

# WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – ST. MARY’S

Parish Office hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., & 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...*

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](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) 445-4564  
 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 04/21 5:30 p.m. +Don Gardner  
*Offered by Mark and Carla Kramer*

Thursday 04/23 No Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 04/24 +Clarence Nicholls  
*Offered by Al and MaryKay Williams*

## Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 04/25 +Janet and Ed Kelley  
*Offered by Bob, Mary, and Tommy Podnar*

Sunday 04/26 8:30 Ozanam Sunday  
*Offered by St. Vincent de Paul Society*

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

## Weekend Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, 04/25

Sacristan - Tanya Parker  
 Eucharistic Minister - Derek Parker  
 Lector - Evan Parker  
 Lead Usher - **Volunteer Needed**

### Sunday, April 26

Sacristan - Al & MaryKay Williams  
 Eucharistic Minister - Bill DeGroot  
 Lector - Bill DeGroot  
 Lead Usher - Jerry Divine  
 Money Counters - Jerry Divine and Dorothy Vayda

04/11 Sat. Coll.	Loose...\$120.00	Envelope.....\$70.00	Total.....\$190.00
04/12 Sun. Coll.	Loose...\$141.00	Envelope.....\$260.00	Total.....\$401.00
<b>Funeral Lunch.</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>Electronic....\$210.00</b>	<b>Total.....\$460.00</b>
<b>Total Collections</b>			<b>\$1,051.00</b>

Budget:	\$1,800.00	2025:	\$1,312.00
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### The Power of Prayer...

Recently, we received the following email from Greg Brownson with some wonderful news about his son, Ben, and he wanted to thank all those who have been praying on his behalf.

***“I want to take a moment to thank GOD and all the members of the St. Mary’s prayer group. Your prayers for Ben have been answered. Ben has recovered from his injury and is back at work repairing jets for Gulf Stream. His family life has returned to normal, and all seems good. It is truly a miracle! Once again, I thank you all.”***

**God bless,  
 Greg Brownson**

(This is just one more example of the power of our prayers. May you all receive special blessings as we continue to serve in this powerful ministry.)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled on Thursday, 4/23, due to the Vicariate Meeting in Antigo.

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

**Children’s Activity Bags:** Visiting with little ones? Activity bags are available at the back of church to help keep hands busy and hearts engaged during Mass. . These bags contain quiet activities to help children grow in love for the Mass. If something gets broken or chewed, please feel free to take it with you, and we will replace missing items. Feel free to borrow an activity bag and return it to the rack after Mass to help make worship a family-friendly experience! Please thank Gail Donaldson for this great idea and for providing the bags and their contents!

**Donation needed:** St. Vincent de Paul is looking for a couch and recliner for a neighbor in need. If you are able to donate, please call Anne Leschke at 715-616-1127. Thank You!

**Walk to Mary:** The Walk to Mary is scheduled on May 2, 2026. It is a 22-mile walking pilgrimage (shorter routes are available) starting from the National Shrine of St. Joseph at Old St. Joe’s Church on the campus of St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, WI. For more information go to <http://walktomary.com/marketing-resources>.



**Women’s Day of Reflection:** St. Joseph Parish in Crandon is having a Women’s Day of Reflection on Sat., May 9th, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Sue Ristau, co-founder of My Heavenly Son Foundation. Sue is a devout evangelist, public speaker, author, and dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother of 13. Registration forms can be found in St. Mary’s Parish office or email St. Joseph Catholic Church at [stjosephcrandon@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephcrandon@gmail.com) or call their Parish office at 715-478-3396.

**Tax Advantage:** Did you know if you take a distribution from your IRA and donate directly to a charity (like our church or the Bishop’s Appeal) you avoid the tax on the amount of the distribution? Taking a minimum required distribution from a traditional IRA it is a great way to support a charity and enjoy a tax benefit as well.



Friends, for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, life had been exciting, and they were captivated by the Gospel message of Jesus, but it emerges that they hadn’t grasped some vital part of His teaching. We can empathize with them because mostly we, too, tend to pick and choose the parts of his message that

please us and fail to take seriously other words of the Lord. After his death on the cross, they felt all was lost, but Jesus used the Jewish scriptures to enlighten them. The prophecies declare the divine promises and reveal the saving plan of God. When he opened the meaning of God’s Word to them, they began to understand his cross in a totally new light. They saw it not as a total disaster but as the start of a new age of grace.

Once they arrived in Emmaus, they recognized him also in the breaking of bread. The prayerful sharing of a meal among friends was a living symbol of friendship and trust. What was special about the way Jesus broke the bread is an intriguing question. Perhaps it was the spirit of self-giving that he invested in the act that showed them who he really was. There was a level of focus, of sharing and of sacredness unique to Jesus, something they had experienced previously, before his passion. His presence touched their deepest hunger, and the bread he broke was not just physical. It was food that they opened their hearts as well as their mouths to receive.

We can see ourselves in these two weary travelers on their journey, the faith and hope they have lost, the future they have hoped for fallen apart, and, yet, they met an unknown friend walking along the road with them, who gave them fresh insight and connected the new world with the world they knew. And, of course, he is present in a particular way in the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread, full of the many meanings that breaking bread had for Jesus himself, during his life and after the resurrection.

Fr. Soja

### Our Current Bishop’s Appeal Total

\$4,685.00

### Our 2026 Bishop’s Appeal Goal:

\$8,880.00



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**Lance Glime**  
 5274 Turtle Creek Rd  
 Florence, WI 54121  
 (906) 250-6642  
 e-mail: [GGForestProducts@gmail.com](mailto:GGForestProducts@gmail.com)



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  
[gnglumber@gmail.com](mailto:gnglumber@gmail.com)  
  
 906-458-3452  
 PO Box 587  
 5971 Sawmill Road  
 Florence, WI 54121-0587



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.

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