



St. Joseph Parish

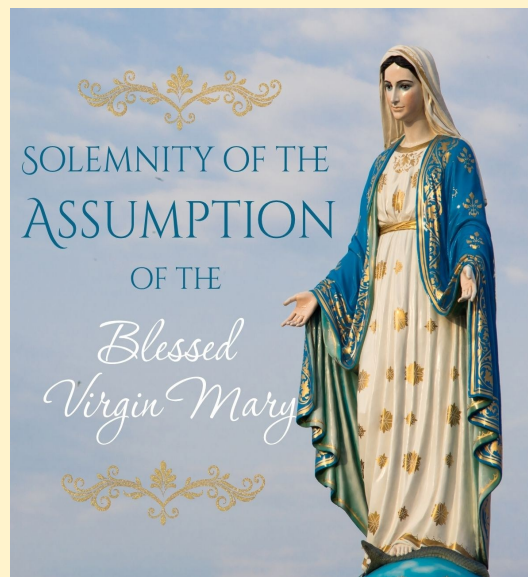
St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33
La Crosse WI 54601

August 16, 2026



Our Church's
is being celebrated
on August 22nd.
Please come celebrate
with us!



Pastor Father Sen

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

PARISH OFFICE

Paula Silha—Administrative Assistant
Barb Mikshowskey - Bookkeeper
Summer Hours Vary
(608)788-1646 sjrp2601@gmail.com

CONFESSIONS

3:30—3:45 pm
(before Saturday 4pm Mass)

St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph Ridge

(608) 788-1646

Weekend Mass Schedule

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

Adoration: Tuesday ... 5:00 PM

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday5:30 PM
Thursday8:00 AM
1st Saturday of the month.. 8:00 AM

St. Peters Parish, Middle Ridge

(608) 452-4680

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday.....8:00 PM
Sunday10:00 AM

Weekday Schedule

Wednesday8:00 AM
Friday.....8:00 AM

ADORATION: Wednesdays

Exposition, Rosary, Adoration,
and Confession ...7:00 PM
Benediction at 7:55 PM

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Bill Weber—Chair
Teresa Brown—Secretary
Dave Brown-Cemetery Rep
Lori Clements -PCCW Rep
Stan Clements
Ann Degenhardt
Terry Dickman-Finance
Council Rep.
Bob Kotek
Stacy Burns-Music
Lorie Liss-DRE

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL:

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Director:
Lorie Liss

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:

Lisa Meyer
Paulene Connell
Mary Beth Smith
Chris Carskadon

Sacristan:

Sally Miller

"Whoever serves me, the Father will honor." John 12:26

~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

~8:00 am - For Our Parish Family - Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

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

Lector: Bill Weber

Eucharistic Minister: Mary Reek

Servers: Volunteers Usher: Volunteers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

~8:00 am - † Jean Meyers (L&DC)

Lector: Paula Silha

Eucharistic Minister: Donna Clements

Servers: Volunteers Usher: Volunteers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH

~5:00 pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~5:30 pm - † Willam and Ida Bahr (MB)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH

~8:00 am - † Clarence and Elrita Meyers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22TH

~4:00 pm - For Our Parish Family and All Our Guests

Lector: Bill Weber

Eucharistic Minister: Mary Reek

Servers: Volunteers Usher: Volunteers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23TH

~8:00 am - † Leo and Shirley Servais (D&BS)

Lector: Sally Miller

Eucharistic Minister: Darlene Hundt

Servers: Volunteers Usher: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

◇ **August 15—Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8:00 am Mass**

This Holy Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation for Mass attendance (since it falls on Saturday). You still have opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by attending mass at 8:00 am on Saturday, August 15th.

◇ **August 22 - 125th Anniversary, Mass 4:00 pm, Parish Picnic, 5-8pm**

~ 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!!!

* **To Request the Anointing of the Sick**

Contact Father Sen (715) 615- 1774, or the

Office (608)788-1646 or email srp2601@gmail.com

* **Confession** 3:30—3:45 pm before Saturday 4:00 Mass* **Mass Intentions**

Weekday and weekend mass intentions are available. Please contact the Parish office 608/788-1646, use envelopes in the back of church, or email sjrp2601@gmail.com.

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (41):	\$ 2547.00
Plate collection:	\$ 313.00
Votive Lights:	\$ 58.50
Total Contributions:	\$ 2918.50
Parish weekly target needed:	\$ 2800.00
Above/below weekly target:	+\$ 118.50

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**125TH ANNIVERSARY**

On Saturday, August 22nd

4:00 pm Mass

Parish Picnic to follow

FOOD ♦ BEVERAGES ♦ MUSIC
GAMES ♦ HISTORY DISPLAY

To RSVP for the Picnic:

- ♦ Scan the QR Code on the right *or*
- ♦ Sign up in the back of church *or*
- ♦ Click 'Going' on St. Joseph Parish Facebook Page *or*



~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~



August 16, 2026 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
IS 56:1, 6-7; PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; ROM 11:13-15, 29-32;
MT 15:21-28

Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds us to trust the Lord even when it seems He is not answering our prayers.

God desires to lead us to the joy of heaven and eternal life with Him. To help us grow in faith and live each day as a grateful response to His goodness, He calls us to embrace stewardship as a spiritual practice. This is what the stewardship way of life is meant to accomplish. At times that process is difficult. Often, it stretches us beyond our comfort.

Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. She cried out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was tormented by a demon. How did Jesus respond to this desperate mother's plea? At first, He "did not say a word in answer to her." Undeterred, she continued to seek Him, and He continued to test her faith. This reminds us that perseverance in faith is vital, even when answers seem delayed, fostering resilience and hope in our journey.

She responded with such remarkable trust that Jesus proclaimed, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Hearing those words from our Lord reminds us of the importance of living in faithful discipleship. There could be no greater affirmation of a life committed to trusting God's plan and living as stewards.

The stewardship way of life will test our trust in God at times. But those are often the moments when He is doing His greatest work within us. Let us persevere in faith, trusting that His plan is always leading us toward the joy He has prepared for us, and that trusting in His plan deepens our faith and spiritual growth.

~ Our Church Trivia ~

Answer to Last Weeks Question:

Which pastor was known as a band director and composed the famous Aquinas "Rouser" fight song?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Fr. Theodore Fraling | C. Fr. Gerald Schuh |
| B. Fr. John Pinion | D. Fr. Leo Lang |

Fr. Pinion was very musical

and was very active in promoting music.

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**How many Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish  
are 90 years old or older???**

The answer will be posted in next week's bulletin

## ~ PARISH NEWS ~

+ **125th Anniversary Picnic Updates:** Over xxx adults and xx children have RSVP'd. RSVPs help with planning but all are welcome. .

1. Sign up to help serve food. Sign-up sheets are in the back of church.

2. Set up and take down can always use help. Set up will begin at 10am on Sat. 8/22. Come as a family, help the workgroups and stay to enjoy the picnic following mass.

3. Attend the picnic! Enjoy the musical entertainment. Play Bingo. Prizes have been donated for adults and children by local businesses and your Parish family.

4. We are excited that the following priests are planning to attend our Celebration Mass: Monsignors Gorman, Hundt, Kunz, Kachel, Fathers Dickman, Dhein, Biju, Wolf and Simeo and Deacons Allen and Bell.

+ **Casa Hogar Trip—March 2027** Deadline to sign up is August 15th. Cost estimate is \$1400 for this March 2027 life changing Mission Trip! Contact Mike Klinkner 608-632-0805, Lorie Liss 715-630-4809 or Carol Gronemus 608-487-6170 if you are interested.

+ **Religious Education Planning:** Classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 16th. Families, catechists, volunteers and those attending the Casa Hogar Trip are required by the Diocese to attend a Safe Environment Training. You can attend Sept. 3rd at 7:30 pm at St. Peters or Sept. 9th at 6:30 pm at St. Joseph's.



+ **Food Shelf Donations:** Thank you for your donation of 34 lbs. of food in July. Donations are taken each month to The Hunger Taskforce, which supplies area food pantries with food for distribution.



## WANTED FOR HISTORY DISPLAY

Collecting photographs, documents, and memorabilia that help tell the story of St. Joseph Parish.

We would like to collect **First Communion** and **8th Gr Graduation** pictures along with **Confirmation pictures that were at our church.** We have received a few, but are looking for more.

We can scan photographs and return the originals to you.

Digital photos and scanned images may also be emailed to the parish office at [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)

## ~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**~Newman Center 6pm Sunday Mass:** Sunday evening at Roncalli Newman, a 6pm Sunday evening Mass is offered through August 30th.

**~Find a Church and Mass when Traveling:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers a website to help you find a church with a convenient Mass time when you are traveling. Visit this website <https://www.usccb.org/mass-times>.

**~Welcome One Home:** Just like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who went in search of the one person, we need to invite each individual who has been away to return home to our parish family. This is a powerful way to ensure every member feels known and welcomed. "Welcoming One Home" is a great act of love. Take a look at the [new webpage](#) with resources for this parish initiative.

**~Rural Life Day -** Sept. 23, 2026 at Creamery Creek Farms in Bangor. Nominations to acknowledge Century Farms, and those who support success for local farms and farmers are being sought. Please contact Chairperson, Anne Marie Elwing for more information. [annemarie.elwing@wallstonellc.com](mailto:annemarie.elwing@wallstonellc.com).

**~ Resources on Faithful Citizenship—**The Wisconsin Catholic Conference has prepared resources to help Catholics reflect on what it means to be a faithful citizen, based on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) document, [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility](#). We invite you to consult the 2026 Letter from Wisconsin's Bishops, plus Overview of Catholic Social Teaching, as well as other Faithful Citizenship resources, by visiting [the website](#) or scanning the QR code included.



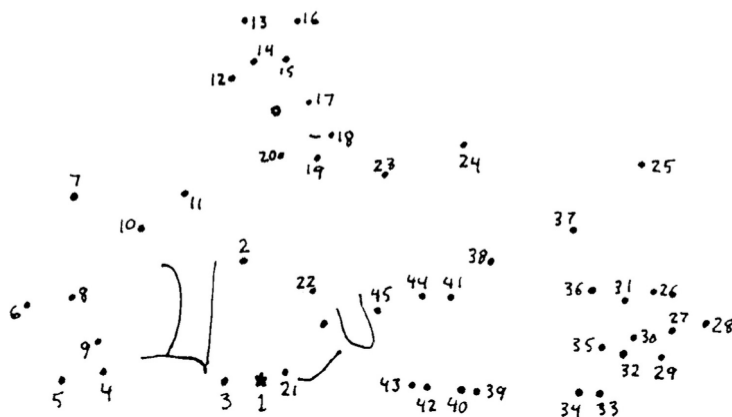
**~ Mass of Hope and Healing | Sept. 8 | Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman:** Bishop Gerard Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 530 Main St, La Crosse. This Mass will be offered for anyone grieving the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, accident or infant death. A candle ceremony will take place at 6:30 PM, prior to the beginning of Mass. Please arrive early to receive your votive candle(s) in remembrance of any child(ren) lost. Candles will be lit and grieving families will carry them forward to surrender to a priest. After Mass, refreshments will be served and volunteers will be present to offer assistance, support, and comfort. We welcome all who mourn, and encourage anyone to come and be supportive.

### Prayer For Peace

**O God, source of all holy desires, right counsels and just works, grant us that peace which the world cannot give, so that we may be obedient to your commands and under your protection enjoy peace in our days and freedom from fear of our enemies. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## ~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16th, 2026



*In today's Gospel reading, a foreign woman was asking Jesus to cure her daughter. But Jesus said that He was sent to care for the children of Israel, not foreigners.*

*The woman replied to Jesus, "But even the \_\_\_\_\_ eat the scraps that fall from their master's table!"*

*What did she say she was like?  
Connect the dots to find out!*

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

- + For favorable weather for our 125th Anniversary of the Church, Parish Celebration, we pray to the Lord.
- + For our Parish Family members separated from their Catholic faith that they will hear the call of Jesus to return to their faith and our Parish Family, let us pray to the Lord.
- + For favorable weather for farmers and a safe harvest season, let us pray to the Lord.
- + For protection and health of Pope Leo, leader of our Catholic Church, we pray to the Lord

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

Your requests are welcome! Call 608-788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)