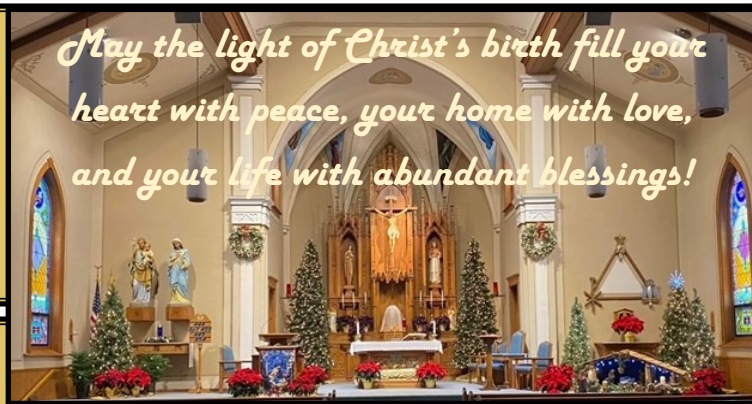


St. Joseph Parish

of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

December 29, 2024



May the light of Christ's birth fill your heart with peace, your home with love, and your life with abundant blessings!

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

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer.



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 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
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

~5:30 pm - † Ray & Mary Sedevie (S&CC)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
 ~5:30 pm - † Gerald Kneifl (family)
**Vigil mass of the Solemnity of Mary,
 The Holy Mother of God**
 Lector: Volunteer

**JANUARY 1ST—Solemnity of Mary,
 the Holy Mother of God** (Holy Day of Obligation)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND

~8:30 am - † Robert, Larry, Bill Silha (D&JD)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

~8:30 am - † Mary Servais Ritter (DS)
 ~4:00 pm - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (family)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH Epiphany of the Lord
 CELEBRATED BY BISHOP BATTERSBY**

~8:30 am - † Curtis Strittmater and deceased members
 of Maynard and Emma Mulder Olson (CS)
 Lector: Sally Miller
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

• **December 31** ~ *Happy Anniversary of Ordination
 to Fr. Biju.*
Thank you for everything you do for our Parish.

• **January 5** ~ 8:30 am Bishop Battersby will
 celebrate mass at St. Joseph Parish

• January 8 ~ Religious Education Classes resume

~ 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 (43) :	\$ 2,939.00
Plate collection:	\$ 226.00
Christmas Env(61):	\$ 5,255.00
Christmas Offertory:	\$ 833.00
Christmas flowers:	\$ 120.00
Initial offering:	\$ 5.00
Total:	\$ 9,378.00

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 15,493.00
	Received (41) :	\$ 13,990.00
	Remaining Amount Due:	\$ 9,345.00

2024 End-of-Year Contributions.

*All donations for the 2024 tax year must be dated on or before
 December 31st and received by December 31, 2024. Any donations
 dated after Dec 31st will be posted to the 2025 year contributions.*

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Sunday after Christmas is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family. Christmas itself is the feast of God entering a family to stay with the humans. The Church has always presented the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model family for Christians to imitate, calling it to be the Holy Family. Jesus' family was just too simple and ordinary. It was a family that lived under the threat of the powerful and the influenced. It did not have any financial or social security. It struggled hard to win its daily bread, and it did not receive any privileges from any quarter.

Many of the features that we cherish and long for were absent in the family of Jesus. Still, the Church calls it a model family and a holy family. Do you know why? It is because in this family, Jesus, the Word incarnate, was its center, His bonds of love and respect for the family members were very strong, and the only philosophy of its members was to seek the will of God and to obey it. Any family that follows these principles would be a model family always and everywhere.

Parents must learn to keep Jesus at the center of their married life. It would help them to tackle many problems that might arise in their life. If Jesus is the center of their life, they would learn the art of making the family from Jesus' perspective. Letting Jesus enter our families and keeping Him at its center is the big challenge the couples of our time face.

What we see in the families around us is the lack of openness to God and one another and the consequent disunity. When we push up our selfish agenda, it will hurt both God and other members of our family. Whereas all the members of the Holy Family sought the will of God wholeheartedly. There was no trace of selfishness and vested interest in their life. Their unwavering faith in the providence of God enabled them to accept the joys and sorrows of life with serenity. They did not complain about anything. They accepted every happening in the family with humility. They were convinced that whatever happened to them was the Lord's doing. This attitude of theirs increased their love and respect for one another. They trusted each other as they trusted God. So, they stood united in the ups and downs of their life.

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God which is a Holy Day of obligation. We will have a vigil mass on Tuesday (Dec 31st) evening at 5:30 pm and St. Peters will have mass on Wednesday (Jan 1st) at 10:00 am

Next Sunday our beloved Bishop will visit St Joseph and offer mass. See you at mass.

Happy New Year with Blessings on the Jubilee year 2025- 'Pilgrims of Hope'!

Fr Biju MSFS



~ PARISH NEWS ~

🎵 Christmas Caroling 🎵

Thank You to the choir for sharing their musical talents and their Christmas spirit!

Last Sunday, the choir visited several homes to Christmas carol.

Fr. Biju to Visit Family

Fr. Biju will be going to India to visit his family from January 6th through January 22nd.

During those days he is away, if anyone wishes to be remembered in his daily Mass or prayed for, let him know.

If you have an intention, place it in an envelope marked "Fr Biju Masses" and drop it in the collection.



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 as part of a Family



The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph allows us to see the Holy Family of Nazareth as the "true model of life" (cf. Opening Prayer) from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life. The power of God's grace needed for family life comes to us through receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist every Sunday. Let us be faithful during this beautiful season of Christmas, and beyond, in attending Sunday Mass together as a family. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as part of a family, providing a model for families to navigate a culture that rejects God.

This week, read about the difficulty that the Holy Family experienced when they were separated from Jesus for three days in Luke 2:41-52.

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille (Retro- vi) Marriage Help Program
Retrouvaille has been a lifeline for marriages for over 45 years. Whether a couple has drifted apart, separated, or even divorced, this 3-phase program offers hope for all who want to restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships.

~Gratitude from the Mission Office to you:
May your Advent conclude and Christmas begin under the radiance of God's glory as heaven comes to rest in Bethlehem and salvation is offered to all!

~Join Tens of Thousands at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.
Sign up for the Pilgrimage for Life, Jan. 22-26, our diocesan participation in the national March for Life in our nation's Capital.

~Welcome to the Franciscan Spirituality Center's new podcast, What is Spirituality?
Your host, FSC spiritual director Steve Spilde, explores a variety of topics related to our understanding of connection, the divine, compassionate listening and the search for meaning and wholeness.



Stewardship Reflection
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)
During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received - being children of God!

Stewardship Prayer:
That as grateful children of God, we remember to tell family and friends that we love them every day and to pray for those who may annoy us.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

The Holy Family Puzzle

Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.
Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks with numbers part-way down.

Every year Jesus and His [12]
(NTSPRAE) went to Jerusalem for the
[2] (SVOPSARE) festival.
When [10] (SUJES) was twelve, they
went to the [3] (LFSETVIA)
as usual, but Jesus stayed in the [5]
(MPELET) afterwards. [6] (RMYA) and
Joseph thought He was with their relatives in the
caravan, but when they couldn't [1]
(DNIF) Him they went back and
[7] (CHDEASRE) for Him.
On the [8] (HDRIT) day they found
him. When they asked Jesus why He had done this,
He replied, "Did you not [9]
(WNKO) that I must be in my
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []?"



Then he went home with them to
[4] (ZRNATHEA) and was
obedient to them, and grew up in [11]
(DSIWMO) and age and grace.

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

