

# 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 \* No Eucharistic Adoration \*  
 Friday \* No 8:30 a.m. Mass \*

## Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 6:00 p.m. + Del Manaois  
*Offered by Paulita Trudell*  
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. + Nick & Irene  
 DalSanto, Tony DeMuri & Leo Syrjanen  
*Offered by Sue Newingham*

+ Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving

Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, April 27

Sacristan - Dan Throm  
 Eucharistic Minister - Dan Throm  
 Lector - Yvonne Leslie  
 Lead Usher - Tom Williams

### Sunday, April 28

Sacristan - Roy Rietz  
 Eucharistic Minister - Sally Neuens  
 Lector - Kathy Jazinski  
 Lead Usher - Jerry Divine  
 Money Counters - Dorothy Vayda &  
 Jerry Divine

Volunteers needed for money counting.  
 Please contact the office if interested.

<b>Sat. Collection</b>	Loose.....\$54.00	Envelope....\$200.00	Total....\$254.00
<b>Sun. Collection</b>	Loose...\$130.00	Envelope....\$445.00	Total.....\$575.00
	<b>Electronic &amp;</b>	<b>Other.....\$60.00</b>	<b>Total.....\$60.00</b>
		<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$889.00</b>
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023: \$1,095.00	

Fr. Soja will be away for meetings in Milwaukee April 24-26th.

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, April 25th.

**Congratulations to Fr. Soja who will be celebrating his ordination on April 25th.** On your anniversary, we celebrate the remarkable journey of your priesthood and the lives you have touched with your compassion, words of wisdom, and faith. May God continue to bless you abundantly and guide you as you continue to serve the Church and shepherd His flock. Congratulations and thank you for all you do for St. Mary’s and our sister parishes!!

**A heartfelt welcome to our new parishioner:** Please welcome our new parishioner Starr Rakestraw, who came into Full Communion with the Holy Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil. Congratulations and welcome to St. Mary’s, Starr!

**Parishioner letter from Fr. Soja and the Pastoral Council:** If you did not receive a letter at home with regards to a visit/blessing from Fr. Soja and the parish directory, there are copies located on a table in the back of church. Please fill out the form, whether or not you are interested, and leave it in the basket. The Pastoral Council will be calling parishioners we didn’t hear back from in the next few months. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

*We are thankful for all our parishioners & visitors who have contributed monetarily, physically, and spiritually to our parish!*

# ST MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Message from the Diocese Regarding the Updated Stipend & Stole Fee:** The Diocese of Green Bay and our parishes are grateful to all who have generously provided a donation for Masses, funerals, weddings, and Quinceaneras in the past. The donation for these sacraments and services has remained the same for over thirty years throughout the Dioceses of Wisconsin. Recently, when the Bishops of the state of Wisconsin gathered, they decreed that stipends should be adjusted to reflect the current time. The new stipend structure is as follows:

Mass stipend	\$20.00
Funeral Stole Fee	\$75.00
Wedding Stole Fee	\$100.00
Quinceanera Stole Fee	\$100.00

**This new fee structure will become effective July 1, 2024.** It will **not** be applied retroactively to those who have already paid the appropriate amount from the former fee scale. The new fee structure will be applied to all new requests received as of July 1, 2024. As always, if someone is not able to offer the stipend, the parish is always happy to provide the sacrament or service with no fee. Please know, too, that any stipend money collected goes to the parish in support of its ministry and services provided to the parish community; it does not go personally to the priest.

## Camp Tekakwitha - Save the Date for Spring 2024:

April 27th - Father & Son Retreat is a programmed day of activities, talks and prayer for fathers and sons of all ages.

May 19th - Open House Day is open to all! Whether you are registered for summer camp or still considering it, all are welcome to join us at Camp.

June 7-9th - Family Camp Weekend is full of boating, swimming, praying, hiking and crafting. All the fun of Camp in community with other families.

June 9 - Summer Session 1 begins! We ask for your prayers for God’s protective and guiding hand over our entire summer and all those we will serve.

Please go to [www.camptekakwitha.org](http://www.camptekakwitha.org) for information.



Friends, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is focused on Jesus, the good shepherd. This Sunday is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. Today the Diocese of Green Bay urges us to pray and promote vocations to priesthood and religious life.

In John 10:11-18, Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (*He is drawing faith and trust in a shepherd who might willingly die or give his life to protect the sheep that belong to him*). He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep (*we need to affirm our children who experience that closeness and tenderness as it might be a sign of a call*). And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice (*we need priests who go after the lost sheep*). So, there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again (*the vocation is given to us because God loves us*). No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.”

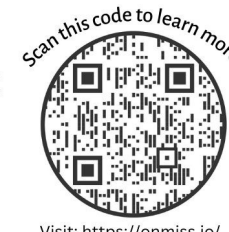
Friends, God can overcome our deficiencies if He is calling us to serve Him. Jesus says to Simon and Andrew, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” This tells us something about how God acts. He is direct and in-your-face; he does the choosing. “Come after me,” Jesus says. He is not offering a doctrine, a theology, or a set of beliefs. He is offering himself. It’s as if he’s saying, “Walk in my path; walk in imitation of me.”

~ Fr. Soja



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

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**SAVE THE DATE JUNE 12-18, 2024**

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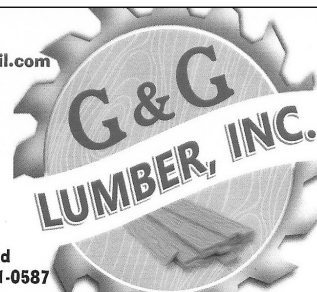
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To register, simply go to [stmaryflorence.formed.org](http://stmaryflorence.formed.org) and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

Jay Glime  
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