WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – ST. MARY'S

Parish Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & 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 & Donna Phillips
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) 445-4564
Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday, 12/1, 5:30 p.m. +Clark Linn
Offered by Mike and Carolyn Lemanski

Thurs., 12/3, 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, 12/4, 8:30 a.m. +Fr. Ken DeGroot
Offered by Bill and Trudy DeGroot

Friday, 12/4, 10:00 a.m. at Florence Health Services

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday, 12/5, 6:00 p.m. +Frank "Skip" Bilsky
Offered by Mike and Jacqie Glime

Sunday, 12/6 8:30 a.m. +Doreene Magnuson
Offered by Joe and Jean Fornetti

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

Weekend Ministry Schedule

Saturday, 12/5
Sacristan – Clara McLain
Eucharistic Ministers – Clara McLain
Lector – Missy Roberts
Lead Usher - ***Volunteer Needed***

Sunday, 12/6
Sacristan – Al & MaryKay Williams
Eucharistic Ministers – Al Williams
Lector – Carolyn Lemanski
Lead Usher – Mike Lemanski
Money Counters – Jay & Lori Glime

11/21 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....$724.00	Envelope.....$385.00	Total....$1,109.00		
11/22 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....$241.00	Envelope.....$330.00	Total.....$571.00		
Bake Sale..$737.00	Misc....$7,250.00	Electronic.....$40.00	Total....$8,027.00		
		Total Collections	**$9,707.00**		
Budget:	$1,800.00	2025:	$2,117.00		

2026 Holiday and Holy Day Mass Times

Tuesday, December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Goodman 9:00 a.m. Mass
Florence **5:30 p.m. Mass**

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
Goodman 4:00 p.m. Mass
Florence **6:00 p.m. Mass**

Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day
Florence **8:30 a.m. Mass**
Armstrong Creek 10:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
Florence **5:30 p.m. Mass (No Euch. Adoration)**

Friday, January 1, 2027 – Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Florence **8:30 a.m. Mass**
Armstrong Creek 10:30 a.m. Mass

In honor of Christ's birth and to foster time with family and friends, the office will also be closed Dec. 24th – Jan. 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 4th, 2027. Merry Christmas!

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

Jay Glime
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906-458-3452
PO Box 587
5971 Sawmill Road
Florence, WI 54121-0587
G&G LUMBER, INC.

ST. MARY'S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It's the first Sunday of Advent: This weekend we light the candle of Hope. Every weekend a new candle is lit on the wreath, and prayers are said to help us focus on the coming of Christ. We would love to see families or friends help in this beautiful tradition. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church if you'd like to volunteer at a weekend mass. The lector and parishioners do all the speaking.

Annual Hunter's Bake Sale: Thanks to our wonderful bakers and treat enthusiasts, we raised **$737.00** from the Hunter's Bake Sale last weekend! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Flowers: We will have a special collection December 5 & 6 for Christmas flowers. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, simply place an envelope or a check marked "FLOWERS" in the collection basket or use the designated envelopes in your offertory box. Please note who the flowers should honor on your envelope. Thank you for your support!

The Giving Tree: This is the last week to give of yourselves and share Christmas love and take an ornament from the giving tree. Please return all gifts to the Parish, unwrapped, with the paper ornament tag attached by Sunday, December 6th. Please remember to pray for the child and their family. Thank you for your generous Christmas spirit!!!

Paid Position: Sidewalk Snow Removal: St. Mary's continues to seek a reliable person to clear snow and ice from our church sidewalks and entryways this winter. ***This is a paid position with a snowblower and shovels being provided.*** Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

Medicare Open Enrollment: Open Enrollment for Medicare continues through Dec. 7th. For free, unbiased help contact Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Florence County at 715-528-4890.



Friends, advent is a time of prayer and penance that is so rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. The true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary, but it does not stay there. Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

Advent's intention to awaken the most profound emotional memory within us is the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. It is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is a gift of grace and salvation. Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian lifestyle that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's second coming in glory.

God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.' So, let's pray... Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way you want me to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do–every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share–remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. May this blessed season fill my family with faith, peace, love, and the light of Christ. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.



Fr. Soja

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Breaking Bread Book Swap: Thank you to all who helped switch out the Breaking Bread books. We are truly blessed.

Safe Travels to our Snowbirds: Goodbye and God Bless to our snowbirds as they start heading south for the winter.

Knights of Columbus
Local Council #2847 meets the 2nd 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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—SUPPER CLUB—
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