

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Florence, WI 54121
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 Parish Office Telephone: (715) 528-3310
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 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: 920-445-4560
 Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
 Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
 Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. For the People
 Thursday 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
 Friday 8:30 a.m. For the People

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 6:00 p.m. + Mike Johnson
 Offered by Jean & Joe Fornetti
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. + Pete Podnar
 Offered by Bob, Mary & Tommy Podnar
 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 16

Sacristan - Brant & Cindy Brolin
 Eucharistic Minister - Volunteer if needed
 Lector - Yvonne Leslie
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, March 17

Sacristan - Roy Rietz
 Eucharistic Minister - Clara McLain
 Lector - Kathy Jazinski
 Lead Usher - Jerry Divine
 Money Counters - Dan & Kathy Jazinski

**** Volunteers Needed ****

A second lector is needed for Saturday, March 23 for the Palm Sunday Passion Readings.

A sacristan is needed for the Easter Vigil.

Lent & Holy Week 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

Thursday from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on March 14
 Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: half an hour before Mass starts

No Eucharist Adoration

March 21 & 28 (Holy Thursday Mass at 6 p.m.)

Holy Thursday, March 28

6:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s in Florence

Good Friday, March 29

12:00 noon at St. Mary’s in Florence
 3:00 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Armstrong Creek

Holy Saturday, March 30

11:00 a.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Armstrong Creek for Blessing of the Baskets

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary’s in Florence

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s in Florence with Fr. Mark McQuesten
 8:30 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc in Goodman
 10:30 a.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Armstrong Creek

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

The World’s Poor Collection: This weekend we will have a special collection to include Pete’s Pence, Catholic Relief Services, the Campaign for Human Development, and the Pastoral Solidarity fund for the Church of Africa. You can choose which fund or funds to contribute to by designating an amount for each. Help express solidarity with the powerless and poor in our country and abroad by donating to this important collection. There are specially marked envelopes available in your pews. Please make checks payable to St. Mary’s Parish. Thank you!



Men, Women and Children Welcome: Fr. Soja is looking for 12 parishioners to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday in memory of Christ’s final night. If you would like to participate in this ritual of how we are to serve one another in love, an example set by Jesus when he washed His disciples feet, please contact the office or Fr. Soja.

The A&E Committee needs help decorating during Holy Week. Please prayerfully consider committing to decorating on one of these days for 1 to 2 hours: Holy Thursday (to be done Wednesday), Good Friday (to be done Friday morning before noon service), Easter Vigil (to be done after Good Friday services). Yvonne Podner will be available to decorate but will need help and will need a reliable backup if the weather is bad. If interested, please contact the parish office or Mary Kay Williams.

All are welcome to join a public Rosary to be held in front of the Florence Community Center on Saturday, March 16th at noon. Feel free to bring your own chair and dress accordingly as it’ll be held outside.

Thank you to all who have given to the Bishop’s Appeal!!

St. Mary’s has raised \$2,585.00 towards our goal of \$9,696.00. How much you give is less important than the spirit in which you give. Even small donations add up to large donations.



Friends, the readings of the 4th week of Lent are very precise about the need to return to the Lord with all our heart. “Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned.” The word of God is very clear about the need to be faithful to God’s law. The law was intended to guarantee prosperity. “Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper.” Do we make God as our Lord? Do we consider who his rivals are?

Looking at the serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert was the healing remedy for people smitten by poisonous snakes. They were asked to look at what was harming them. Serpent is a representation of the devil. All the suffering and fear that the devil has inflicted on humanity is seen on the cross. But God gave his son to accompany us in all our suffering and fear. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Looking at Christ on the cross is the remedy given for eternal life. Look at what is killing us and turn it over to Jesus. In Christ we find salvation which means healing. What do we see on the cross? We see the perfect sacrifice of the lamb for the expiation of our sins. In Christ we are certain that nothing can separate us from the love of God. However, turning our back and not our faces towards Him leads to destruction, death, and slavery.

Lent is a time to return to the Lord, as each day we return home. It is a time to reflect on our death as we are invited to look at Christ on the cross. It is the time to meet the one whom we should meet. The prodigal son came to his senses, Peter returned to his master not just as he was but as transformed by the power and mercy of Christ. Let the change intended during Lent transform us for the rest of our life. The Gospel mentions also about the return of the devil to a house swept and everything in order. “If you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” (Gen 4:7)

~ Fr. Soja

Sat. Collection	Loose.....\$15.00	Envelope.....\$265.00	Total....\$280.00
Sun. Collection	Loose...\$135.00	Envelope....\$431.00	Total.....\$566.00
Flowers.....\$20.00	Electronic & Other.....\$4,210.00	Total..\$4,230.00	
Total Collections		\$5,076.00	
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023:	\$1,210.00

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