

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  
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](mailto:stmary@borderlandnet.net)  
St Vincent DePaul: (715) 528-2030

St. Mary’s Pastor: Fr. Soja Joseph  
E-mail: [frsojan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lemanski_mom@hotmail.com)

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 12/16 5:30 p.m. +Richard Meyers  
*Offered by Francie Rochon*

Thursday 12/18 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 12/19 8:30 a.m. +Pete Podnar  
*Offered by Bob, Mary and Tommy Podnar*

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 12/20 6:00 p.m. +Tony and Bregeda DeMuri  
*Offered by David and Terry DeMuri*

Sunday 12/21 8:30 a.m. +Jeanine Weber-Brouillette  
*Offered by Dennis and Karen Podnar*

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

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 20

Sacristan - Dan Throm  
Eucharistic Minister - Dan Throm  
Lector - Jean Fornetti  
Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 21

Sacristan - Clara McLain  
Eucharistic Minister - Bill DeGroot  
Lector - Bill DeGroot  
Lead Usher - Jay Glime  
Money Counters - Jay & Lori Glime

*Thank you to all our volunteers at St. Marys!!*

12/06 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$80.00	Envelope.....\$380.00	Total.....\$460.00
12/07 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$40.00	Envelope.....\$540.00	Total.....\$580.00
		Misc & Electronic..\$1,440.00	Total....\$1,440.00
Christmas			
Flowers...\$387.00			
		Total Collections	\$2,480.00
Budget:			
		\$1,800.00	2024: \$2,216.00

2025 Christmas and Holy Day Mass Times

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 (Solemnity of Mary)

Florence 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1 - New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary)

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.)

Confessions will be heard on Wed., 12/17 at the following times:

Elementary Students - 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.  
High School Students - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Parishioners - 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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

**Christmas Flowers:** Thank you for your donations toward Christmas Flowers. We truly appreciate your generosity!

**Share in the Care Retirement Collection:** Today, we have a beautiful opportunity to Share in the Care of those who have spent their lives serving God and His people. Through the Retirement Collection, your gift supports:

\* The National Retirement Fund for Religious, helping retired sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

\* The Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund, caring for our senior priests right here in the Diocese of Green Bay.

These faithful men and women have devoted their lives to prayer, teaching, and compassionate service, often with little financial compensation. Now, many of their communities face serious challenges in providing for their retirement needs. Your generosity helps ensure they receive the care, medicine and daily support they deserve. Contribution envelopes are available in the pews. Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and support!

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

**Sacristan:** Wednesday, December 31 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 1 at 5:30 p.m.

**Eucharistic Minister:** Wednesday, December 31 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 1 at 5:30 p.m.

**Lector:** Wednesday, December 31 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 1 at 5:30 p.m.

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



Friends, This Sunday is called *Gaudete* Sunday because today’s Mass begins with the opening antiphon: “*Gaudete in Domino semper,*” i.e., “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*” So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath.

The prophet Isaiah, in today’s first reading, encouraged the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God was going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in today’s Gospel, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus’ healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part of today’s Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John’s prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

Today’s readings remind us that our lives can also be transformed if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome him by allowing a *metánoia* (a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world).

Fr. Soja

**The Giving Tree:** Thank you to all who donated gifts to be used as part of the St. Vincent Community Christmas Program. Your generosity and prayers showed “**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**”



**Snow Shoveling:** We need volunteers for snow shoveling this winter! Please contact the parish office if you are willing and able! Your help would be GREATLY appreciated!!!

**G & G FOREST PRODUCTS**  
**Lance Glime**

5274 Turtle Creek Rd  
Florence, WI 54121  
(906) 250-6642  
e-mail: [GGForestProducts@gmail.com](mailto:GGForestProducts@gmail.com)

**FORMED**  
FAITH AT HOME


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  
[gnglumber@gmail.com](mailto:gnglumber@gmail.com)

**G & G LUMBER, INC.**

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

**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.

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

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