

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 & Heather Roberts
 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: 920-445-4560
 Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
 Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
 Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions
 Tues. 3/11 5:30pm For the People
 Thurs. 3/13 4:30pm Eucharistic Adoration
 Fri. 3/14 8:30am +Dan Leffler
Offered by Bob, Mary and Tommy Podnar

Weekend Masses and Intentions
 Sat. 3/15 6:00pm +Bridget King
Offered by Dennis & Karen Podnar
 Sun. 3/16 8:30am +Mary Jo Bomberg
Offered by Mary Kay & Al Williams
 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving
 Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

Ministry Schedule
Saturday, March 15th
 Sacristan - Dan Throm
 Eucharistic Minister - Dan Throm
 Lector - Aubrey Pataconi
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky
Sunday, March 16th
 Sacristan - Clara McLain
 Eucharistic Ministers - Derek Parker
 Lector - Dorothy Vayda
 Lead Usher - Jerry Divine
 Money Counters - Jerry Divine & Dorothy Vayda



St. Mary's/Immaculate Conception Parish
 Florence | Florence WI
 St. Mary's/Immaculate Conception Parish Florence,
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03/01 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$38.00	Envelope.....\$280.00	Total.....\$318.00
03/02 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$302.00	Envelope....\$305.00	Total...\$607.00
Bishop's Appeal:	Electronic.....\$40.00	Misc.....\$150.00	Total...\$2,075.00
	\$1,885.00		
		Total Collection:	\$3,000.00
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2024: \$1,634.00	

“...Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil...”

Jesus said to him in reply, “It is written *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.*”

-Luke 4:1-13



Grant eternal life to our brother, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Let the angels welcome him into Paradise and help us comfort each other with the assurance of our faith. May he rest in peace.

Our Deepest Condolences to all of the family and friends of **John Merhalski**, 90, who passed away on Saturday March 1, 2025. May we continue to keep Johnny and all his family in loving prayer during this difficult time. He was a life-long member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, and a dedicated 4th Degree member of Knights of Columbus. A Celebration of John's life will be announced at a later date. The family has chosen Jacobs-Lundholm Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Florence, Wisc., to honor John's legacy of life.

ST MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT!

A special thank you to Mark & Carla Kramer for their beautiful work and generous donation of their time and resources on the restoration of our church pews! Thank you for your diligent work to make God’s house a beautiful prayer space; our heartfelt thanks to you!

Notes & Reminders

- ♦ **Mass Intentions:** Mass is a beautiful prayer offering; one of the most powerful prayers we have. Please contact the office to schedule them. Suggested donation \$10.
- ♦ **Eucharistic Adoration: Thursdays @ 4:30pm:** Come let Jesus gaze upon you with His infinite love and mercy. He is waiting for YOU!
- ♦ The **Gold Slips** are available on the entryway tables. Please return by March 9th. Thank you!



KOINONIA RETREAT - May 30 - June 1, 2025

I have a few questions for each of you to consider...Is my life too busy? What is the most important thing in my daily life? Do I take time and how important is God in my life? Yup, these are some questions that I think each of us needs to take time to ponder. Perhaps, our parish may have just the thing for you! A Koinonia retreat at St. Mary's facility is fast approaching. It just doesn't get more convenient than that! Mark your calendar and take a moment from your busy schedule to pray on it, please consider this notice as just a seed. More information will be made available in the coming weeks.... at least, pencil this date in on your calendar. To learn more, please reach out to Larry Neuens via; (715) 625 1011 or nuinns@borderlandnet.net
 God Bless and have a great, rewarding Lent.



Bringing Hope to the World
 through Adult Faith Formation

Adult faith formation programs help parish leaders bring adults closer to Christ. Thanks to the Bishop's Appeal, adult faith formation provides resources, guest speakers, and curricula to help parishes.

Parishes can then advance the mission, form adults through Christ, and inspire disciples. Your gifts make this possible!

Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give



Friends, we have begun the holy season of lent. It is a time of spiritual growth through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Jesus says: “When you give, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Matthew 6:3). When you pray, go into your room and close the door. When you fast, wash your face so no one knows except the Father who sees in secret. Because the most sacred things in life happen not in public, but in secret, in the heart. It’s a love story. It’s God whispering to you, “Come back to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12). God wants you—your heart, your attention, your love.

Give because you love Jesus, and generously it is a love letter you write in secret to God. When you pray, don’t just recite words because it’s Lent. Sit with Him. Whisper to Him like you’d whisper to someone you love. Tell Him your hurts, your fears, your dreams. “Pour out your heart before Him, for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8). Let prayer become not a duty, but a moment of love in silence. And when you fast, fast not just from food, but from all that keeps you from loving God deeply—pride, gossip, anger, distraction. Let fasting say: “Lord, you matter more.” Because “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Mat 4:4).

This year, take Lent seriously. Not as a religious checklist, but as a time to fall back in love with the God who never gave up on you—not even for a second. We are called to turn back to him and call him ‘Father’ trusting in his love and mercy with gratitude and humility. What is secret is sacred. And what is sacred will change your life. So let us begin this spiritual battle with fasting, so that we may be armed with the weapon of self-restraint. Let me leave you with this final word from Jeremiah 29:13: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

~Fr. Soja




Our 2025 Bishop’s Appeal Goal:
\$9,274.00

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FORMED Check out what FORMED online has available.
 FAITH AT HOME
 To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

Jay Glime
gnglumber@gmail.com

 906-458-3452
 PO Box 587
 5971 Sawmill Road
 Florence, WI 54121-0587


Knights of Columbus
 Local Council #2847 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 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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 —SUPPER CLUB—
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