

PARISH INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, February 15th

Weekday, President's Day

-5:30pm Mass -†Joan Ziegler

TUESDAY, February 16th

Weekday

-5:00 pm Adoration
-5:30pm Mass -†Ralph and Evelyn Mikshowsky

WEDNESDAY, February 17th

Ash Wednesday

-8:30am Mass - Our Parish Family
-6:00pm Mass -†Alvina and Ike Clements

THURSDAY, February 18th

Weekday

-8:30am Mass -†Herbie Meyers

SATURDAY, February 20th

1st Sunday of Lent

-4:00pm Mass -†Lawrence Liebl
Lector: Volunteer
Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, February 21st

1st Sunday of Lent

-8:30am Mass -†George and Evelyn Miller
Lector: Volunteer
Ushers: Volunteers

PARISH CALENDAR

- **February 15** ~ PCCW Meeting - 6:30 PM
- **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) **Stations of the Cross**—7:00 PM
- **March 10** ~ 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

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 Feb 7th—182 envelope holders



Adult Env.(30Rec'd):	\$1,625.00
Offertory:	\$74.00
CCHD(2):	\$40.00
Initial Offering(3):	\$9.00
Ash Wednesday(1):	\$10.00
Book Donations:	\$10.00

Thank You!

Donations:

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

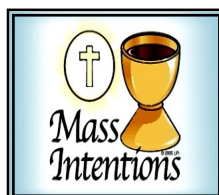
- Use the online giving portal set up by the Diocese: <https://diolc.org/st-joseph-parish-st-joseph-ridge/> (processing fees will be deducted from your contribution, which average 3% for debit and credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH)
- **Drop off** a contribution at the church during private prayer time
- **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).



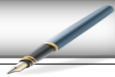
Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021			
	2/12/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
	Pledged/Received	\$17,125.00	\$16,565.00
	Target Amount	\$20,615.00	\$20,615.00
	Under Target	(\$3,490.00)	(\$4,050.00)
	Number of families contributing: 54		
Percent goal pledged: 83.07%/Received: 80.35%			

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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Jesus Heals the Leper
by Rembrandt
1655-60

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

In Mark 1: 40-45, which is the gospel for this weekend, Jesus cures a person with leprosy who reports his cure to everyone. Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Happy Valentine's Day! February 14 was for many years known as the Feast of St. Valentine. Studies and scholars of the last few decades have raised enough conflicting stories and uncertainties about the legend of St. Valentine that the Church removed the feast from the Calendar of Saints. However, the tradition of sending greeting cards of warm wishes, flowers to those whom we love and other expressions of care and devotion continue to be a noble and caring gesture towards others. So, tell those whom you love of your care and concern for them today, February 14, in the spirit of Valentine's Day original meaning of caring for those whom we love. The Second Sunday of February is also World Marriage Day. To everyone who is married and those preparing for marriage we ask God's special blessings upon you on this special day. We pray that you will always witness to love and God's presence in all that you do.

This weekend, is Presidents Day Weekend. It would be good to recall the ideals upon which our country was founded. As Catholics we are called to not only follow and live out the Gospel but also to be good citizens of the country.

It is hard to believe but Wednesday (Feb. 17) is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Season of Lent. As I have mentioned in the past couple of bulletins, this year our celebration of Ash Wednesday and Lent will be different due to COVID protocols for the safety of everyone. Yet no matter how we celebrate Ash Wednesday, Lent and Holy Week this year of 2021 all of our prayers, rituals and services are all meant to remind us of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. Many of us look forward to Ash Wednesday for a heart-felt beginning to this season of introspection and resolve to dive more deeply in communion with God. Wish you a grace filled Lent.

Live Jesus, Fr. Biju

PARISH NEWS

Special Thank You to Our CRE

Teresa Brown has decided to step down as Coordinator of Religious Education at the end of this school year. We sincerely thank her for her years of service, dedication, and commitment to the faith formation of our youth. When you see Teresa please be sure to thank her personally for her devotion to our Religious Education Program.

Thank You!

World Among Us and The Little Black Lenten Booklets

Lenten copies of the Word Among Us and the Little Black Book are now available in the back of church.

The **Word Among Us** includes daily meditations based on the Mass readings of the Catholic Church, inspirational essays, testimonies and stories of the saints and other Christian heroes!

The **Little Black Book** has been carefully crafted to help you explore the depths of Scripture and deepen your relationship with Christ with reflections begin February 14th through Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Census/Registration Update

As of this bulletin publication we have only received 62 of 190 Registration Update forms. If you have not already done so, please return your registration updates ASAP.

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Lenten Mite Boxes

Youth mite boxes are available for pickup in the back of church. The MCA collection helps finance about 3,000 projects per year worldwide. Children in communities, orphanages, homes for the disabled, refugees, and those living on the streets are assisted by the generosity of children who wish to make the love of Jesus know everywhere. Please encourage our youth to help other youth in need.



CRS Rice Bowls: WE ARE CALLED

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the back of church this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Seeking a Coordinator of Religious Education

We are seeking a reliable person, in good standing with the Catholic Church, to head our Youth Religious Education Program, grades 1 through 10, beginning in the Fall of 2021. As the Coordinator of Religious Education, you will exercise responsibilities mostly independent, while under the supervision of the priest. You will be responsible for direction, developing, and implementing an effective religious education program. Coordinator will assist in seeking out catechists and work with them to achieve a successful youth faith formation curriculum. If you are interested or would like more details, please contact Fr. Biju.

**Help
Wanted**

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS

National Marriage Week Feb. 7 to 14

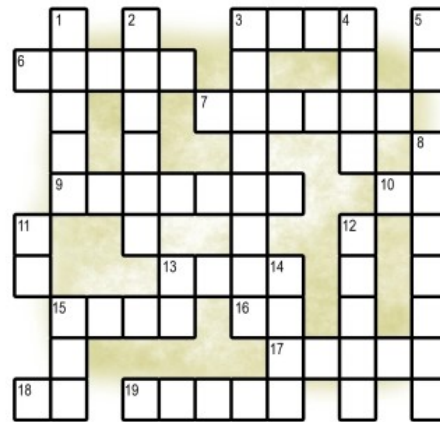
This annual observance is a great prompt for everyone to reflect on the gift marriage is to our Church and our country, as well as an opportunity for couples to build up their own marriages. This year our theme is: To Have, To Hold, To Honor. Here's how you can join us: Spend a little dedicated time 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.



KIDS CORNER

The Leper Cross-Word



kneeling if
touched in
begged to
people be
sternly he
Jesus go
began tell
whole man
proof kept
made leper
down hand

A _____ (6a) came to Jesus and _____ (3d) _____ (14d) _____ (2d) him and said, "____ (5d) you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his _____ (13a), _____ (8d) him, and said to him, "I do will it. ____ (11d) made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was _____ (15a) clean. Then, warning him _____ (9a), he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you _____ (4d) no one anything, but ____ (16a), show yourself to the priest and offer what Moses prescribed; that will be _____ (12d) for them."

The _____ (15d) went away and _____ (19a) to publicize the _____ (17a) matter. ____ (13d) spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for _____ (1d) to enter a town openly. He remained outside ____ (18a) deserted places, and _____ (7a) _____ (3a) coming _____ (10a) him from everywhere.

Answers: across: 3.kept 6.leper 7.people 9.sternly 10.to 13.hand 15.made 16.go 17.whole 18.in 19.began down: 1.jesus 2.begged 3.kneeling 4.tell 5.if 8.touched 11.be 12 proof 13.he 14.down 15.man



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.

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



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).

Bishop Callahan's Lenten Video Message

Bishop Callahan's Lenten video greeting is available at: youtu.be/tN3ivPPH3x0

February 20, 2021 Virtual Men's Lenten Retreat

We will have a free virtual Lenten retreat for men talking about looking to St. Joseph as a model for being a great husband and father. The retreat will feature speakers Fr. Sam Martin and Mr. Pat Brueggen. To register please visit: <https://diolc.org/virtual-lenten-mens-retreat/>

Free Daily Lenten Reflections

Sign up to receive a daily email with a short video to help you connect in a stronger way with Jesus. This begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and continues through the forty days of Lent.

- Sign up for Bishop Barron daily Lenten reflections lentreflections.com/
- 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.

Excellent Lenten resources for Individuals and Families

- **33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC** in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings to light one of the most beloved saints in modern times, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Topics include trust, the Little Way, the Offering to Merciful Love and spiritual darkness. The 33 days is a preparation for consecration to Divine Mercy. A book can be purchased at ShopMercy.org
- **Consecration to St. Joseph** by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC During this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, a six-week preparation beginning on February 15 and ends on March 19th on the Solemnity of St. Joseph would be a most-timely study during Lent. The book is arranged for the consecration with 10-15 minutes of reading per day. Books can be purchased by clicking here: A book can be purchased at ShopMercy.org
- **Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit** with Fr. Dave Pivonka This is 14-part series features Fr. Dave Pivonka, a regular host of Steubenville Youth Conferences. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, the presentations invite viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. The entire series is available for free on wildgoose.tv or if you prefer you can purchase the DVD set as well.

Virtual Formational Series – Thursday, Feb. 25th

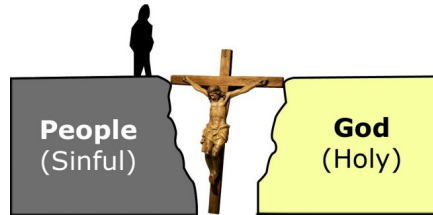
Msgr. Joseph Hirsch will be the speaker for the next Virtual Formational Series on Thursday, Feb. 25th at 2 p.m. Msgr. Hirsch's presentation is entitled Sacrament of Reconciliation: God's Sacrament of Healing for our Wounded World. This is a timely topic for Lent. Msgr. Hirsch gave this presentation to another Diocese and it was very well received, which deals with the common questions and struggles surrounding this Sacrament. This series is FREE but registration is necessary. Contact Paula Boyle at pboyle@diolc.org to register.

“The Good News”

1) God’s Love and His Plan

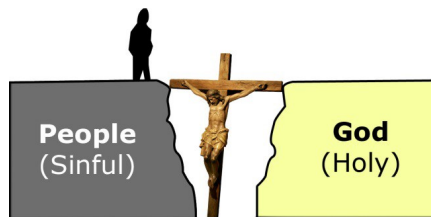
God created us out of love. He loves us and offers a wonderful plan for our lives. God gave us free will so that we can freely choose to love Him. To be truly happy, we need to be in relationship with God.

2) Our Sin Problem Causes Separation from God



We sin and separate ourselves from God, becoming blind to His love and His Plan.

3) God’s Remedy: Jesus’ Crucifixion, His Resurrection and the Church



Jesus came as our Savior. Jesus is the only answer to our sin problem – He is our Bridge to God.

Out of His love for us, Jesus suffered excruciating pain and died in our place so that our sins could be forgiven. Jesus rose from the dead defeating Satan, sin and death.

Jesus established the Catholic Church on the Apostles with Peter as the Head. Jesus gave the Apostles the teachings so we can know the Truth and He instituted the Sacraments so we could receive and cooperate with His grace to live according to the Truth. Jesus chose to remain with us; we can receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus desires a deep friendship with us through frequent conversation.

4) Our Response

Have you allowed Jesus to be your bridge?



What are we to do?

- Turn to the Lord and ask for the specific help that you need.
- Ask Jesus for the gift of faith to believe the “Good News” that He is your Savior. Believing involves trust and commitment.
- Pray on a daily basis, developing a personal relationship with Christ.
- Acknowledge personal sinfulness and trust Christ’s promise of forgiveness. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and cooperate with His grace to break sinful habits.
- Receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.
- Know that we will face trials & suffering. Jesus asks us to carry our cross and He will be with us.