



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

THE HOLY FAMILY December 27, 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):
Gabe Trussoni

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

MASS INTENTIONS

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN CHURCH

- MON 12/28 7:30** Holy Innocents
+Mary Cunningham
- TUES 12/29 7:30** Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas
+Joe & +Elaine Steingraeber
- WED 12/30 7:30** Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas
+William & +Lyda DeGise
- THU 12/31 7:30** 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas
+Robert Weiske

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD		
THURS 12/31	5:15pm	Living & deceased members of the Bill & Doris Skemp family
FRI 1/1	10:00 am	<i>+Matt & +Tom Coulombe</i>

- SAT 1/2** Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
NO 7:30 Mass

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

- SAT 1/2 4:30** *+Milo Anderson*
- SUN 1/3 8:00** *+Leonard Degenhart, Jr.*
- 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 Jan 2 & 3:

- 4:30** The Reinders
- 8:00** Irm White-Drier
- 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.

Christmas Day has come and gone, and now we look forward to the beginning of a New Year. But in our haste to be done with this past year, let's not rush past this moment and make sure that we keep our hearts close to the true meaning of the season, Christ's birth. We know that Christmas is not just about trees, gifts, decorations or cookies; it never has been. This year let's make a special effort to remember that during these unprecedented times.

This Christmas season has been like none we have ever seen before and hopefully will never see again in our lifetimes. Our lives, traditions, and sense of normalcy have been thrown into disarray. In spite of all that, at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Every year when I watch the Christmas classic How the Grinch Stole Christmas, based on the story by Doctor Seuss, I am struck by one line in particular. After trying to stop Christmas from coming, the Grinch is shocked to see all the Whos down in Whoville still celebrating. The sight of this makes the Grinch wonder: "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps means a bit more." We all know that it does.

It's time to take stock of this year, a year that most of us are happy to be gone done with, but it's also time to take stock of our spiritual lives and how we go forward into a new year of hope.

Many blessings to you during this Christmas season, and may Christmas reign in our hearts during the New Year.

Deacon Dave

AROUND THE PARISH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK
Monday – Wednesday
9am – noon and 1-4 pm
Thursday 9am-1pm
Closed Friday

**Thank you
to all who helped
with decorating church
for Christmas. It is beautiful!**

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.

REST IN PEACE

Todd Gerleman,
nephew of Bernice Lansing

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.

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

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. To the left 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, Confirmation
Preparation*

PARISH SUPPORT

BUDGET

July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

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

COMING UP

Dec 30 NO religious education class
Dec 31 Office hrs: 9am-1pm
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 1 Office closed
Jan 6 Religious Ed classes resume
Jan 9 Our night to help man the Warming Center.
Jan 11 – Feb 12 Fr. Raj will be in India

When Father returns from India a decision about when to celebrate First Reconciliation and First Communion will be made. He would like to have the latest information about COVID-19. The Diocese has not made a determination about Confirmation.

COMING UP

USHERS NEEDED

We welcome men and women high school age and older to help out at Mass by serving as ushers. Sign up in the Narthex or online at our parish website: bsplacrosse.org.

FORMED.ORG

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us to help our own families grow in holiness. With this in mind, join Scott Hahn in his talk *Marriage and Family: Love Unveiled* as he shares his advice on how to bring sanctity into the home. Check out this and many other great resources this week on formed.org.

Use our parish code: K2768J

*The Hinge of history is on the door
of a Bethlehem stable.*

(Ralph Sockman)

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

The beautiful poinsettias in church were given in memory of loved ones by these folks:

Erna Gallagher for Ray & Genevieve Kelzer
Erna Gallagher for Blanche & Phil Gallagher
Bob Kelemen for Joseph & Gloria Parker
Bob Kelemen for Joseph & Carol Kelemen
Ruth Vanderploeg for Wilfred, Lucille & Steve Vanderploeg
Bernice Lansing for Denis Kuennen
Irm White-Drier for Robert Drier
Erna Gallagher for Don Gallagher
Elrita & David Herlitzke for Leonard & Margaret Degenhardt
Elrita & David Herlitzke for Lloyd Herlitzke
Elizabeth Skemp for Dan & Tucky Skemp
Evelyn Gallagher & family for Tom Gallagher
Irm White-Drier for Robert White
Don & Helen Flynn for Stephen & Eleanor Pavela
Don & Helen Flynn for Dr. Robert & Marie Flynn
Eugene & Mary Ann Roesler for Georgiana & Martin Roesler

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

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.

LIFE LEAGUE PRO-LIFE CAR RALLY

Saturday, January 2, 1:00
Parking lot of the Alliant Energy Center, Madison
Bring disposable diapers or donations
for the Women's Care Center
Speakers: Bishop Donald Hying &
Congressman Mike Gallagher

MARRIAGE PREPARATION RETREATS

The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering *Married Love: Two Becoming One*, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on February 6, April 24, and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register you may email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

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.

DIACONATE DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Are you a man at least 35 years of age who feels a yearning to give yourself more radically to the service of God and of the Church – preaching the Gospel, serving those in need, assisting at the altar? If you think God may be calling you to be a deacon, talk to your pastor about attending the Diaconate Discernment Retreat on Feb 27 at St. Mary's Parish in Altoona. Then contact Deacon Bryan Hilts, Director of the Office for the Diaconate at bhilts@diolc.org. A new deacon formation class will begin in fall of 2021, and attendance at the Discernment Retreat is a prerequisite.

From Father Woodrow Pace, Office for the Missions, Diocese of La Crosse:

As we close out the year 2020, from the Mission Office we wish you all many blessings during these Holy Days in which we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...In our world, so much in need of healing, may the song of the angels ring loudly, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace to His people on earth." With the shepherds, may we as one human family come to adore and tell the good news of our Savior's birth. Thank you to all who have helped this mission in 2020.