

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

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
Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 12/23 5:30 p.m. + Janet Kelley
Offered by Bob, Mary and Tommy Podnar

Wednesday 12/24 6:00 p.m. + Pablo & Salud
Eugenio and Adlore & Marion Trudell
Offered by Tim & Paulita Trudell

Thursday 12/25 8:30 a.m. +In Memory of Alice
Gardner & Don Gardner
Offered by Mark & Carla Kramer

Friday 12/26 8:30 a.m. + Ryan McCarthy
Offered by Matt McCarthy

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 12/27 6:00 p.m. For the People

Sunday 12/28 8:30 a.m. + David Herrick
Offered by Ann Savino

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

Weekend Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 27

Sacristan - Kathy Fabry
Eucharistic Minister - Kathy Fabry
Lector - Heather Roberts
Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 28

Sacristan - Clara McLain
Eucharistic Minister - Sally Neuens
Lector - Bill DeGroot
Lead Usher - Jerry Divine
Money Counters - Jerry Divine & Dorothy Vayda

12/13 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$32.00	Envelope.....\$220.00	Total.....\$252.00
12/14 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$186.00	Envelope.....\$385.00	Total.....\$571.00
Flowers....\$20.00	Misc. \$5,900.00	Electronic....\$160.00	Total....\$6,080.00
Total Collections			\$6,903.00
Budget:	\$1,800.00	2024: \$1,818.00	

Christmas Ministry Schedule

Wednesday, Christmas Eve Sacristan - Al & MaryKay Williams Eucharistic Minister - Al Williams Lector - Carolyn Lemanski Lead Usher - Mike Lemanski	Thursday, Christmas Day Sacristan - Kathy Fabry Eucharistic Minister - Bill DeGroot Lector - Kathy Jazinski Lead Usher - Dan Jazinski
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Sister Parish Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Armstrong Creek at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Goodman at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Holy Days

New Year’s Eve - Solemnity of Mary
Florence at 5:30 p.m.

New Year’s Day - Solemnity of Mary
Armstrong Creek at 9:00 a.m.
Florence at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday adoration on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day is cancelled.

The Parish Office will have limited hours from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. We will reopen with regular business hours on Tuesday, Jan. 6th. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

ST. MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Our Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of **Richard Schalow**, beloved husband of Maggie Schalow, who passed away recently. May we continue to keep Richard and all his family in loving prayer during this difficult time.

Visitation was held on Saturday, December 20, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Florence, Wis. A Memorial Mass followed at 11:00 a.m. at the church, officiated by Fr. Soja Joseph. Friends and family were invited to gather for fellowship after Mass at a luncheon in the church hall. Thank you to all who helped organize, provide food, and offer donations toward the funeral lunch.

Grant eternal life to our brother, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Let the angels welcome him into Paradise and help us comfort each other with the assurance of our faith. May he rest in peace.

Share in the Care Retirement Collection: Thank you for your support of our retired sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Thanks to your generosity, St. Mary’s raised \$1,406.

Volunteers Needed: It would be helpful to have Eucharistic Ministers for mass on **Wednesday, December 31 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 1 at 5:30 p.m.** Please contact the parish office if you are available. Thank you!

Due to the number of parishioners going south for the winter and personal reasons, **we are in need of Lectors, Sacristans, and Eucharistic Ministers.** If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact the parish office or feel free to talk to someone who serves in that ministry. Even once a month would be helpful. Your prayerful consideration is truly appreciated.

Snow Shoveling: We need volunteers for snow shoveling this winter! Please contact the parish office if you are willing and able! Your help would be GREATLY appreciated!!!



Friends, obedience is the central theme of today’s readings, with special emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus. St. Joseph’s loving, responsive obedience to God is modeled for us in today’s Gospel. The story of the Virgin Birth is at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. Matthew focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to, and freely, willingly, did accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph.

Joseph’s obedience allows Jesus to be adopted as a true Son of David; it is Mary’s obedient role that allows Jesus to be born Son of God. In the end, Joseph obediently took Mary as his wife, despite his fears, and he claimed her Son as his own by naming him. Despite his earlier decision to divorce this woman quietly, Joseph nurtured, protected, watched over and loved both Mary and her Child. We notice how Joseph and Mary overcame the crisis in their relationship even before they came to live together as husband and wife to form the Holy Family.

Paul briefly summarizes the Gospel, the core of Christian Faith, as including two things. One is that the only begotten Son of God, who became Incarnate as Jesus, is a descendant of the line of David; the second is that Jesus was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead. Jesus’ birth is significant because of his death and Resurrection for our salvation. He is the reason for this season of hope, peace, joy and love. We celebrate His birth that brought our restoration, redemption, and salvation. Happy Christmas!

Fr. Soja

Merry Christmas!



Living Faith Daily Catholic Devotion booklets for Jan.—March, 2026, and Catholic Inspirations 2026 Calendars can be found on the entryway tables. Feel free to take one.

G & G FOREST PRODUCTS
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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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