



# Saints Joachim & Anne Pastorate



DECEMBER 22, 2024  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

| SAINT LUKE PARISH

| SAINT JOHN THE  
EVANGELIST PARISH

WITH PASTORAL CARE OF:

SAINT BONIFACE

SAINT PATRICK  
LORETO

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
MILL CREEK

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 22, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

This past week we had our biggest high school youth group to date! **Fifteen** of our teenagers gathered at St. Patrick's Church on a cold Wednesday evening to listen to Molly Mahoney speak about

piety - one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Molly explained that piety is simply showing our love for God. Love needs to express itself in little gestures and deeds, words are only the start of love.

Piety, as a gift, helps us to enjoy loving God. When the gift of piety is at work we want to worship - we look forward to following the commandments. Without the gift of piety our faith becomes more of a chore than a love affair...and who wants to do chores on a Sunday?! Molly said piety makes us unashamed of speaking about God and giving witness to his Love.

I am delighted to see our high school group growing. Today there are many challenges to being a teenager. They are "on stage" way more than any other generation. Social media has the good effect of connecting us and sharing information, but also the bad effect of taking what is usually private and making it public. Sadly, the most recent school shooting in Madison is another event where we see the plight of our teens. Giving our teens a positive experience in a church setting outside of Mass is a top priority for me. Please pray that this good work continues to grow. Kami Clary (our director of faith formation for grades 6-12), Fr. Kumud and I count on your prayers!

in prayer,

Fr. Luke

### Other notes:

This message was sent out to our school families this past week regarding the changes taking place at River Valley schools.

*Dear School Families,*

*At last evening's River Valley school board meeting, the district made a decision to close the Early Learning Center in Plain at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, grade level configurations will change for the district in the next school year. You may be wondering what, if any, impact this will have on our two Catholic Schools, St. John and St. Luke. For the 2025-2026 school year, both St. John and St. Luke will be operating with the current grade levels and configurations:*

*~3K - 4th Grade at St. John in Spring Green*

*~3K - 8th Grade at St. Luke in Plain*

*The only change we anticipate at this time regards bussing and the start and end time of our school day. As that information is known it will be shared with school families.*

*Bussing is always provided for any catholic school family who lives in the River Valley District. Specifically, any 5th - 8th Grade student attending St. Luke and living in the River Valley school district is provided bussing to and from Plain. The lower grades are also provided bussing, but only to the school (St. John or St. Luke) which is nearest to them.*

*We are blessed to have two strong Catholic schools which prepare students very well to enter the high schools and middle schools in our area, including, but not limited to, River Valley. We see many of our alumni on the local honor rolls and involved in our parishes and churches after leaving our schools. I encourage you to share with your friends that our schools are always available for tours, please just reach out to our principals. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!*

### SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun: Advent Hour of Reflection at St. John the Baptist, 5:00 PM

Tues: Christmas Eve Masses: St. John at 4:00 PM  
St. Luke at 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Wed: Christmas Day Masses: St. Pat at 8:00 AM  
St. John at 10:00 AM

Thurs-Fri: Parish Offices Closed

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

- ✠ Family of Faith at St. John the Evangelist, January 5
- ✠ Catholic Schools Week, January 26 to February 1, 2025
- ✠ St. Luke Fish Fry, Friday, February 7

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard 30 minutes before each Weekend Mass

St. John ~ 5:00 PM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday

St. Luke ~ 3:30 PM Saturday & 9:30 AM Sunday

St. Patrick ~ 7:00 AM Sunday

### THE LIGHTS THIS WEEK BURN FOR ...



**Harlan & Florence Sprecher  
(SJE)**

**Harry, Gene, and Jerry  
Pulvermacher  
(SL)**

**Mark Colby  
(SJB)**



### PRAY FOR THE SICK & SUFFERING

Rosie Bodendein, Marlene Dischler, Joann Schanke, Jim Hansen, Aloysius Bauer, Christina Litviak, Peggy Sprecher, Marie Neider, Greg Rieder, Kelly Feiner, Jacob Emerson, Harvey Rieder, Shelly Alt, Michael Whitcomb, and Doug Schmitz.



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## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNE PASTORATE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024 ~ *St. John of Kanty, Priest*  
7:00 AM Mass at St. Luke for Betty Haas Onofrey †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 (*Christmas Vigil*)  
4:00 PM Mass at St. John for Virgil & Virginia Delkamp †  
4:00 PM Mass at St. Luke for George Brey, Jr. †  
10:00 PM Mass at St. Luke for The People of  
Saints Joachim & Anne Pastorate

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024 ~ *THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)*

8:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick for Marietta Gruber †  
10:00 AM Mass at St. John for The Baryenbruch/Haas  
Families †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024 ~ *St. Stephen, The First Martyr*

8:30 AM Mass at St. Luke for David Meixelsperger, Jr. †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024 ~ *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

8:30 AM Mass at St. John

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024 ~ *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

4:00 PM Mass at St. Luke for The People of Saints  
Joachim & Anne Pastorate  
5:30 PM Mass at St. John for George & Joan Buringa †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 ~ *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH*

7:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick for Jared Karls †  
8:30 AM Mass at St. John for Fred Lins †  
10:00 AM Mass at St. Luke for Marty Schmitz †

Music for the Upcoming Christmas Masses  
and following weekend.



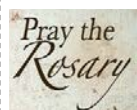
Christmas Eve:

St. John 4 PM: Souls of Harmony & Christmas Pageant  
St. Luke 4 PM: Adult Choir, Brass & Michael (~30 min prelude)  
St. Luke 10 PM: String Trio & Michael (prelude & postlude)

Christmas Day:

St. Patrick 8 AM: Choir w/Christmas Carols before Mass  
St. John 10 AM: Adult Choir, Brass & Michael (~30 min prelude)

December 28/29: St. Luke ~ Eighth Grace



"Parish Rosary Program"  
(Saints Joachim & Anne Pastorate)

Combined Weekly Total: 121  
Running Grand Total: 18,026

We would like to ask parishioners of ALL five churches to put your  
rosary counts into the  
collection baskets at the weekend Masses!

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SAT., DEC. 28	4:00 PM ST. LUKE	5:30 PM ST. JOHN
Sacristan	Rita Brey	Donna Slaney
Lector	Gwen Kraemer	Barb Louis
EM	Gwen Kraemer	Donna Slaney
Ushers	Gary Mueller Carly Kraemer	Pat Slaney Gary Nachreiner
Servers	OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN

SUN., DEC. 29	7:30 AM ST. PAT	8:30 AM ST. JOHN	10:00 AM ST. LUKE
Sacristan	Sheila Drea	Terri Larson	Marty Gates
Lector	Michelle Amend	Andy Sgrignoli	Bob Gates
EM		Sara Shackleton	Bob Gates
Ushers	Rod Mueller Colleen Mueller	Ron Bauer Tom Slaney	Chuck Fenske Vicki Fenske
Greeter			Doug Schmitz
Servers	Wyatt Klingaman Sammy Clary	Eli Limmex OPEN	Jacob Faber Oliver Bell



Saints  
Joachim & Anne  
Pastorate

Mass Schedule for  
Upcoming Holy Days

### Christmas Eve - Tues., December 24

St. Luke: 4:00 p.m. (Choir at 3:30)  
& 10:00 p.m. (music at 9:45)  
St. John: 4:00 p.m. (Program at 3:45)

### Christmas Day - Wed. December 25

St. Patrick: 8:00 a.m.  
St. John 10:00 a.m. (Choir begins at 9:30).

### Vigil of Mary Mother of God - Tuesday, December 31

St. Luke: 4:00 p.m.  
St. Patrick: 7:00 p.m.

### Mary Mother of God - Wednesday, January 1

St. John: 8:30 a.m.  
St. Luke: 10:00 a.m.

READINGS FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY AND JOSEPH  
Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21  
Luke 2:41-52



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## ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

**DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 1:** No School; Christmas Vacation  
**DECEMBER 24:** 3:45 PM Christmas Eve Pageant before 4:00 PM Mass.  
**JANUARY 2:** Return to school

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** ~ St. John's students will be participating in reenacting the Christmas Story at 3:45 PM before the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. John's.



 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** All of us at St. John's School would like to wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

**WITH GREAT GRATITUDE** ~ The faculty and staff would like to thank the Home & School and everyone for their gifts of appreciation during the holiday season.

**TREMENDOUS BAKE SALE!!** ~ A HUGE thank you goes out to Home & School for organizing such a beautiful and profitable bake sale! A big thank you also goes out to all of you who made these tasty treats and/or purchased them. Your help made this a very profitable event.

### **YES - YOU CAN REGISTER!**

We are currently accepting registrations in all grade levels. If you would like a tour of St. John's School or would like to visit a classroom, please call 608-588-2021.



**LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!** See for yourself all the great things that are happening at St. John's School by visiting our website at [www.stjohnspringgreen.org](http://www.stjohnspringgreen.org) or by liking our Facebook page - St. John the Evangelist School Spring Green, WI.

### **Decorating for Christmas**

We will be decorating on December 22nd at St. Pat, St. Luke and St. John the Evangelist after Masses.

Clean Up will be at noon on January 5th at St. John the Evangelist and on January 12th after Mass at St. Pat and St. Luke.

Volunteers are welcome and appreciated!



**Deepen Your Faith with the *Catholic Herald* Issue on December 26, 2024**

Every issue of the *Catholic Herald* includes coverage of local, regional, national, and international news related to Catholic people, places, and things.

It is easy to get the *Catholic Herald* print or e-Edition in your home - just contact the parish office!

## ST. LUKE SCHOOL NEWS

**DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 1:** Christmas Break  
**JANUARY 2:** School resumes; School Mass



**THANK YOU** ~ Thank you parents and Home & School for providing cookies and punch at our Christmas Program. Thank you Education Commission for serving and cleaning up at the program.

Thank you to St. Luke's school staff for the time, work, and help given to make our Christmas Program possible. A special thank you to Ms. Joni Cross for the hard work, time and energy she put into our music program.

Thank you Home & School Association for the support you give St. Luke School throughout the year. Your tireless work and dedication to the students and school is greatly appreciated.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to everyone from St. Luke School. We would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to everyone for all the support given throughout this past year. Many people have given their time, support, and prayers and it is greatly appreciated. We cannot begin to express how grateful and blessed we are for the support afforded the school from parishioners, families, benefactors and businesses.

**SAVE THE DATE** ~ St. Luke School's Eighth Annual Gala will be Saturday, March 15 at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort. Watch the bulletin and St. Luke's Facebook page for upcoming information.

**CHRISTMAS VACATION** begins December 21 and School resumes on Thursday, January 2, 2025.



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** ~ National Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated January 26 through February 1. The Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community". We will kick the week off with Sunday Mass and a chili lunch.

**KEEP UP ON THE LATEST SCHOOL HAPPENINGS AND "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!** Visit our Facebook page at St. Luke's Catholic School, Plain, WI. Check out our website at [www.stlukes-plain.org](http://www.stlukes-plain.org).



### **LUCKY LUKE CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS:**

December 9-15: Robert Ochsner, Cathy Yanke, Ben Spiegelhoff, Rita Marklein, Katie Pomraning, Henry Jennings, and Ellen Ederer (\$300). All others were \$50 Winners. Congratulations!

### **ST. LUKE FISH FRY NEWS**

Circles 1, 2, 8 & 12 are scheduled to work for the February 7, 2025 fish fry. Please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49A4AC2BA5F94-54109996-february#/> to sign up! Thank you in advance!!





**M**y dear friends of St. Joachim & Anne Pastorate,  
Greetings of peace and my heartiest Christmas and New Year wish for you all! By now, you know I didn't get Christmas cards sent this year. Though I couldn't squeeze out the time to get them done, I feel compelled to carve out this time to write you a letter. There's something I want you to know before tomorrow comes and we stand on the first step of 2025 and wave goodbye to the year that was 2024.

This is what I want to let you know; I looked back over my 2024, it was both a good and bad year for me. I never expected my year to contain the events it did. I never imagined I would have to do what I've done. I never guessed I would learn what I did. I never dreamed I would need to overcome what I have. But with your prayers and mercies of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I am standing joyfully and thankfully under the feet of the Lord. Now this big, heavy, hard year is almost over. I'm holding my breath to see what's next. I realized that God's mercies have not been exhausted in my life's challenges. I believe it is the same with you.

During the past year, many times I've offered your prayer requests and journeyed together with you in silence with your joys and pains of life. I've wanted to fix it for you, like a miracle worker. Though I haven't been able to fix the burdens you've carried this year, God's mercies have not run dry. I see they're constantly renewing, never stopping, never quitting, and always showing up in the form of God's faithfulness to us. That's right! To US! To me and to YOU, my sisters and brothers from a different mother...haha!

Here we go, yet another wonderful year opening a new blank page in the history of our lives to be written with unlimited beautiful and colorful stories of life. Keep clinging to the Lord as you fill up the empty pages of your new calendar. I am fully convinced that God WILL NOT LEAVE YOU. You can trust me; God loves you more than I do. I want you to know that in your new year, He will never let you down, never disappoint you, never betray you, never turn away from you, and never stop loving you. If you just keep asking, He will keep pouring His mercies out on you more and more. And also I am praying for a merciful 2025 for you. May this new year bring you new happiness, new goals, new achievements and new inspirations in your life. New is the year, new are the hopes, new is the resolution, new are the spirits, and new are my warm wishes just for you. May you find peace, love, joy and success. May all your dreams come true, and all your hopes be fulfilled!

My only wish for this New Year is to **allow yourselves the Sacred Heart of Jesus to love you** more than ever, take care of you more than ever and make you happier more than ever. And I assure you my best prayers for you. Above all, I want you to know that you are all true blessings to my life. Serving you and bringing the Good News of the Gospel is like an open

door that welcomes happiness and joy in abundance in my priestly life. Thank you for all the best wishes, cards, gifts, cookies, and sweets. I now have to take metformin as my Lenten sacrifice... I really appreciate you all. Thank you for loving me. Thanks for being my support and inspiration on my journey to Holiness.

Once again, my prayers for you... Have a promising and fulfilling New Year 2025 with fresh hopes, fresh plans, fresh efforts, fresh feelings, fresh commitment and a fresh attitude of gratitude.

With a grateful heart!

Yours in the Sacred Love of our Lord,

Fr. Kumud Chand



*Family Faith Formation*  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**  
**@ ST. JOHNS AFTER 8:30 MASS**

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WILLING TO HELP TAKE EVERYTHING OUT OF THE CHURCH TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEW FLOOR.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

## YEAR END GIVING

As we come to the end of the calendar year, **December 31, THANK YOU** for your contributions and your support of St. John, St. Luke and St. Patrick churches, schools and ministries! A reminder that if a donor (parishioner) wishes to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes, then the donor must relinquish control of the funds before it is technically a contribution. If you wish to have your donations counted in 2024, please make sure they reach the parish offices by **DECEMBER 31**. God bless you!

A reminder that we have "Online Giving" available on our website! Please visit [www.saintsja.org](http://www.saintsja.org) and click on the ONLINE GIVING box! Follow the prompts...it is very simple!

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### St. John's (Week 24)

Weekly Offertory Goal	\$ 7,153.00
Dec 14/15 Actual	\$ 5,419.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 2,485.00

Difference: +\$ 751.00

Envelope Goal YTD	\$ 171,672.00
YTD Total to Dec 15	\$ 155,415.00

Difference -\$ 16,257.00

### Give Your "First Fruits" Back to God!

To Parish	5-8%
To Diocese	1%
To Charities	1-4%

*Would you prayerfully consider treating St. Luke/St. John Parish as one of your children in your will/estate planning?*

*Call your Parish Office for details.*

### St. Luke's (Week 24)

Weekly Offertory Goal	\$ 7,507.00
Dec 14/15 Actual	\$ 5,460.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 2,500.00

Difference: +\$ 453.00

Total Goal YTD	\$ 180,168.00
YTD Actual to Dec 15	\$ 143,692.00

Difference - \$ 36,476.00

# Saints Joachim & Anne Pastorate

## Saint John the Evangelist Parish

253 N. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 628  
Spring Green, WI 53588

**ST. JOHN MASS: Saturday 5:30pm & Sunday 8:30am**

### ST. JOHN OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office..... 588-2028  
Parish Fax..... 588-2648  
Parish Email..... barb.ferguson@saintsja.org  
Website..... www.saintsja.org  
Parish Center/Kitchen..... 588-2229  
Pastoral Council President: Dave Mack..... 459-0680  
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference .... 546-2482

### ST. JOHN SCHOOL

School Office..... 588-2021  
School Website..... <http://stjohns-springgreen.org>  
School Principal: Allison Stroud..... 588-2021

### ST. JOHN CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Roger Kolan..... 588-2103

## Saint Boniface

105 Church Street  
Lime Ridge, WI 53942

**MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am**

(November-April)

## Saint Patrick Loreto

S8280 County Road G  
Plain, WI 53577

**MASS: Sunday 7:30am**

St. Patrick's and Our Lady of the Fields  
Shrine Cemetery Sexton: Doug Faber

## Saint John the Baptist Mill Creek

6494 County Highway H  
Arena, WI 53503

**MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am**

(May-October)

### JOINT STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

#### PASTOR: Fr. Luke Syse

546-2482 / 588-2028 / Cell: 636-4337

[fr.luke.syse@saintsja.org](mailto:fr.luke.syse@saintsja.org)

1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Kumud Chandra Nayak

546-2482 / 588-2028

[fr.kumud.nayak@saintsja.org](mailto:fr.kumud.nayak@saintsja.org)

1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Michael Davidson

588-2028 / 546-2482

[michaeldavidson84@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldavidson84@gmail.com)

#### SCHEDULING EVENTS

All parish activities or meetings need to be scheduled on the parish calendar. Please call the parish office.

#### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Wednesday - Noon

#### MINISTERIO HISPANO / HISPANIC MINISTRY

Padre Luke Syse se habla español

Puedes llamarlo a 608-636-4337

#### HOMEBOUND VISITS

Deacon Tom Fogarty - 414-530-0868

[tjohnf52480@gmail.com](mailto:tjohnf52480@gmail.com)

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish family. Please stop by or call the parish office for information about registering as parish members.

### SACRAMENTS

#### PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes before every scheduled mass.

#### MARRIAGE

To schedule a wedding date, call the parish office. The common policy of the Diocese of Madison requires a 6-month minimum notice. We strongly recommend at least one year in advance.

#### BAPTISM

Baptism dates are arranged through an intake form at our website [www.saintsja.org](http://www.saintsja.org). First time parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism preparation program before the baptism of their child. These classes are held the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at St. Luke.

#### COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

We are happy to bring Holy Communion to those confined to their homes. Please notify the parish office.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Individual celebrations can be arranged by calling the parish office.

#### OCIA (FORMERLY RCIA)

#### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. Please contact Marie Lins at 608-469-3982 or [marie.lins@madisondiocese.org](mailto:marie.lins@madisondiocese.org).

## Saint Luke Parish

1240 Nachreiner Avenue  
Plain, WI 53577

**ST. LUKE MASS: Saturday 4:00pm & Sunday 10:00am**

### ST. LUKE OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office..... 546-2482  
Parish Fax..... 546-2616  
Parish Email..... [heather.faber@saintsja.org](mailto:heather.faber@saintsja.org)  
Website..... [www.saintsja.org](http://www.saintsja.org)  
Church Kitchen..... 546-2800  
Pastoral Council President: Bruce Culver ..... 544-5813  
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference .... 546-2482  
Little Luke Daycare ..... 546-2963, ext. 316

### ST. LUKE SCHOOL

School..... 546-2963  
School Website..... <http://stlukes-plain.org>  
School Principal: Diane Mueller..... 546-2963

### ST. LUKE CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Bob Schweiss..... Cell: 608-963-8163