

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

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

February 22, 2026

*First Sunday of Lent*



**“Apart from the cross,  
there is no other ladder  
by which we may get to  
heaven.”**

~ St. Rose of Lima



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

**Weekday Schedule**

**ADORATION**

Tuesday ..... 5:00 PM

**MASS**

Tuesday ..... 5:30 PM  
Thursday ..... 8:00 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  
Vacant-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, FEBRUARY 21ST**

~4:00 pm— † Mary and Ray Sedevie (DL)  
 Lector: Teresa Brown  
 Eucharist Minister: Barb Mikshowscky  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

~8:00 am—Parish Family  
 Lector: Bill Weber  
 Eucharist Minister: Volunteer  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
 ~5:30 pm - † Mike Brown (RB)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH**

~8:00 am - Parish Family

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH**

~4:00 pm—† Sharon LeJeune Tarpeneing (DS)  
 Lector: Dan Steiger  
 Eucharistic Minister: Mary Marshall  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteer

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST**

~8:00 am— † Bill Patterson and Family (SP)  
 Lector: Darlene Hundt  
 Eucharist Minister: Volunteer  
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- ◇ February 24—Parish Book Study— Tues., 6:15 pm, Parish/School Hall
- ◇ February 25—Stations of the Cross, 5:30 pm
- ◇ March 4—Stations of the Cross, 5:30 pm
- ◇ March 5—Communion to the Homebound
- ◇ March 8—Coffee and Conversation after 8:00am Mass
- ◇ March 29—Palm Sunday
- ◇ March 30—All Day Confessions at Cathedral,

~ 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. Please contact the Parish office phone 608/788-1646, use envelopes in the back of church, or email sjrp2601@gmail.com.

A Mass Intention offering is \$20.00

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (29):	\$ 1571.00
Plate collection:	\$ 212.00
<b>Total Contributions:</b>	<b>\$ 1783.00</b>
<b>Total weekly amount needed to cover Parish</b>	<b>\$2800.00</b>



2025-26 Goal:	\$23,975.00
Pledged:	\$ 18,420.00
Percent of Goal Rec'd	73.8%
<b>Received:</b>	<b>\$ 17,695.00</b>
<b>Amount Under Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 6,280.00</b>

Please consider a donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal

Thank you, and may God bless your generosity.

Your contributions, regardless of size, are sincerely appreciated and acknowledged. Your support is valued, and as members of our community, you are greatly appreciated. There is more information regarding the Diocesan Annual Appeal at this link

<https://diolc.org/stewardship/appeal-portal/>

~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~



February 22, 2026 - First Sunday of Lent

GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7; PS 51:3-6,12-13,17; ROM 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; MT 4:1-11

As we embark on the transformative journey of Lent, the Church warmly invites us to 40 days of profound renewal and spiritual focus. This sacred season is not merely about sacrifice; it is about creating intentional space for God in our lives. For those dedicated to Christian stewardship, Lent serves as a powerful reminder to evaluate how we use the precious gift of time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, we witness Adam and Eve turning away from God, allowing seeds of doubt to take root. Their trust gives way to self-reliance, shattering the Garden's harmony. Similarly, we face temptations that challenge our faith, especially when our lives become cluttered with distractions that pull us away from God.

In stark contrast, the Gospel presents us with the example of Jesus. In the solitude of the desert, He devotes Himself to prayer and fasting, grounding Himself in Scripture and placing unwavering trust in the Father. By deliberately setting aside time for God, Jesus powerfully resists temptation and remains steadfast in His faith.

Lent calls each of us to follow this path. By intentionally creating space in our busy schedules for prayer, reflection on Scripture, and quiet contemplation, we nurture our trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship transforms into a way of life, preparing our hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter. Embrace this opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and experience the renewal of spirit that Lent offers. Jesus places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful. Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

St. Peters Church - Middle Ridge



# Cabin Fever Fest

**Euchre Tournament & Luncheon**

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**\$15 per person**

**Time: Basement Doors open at 12:00 p.m.**

**Cards start at 1:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place prizes awarded (possibly more placings)**

**Soups, Snacks and Beverages**

**Included in the price!**



St. Peters Parish Basement  
W697 State Rd 33  
Rockland WI 54653  
608-452-4680  
[parishoffice@stpmr.diocparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpmr.diocparish.org)

~ PARISH NEWS ~

† **Lenten Preparation Opportunities:** Lent began Wed. Feb. 18th with Ash Wednesday. Have you made plans for your Lenten growth? Consider these opportunities.

1. **Parish Book Study:** The first Book Study session was Tues. 2/17. If you did not attend, you are welcome to come 2/24. Please read the first chapter of **Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality**. All are welcome.
2. **Ascension app:** Find daily Lenten video reflections At this site. [www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app)
3. **Hallow prayer and meditation app:** (downloadable on App Store and Google Play) Find God's Peace in Prayer. Join Mark Wahlberg and Jonathan Roumie on Hallow. Free prayers have a sparkle icon.
4. **Stations of the Cross:** Wednesdays beginning Feb. 25, at 5:30pm.
5. **Donate to local organizations** that serve those in need. Parish Food Drive, Catholic Charities, La Crosse County Jail Ministry, Salvation Army.

† **Diocesan Annual Appeal:** \$6200 is still needed towards the Annual Appeal goal. Amount over goal is returned to our Parish.

† **Parish Office Hours:** Staffing in Feb. and March will be Tues., Thurs., and Fridays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Changes will be posted on the Parish/School Hall Doorway. Thank you for your patience.

† **Casa Hogar Pilgrimage:** Connect with Lorie Liss if you missed the meeting on February 17. Lorie's cell- 715-630-4809

† **PCCW—Updates:** -The PCCW is in need of a Secretary, please connect Mary Jo Hess or Lori Clements for more information. PCCW dues—\$13.00 per year. Spring cleaning of the church will happen in March. Volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is in the back of church.

† **Valentines Crafted:** Religious Ed students in 3rd and 5th Grades crafted valentines sent to Parish members on Fr. Sen's Homebound Visit List. Thank you Sheri Hougom for coordinating this activity.



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**~TV Mass Times and Channels:** Mass is broadcast on La Crosse Channel 19 at 9:30 am Sunday.

**~Lenten Regulations:**

Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.
2. Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat also applies to this age group.

**~Fish Fry Season is here!** Lent brings opportunities to enjoy a fish fry at a neighboring parish. St. Pat's, Onalaska and St. Charles Borromeo, Genoa, both host Lenten Friday Fish Fry events. Call ahead for timing and dates.

**~Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**

Collection envelopes for this ministry are located in the back of Church. This fund supports the Catholic Church's work to break the cycle of poverty. Please support this need if you are able.

**~A Retreat for a Parish on Mission**

Monsignor David Kunz will be leading a Lenten Mission at St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish, located at 210 W. Hamlin St. in West Salem, Sunday, March 15th, through Friday, March 20th. The times are: Sunday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m.; Monday, March 16, at 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.; and Friday, March 20, at 2:00 p.m. The daytime sessions repeat the previous evening session. All are welcome. Together we can grow closer to Christ during Lent.

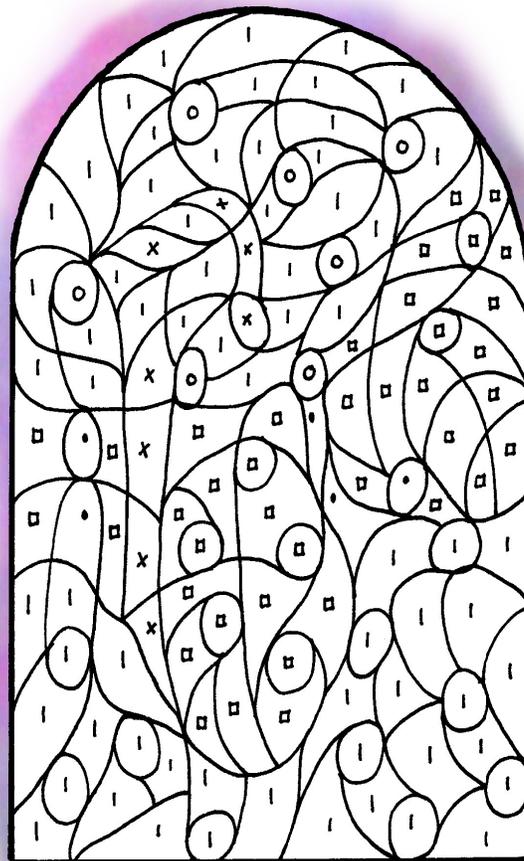
**~ Women's Lenten Retreat: Everyday Holiness: Finding Refreshment in Christ** Saturday, March 7, 8 am to 2pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. This event is free but you do need to RSVP by March 5. Posters are on the bulletin board in the back of church. Sponsored by DCCW and CDA groups.



~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

**First Sunday of Lent  
February 22nd, 2026**

*Today's first reading tells us about sin.  
Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces  
and find out what the story was.*



- ▣ blue
- ▣ red
- | green
- skin colour
- x brown

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

- + For the protection of all life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord...
- + For lasting resolutions to conflicts around the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East., we pray to the Lord...
- + For reasonable resolutions to concerns about immigration and respect for those looking for a better life, we pray to the Lord....
- + That each of us will dedicate time during this season of Lent to grow our relationship with Jesus, 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](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)