

# St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge

W2601 State Road 33, La Crosse WI 54601

February 8, 2026

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**"Come after me and I  
will make you fishers  
of men."**



## **Pastor Father Sen**

Fr. Sengole Vethanayagam  
(715) 615-1774

frsengolevema@gmail.com

## **PARISH OFFICE**

Paula Silha—Administrative Assistant

Barb Mikshowskey - Bookkeeper

Office hours vary, please call 608-788-1646

sjr2601@gmail.com

## **CONFESSIONS**

3:30—3:45 pm (before Saturday 4:00 Mass)  
or by appointment

## **St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph Ridge**

(608) 788-1646

## **Weekend Mass Schedule**

1st Saturday of the month .... 8:00 AM

Saturday ..... 4:00 PM

**"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men."**

Sunday ..... 8:00 AM

## **Weekday Schedule**

## **ADORATION**

Tuesday ..... 5:00 PM

## **MASS**

Tuesday ..... 5:30 PM

Thursday ..... 8:00 AM

## **St. Peters Parish, Middle Ridge**

(608) 452-4680

## **Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday ..... 8:00 PM

Sunday ..... 10:00 AM

## **Weekday Schedule**

Wednesday ..... 8:00 AM

## **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

Lorie Liss-DRE

## **PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL:**

Mary Jo Hess-Secretary

Terry Dickman

Dave Brown-(Bldg & Grnds)  
and Cemetery Rep

Barb Braun

Dan Steiger

## **RELIGIOUS**

## **EDUCATION:**

Director:

Lorie Liss

*'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, FEBRUARY 7TH**

~8:00 am - Our Parish Family

~4:00 pm - † Madonna Bahr (DL)

Lector: Donna Clementa

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: La Verne Clements

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH**

~8:00 am - † Ken and Lois Davis (J&amp;SD)

Lector: Teresa Brown

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**~5:00 pm—*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

~5:30 pm - † Adeline Clements (S&amp;SM)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**

~8:00 am - Parish Family

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH**

~4:00 pm—Parish Family

Lector: Jim Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: La Verne Clements

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH**

~8:00 am - † Bill Patterson (SP)

Lector: Donnie Weber

Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

## ~ PARISH CALENDAR ~

- ◇ **February 7 & 8**—St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats after Fr. Sen's Homily
- ◇ **February 7 & 8**—Blessing of those with February Birthdays
- ◇ **February 8**—Coffee and Conversation following the 8am Mass in the Parish/School Hall
- ◇ **February 11**—Religious Education resumes
- ◇ **February 18**—Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent, Mass at St. Joseph is 6:00 pm (St. Peter's will have Mass at 8:00 am and at 8:00 pm)

## ~ 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 with

*Spending time with our Dear Lord!!!*

**\* Anointing of the Sick**—Call Father Sen at (715) 615-1774 or the office (608) 788-1646 or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com) to arrange the anointing of the sick.

**\* Confession** 3:30—3:45 pm before Saturday 4:00 Mass or by appointment.

**\* Mass Intentions**

Weekday and weekend mass intentions are available. Please contact the Parish office phone 608/788-1646, use envelopes in the back of church, or email [sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com).

**A Mass Intention offering is \$20.00**

## ~ Contributions for the past week ~

Adult Envelopes (41):	\$ 1,859.00
Plate collection:	\$ 217.00
Votive Lights	\$ 198.75
Campaign for Human Development (1)	\$ 20.00
<b>Total Contributions:</b>	<b>\$ 2,294.75</b>



2025-26 Goal:	\$23,975.00
Pledged:	\$ 17,660.00
Percent of Goal Rec'd	73.7%
<b>Received:</b>	<b>\$ 16,835.00</b>
<b>Amount Under Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 7,140.00</b>

Thank you, and may God bless your generosity.

Your contributions, regardless of size, are sincerely appreciated and acknowledged. Your support is valued, and as members of our community, you are greatly appreciated. There is more information regarding the Diocesan Annual Appeal at this link

<https://diolc.org/stewardship/appeal-portal/>

~ STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ~



**February 8, 2026 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

IS 58: 7-10; PS 112:4-9; 1 COR 2:1-5; MT 5:13-16

Today's readings are both encouragement and instruction for us as Christian stewards. They provide clear guidance on what matters most to God and how He calls us to use the gifts He has entrusted to us. Consider specific ways to practice stewardship daily, such as volunteering, giving, or acts of kindness, to make your faith visible in everyday life.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah offers straightforward guidance: "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own." There is no ambiguity here. Caring for our brothers and sisters in need is not optional — it is a fundamental responsibility of the Christian steward.

Yet the Lord also reminds us of His generosity when we live this way. "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed." When we give of ourselves, we do not lose — we gain. God's grace grows within us, and we experience deeper joy and peace as our lives become more aligned with His will.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks plainly to His disciples — and to us — calling us the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." But salt loses its purpose if it goes stale, and light cannot shine if it is hidden. Our faith must be lived, not concealed. We are called to act so that others may see how we serve, how we care for the vulnerable, how we prioritize our families, and above all, how we love God — and through our witness, give glory to Him.

This is the stewardship way of life. Let us embrace it fully.

**PCCW Offering Coffee and Conversations:**

All are welcome—Feb. 8th after 8am Mass for Coffee and Conversation. Please come to the Parish/School Hall for coffee, muffins and juice. The PCCW is organizing and has plans for March and April.



~ PARISH NEWS ~

- + **Lenten Preparation Opportunities:** Lent begins on Feb. 18th with Ash Wednesday. Here are some ways to plan your Lenten growth.
  1. Parish Bible Study: Plans are being made to host a book study during Lent. More details coming.
  2. Ascension app: Find daily Lenten video reflections At this site. [www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app)
  3. Hallow prayer and meditation app: (downloadable on App Store and Google Play) Find God's Peace in Prayer. Join Mark Wahlberg and Jonathan Roumie on Hallow. Free prayers have a sparkle icon.
  4. Stations of the Cross: You are welcome to come and pray the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays during Lent at 7pm at St. Josephs.
- + **Palm Basket:** A basket has been placed in the back of church for old palms. Ashes used for Ash Wednesday are from these palms.
- + **Food donations:** 41 pounds of non-perishable food was donated in January. Peanut butter, canned meat, pasta and pasta sauce are on the list of most needed items. Thank you for your generosity!
- + **Church envelopes:** If you still need your church envelopes call the office to have your box brought to Church for pick up.
- + **Visits to the Homebound:** Fr. Sen began visits to Parish members on Feb. 5th. Sally Miller accompanied Father. Several homes were visited and 13 people received Holy Communion. Mar. 5 will be the next day for visits. Call the Parish Office or Fr. Sen to be included
- + **Parish Office Hours:** Tentative staffing will be Tues., Thurs., and Fridays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Changes will be posted on the Parish/School Hall Doorway. Thank you for your patience.
- + **Casa Hogar Pilgrimage:** A meeting to learn more about the trip to Casa Hogar orphanage in Lurin, Peru will be February 17, 6pm at St. Peters Middle Ridge. If you have a high school age student that might be interested, this would be great for you and them to attend.
- + **PCCW Dues:** -PCCW is a women's group that includes all women of the Parish. PCCW hosts Coffee and Conversation, Parish Fundraisers, remodeling of the rectory and supports recognition of religious Ed students. Dues are \$13 payable annually by women of the Parish. You can submit your dues with the offertory collection marked as PCCW on the envelope or see Lori Clements or Mary Jo Hess after mass.



~ DIOCESAN/Community NEWS ~

**Faith, Hope and Love**

**~Jubilee Year of Hope—God's Gift of Hope Never Disappoints** Christian hope anchors our souls to the promises of God, who is faithful and true. It assures us that no matter our failures, His mercy and love are stronger.

**~Catholic Charities Warming Center:** Extreme weather this Jan. prompts even greater needs at the Warming Center. Needed are volunteers, monetary donations, or personal care items.. Learn more by visiting their website at: [www.cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/](http://www.cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/)

**~Rachel Ministries:** Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of losing a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, or abortion? Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of La Crosse offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608.860.6698 or email Hope4U@diolc.org.

**~TV Mass Times and Channels:** Mass is broadcast on La Crosse Channel 19 at 9:30 am Sunday.

**Two Lenten Regulations:**

Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.

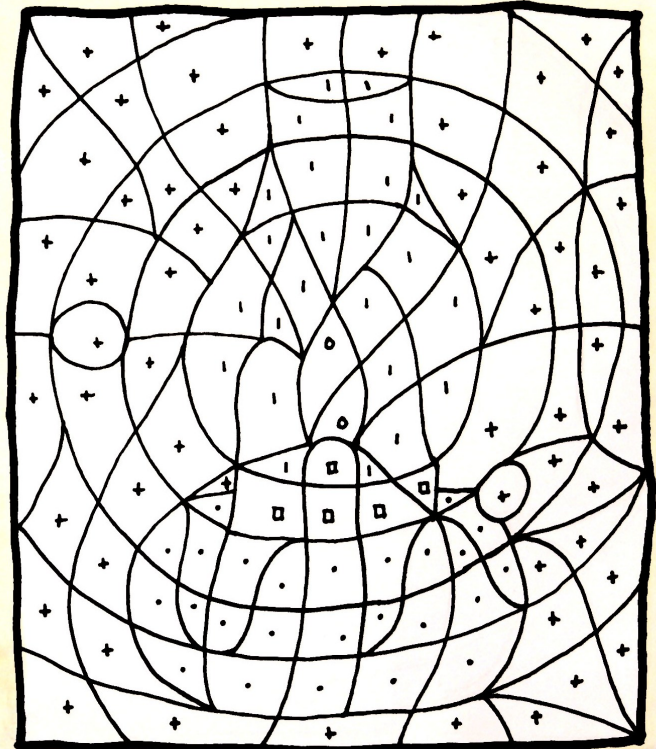
2. Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat also applies to this age group.

**~Fish Fry Season is coming!** Lent brings opportunities to enjoy a fish fry at a neighboring parish. St. Pat's, Onalaska and St. Charles Borromeo, Genoa, both host Friday Fish Fry events during Lent.. Call ahead for timing and dates.

**~Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** Collection envelopes for this ministry are located in the back of Church. Please pick up an envelope and return by mid-Feb. This fund supports the Catholic Church's work to break the cycle of poverty.

~ ACTIVITY CORNER ~

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 8th, 2026**



Matt 5:13-16

*What did Jesus tell us we should be like?  
Colour in the spaces according to the code to find out!*

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| + blue   | ■ brown |
| · white  | · red   |
| ○ orange |         |

***Trusting in God's merciful and abundant love, we bring our prayers and petitions to him.***

- + For the protection of all life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord...
- + For lasting resolutions to conflicts around the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East., we pray to the Lord...
- + For reasonable resolutions to concerns about immigration and respect for those looking for a better life, we pray to the Lord....
- + That our Parish family dedicates time to the Lenten season to grow in faith, hope and love of our Catholic faith, we pray to the Lord.

***God our Father, we beg you to hear and grant our prayers, through Christ our Lord.***

To add a request call 608-788-1646 or email  
[sjrp2601@gmail.com](mailto:sjrp2601@gmail.com)