

St. Joseph Parish 2025 Advent Newsletter

ADVENT

Hope. Love. Joy. Peace.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24: 4:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Thursday, December 25: 12:00 AM (Midnight), 9:30 AM

Parish Center Holiday Hours

The Parish Center will be CLOSED

December 24th, 25th AND 26th

December 31st and January 1st

We Appreciate Your Generous Giving!

Please Note: ALL Year End Contributions must be received by

2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 30th

**in order to be deposited
and counted toward 2025 giving.**

Christmas Flowers

Call the Parish Center at 715-232-4922 **by 4:00 PM on Monday, December 15th**
if you would like to donate money towards Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one.

I was excited to start my ministry in our country in 2010. I was looking forward to getting my driving license because comparing to Indian roads, our roads are great. The first place I drove myself after getting my license was McDonald's. One weekend I was supposed to celebrate Weekend Mass in Neillsville. So, I had to drive from Marshfield to Neillsville on a snowy cold day. It was only half an hour drive, but it took me a little more than an hour, not because of the snow but because of the GPS I was following. Now, most of the time I will not use GPS. How many of you have been using GPS?

Some used GPS even more than 2000 years ago and they reached their destination. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—the Light of the world. One of the most beautiful Advent images is that of the Three Wise Men journeying across deserts and mountains, guided by a star. Their story reminds us that faith is a journey, and every journey needs direction so that we can reach our destination.

Today, we have GPS devices that tell us exactly where to go, when to turn, and how long it will take to get there. But unlike our GPS, God's guidance doesn't always come with a clear voice or a glowing map on a screen. The Wise Men had a GPS—a star and a promise. They didn't know exactly where the star would lead them. They couldn't calculate the distance or predict the obstacles. Yet, they trusted and followed. Their "GPS" was God's Positioning Spirit—the quiet prompting that said, "Keep going. You're on the right path."

Advent invites us to tune in to that same divine GPS. God still speaks through the Word, through prayer, through the nudging of the Holy Spirit, and sometimes through the people He places in our path. The challenge is to pause long enough to listen. There are many fake stars (GPS) that may distract us and promise to take us where most of the world is traveling towards. Are you following the right GPS?

The Wise Men teach us three things about following God's direction: Be attentive – They noticed the star because they were looking for signs of God's presence. Are we looking for Jesus in this Advent season? Be courageous – They left behind the comfort of home and followed wherever God led. Leave your wish behind and follow God's will in this season. Be humble – When they found the Child, they bowed down and worshiped. While shopping for gifts, while driving, at family Christmas gatherings, try to see Jesus in everyone and respect them. Don't get mad at anyone.

This Advent, let's allow God to guide us—not just to Bethlehem, but to the deeper places of faith, hope, and love. May we follow the light of Christ even when the road is uncertain, trusting that His guidance will never fail us.



Christmas Flowers

Please call the Parish Center by Monday, December 15 at 715-232-4922 if you would like to donate money towards Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one. Donations can be mailed, placed in the collection basket or bins at the Church. A list of names will be in the bulletin Christmas weekend. Please let us know how you would like the names listed, and who the flowers are from.



CHRISTMAS HOURS & MASSES

Parish Center Holiday Hours

The Parish Center and the Church will be closed on Wednesday December 24, Thursday December 25, Friday December 26,

Wednesday December 31, and Thursday, January 1.

St. Joe's School Christmas Break

St. Joe's School will be on Christmas break beginning December 22, resuming January 5.

Holy Days & Christmas Masses

Monday, December 8 | Immaculate Conception

9:00 AM Mass (school Mass and livestreamed),

6:00 PM Mass

Wednesday, December 24 | The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM Children's Mass (will be livestreamed),

8:00 PM Mass

Thursday, December 25 | The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 AM Midnight Mass, 9:30 AM Mass

Thursday, January 1 | Solemnity of Mary

9:00 AM Mass (will be livestreamed)

January Schedule Changes for Masses

We wish Fr. Mano safe travels and a joyful visit in India. He will be gone from December 26 through January 28.

While Fr. Mano is gone, weekend Masses will be at the usual times. The 4:00 Saturday Mass will be livestreamed on YouTube ([YouTube.com/@sjmenomonie](https://www.youtube.com/@sjmenomonie)).

There will be no daily Masses December 26-January 28; however, there will be a Prayer Service Tuesdays at 8:00AM.

We will have **Friday Masses** at 10:30 AM with Fr. Jojo.

There will be no 6:00 PM Mass on Sunday, November 30, or from December 21 through January 25. The 6:00 PM Mass will resume on Sunday, February 1.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION | DECEMBER 15 | 6:00 PM

Join us Monday, December 15 at 6:00 PM in the Church for a Parish Advent Reconciliation Service.

*O Come Let
Us Adore Him*

Advent Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

Join us for an hour of guided Eucharistic
Adoration with music, scripture and
sacred silence.

Thurs, Dec. 18th

6 PM – 7 PM



Happy Advent to all of you!

As Advent begins, we enter a season filled with quiet hope; a time set aside to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the true Light who brings meaning and peace to our world. In the midst of this busy but fruitful season, our school community embraces these sacred weeks with purpose and prayer, knowing that each day brings us closer to the light of Christ. These moments of shared worship gently remind us that even in the rush of the season, God's peace remains steady and available to us. One of the greatest joys of this time is seeing how our students reflect Christ's light, in their curiosity, their kindness, their willingness to help, and their growing awareness of God's love. As we journey through Advent together, may we continue to walk in faith, guided by hope and strengthened by the light of Christ.

Our second-grade students are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 10th. This is a very special moment in their faith journey as they experience God's endless love and mercy in a personal way. Please keep these young disciples in your prayers as they open their hearts to receive this beautiful sacrament.

Friday, December 5th is our annual St. Joe's Night of Giving, where families and staff gather to complete service projects for some organizations in the Menomonie community. School families will join in filling 500 bags with supplies for Project Sam to be donated to Stepping Stones, create festive placemats for Tuesday's Table at the church, decorate Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels, and decorate gingerbread houses with their families. In addition, there will be photo props, snacks and drinks, and a lot of holiday spirit! It will be a great night!

Our Christmas program, "A Gift for the King," will be held on Tuesday, December 16th, in the school gym. We will have performances at 1:30 PM and 5:30 PM. All are invited to attend! I truly believe there's nothing more beautiful than seeing the story of Jesus' birth told through the eyes and voices of children. I invite you to come and experience the joy and wonder for yourself!

As you read ahead, we hope you enjoy seeing the many blessings unfolding at St. Joe's. Our school is strengthened by the love and support of St. Joseph Parish, and we are truly thankful. We humbly ask for your continued prayers for our school community, and know that we are praying for you, too.

May God bless each of you with peace, joy, and the warmth of His love during this Advent season.

With blessings and gratitude,
Mrs. Mary Kiefer, Principal

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Kindergarten and First Grade – Mrs. Scharlau

This year our classroom has been busy with both Kindergarten and First Grade. We have been learning rules and expectations and how to work together in a multi-aged classroom.

We have been learning about the different genres of literature including poetry, informational texts, Fables, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. Through our reading adventures we have learned life lessons from the characters that we have met. These texts have also provided opportunities for us to learn, practice, and build our reading and writing skills.

In kindergarten we have been practicing counting to 100 and learning to recognize and write numbers to 20. In first grade we have been practicing adding and subtracting and fact families to 10. Although we have been working hard on the academics, we have also had the opportunity to build amazing friendships.

Second Grade- Mrs. Hildebrandt

Second grade is a very special year in our student's faith journey as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time. The children have been learning about God's love, forgiveness, and presence in their lives. As they prepare for their First Reconciliation they are learning about making good choices, saying "I'm sorry," and experiencing the joy of God's mercy in Reconciliation.

These past few weeks the curriculum has seemed to align as it rarely does so perfectly. In Literacy and Social Studies students have been learning about our government. They are reading and writing informational essays about the history of our country and the government.

A classroom favorite is Math Tag. The children use their math fact skills to move around the room. With each correct answer the students take a step. With each step they move closer to another student, eventually tagging him/her.

3rd Grade- Miss Randall

This year the third graders learned about ecosystems and created their own ecosystem box with animals, plants, and landforms! Students studied the Tundra, Ocean, Rainforest, Desert, and more. After completion of the ecosystem, they worked on an essay explaining their project.

In Social Studies, we have been learning about communities. Students designed a poster to show how jobs are important to a community. They enjoyed researching about teachers, nurses/ doctors, police officers, and firefighters!

Lastly, we have been exploring the value of money, counting money, and making change. Students practiced adding and subtracting in word problems to determine how much money in all or the amount of change they should receive. We love doing real-world applications to help us be successful when we get older!

4th Grade- Mrs. Sobota

The fourth-grade class is excited to start their Owl Pellet Dissection Lab where they will be learning about animal adaptations and basic skeletal structures.

They are also looking forward to the annual Rosary-A-Thon where the students make rosaries for the entire day. They also invite their families to join them and teach them about making rosaries.

They have finished their Altar Server training and are enjoying serving at our school Masses on Fridays and weekend Masses too.

5th Grade- Mrs. Wyss

The 5th grade students were given a class set of knitting looms. After learning how to use them, they have been hard at work making hats to donate to those in need!

They also chose a city in America to learn about and made a power point presentation on it. They were able to learn, firsthand, how different geographic factors influence the location of settlements.

The students learned about the history and importance of Veterans Day in our classroom and worked hard to prepare and present a wonderful Veterans Day program honoring all those who served.

Educational Resource Specialist- Mrs. Brogan

We have been busy in the Resource Room so far this year. Students have been working hard in small groups and completing testing and assessments. We have started a new program called UFLI to build strong reading skills. I am proud of the hard work and excitement the kids bring each day!

Technology-Mr. Parker

Our students are charging full speed ahead in the computer lab this year! Kindergarteners are kicking off their typing adventure, building confidence with every keystroke. The 1st and 2nd graders are sharpening their keyboarding skills with the mantra "Right hand, right finger, right key." Meanwhile, our 3rd-5th graders are creating impressive Word documents and dynamic PowerPoint presentations that showcase creativity and confidence.

Library-Mr. Parker

This year, the library has become a world of exploration and excitement! Students began their journey by discovering every section of the library, turning curiosity into confidence. They've been diving into thrilling tales like *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *Voyage of the Frog*, sparking imagination and a love for reading. Soon, these adventurers will pause to reflect on the season of Advent—a time to grow in faith and prepare their hearts for the joy ahead.

Physical Education- Mrs. Wengel

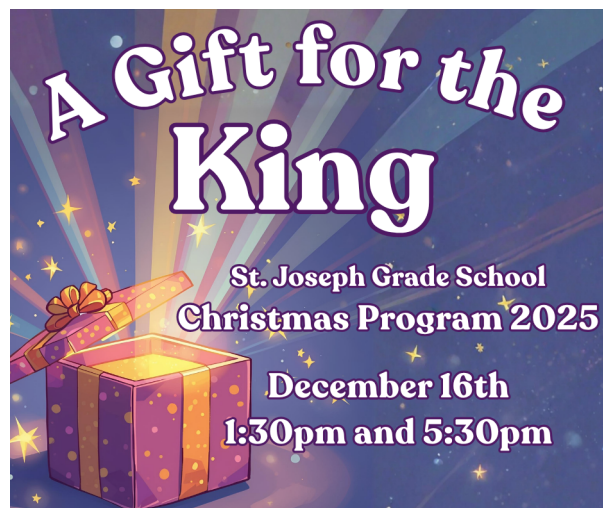
This fall has been fun and full of activity in physical education. We've exercised, played games, and run relays working on direction-following, coordination, sportsmanship and teamwork. We've learned the very basics of throwing and dribbling both soccer balls and basketballs. The kids start each class discussing gratitude and list what they are thankful for on our bulletin board. It's filled up quickly and is an awesome reminder for us to appreciate all the good we have in our lives.

Art- Mrs. Moriarty

St Joe's students engage in creative and fun art projects that enhance their individual creativity and self-expression. Fourth and fifth grade artists recently finished architectural projects of Castles and Haunted Houses. Third grade artists created puppets and a puppet show. First and second grade artists listened to stories and created art projects of "Wild Thing" monsters and Robots. Kindergarten artists drew Grateful Turkeys and wrote a list entitled, "I am so thankful for". All student artwork is displayed in the halls and display case of St Joseph School. We invite you to come and take a look. We are also very proud of the ongoing exhibition of student artwork at Hoof and Paw Veterinary Clinic and in Menomonie 7 Theatre. Both places welcome all to come in and enjoy the artwork.

Music- Mrs. Wacek

All of our music classes have been busy working on Christmas program practice. Our concerts give us a great opportunity to share our music with family and friends, but also build our vocal and harmony skills, work on stage presence and concert etiquette, and learn to read vocal scores. Between song practices, we have been playing games like "King of the Mountain" (a note reading game), "Rhythms Among Us" (a rhythm imposter game), and "Music Opposite Treasure Hunt" (a game about fast and slow, high and low). We're learning a lot and also having a lot of fun!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH 32ND ANNUAL PCCW

Christmas COOKIE WALK

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
CHARLES HALL
(LOWER LEVEL)
921 WILSON AVE
ELEVATOR ACCESSIBLE



SATURDAY
13
DECEMBER
11 AM - 1 PM
** NEW TIME **

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND
CANDIES FOR SALE - \$8.00/LB.

ST. JOE'S QUILTERS WILL ALSO HAVE CRAFTS FOR SALE



Plan to attend this festive
occasion,
and bring your friends!

Proceeds go to the St. Joseph Benevolent Fund

Calling all St. Joe's Women!

It's time for our Christmas Cookie Walk! Please note the new time. This year's Cookie Walk will be from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM

- Donations of 3-4 dozen Christmas cookies and/or candies are appreciated.
- Monthly chair callers will be contacting you soon.
- Donations may be dropped off at the church on Friday, December 12th from 7 AM-6:30 PM or Saturday, December 13th from 7-9:30 AM.
- *** Curbside drop off available on Friday, December 12th from 4:30- 6:30 PM.
- Volunteers are needed to help sort and plate up the cookies on Saturday beginning at 8 AM and then with clean-up when the walk ends at 1:00 PM. Please contact Linda if you are interested at 715-505-3777 or linda.lu.young@gmail.com

If you want to contribute but don't remember getting a call—bring your cookies/candies to the church basement. We would appreciate receiving them for this wonderful event!!

Thrift Sale Update: The PCCW would like to thank Pat Preston and Rose Mary Stoll for all their efforts as co-chairman of the Spring and Fall thrift sales. After many years of support, they have decided to retire. They will greatly be missed. However, they have generously offered to help with the training and development of the next chairman and co-chairman. We are asking the women or our parish to prayerfully consider filling these positions. If you are interested please reach out.

A very special 'thank you' to Marianne Canon for her leadership in 2025. She guided us through our year and brought some wonderful speakers to our meetings.

Your 2026 PCCW leaders are:

President—Colleen Berg
Vice-President— Marge Murphy
Secretary—Linda Young
Treasurer—Linda Kostuch



~Women of Faith transforming the world through prayer & action.~

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

KC'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

With St. Nick

Cost: Free will donations to help local seminarians.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH | 9:30-11:45 AM
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | CHARLES HALL



PARISH EVENT

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 21ST
AFTER THE
10:15 MASS

MANY HELPING
HANDS ARE
NEEDED! ALL
AGES WELCOME!

CHURCH DECORATING EVENT!
Join us as we assist the decorating team
in transforming our church into a beautiful
space for the Christmas season.



Winter **BIBLE STUDY**

**Lectio:
Evangelization &
Acts of the Apostles**

All are welcome! No Experience needed.

**BEGINS IN JANUARY
MONDAYS AT 6 PM OR TUESDAYS AT 10 AM**

Reserve your book today by signing up at:
nicki.welsch@menomoniecatholic.org

COFFEE GROUPS

Next
Meeting
12/4

COFFEE & COMMUNITY

GATHERING ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Join us for engaging conversations and support
alongside other women from St. Joseph.

Next
Meeting
12/16

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

All women from St. Joseph are invited to come together for snacks and
beverages while engaging in a discussion on the monthly topic.

Next
Meeting
12/18

BROTHERS & BREW

MEETING ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Come and connect with fellow men from St. Joseph for
meaningful conversations and support.

ALL GROUPS MEET AT THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE
It is located at 903 Wilson Avenue, on the the
corner of Wilson Avenue and 9th Street E.



ST. JOSEPH'S Valentine's Dance

FEBRUARY 14TH

.....
Dinner - Drinks (Adult & Kids) - Dance - Music
.....

A night of Fun for Everyone!

Join us for an enjoyable evening featuring a delicious
lasagna dinner, accompanied by music and engaging
activities brought to you by ROCK n ROLL TO GO.

FOR MORE INFO :

nicki.welsch@menomoniecatholic.org



ST. JOSEPH EUCHRE TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

11:00 AM - POTLUCK



11:30 AM - TOURNAMENT BEGINS

SIGN UP BY JANUARY 14TH

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

NICKI.WELSCH@MENOMONIECATHOLIC.ORG

**PLEASE BRING A POTLUCK
APPETIZER TO SHARE.
THERE IS NO COST TO
ATTEND.**



We're told that Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. For those of us who are parents, it might resonate with us as we look back on the arrival of each of our children, but probably felt most strongly with our firstborn. The wondering who they're going to look like. Worried about whether we have gotten everything that we are going to need to properly take care of them. Pangs of excitement, anxiety, fear, doubt and a myriad of other emotions. Ultimately, the arrival of that little one tends to bring about a sense of fulfillment of where we are meant to be at that point in our lives. This is how we should feel about the arrival of the baby Jesus during this season.

By now we know the signs of the Advent season, but do we know the symbolism behind them?

Evergreens are used to form a wreath - a never-ending circle with no beginning and no end. This is exactly how we're meant to think of God's love for us - eternal, never-ending. When we think of green plants we think about the new life of springtime. The evergreen of the wreath reminds us of this same new life promised to us, as we see less and less light during the early winter days, with the coming of the Christ child.

In this time of increasing darkness the four candles of the Advent wreath bring with them light, diminishing the darkness. Most often there are four candles; three purple and one pink but some add a fifth white candle in the center be lit on Christmas Eve or Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

During Advent, much like during Lent, purple calls us to a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Purple has long signified the color of royalty because it was oftentimes difficult, and expensive, to produce. During His Passion, the soldiers even used a purple cloak to clothe Jesus, along with the crown of thorns, to further mock him, as they called him the King of the Jews (Mark 15:16-20).

The first candle we light, the candle of Hope, is also called the "Prophet's Candle." In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah foretold of a coming Savior lending hope to all who believe (see Isaiah 7:14). It is this hope that we embrace during the Advent season. Without Jesus, our hope for salvation has a much dimmer glow.

The candle of Peace, also called the "Bethlehem Candle," is ignited during the second week of Advent as Mary and Joseph take to their journey to Bethlehem for the census.

Week three, Gaudete (pronounced gow-DAY-tay) Sunday, brings the rose-colored candle of Joy, sometimes called the "Shepherd's Candle." Oh, the joy the shepherds must have felt after the angel told them of Jesus's birth! (see Luke 2:15-20)

The last purple candle of Love, the "Angel's Candle," echoes the praises of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14) Consider the love that God has for us when he sends the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. Or the angel that visits Joseph. This is the love God intends for us in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Have a blessed Advent season and may you have abundant joy in the love that our Lord, Jesus Christ has for each one of us.

Resources: [The Advent Wreath Tradition & Meaning](#); catholiccompany.com, [The Meaning of the Four Advent Candles](#); Dynamic Catholic, [Advent Candles and Advent Wreaths: The History and Meaning, Colors, Symbolism, Themes, and More](#); Hallow.com

Advent

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



St. Joseph Parish
Office of Religious Education
Tammy Christianson, DRE



OUR FALL SEMESTER

We have had an incredible and unprecedented first half to the fall semester here at UW-Stout! With the support of the FOCUS missionaries, we have continued to grow the StoutCatholic community and encourage students to live their faith. Here are a few highlights:

- During UW-Stout's Welcome Week, we had 90 students stop by our first open house event. The Knights of Columbus donated the meal that evening and grilled for us!
- Our weekly Thursday dinner remains our central event, and we continue to have 30-40 students attend each week for a home-cooked meal and fellowship.
- The FOCUS missionaries have lead Bible study this semester, and we have had 40 students attend a study at least once.

We are grateful to be a part of St. Joseph's Parish and for your support of our ministry!

Becca Sheahan

Director of Catholic Campus Ministry | stoutcatholic.org



NINTH ANNUAL KOINONIA RETREAT

In October, we co-hosted our ninth Koinonia retreat with UW-River Falls. A total of 60 students attended from both campuses for this amazing weekend.

The retreat began on Friday. Students had a chance to learn about God's love, share their testimony, and attend adoration/confession. On Saturday, they participated in a rosary walk, learned about prayer and scripture, and prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The retreat concluded on Sunday with a talk on mission and Mass. It was truly a grace-filled weekend!



STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish Stewardship How to Donate

Thank you for supporting our parish with your financial contributions. Below are ways to make contributions to the parish. Contact the business manager at (715) 232-4922, with questions or to set up any of the following donation options.

Cash or check: Please make sure to note what the donation is for example: offertory, building fund, etc.

Stewardship envelopes through Our Sunday Visitor: Choose to have monthly or weekly envelopes mailed to your home. Envelopes for offertory, building fund, holy days, and special collections are included.

Direct payment & credit card payments: Set up direct payment from your account on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Or make credit card payments on our website. Visit MenomonieCatholic.org and click **Donate** button on the upper right of the Homepage click "Download Authorization Form" (or use QR Code to your right).

Payments through your Bank: These are mailed to the Parish Center. Please be sure to have the checks indicate how you'd like the money to be used.

The parish does not incur fees when you make your contributions with cash or by check. **We appreciate your payments using whatever method is most convenient for your household.**

Scan QR Code with your Phone
for Ways to Give

Direct Contribution
Form



Donate to
St. Joseph Parish/School
PayPal or Debit/Credit Card



Please Note that ALL Year End Contributions must be received, in person, by 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 30 or they must be post marked by December 31st in order to be deposited and counted toward 2025 giving.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Please consider **Income Tax Giving Options** to help support our parish. *IRA RMD* (Required Minimum Distribution), *IRA QCD* (Qualified Charitable Donation), *Appreciated stock and other investments*, *corporate Gift Match*, *Estate Bequests*, *Life insurance beneficiary designation* are some of the ways to donate. To set up Income Tax Giving Options please contact your plan advisor/representative for advice and processing.

FORMED

Have you found the "Elements of the Catholic Mass" videos insightful? If you have, you'll be pleased to know that there are 23 more available on Formed!

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Menomonie, Wisconsin

FORMED brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content right to your home — movies, shows, podcasts, Bible studies, and programs for all ages. It's like **Catholic Netflix**, and it's free for all St. Joseph parishioners!

How to Sign Up

1. Go to: <https://www.formed.org/signup>
2. Find our parish:
Type St Joseph Menomonie WI in the search bar and select our parish.
3. Enter your name and email—that's it!
4. Start watching!
You can stream on your computer, tablet, phone, or smart TV.

Why You'll Love FORMED

- Inspiring Catholic movies and documentaries.
- Bible studies and faith formation series
- Kids' shows and family-friendly programs

Ways to Watch

- Visit www.formed.org on any browser
- Download the FORMED app from the App Store or Google Play
- Stream on Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, or Chromecast

Why You'll Love FORMED

- Inspiring Catholic movies and documentaries
- Bible studies and faith formation series
- Kids' shows and family-friendly programs
- Daily reflections and audio books

Invite your family and friends to join you in exploring the beauty of the Catholic faith.

SCRIP/RAISE RIGHT



Scrip is now RaiseRight

RaiseRight gift cards make the perfect Christmas gift AND you fundraise for our parish and school while doing your own everyday shopping for gas, groceries and more.

We keep many cards in stock, and others can be ordered to arrive in a week. Access order form from the bottom of our website under **QuickLinks (>SCRIP Form)**, or visit RaiseRight.com/shop to see a full list of retailers.

**CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER AT
715-232-4922 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
to ensure the cards arrive before Christmas.**

—Get the App—

(scan the QR code with your smartphone camera)

Raise Right - Scrip
St. Joseph Enrollment
code: 7CC434C99546



Thank you for supporting St. Joe's Parish & School with RaiseRight gift cards for your everyday (and not so everyday) purchases!

ADVENT 2026

30 Watch How to Advent on Formed.org.



1 Set up your Advent Wreath.



2 Choose an ornament or two from the Giving Tree. Church is open 8-4.



3 Make art and deliver it to a nursing home.



4 Choose your favorite charity, donate and make a difference in the world!



5 St. Nicholas Day: Learn about the St. Nicholas.



6 Do a secret act of kindness for someone today.



7 Attend the St. Nick Pancake breakfast and help sponsor a local seminarian.



8 Attend Mass celebrating the Immaculate Conception Feast Day.



9 Send a thank you card to someone who has blessed you.



10 Compliment 5 people today.



11 Find a name and address in the parish directory and send a Christmas card.



12 Perform a random act of kindness!



13 Visit the cookie walk.



14 Volunteer to help the poor or feed the hungry



15 Attend Advent Reconciliation.



16 Leave a thank-you note for your mail carrier.



17 Spend some quiet time in church.



18 Attend Advent Adoration. Spend time with Jesus, the reason for the season!



19 Spread some festive cheer by gifting your homemade Christmas cookies.



20 Go out and look at Christmas lights.



21 Help decorate the church after the 10:15 Mass.



22 Wish your neighbors a Merry Christmas.



23 Write a thank-you card to Fr. Mano, don't forget to wish him a happy birthday coming up.



24 Gather your loved ones and read the story of Jesus' birth.
Luke 1-2 or Matthew 1-2



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Fr. Mano, fr.mano@menomoniecatholic.org
Principal: Mary Kiefer, mary.kiefer@menomoniecatholic.org
Business Manager: Tiffany Clark, tiffany.clark@menomoniecatholic.org
 Karen Adams, karen.adams@menomoniecatholic.org
School Administrative Assistant: Mary Wayne, mary.wayne@menomoniecatholic.org
Parish Administrative Assistant: Linda Young, linda.young@menomoniecatholic.org
Music & Liturgy: Beth Wacek, beth.wacek@menomoniecatholic.org
Parish Life Ministries: Nicki Welsch, nicki.welsch@menomoniecatholic.org
Religious Education: Tammy Christianson, tammy.christianson@menomoniecatholic.org
Director of StoutCatholic: Becca Sheahan, director@stoutcatholic.org
Choice Program: Maribeth Hartung, maribeth.hartung@menomoniecatholic.org
Head Custodian/Maintenance: Wayne Koepke, wayne.koepke@menomoniecatholic.org

The **Parish Finance Council** consists of appointed members who work with the pastor and act justly and prudently in formation and administration of the parish's financial policies, budget and long range planning.

Finance Council Members

Fr. Mano
 Karen Adams
 Tiffany Clark
 Larry Feiler
 Priscilla Fuhrman
 John Heike
 Jeff Krumenauer, Chairperson
 Shirley Riedmann

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is a consultative body to the pastor with elected and appointed members to help define, plan, prioritize, and carry out the mission of our parish.

Pastoral Council Members

Katie Baier
 Anna Beckman
 Debra Berends
 Karen Brunner
 John Heike
 Jason Horzewski, Chairperson
 Katie Mrdutt
 Dan Wengel
 Duane Zweber

Knights of Columbus:

Catholic men age 17 ½ and older are invited to join the Knights. Scan this QR code with a smartphone/tablet. Enter your info and you will be contacted by a local member. Or contact Bob Brahmstadt Grand Knight at KC2055GK@gmail.com.



Join Our Parish Community:

Contact Nicki Welsch, or click on "I'M NEW" at : MenomonieCatholic.org.

St. Joseph Grade School:

Serving children 4K through 5th grade. We are a 4K program site and a Wisconsin Parental Choice Program school. Registration for the school year is ongoing.

Contact Principal Mary Kiefer with questions or to set up a tour.

Baptisms:

Contact Nicki Welsch for information and to schedule a

Weddings:

Contact the Parish Center at least 6 months before your wedding to set up a meeting with Fr. Mano and begin preparation.

The **Parish Council for Catholic Women (PCCW)** is an organization all women of the Parish belong to whether they pay dues or not. It is part of the Durand Deanery of the La Crosse Diocese Council for Catholic Women (LDCCW). You may find more information on the website at <https://www.menomoniecatholic.org/pccw>. Current president is Marianne Canon. Contact information is stjosephpccw24@gmail.com.

Snow Days/Inclement Weather Policy for the Parish & School

St. Joseph Parish Center will close, and School and Faith Formation will be cancelled if the Menomonie School District declares a snow day, or early release day. (School closings are posted on a variety of local TV and radio stations).

Scheduled Masses will be held as usual— the church will be locked until an hour before Mass.

If a declared snow day is a **Tuesday**, **Tuesday's Table WILL NOT** serve a meal that night.

Leaders for other parish & school ministries/activities: It is suggested that all meetings/activities be canceled.

FALL FESTIVAL



Our 2025 Fall Festival was a **HUGE success!!**

Once again, *thank you to everyone who participated, both in donating your time, talent and items for the various events, and also to all of those that participated of the festivities!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our 2026 Fall Festival is scheduled for **Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th.**