

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Supporting your Church:** In good times and bad times, Catholic faithful have supported the church generously. Your Parish needs your generous support to continue. Collections at Weekly Masses are the main source of income. We need to consider alternative options to continuing your contributions to the Church. Our bank is not able to process ACH payments. You can mail in your weekly/monthly offering to the parish office. (W697 State Hwy 33 Rockland, WI 54653) Thank you for your generosity!

**Wills & Estates:**  
As you prayerfully execute your will or do estate planning please consider keeping the St. Peter Parish in mind. The most common and simplest way to include the parish in your last wishes is to include a bequest in your will or trust.

**First Saturday Devotions:** First Saturday Devotions are starting again at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join us at 11:15 a.m. for a meditation on the Holy Rosary followed by the Holy Rosary at 11:45 a.m. and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:15 p.m. Confession will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. and also following Mass.

**Marriage Preparation Retreats:** The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering Married Love: Two Becoming One, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples on April 24 and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

**Help for Farmers – Rural Resiliency:** Caring for You and Yours 4 Week Webinar Series March 2, 9, 16, 23 from 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. (Tuesday nights) This webinar series is a discussion starter and healthy mindset promoter for dealing with rural behavioral and brain health, communication skills, and relationship enrichment for self, marriage and families. Farm families and those who work with them as consultants or neighbors are encouraged to attend. Parishes are encouraged to host community viewings of the webinar, following COVID restrictions, to allow farmers and interested rural associates to come together for group discussion and support. Rev. Dr. Larry Tranel, Pastoral Psychologist and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist is the featured speaker for:

- March 2—Farm Stress Resiliency and Grief
- March 9—Personality Keys When “Married” to Farm Stress
- March 16—Dealing with the Stresses of Men, Women, and Children
- March 23—Brain and Behavioral Health “Hacks” to Mitigate Distress. Questions can be directed to: tranel@iastate.edu. Registration is available at: aep.iastate.edu/stress.

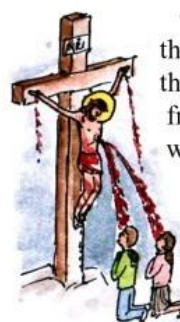
\*\* Register early as registration to the webinar is limited to the first 500 people.

**Kid’s Korner**  
**God Washes Away our Sins**

In the time of Noah, the people had forgotten about God. They only cared about themselves. They didn't care if they sinned against God or against each other. Only Noah and his family still remembered God and tried to do what was right.



God let a flood destroy all the people other than Noah's family. He wanted to wipe out the sins of the world and give people a fresh start at living in peace with Him. He washed the sins away with the great flood.



But the people still sinned, just like we do even after we have been baptized. So Jesus did something that would have the power to take away all the sins that are ever committed. He died on the cross, letting His blood wash away our sins. Now all we have to do is be sorry and turn to God and accept the forgiveness that He is waiting to give us in Confession.



**JESUS IN THE DESERT**

Today's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus was fasting in the desert for forty days. He was preparing Himself for His special work.

We know that Jesus was a real person. He was just like we are except that He never sinned. There was something that happened when He was in the desert that shows us that He had to decide between right and wrong just like we do. What was it?

Unscramble the letters in these words to find out!

EH SWA DPTETME

YB HET VELID

**PASTOR**  
Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS  
Cell: (715) 495-2338  
Email: danielchennala@gmail.com

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday.....8:00 PM  
Sunday.....10:00 AM  
**Please keep capacity to 75 people.**

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**  
Wednesday and Friday.....8:00 AM  
**ADORATION**  
Wednesday.....7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

**CONFESSIONS**  
Wednesdays during Adoration & By Appointment  
**PARISH OFFICE (located in the church Sacristy)**  
Hours: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Friday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Melissa Schaub.....Secretary  
Office Phone: (608) 486-2180  
Home Phone: (608) 486-4012  
Bulletin deadline: .....Wednesday  
Email: [stpetersrectory@centurytel.net](mailto:stpetersrectory@centurytel.net)  
Fax: (608) 486-2181

**PARISH WEBMASTER** Christopher Pundzak  
**SACRISTANS** Richard Korish & Austin Menn  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
Mary Hundt, Coordinator.....(608) 780-6172

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**  
Dan Korn, Gary Flock, Michael Hundt  
(Committee liaisons: Peter Benzing & Mark Gronemus)

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
Tom Schaub, Mark Stephenson, Rob Slattery, Peter Benzing, Chris Pundzak, Kathy Flock  
**PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women**  
Pam Benzing, Mary Bach-Filla, LaVonne Hundt

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**  
Leo Leis (Chairman), Mark Gronemus, Jared Lucey, Don Halderson, David Scharping

**CEMETERY SEXTON** Tom Schaub...(608) 486-4012

**FUNERAL COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
Debra Leis.....(608)632-7830

**MUSIC**  
Terese Slattery, Coordinator.....(608) 486-2605  
Leland Gregorich, Organist

**St. Peters Catholic Church**  
**Middle Ridge, WI**  
**W697 State Hwy 33**  
**Rockland, WI 54653**



Parish website: [www.saintpetersparish.net](http://www.saintpetersparish.net)  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**



**CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:**

- Joining the Parish • Weddings • Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick (Please call Father Biju's cell phone)
- If you are home-bound & would like to be visited



### Parish Intentions

**2/24 Wed. 8:00 AM** –† Patricia Gerke (MLH)

**2/26 Fri. 8:00 AM** –† Connie Goodreau (SAH)

**2/27 Sat. 8:00 PM** – † Robert, John & Linda Mashak (JM)

**2/28 Sun. 10:00 AM** – † Don Kaiser (BJD)

You may still observe the Sabbath from home via televised Mass (La Crosse, Channel 19, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday) or online at [diolc.org/sacredworship/televised-mass/](http://diolc.org/sacredworship/televised-mass/)

### Parish Calendar of Events

Wed. Feb. 24 – CCD for Grades 7-10, 7-8:15 PM

Wed. Feb. 24 – Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM

Sun. Feb. 28 – CCD for Grades 1-6, 8:45-9:45AM

Wed. March 3 – CCD for Grades 7-10, 7-8:15 PM

Wed. March 3 – Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM

Sun. March 7 – CCD for Grades 1-6, 8:45-9:45AM

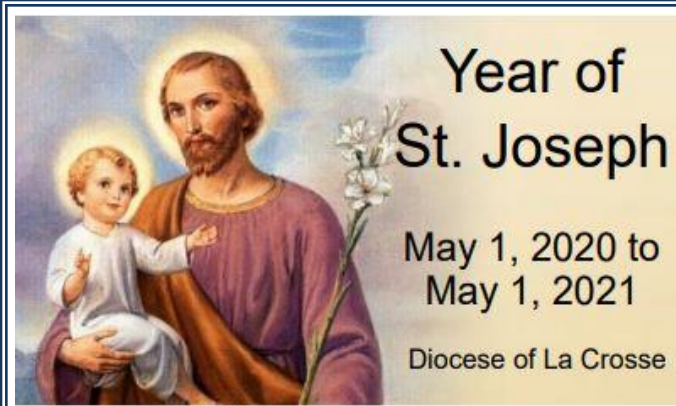
Wed. March 31 – Lenten Confessions 6 – 9 PM



### Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesday: 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

Come spend some quiet time with Jesus. Confessions available.



### Pray Often & Daily!!!

#### Parish Finances

Weekly Target -	\$1,700.00
Last Week's Total -	<u>\$1,974.00</u>
	\$274.00
Year to Date Target -	\$57,800.00
Year to Date Total -	<u>\$64,263.93</u>
	+\$6,463.93

#### Readings for February 28, 2021

**First Reading:** Genesis 22:1-18

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:31-34

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 9:2-10

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You with all my heart. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already in my heart and unite myself to You completely. Please do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.

**HIS CHURCH**  
IS STILL HERE + IT STILL PROVIDES  
IS YOU AND ME

[DIOLC.ORG/HISCHURCH](http://DIOLC.ORG/HISCHURCH)

**Diocesan Annual Appeal:** Please note the picture above that shows our target and commitment so far to this appeal. We are \$3,105 short of our target to date. Keep in mind that if we do not reach this goal we will have to pay the difference to the Diocese from our church reserves. However, if we surpass this goal anything over and above comes back to us to use for our parish needs.

Thank you for your generosity!

#### St. Joseph's Ridge Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m.

First Saturday Mass.....8:30am

Monday .....5:30pm

Tuesday..... 5:30pm

(Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 pm)

Thursday.....8:30am

### From the Pastor's Pen

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

“The Journey of Lent is an exodus from slavery to freedom” Pope Francis

On last Wednesday we began our annual Lenten journey. We begin this holy season of lent with Jesus being led by the spirit into the desert. This happens immediately after his Baptism by John in the Jordan. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent. In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross.

We too are invited to let the spirit lead us these next forty days. Let this lent be a special time to exam how each of us is living our Christian life. Let these days be a time of spiritual renewal. Let these be a time to participate in the Mass either in person or virtually every day. Let it be a time of personal prayer, reading the Holy Scripture, setting aside some money we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes and giving it to take care of the less fortunate in our society. Let these be a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the “Stations of the Cross”; visiting the sick and those in nursing homes and doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy.

Thanks to Margie Lee and all those who helped with Lenten decorations.

We will have the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays 7 pm at St Joe's and 7:30 pm at St Peter.

Wishing you a grace filled Lent.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju

### Parish News

**Parish Census:** To date we have received back 43 out of 103 registrations sent out. The deadline was February 15<sup>th</sup> but has been extended to February 28. If you have misplaced your form please call the church office or email with any changes. EVEN IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED WE STILL NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! Thank you for your assistance.

**Little Black Book:** There are small black covered books on the table in the back of church that are a Lenten gift to you. The book includes a 6 minute meditation for every day of Lent that helps you reflect on the Gospels. Take one home with you & feel free to pick one up for a friend or relative that is not able to attend church.

**La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Presents: A Lenten Journey Through the Holy Land** Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Our host, Lorraine Riedl, will take us on a virtual walk through the life of Jesus in the Holy Land using photos from a recent pilgrimage. THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO JOIN THE MEETING:

- 1) Go to the link at [LDCCW.org](http://LDCCW.org) and click to join
- 2) Manually join on Zoom at: Meeting ID: 826 9510 0524 Passcode: 449588
- 3) Dial in on phone only at +1 312 626 6799 using the above Meeting ID and Passcode.

**Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others:** It is a season in which we should: • Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them. • Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify. • Fast from anger; feast on patience. • Fast from worry; feast on Divine order. • Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation. • Fast from discouragement; feast on hope. • Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

**Christ Our Cornerstone Campaign:** The Christ Our Cornerstone campaign to restore the steeple and facilitate other restorations to our beloved St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral is under way. You can find pamphlets in the back of church with instructions on how to donate to this cause.