



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

February 2, 2025 ~ *Presentation of 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

Weekday Mass Schedule:

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



For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

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

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 1ST

~8:30 am - † Evelyn Rutz-Thornton
 ~4:00 pm - † Francis Schmidt & Roxanne Blakeley (IS)
 Lector: Ceelia Sawaya
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

~8:30 am - † Joyce Clements (L&DC)
 Lector: Paula Silha
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

~5:30 pm - † Reiny & Darlene Kammel (S&ML)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~5:30 pm - † Carol & Frank Seebauer (R&LM)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

~8:30 am - † Ken & Lois Davis (J&SD)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

~4:00 pm - † George & Evelyn Miller (T&MP)
 Lector: Donnie Weber
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

~8:30 am - Our Parish Family
 Lector: Sally Miller
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- February 2 ~ 4 Chaplain Sunday
- February 3 ~ Feast of St. Blaise
- February 5 ~ Religious Education Classes
- February 10 ~ 6:30 pm PCCW meeting

~ 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 (40) :	\$ 2202.00
Plate collection:	\$ 316.00
Votive candles:	\$ 112.50
Initial:	\$ 5.00
CCHD:	\$ 254
Total:	\$ 2889.50

	2024-25 Goal:	\$23,335.00
	Pledged:	\$ 15,943.00
	Received (41):	\$ 14,568.00
	Remaining Amount Due By June 30th:	\$ 8,767.00

Why are candles blessed?

The connection between the presentation of the Lord and candles is found in the canticle of Simeon—Simeon’s response to the presentation of the Lord: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

The light of the candles

blessed in this liturgy is a liturgical symbol of Christ’s revelation of the Father to the nations. Christ is the light of the world (see John 1:3-5 and John 8:12), and in the liturgy this light is seen. Liturgical symbols are not signs of absent realities. Because the light of these candles is a symbol of Christ, Christ—the light of the world—is present through the light of these candles.

~ Stewardship Reflection ~



*Feast of the
Presentation of the
Lord*

Happy Feast of the Presentation of the Lord! It's the Candlemas feast. Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses which called for the first-born male to be dedicated to God, presented the Child Jesus to God in the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth. Every year February 2nd, fortieth day after December 25th is celebrated the presentation of the Lord. This year it happens to fall on a Sunday.

When meditating on today's Gospel passage, we are drawn into the moment when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses. Their humble hearts are immediately touched by the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna, who recognized Jesus as the Savior. Despite the earlier visit from the Archangel Gabriel to both Mary and Joseph, who had already told them about Jesus' divine mission, Jesus' parents stand in awe as they hear Simeon say, *"for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."*

This scene invites us to reflect on the nature of our own faith. Are we like Mary and Joseph, continually amazed at the presence of Jesus in our lives? Or have we grown accustomed and complacent, taking the gift of Emmanuel—God with us—for granted? The amazement of Mary and Joseph despite their foreknowledge of Jesus' mission highlights a profound truth about the mystery of faith. No matter how much we know or experience, there is always more to be revealed and celebrated. Their awe reminds us that encountering Jesus is not a one-time event but a daily invitation to recognize His love and grace at work in our lives.

In our busy world, it's easy to become desensitized to the presence of Jesus. We might participate in the Sacraments, read Scripture, or pray, but do we still experience that sense of wonder and awe that God is truly with us, that He is - in fact - Emmanuel?

Let us pray for the grace to rekindle our amazement at Jesus' presence. Like Mary and Joseph, may we stand in awe before the mystery of our Savior, recognizing Him in the Eucharist, in the Word, and in our daily encounters. May our hearts be ever open to the miraculous reality that God is with us, guiding and loving us every step of our journey.

This weekend we are also celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life. Please pray for all those in consecrated life, and for many more persons to answer God's call to this vocation.

Have a blessed week ~ Live Jesus ~ Fr Biju MSFS

~ PARISH NEWS ~

PCCW NEWS:

PCCW Meeting will be February 10th 6:30 pm
All women of the parish are welcome to attend!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**Next Bingo gathering will be
Sunday, February 16th!**

The following dates are available in
February and March
for Mass Intentions:



February: 13, 17, 18, 27

March: 1st (both 8:30 am & 4:00 pm),

March (cont.) 3, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25, 27, 31

If you would like a mass celebrated, please write the date and the person(s) name you would like the mass for on an envelope and put it in the offertory or send to St. Joseph Parish, W2601 State Rd 33, La Crosse, WI 54601
Reminder: Mass intentions are now \$20.00

Contribution letters have been mailed. If you see a discrepancy, please call the church office (608)788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com

~ DIOCESAN NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus:

Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

When we look at the consecrated Host at Mass, our eyes see only bread, but the reality is we are looking at Jesus truly present. We may ask Jesus to grant us the grace to believe this truth, that though "hidden", He is truly present in Holy Communion. It is important to remember that what we are not able to see with our eyes, we grasp by choosing to believe - with faith's consent.



Let's pray this right now and every day this week: **Lord, I want to believe. Please help me to believe that what You say is true, especially helping the part of me that sometimes questions.**

This week, read about the father of a sick boy who asked Jesus to help him believe what seemed impossible in Mark 9:20-27.

~ World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life:

Celebrated in Parishes February 1-2

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2nd.

~Heritage Bake Sale, Saturday, February 8

The Blessed Sacrament PCCW will be sponsoring a Heritage Bake Sale, from 9am-noon, in the Blessed Sacrament Parish Center. Among the featured items will be Polish pierogies, Norwegian lefse, Bohemian kolotchys, Upper Peninsula pasties, baklava, as well as a variety of other homemade baked goods. Mark your calendar. Saturday Feb. 8th.

Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, Feb. 2 ~ Coon Valley Legion Hall

8 AM—Noon

Coon Valley American Legion Post 116

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

~Is it a coincidence that candles are blessed on February 2nd and throats are blessed with candles on February 3rd?
The tradition of holding two candles against the throat during the blessing of throats on the optional memorial of St. Blaise developed because his feast falls the day after Candlemas. The Roman Ritual still prescribes that the candles, which are joined in the shape of a cross and touched to the throat of the person being blessed, should be "two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2)" (Book of Blessings, no. 1627).

~Aquinas Catholic Schools

*The AHS Spring Play, **Ruby's Story**, will be held at the Aquinas Campbell Theatre on February 7 & 8 at 7:30 pm and on February 9 at 2:00 pm

*Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is now open to current AND new families! 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.aquinascatholicschools.org/enrollment to get started.

*Coaches Needed: High School Boys Varsity Head Soccer Coach; High School Long Jump/Triple Jump Coach; High School Boys Varsity Tennis Coach; Middle School Softball Head 7th Grade & Head 8th Grade Coaches

*After-Care Workers Needed: Blessed Sacrament Elementary School is looking for After-Care Workers * 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm (hours are flexible) * Interested? Contact BSE Principal Kate Moll (kate.moll@aquinasschools.org / 608-782-55645)

~Healthy Living with Chronic Pain

Gundersen Health System will be hosting a Healthy Living with Chronic Pain VIRTUAL workshop Wednesday mornings for 6 weeks starting Feb. 12. This workshop is designed to help adults with strategies for understanding and managing pain and more. For information, please call Vicky at 608-775-6870 or go to Gundersenhealth.org/events.

~Healing Service - Monday, March 3, 2025

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.

❖ Stewardship Reflection ❖
The Presentation of the Lord
"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." – Hebrews 2:18
When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us. He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.

Stewardship Prayer: That we may understand that Jesus understands our pain, and only He can fill the hole in our hearts.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?

Prayers of the Faithful:
For those in consecrated life, that they may persevere in their commitment to the Lord and serve with joyful hearts and total dedication. We pray to the Lord...

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