

WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – ST. MARY’S

Parish Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Visit us on the web at www.stmaryflorence.org

Live the Gospel! Whatever it Takes...

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Florence, WI 54121
Street Address: 308 Florence Ave., Florence, WI
Parish Office Telephone: (715) 528-3310
Parish Secretaries: Jean Fornetti & Donna Phillips
Parish e-mail: stmary@borderlandnet.net
St Vincent DePaul: (715) 528-2030

St. Mary’s Pastor: Fr. Soja Joseph
E-mail: frsojan@gmail.com
Fr. Soja’s Phone: (920) 445-4564
Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 12/02 5:30 p.m. +Carol Zaleskie
Offered by Matt McCarthy

Thursday 12/04 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 12/05 8:30 a.m. + Sharon Dougoveto
Offered by Mark and Carla Kramer

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 12/06 6:00 p.m. +Robert Davidson
Offered by Simone Kriegl

Sunday 12/07 8:30 a.m. +Tony Landry
Offered by Al and MaryKay Williams

+ Deceased, Tg. Thanksgiving
Confession available 30 minutes before all masses.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 06

Sacristan - Dan Throm

Eucharistic Minister - Dan Throm

Lector - Missy Roberts

Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 07

Sacristan - Tanya Parker

Eucharistic Minister - Sally Neuens

Lector - Carolyn Lemanski

Lead Usher - Mike Lemanski

Money Counters - Dan & Kathy Jazinski

11/22 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$756.00	Envelope.....\$755.00	Total....\$1,511.00
11/23 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$101.00	Envelope.....\$465.00	Total.....\$566.00
		Electronic.....\$40.00	Total.....\$40.00
Total Collections			\$2,117.00
Budget:	\$1,800.00	2024: \$1,767.80	

Christmas Flowers: There will be a second collection next weekend, 12/6-12/7, for Christmas flowers. Thank you for your support!

2025 Holiday and Holy Day Mass Times

Monday, December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Florence 8:30 a.m.
Armstrong Creek 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Armstrong Creek 4:00 p.m.
Florence 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Florence 8:30 a.m.
Goodman 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve

Florence 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1 - New Year’s Day

Armstrong Creek 9:00 a.m.
Florence 5:30 p.m.

(The Office will have limited hours from Dec.23-Jan. 2 but will reopen with regular business hours on Tues., Jan. 6th.)

ST. MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Giving Tree: This is the last week to give of yourselves and share Christmas Love by taking an ornament from the “Giving Tree”. Please return all gifts to the parish, unwrapped with the paper ornament attached, by next Sunday, **December 7th**. Please remember to pray for the child and his/her family.



The Knights of Columbus thank the parishioners of St. Mary’s for their generosity. Because of your donations at our recent Tootsie Roll Drive, we were able to present F.H.S. “Special Needs Students” with a check which is one of the many things that our Knights are able and happy to do. Thank you and God Bless! Larry Neuens



Thank you to all who donated, sold and baked for the **Hunter’s Bake Sale** last weekend! St. Mary’s raised **\$537.00**. Thank you for your generosity, time and talent!

Thank you to all who helped with replacing the 2025 Breaking Bread books with the 2026 books in the pews last Sunday. Also, thank you to Jenny Phelps who brought the old Missals to Trico to recycle. All your efforts are truly appreciated!

Parish Volunteer Opportunities: We are in urgent need of volunteers to help with our lay ministries especially on the following days:

Sacristan: Wed.,12/31 (5:30 p.m.), Thurs., 01/01 (5:30).

Eucharistic Minister: Wed.,12/31 (5:30 p.m.), Thurs., 01/01 (5:30).

Lector: Mon, 12/8 (8:30 a.m.), Wed., 12/31 (5:30 p.m.), & Thurs., 01/01 (5:30 p.m.).

Please contact the parish office if you are interested. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Gold Slips: For anyone interested in serving in Lay Ministry, gold slips are available in the entryway. Please return the slips by December 7th.



Friends, today we begin a new liturgical year—with the season of Advent, a time of hopeful waiting, quiet preparation, and spiritual awakening. Advent is not only about preparing for Christmas; it is about preparing for Christ—who comes to us daily and who will come again in glory. Advent is a wake-up call. St. Paul

speaks with urgency: “It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.” It is God saying to each of us: Wake up to the grace that is available. Wake up to the love you may be overlooking. Wake up to the purpose you may have forgotten. Wake up from spiritual laziness or routine.

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the surprising example of the days of Noah—not to scare us, but to teach us. People were eating, drinking, marrying—living ordinary life—but they were not paying attention to God’s presence or His warnings. The danger in spiritual life is distraction. Being so caught up in the routine, the noise, the busyness, that we stop noticing God. Jesus tells us: “Stay awake.” Not anxious or worried. Just awake—attentive, ready, open-hearted. What Does an Advent Heart Look Like? It is a heart that chooses Hope over fear, Peace over anxiety, Light over darkness, Prayer over rush, Awareness over distraction, Preparation over procrastination. Advent is not about doing more— it is about being more attentive to God. A quiet prayer in the morning, a moment of stillness, an act of kindness, a word of forgiveness, these are the simple ways we get ready.

As the first candle of the Advent wreath is lit, may our prayer be:

“Lord Jesus, awaken our hearts.

Make us walk in Your light.

Help us to stay awake and ready for Your coming.”

May this Advent be a season of hope, renewal, and grace for all of us. Let us awaken our spirits and prepare for the Lord’s coming with joy and anticipation.

Fr. Soja

Wreath Laying Ceremony: Saturday, Dec. 6th, @ Long Lake Cemetery. All are welcome to join the residents and VFW in honoring our fallen veterans and those who served our country. For more information contact Jeny Phelps @ 906-396-0067.



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To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

Jay Glime
gnglumber@gmail.com

G & G LUMBER, INC.

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Florence, WI 54121-0587

**Knights of Columbus**

Local Council#2847 meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Parish Hall in Niagara.
For more information contact:
Larry Neuens at 715-589-3379.

Lead with faith ~ Protect your family ~ Serve others ~ Defend your values

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