



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 22, 2024—*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of your Womb,...



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, DECEMBER 21ST

~4:00 pm - † Bob Strittmater (CS)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family
 Lector: Donna Clements
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

~5:30 pm - † Jim Malin (M&LM)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve

~3:30 pm Christmas music by our St. Joseph Choir
 ~4:00 pm - † George & Evelyn Miller (T&MP)
 Lector: Bill Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day

~8:30 am - † Brent & Carli Clements (S&CC)
 Lector: Donna Clements
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

~8:30 am - † Karen Williams (Kammel family)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

~4:00 pm - † Rick Schermerhorn (J&PS)
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

~8:30 am - † Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky (M&CM)
 Lector: Jim Weber

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **December 22** ~ 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling
- **December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**
 3:30 pm Choir will sing Christmas music (St. Joseph)
 4:00 pm at St. Joseph Parish
 8:00 pm at St. Peters ~ Middle Ridge
- **December 25 ~ Christmas Day**
 8:30 am at St. Joseph Parish
 10:00 am at St. Peters ~ Middle Ridge
- **December 31**~5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 5:30 pm Vigil mass of Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
- **January 1** ~Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 10:00 am Mass at St. Peters
- **January 5** ~ 8:30 am Bishop Battersby will celebrate mass at St. Joseph Parish

These are different times than the times listed in the Christmas letter

☉ Come let us, Adore Him

~ 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.

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 (23) :	\$ 1,925.00
Plate collection:	\$ 458.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 90.00
Immaculate Conception mass:	\$ 178.00
Retirement fund for Religious:	\$ 100.00
Donation:	\$ 275.00
Votive candles:	\$ 82.00
Total:	\$ 3,108.00

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



Fourth Sunday of Advent

We have come to the last week of Advent season! Just a couple of days left for the celebration of Christmas. This weekend Luke tells us how two seemingly

insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It's about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. We can make a real difference in the lives of others by carrying Jesus to them. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas gift we can give. The hill country of Judea is right here.

When Jesus first came into the world about two thousand years ago, his arrival was marked the fulfilment of the promises of God. Scriptures tell us that from the fall of the first parents, God promised to send us the redeemer. The people of God waited eagerly for him. The birth of Jesus is a reminder that God has not forgotten us. It is a reminder of how much God loves us.

Christmas is God's special and personal gift to humankind. Soon the liturgical season of Christmas will begin with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During these final days of Advent, we want to step back from our busy lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us.

As we celebrate Christmas this week, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. May the Peace and joy of Christ be yours.

Have a blessed Advent ~ Live Jesus

Fr Biju MSFS

~ PARISH NEWS ~

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 22nd 3:00 pm

Opportunity to share your beautiful singing voices with the community! The Choir welcomes you to come along Christmas Caroling this Sunday.

We will meet in the parking lot of the church and car pool to people's houses. Afterwards, the choir will be going to the Ridge to eat, all are welcome to join us for that too. Call Stacy with any questions. 608-769-8828

PCCW NEWS:

We will be hosting Bingo again this year

on

January 19th

and February 16th



~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus:

Jesus came into the world to save us.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan for His birth on Earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:



Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.

This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7



~Advent Sets the Stage for Christmas Joy ~ "Getting Ready"

During these final days of Advent, we want to step back from our busy lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This time of penance and sacrifice can include something like not having dessert occasionally, turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. This can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices so that during this season of grace we might have an open, welcoming heart with more room to receive Jesus on Christmas. We will be surprised how these long-held Catholic traditions of preparing allow us to see and understand

truths that may be hidden from our human eyes. In the silence of prayer, the Lord will give us new insights, that we may see with "spiritual eyes" and understand better the wonder of the mystery of the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer On January 1st, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames is launching The Rosary in a Year podcast! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, explain the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear.

~Behold: Prayer of the Saints Young Adult Retreat | Jan. 25, 2025 Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse

This retreat is for young adults aged 18-25 and will be held on January 25, 2025, from 9 am-5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in La Crosse. Hear inspiring talks about the prayer of the Saints, foster a deeper Catholic community with other young adults, and participate in the life of God via Mass, Confession, and personal prayer. There are also optional evening socials on Friday, January 24 at 7 pm at 608 Brewing Co. and Saturday, January 25 at 6 pm at Pizzeria Dolorosa. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a warm meal. Register at tinyurl.com/beholdprayer.

~Help Catholic Charities Love our Neighbors in Need:

Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbors in need in so many ways, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst (especially in winter) to giving hope and support to moms before and after birth to working with married couples looking to adopt, to assisting the poor and people with disabilities. Especially in this holy season of Christmas, find out how you can help by visiting cclse.org,

Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22nd, 2024



Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?

Use the code to find out!

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
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With trust in God's goodness, let us offer our prayers
* 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

ALWAYS pray and NEVER give up!

Stewardship Prayer: That we take time to properly prepare ourselves to celebrate Mass each Sunday.