



St. Joseph Church

507 Main St
Black River Falls, WI

Mass Intentions

- Sat., Dec. 24** 4:00pm – Mass
† Jeff Harrison
- Sun., Dec. 25** 9:00am – Mass NOTE TIME
† Margaret Boisen
- Weds., Dec. 28** 8:00am – Mass
† William Lundgren
- Thurs., Dec. 29** 8:00am – Mass
The Hargis Family
- Fri., Dec. 30** 8:00am – Mass
Good Health for Pat McGowan
- Sat., Dec. 31** 4:00pm – Mass
† Michael Semke
- Sun., Jan. 1** 8:00am – Mass
† John Hofer Justman

To request a Mass for the living or deceased, contact:

Bookkeeper@GuardianAngelsCathParish.org

GUARDIAN ANGELS

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

December 24/25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday Mass Times

St. Joseph - Saturday 4pm
Sunday 8am
St. Kevin - Sunday 10am

Confessions upon request and

St. Joseph, Sat. 3:30pm
St. Kevin, Sun. 9:40am

Sacraments of the Sick

Anyone who wants to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, or for Viaticum may call Fr. Arivu to set up an appointment.

608-799-3831

St. Kevin Church

813 N Washington
Melrose, WI

Mass Intentions

- Sat., Dec. 24** 4:00pm – Mass
NOTE DATE, TIME † Sydney Becker
- Tues., Dec. 27** 4:30pm – Adoration
5:00pm – Mass
Of the Parish
- Sun., Jan. 1** 10:00am – Mass
† Gladys Marini

Ministers at St. Kevin

Sun., Jan. 1, 10:00am

- Commentator: Volunteer
- Lector: Volunteer
- Servers: Volunteers
- Communion: Volunteers
- Sacristan: Diane Bolger
- Ushers: Volunteers
- Cashiers: Andrew Odeen, Kim Torres

December 25, 2022 — The Nativity of the Lord

Mass at Night — Darkness is scattered for God's grace has been revealed in the birth of the Messiah.

IS 9: 1-6 PS 96: 1-3, 11-13 TI 2: 11-14 LK 2: 1-14

Mass during the Day — God has spoken to us through his Son, the Word made flesh. Thus has salvation been revealed to all the nations.

IS 52: 7-10 PS 98: 1-6 HEB 1: 1-6 JN 1: 1-18

Ministers at St. Joseph

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Sat., Dec. 31, 4:00pm | NOTE TIME | Sun., Jan. 1, 8:00am |
| Volunteer | Commentator | Volunteer |
| Volunteer | Lector | Volunteer |
| Volunteers | Servers | Volunteers |
| Volunteers | Communion | Volunteers |
| Knights of Columbus | Ushers | Knights of Columbus |
| | Cashiers | Theresa Ripp, Barbara Viste,
Delone Hoangson |



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:10-11



Father Arivu Mariappan

ThePastor@GuardianAngelsCathParish.org

608-799-3831



**This is my body.
This is my blood.**

Eucharist, ‘Source and Summit’ of the Church’s Life

Summary of reflection by Father Steven Weller, Chaplain, Assumption Middle and High School, Wisconsin Rapids Recordings on the Eucharist for Advent are at diolc.org/catechesis/.

In the fullness of time, our Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Jesus gave us the Eucharist, as a memorial of His Passion and Death. When we receive the Eucharist, we literally receive Jesus Himself. The Eucharist is our solid foundation and highest point of union with God on earth.

The Eucharist – the fountain, the source – gives us life at every Mass. God is the divine surgeon, operating on our heart, giving us His divine heart. What draws you to the Mass? I am so in love with Jesus I want to learn more about Him.

I am going to demand everything of you. You are no longer yourself, that is what marriage is, that is what love is. Romance entices you to give up your life for another. Christ provides the gateway.

Jesus is united to his spouse, the church, flesh even unto accepting death.

Eucharist draws us in, entices us, demands the death of us. We will be married to God in heaven.

Eucharist is the summit – the top, perfection.

We play hard to get with God, put on a façade. God is about the real you. Jesus will only help us if it is to make us perfect. God is not done with you. You are on your way to the promised land. God is bringing us into Himself, because we cannot do it.

We do not receive the “wine”. We receive the “blood of Christ”. The more that you take the Eucharist, the more you will be taken up into His Life.

The summit is union with God with no façade. God himself invites us to the absolute perfection of His perfection. See as He sees. We have his Hands.

When I was so overwhelmed by my application for the seminary, to the point of saying “I can’t do this”, my mother came down in the middle of the night and said, “Why don’t I help you.” Christ is like Mom; the man upstairs has come downstairs. And He remains with us to bring us to the Promised Land.

CONGRATULATIONS TO INTERFAITH ON THEIR NEW BUILDING!

Guardian Angels Parish would like to congratulate Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers as they have their new building. Interfaith has had their office in our St. Joseph School since 1989. Now they move into their own building beginning January 2023. Let us wish them to continue their ministry in the years to come!

Interfaith helps the elderly and marginalized of Jackson County. If you are in need or wish to be a volunteer, call Interfaith at 715-284-7058.

“Jesus has made Himself
the Bread of Life
to give us life.
Night and day, He is
there. If you really want
to grow in love,
come back to the
Eucharist, come back to
that Adoration.”

Mother Teresa

GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH Business Office Hours

St. Joseph Church
507 Main Street
Black River Falls, WI
54615

St. Joseph — 10am-4pm — Tues, Wed, Thurs
St. Kevin — 2pm-5pm — Friday
Website: GuardianAngelsCathParish.org
MyParishApp.com

St. Kevin Church
813 North Washington
Street
Melrose, WI 54642

Email: ParishOffice@GuardianAngelsCathParish.org

Online Bulletin: Parishesonline.com/organization/guardian-angels-parish-brf

Parents are reminded to register their children for the 2022-23 Guardian Angels Religious Education Program. Parents can do so on to the parish’s website at GuardianAngelsCathParish.org then clicking on *Rel. Educ. Registration Form*.

A Minute with Jesus:

Jesus came into the world to save us.



Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” Because there was no room in the inn, Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God’s plan for His birth on earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week:

Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.

This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the star that rose above the stable where Jesus was born traditionally called?

Answer: The Star of Bethlehem. ©LPH

It is Christmas!

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds, and finally, the message awaited for centuries is heard."

At Mass on Christmas Eve, we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today, a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. So many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word, Kaire! That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us assume that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas," let us mean it with every fabric of our being.

VENERABLE

“THE WORLD MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED THE SON OF GOD TO BE BORN — IF HE WAS TO BE BORN AT ALL — IN AN INN. A STABLE WOULD BE THE LAST PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE ONE WOULD HAVE LOOKED FOR HIM. DIVINITY IS ALWAYS WHERE ONE LEAST EXPECTS TO FIND IT.”

- VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN



Today our Savior is born,
CHRIST THE LORD.

LUKE 2:11

Calendar of Events – Updates

DECEMBER

- 24 **Christmas Night Mass:** St. Kevin, 4pm; St. Joseph, 4pm
- 25 **Christmas Day Mass:** St. Joseph, 9am only
- 30 **The Holy Family**

JANUARY

- 1 **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
- 1 No Religious Ed. Classes
- 7/8 **Baptism of Our Lord**
- 8 **St. Joseph Religious Ed, Mass 8am, Class 9-10am**
- 8 **St. Kevin Religious Ed, Class 9-10am, Mass 10am**
- 14/15 **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
- 15 **St. Joseph Religious Ed, Mass 8am, Class 9-10am**
- 15 **St. Kevin Religious Ed, Class 9-10am, Mass 10am**
- 21/22 **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday of the Word of God**
- 22 **St. Joseph Religious Ed, Mass 8am, Class 9-10am**
- 22 **St. Kevin Religious Ed, Class 9-10am, Mass 10am**
- 23 **Day of Penance for Abortion.**

Early deadline for the Dec. 31/Jan. 1 Bulletin is past.

BulletinEditor@GuardianAngelsCathParish.org



The Story of the Holy Innocents

Herod “the Great,” king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence, he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister’s two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was “greatly troubled” when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children...” (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

Reflection

The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The Holy Innocents are the Patron Saints of babies.

Saint of the Day with permission of FranciscanMedia.org

We are happy to report that Guardian Angels Parish has been issued a **\$15.15** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022. Thank you to those that have chosen Guardian Angels Parish to receive these funds.



Pregnant and in distress?

Confidential help is available, visit
diolc.org/pregnancy-resources
 or
123GiveLife.com

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH

2022	Weekend of Nov. 19-20	Weekend of Nov. 26-27
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,236.00
Offertory Plate	\$ 335.00	\$ 603.00
Youth Envelopes	\$ 7.37	\$ 3.00
Roof Renovation		\$ 125.00
Works of Charity		\$ 5.00

Like to sing? Join the Choir Christmas Eve

Please join St. Joseph's Choir for the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. We will begin singing Christmas carols at 3:30pm. The choir is open to all ages and the music is familiar so please join the choir at the Christmas Eve Mass.



St. Joseph Church Roof Completed

On behalf of Guardian Angels Parish, Father Arivu announces that the roof on St. Joseph Church has been completed by Simmons Roofing LLC of Blair Wisconsin. We thank Simmons Roofing for their efficient work and timely completion of the job. We especially ask the Lord to bless everyone who contributed in any way to make this happen, including both those that contributed financially and those that contributed in prayer. We thank the roof committees, our former pastor, Father Emmanuel, and the office and custodial staff who worked diligently to make this happen. The total cost of St. Joseph Church roof was \$125,750.00. This cost came in as the original bid stated and has been paid. Thank you again for the sacrifices you make on behalf of Guardian Angels Parish.

Dec. 24, Christmas Night Mass: St. Kevin, 4pm
St. Joseph, 4pm

Dec. 25, Christmas Day Mass: St. Joseph, 9am only

After celebrating the Holy Mass on Dec. 15, Father Arivu enjoyed the Wisconsin winter with Orville Semke, who knows a shovel is always needed. Father Arivu, have you made a snow angel?



GIVEN Retreat for Couples

Saturday, January 28, 8:30am - 3pm,
St. Joseph. 719 E Patten St., Boyd WI

Contact: Chris Rogers, crogers@diolc.org, 608-791-2659

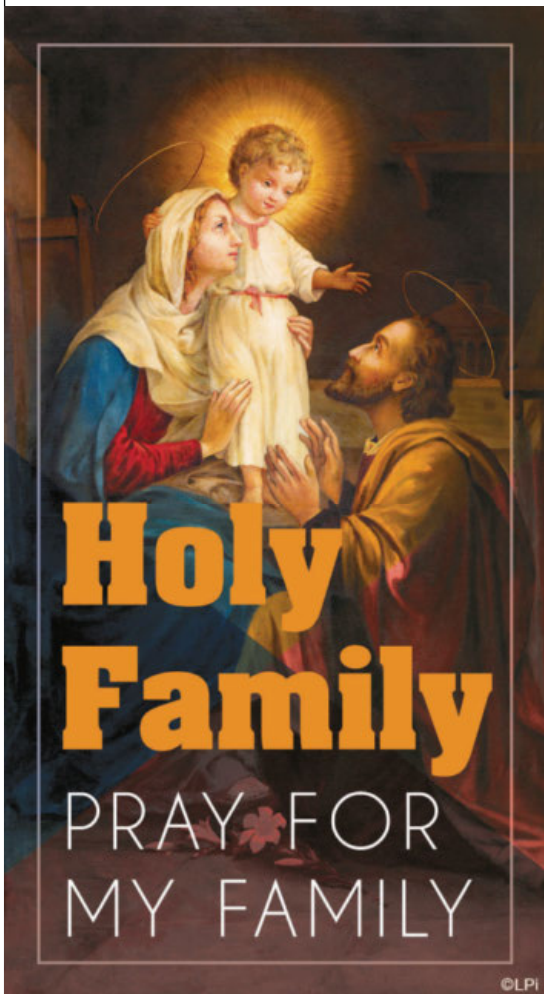
GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating, and engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, adoration, prayer and reconciliation. GIVEN retreats help couples foster a deeper relationship that is rooted in Jesus Christ and His Church.

What is Natural Family Planning?

"The underlying reason why young adults, engaged couples, and married couples should know Natural Family Planning is that this method teaches them that the body, as God made it, is the expression of the person."

(Richard M. Hogan and John M. LeVoir, *Covenant of Love: Pope John Paul II on Sexuality, Marriage, and Family in the Modern World*, 1985, p. 59)

Office for Marriage and Family Life/NFP, diolc.org, 608-791-2658
Christy Kitzhaber, Natural Family Planning Coordinator





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