

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

There will be *no weekday masses or Eucharistic adoration* Monday Aug. 5 - Thursday Aug. 29.

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Friday 8/30 8:30 a.m. +Gary Steber
Offered by Bob, Mary, & Tommy Podnar

Saturday 8/31 6:00 p.m. Tg, 60th Wedding Anniversary Maggie & Rich Schalow
Offered by Rich & Maggie Schalow

Sunday 9/1 8:30 a.m. +Pete Podnar
Offered by Bob, Mary, & Tommy Podnar

+ Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving

Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses
Ministry Schedule

Saturday, August 31st

Sacristan - Dan Throm
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dan Throm
 Lector - Heather Roberts
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, September 1st

Sacristan - *Volunteer Needed
 Eucharistic Ministers - Sally Neuens
 Lector - Bill DeGroot
 Lead Usher - Jay Glime
 Money Counters - Jay & Lori Glime



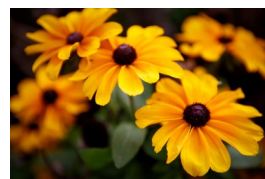
While Fr. Soja is on vacation, we will hold **Vespers** (Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer) on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings @ 6:30pm.** Please join us for this liturgical prayer of the Church and a chaplet of Divine Mercy. Prayers and instructions will be provided.
Dates: Tuesdays: 27 Thursday: 29

8/17 Sat. Coll.	Loose....\$71.00	Envelope....\$470.00	Total.....\$541.00
8/15 Thurs Coll	Loose....\$56.00	Envelope....\$20.00	Total....\$76.00
8/18 Sun. Coll.	Loose...\$332.00	Envelope....\$181.00	Total.....\$513.00
Raising Vocations: \$50.00	Electronic... \$80.00	Misc....\$1,943.83	Total....\$2,073.83
		Total Collections	\$3,203.83
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023: \$ 2,409.00	

Raising Vocations Collection: \$400.00

Bishop’s Appeal: \$6,430.00

Currently featured in the “Grotto” in the front of the Church is a statue of the Holy Family. This beautiful statue was donated to St. Mary’s by the Bob & Debbie Gibson family. The statue belonged to Bob’s grandmother who was born in 1889; she received the statue as a wedding present in 1912. Please feel free to light a votive candle and offer your prayers before or after mass. If you have a statue or religious picture you would like to donate, please contact the Parish Office.



We are looking for fresh cut flowers to make into bouquets each weekend for the Altar and Our Blessed Mother. If you have some to share, please contact Mary Kay Williams @ (906)-282-4937. Thank you in advance for helping to make St. Mary’s warm and welcoming.

ST MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volunteer Breakfast, September 8th, 2024

St. Mary’s pastoral and financial councils are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for our many volunteers who have contributed so much to our parish over the years. It will follow Mass on September 8th. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to join us for this event.

\$25 on August 25th: Please consider participating in the \$25 on August 25th Campaign this weekend to help us reach our Bishop’s Appeal goal!

The Catholic Foundation must receive ALL gifts before Friday, September 30, 2024. Gifts will be applied toward your 2024 goal. The Foundation will send thank you letters to those who contribute to this effort.

Haven’t thought about donating yet?

The Bishop’s Appeal helps to support the following areas in our Diocese:

*Campus Ministry *Adoptions *Retreats/Conferences

....and *more!*

Our Future Priests and Religious Sisters Need Your Help:

Thank you to those who have participated in the Raising Vocations Collection! There is still time to respond to the great need to support our young people through campus ministry, youth conferences, and more. Will you please support our youth, so they can say “yes”? So far this year, our parish has raised \$400.00. Every gift makes an impact in the formation of hundreds of young men and women throughout northeastern Wisconsin as they say “yes” to vocations to the priesthood or religious life. Make your gift today by mailing in your pledge card, visit www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give or call Tammy Danz at 920-272-8123. Whatever you are able to give is greatly appreciated.

Come out to Pro-Life Wisconsin’s 2024 Love for Life Gala at the Brookfield Conference Center on Saturday September 14th we raise the funds to protect all human life! The gala will feature keynote speaker Seth Dillon, CEO of the Babylon Bee. Doors open at 5:00pm, cocktail hour with open bar, games, and raffle from 5:30-6:30pm, and 6:30pm dinner program followed by live auction and keynote. **Register by Monday August 26th at ProLifeWI.org/gala or call our office at 262-796-1111.**



Friends, the readings this weekend focus on faith, commitment, and unity. They show us the importance of choosing to follow God and living according to His teachings. Joshua challenges the people to choose whom they will serve. This is a call to put God first in our lives. The Israelites reaffirm their commitment to the

Lord. They remember His protection and guidance throughout their history. Choosing God means putting Him first in everything. It means trusting His guidance and following His commandments. This choice is a daily decision, and it requires faith and dedication.

In the Gospel Jesus too challenges His disciples. He addresses the difficulty of accepting His teachings. Many disciples leave, showing that following Jesus can be hard. Jesus intensifies His language about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, which shocks many. Peter, however, reaffirms their faith, recognizing Jesus as the Holy One of God speaking the words of eternal life. Choosing to follow Jesus is living in loving unity and facing the challenges of discipleship. It emphasizes trusting God’s wisdom and seeking His guidance. It is learning to surrender worries and align decisions with Jesus’ teachings. Despite challenges, staying close to Jesus is crucial in finding purpose, strength, and fulfillment in life.

Following Jesus is not always easy. It requires accepting difficult truths, commitment even when the path is hard and making sacrifices. Some may find this too challenging and turn away. It is precisely because of the huge challenges that the followers of Christ must face that Jesus established his constant presence with us in the Eucharist. Eucharist is an experience of becoming one with Christ. The focus is not on the mechanics of transubstantiation, but instead on the teaching how to be truly present. Psalm 34 encourages us to taste God’s presence with us and be thankful for His constant protection.

~ Fr. Soja

Prayer is Powerful!

If you would like to add names to the September prayer line, please reach out to the office prior to Thursday August 29!

Gold Slips are due back by **Sept. 8th**, please! Thank you!

G & G FOREST PRODUCTS
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 Florence, WI 54121
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 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



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

El Capitan
 —SUPPER CLUB—
 Italian cuisine—steaks—seafood
 699 US Hwy 2, Spread Eagle, WI
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