mass. Bring any extra Christmas Ribbon, curling ribbon, book-sized gift bags you might have on hand and your favorite pair of scissors. Thank you in Advance.

♦ **Altar Servers needed:** Any student, grade 3 through 12, public, parochial, or home-school, who might be interested in being trained as an altar server, please contact Lorie 715-630-4809, Fr. Sen or email the parish before Christmas. We are trying to bring back this really important and meaningful service to our parish and it cannot happen without YOU!

Advent Day of Reflection for Confirmation students and their families

~ Sunday, December 7th at 8:00 am ~

the day will begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation followed by the 8:30 Mass. Students should sit with their family members during Mass. The Reflection Day concludes with Dominos Pizza, a simple potluck and dessert served at 11:00.

Thank you to Ruben Mendoza Medrano for planning the day, and Deacon Allen and Fr. Sen for their assistance.

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

Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Christ that includes a call to purification through personal spiritual renewal, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), and making simple acts of penance and sacrifice. Purification is a key theme, involving the cleansing of hearts and minds from worldly distractions to focus on Christ's coming, asking for the grace to "purify hope" and preparing for the Lord. The priest's vestments during Advent are purple, the color of penance and sacrifice. They are a constant reminder of our need to get ready – to be cleansed and purified. Advent is a season for



stepping back from our busy lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This can also include something like not having dessert occasionally, or turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. Or this can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices to spend this Advent in true preparation for the real gift of Christmas – Jesus Christ.

~ 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 He come because we need a Savior. Jesus came to set us free from our attachment to bad habits, which creates barriers and can even separate us from our friendship with Him. Due to His unconditional love for us, Jesus desires to help us break away from sin so that we can be more closely united to Him.

During Advent, set aside time for quiet prayer, to watch and wait for the coming of the Christ Child into our heart at Christmas. Let us allow Jesus to spiritually renew us with greater hope, peace and joy, even amidst difficulties.

The first verse: Come, O long expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free; From our fears and sins release us;
Free us from captivity.

~Advent Luminary Hike at the FSPA Land, St. Joseph Ridge Join us on Monday, December 8th (6:30 pm—8:00 pm) for an evening gathering and peaceful mile-long hike filled with Advent reflections and candle luminaires. All ages are welcome. Please dress for the outdoor elements. Snacks & refreshments will be provided! *Those unable to hike are still welcome to join us for snacks & conversation around a fire. No pets, please.

~Cookie Walk & Craft Sale Mary, Mother of the Church parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Sat., Dec. 13, in the parish hall located at 2006 Weston St., from 7:30am-1 pm. Homemade cookies, candies, breads, pies, Scandinavian sweets, handcrafted items, Scrip gift cards and raffles are available for sale. Serving breakfast (featuring egg bakes and cinnamon rolls) and lunch (homemade soup and chili). Door Prizes every half hour.

~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.

Want to learn more? Join us for the planning meeting on Dec. 10, 2025 at 7pm at St. Peter's Church basement. Let's step out in faith together!

~Retirement Fund for Religious-

A Lifetime of Service Deserves Care in Return. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week (December 13&14). There are **envelopes in back of the church**. Your gift will provide essential care for more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.



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

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. For more information and to register go to <https://alifetimeoflove.org/applyWeekend.php>

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

The Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

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

- + For the Church: That we may steward our time like the prophets of old, dedicating moments of Advent reflection to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, and use our talents to build communities of faith.
- + For the world: That the nations and leaders recognize God's merciful promises, stewarding their talents for justice and peace, and sharing treasures to help the poor and displaced, echoing Baruch's call to comfort Jerusalem.
- + For families and the homebound: That we may imitate Mary's haste to serve Elizabeth, stewarding family time for nurturing faith, talents for mutual encouragement, and treasures for the needs of our households and parishes.
- + For all the faithful: That the God of hope may fill us with joy and peace, inspiring us to steward our time, talents, and treasure as offerings of love, readying us for the Savior's birth.

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

