

St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

February 16, 2025 ~ *Sixth 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



*Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven,
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted,
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth,
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled,
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy,
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God,
Blessed are the peacemaker, for they will be called children of God,
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.*

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE (608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com) 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

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
davidteresabrown457@gmail.com
Rick Meyer

MUSIC

Stacy Burns, Coordinator
608-769-8828
jsburns0093@gmail.com

Accompanist

Leland Gregorich
LuAnne Gregorich
Mary Beth Smith

Sacristan:

Sally Miller

*'Thank you'
for your
time and
talent to
support our
parish.*

"Whoever serves me, the Father will honor." John 12:26

~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

~8:30 am - † Deceased members of John & Mary
 Burbach (S&CC)

Lector: Donna Clements
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

~5:30 pm - † Kay Roesler (R&BM)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~5:30 pm - † Nick Kneifl (S&CC)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

~8:30 am - † Evelyn Rutz-Thornton (DC)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

~4:00 pm - † Don & Elaine Bina (DS)
 Lector: Cecilia Sawaya
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

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

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- February 16 ~ 2:00—4:00 pm Bingo at the school hall
- February 19 ~ Religious Education Classes
- February 26 ~ Religious Education Classes
- March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday

~ 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 (32) :	\$ 1,830.00
Plate collection:	\$ 210.00
Votive candles:	\$ 107.00
Total:	\$ 2,147.00

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17, 20-26

FOCUS: God lifts us up to greater things.

Our readings today emphasize that our eyes should not be fixed on things of this world. We will not find true fulfillment on earth, where things pass away. Rather, our focus is to be on the Lord and following his ways. He lifts us up, no matter what hardship we are facing.



“For we are co-workers;
 you are God’s field,
 God’s building.”

1 Corinthians 3:9

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

GOAL

\$23,335.00

PLEGDED AND RECEIVED

\$16,243.00

OF DONORS

42



Remaining Amount due by June 30, 2025: \$7,092.00

~ PASTOR LETTER ~



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Gospel reading for today comes right after Jesus has picked the twelve. Then, having chosen these apostles He leads them down the mountain and begins to speak to the people waiting there. There are also a lot of curious people who have come a long way to hear Jesus and to be healed. Jesus starts by healing those who need it, and then he turns to the disciples again, not just the twelve, but the larger crowd and begins to speak to them about the beatitudes.

Standing in front of Jesus in the crowd are the poor, the hungry, those who mourn, and those who are persecuted. There are also those standing in the crowd who have selfishly hoarded their riches. Jesus standing in a great prophetic tradition of ancient Israel, which sees the coming 'Day of the Lord' as a great reversal tells them about what it means to be blessed. We are blessed when we are **God-centered**, regardless of our earthly circumstances, and we find woe whenever we are self-centered.

When Jesus blesses the poor and hungry, the sorrowful and the ridiculed, he isn't saying that we should all aspire to poverty, hunger, sorrow, or being verbally abused. It would rather mean God is present with us, even when the world has abandoned us; that God loves us, even when everyone else hates us.

When Jesus announces woe to those who are rich, who eat well, and enjoy fame and admiration from people, he isn't saying that wealth, good food, and popularity are bad things. It could mean that when we are focused on satisfying our own appetites, we have turned our attention away from God, and our self-centeredness will be our spiritual doom.

Where am I in my spiritual journey?
Am I self-centered or God centered?
Wish you a blessed week
Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Hidden Blessings



In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us that people who are poor, hungry, or sad are blessed! Do they sound blessed to you?

Bad things that happen to us have hidden blessings in them. If you are poor then your family and friends are more important to you than money and things. If you are hungry then you appreciate food more. If you are sad then sometimes it's easier to remember to pray.

But things that seem bad have another hidden blessing in them—when you are suffering, you give your sadness or hurt to Jesus. Tell Him you are offering it up along with Him on the cross. He will give you grace to make your soul stronger.

Next time you feel unhappy about something, try to find the Hidden Blessing.

~ PARISH NEWS ~

PCCW will be hosting

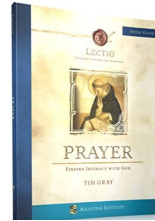


**Bingo this Sunday
February 16th 2:00-4:00 pm**

Bingo cards will be \$1.00 each. All monies collected will be paid.
Snacks and soda available for purchase.
Come & enjoy playing Bingo with friends and family!

BIBLE STUDY

AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH



"Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God"

With a clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy.

In six video sessions Lectio: "Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God" captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love.

The Bible study includes:

- The Lectio Divina approach of Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Contemplating
- Penetrating questions and insights for the six video sessions
- Additional resources for a fuller understanding and application
- Daily reflections to deepen the meaning of prayer in your life

Tuesdays evenings during Lent

March 11, 18th, 25th, April 1st, 8th, 15th

For more information, contact Stacy Burns or Lisa Meyer.

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus will help us believe what we cannot understand.



The Lord always comes in to strengthen and confirm our faith in response to our desire to believe. He actually even uses our hesitation in accepting His Real Presence in the Eucharist to bring us to a deeper, more lively faith in the truth of this mystery. Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, please strengthen my faith to believe that You are truly present in the holy Eucharist.

This week, read how Jesus responds to those who are questioning the mystery of the Eucharist in John 6: 52-59.

~Evenings of Hope | Feb. 22, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. | Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse

You are invited to participate in one of the Evenings of Hope with Bishop Battersby in La Crosse, Eau Claire and Wausau. The first Evening of Hope will be held in La Crosse on Feb. 22. Bishop Battersby will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman and impart the Papal Blessing with the attached plenary indulgence. A Holy Hour will follow Mass, during which Bishop Battersby will offer a jubilee reflection on hope. Confessions will also be heard. The event will end with a closing benediction at 7:00 p.m.

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Cabin Feverfest: St. Peter's Catholic Church in Middle Ridge is holding their annual Euchre tournament and Soup Luncheon on Sunday March 2nd. Doors open at 12:00 noon and card games will begin at 1:00 PM. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch and entry into the tournament. Call the parish office at 608-452-4680 with any questions.



~Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast—February 23
The Father McCaffrey Council 9438 of the **Knights of Columbus** will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 23, from 8:30 am until noon in the basement dining hall at **St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish in West Salem**. People with mobility issues will be served in the Annex. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, and juice. The cost is a free will offering with the proceeds going to support seminarians.

~Annual fundraiser for Birthright of La Crosse.
Birthright is an international volunteer organization with a La Crosse chapter since 1976. Birthright is available to those with an unintended pregnancy to provide information, a listening space, and love, along with referrals and emotional and spiritual support when needed. The campaign will begin the weekend of February 22-23, 2025 and will conclude the weekend of March 22-23, 2025. The bottles/envelopes will be available to take home Saturday February 22, 2015, and Sunday February 23, 2025. Thank you and know your pro-life support will be appreciated by moms, dads, and babies to be.

~Men of the Cross "Freedom in Forgiveness" | March 8, 2025
Blessed Sacrament Church, La Crosse
Join men from all over the Diocese of La Crosse and beyond, to experience Freedom in Forgiveness through Mass, inspiring talks, honest discussion and fellowship. The Church needs men to live free, so they may also live the joy-filled life that Christ wants for us. Please consider attending **Men of the Cross: "Freedom in Forgiveness"**
Cost: \$30 per person (includes lunch!) Registration: menofthecross.org
Speakers: Bob Kroll and Dominic Carstens. Mass with Bishop Battersby

~Healing Service - Monday, March 3, 2025 4:30—9:00 pm
You are invited to a Healing Service on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cashton, WI. This special evening offers an opportunity to experience God's grace through prayer, worship, and individual prayer ministry. All are welcome to attend. Feel free to join us as your schedule allows, as times are approximate. For more information, call Sara Clements at 608.385.5283

~Aquinas Music Association Fundraiser
Monday, February 24, 2025 at Crooked Pint in Onalaska
• 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
• 15% of the bill supports the Aquinas Music Association!
• Dine-in or carryout!

~Aquinas Booster Club Auction Save the Date!
Saturday, April 5 at 5:00 pm
The Auction features live and silent auction items, a Golden Ticket raffle, a Tuition raffle, and more! Enjoy fun, food, and fellowship while raising money to help support our student athletes!

Stewardship Prayer:
That we have the strength and courage to proclaim our faith,
especially in uncomfortable situations, joyfully.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

**Trust in the Lord
Cross-Word**



- beings
- distress
- stream
- human
- trusts
- cursed
- beside
- roots
- barren
- green
- heat
- year
- it
- tree
- is
- but
- who
- he
- in
- his
- bush
- Lord
- that
- from

*Here is today's first reading, from Jeremiah.
Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and fit them into the puzzle.*

Thus says the Lord:
8a is the one who trusts in 7d 17a ,
3a seeks 4d strength 18d flesh,
 whose heart turns away 16d the Lord.
12d is like a 13a 17d in the desert
11a enjoys no change of season,
14a stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.
 Blessed is the one who 5a in the Lord,
 whose hope is the 15d .
 He 2d like a 11d planted 14d the waters that
 stretches out its 19a to the 6d :
 it fears not the 21a when 20d comes; its leaves stay 1d ;
 in the 10a of drought it shows no 9d ,
 but still bears fruit.



*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!**