

PARISH INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, February 6th

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

-4:00pm Mass -†Anna Meyers

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, February 7th

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

-8:30am Mass -†Theresa Hess and Robert Dowiasch

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, February 8th

St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhinta

-5:30pm Mass -†

TUESDAY, February 9th

Weekday

-5:00 pm Adoration

-5:30pm Mass -†James Malin

THURSDAY, February 11th

Our Lady of Lourdes—World Day of the Sick

-8:30am Mass -NO MASS

SATURDAY, February 13th

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

-4:00pm Mass -†Robert, Alice, Patty and Bill Silha

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, February 14th

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

-8:30am Mass -Our Parish Family

Lector: Volunteer

Ushers: Volunteers

PARISH CALENDAR

- **February 6/7**~ World Day for Consecrated Life Celebrated and Blessing of St. Blaise for diseases of the throat and other illnesses after Mass
- **February 9** ~ Finance Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- **February 10** ~ Religious Education Class, Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)
- **February 11** ~ **NO daily Mass**
- **February 17** ~ **ASH Wednesday Mass 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM**, Religious Education Students, no regular classes 8:00 PM at St. Peter Parish
- **February 24** ~ Religious Education Class, Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30) **Stations of the Cross**—7:00 PM
- **March 3** ~ Religious Education Class, Grades 1-5 & 8 (6-7:00pm), grades 6,7 & 9 (7:15-8:30)

Confessions—Available by appointment. Please call or message Father directly.



DID YOU KNOW?

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can do a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$100,000 a year from your IRA directly to a charity. The distribution won't show up in your adjusted gross income and CAN count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The QCD allows you to be more strategic with your RMD. Consult your tax advisor before making any decisions. If a QCD is for you, please consider St. Joseph Parish as your charity of choice.

GIFT'S RETURNED TO GOD

Week of Jan 31st—182 envelope holders



Adult Env.(21Rec'd):	\$1,150.00
Offertory:	\$366.00
Votive Candles:	\$76.50
CCHD(2):	\$40.00
Initial Offering(1):	\$20.00

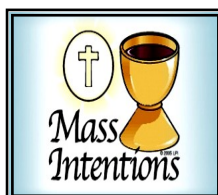
Thank You!



WE ARE THE DIOCESE	DIOCESE ANNUAL APPEAL 2020-2021	Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021	
		2/5/2021	Total Pledged
	Pledged/Received	\$16,945.00	\$16,385.00
	Target Amount	\$20,615.00	\$20,615.00
	Under Target	(\$3,670.00)	(\$4,230.00)
	Number of families contributing: 53		
Percent goal pledged: 82.2%/Received: 79.48%			

Mass Intentions

We have openings for weekday intentions beginning Feb. 25 and First Saturdays, 8:30 AM beginning Mar 6. Saturday, 4:00 PM and Sunday, 8:30 AM Masses in 2021 are fully booked. For questions contact the parish office 788-1646 or sjrp2601@gmail.com.



Donations:

Thank you for your continued generosity! Here are some ways to contribute:

- Use the online giving portal set up by the Diocese: <https://diolc.org/st-joseph-parish-st-joseph-ridge/> (processing fees will be deducted from your contribution, which average 3% for debit and credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH)
- **Drop off** a contribution at the church during private prayer time
- **Mail in** your weekly/monthly offering to parish office (W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse, WI 54601)
- If you use online banking and would like make your contribution using **bill pay**, set up St. Joseph Ridge Parish as a payment and the bank will mail it directly to the parish (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Mark 1:29-39

Mark's was the first of the four Gospels to be written down. In today's Gospel, Mark completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law who was sick with a fever. "He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them." Besides this we have the account of the healing of the leper. He was never too tired to help and to heal. Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God.

The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others through its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness. The Church also takes care of the physical ailments of millions in the world. I read once, that the Roman Catholic Church is the largest non-government provider of health care services in the world. It has around 18,000 clinics, 16,000 homes for the elderly and those with special needs, and 5,500 hospitals, with 65 percent of them located in developing countries. Can you imagine God working through them to do the healing ministry?

Along with the ministry of church there are a lot of people working in the health care industry. Their essential healing work enables people to recover. God continue to heal others through them, too. For nearly a year, we have endured Covid-19 and its global effects. Today's gospel prompts us to honor, appreciate, and thank the many people who have been healers in our midst, putting themselves in harm's way to lift up people who are ill. Though over one million people have succumbed to the virus, tens of millions of people have recovered, thanks to the tireless efforts of medical professionals. Do not take health for granted. It's a blessing from the Lord. Do not forget our obligation to take care of the sick, too.

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

PARISH NEWS

Census/Registration Update—2020 Contribution Statements

All statements and Registration Update forms have been picked up or mailed. If you have questions or concerns about either, please contact the parish office. Please return your registration updates ASAP.

Catholic Campaign For Human Development (CCHD)

Thank you for supporting CCHD. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Extra envelopes will remain in the back of church through this weekend.

Lenten Regulations

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.



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. In addition to abstaining from meat, 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.

Distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday

The Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome recently released the following instructions for the distribution of Ashes during the present pandemic conditions: "The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel', or 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything."

The US Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship continues: "These changes minimize the necessity of physical contact between minister and recipient and remove the need for the minister to speak while in close proximity to the recipient. The distribution of ashes via sprinkling is a common practice in some countries but is not well known here. Therefore, the Committee encourages ministers to provide some explanation to the faithful, to avoid unnecessary confusion."

The faithful ought to be alerted to this alternative manner of distributing ashes in 2021. As the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship notes, while sprinkling ashes upon the top of the head is not customary in the United States, this legitimate manner of giving ashes is practiced in other countries around the world. The Ash Wednesday texts from the Missal themselves speak variously of ashes "put on our heads" "receive [d] upon our heads," and "place[d] on the head." The practice also recalls Old Testament accounts of "the Israelites gathered together while fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust" (Nehemiah 9:1).



DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

World Day for Consecrated Life (Celebrated February 6-7)

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS cont.

National Marriage Week Feb. 7 to 14

This annual observance is a great prompt for everyone to reflect on the gift marriage is to our Church and our country, as well as an opportunity for couples to build up their own marriages. This year our theme is: To Have, To Hold, To Honor. Here's how you can join us: Spend a little dedicated time in prayer and reflection by participating in our seven-day at-home retreat focused on marriage. Visit: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/NMW%202021%20At-Home%20Marriage%20Retreat%20EN.pdf>

Marriage Preparation Retreats - The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering Married Love: Two Becoming One, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on April 24, and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

At Home Suggested Lenten Practices

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through all forty days of Lent, sign up to receive a daily email with a short video to help you connect in a stronger way with Jesus.

- Sign up for Bishop Barron's daily Lenten reflections lentreflections.com/ or
- Sign up for "Best Lent Ever" with Matthew Kelly at dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever

Choose a Prayer Card for Lent in order to "Go Deeper" in your relationship with Jesus and your understanding of the prayer. Visit diolc.org/deeper for adult resources and diolc.org/prayer for children and young people resources.

Bishop Callahan's Lenten Video Message

For Bishop Callahan's Lenten video greeting visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tN3ivPPH3x0&feature=youtu.be>

Diaconate Discernment Retreat

Are you a man at least 35 years of age who feels a yearning to give yourself more radically to the service of God and the Church – preaching the Gospel, serving those in need, assisting at the altar? If you think God may be calling you to be a deacon, talk to your pastor about attending the Diaconate Discernment Retreat at St. Mary's Church in Altoona on February 27th, 2021. Then contact Deacon Bryan Hilts, Director of the Office for the Diaconate at bhilts@diolc.org. A new deacon formation class will begin in the fall of 2021 and attendance at the Discernment Retreat is a prerequisite.

Virtual Poetry Café (via zoom)

February 25 • Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m. Facilitator: Sarah Hennessey, FSPA Investment: \$5 Registration deadline: February 24 Bring your beverage of choice and your favorite poetry, either written by you or by another author, for a time of sharing and reflection. During this dark time of winter, poetry can bring a little light and hope into our lives.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

KIDS CORNER



At the end of today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells Simon that they will go to the nearby villages to preach. Can you find your way through the maze to the nearby village?

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- For Paula Skoy-Evenson who is battling cancer.
- All those who are suffering from the Coronavirus and those who are working tirelessly to help the ill recover.
- All the military men and women who are supporting our freedom.
- All political leaders, may their decisions be made for the good of all citizens, born and unborn.
- For those fighting cancer, especially members of our parish.
- For Mora Mikshowsky and all children suffering with life threatening conditions and illnesses.
- For all Religious in our Diocese, especially Matt Kotek.
- The intentions listed in our parish book of prayer.

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

