

Diocesan and Community News

Eucharistic Revival - 2022 through 2025:

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from, or lack understanding of, the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: His Real Presence in the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year movement in the United States, sponsored by the U.S. Bishops, to restore and deepen understanding and devotion to this great mystery. You are encouraged to participate in this important Eucharistic Revival. Visit: eucharisticrevival.org.

Jesus wants to stay with us always. Jesus loves each one of us so much that He gives Himself to us in Holy Communion at Mass. We receive Jesus Himself. When the priest prays the words of Jesus over the bread and wine at Mass, they are no longer bread and wine but the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus gives Himself to us because He wants to stay with each one of us always. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You that You desire to stay with us always. This week, read from Scripture about the birth of the Christ Child in Luke 2: 1-7

Advent Preparation:

Preparing for the Coming of the Savior At Christmas we read from Scripture that Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Jesus came on the first Christmas to save us. Again and again, Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist. Our faith comes alive as we understand better that Jesus gives us His Real Presence in the Eucharist. Join Msgr. Joseph Hirsch, Director: Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II Orphanage, Lurin, Peru as he presents Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist.

Preparing to Receive the Gift of Jesus on Christmas Jesus gives us the Gift of Himself on Christmas. Jesus continues to give us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food; He is literally the Bread of Life – supernatural bread that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

Prepare to Receive the Christ Child on Christmas During this season of Advent, we need to take time to focus on spiritual realities, contemplating the miraculous birth of Jesus, coming to us as an Infant. Through Jesus, grace, truth and life entered into the world. At Mass, Jesus continues to come to us in the Eucharist. In union with Jesus, we can offer all that we are and everything that we have been given in thanksgiving to the Father. Join Msgr. Richard Gilles, Rector: Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse as he presents Offering Ourselves with Jesus to the Father.

Prepare Your Heart for Christmas 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. Join Fr. Steven Weller, Chaplain: Assumption Middle and High School, Wisconsin Rapids as he presents The Eucharist as the 'Source and Summit' of the Church's Life.

Fresh Christmas Trees for Sale: M and S Company, Hwy 33 east of La Crosse. Leave message 608-667-5805

Kids Korner

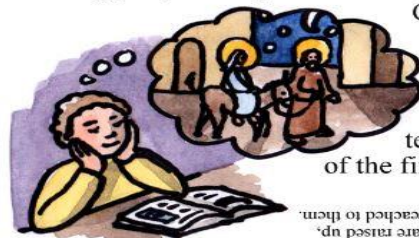
Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



and the dead have been raised up and the poor have good news preached to them.

Information Needed:

There are times that we find the need to contact parishioners by phone or email with important information (funeral plans, canceled masses or CCD, etc). We have found that many people have changed their phone numbers & emails without passing that information along to us. In an attempt to update our records please send an email to the parish office, drop a note in the mail or basket or call the office with your current information.

Thank you!

PASTOR

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS

Cell: (715) 495-2338

Email: bchennala@diolclergy.org

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....8:00 PM

Sunday.....10:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday and Friday.....8:00 AM

ADORATION

Wednesday.....7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays during Adoration
& By Appointment

PARISH OFFICE (located in the church Sacristy)

Hours: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Melissa Schaub.....Secretary/Bookkeeper

Office Phone: (608) 486-2180

Home Phone: (608) 486-4012

Bulletin deadline:Wednesday

Email: 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 & Leo Leis)

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) 452-4605

Leland Gregorich, Organist

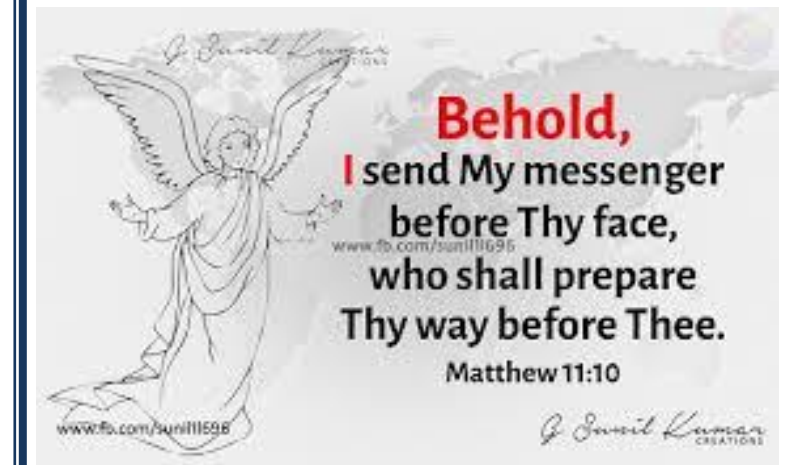
**St. Peters Catholic
Church
Middle Ridge, WI
W697 State Hwy 33
Rockland, WI 54653**



Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022



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

12/14 Wed. 8:00 AM –
† David Cummings (PTS)
12/16 Fri. 8:00 AM –
† Christina & † Daniel Jones & family (RJK)
12/17 Sat. 8:00 PM –
† Donna Leis (RF)
12/18 Sun. 10:00 AM –
St. Peters Parish Family



Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,700.00
Last Week's Total -	<u>\$1,866.05</u>
	\$166.05
Year to Date Target -	\$39,100.00
Year to Date Total -	<u>\$34,077.93</u>
	-\$5,022.07

Readings for December 18, 2022

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

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.

Ministry Servers

Saturday December 17 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Matthew Schaub & volunteer
Ushers: Phil Gronemus & Mike Schaub
Lector: Kristen Schaub

Sunday December 18 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Lukas & Max Slattery
Ushers: Rob Slattery & Mark Stephenson
Lector: Pam Benzing

Reminder We understand everybody's schedules get busy. If you are not able to make it on a day you are scheduled PLEASE make the effort to find a replacement or at least let somebody know ahead of time!!

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday: 7:30 – 8:30 pm (Please note new time)
 Come spend some quiet time with Jesus. Confessions available.

Parish Calendar of Events

Sat. Dec. 10/Sun. Dec. 11 – Holiday Bake Sale (Proceeds go to Casa Hogar Orphanage)
Sun. Dec. 11 – Retired Fund for Religious Collection
Wed. Dec. 14 – Confessions available @ 6PM
 There will be two priests available
Wed. Dec. 14 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. Dec. 18 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Dec. 18 – Church Christmas decorating
Wed. Dec. 21 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. Dec. 25 – No CCD Class for Grades 1-6
Sun. Jan. 1 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM
Fri. Jan. 6 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available after mass; contact Fr. Biju to schedule

***NOTE*:** When sending money for flowers, mass intentions, church support or special collections PLEASE make out separate checks or cash as these things go into different accounts and it is easier for bookkeeping purposes. Thank you.

St. Joseph's Ridge Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m.
 First Saturday Mass.....8:30am
 Confession time available after Mass
 Monday5:30pm
 Tuesday..... 5:30pm
 (Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 pm)
 Thursday.....8:30am

From the Pastor's Pen

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.”

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person of John the Baptist. John's preaching was persuasive as many repented of sin and believed in the coming of Messiah. Many were baptized by John in the wilderness, too. John received the honor of being the only prophet who was able to point his finger to Messiah in the flesh, Jesus Christ. Within the narrative of Matthew, John the Baptists helps establish the identity of Jesus. But in today's gospel John is not so sure. He sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. To express his doubt and his disappointment he sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. May the Lord help us with graces to acknowledge and accept him as our savior. As Advent quickly moves along, I encourage you to be sure and take some time for quiet in your life to reflect upon the great mysteries we celebrate at this time of the year. For those planning on celebrating the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas, I remind you to be sure to note the times when confessions will be offered at both the churches and at the cathedral.

Tomorrow, December 12, we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was in 1531 that Mary appeared to Juan Diego (The feast of St. Juan Diego was celebrated on December 9) on Tepeyac Hill outside Mexico City. Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is patroness of the Americas and recently was designated as patroness of Respect Life. Happy feast to everyone.

In 1988, the Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders. There will be a second collection after communion at Masses today for the Religious Retirement Fund. There is also an envelope found in the bulletin. On behalf of the many retired women, religious sisters and retired religious priests and brothers I thank you for your generous assistance. Have a blessed week.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju

Parish News

Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate towards the flowers that will adorn our church at Christmastime please place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket or mail to the church.

Mark your Calendars: We will decorate the church for Christmas on December 18th after mass. Please plan to help!

Retirement Fund for Religious: The annual collection in parishes for the national Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for this weekend. Support aging religious by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for years for small stipends. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps pay for medications, nursing care and other needs for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

50th Anniversary Celebration: If you are a couple celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2023 please contact the parish office by December 28th. The Diocese loves to celebrate this beautiful milestone.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL FOR 2022-2023: As you know, the fall is traditionally the time of year when we conduct our Diocesan Annual Appeal to support the wonderful ministries of our Diocese. This year will be slightly different. The Annual Appeal for the 2022-2023 year has been incorporated into the **Inspired by the Spirit** Campaign. This comprehensive, all-parish campaign effort began in parishes this past spring and is being conducted throughout this fall and through the first half of 2023. It will not only incorporate and support the ministries through the Diocesan Annual Appeal but will also provide an opportunity for every parish in the Diocese to raise funds for their own parish needs, the Diocesan Center, and the new Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin. Our parish is assigned to the second block of the campaign timeline. You will be hearing more details in the coming months. Please begin to pray about your commitment to this campaign and know that we will be inviting you to participate after the New Year. While the **Inspired by the Spirit** campaign will include this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal, it will benefit our own parish and the larger Church of La Crosse for years to come. The Diocese plans to raise \$40,000,000. Our parish goal over a 5 year time period is \$85,000 with \$55,250 coming back to our parish for our own needs and projects.

First Sunday Rosary: We pray the rosary on the first Sunday of each month in church at **7:30 PM**. The next one will be **January 1st**. Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.