



Blessed Sacrament Parish

Pastor
Rev. Peter Raj

Deacon
David Allen



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Office: 782.2953 | Fax: 785.1064

Email: office@bsplacrosse.org

Web: bsplacrosse.org

Address: 130 Losey Blvd.,
La Crosse, WI 54601

Blessed Sacrament School
Principal Kay Berra
Office: 782.5564 | Fax: 782.7765

Aquinas Catholic Schools
Office: 784.8585

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 pm
Sunday Morning 8:00 & 10:00 am
Monday - Friday 7:30 am

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:30-4:15 pm
Other times by appointment

BENEDICTION

First Friday 8:00 am

Call the Parish Office to make arrangements:

- To join the parish
- For a wedding (6 months in advance)
- For Baptism class information
- For Anointing of the Sick: Those who are seriously sick or have been ill for a long period of time should receive the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion.
- If you are home-bound because of illness and would like to be visited, please call.

MINISTRY LEADERS

MCs: *Gabe Trussoni*
Mike Vanderploeg
William Arnold

Weekend Servers
(Middle and High Schoolers):
Holly Gorman

Readers: *Mary Jo Reinders*

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic: *Carolyn Steingraeber*

Petition Readers: *Barb Clements*

Ushers: *Tom Kratt*

Offering Families: *Call the office to volunteer*

Rosary Leader Schedule:

Weekday Servers (Grade Schoolers):
Stephanie Gauger

Weekday Readers: *Caryl Doberstein*

Weekday Eucharistic Ministers:
Carolyn Steingraeber

PARISH CONTACTS

Office Ass't Dir: Elizabeth Skemp

Finances: *Steve McGovern,*
Luci Johnson

Building Maintenance:
Carl Francksen

Scrip Coordinators: 782.2953 ext. 1
Paul Poehling, Pat Hammes

Website: *Jennifer Kulzer*

Music Director: 782.2953 ext. 4
Pauline Connell

Religious Education: *Pauline Connell*

RCIA & Confirmation Preparation:
Jennifer Kulzer

First Communion & Reconciliation
Preparation: *Pauline Connell*

Funeral Lunch Coordinator:
Bernice Lansing

Bulletin Editor: *Pauline Connell*

Sacristan: *Jean Kachel*

Women's Club: *Helen Roop*

Men's Club: *Ken Hanson*

Widow & Widowers Group:
Barb Schmitz, Loretta Clarkin

Dear Loving Parishioners,

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas! May the birth of our Lord Jesus bring peace, joy, and good health in the New Year – 2021.

A very different kind of Advent and Christmas season beckons this year, as the world continues to struggle with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For Christians, the birth of the Christ Child is a story of new life, and with it, new hope for the future.

2020 has helped us realize the importance of family and togetherness. We can remember this when we reflect on the holiest of families, Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. As we look back over the challenges we have faced this past year, we know that this doesn't compare to the hardships that the Holy Family faced. Our faith helps us look forward, and we look forward to 2021 a year of health and happiness and togetherness.

It was a difficult decision to travel to India this time. In the spirit of appreciating my family, I have decided that since some limited flights are available, I will make the trip to spend time with my family, too. I'll leave on Jan 11 and return on Feb 12, so that I may be with you again in Lent.

Also, let me thank you all for the wonderful greeting cards and gifts. As you know, these monies always help many who are in extreme need especially in my own village and in previous assignments in India. They especially aid the poor school children with their tuition. Once again I wish you all a very blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

With prayers,
Father Raj

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Because of the restriction on the number of people who can gather, you MUST reserve your places for the Mass you plan to attend.

Call 782-2953, ext. 2, or email office@bsplacrosse.org.

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm (max. 125) – in church

4:15 pm (max. 100) – in Parish Center

6:00 pm (max. 125) – in church

Christmas Day

10:00 am (max.125) – in church

CONFESSION TIMES FOR ADVENT

There will not be Confessions at the Cathedral all day on Monday.

MASS INTENTIONS

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN CHURCH

- MON 12/21 7:30** Late Advent Weekday; Peter Canisius
+David Oswald
- TUES 12/22 7:30** Late Advent Weekday
+Marianne Pittman
- WED 12/23 7:30** Late Advent Weekday; John of Kanty
+Stanley Baiker
- THU 12/24 NO 7:30 Mass** Late Advent Weekday

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- THURS 12/24 4:00 (in church)** *+Eleanor & Ellis Crook*
- 4:15 (in Parish Ctr)** *Intention of the Jagodzinski family*
- 6:00 (in church)** *+Maxine Kroner*
- FRI 12/25 10:00 (in church)** *+Teri Levi*
Intention of the Berg family

- SAT 12/26** Stephen
NO 7:30 Mass

THE HOLY FAMILY

Celebrant: Father Raj
Assisting: Deacon Allen and MC
No altar servers; No Eucharistic Ministers

- SAT 12/26 4:30** *Intention of Lou Ritter family*
- SUN 12/27 8:00** *+William & +Georganna Mischler*
- 10:00** *For the People of the Parish*

The Rosary is prayed before our weekend Masses beginning about 20 minutes before Mass starts.

The leaders Dec 26 & 27:

- 4:30** The Dobersteins
- 8:00** The Clements
- 10:00**

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays, 3:30-4:15

Or call Father Raj for an appointment

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire You with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already in my heart and unite myself to You completely.

Please do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.

AROUND THE PARISH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday – Wednesday
9am – noon and 1-4 pm
Thursday 9am-1pm
Closed Friday

CHRISTMAS DECORATING VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday, December 23
Lots of helping hands will be needed at 9:30 to set up the Manger, hang wreaths, etc.
Plus, Carl Francksen will be looking for a small army of men to cut trees from the Skemp farm on top of the bluff, take them to church, set them SECURELY in their stands, and artistically add strings of lights.
Call Bernice Lansing at 793-1972 to volunteer.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR OUR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

You may return the envelope you picked up last week. Please make your check payable to our parish and note it is for the Retired Religious. Your assistance with their on-going care is greatly appreciated.

WARMING CENTER UPDATE

Our parish has joined forces with Roncalli Newman to man the Warming Center. Our date is the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Names of those who have volunteered or expressed interest in helping were forwarded to Newman; they will handle the scheduling. Our next opportunity is Saturday, January 9. Part of the ministry is providing a meal, and we will be doing that 3 of the 4 Saturdays each month.

To jump on board contact Tony Weisse at anthonyweisse@gmail.com.

MEMORY STONES

A lovely way to remember a loved one, or honor someone or event is with a memory stone on our church's East plaza. There are 2 sizes:

12' X 12" \$350

6" X 12" \$175

Call the parish office to order your stone. Etching occurs during the warm months.

SCRIP NEWS

There are volunteer \$scrip sellers in the office daily 9:00-noon.

Masks are required face-wear.

Stop in to place your order or call the \$scrip office at 782-2953, ext. 1, or email orders:

SCRIP@bsplacrosse.org so your order is ready when you stop by. Thanks to our volunteer Scrip sellers. Aquinas families, remember that the full 100% of the rebate can be applied to your tuition bill.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to remember a loved one who has died or honor someone/family, you may purchase poinsettias to be used in decorating our church for Christmas in their honor or memory.

Call the parish office with the name(s) and get the pricing of the plants.

Your help on December 23 at 9:30 would be greatly appreciated as we decorate our sanctuary and Parish Center to celebrate Christmas.

PARISH SUPPORT

BUDGET

July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Needed Weekly | \$13,000 |
| Received Dec 13 | 9,467 |

COMING UP

Dec 23 Decorating the church for Christmas, 9:30 am
Dec 24 Office hrs: 9am-1pm
Dec 24 & 25 Mass times: Dec 24 – 4:00 and 6:00pm in church and 4:15pm in Parish Center.
Dec 25 – 10:00 am in church
Dec 25 Office closed
Dec 31 Mass at 5:15 pm for Holy Day; No cocoa/cookie party after.
Jan 1 10:00 am Mass for the Holy Day
Jan 9 Our night to help man the Warming Center.
Jan 11 – Feb 12 Fr. Raj will be in India

COMING UP

USHERS NEEDED

We welcome men and women high school age and older to help out at Mass by serving as ushers. Additional help will be needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Sign up in the Narthex or online at our parish website: bsplacrosse.org.

FORMED.ORG

This week Formed.org offers a classic presentation on the true meaning of Christmas by Archbishop Fulton Sheen. This presentation combines recordings of Archbishop Sheen's timeless reflections, mixed with Gregorian Chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite.
Use our parish code: K2768J

REST IN PEACE

Andrew Coleman
son of Tom & Gretchen

INTENTIONS FOR MASSES IN 2021

We are now scheduling intentions for Masses for 2021. Call the parish office at 782-2953, ext. 2, or stop in to schedule Masses. DO NOT leave your requests on voice mail; you must contact Elizabeth Skemp. One person may request 3 Masses for someone during the next year, one on the weekend, a holyday or a holiday, and 2 during the week. The dates must be a minimum of 6 weeks apart. The stipend is \$10 per Mass.

HYMNALS

We are directed by the Diocese to refrain from having hymnals in the pews for common use at this time. Do feel free to sing along with the beautiful well-loved Christmas carols. Masked, of course.

AROUND TOWN

CONFIRMATION NEWS

*Dear Parishioners,
Usually during this time of the year I come before you and invite you to lift up in prayer our young people preparing for Confirmation. If possible I also ask you to send them a letter indicating what our faith means to you. This year Confirmation prep, along with many other things, looks a little different, but prayer does not require proximity to be effective. Below is the list of the young people from our parish who are preparing for Confirmation this year. Please keep them in your prayers and, if you feel led to write a letter to one of them, please return it to the parish office to my attention (but with their name on it). I will make sure the letters are delivered. Thank you for lifting them up in prayer.*

*Blessings,
Jennifer Kulzer*

CONFIRMANDI 2021

Elizabeth Bagniefski
Kaitlin Groth
Jacob Hillebrand
Gregory Kusmitch
Damien Lee
Aaron Lepak
Zachary Morgan
Jack Murphy
Alexandra Roupe
Robert Skemp
Henry Suttie
Esmeralda Valera
Estella Weisse

PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 2, 2021
11:00 am

March with others on the sidewalks around the State Capitol in Madison
Signs will be provided or bring your own.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY RETREAT

St. Anthony Retreat Ctr, Marathon
Fr. Tom Zelinski, OFM, presenter
\$105 includes meals & Mass
715-443-2236 or go to: info@sarcenter.com

CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

Our beautiful Cathedral is celebrating a 60th + birthday, and showing its age. Everyone is aware that the scaffolding around the steeple isn't there for looks. In fact, some of the stone-work has become loosened with age, so, to prevent something terrible from happening, it is being repaired, re-fastened, and in a few cases rebuilt. Along with this façade work, the mechanical elements of this grand building are in need of replacing and updating.

Because the Cathedral is our "Mother Church" we are being invited to help with this important work which will carry the building far into the future. Bishop Callahan has convened the best collaborators for this project. Around the Diocese CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE will be a focus beginning soon. We will be providing information from the Committee as it becomes available.

Our Cathedral is a Faith Focus for us, the "launch-pad" for sacraments in that the Holy Oils and Sacred Chrism used at Baptisms, anointings, Confirmation, and ordinations are blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. Priestly and Deaconate ordinations occur in our Mother Church, as well. As information comes our way on the needs of the Cathedral building, let us prayerfully consider how this grand structure is part of our own Faith life.

Seminarians to pray for this week

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Sunday | Jared Clements |
| Monday | Alex Kren |
| Tuesday | Isaac Pecha |
| Wednesday | John Zweber |
| Thursday | David Nowicki |
| Friday | Joseph Glatczak |
| Saturday | Brian Ward |

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, You renew Your Church in every age by raising up Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers to be outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of Your unchanging truth and love. Fill the hearts of our young men and women with the spirit of courage and love, and enliven in them an awareness of their vocation that they will graciously answer Your call. Give to parents the grace they need to encourage vocations among their own children. Help them to act on this grace through the example of their lives and through their prayer.

Raise, in a special way, worthy Priests and Consecrated Religious. May they be ardent but gentle servants of Your Gospel. Give them as a gift to Your Church in the Diocese of La Crosse and keep them faithful in their dedication to You and Your people. Amen.