

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...*

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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  
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Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 9/16 No Daily Mass

Thursday 9/18 No Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 9/19 No Daily Mass

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 9/20 6:00 p.m. +Michael Scholke  
*Offered by Al and MaryKay Williams*

Sunday 9/21 8:30 a.m. +Deceased Members  
of the Leffler/Rochon Families  
*Offered by Don and Beanie Leffler*

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

Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, September 20**  
Sacristan - Clara McLain  
Eucharistic Minister - Clara McLain  
Lector - Heather Roberts  
Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

**Sunday, September 21**  
Sacristan - Al & MaryKay Williams  
Eucharistic Minister - Bill DeGroot  
Lector - Bill DeGroot  
Lead Usher - Jerry Divine  
Money Counters - Jerry Divine & Dorothy Vayda

9/06 Sat. Coll.	Loose....\$45.00	Envelope.....\$340.00	Total.....\$385.00
9/07 Sun. Coll.	Loose...\$229.00	Envelope....\$1,035.00	Total....\$1,264.00
Building/Maint. Fund	Sat.....\$178.00	Electronic....\$265.00	Total.....\$897.00
	Sun.....\$454.00		
Total Collections			\$2,546.00

Budget:	\$2,028.00	2024: \$2,613.00
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Fr. Soja’s Schedule and Visiting Priests

*Fr. Soja remains in India working through his Visa renewal process. We continue to pray for Fr. Soja’s safe return!*

*Thank you to Fr. McQuesten for celebrating mass on Saturday and Fr. Olson for celebrating mass on Sunday.*

*There are no daily masses, Eucharistic Adoration, or meetings scheduled while Fr. Soja is away.*



**Traveling Rosary for Vocations:** Thursday, Sept. 18 at the Curran Spirituality Center. E416 Cty Rd KB; Denmark 54208; 1:00 – 2:30 PM. The Green Bay Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is hosting a prayer event for an increase in vocations and religious. Fr. Bill O’Brien will be our speaker. . The agenda includes song, prayer, Fr. Bill O’Brien, and a light reception. This is an outdoor event. Please bring your own chair and watch the weather. For more info call 920-323-3243 or visit [www.gbdeccw.org](http://www.gbdeccw.org).

ST. MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:** On September 14, American Catholics celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This annual feast commemorates events associated with the discovery of the True Cross, recalling the historical reality of Christ’s Crucifixion. Celebrating this feast gives us an opportunity to deepen our understanding of why and how we honor the Cross.

**Gold Slips:** Thank you to all who have returned their Gold Slips for the 4th Quarter of 2025. As a reminder, please return your completed Gold Slip via email or place it in the collection basket by **Sept. 16th**. Thank you for volunteering your time for these important ministries.

**Church Cleaning:** We offer a sincere thank you to Beanie Leffler and Rosie Peters for cleaning the church and office area for the month of September. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated!

**Catechetical Sunday:** September 21st is Catechetical Sunday. We will recognize our catechists for St. Mary’s Religious Education Program.

**Priesthood Sunday:** September 28th is Priesthood Sunday. We are hopeful Fr. Soja will return soon to honor him on this special day.

**Prayer Calendars:** September Prayer Calendars can be found at the back of the church.

**Recent Collections:** Thank you again to all who have donated and prayed for the Raising Vocations Collection, the Bishop’s Appeal and the Building and Maintenance Fund over the past several months. St. Mary’s contribution to the Raising Vocations Collection is \$1,422.00. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and generosity!

St. Mary’s has raised \$7,630.00

towards our goal of \$9,274.00 for the Bishop’s Appeal which wraps up on Sept. 30th. Thank you for your support!!!



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.



Friends, in our Gospel reading this week, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. In Luke's Gospel, hearing is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about him associating with sinners, so he tells them three parables. In

the first story, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone, but with friends and neighbors. In the same way, God rejoices over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes who were self-righteous. The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point.

Finally, we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the center of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, “full of compassion,” runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins. But remember the difference: unlike the coin, which is an inanimate object, and the sheep which is an animal, the son has to make a choice, and his freedom of choice is respected by the father who waits patiently for the son's return.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

Fr. Soja

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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  
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