



Blessed Sacrament Parish

Pastor
Rev. Peter Raj

Deacon
David Allen



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Office: 782.2953 | Fax: 785.1064

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Web: bsplacrosse.org

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

Blessed Sacrament School

Principal Kate Moll
Office: 782.5564

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Office: 784.8585

December 25 & 26, 2021 Nativity of the Lord and the Holy Family

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 pm
Sunday Morning 8:00 & 10:00 am
Monday - Friday 7:15 am

CONFESSION

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

BENEDICTION

First Friday 7:45 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):
Gabe Trussoni

Readers: *Mary Jo Reinders*

Extraordinary Ministers of the
Eucharistic: *Carolyn Steingraeber*

Petition Readers: *Barb Clements*

Ushers: *Tom Kratt*
tomkratt@charter.net

Offering Families: *Call the office to volunteer*

Rosary Leader Schedule: *Mary Schuttenhelm & Barb Clements*

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 Coordinator: 782.2953 ext. 1
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

From our pastor's desk:

For the four weeks of Advent our hopeful voices sang, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and at last at the glorious birth of our Lord and Savior, we joyfully proclaim, "Emmanuel, God is With Us!" We have all been surrounded with the joy and light which the birth of Jesus brings into the world!

So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in your hearts, not just this Christmas day, but the whole year. Not just the whole year, but your whole lives! Let us inspire this world that seems so lost in darkness with the light of Christ in the light of our joy.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do through the tough times. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honor of serving as your Pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers for me and my family. I sincerely thank you for all your cards (both Christmas and sympathies), phone calls, emails, gifts, memorials, etc. Definitely it's going to take some time for me to write you all a thank you note.

I had hoped to spend some more time with my mom, but God had a different plan for her. Of course, Christmas is a time of giving. God gave His only Son. What better gift can I give to God than to return my mother whom I deeply loved back to Him? Well, this is a time of Joy. I wish and pray that you celebrate this Joy with your families surrounded by your children. Together with Deacon Allen I wish you all a very Blessed and Joyful Christmas!

**MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER RAJ'S MOTHER
Periyanayagi Ammal**

Wednesday, December 29
5:30 pm

Bishop Callahan and several priests will be in attendance.

A parish dinner will follow.

Father's mother died on December 10 after a long illness. Father will be leaving for his home in India on January 3.

Our parish extends its deepest sympathy to him, his father, and all his family at this difficult time.

Come to Mass to pray for them all.

And stay for dinner.

MASS INTENTIONS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 24

4:00 pm +Joe & +Mary Ellen Robertson & family
Reader: Ruth Vanderploeg

6:00 pm +Eleanor & +Ellis Crook
Reader: Tom Kieffer

December 25

8:00 am +Terri Levi
Reader: Ed Noelke

10:00 am **For the People of the Parish**
Reader:

4:30 pm +Connie Goodreau
Reader: Paulette Drozdowicz

Our parish is offering a Mass at 4:30 pm on Christmas Day. This Mass will include the readings for Christmas. However, it will fulfil the obligation for Sunday Mass, the Feast of the Holy Family, as long as one has attended a Mass earlier for Christmas. But attending this Mass will not fulfil the obligation to attend Mass on both Christmas and on Sunday.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 26

8:00 am **Living & deceased members
of William Mishler family**
Readers: Ed Noelke, Bob Kelemen

10:00 am **For the people of the parish**
Readers: Ann Lankford, Theresa Kivi

This week's reader: Donna Levi

- MON 12/27 John
7:15 +Patricia Capek
- TUES 12/28 Holy Innocents
7:15 *Intention of Bob Burg*
- WED 12/29 5th Day within the Octave of Christmas
7:15 +Joe & +Elaine Steingraeber
5:30 pm +Fr. Raj's mother
- THUR 12/30 6th Day within the Octave of Christmas
7:15 +Arlene Schmidt
- FRI 12/31 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas
7:15 *Raymond Jahimiak*
Mary, Mother of God
5:00 pm *Living & deceased members of the
Joe & Barb Clements family*
- SAT 1/1 9:00 am +Joe Bahr
1:30 Nuptials Michaels Schwartz & Tim Holland

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- SAT 1/1 4:30 pm *Intention of the Therese & Gordan
W. Smith Family*
Readers: Dave & Mary Jo Reinders
- SUN 1/2 8:00 *Intention of Kathy Keppel*
Readers: Dan Skemp & Donna Levi
- 10:00 *For the People of the Parish*
Readers: Dave Weinberger & Kris Gerke

AROUND THE PARISH

A big thanks to John and Joan Mueller for purchasing copies of Matthew Kelly's marvelous inspiring book LIFE IS MESSY. Copies are available after Christmas Masses to take home. This one is a real keeper!

THANKS

to all who contributed to the Fund for Retired Religious. These sisters and brothers gave of themselves to help us grow in faith. Helping them in their "golden years" is such a wonderful way to say thanks. You may contribute by writing a check to our parish and note it is for the retired religious.

PROLIFE SIGNATURE AD

Yearly we are asked to show our support for the legal protection of human life by signing a prolife ad. The ad will appear on January 23 in The Tribune. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Consider helping pay for the ad with your donation of \$2/signature or \$5/family.

HELPING TORNADO VICTIMS

Our hearts go out to those whose homes and lives have been devastated. To donate monetarily go to CCLSE.org/donate today/"tornado relief."

WOMEN'S HOLY HOUR
Saturday, January 8, 10:00
in church.
See you there. Bring a friend.

WARMING CENTER

3rd Street Catholic Charities site

Our parish is joining with Roncalli Newman to provide food & volunteers on Saturdays nights.

*10-12 volunteers; 2 for food

*guests will be quarantined if they exhibit COVID symptoms; other health safety precautions will be in place

*limited to 30 guests/night

To sign up contact:

anthonyweisse@gmail.com or check the parish website

BOB SKEMP

GROWER OF CHRISTMAS TREES
Once again, Bob, thanks from our parish for supplying the huge gorgeous trees for our church at Christmas time.

REST IN PEACE

Joseph Bahr

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

A new schedule for adoration times is in the entry to the Adoration Chapel. Please indicate when you will come to pray using your name or initials. The chapel is open at all times; however a code is used to gain entry during the night hours. It can be obtained by calling the parish office. The Adoration Chapel entrance is off the alley between King and Main streets. *He's waiting for you!*

ICE CREAM BUCKETS NEEDED

Drop off your buckets and lids at the parish kitchen or office. The funeral lunch crew thanks you in advance. All flavors welcome.

Formed.org

On this packed liturgical weekend, in addition to celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we also celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This important feast reminds us of the need to help our own families grow in holiness. With this in mind, join Scott Hahn as he shares his advice on how to bring sanctity into our homes. **Marriage and Family: Love Unveiled** Go to Formed.org and take a listen.

PARISH SUPPORT

BUDGET

July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

Needed Weekly \$13,000
Received December 12 7,595

COMING UP

Dec 29 Memorial Mass for Fr. Raj's mother, 5:30; dinner following
Dec 31 Office closed
Jan 1 Wedding 1:30: Michaela Schwartz & Tim Holland
Jan 3 Fr. Raj. Leaves for India
Jan 5 Parish gathering on Synodality No Religious Education
Jan 7 Memorial Mass for Fr. Raj's Mother - celebrated by him in India
Jan 8 Women's Club Holy Hour, 10:00
Jan 9 Little Flowers girls/moms, 11:30
Jan 10-16 Our week for Mobile Meals
Jan 12 Religious Ed classes
Jan 19-23 Pilgrimage for Life
Mar 26 First Confession, 9:00
Apr 20 Confirmation, 6:30 pm
May 1 First Communion, 10:00

COMING UP

THE FOLLOWING FOLKS PURCHASED POINSETTIA PLANTS FOR THE ALTAR TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES

*Chuck & Patti Sans Crainte for the Ryan and Sans Craint families

*Pauline Jagodzinski for Ralph Jagodzinski

*Caryl Doberstein for Dr. & Mrs. Richard Carley

*Donna Benden

for John & Lauri Levi and for Bill & Lyda DeGise

*Bob & Mary Kelemen for Joseph & Mary Kelemen

*Jerry & Sandy Borreson for Joseph & Gloria Parker

*Helen Flynn for the living and deceased members of the Stephen & Eleanor Pavela family and the Robert & Marie Flynn family

*Anne Gees for Stephen & Marian Pavela
*Eugene & Mary Ann Roesler for Paul & Gertrude Link and Martin & Georgina Roesler
*Betty Roth

for Alvin & Elizabeth Gerke and for Richard Roth
*Pauline Connell for Joe Bahr
*Fran Skemp for Fran Skemp and in honor of Bob Skemp
*Peter & Paulette Drozdowicz for the deceased members of their family

AROUND TOWN

PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE

January 19-23 in Washington DC
All information is on the website: diolc.org.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Recently the Holy Father asked all the parishes in the world to consider some important questions for the universal church. The Holy Father has called a synod; that is, a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance, to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope.

Pope Francis wants us to join him in praying, listening, discerning, examining ourselves personally, and the Church communally, to see if we're truly on the path Jesus has set for His beloved Bride, His mystical Body, the Church.

In this process it is understood:

*The energy and direction driving the Church comes from the Holy Spirit, not ourselves.

*While in the world, we are not of the world, and thus our guiding principles come from the Gospel, revelation, and of settled Church teaching.

The Vatican announced in May that the Synod on Synodality would open with a diocesan phase lasting from October 2021 to April 2022. A second, continental phase will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. The third, universal phase will begin with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," at the Vatican in October 2023.

There's more information on our website under the bulletin for December 12. Thank you for participating.

MEDITATION FOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Thursdays, Jan 6 and Feb 3, 6:30-7:30 pm

Via Zoom only

Guided meditation is proven to reduce stress and promote relaxation.

Sister Sarah Hennessey, FSPA, facilitator

Register online at www.FSCenter.org or 608-791-5295.

No charge for this program

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME

Epiphany means "manifestation." The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The gifts of the Magi reveal this Holy Child's identity: gold for Christ's Kingship, incense for His divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice on the Cross. The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated next weekend. The blessing of homes (schools, places of employment, etc) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of making our homes sacramentals. This blessing of the home makes us more mindful, receptive, and cooperative with God's grace. It reminds us also that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

RETURN

This New Year resolve to help your loved ones RETURN to their Catholic Faith. 6.5 people leave the Catholic Church for every one who joins, and 50% of the young people who were raised Catholic are no longer Catholic today. This course is designed as a game plan so you can make a difference in these statistics and help your loved ones return to the Faith. Sessions meet weekly at St. James, St. Patricks, the Cathedral, and as a home study. Check out the flyer in today's bulletin for all the details and register soon. The cost is just \$8.00, including the study guide.

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SEMINARIANS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

Sat	Brian Ward
Sun	Kyle Lang
Mon	Alex Radtke
Tues	Someone God is calling
Wed	Bishop Callahan
Thurs	All our priests
Fri	All our deacons

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of Your Son, so that in Him, with Him, and through Him, we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Consider offering an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the seminarians on their special day, along with the Prayer for Vocations.

If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about a call to the priesthood, please contact me: Father Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S, PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004; or phone 608-791-2667.

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MEMORY CAFÉ sponsored by Causeway

4th Tuesday of month, 9:30-11:00

Black River Beach House

Those living with dementia or Alzheimer's and their care givers: time for sharing and caring.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PREPARATION PROGRAM

Franciscan Spirituality Center, La Crosse

This is a 3-year program which gives participants theory and practice through workshops and real-life experiences to share their compassionate listening skills as spiritual directors.

To learn all about this, contact www.FSCenter.org or call 608-791-5295.