



St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

March 2, 2025 ~ 8th 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



"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,
nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.
For every tree is known by its own fruit."

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE (608-788-1646 or email sjrp2601@gmail.com) TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- ◆ Joining the Parish
- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ 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
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

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

~ PARISH INTENTIONS ~

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

~8:30 am -
 ~4:00 pm - Our Parish Family
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND

~8:30 am - † Bill & Shirley Schams (T&KS)
 Lector: Dan Steiger
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD

~5:30 pm -

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

~5:00 pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 ~5:30 pm - † Ralph & Evelyn Mikshowsky (M&CM)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

~ ~ **Ash Wednesday** ~ ~



~8:30 am—† Stan Hundt
 Lector: Sally Miller
 ~6:00 pm - † George & Evelyn Miller (T&MP)
 Lector: Jim Weber

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

~8:30 am -

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

~4:00 pm - † Earl Martin (RM)
 Lector: Kathy Leis
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

~8:30 am - † Bill Patterson (SP)
 Lector: Lorie Liss
 Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- **March 5 ~ ASH WEDNESDAY**
 8:30 am & 6:00 pm mass at St. Joseph Parish
 8:00 pm mass at St. Peter's/Middle Ridge
- **March 11 ~ Bible Study begins** (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **March 12 ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**
- **March 12 ~ Religious Education classes**
- **March 18 ~ Bible Study** (after 5:30 pm mass)
- **March 19 ~ 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**
- **March 19 ~ Religious Education classes**

~ 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 July 1, 2024, Mass stipend fees are \$20

~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (31) :	\$ 1,911.00
Plate collection:	\$ 223.00
Initial offering:	\$ 5.00
Easter flowers:	\$ 20.00
Contribution for Hosts and Word & Song missalettes	\$ 500.00
Total:	\$ 2,659.00

☞ Thank you Money Counters! ☜

STATIONS OF THE CROSS or WAY OF THE CROSS

This is a prayerful biblical meditation of 14 incidents from the Gospel accounts and traditions of the journey of Jesus from Pilate's house to being placed in the tomb.

Wednesdays during Lent (March 12—April 9th)

† 7:00 pm at St Joseph's
 † 7.30 pm at St Peter's



~ PASTOR LETTER ~



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher"

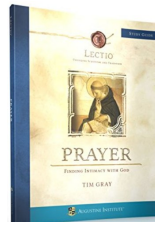
This weekend's readings, we find Jesus sharing with his disciples parables that highlight the importance of discernment and self-awareness in our spiritual journey. Lent is a good time to reflect about it as we begin our Lenten journey on Wednesday. It can be a great journey of self-awareness and surrender to the Lord. One can definitely make use of this season to evaluate our priorities renew oneself. If we treat Lent no different than any normal day, Easter will just be just eggs and chocolate bunnies!

We can do the simple task of getting ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent is more than that. We may give up many things but it should also have some purpose with which I consciously consider change in life. What is the point of giving up something unless it results in a benefit or change in my way of life? Giving up TV or Internet may provide more time to clean, take a nap or talk on the phone, but wouldn't the time be better used to pray, meditate, or focus on encouraging a spiritual habit? A daily focus to be more in touch with God during the forty days of Lent would result in true joy at Easter.

Have a blessed week! *Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS*

~ PARISH NEWS ~

BIBLE STUDY



"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 at the St. Joseph school hall

March 11, 18th, 25th,

April 1st, 8th, 15th

Please contact Stacy Burns (608-769-8828) to sign up (so study guides can be ordered).

There will be a suggested fee (not required) of \$25.00 to cover the cost of the booklet

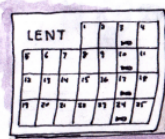
Ash Wednesday

Masses

8:30 am & 6:00 pm at St. Josephs

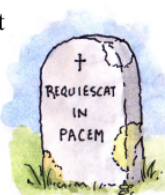
8:00 pm at St. Peters

This Wednesday is the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special time when we prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



If you go to Mass on Ash Wednesday, the priest will make a little cross on your forehead with ashes. The ashes remind us that people were made from the dust of the ground and that some day we will die and go back into the ground.

It is good for us to remember that we will die one day. It helps us realize that God put us here and that we need Him all the time. If we remember how much we need God then we will think of Him more and love Him more.



What is something you can do this Lent to remind yourself every day that you need God?



BLEST ART

will be visiting St. Joseph Parish on Saturday; March 1st and Sunday, March 2nd after each Mass.

On behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine, Blest Art's mission is to support those families in the Holy Land. Blest Art will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. We gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

Lenten Disciplines of Fasting and Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting consists of eating only one full meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal. Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

Almsgiving opens our hearts to the realization that God blesses us through those we serve. It is here that we find the great mystery of Christian service. We see God in the life of Jesus, and we see Jesus in all those who are in need of our care. Look around, see those who are in need, and ask God to take away those obstacles and distractions that keep us from being generous with them. In turn, we will receive God's blessing. Consider one or more of these creative almsgiving ideas for this Lenten season:

- Show an act of kindness to someone you don't speak to often.
- Visit an elderly person who may be lonely.
- Reflect on the regular contributions you make to the parish. Could you do more?
- Perform an extra chore for your parents one day each week during Lent.
- Go through your closet and find some clothes in good shape to give away to other children who are in need of clothes.
- Write a letter or create a card for someone who is sick or might be lonely.
- Buy some cans of food to give to our parish food pantry.

~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

A Minute with Jesus: As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

We humbly give our assent to what has been handed on to us for the last 2,000 years through the one Church that Jesus founded. This assent (giving our “yes – I choose to believe”) involves our commitment to persistence in prayer and study of Scripture in asking Jesus for deeper understanding regarding His Real Presence in the Eucharist. Let’s pray this right now and every day this week:



Lord Jesus, “I believe; please help my unbelief.” (Mark 9:24)

This week, read how a father gives his assent to believing that Jesus can heal his son in Mark 9:20-29.

~**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.



~**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 conclude the weekend of March 22-23, 2025.

The bottles are available to take home on the tables back of church. Thank you and know your pro-life support will be appreciated by moms, dads, and babies to be.



~**Aquinas Middle School Play—“The Secret Garden”**
7:00 pm on Thursday, March 13 & Friday, March 14

~**Aquinas High School National Honor Society Blood Drive—American Red Cross**

On Tuesday, March 4, 8:30 am—1:30 pm
You can make an appointment at the American Red Cross website or by scanning this QR code.



~**Registration Open: “Still the Answer” Eucharistic Rally**

You are invited to join faithful from across the diocese on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at the Pablo Center in Eau Claire for a new opportunity to pause, reflect and renew our embrace of the gift of the Eucharist, as Jesus continues to give us His body and blood, strengthening us through life’s joy , sorrows and challenges. The day’s events will include a river walk procession, Mass, engaging speakers, live music and Eucharistic adoration. Take this time to remember how much you need Jesus - and that He is Still the Answer for you, for your family, for your parish and for the world. Visit diolc.org/still-the-answer for further details and to register.



Pope Francis Health Updates: The Diocese will continue to post updates on the diocesan social media pages. Vatican updates can also be found here: vaticannews.va/en/html
We pray for Pope Francis that the Lord bless him with a return to good health and grant him renewed energy to lead our Church in its mission of reform and renewal.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

Psalm 92 Unscramble

Unscramble the missing words to complete today's Psalm!

It is good to give _____ (KNSHTA)
to the Lord,
to sing praises to thy _____ (MNAE),
O Most High;
to declare thy steadfast _____ (OVLE)
in the morning,
and thy faithfulness
by _____. (HGNTI)
The righteous flourish
like the _____ (LMAP) tree,
and _____ (ORGW)
like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted
in the _____ (UOESH) of the Lord,
they flourish in the courts
of our _____ (DGO).
They still bring forth _____ (UFIRT)
in old age,
they are ever full of sap
and _____, (ERGNE)
to show that the Lord is upright,
he is my _____, (KCRO)
and there is no
unrighteousness in him.



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!

