

# 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](http://www.stmaryflorence.org)

*Live the Gospel! Whatever it Takes...*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Florence, WI 54121  
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St. Mary’s Pastor: Fr. Soja Joseph  
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 Fr. Soja’s Phone: (920) 445-4564  
 Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski  
 Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008  
 Email: [lemanski\\_mom@hotmail.com](mailto:lemanski_mom@hotmail.com)

## Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 02/24 5:30 p.m. +Edwin Kelley  
*Offered by Jean and Joe Fornetti*

Thursday 02/26 **No Eucharistic Adoration**

Friday 02/27 8:30 a.m. +Ellamae “Sis” Herman  
*Offered by Joe and Sue Mills*

## Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 02/28 6:00 p.m. +Delores Gatzow  
*Offered by Joe and Sue Mills*

Sunday 03/01 8:30 a.m. +Janice Beloungy  
*Offered by Mark and Carla Kramer*

+ Deceased, Tg. Thanksgiving

Confession available 30 minutes before all masses.

## Weekend Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, February 28

Sacristan - Clara McLain

Eucharistic Minister - Clara McLain

Lector - Bill DeGroot

Lead Usher - Needed

### Sunday, March 01

Sacristan - Al & MaryKay Williams

Eucharistic Minister - Al Williams

Lector - Al Williams

Lead Usher - Mike Lemanski

Money Counters - Dorothy Vayda & Maggie  
 Schalow

02/14 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$33.00	Envelope.....\$320.00	Total.....\$353.00
02/15 Sun. Coll.	Loose....\$257.00	Envelope.....\$315.00	Total.....\$572.00
Ash Wed. Coll.	Loose.....\$155.00	Funeral luncheon.....\$250.00	Electronic....\$110.00
			Total Collections
			<b>\$1,440.00</b>

Budget: \$1,800.00      2025: \$2,578.00

### Looking Ahead...

**Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled on Thursday, Feb. 26th.**

### Women’s Retreats:

**Women’s Silent Retreat:** A weekend of silence, prayer, reflection, Confession, and Holy Mass. Come as you are and leave renewed.

Friday–Saturday, **February 27–28, 2026**

**Cost:** \$150 (includes single room, breakfast & lunch)

**Women’s Guided Day Retreat:**

Saturday, **March 21, 2026** | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

A Day of guided prayer, reflection, fellowship, and Holy Mass.

**Cost:** \$50 (includes soup & salad lunch)

**Location for both Retreats:** Elizabeth Ministry’s Zechariah House, 119 W. 7th St. Kaukauna, WI 54130

**Register:** [www.elizabethministry.com/events](http://www.elizabethministry.com/events)

**Questions:** Call Kathy at (920) 766-9380 or email us at [info@elizabethministry.com](mailto:info@elizabethministry.com).

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



**Bishop’s Appeal:** On this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus leads us into the desert and reminds us to turn our hearts back to God. Lent begins quietly, but it leads us to the light and hope of Easter.

We see this hope in Pam, who came to Catholic Charities after losing her husband, recovering from cancer, and facing financial hardship. With Christ-centered guidance, she found healing and stability. “Without Catholic Charities, I would still be in that despair,” she shared. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal makes stories like Pam’s possible and supports faith formation, Catholic schools, deacon formation, and many ministries throughout our Diocese.

St. Mary’s has contributed **\$720.00 towards our goal of \$8,880.00.** Please prayerfully consider making a contribution. Even a small gift makes an impact and helps us bring Christ’s light to others. To support the 2026 Bishop’s Appeal, use the pledge card mailed to your home or one from the back of the church, or visit [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give).

Thank you for your generosity and for helping St. Mary’s Parish shine Christ’s light this Lent.

**Ash Wednesday Meal:** Thank you to Carolyn Lemanski, Tanya Parker, the Religious Ed. students and families, and all others who helped to organize and provide a lovely soup and sandwich meal after the Ash Wednesday Mass. It was a wonderful way to join in fellowship, share a meal and kick off our Lenten journey together!

**Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross will be said after Friday masses during Lent. This practice fosters deep meditation on Christ’s sacrifice and provides strength for personal daily struggles.

**Solemn Novena:** The 139th annual Solemn Novena in Honor of St. Joseph will be held March 11-19, 2026, at the National Shrine of St. Joseph located at 123 Grant St., DePere, on the campus of St. Norbert College. You can read the flyer at the back of the church if you are interested.

**February Cleaning:** Thank you to Sue Mills and Aubrey Pataconi for cleaning the Parish during the month of February. We truly appreciate your efforts!



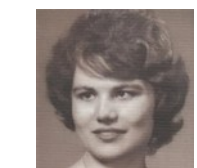
Friends, the gospel narration on temptations of Jesus is not to be taken lightly. It’s a warning that we can ruin our lives if we stray from the path God wills for us. The first temptation was decisively important. On the surface it is a desire for something innocent and good: “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones

become loaves of bread.” Jesus’ reply is surprising: “One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” We must always seek God’s will above all. At every moment we must listen to God’s Word, seek God’s will.

Temptations of Jesus warn us not to let selfishness govern our lives. We need to be guided by the Holy Spirit, who continues to prompt our conscience throughout our days. Imitate Our Lord by taking up life’s challenges. Let Jesus be a major influence in our lives, reflect upon his words and actions with reverence and affection, to bring about an inner purification of our minds and wills. Our real growth to Christian maturity comes by accepting the vocation of struggling against temptation with self-restraint, to achieve the kind of behavior and attitude of Jesus.

Christ and Adam show the two opposite reactions in the face of temptation: Adam, model of sinful, evasive, self-seeking humanity, finds likely reasons to yield to sin, and rebels against God’s will. Jesus, model of the new God-seeking man, resists temptation even repeatedly. Sin can only be conquered by this blend of patience and loyalty, supported by trust that what God requires of us is what is best for us. Prayer is accepting God’s will in our lives rather than asking God to change his will for us.

Fr. Soja



**Special Thank You:** On behalf of Gloria Merhalski’s family, we would like to sincerely thank the Funeral Luncheon Team for the beautiful luncheon following our mother’s funeral. We are so very grateful for the time, effort, and thoughtfulness they poured into every detail. All the dishes were generously prepared by volunteers. It meant more to us than we can fully express. Their kindness and generosity brought great comfort to our family during a very difficult time. Please know how deeply grateful we are for the love and support shown to us.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
 Lynn Beauregard, Lori Balza, and Darren Merhalski

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Check out what FORMED online has available.

To register, simply go to [stmaryflorence.formed.org](http://stmaryflorence.formed.org) and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

Jay Glime  
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 Florence, WI 54121-0587



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

### Knights of Columbus

Local Council#2847 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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