

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 12/24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 +Mary Jo Bomberg
Offered by The Parker Family
 Wednesday 12/25 8:30am Christmas Day Mass
 Friday 12/27 8:30am For the People

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Sat. 12/28 6:00pm +Mary Jo Bomberg
Offered by Mike & Carolyn Lemanski
 Sun. 12/29 8:30am +David Herrick
Offered by Ann Savino
 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving
 Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

Sacristan - Heather Roberts
 Eucharistic Ministers - Clara McLain
 Lector - Carolyn Lemanski

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

Sacristan - Volunteer Needed
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dan Jazinski
 Lector - Kathy Jazinski

Saturday, December 28th

Sacristan - Volunteer Needed
 Eucharistic Ministers - Bill DeGroot
 Lector - Bill DeGroot
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 29th

Sacristan - Kathy Fabry
 Eucharistic Ministers - Clara McLain
 Lector - Carolyn Lemanski
 Lead Usher - Mike Lemanski
 Money Counters—Dan & Kathy Jazinski

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/14 Sat. Coll. | Loose.....\$35.00 | Envelope....\$415.00 | Total..\$450.00 |
| 12/15 Sun. Coll. | Loose.....\$183.00 | Envelope....\$245.00 | Total..\$428.00 |
| Christmas Flowers: \$10.00 | Electronic...\$290.00 | Misc.....\$650.00 | Total..\$950.00 |
| Religious Retirement Collection Totals: | Sat. 12/14...\$106.00 | Total Collection: | \$2,495.00 |
| Building Fund: \$20.00 | Sun. 12/15...\$541.00 | | |
| | Total: \$647.00 | | |
| Budget: | \$2,028.00 | 2023: \$1,539.00 | |

Reminder: Parish Office will be CLOSED Mon. Dec. 23 thru Wed. Jan. 1. There will be **no Eucharistic Adoration Thurs. Dec. 26.** Yes, Mass on Friday 12/27. Parish Office will open again on **Thursday, January 2nd.** Thank you!



The Fourth Sunday of Advent is about Peace! USCCB: It is a time to remember that God became man and came to earth, and to be aware of the gift of the Lord himself. It's also a time to inspire hope for the Second Coming of Christ. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is also known as the "Candle of Peace" because it reminds people that Jesus came to bring peace to the world.

Check out the new St. Mary’s Facebook page at the link or QR Code at the bottom left to see updates and events!



St. Mary's/Immaculate Conception Parish
 Florence | Florence WI
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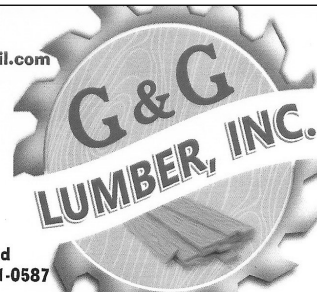


Check out what FORMED online has available.

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



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



- ◆ **Thank you** for donating to the Retirement Collection for Religious at our masses.
- ◆ **Thank you** to all who donated, baked, attended, sang, drove, decorated, participated in the **Here We Come A-Caroling** event to make it a success! Photos: Fr. Soja, Truck/Trailer/Driver: Walter Roberts, Decorations/Blankets: Missy, Walter & Heather Roberts, Hot Chocolate/Cookies: Gail Donaldson, Sue Mills, Amy Hill, Cindy Throm, and all of our bakers and hot chocolate makers, Hay Bales: Rob Steber, Venues: Florence Health Services & St. Mary’s, Caroling Books/Posters: Heather Roberts, and all of our carolers! THANK YOU!!!

Notes & Reminders

- ◆ **We are in need of volunteers for snow shoveling this winter!** Contact the parish office or sign up in the entryway if you’re available and/or willing.
- ◆ **We are in need of Sacristans** for: 8:30am Christmas Day Mass, Wednesday 12/25 and 6:00 pm Mass, Saturday 12/28.



The beautiful Christmas Flowers that adorn our worship space were donated in Memory of the following loved ones: *Daniel Bauer, Ann Bomberg, Paul & Mary Jo Bomberg, Norb & Etta Bougle, Alice Bougle, John & Martha Brey, Inga Carlson, Nick & Irene Dal Santo, Bob & Janice Dallapiazza, Donaldson Family, Jason Enders, Mike & Heddy Fornetti, Peggy Jensen, Anna Kelley, Janet Kelley, Bob & Claire Landry, Cliff McLain, Julie Meyers, Memory of Miller-Johnson Family, Nault Family, Caryl Novara, John Roach, Deceased of Leffler/Rochon Families, Steber Family, Glenn & Janet Sundquist, Ed & Marie VandenHeuvel, The deceased members of the Weber & Podnar families, Bill & Vincentta Worley.*

Looking Ahead...

Christmas Mass Schedule

- ◆ 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



Friends, we have come across great figures like Isaiah and John the Baptist as part of our advent preparation. Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit and incarnate of the Virgin Mary. The two figures that are responsible for the incarnation of Christ in history are the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary. If a Christian’s life is about

Christ coming to birth in us, then the same two figures so important to our spiritual life are the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. They are actively present in our spiritual life today. Mary is the mother of good counsel, seat of wisdom who can undo the knots of life for us.

Eve is called the mother of all the living and Mary is the new Eve, the mother of all those who live in Christ. Mary reverses the momentum of Eve by her obedience in saying, “Let it be done unto me according to your word”. Mary is the new arc of the covenant in this week’s reading. The arc carried the word of God, the ten commandments. The arc was carried to the battlefield and all along Israel’s journey. In the Gospel today John the Baptist leapt for joy in Elizabeth’s womb when she heard Mary’s greeting. It is happening in the same place where David the king came to carry the arc from the hill country of Judah dancing before the arc and carried it to the temple to be the central part of the temple.

The Davidic theme associated with the messiah is unfolding in today’s reading. Mary is also called the tower of David, a way of defending the Holy City. Mary is still the mother of Christ within us, a warrior in our spiritual battle. We are up against the enemies we can see, and we can’t see. Are there enemies that are trying to undermine our relationship with Christ? Yes, and who can help us in this battle? The demons are terrified of her as several exorcists have shared their experience. We continue to bring the arc of the covenant to battle by calling upon the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother as we pray the rosary. The life of the church is centered around the Marian form of receptivity to Christ in saying ‘yes’ with faith and obedience with submission: “let it be done unto me according to your word.”

~ Fr. Soja

Merry Christmas!

- ◆ New Year’s Eve Mass @ **Florence**, Tues 12/31, 5:30pm
- ◆ New Year’s Day Mass @ **Armstrong Creek**, Wed. 01/01, 9:00am
- ◆ New Year’s Day Mass @ **Florence**, Wed. 01/01, 5:30pm



El Capitan

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