

# St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

*The Greatest  
Commandment*

November 3, 2024—31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

## PASTOR

Fr. Biju C Kunjukutty, MSFS  
715-495-2338  
bchennala@diolclergy.org

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday..... 4:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 8:30 am

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

First Saturday Mass... 8:30 am  
Monday ..... 5:30 pm  
Tuesday  
Adoration..... 5:00 pm  
Mass ..... 5:30 pm  
Thursday ..... 8:30 am

## CONFESSIONS

- First Saturday after 8:30 am Mass
- 3:30—3:45 pm (before Saturday Mass) or by appointment

## PARISH OFFICE

Barb Mikshowsky 608-788-1646  
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday  
sjrp2601@gmail.com

Office hours vary, call or email with questions

**Fr Biju also serves  
St. Peter's Parish, Middle Ridge**  
(608) 452-4680

## Adoration:

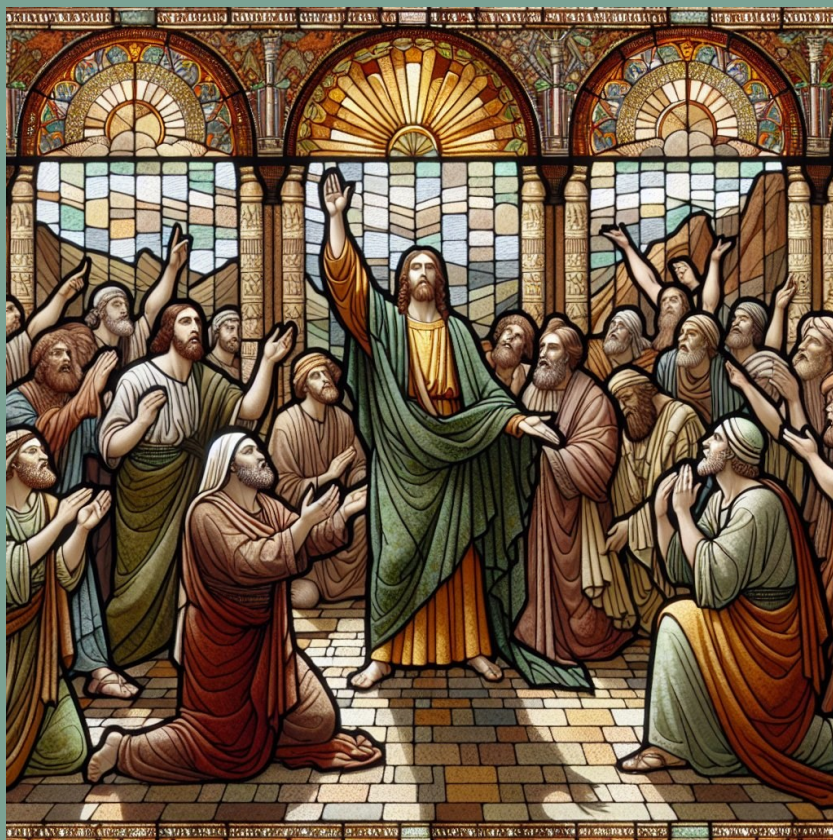
Wednesday ..... 7:30-9:00 pm

## Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday..... 8:00 pm  
Sunday..... 10:00 am

## Weekday Mass Schedule:

Wednesday..... 8:00 am  
Friday ..... 8:00 am



*“Love your Lord your God, with all your heart”*

## CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- ◆ Joining the Parish
- ◆ Weddings or Baptisms
- ◆ Anointing of the sick (also call Fr. Biju cell phone)
- ◆ If you are home-bound and would like to be visited

## 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-CRE

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Coordinator:  
Stacy Burns

*‘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  
dbrown039@centurytel.net  
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, NOVEMBER 2ND**

~8:30 am - † Deceased members of the Guanella and Strittmater families (CS)

~4:00 pm - † Schermerhorn Family (J&PS)

Lector: Donnie Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD**

~8:30 am - † Leo & Shirley Servais (D&BS)

Lector: Sally Miller

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH**

~5:30 pm - † John Leis (S&CC)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

~5:30 pm - † Gerald Kneifl (Family)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH**

~8:30 am - † William & Ida Bahr (MB)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

~4:00 pm - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (Family)

Lector: Jim Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family

Lector: Donna Clements

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **November 6** ~ Religious Education classes
- **November 8** ~ **6-9:00 pm Family Fun Night!!!**
- **November 13** ~ Religious Education Classes
- **November 19** ~ 7:00 pm Finance Council meeting
- **November 20** ~ Religious Education Classes
- **November 27** ~ No Religious Education Classes
- **November 28** ~ Thanksgiving



~ 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!!!*

\* **Anointing of the Sick** - Father Biju will be available for anointing of the sick after the first Saturday mass of each month or contact Fr. Biju directly if you or a family member would like to receive the sacrament.

\* **Confession**

First Saturday of each month

after 8:30 am Mass

or 3:30—3:45 pm

before 4:00 pm Mass or by appointment .

Please contact Fr. Biju to set up a time.



\* **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](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com).

**Mass Intentions Fee change**

In accordance with a decision of the Bishops of Wisconsin, starting on July 1st, Mass stipend fees are \$20

~ Contributions for the past week ~

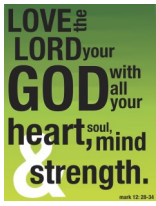
Adult Envelopes(28) :	\$ 1,405.00
Plate collection:	\$ 252.00
Votive candles:	\$ 154.56
Raffle tickets sold:	\$ 305.00
World Mission collection:	\$ 240.00
Donation for Rectory Steps:	\$ 1,000.00
Donation-Family Fun Night:	\$ 500.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,856.56</b>

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 6,680.00
	Received (18) :	\$ 6,660.00
	<b>Remaining Amount Due:</b>	<b>\$ 16,675.00</b>

*Pray that we are generous with our visible gifts of charitable works and generous giving, but that we are more generous with our invisible gifts of love, mercy, and forgiveness.*



~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



**Thirty first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

This weekend we continue to read from Mark's Gospel. Jesus is in Jerusalem. The final days of Jesus in Jerusalem was filled with much action. His entry into Jerusalem, his cleansing of the Temple, and the questioning of Jesus' authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders are all significant moments. This weekend we will hear one of the scribes addressing Jesus with a question. "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus summarized the whole Jewish law into love of God and neighbor. He wanted his listeners to understand that it is not possible to love God sincerely without loving the people whom God has made in His own image and likeness. St. John makes this point clear when he says, "Who ever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). The dual commandments of love that Jesus gave are taken from the Old Testament. The first part about the love of God was taken from the famous Shema: "Hear O Israel: The Lord your God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Shema emphasizes the unity of God and the obligation to love the one God. The second part about love of neighbor was taken from Leviticus 19:18: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

What is remarkable about these two rules is that probably no Rabbi in the past had synthesized these two passages as Jesus did. The old concept of religion relegated the love of neighbor to the background, but Jesus made the love of neighbor inseparable with the love of God. In fact, the life of Jesus is an embodiment of the love of God and neighbor. What makes the instruction of Jesus about love so unique is that He asks His followers not to discriminate against anyone, irrespective of religion, race, tribe or social class. Jesus teaches us that our love of God is incomplete unless we love everyone and respect everyone because everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

November 2nd which is this Saturday, also the first Saturday of November, is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day). It's is a holy day set aside for honoring the dead. On this day we remember and pray for all those who have gone to eternal rest. Many Christians visit cemeteries where their loved ones are buried. Please pray for the dead, especially the holy souls in purgatory.

Please keep in your prayers Dan Korn who is recovering from a tractor accident.

Have a blessed week! *Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS*

~ PARISH NEWS ~

**Family Fun Night!!!**

**Friday, November 8th**

**6:00 - 9:00 PM**

The evening will offer many games of chance such as 50/50 tickets, vegas cards, walk-around raffles for various baskets, gun, fishing pole, shooting chairs,...

There will be a cover charge of \$10.00 for the meal and beverages to be sold that night.

Meal will consist of pork loin sandwich, cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, and cookies.



**All Souls Day – November 2nd**

✠ Pray for the souls of Kay Roesler, Reiny Kammel, Al Cavadini, Don Bina, and other loved ones who have departed this past year.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen*

**\$ PCCW Dues - It's that time of year again to collect the annual dues of \$13.00 for PCCW**  
You can put your payment (checks payable to PCCW) in the collection or you can mail it to the Parish office at W2601 State Rd 33, La Crosse, WI 54601

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

**A Minute with Jesus: You receive Jesus Himself in Holy Communion**

God desires that you spend eternity in heaven with the Blessed Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus was willing to die for you so you may be united with Him forever in heaven. However, you can be united with Jesus even now, by receiving Jesus in holy Communion. Your closest union with Jesus on earth is receiving the holy Eucharist – Jesus Himself – at Mass.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: **Jesus, help me to receive Your love. Strengthen my faith to believe that when I receive holy Communion at Mass, I receive You. I am so thankful for You, that You want me to be with You now and forever in heaven.**

This week, read how Jesus teaches us that if we eat the "living bread" – the holy Eucharist – we will live forever in John 6:48-58.



Some of the Religious Education students enjoyed carving pumpkins last Wed evening. Thank you to Jackson Roesler for donating the pumpkins and Sherry Hougom for taking the lead on organizing this event.



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**~Help Catholic Charities Love our Neighbors in Need:**  
 Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbors in so many ways:  
 -providing shelter to the homeless,  
 -giving hope and support to moms before/after birth  
 -working with married couples looking to adopt,  
 -assisting the poor and people with disabilities.  
 -helping with Hurricane Helen and Milton relief  
 -Christmas assistance programs  
 Find out more by scanning the QR code to the right.  
 Or at **Catholic Charities website** [www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org)



**Prayer for our Country's upcoming election**  
 Most glorious and Triune God, we turn to You.  
 Bestow Your grace in abundance.  
 Heal our land, give direction to our leaders,  
 dispel all darkness and strengthen our charity.  
 Have mercy on our great nation.  
 Fill all citizens with clear direction in their civic duty.  
 May Your will and Your will alone be done in our elections.  
 Spare the lives of the unborn and bring an end to abortion.  
 Protect our religious liberty.  
 Protect the innocent, poor, neglected and most vulnerable.  
 Comfort those who are suffering.  
 Help our country to prosper in Your grace. Amen



**With trust in God's goodness, let us offer our prayers**

- \* For Heather Kramer and two of her sons who lost their lives in a car accident Tuesday night, Oct. 29, 2024, on State Highway 35.
- \* For all who are sick, may Christ who knew pain and suffering in his own life, fill them with healing and hope.
- \* For Luke Sawaya and Will Sawaya as they journey to priesthood and Brother Matthew Kotek as he continues his religious path.
- \* For all struggling with depression or anxiety, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and grant them healing & comfort.
- \* That those who feel a call to and desire single blessedness, marriage, priesthood and religious life may find the courage to say yes to what God asks of them.
- \* For all the military men and women who are supporting our freedom.
- \* For the elderly who are homebound or unvisited, may the Lord fill them with his presence and comfort them with friendship.
- \* For the intentions listed in our parish book of prayer.

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)

**❖ Stewardship Reflection ❖**  
*"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."*  
 (MARK 12:33)  
 God wants our hearts the most of all the gifts God gives us. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is essential. Still, it's more important to pray with God daily and discern how He calls us to be generous with our gifts. Not just the visible ones but the invisible ones, like love, mercy, and forgiveness.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

A Y B O C U D S E H F A  
 G L H L I L J O K V L  
 E M T N H O E P L Q  
 O R R S D T Y U O V  
 U W R X G Y O Z D A  
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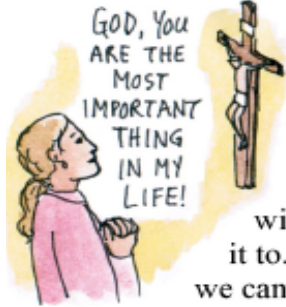
Mark 12:28-34

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*In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is. What does Jesus say? Use every second letter to fill in the blanks to find out!*

**THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**

In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asked Jesus what was the most important commandment of God. Jesus told him that the most important rule was to love God with everything- our heart, our soul, our mind and all our strength. The next most important rule is to love others as much as we love ourselves.



God made us to love Him. We will never be really happy unless we do. But if we keep God first in our lives then everything else will happen the way God wants it to. If we love God first, then we can love others the way God asks.

What can you do to keep God first in your life? How about saying a prayer as soon as you wake up in the morning, and last thing before you go to bed at night?

