



St. Joseph Parish

of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

**We have seen His star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.**



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

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, 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: Blaise Sawaya, Lukas Slattery,
 Maximilian Slattery
 Ushers: Volunteers

*** No Weekday Masses ***

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH

~4:00 pm - † Gerald, Jean, & Rosie Kammel (M&LS)
 Lector: Cecilia Sawaya
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family
 Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (30) :	\$ 2,940.00
Plate collection:	\$ 277.00
Christmas Env(5):	\$ 355.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 30.00
Initial offering:	\$ 59.00
Total:	\$ 3,661.00

☞ Thank you Money Counters! ☜

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 15,943.00
	Received (41) :	\$ 13,990.00
	Remaining Amount Due:	\$ 9,345.00

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **January 8** ~ Religious Education Classes resume
- **January 6—22** ~ Fr Biju will be gone to India to visit family. Msgr Hundt will be celebrating the **weekend** masses. (There will be no weekday masses during this time.)



**WELCOME
 BISHOP
 BATTERSBY**

† *We are honored to have you celebrate mass at our Parish.*

Thank You for blessing us with your presence and guidance. †

~ EMBRACE YOUR FAITH ~

*** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tuesday: No Adoration ~ No 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.



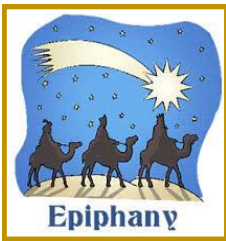
*** Mass Intentions**

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

~ FROM THE PASTOR ~



*Epiphany
of the Lord*

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany. We come with the Magi to Bethlehem to worship the Lord. We want to see and honor the Son of God,

born of Mary as He is revealed to all nations. The light of the star that led the three wise men to Bethlehem is also a guide for us, the people of this century. It prompts us to look for hope not in the promises of this world, but those out of this world. The star directs our gaze to Christ, the light of the world. The moment when the Magi, led by a star, adored the new King of the Jews, who also rules over the universe. And if we know this Person and allow Him to know us, then we are no longer slaves to the universe and its laws – we are free.

The Magi were *warned in a dream*, return to their homes *by another way*. It is an indication that whoever encounters God is profoundly changed, begins to walk in different ways, follow different paths. The encounters surrounding the Incarnation of the Son of God radically change everyone involved. Mary from a simple girl becomes the mother of God; Joseph from a humble carpenter develops into a housemaker of God; Shepherds tending their sheep come to tend to the needs of Jesus; Magi from pagans become the first believers. The story of Jesus's Nativity has to transform us also. If it doesn't, it simply means we haven't encountered Him yet.

This weekend is also unique in many ways. Its the first Sunday of the new year, it's in the ordinary jubilee year, still in Christmas season with visit from our beloved Bishop. We are privileged to have our shepherd, Bishop Battersby, with us as he makes his pastoral visit to St Joseph. After the Mass he will be with us some time to meet and greet our parishioners. I like to thank Bishop for being with us celebrating mass.

Please keep me in your prayers as I visit my family in India for the next couple of weeks.

I wish you a New Year filled with
God's blessings!

~ Live Jesus ~

Fr Biju MSFS



~ PARISH NEWS ~

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

Mark your
Calendars



ON
January 19th
and February 16th

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus:

Wise men came to worship Jesus

Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The Magi gave precious gifts to adore the Christ Child, which reveal this holy Child's identity; God becoming man: gold for Christ's kingship, frankincense for His divinity and myrrh for His anointing after His sacrifice on the Cross. Jesus gives us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:



Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. Thank You for giving us the most precious Gift of Yourself in the Eucharist.

This week, read how the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts in Matthew 2:1-12

*May our prayers connect us with
God and increase our faith.*

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our Bishop Battersby would like to have all Catholic homes dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a well-known tradition among Catholics.

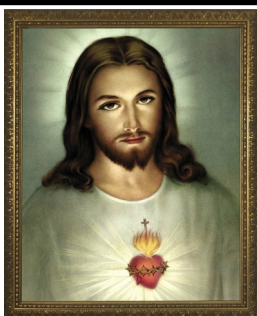
I will be happy to visit your homes and assist in the enthrone-ment of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The enthrone-ment can be done by one of the parents too. The Order of Enthronement will be available

to all who request it. Or you may download them from the link below

<https://mcusercontent.com/112a3ccca12b26ed5d6911265/files/736667da-cdb6-ee35-5114-5ac15c145c2b/>

[Enthronement based on Dilexit Nos.pdf](#)



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Aquinas Catholic Schools

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year will be opening in January!
• Current family re-enrollment begins Monday, January 6, 2025
• NEW student enrollment opens Monday, January 20, 2025
Call (608) 784-8585 to schedule a tour! Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition. Contact info@aquinasschools.org with any questions or visit www.aquinascatholicsschools.org/enrollment to get started.

~The Mardi Gras Royal Reveal is Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Hiawatha Room at The Freighthouse
5:00 pm: Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
6:00 pm: Royal Reveal

NO tickets needed! Cash bar. There is NO charge for this event. Please join them as they prepare for their 2025 Mardi Gras Reign! The Royal Masquerade Ball is Saturday, February 8, at the Radisson.

~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. A wonderful opportunity for adults, families, young people to bear witness to the sanctity of human life. To learn more, diolc.org/pilgrimageforlife.

~Staff Spotlight at Aquinas Catholic Schools

Mary Reeck, 7th Grade teacher at Aquinas Middle School, is being recognized at the Aquinas Catholic Schools under the Staff Spotlight for her 41 years of teaching. Mary is also one of our CCD teachers. Thank you, Mary for sharing your time/talent in educating our young students.

2025 Epiphany Blessing of the Home

Epiphany means "manifestation." The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child's identity; gold for Christ's Kingship, incense for His divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the twelfth night of Christmas, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to Sunday, January 5, 2025. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, over all exterior doors:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year 2025: 20 + C + M + B + 25



<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Epiphany-Blessing-of-the-Home-2025.pdf>

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Saint André Bessette

January 7*

ALFRED BESSETTE WAS BORN TO A POOR FAMILY OUTSIDE OF MONTREAL IN 1845. HE WAS SO SICKLY WHEN HE WAS BORN THAT HIS PARENTS BAPTIZED HIM RIGHT AWAY.

I baptize you in the name of the Father...

WHEN ALFRED WAS 9 HIS FATHER DIED IN A LOGGING ACCIDENT. HIS MOTHER DIED 3 YEARS LATER.

Now I won't be able to go to school. I guess I need to find a job.

ALFRED WAS ALWAYS SICKLY. AFTER TRYING MANY JOBS HE BECAME A RELIGIOUS AND TOOK THE NAME ANDRÉ.

BECAUSE HE WASN'T EDUCATED, HIS JOB WAS ANSWERING THE COLLEGE DOOR.

BR. ANDRÉ HAD GREAT DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH. MANY PEOPLE WERE CURED BY HIS PRAYERS.

THOUSANDS CAME TO TALK TO HIM. HE WAS VERY KIND TO THEM ALL. HE WOULD ALSO GO TO VISIT THE SICK.

Here's a St. Joseph medal!

BR. ANDRÉ GOT PERMISSION TO HAVE A CHAPEL, THE ORATORY OF ST. JOSEPH, BUILT ON THE HILL IN MONTREAL. HE DIED BEFORE IT WAS FINISHED, AT AGE 92.

SAINT ANDRÉ WAS A SIMPLE MAN WHO COULD HARDLY EVEN WRITE HIS OWN NAME. BUT HIS DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH AND LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE MADE EVERYONE LOVE AND TRUST HIM. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE THAT WE CAN HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE SAINTS, ESPECIALLY ST. JOSEPH!

*His feast is January 7th in Canada, and January 6th in the U.S.



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

ALWAYS pray and NEVER give up!

- * 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