

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 02/17 **8:30 a.m.** +Ellamae “Sis” Herman
Offered by St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thursday 02/19 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 02/20 8:30 a.m. +Ed and Janet Kelley
Offered by Bob, Mary and Tommy Podnar

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Saturday 02/21 6:00 p.m. +Edward Bowman
Offered by Lee and Sue Mattson

Sunday 02/22 8:30 a.m. +Greg Heyboer
Offered by Mark and Carla Kramer

+ Deceased, Tg. Thanksgiving

Confession available 30 minutes before all masses.

Weekend Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 21

Sacristan - Clara McLain
 Eucharistic Minister - Clara McLain
 Lector - Needed
 Lead Usher - Needed

Sunday, February 22

Sacristan - Al & MaryKay Williams
 Eucharistic Minister - Sally Neuens
 Lector - Al Williams
 Lead Usher - Jerry Divine
 Money Counters - Dorothy Vayda & Jerry Divine

02/07 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$52.63	Envelope.....\$295.00	Total.....\$347.63
02/08 Sun. Coll.	Loose....\$380.00	Envelope.....\$330.00	Total.....\$710.00
		Electronic....\$290.00	Total.....\$290.00
		Total Collections	\$1,347.63

Budget: \$1,800.00 2025: \$1,618.00

Looking Ahead...

Tuesday’s Mass on Feb. 17th will be at **8:30 a.m.** instead of **5:30 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday Mass, Feb. 18th: 5:30 p.m. (Social gathering to follow in Parish Hall.)

Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled on Thursday, Feb. 26th.

Women’s Silent Retreat: A weekend of silence, prayer, reflection, Confession, and Holy Mass. Come as you are and leave renewed.

Friday–Saturday, **February 27–28, 2026**

Cost: \$150 (includes single room, breakfast & lunch)

Women’s Guided Day Retreat:

Saturday, **March 21, 2026** | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

A Day of guided prayer, reflection, fellowship, and Holy Mass.

Cost: \$50 (includes soup & salad lunch)

Location for both Retreats: Elizabeth Ministry’s Zechariah House, 119 W. 7th St. Kaukauna, WI 54130

Register: www.elizabethministry.com/events

Questions: Call Kathy at (920) 766-9380 or email us at info@elizabethministry.com.

ST. MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Our Deepest Condolences to the family and friends of Frank, “Skip”, Bilsky who recently passed peacefully into eternal life. May we continue to keep Skip and his family in loving prayer during this difficult time.

Grant eternal life to Skip, 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.



Bishop’s Appeal: The 2026 Bishop’s Appeal Campaign has begun, and you should have received a pledge card and letter from Bishop Ricken at home. *Be the Light* means to live our faith and allow Christ’s love to shine through us. We see this light in action right here at St. Mary’s in our Faith Formation Program where children are introduced to Jesus and begin a lifelong journey of friendship with Him. This is just one of many ways your gift makes a difference.

If you have already given, **thank you!** If you have never given before, please prayerfully consider making your first gift this year to support these important ministries. To give to the Appeal, use the pledge card you received at home or use one found at the back of the church, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give to make your gift.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and for being the light that helps others encounter Jesus at St. Mary’s Parish!



Stations of the Cross will be said after Friday masses during Lent. This practice fosters deep meditation on Christ’s sacrifice and provides strength for personal daily struggles.

February Cleaning: Thank you to Sue Mills for cleaning the Parish during the month of February! We truly appreciate your efforts!



Friends, we begin the season of Lent this year with the Ash Wednesday celebrations on 18th February. Forty days of preparation for Easter are the most powerful days of blessings and graces for the church. We are enriched and empowered through spiritual exercise during lent. These are days in which we arm ourselves with the spiritual weapons; word of God, prayer and fasting. It helps us to strengthen our WILL before we embark on the daily battle. St. Joan of Arc reminds us; to have victory, firstly we should be on God’s side so that God be on our side to lead the battle. Prayer and sacramental life were the means she chose to achieve this goal. She was fearless and firm in her conviction.

Sirach 15:15; “If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; Before men are life and death, good and evil.” Wisdom in the Bible is defined as the practical, God-given ability to apply knowledge and discernment to life’s choices, rooted in the “fear of the Lord” (Prov 1:7). “Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart” (Ps 119). St. Paul says, “we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory”. He was referring not to mere intellectual intelligence but skillful living—obeying God’s commands, walking humbly, and viewing life from His perspective, with Jesus personifying this ultimate divine wisdom. Jesus taught that those who hear His words and do them are like a wise man building his house on rock, ensuring stability (Mt 7:24). He told his disciples to be “shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves,” implying a balance of intelligence and moral purity (Mt10:16).

In our Gospel today Jesus speaks about the law and goes further to perfect the law. This discourse reveals that Jesus came to root out sinfulness from human hearts. Have you ever wondered how Solomon, even with all his wisdom and knowledge, failed in his heart during his old age in choosing what is right? Well, without Jesus, you are a slave to your sinful passions and judgments. Only if the Son sets you free, you are truly free; -in Christ we are children with freedom to choose what is right. Jesus said, “you can do nothing without me”. So, let’s remain in His love.

Fr. Soja



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To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

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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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