

1st Sunday in Lent
February 21 & 22, 2026

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

707 Eagle Street, P. O. Box 130, Genoa, WI 54632

Website: www.stcharlesgenoa.org

Parish Office: 608-689-2642; Email: office@stcharlesgenoa.org

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Timothy Reither

Email: treither@diolclergy.org

Mass Schedule & Intentions for February 23 - March 1, 2026

02/23/26	Monday	NO MASS	
02/24/26	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Fr. Reither
02/25/26	Wednesday	NO MASS	
02/26/26	Thursday	NO MASS	
02/27/26	Friday	8:00 AM	† Clifford Jeffers
02/28/26	Saturday	4:00 PM	† Harold & Myrabelle Pitzner
03/01/26	Sunday	9:30 AM	People of St. Charles

Ministry Volunteers Lector

Sat. Feb. 28: 4:00 PM: Jayne Coster

Sun. Mar 01: 9:30 AM: Henry Phillips

Servers

Sat. Feb. 28: 4:00 PM: Volunteers

Sun. Mar. 01: 9:30 AM: Henry, Oscar & Raegan Levendoski

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Mar. 01 9:30 AM: Priscilla Martin

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Feb. 23: Arnie & Diane Pedretti & Dorothy Stokke

Mon. Mar. 1: Tom & Pam Jeffers & Carolyn Umberger

Ushers March 2026

Saturday: Larry Kelsey & volunteers

Sunday: Keith Magnuson, Arnie Trussoni & Tim Gianoli

Prayer Requests

Call 608-689-2642 - requests will be passed to Father Reither & over 20 "prayer warriors" on the prayer chain.

Sacraments and Prayer

Church Hours

The church is open every day from 7 AM - 7 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:15 PM- 3:45 PM

Sundays: 8:45 AM- 9:15 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Fridays: After the 8 AM Mass

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday's at 7:00 PM (Feb 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, & 25)

Friday's at 2:30 PM (Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27)

Baptism

Contact parish at least 1 month prior:
608-689-2642

Marriage: Contact parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding to schedule a date and preparation meeting with the parish priest.

Anointing of the Sick and Homebound

Inform the parish office at (608) 689-2642 if someone is seriously ill and needs the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Sacrificial Giving:

<u>Estimated Weekly Need</u>	\$ 7,032.69
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,920.00
Plate	\$ 222.00
Total	\$ 2,142.00

From the Desk of Father Reither

As we enter into the desert of our spiritual lives with Jesus during this season of Lent, the church holds up three main pillars to help us in our Spiritual Lives: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving. Today I will focus on the topic of fasting. Fasting and acts of penance remain an essential part of the Christian life. In this, the Church follows the example of Jesus who himself fasted and prayed for 40 days in the desert following his own Baptism. For us in our modern western culture, there is a tendency to dismiss fasting as an unimportant part of the spiritual life or perhaps even to view it as a negative or outdated practice. However, it is important to remember that as human beings we are a body and soul composite. What affects our bodies affects our souls and vice versa. Thus as we gain control over our bodies through voluntary acts of fasting, we also grow in self-mastery over temptation and our minds are raised to the things of heaven. For more see the article below by Fr. Daniel Merz. – Fr. Reither

Humanity's "Fall" away from God and into sin began with eating. God had proclaimed a fast from the fruit of only one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17), and Adam and Eve broke it. Fasting is here connected with the very mystery of life and death, of salvation and damnation. Food perpetuates life in this physical world, which is subject to decay and death. But God "created no death." (Wis. 1:13) Humanity, in Adam and Eve, rejected a life dependent on God alone for one that was dependent rather on "bread alone." (Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4) The whole world was given to man as a kind of food, as a means to life, but "life" is meant as communion with God, not as food. ("Their god is their belly." Phil. 3:19) The tragedy is not so much that Adam ate food, but that he ate the food for its own sake, "apart" from God and to be independent of Him. Believing that food had life in itself and thus he could be "like God." And he put his faith in food. This kind of existence seems to be built on the principle that man does indeed live "by bread alone."

Christ, however, is the new Adam. At the beginning of his ministry in the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "When He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry." Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else—when we face the ultimate question: "on what does my life depend?" Satan tempted both Adam and Christ, saying: Eat, for your hunger is proof that you depend entirely on food, that your life is in food. Adam believed and ate. Christ said, "Man does NOT live by bread alone." (Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4) This liberates us from total dependence on food, on matter, on the world. Thus, for the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, then, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. And because of that, because it is truly a place of the spirit, true fasting may well lead to temptation, and weakness and doubt and irritation. In other words, it will be a real fight between good and evil, and very likely we shall fail many times in these battles. But the very discovery of the Christian life as "fight" and "effort" is an essential aspect of fasting.

Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist—the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for baptism (and all the sacraments)—for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

ST. CHARLES PARISH NEWS

With gratitude and joy, we will gather to celebrate Msgr. Dhein's appointment as *Chaplain to His Holiness*, a recognition of his faithful service and dedication to the Church.

Bishop Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 3:00 pm in the Christ the King Chapel, 3710 East Ave. So, La Crosse.

A reception will follow in the refectory, offering an opportunity to greet Msgr. Dhein and share in this special moment for him and for our diocesan community.

We hope that you will consider joining in this celebration.

Next Sunday, the first Sunday in March, is Fellowship time. This being the Lenten season, we can truly appreciate our Christian community. So head on over to the gym after Mass and enjoy the warmth of your St. Charles community.

The annual fundraiser for **Birthright of La Crosse** is here. Birthright is an international volunteer organization with a La Crosse chapter since 1976. Birthright is available to those with an unintended pregnancy to provide information, a listening space, and love, along with referrals and emotional and spiritual support when needed. The bottles/envelopes will be available to take home starting Saturday February 14th, and should be brought back by Sunday March 15th. Thank you and know your pro-life support will be appreciated by moms, dads, and babies to be.

CCD:

February 22: K-5 CCD Class & Mass participation

February 25: NO CCD

March 1: NO CCD

March 4: 6:30 PM **ALL** students for Stations of the Cross (meet at school)

ST. CHARLES SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

PTO:

Friday Night Fish - 2/20; 3/6 & 3/20 from 5 pm - 7 pm. We're excited to join forces with the Genoa

Lions again this year to bring you 3 Friday Night Fish events during Lent. Come enjoy the time together! Music offered by Tim Bohnenkamp. Drinks and desserts available.

Spring Carnival

April 26th from 10:30-1:30 pm. Any donations can be dropped off at school or back of church labeled Spring Carnival. If you would like to volunteer to help reach out to Jessie at 608-780-1148. We are looking forward to another fun event for all! Raffle tickets will be available soon!

Come and join us for a night of trivia - even if you've never played before. It's fun, AND you get a chance to laugh and have a good time with family and friends. Please don't say, "I don't know anything." Everyone knows something, and when you put your heads together your team could be the winner! Our next **Trivia Night** will be Saturday, February 28. Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 6. Brush up on your 90s Grunge Music; it will be one of the categories. If you REALLY want to have fun, dress in your best 90s costume. There will be a prize! If you're interested in playing, please call the office at 608-689-2642 and sign your team up!

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE & OUR COMMUNITY

Respond to God's call in this Time and Place | March 21, 2026 | Marshfield

Knowing and understanding your specific spiritual gifts can help you simplify your life and avoid burn out. If you know your charisms, it becomes easier to say, "no" when people ask you for things that you don't really have to give. And because it is unusually energizing, joyful and fulfilling to exercise a charism, you are much less likely to burn out if you are working in your area of giftedness.

You are invited to participate in discerning the charisms that you received in baptism through a process being offered at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield on March 21st. Teachers from Catherine of Siena Institute will present the Called and Gifted Workshop. For further details and to register, contact Beth Johnson at bjohnson@diolc.org or (608) 791-2658.

Venerate the "Madre Peregrina" - Pilgrim Mother Sculpture | March 13 - 15 | La Crosse

The "Madre Peregrina" - Pilgrim Mother is a life-size sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary in her apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Originating from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, this replica is crafted to closely resemble the original miraculous image as a living apparition. The primary purpose of the Madre Peregrina sculpture is to bring the spiritual presence and intercessory power of Our Lady of Guadalupe to communities worldwide, fostering peace, love and hope among Catholic pilgrims.

The veneration experience will take place at Christ the King Chapel at Holy Cross Diocesan Center from Friday, March 13 - Sunday, March 15. 3710 East Ave. S. in La Crosse. For further details, see the bulletin insert. Venerations will also be held at these parishes: St. Charles Borromeo, Chippewa Falls, March 19 – April 5 and St. Peters, Stevens Point, April 16 – April 22.

Lent: Remembering God's Goodness and Acknowledging Our Sin

An important component of our Lenten journey is to realize and remember what God has done for us. Jesus proved His love for us as He gave His life for us on the cross that we might spend eternity with Him in perfect bliss. The foundation of our Lenten practices needs to be based upon thanking Jesus for His kindness, generosity and self-sacrificial love. Take time to look back over the day to see where you have experienced His kindness and generosity.

Repentance is a major focus during the season of Lent. Repentance means to turn away from sin and then turn toward God. A good way to enter into the spirit of repentance is by making a good confession. Jesus instituted the sacrament of reconciliation because we need healing from the effects of personal sin after Baptism. The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, as Jesus – the Divine Physician – restores our soul to innocence, freedom and a peaceful calm.

Two Lenten Regulations:

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lenten regulations are as follows:
1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.

2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

The annual Women's Retreat co-sponsored by the DCCW and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is approaching Saturday, March 7, beginning with 8 AM Mass at Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse. The FREE event includes Holy Mass, lunch, opportunity for confession and fellowship with area Catholic women. Mrs. Angela Scaperlanda-Bujan, MA will present on *Everyday Holiness: Finding Refreshment in Christ* offering retreatants a chance to spiritually renew and recharge. RSVP is requested by March 5. See bulletin insert for details.

Parish Events Calendar

February 22: CCD Mass participation
OCIA after Mass

February 23: Women's Book Club
Men's Lectio Divina

February 24: PTO Meeting

February 25: Stations of the Cross 7pm

February 27: Stations of the Cross 2:30pm

February 28: Trivia

March 1: Fellowship after Mass
OCIA after Fellowship