

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 & Heather Roberts
 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 12/3 5:30pm For the People
 Thursday 12/5 4:30pm Eucharistic Adoration
 Friday 12/6 8:30am For the People
 Friday 12/6 10:00am Florence Health Services

Weekend Masses and Intentions
 Sat. 12/07 6:00pm +Bridget King
Offered by Joe & Sue Mills

Sun. 12/08 8:30am +Pete Podnar
Offered by Bob, Mary & Tommy Podnar
 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving
 Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

Ministry Schedule
Saturday, December 7th
 Sacristan - Dan Throm
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dan Throm
 Lector - Missy Roberts
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 8th
 Sacristan - Kathy Fabry
 Eucharistic Ministers - Sally Neuens
 Lector - Kathy Jazinski
 Lead Usher - Dan Jazinski
 Money Counters - Dan & Kathy Jazinski



From The Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross: There is a great hunger for God. Join the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross for "Prepare & Rejoice," an hour for Advent readings and prayer on Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Each event, presented by Sister Elise Cholewinski, will be at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Convent, 3110 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay. Attend 1, 2 or all 3. Each is free; registration is required. More at <https://bit.ly/PrepareRejoice> or visit www.gbfranciscans.org and click on "News".

G & G FOREST PRODUCTS
Lance Glime
 5274 Turtle Creek Rd
 Florence, WI 54121
 (906) 250-6642
 e-mail: GGForestProducts@gmail.com



Check out what FORMED online has available. To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

Jay Glime
gnglumber@gmail.com

 906-458-3452
 PO Box 587
 5971 Sawmill Road
 Florence, WI 54121-0587

11/23 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$510.00	Envelope.....\$280.00	Total..\$790.00
11/24 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$190.00	Envelope....\$220.00	Total..\$410.00
Bake Sale Totals	Electronic..\$40.00	Misc.....\$0.00	Total..\$567.80
Sat. 11/23...\$217	Christmas Flowers: \$15.00		
Sun. 11/24...\$295.80			
Total: \$512.80			
Total Collection:		\$1,767.80	
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023: \$2,131.50	

Here We Come A-Caroling

Sunday, 12/15 from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Meet @ St. Mary’s Parish Hall parking lot ready to sing!

ALL ages welcome! Caroling books provided.

Holiday/Christmas attire is *encouraged*; dress warm.

Mr. Walter Roberts will be driving us around Florence with his truck a/trailer for the event!

First stop, Florence Health Services!

Join us back at the **Parish Hall @ 3:30pm** for some hot chocolate, cookies and snacks!



Vincentian Meditation: “Waiting in joyful anticipation...if we are to rejoice in the grace of God, we must have eyes that see and ears that hear. That in turn demands a reflecting heart, the sort of heart which Our Lady had and with which, she “pondered all things in her heart.” Our Lady has a marvelous capacity for wonder. There can be no wonder in our lives without silence.

We are called to the service of the poor, but our service must come from a heart which resembles that of Our Lady who knew how to be silent, who knew how to wonder, who knew who to marvel at the grace of God, without which we can do nothing. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 56)

For more about the reflection visit: <https://svdp-rva.org/vincentian-spirituality>

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

ST MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thank you!

- ◆ **Thank you to all** who donated, sold and baked for the **Hunter’s Bake Sale this past weekend!** You are appreciated!
- ◆ **Thank you to all who assisted us in switching the Breaking Bread books** in the pews this past Sunday!
- ◆ **Thank you** to all who signed up for **Bell Ringing** in November! Total amount raised will be posted in a future bulletin.
- ◆ **Thank you** to all who donated @ **Praise & Worship Nite** last month. For love of Jesus and her home parish, Heather does not keep any of these donations. All funds go back to our church, *for* our church.

Notes & Reminders

- ◆ **Candles of the Deceased from All Souls Day** are set up in the back of the church for family members to pick up.
- ◆ **Gold Slips** are available in the entryway for anyone interested in serving in Lay Ministry. Please return slips by **December 10th**.
- ◆ **We have received the 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory** books from Dynamic Catholic. Please take ONE book per family. Enjoy this beautiful spiritual pilgrimage, and reflect during this Advent season, in preparation for Christmas and the coming of Christ.
- ◆ Please see our lost and found basket in the back of church, under the table for any missing items!
- ◆ **Advent Candle Lighting** We are still in need of families to help during Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of Church to participate.
- ◆ This is the last week to give of ourselves, share Christmas love, and take an ornament from the **Giving Tree**. Please return all gifts unwrapped, with the paper ornament attached by next Sunday, **December 8th**. Please remember to pray for the child and their family.



Looking Ahead...

- ◆ Feast of Immaculate Conception @ **Florence**, Mon. 12/9, 8:30am, @ **Goodman**, Mon. 12/9, 5:30pm
- ◆ Wreath Laying Ceremony @ **Long Lake Cemetery**, Sat. 12/14
- ◆ Here We Come A-Caroling **Florence**, Sun. 12/15, 2:00pm-3:30pm



Friends, Advent is a time to reflect on the three-fold comings of Christ. First, Christ came in history as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Second, Christ comes to us today through the Church and sacraments, knocking on the doors of our hearts. Finally, Christ will come definitively at the end of time to judge and renew the world. This framework encourages us to look back, be present, and look forward, preparing our hearts for Jesus. Do we consider the sufferings around us caused by wars, pandemic and natural disasters as a wakeup call to awaken faith in God? God is calling us to trust Him and to live a righteous life.

The readings this weekend teaches us to be ready for Jesus’ second coming. The Gospel speaks about alarming signs, but believers should find hope in these events. Jesus says these signs mean our final redemption is near. We must prepare now by living according to Jesus’ teachings. He is with us through the Church and the sacraments, helping us grow closer to Him. By choosing to follow Jesus and accepting His grace, we are preparing for His return. Some people see the Good News as freedom, others see it as a threat. Are we content with our lives, or do we want Jesus to change us for the better?

Jeremiah tells of a future where a righteous ruler from David’s line will reign. This prophecy points to Jesus Christ and gives hope to the people. It reminds believers today of God’s faithfulness and His plans for our redemption. Psalm 25 teaches us to trust God and ask for His guidance. The psalmist seeks mercy, protection, and direction from God. St. Paul speaks of the virtues of faith, love, and hope, especially in anticipating Christ’s return. He offers a practical guide for living a Christian life that pleases God, which includes living a holy life, promoting love and unity, and being responsible in society.

~ Fr. Soja

Christmas Mass Schedules:

- ◆ Christmas Eve Mass @ **Goodman**, Tues 12/24, 4:00pm
- ◆ Christmas Eve Mass @ **Florence**, Tues. 12/24, 6:00pm
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass @ **Florence**, Wed. 12/25, 8:30am
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass @ **Armstrong/Creek**, Wed. 12/25, 10:30am



Knights of Columbus

Local Council #2847 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 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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