

Sunday Bulletin

Blessed Sacrament & Roncalli Newman
Roman Catholic Churches of La Crosse, WI
Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 24, 2023

Merry
Christmas!

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4:30PM Blessed Sacrament (BSP)

SUNDAY

9AM Blessed Sacrament (BSP)

11AM Roncalli Newman (RNC)

8:30PM Roncalli Newman (RNC)

DAILY MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday - 8:00AM (BSP)

Tues - 5:15PM (RNC)

Thurs - 7pm (RNC)

Wed/Fri - Noon (RNC)

CONFESSIONS

3:30 - 4:15PM Saturdays or by appt.

OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:

PASTOR

Fr. Billy Dodge
billyjdodge@gmail.com
608-860-6001 ext.8

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Sam McCarty
smccarty@diolclergy.org
608-860-6001 ext. 9

DEACONS

Dcn David Allen

Dcn Dave Belland

DIR. OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Mary Blaha-DeBoer

DIR. OF FAMILY FAITH FORM

Kristin Johnson
kjohnson@newmanlc.org

DIR. OF YOUTH FAITH FORM

Samuel Obert

COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTER

Maddie Stoffel
campusmin@newmanlc.org

FOCUS TEAM DIR.

John Collins

COMMUNICATION & DEVELOPMENT

Adele Gligorevic

CONTACT US

BSP OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 8:45AM - Noon & 1-3PM

Fri: 8:45AM - Noon
office@bsplacrosse.org
608-782-2953 ext. 2

RNC OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 9AM - 12PM, 1PM - 4PM

Fri: 9AM - 12PM
office@newmanlc.org
608-860-6001 ext. 1

FROM THE DESK OF FR. BILLY DODGE

When I meditate on the mystery of the birth of Jesus - often when praying the Third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary or during prayerful reflections on the scriptures - I often imagine myself as one of the shepherds coming to see the newborn king. Upon my arrival Mary will hand me the Christ child. I imagine the weight and feel of the infant in my arms, and I look down on the child in my imagination and remind myself that I hold in my arms the one who holds the entire cosmos. What a wonder! God has come to us, on our level, being vulnerable, so that we may approach and hold Him. Will I allow myself to be vulnerable before Our Lord so he may hold me? This is the source of our joy, namely that Love has come among us to embrace and be embraced.

I wish all of you the best this Christmas. Perhaps things are not going the way you planned for this Christmas. Mary and Joseph know what that is like, being rejected and having to stay in a stable. Whatever is happening in your life - for good or for ill - I pray you can experience the true joy and peace that only the Christ child brings.

Fr. Billy Dodge

CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMES & NOTES

4th Sunday + Christmas
How many Masses do I go to?

PICK ONE MASS FOR

4th Sunday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:30PM (BSP)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00AM (BSP)

11:00AM (RNC)

PICK ONE MASS FOR

Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00PM (BSP)

6:30PM (RNC)

8:30PM (RNC)

(social to follow in lower level)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00AM (BSP)

Celebrate with us!

You're invited to join us in the lower level of Roncalli Newman following the 8:30pm Christmas Mass on the 24th. Bring your favorite appetizers or cookies to share if you'd like. See you there!

Many thanks!

Thank you to Bob Skemp Sr who generously donated the Christmas Trees for the altars of both churches. Additional thanks to Carl Francksen and helpers who cut down and hauled the trees to be beautifully decorated.

AROUND OUR PARISHES

Blessed Sacrament Christmas Holiday Office Hours

Office Closed Monday December 25th

Tuesday December 26 through Friday December 29th - Mornings Only 8:45am to Noon

Office Closed Monday January 1st

Normal Office Hours resume Tuesday January 2nd - 8:45am to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00pm

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation does NOT meet Wednesday December 27th. Families should be completing At Home Lesson 3-2: Love Like Jesus and 3-3: Pray Like Jesus. We will see you again on January 3rd. Contact Kristin with any questions kjohnson@mmoclacrosse.org 608-788-5483 Ext. 4

Couches for Campus Ministry

Hello from Campus Ministry! We are in need of a few good/great condition couches or loveseats for a project. If you or anyone you know has some furniture to get rid of, please email campusmin@newmanlc.org. Thank you!

BSP Women's Club Meeting | January 6th

The Blessed Sacrament Women's Club(PCCW) will begin our New Year with a Holy Hour of prayer on Saturday, January 6th at 10:00. Following the Holy Hour in the Church we will have a short meeting in the Parish Center to discuss the upcoming Vintage/Heritage Bake Sale, scheduled for Saturday February 10. This is going to be a unique and fun bake sale. We plan to feature specialty heritage foods such as Polish Pierogis, Norwegian lelse and Bohemian Kolotchkys. We will be hosting different baking days and times when we will be making these specialties. We invite anyone interested in learning or helping to join us. More information and specifics to follow. Mark your calendars. Look forward to praying and working together!

Men's Prayer and Fellowship Gathering | January 8th

The Men's prayer and fellowship gathering will be Monday January 8th from 6-7:30 in the conference room. Long time Master of Ceremonies for BSP William Arnold will lead the discussion. Bring your Rosary and a friend.

Social Justice Alternative Gift Giving:

Looking for a last minute gift to give? Consider making or buying a card, and writing a note in addition to your Christmas blessing, explaining to that person that in their honor a donation has been made to their favorite charity. See a list of possibilities in the Nov. 19th bulletin available at www.roncallinewmancenter.com/ by clicking on the Sunday bulletin box. | Or consider giving to Casa Hogar through Roncalli Newman. During this giving season, spend time as a family and go on-line to <http://www.homeajpm.org/home> and learn more about Casa Hogar, our La Crosse Diocese's mission. Then discuss having every family member make a donation to help support Newman's Casa Hogar family. Newman pledges a minimum of \$1,000 annually to help provide a family setting for 8 children at Casa Hogar. Our "Rosario" family is 2 houseparents and their own children plus 8 orphaned/at risk girls living as a family unit at Casa Hogar. Some of the the girls are not orphans but without our Casa Hogar family, they would not have food and medical care or education and would be on their own at a very early age. | A donation check of any amount can be made out to Roncalli Newman Parish with Casa Hogar Family in the memo line. | Have a blessed Christmas spending "time" with Jesus, our Lord, and your family.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 30/31

Sat, Dec 30, 4:30 PM - The Feast of the Holy Family (BSP)

Caryl Doberstein	Reader (1)
Judy Kabat	Reader (2)
Jennifer Kulzer & Mary BD	Cantor & Accompanist
Charlee G. And Ruby G.	Servers
Scott Weaver & Natalie SchwinnWeaver	Hospitality Ministers
Mike Vanderploeg	Sacristan/MC
Jo Anne Burgmaier & Luci Johnson	EMHCs

Rosary Leaders at Blessed Sacrament

12/31 4:30pm - Mary Schuttenhelm

01/01 9am - Joe and Natalie Bennett

Sun, Dec 31, 9:00 AM - The Feast of the Holy Family (BSP)

Thomas Michel	Reader (1)
Bob Kelemen	Reader (2)
Kristin Johnson & Mary BD	Cantor & Accompanist
Ellanor G, and Hunter J.	Servers
John Gallagher & Karen Gamoke	Hospitality Ministers
Roger Korger & Bruce Simones	Hospitality Ministers
William Arnold	Sacristan/MC
Sandra Borreson & Bernice Lansing	EMHCs

Sun, Dec 31, 11:00 AM - The Feast of the Holy Family (BSP)

Kathleen Hench	Reader (1)
Tom Hench	Reader (2)
Andrea Fritts & Ryan Howe	Cantor & Accompanist
Alex Boland	Server
Freddi & Sam Servais	Hospitality Ministers
Sherwin & Alie Toribio	Hospitality Minister
Leigh & Kathy Running	Gift Bearers
Mary Lou Balts	Sacristan/MC

AROUND OUR PARISHES & COMMUNITY

Middle and High School Youth Faith Formation

Middle and High School Youth Faith Formation will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 27th. Enjoy the arrival of Jesus with family, friends, and food! We will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd with our Christmas Party. If you would like to make a donation of food or drinks to this youth event, please contact Samuel Obert- sobert@mmoclacrosse.org. MS and HS parents, please remember to return all 'Safe Environment' paperwork by January 3rd!

Behold Young Adult Retreat | January 27

Jesus left us Himself in the Eucharist so that our intimate love and union with Him -flesh to flesh- may continue in this life as we await the perfection of His love and union in the next. "Behold: God is With Us" is a Eucharistic retreat on January 27th for all young adults (18-35) in La Crosse. It's an opportunity for you to retreat from the busyness and stresses of life and find rest and consolation in Jesus and other young adults like you. Join us for a day of enriching talks, silent prayer/reflection, small group discussion, adoration, confession, and Mass. Most importantly, learn how you can remain connected post-retreat to a vibrant community of young adults striving for Sainthood. This day-long retreat will take place at Blessed Sacrament Parish from 9am-5:30pm. An optional after party will take place to follow! Breastfeeding babies are welcome. A delicious lunch will be provided. All of this and more for the low cost of \$20. Let us behold the Lord together! Scan the QR code to register. Registration ends January 20th!



A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Couples: do you want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at (563)920-9419. Upcoming weekends are February 16-18 in Marshalltown, April 12-14, 2024 in Epworth and September 27-29 in Dubuque.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:30pm BSP +Richard Coaty

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 4TH ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE

9am BSP Living and Deceased
Members of the Burg Family

11am RNC +Don Bahr

4pm Vigil BSP For the intention of Phil Murray

6:30 RNC Parish Family

8:30 RNC +John Boland

MONDAY DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

9am BSP +Terri Levi

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

8am BSP +Ray & Florence Mashak

No RNC Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8am BSP +Tom Larkin

Noon RNC +Jordan Wochos

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

8am BSP Father Raj's Mother

No RNC Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

8am BSP +Don and Mary Marcou

Noon RNC +Tess & Bob Peterson

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:30pm BSP +Raymond and Laretta Jahimiak

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9am BSP The William Mishler Family

11am RNC +Betty Patterson

Campus Ministry Corner

Inspiring testimonies & stories of how Roncalli Newman is changing the lives of college students in La Crosse.

The Roncalli Newman Center has done so much for me already this semester. Ever since stepping foot there on the second day of classes, I felt so welcomed. The Newman Center has become a second home for me this year and it truly feels like a place I can escape to for a bit between the busyness of a typical college schedule. I've grown so many friendships already and feel like I have a very strong and genuine community. I'm so grateful to see the other students living out their faith and the examples they set for others!

-Eva Snyder, freshman

As we close out the fall semester, we want to thank our generous parishioners who support our students through meals, donations, friendship, and prayers.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Eucharistic Prayer

A Minute with Jesus during the Eucharistic Revival, a time for deeper understanding and love of Jesus' Gift of Himself to us in Holy Communion. Jesus came into the world to save us. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn (motel), Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it was a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan for His birth on earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: *Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.* This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

Support Project Milk

Please Support Project Milk this Christmas Season Help the Diocesan Rural Life Committee spread hope and joy by contributing to Project Milk. Founded in 1984 to help feed the poor children of Casa Hogar in Peru, Project Milk provides whole milk powder to the orphanage and the surrounding community. Each year, the Rural Life Committee seeks to raise enough money to ship 40,000 lbs. of milk powder at an approximate cost of \$80,000. One hundred percent of your monetary gift is used to feed these children and the poor. To give, visit frjoesguild.org/donate, and select "Project Milk" as your designation.

Stewardship of Treasure 12/17

BSP \$19,937 | RNC \$15,176

Thank you for your support!



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Substitute Teachers Needed

Aquinas Catholic Schools are seeking candidates for Substitute Teaching positions at all schools. If you are interested in applying, please submit a resume and cover letter to J.T. Gilbert (Dean of Students) at jt.gilbert@aquinasschools.org.

In need of yarn, fabric, and needlework supplies

Coulee Region Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is seeking donations of yarn, fabric, and needlework supplies for its Handcraft Program. RSVP volunteers make thousands of items for donation to local hospitals and other social service organizations. We make hats, mittens, scarves, quilts, afghans, wheel-chair/walker bags, and countless other items.

RSVP donates about 5,000 handcrafted items yearly, so we always need more yarn and fabric. All needlework supplies are accepted, and what we can't use for making items for donation will be saved for a needlecraft sale in the spring to support the Handcraft Program.

If you have any questions or want to drop off a donation, call us at 608-785-0500. Coulee Region RSVP is located at 2920 East Ave. South, La Crosse, and we are on the web at www.rsvplax.org.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Preparing Our Hearts for Christ's Coming

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is Luke 1:26-38. Now, the Readings focus on the events surrounding the birth of the Savior. The angel Gabriel announces, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God... for nothing will be impossible for God." The angel's words remind us that Advent is a season of HOPE. We are not to be afraid, for with God, nothing is impossible.

These words can seem like nice thoughts, but how is it possible to have this gift of hope? One telling example stands out in the life of Pope Saint John Paul II. When he first became pope, he spoke these very words to the crowds: "Do not be afraid!" How could he have such hope when the Holy Father, in his native Poland, had lived through the Nazi invasion and the killing of almost everyone that he knew during World War II? In the aftermath of the War, the world believed that the 'Iron Curtain' would never come down. Through Pope John Paul's prayer, unwavering trust in God, and perseverance in calling for its destruction, we witnessed the downfall of this blockade to freedom without a shot being fired.

The season of Advent is a time to grow in the virtue of hope – not to be afraid. One way is to commit to praying three Hail Marys with a specific intention, something that might have seemed impossible heretofore. We will ask Our Lady to pray with us, as she experienced the "impossible." Mary, Mother of the Christ Child, will intercede for us. Let us ask her to prepare our hearts to receive the true Gift of Christmas—Christ Himself—in a much deeper way, as she was the first to receive Him as a newborn Babe on Christmas Day.



BEHOLD

GOD IS WITH US

01 27 24

9 AM - 5 PM

EUCCHARISTIC RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35
BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH- LA CROSSE, WI

Join us for a restful day of enlightening talks, warm food, faithful community, Eucharistic adoration, and Mass! Learn how you can get connected to the vibrant young adult community in La Crosse. Let us behold the Lord together!

MEET OUR SPEAKERS:



Fr. Samuel Hakeem, OP
Eucharistic Preacher and
Vocations Director for Central
Province Dominicans



Fr. Derek Sakowski
Director of the Rebuild My
Church Initiative for the
Diocese of La Crosse



Fr. Paul N. Check
Executive Director of the
Shrine of Our Lady of
Guadalupe in La Crosse



Scan QR code above. Registration ends on Jan. 20th!

