



Blessed Sacrament Parish

Pastor
Rev. Peter Raj

Deacon
David Allen

ADVENT

Hope | Joy | Love

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 22, 2019

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 pm
Sunday Morning 8:00 & 10:00 am
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7:30 am
Wed 9:00 am

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:30-4:00 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

Masters of Ceremonies:

Mike Vanderploeg
William Arnold
Gabe Trussoni

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:
Kathy Nicks

Weekday Servers (Grade Schoolers):
Stephanie Gauger

Weekday Readers: *Caryl Doberstein*

Weekday Eucharistic Ministers:
Carolyn Steingraeber

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office Ass't Dir: Elizabeth Skemp

Finances: *Steve McGovern,*
Eenie Francksen

Building Maintenance:
Carl Francksen

Scrip Coordinators: 782.2953 xt6
Paul Poehling, Pat Hammes

Website: *Jennifer Kulzer*

Music Director: 782.2953 xt3
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

December 22, 2019

CONFESSION OPPORTUNITY

***Monday, December 23**, all day at Cathedral

+++++

Dear Parishioners,

"They shall name Him Emmanuel." It is indeed a great blessing that we celebrate the truth that God is with us. I, along with Deacon Allen, am happy to be with you and your family, that our God with all His gifts, especially the gift of redemption, in this Christmas and New Year of 2020. May our Mother show us her Son, Who is both God and man.

Jesus is born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. He was born, not by the will of man, but by the gift of the love of God our Father, Who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16). This event is renewed in the Church today.

The poor shepherds are the first ones to meet this love personified with Mary and Joseph. The angels enlightened them. We need to become angels to enlighten our people and other non-Christian brothers and sisters by our acts of mercy and justice. Hence, let us ask our Mother to lead us to Bethlehem and show this Christ.

At this time I would like to thank all parishioners who have given generously of their time, talent, and treasure in making this parish such a faith-filled community. Thank you so much for helping us along this journey. Your reward will be great. Maybe the Christmas message this year is a challenge for all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. After all, that's what God was doing when He got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas.

I also would like to thank you sincerely for your prayers for my dad. He is getting better every day and regaining his strength. He is very happy and appreciative of all your prayers.

*Merry Christmas and God's blessings,
Father Raj*

MASS SERVERS FOR CHRISTMAS

December 24

4:00 pm: Greg Kusmitch, Kyle & Mark Craig

4:15 pm: Robert & Teddy Uehling

December 25

10:00 am: Greg Kusmitch, Jackson Woolever

Dec 23 -29, 2019

EUCCHARIST: **READER:** Paulette Drozdowicz

MON 12/23 Late Advent Weekday

7:30 **+Marian Pavela**

Servers: Don Flynn, Mike Vanderploeg

TUES 12/24 Late Advent Weekday

NO 7:30 am Mass

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, Dec 24

4:00 pm Mass in church **+Ellis & Eleanor Crook**

4:15 pm Mass in Parish Center **+Ralph Clason**

Wednesday, Dec 25

10:00 am Mass in church

+James & Arlene Johnson

+Terri Levi

THU 12/26 Stephen

7:30 **+Tom Noelke**

FRI 12/27 John

7:30 **Intention of Jack & Pat Scheidt**

50th Wedding Anniversary

SAT 12/28 The Holy Innocents

THE HOLY FAMILY

SAT 12/28 4:30 +David Oswalt

Celebrant: Fr. Peter Raj

MC: Gabe Trussoni

Servers: Clay Berra, Elizabeth Hancock, Craig

Reader: Paulette Drozdowicz

Petitions:

Eucharist: Pauline Jagodzinski, Luci Johnson, Ruth Wills,

Donna Cramer

Ushers: Theresa Schaub, Mary & Dave Sweeney

Offering family: Paul & Mary Therese Rinzel

Rosary Leaders: Gene & Mary Ann Roesler

SUN 12/29 8:00 +Marilyn Dunham

Celebrant: Fr. Peter Raj MC: Mike Vanderploeg

Srvrs: Jake Hillebrand, Ken Mikshowsky, Shane Willenbring

Readers: Jeanne & Steve Pavela

Petitions:

Eucharist: Dave Schreier, Sandy Borreson, Bernice Lansing,

Mary Beth Vach, Ruth Vanderploeg

Ushers: Pat Cavadini, Tom Roob

Offering Family: Ruth Vanderploeg and Austin

Rosary Leader: Barb Felt

10:00 For the People of the Parish

Celebrant: Fr. Peter Raj

MC: William Arnold

Servers: Caleb Bennett, Bobby & Stephanie Skemp

Reader: Ted Riley

Petitions:

Eucharist: Terry Felt, Greg & Fran Sauer

Ushers: Students

Offering Family: Kevin & Helen Roop

Rosary Leader: Galen Pittman

AROUND THE PARISH

FORMED.ORG

This week as we conclude Advent and celebrate Christmas we are offered one final meditation on what it means to wait in the talk "Come, Lord Jesus: Meditation on the art of Waiting," by Mary Francis. These meditations focus our attention on the coming of Jesus in our lives. There is a double movement to this coming: both our active preparation to be ready for Him and our patient waiting for the Lord to arrive in His own good time. Learn more about this spiritual practice this week on Formed.org.
Use our code:K2768J.

MILESTONE

Mary Ann Bradley's 95th birthday
December 12

BAPTISM

Victoria Vinita Linda Bragg's
daughter of Erin & Allen

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

Lunch at Culvers on Mormon Coulee
Tues, Jan 7, 11:30 am
Questions? Call Barb Schmitz, 788-1667, or Loretta Clarkin, 784-9917.

Join our parish family for a bit of Advent festivity

After weekend Masses during this holy season, treats and beverages will be served in the Narthex. Take a few minutes to join with others in our Parish family for some conversation and sharing and perhaps getting to know someone new. Thanks to the gals and guys who are hosting this lovely parish community event. If you and your family would like to help with hospitality events like this, give the office a call.

If you or someone you know is very ill, facing surgery, or needs prayers, give the office a call so our ANGELS OF MERCY Prayer Group can be notified.

\$CRIP NEWS

Phone orders: 782-2953, ext. 6.
Email orders: SCRIP@bsplacrosse.org
You can upload \$crip cards on your smartphone. Go to: MyScripWallet.com.
You will need to email the \$crip office here at the parish scrip@bsplacrosse.org and request our enrollment code. It is apparent that families are appreciating having the entire profit of their \$crip purchases helping with Aquinas Schools tuition. For folks who do not have children in school, you can help out any Aquinas family you wish by designating them at the time of your purchase. Or be a "guardian angel" and let us apply the profits where it is most needed.

NUPTIALS

Mary Dolan and Patrick Campbell
December 21

JOIN US!

Father Raj and all priests are an amazing help in our spiritual growth. Without our priests we would not have the sacraments to help us on our journey to heaven. Every Wednesday at 1 pm you are invited to join our prayer group, offering our intention for our priests. We would love to have new folks join us. Call Barb Clements for all the details. 782-5777.

PARISH SUPPORT

BUDGET

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

Needed Weekly	\$13,000
Received Dec 15	11,751

ASAP = ALWAYS STOP AND PRAY

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

It's so easy to set up automatic giving to our parish. You can designate an amount and the timing of the donation (every week, once a month, etc.) Check out the form on the Parish Website and consider this time-saving opportunity.

PROLIFE SIGNATURE AD IN TRIBUNE

During the next few weekends you may add your name to others which will appear in the La Crosse Tribune on Jan 19 supporting the sanctity of human life. A donation is requested to fund this yearly statement.

COMING UP

Dec 23 Confessions at Cathedral, 9-5:00
Christmas Masses: **Dec 24** Masses at 4:00 pm in church and 4:15 in Parish Center; **Dec 25** Mass at 10:00 am
Dec 25 & 26 Parish Office and \$crip Closed
Dec 27 Office open until noon
Dec 31 5:00 pm Mass (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Fireworks party 6 pm - Parish Ctr
Jan 1 10:00 am Mass (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Jan 1 Parish office and \$crip closed
Jan 5 & 12 Prolife signature ad sign up
Jan 6-Feb 6 Fr. Raj in India
Jan 7 Widows & Widowers, Culvers on Mormon Coulee Rd, 11:30
Jan 11 Morning of Reflection for BSP Women's Club, 10 am
Jan 15 Rosary Support Group, 1 am
Feb 9 Family meeting for First Reconciliation & First Communion, 9 am in church
Mar 14 First Reconciliation, 9 am
Apr 26 First Communion, 10:00 Mass

MUSIC NOTES

REJOICE CHOIR will practice on Jan. 2, 5:30-6:30 pm. The choir will sing at Mass on Jan 4 at 4:30 and on Jan. 12 at 10:00.

A big thank you to the musicians who have made our Advent and Christmas Mass so beautiful!
Don't forget caroling on Christmas at 11:45 at Benedictine!

THANKS TO BOB SKEMP

Once again our church is blessed with beautiful Christmas trees from Bob Skemp's farm up on Grandad Bluff. We are so grateful to Bob for providing our parish with the bounty of his land. Our Christmas prayers of gratitude to you and your family.

AROUND TOWN

PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE Jan 22-26, 2020

Ages 13 and older

Consider joining young folks from around the country in traveling to Washington DC for this pro-life rally.

Chaperones are needed, as well.

All info at diolc.org/youth-opportunities

MARCH FOR LIFE IN CHICAGO

January 11

There is a bus leaving from Onalaska. All information is at: diolc.org/respect-life

SATURDAY MORNING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Following 8:00 am Mass until 9:15 at Cathedral

The Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy with time for quiet prayer

All are invited to participate

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RAFFLE

1953 Ford pickup (valued at \$30,000)

\$25 tickets (5/\$100) Includes coupons for freebies

Available at: Habitat ReStore, Pearl Street Brewery,

The Crow, Big Al's, Howies, The Briar Patch

Drawing: April 25, 2020

EVENING PRAYER FOR PEACE AND BLESSING OF TIME

Tues, Dec 31, 6 pm

Maria Angelorum Chapel, St. Rose Convent

Learn more about the Order at www.fspa.org.

JANUARY SERENITY RETREAT

Jan 3-5, St. Anthony's, Marathon

Register: www.sarcenter.com; 715-443-2236

TEA AND TRANQUILITY

Sat, Jan 11, 2-4 pm

Franciscan Spirituality Center

\$45/person includes refreshments and head and hand massages by Sitara Salon and Spa

Proceeds will fund a retreat for female survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual trauma.

Register at www.FSCenter.org or 791-5295

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholics, 21-29 years of age, to join their missionary team this August.

Teams travel together to bring faith-filled experiences to the youth in parishes throughout Wisconsin.

Training is provided, and a stipend is paid.

Visit www.spiritusministries.org, or contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org.

LABYRINTH WALK: PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR

Mon, Dec 30, 4-7 pm, Franciscan Spirituality Center

The labyrinth forms a single path to walk while meditating and praying. Instruction is provided.

Freewill offering

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Again, the good people of our parish responded with a glad heart to help out the retired religious last weekend. Your financial help goes a long way in providing for their needs.

COPING WITH GRIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS

SUPPORT CIRCLE

Sundays, 4-6 pm, Franciscan Spirituality Center

Through Jan 5; \$25

www.FSCenter.org; 791-5295

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

OPEN AT RONCALLI NEWMAN PARISH

Full time weekday position. Send resume to Fr. Billy Dodge at Roncalli Newman Parish, 1732 State St, La

Crosse or email him: billydodge@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO VOLUNTEER NEXT YEAR?

Consider helping at the Habitat ReStore. There are new items donated daily. You'll find some "treasures" and some very enjoyable folks to work with.

Sign up at www.habitatlacrosse.org.

GIVEN: UNVEILING THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Marriage Enrichment for all couples. Practical. Christ-centered. Sacramental

Jan 18, 9-3:00 at Mary, Mother of the Church

Couple cost: Engaged -\$25/Dating & Married-\$40

Questions? Contact the Diocesan Office for Married and Family Life: dkitzhaber@diolc.org.

MEDITATION FOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH

This group is open to anyone experiencing anxiety or depression; it offers meditation as a coping skill.

Gatherings are the second Thursday of the month.

Next session: Jan 9, 6:30-7:30 pm

Franciscan Spirituality Center

Free will offering

FRANCISCAN HOSPITALITY HOUSE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fri, March 13, 2020, 12:15- 3pm

Prepare and serve a light, simple meal for about 70 The House is a safe, warm place where those who are homeless can gather. Call the parish office if you can help. This request comes from one of our seminarians who volunteers there.

BIRTHRIGHT OF LA CROSSE

When someone is faced with an unexpected pregnancy or difficulties, Birthright offers a helping hand through nonjudgmental counseling, referrals to helping agencies, and a boost. Your monetary donations help that to happen. Send your gift to Birthright of La Crosse, 115 5th Ave S, Suite 406, La Crosse 54601.

If you'd like to know more about Birthright you may talk to a volunteer by calling 782-0373.