

# WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – ST. MARY’S

Parish Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Visit us on the web at [www.stmaryflorence.org](http://www.stmaryflorence.org)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Florence, WI 54121  
 Street Address: 308 Florence Ave., Florence, WI  
 Parish Office Telephone: (715) 528-3310  
 Parish Secretary: Tanya Parker  
 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: 920-445-4560  
 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 5:30 p.m. For the People  
 Thursday 4:30-5:30 Eucharistic Adoration  
 Friday 8:30 a.m. For the People  
 Friday 10:00 a.m. At Florence Health Services - 1st Friday of month

## Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased  
 Members of the Robert Kobussen Family  
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. + Zoey Claire Williams  
 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving

## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, March 2

Sacristan - Brant & Cindy Brolin  
 Eucharistic Minister - Volunteer if needed  
 Lector - Volunteer needed  
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

### Sunday, March 3

Sacristan - Roy Rietz  
 Eucharistic Minister - Sally Neuens  
 Lector - Bill DeGroot  
 Lead Usher - Jay Glime  
 Money Counters - Jay & Lori Glime

**Help Wanted...**We are looking for volunteers to join the cleaning crew for the parish hall and restrooms.

We received a nice comment from Fr. Janusz how clean our worship and office space is. Thank you to our diligent cleaners!!

<b>Sat. Collection</b>	Loose.....\$42.00	Envelope.....\$90.00	Total...\$132.00
<b>Sun. Collection</b>	Loose...\$167.00	Envelope....\$270.00	Total....\$437.00
<b>Flowers.....\$10.00</b>	<b>Electronic &amp; Other.....\$120.00</b>		Total...\$130.00
<b>Total Collections</b>			<b>\$699.00</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	\$2,028.00	2023: \$1,634.00	

### Lent Schedule

#### Stations of the Cross

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. before 5:30 p.m. Mass  
 Fridays at 9:00 a.m. after 8:30 a.m. Mass

#### Confessions

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: half an hour before Mass starts.

**Thank you to all** who helped make our Lenten fellowship meal a success by volunteering to bring a dish and/or attending. Thank you to our religious education students and their parents for helping with the dishes and cleaning the kitchen and parish hall.

**Congratulations and thank you to our religious ed students** who did a superb job at our Ash Wednesday Mass. We were delighted to have so many people attend Mass to begin our Lenten Season and have our students involved.

**Gold Slips are available on the entryway tables.** Please return them to the Parish Office by Sunday, March 10th. We appreciate your help with our parish ministries!!

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



**The Easter Flower Collection** will take place this weekend. If you forgot your envelope, and would like to donate Easter flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, there are envelopes available in the back of church. You may also drop off any donations to the office this week.

**The A&E Committee needs help decorating** during Holy Week. This year both Mary Kay and Karen P. will be in Florida, leaving only Yvonne Podner to do all the work. Yvonne lives out of town and if it snows, she will not be able to come to Florence to decorate. We have developed a contingency plan with detailed picture instructions of when things need to be done, what it should look like, and where the supplies are kept. Please prayerfully consider committing to decorating on one of these days for 1 to 2 hours: Holy Thursday (to be done Wednesday), Good Friday (to be done Friday morning before noon Mass), Easter Vigil (to be done after Good Friday services). Again, Yvonne will be available to decorate but will need help and will need a reliable backup if the weather is bad. If interested, please contact the parish office or Mary Kay Williams. Thank you in advance!

~ Fr. Soja and Mary Kay

**The Iron Mountain-Kingsford Knights of Columbus Bishop Baraga Council 1585 will hold its annual Lenten Fish Bakes on Fridays, March 1st, 8th and 29th** at the hall located at 520 W. Breitung Avenue. They will be serving between 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

Dinner includes baked cod, mashed or baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll and dessert. Grilled cheese sandwiches and a vegetable soup will also be available. Dinner is \$15.00 for adults, \$7.00 for children 5-12 years of age and no charge for those under 5 years of age.

**Bishop’s Appeal...**St. Mary’s has raised \$1,715.00 towards our goal of \$9,696.00. Thank you to all who already donated to help us reach our goal for this year!

We invite you to pray and make any contribution God is calling you to give. We are grateful for anything you can donate.

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“If your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the hell of fire!” (Mt 18:9).

Friends, God shapes his people; he enables us to leave our slavery behind. Lent is a time the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts. Our process of liberation begins at baptism, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery, a kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom. Let us ask: Do I want a new world? Am I ready to leave behind my compromises with the old? Let us continue Lent as the great season of reconciliation and new life in Christ. Instead of long faces, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom, and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. Instead of being overwhelmed by the temptation and suffering of Christ, let us be overwhelmed by the way Christ overcame them, even defeating death. Only in Christ, we too become victorious.

In today’s reading Abraham is portrayed as being willing to let go of what was most precious to him, the only son of his old age. We are rightly shocked by the image of God asking a father to sacrifice his son in this way. Yet, the willingness of Abraham to let go of what was most precious to him, if that was what God was asking, remained an inspiration to the people of Israel. He had already shown a willingness to let go of his family and his homeland as he set out towards an unknown land in response to God’s call. In the Gospel, Peter, James and John saw a glimpse of the glory of Christ and they were terrified. Peter wanted to remain on with the divine experience, but Jesus charged them not to mention it until the son of man is risen from the dead. The voice from the cloud, “*This is my beloved Son, Listen to him*” continues to echo in the heart of every believer. Abraham received his Son back as a gift for his obedience to God, but God did not spare his Son to redeem us. “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (Jn 6:29).

~ Fr. Soja

**Lenten Reflection of the Eucharist:** Deacon Dave Scheuer of the Diocese of Green Bay will be sharing his extraordinary encounters of the divine through the Eucharist on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Crandon. All are welcome!!

**G & G FOREST PRODUCTS**  
**Lance Glime**  
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**Jay Glime**  
[gnglumber@gmail.com](mailto:gnglumber@gmail.com)  
  
 906-458-3452  
 PO Box 587  
 5971 Sawmill Road  
 Florence, WI 54121-0587