

Diocesan and Community News

Eucharistic Revival - 2022 through 2025:

Visit: eucharisticrevival.org for more information.

Message for the week of December 10:

A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival. Does Jesus understand everything about me? Jesus knows exactly what you are feeling and understands. Where you are, Jesus has been; He shares every joy and every pain with you. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: If you have something painful in your heart, speak with Jesus about it and give it to Him. This week, read from Scripture how the angel appears to Joseph and guides him to take his wife Mary into his home in Matthew 1: 18-25. Note: Mary and Joseph were married in the Jewish tradition, which is referred to as being betrothed. There are two parts to betrothal: marriage and, after one year, sharing a common home.

Celebrate Our Lady: Nearly 500 years ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico. The Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th. All are invited to celebrate at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in La Crosse, WI. The day includes a Bilingual Mass offered by Cardinal Burke. Learn more at GuadalupeShrine.org/events!

Advent: A Time of Preparation: Advent is the four weeks we set aside for preparing our hearts before the annual celebrations of Christ's birth on Christmas. The Incarnation – God becoming man – is the turning point of history. Our Heavenly Father loves us so much that He promised to send us a Savior after the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. And He kept His promise. The Son of God was born in Bethlehem to give His life for us on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven, so that we "may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10). This preparation during Advent is to include interior penance, which involves a conversion of heart toward God and away from sin. Let us take Advent seriously by taking more time for prayer, offering small sacrifices for peace in families and the world, and receiving the Sacrament of Penance.

The Season of Advent: The word Advent means "comings," and it has a threefold character:

1. A season that directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
2. A season to prepare us for Christmas—Christ's first coming to us
3. A season in which we seek a deeper awareness of Jesus' coming to us, present in each moment of every day—as indeed, He is Emmanuel, "God with us"; He comes to us most especially in the Holy Eucharist.

The readings from the Sacred Scriptures during the four Sundays of Advent assist us in focusing our attention on these "comings." The First Sunday of Advent emphasizes Christ's Second Coming (which is also the ongoing theme for weekday Masses until Dec. 16). The Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent is Mark 13:33-37, and we see the theme of the Second Coming in Jesus' words: "Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come." His words call us to be watchful in prayer, ready for the Lord to come again. This is not meant to be about fear or worry, but we are to "wait in joyful hope."

For this time of waiting, the Advent Wreath draws a family together around the lighting of one of the four candles, each representing a week of this season. It is a special time to pray a Rosary, or a decade of the Rosary, and focus on the Joyful Mysteries that call to mind the events of Christ's birth.

Kids Korner

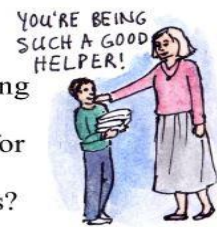
Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our

sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"



ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

A Z I O N B O S O M T H
 R T E S O E L M L O R D
 M I G H T H A E R U S J
 S D R E C O M P E N S E
 S I S P I L B S W T F R
 T N A H H D S A A A L U
 R G G E N T L Y R I O S
 E S A R I F E E D N C A
 N S T D C C A R R Y K L
 G O H M J U D A H I N E
 T B E F O R E H I G H M
 H G R U L E S Y O U N G



Find the words in CAPITALS in today's first reading in the puzzle. Then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end!

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

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 – 3:00 PM

Melissa Schaub.....Secretary/Bookkeeper

Office Phone: (608) 452-4680

Home Phone: (608) 486-4012

Bulletin deadline:Wednesday

Email: parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org

PARISH WEBMASTER Christopher Pundzak

SACRISTANS Richard Korish & Austin Menn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mary Hundt, Coordinator.....(608) 780-6172

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Gary Flock, Rachel Persson, Brandon Flock,
 Mark Nicolai & Louisa Peterson
 (Committee liaisons: Peter Benzing & Leo Leis)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tom Schaub, Mark Stephenson, Rob Slattery,
 Peter Benzing, Kathy Flock, Sarah Gronemus

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Pam Benzing, Mary Bach-Filla

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

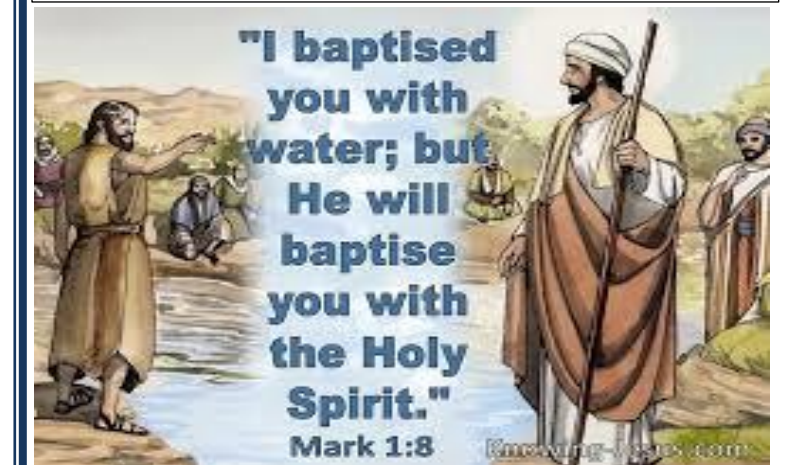
St. Peters Catholic Church
Middle Ridge, WI
W697 State Hwy 33
Rockland, WI 54653



Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023



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

12/13 Wed. 8:00 AM –
 † **Madonna Hundt (DKS)**
12/15 Fri. 8:00 AM –
 † **Levina Hauser (HF)**
12/16 Sat. 8:00 PM – † **Asa &
 Ruth Ann Rowell (MLH)**
12/17 Sun. 10:00 AM –
St. Peters Parish Family



Goal: \$11,760.00
Total Pledged: \$3,780.00
Total Received: \$3,780.00
Under Goal: \$7,980.00
Participation: 32%

Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$873.22
	\$996.78
Year to Date Target -	\$41,140.00
Year to Date Total -	\$31,446.55
	-\$9,693.45

Readings for December 17, 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Ministry Servers

Saturday December 16 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub
Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Mark Gronemus
Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday December 17 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Arnie Nicolai & Kate Gronemus
Ushers: Leo Leis & Mark Stephenson
Lector: Ann Hundt

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 until 8:30 PM
 Come spend some quiet time with Jesus. Confessions available.
8 Ways to Pray During Eucharistic Adoration ~
 - Read Spiritual Books - Ask for Intercession - Meditate
 - Offer a Holy Hour - Write a Prayer Journal - Read the
 - Pray Spontaneously - Ask the Saints for help Scriptures

Parish Calendar of Events

Sat. Dec. 9 & Sun. Dec. 10 – Casa Hogar Cookie Sale
Wed. Dec. 13 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. Dec. 17 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Dec. 17 – Christmas decorating after mass
Mon. Dec. 18 – All day Confessions at Cathedral 9AM-6PM
Tues. Dec. 19 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30 PM
Wed. Dec. 20 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Wed. Dec. 20 – Confessions starting at 6:00 PM
Sun. Dec. 24 - Grades 1-6 NO CCD
Fri. Jan. 5 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule
Sun. Jan. 7 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM



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

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Each year on the Second Sunday of Advent our Gospel reading presents us with the familiar figure of John the Baptist. In today's Gospel, we hear the words from the first reading quoted. We see the ultimate fulfillment of those words in John the Baptist and the person of Jesus Christ. God's full presence has come to dwell with His people through the Incarnation. John the Baptist we see him announcing the coming of the Messiah and helping people prepare their hearts to meet Him by "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." John was preparing the people to encounter the living God as He would walk among them and minister to them through His preaching and healing.

As we enter the second week of the season of Advent, we are going to be caught up in preparations for Christmas and all the celebrations surrounding that holy day. Since this year's Advent is the shortest in many years (only three weeks instead of the usual four), it will make us feel very rushed and even totally unprepared as Christmas suddenly comes upon us. This is true not only about all the external preparations (decorations, shopping, sending greetings, gift buying and wrapping, etc.) but also about our spiritual preparations. So, ask ourselves how do I prepare myself?

Just like in the Gospel, the first step is repentance of our sins so we can receive God's forgiveness. John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan. A sign of conversion. Take the opportunity this Advent to heed the call of today's readings to repentance by visiting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God is waiting there to offer you, His forgiveness.

Have a blessed Advent!

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Mark Your Calendar: On Sunday December 17th we will put up Christmas decorations after mass. Please plan to help.

Special Thanks: The CCD students would like to pass along a huge thank you to those parishioners who welcomed them into their homes when they went out caroling this past week. A wonderful time was had by all!!

Children's Choir: Children aged 9 through High School are invited to join the St. Peter's Childrens Choir. One practice each month will take place after mass each 1st Sunday of the month. The children will sing at the 10:00 AM mass every 2nd Sunday. Please sign up in the back of church. Call Terese Slattery with any questions at 608-452-4605.

Christmas Flowers: Anyone wishing to donate towards our Christmas flowers can do so by placing the donation in a marked envelope in the offertory.

Christmas Songs: Perhaps some people wonder why Christmas songs are not sung during Advent. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church #524, it explains that when the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, it makes present the long wait for the Messiah's first coming. We share in it, and we join in the preparation for Christ's second coming. The Advent songs we sing are meant to be songs of expectancy. There are typically 3 weekends to sing the beautiful carols: Christmas, New Year's and Epiphany.

Support a lifetime of service: Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

Bishops Annual Appeal: Our goal this year is \$11,760. Keep in mind that any money collected above this goal comes back to the parish for our own use.

Advent Confessions: There will be 2 priests available here at St. Peter's on Wednesday, December 20th starting at 6:00 PM. They will also be at St. Joseph's the previous Wednesday, December 13th. There is also an opportunity on Monday December 18th all day at the Cathedral from 9 AM – 6 PM.

Anointing of the Sick: Fr. Biju will be available to perform this Sacrament on the first Friday of the month after daily mass. Please contact him directly if you or a family member would like to receive. **This is available January 5th.**

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 7th.** Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.

***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.