

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

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St Vincent DePaul: (715) 528-2030

St. Mary’s Pastor: Fr. Soja Joseph
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Fr. Soja’s Phone: 920-445-4560
Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
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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

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased
Members of the Richard Ristau Family
Sunday 8:30 a.m. For the People

+ Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving

Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 24

Sacristan - Dan Throm
Eucharistic Minister - Dan Throm
Lector - Yvonne Leslie
Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, February 25

Sacristan - Roy Rietz
Eucharistic Minister - Clara McLain
Lector - Kathy Jazinski
Lead Usher - Mike Lemanski
Money Counters - Jay & Lori Glime

Help Wanted...We are looking for volunteers to join the cleaning crew for the church and office area. We are also in need of helpers to clean the parish hall and restrooms.

Sat. Collection	Loose.....\$40.00	Envelope....\$156.00	Total...\$196.00
Sun. Collection	Loose...\$337.00	Envelope....\$560.00	Total...\$897.00
	Electronic & Other.....\$310.00		Total...\$310.00
	Total Collections		\$1,403.00
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023: \$1,589.00	

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

February 21 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for RE Students
Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: half an hour before Mass starts.

Volunteers Needed: Fr. Soja would like 12 volunteers to get their feet washed on Holy Thursday, March 28th. The washing of the feet on Holy Thursday is an example of how we are to serve and love one another in imitation of Jesus’ love for his disciples and us.

Lectors are needed for the Saturday Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. If you can help at the Easter Vigil, or would like to be included as a back-up lector for any of the masses, please contact the office.

A sacristan is needed for the 8 p.m. Easter Vigil mass.

If you would like more information on any of the ministries, or would like to volunteer, please contact the office. We appreciate your consideration!

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



Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal will help in countless ways. A young woman in an abusive relationship is able, through counseling with Catholic Charities, to stand on her own feet. Married couples struggling with infertility are able to become parents through Adoption Services. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal makes happy endings possible.

Entrust: Disciples on Mission Retreat...During this intensive experience, attendees will receive the vision, formation, and practical knowledge in how to carry out the process of spiritual multiplication. Thanks to the generosity of the Bishop’s Appeal, this retreat is free of charge for staff, volunteers, and parishioners within the Diocese of Green Bay.

If you are interested in attending any of the retreats, please go to the Diocese of Green Bay website and click on the link or contact the parish office. Registration opens two months prior to each retreat. Please note that capacity is limited, and sessions fill up quickly.

- March 5-7 | Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh
- March 15-16 | St. Mary's of the Lakes in Lakewood
- April 9-11 | Norbertine Center for Spirituality in De Pere
- April 19-20 | St. John Parish in Antigo
- May 17-18 | St. Leonard in Laona
- May 31-June 1 | St. Peter the Fisherman in Two Rivers



The Easter Flower Collection will take place next weekend, February 24th & 25th. If you would like to donate Easter flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please use the designated envelope in your offertory box. If you don’t use

the offertory envelopes, simply place an envelope or check marked “flowers” in the weekend collection. We will have envelopes available next weekend if needed.

Niagara’s St. Anthony Church is having a fish fry on Friday, February 23rd and March 15th from 4-7 p.m. It is \$20 per person and all you can eat! 10 and under are free.

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“From the first day you made up your mind to acquire understanding and humble yourself before God, your prayer was heard.” (Dan 10:12)

Friends, the holy season of Lent invites us to renew our faith and revisit those religious practices in which we may have become lax. St. Paul gives a wise reminder that we are to take our unmerited status with God seriously, not in vain. Jesus highlights almsgiving, prayer, and fasting as preeminent examples. Giving makes us better stewards of the gifts we have, prayer helps us to reconcile with God and neighbor, and fasting reminds us of our vulnerability and ultimate dependence on God. These traditional practices call us to reconciliation and renewal of justice (giving God and others their due). Jesus asks his disciples to do it diligently with an interior dispassion and direct attention toward God. It is a warning to avoid spiritual practices done for the wrong reasons. Those disordered motivations undermine the purpose of these spiritual practices and draw undue attention to us, instead of leading others to God. Jesus proposes a non-attention-grabbing way, known only to the Father who is in secret.

Our prayer and practices of piety however have three-fold dimension; we are called to pray with our brethren, but we must also enter our chamber to pray to the Father, in the secret of our heart, and pray without ceasing. More than our performance, he sees our hearts. At the beginning of Lent, Jesus invites us to live under the gaze of his Father who is hidden. Christ calls us to dedicate to our loving Father the secret of our lives: our thoughts, desires, sacrifices, and our prayers. The first part of the Lenten readings from the synoptics is meant “to puncture” us for deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to any self-deceit as disciples of Jesus. It means putting on the mind of Christ, obeying God’s will, seeking holiness of life, and growing in love for others. Let us constantly remember His hidden gaze and learn to delight in pleasing Him. May the grace of God help us to acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart at this Lent!

~ 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!!

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5274 Turtle Creek Rd
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To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

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