

Diocesan and Community News

Eucharistic Revival - 2022 through 2025:

Visit: eucharisticrevival.org for more information.

Message for the week of December 17: A Minute with Jesus during the National Eucharistic Revival. 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 for always wanting to stay with us. This week, read from Scripture about the birth of the Christ Child in Luke 2:1-7

Advent: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ's Coming The Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent focuses again on John the Baptist who wanted to relate to others what he knew to be true; that Christ is the Light of the world. If we follow Jesus, we won't walk in darkness because we will have the Light of Truth that leads to eternal life. This theme of light is also apparent in creation. The days of Advent are the darkest days of the year. On December 21, we will experience the winter solstice which marks the shortest day and longest night. And then as we approach Christmas, it begins to reverse, with more light and longer days, pointing to the birth of the Christ Child – the true Light shining in the darkness.

As we string up Christmas lights on the tree and on the house, we want to remember that these lights refer to Christ who is the Light of the world. Further, it is important to allow the Light of Christ to shine from our hearts. Let us ask God for one small way to share the Light He has placed in our hearts such as visiting a lonely person.

As John bore witness to Jesus Christ through telling others about Him, let us speak about the real meaning of Christmas with others and invite people to come to church on Christmas. We need to welcome people back to our Mass celebrations in which we hear the Word of God and receive the Holy Eucharist – the same Christ Child born in a manger in Bethlehem.

"the ANSWER" Eucharistic Rally | June 7 at the La Crosse Center:

We are very excited to announce "the Answer" Eucharistic Rally that will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the first day that the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of La Crosse. "the Answer" Eucharistic Rally will begin with a Eucharistic Procession Across the Cameron Street Bridge in La Crosse. It will end at the La Crosse Center where the rest of the rally will take place. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, powerful speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagize, and Josh Rosa, music from Luke Spehar, and plenty of vendors. The cost for this event is only \$15 per person. This rally is for middle and high school youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. Tickets will go on sale December 15, 2023. You can find more information about the event by visiting <https://diolc.org/the-answer/>. For such an important event, it would be amazing if every parish brought a bus full of parishioners.

Kids Korner

Who Will Lead You to God?



Today's Gospel reading tells us about Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. At first people thought that he might be the saviour they were all waiting for, but he was very clear when he told them that he wasn't- there was one coming after him Who would be the truly great One.

Sometimes we hear about great or important people. We know about movie stars and singers and government leaders. Who are some important people you know of?



Do those people that you've thought about help to bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and give good example? Or do they lead people away from God by doing wrong things or making fun of God's truth?

We can know which people are really great by thinking about whether they lead us closer to God, like Saint John the Baptist did, or further away from Him. Which sort of people do you want to follow?



The Messenger of Peace Word-find

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

See if you can find the words in CAPITALS from today's first reading in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks in the reading.

The SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has ANOINTED me; he has SENT me to bring GLAD TIDINGS to the POOR, to heal the _____,



to PROCLAIM LIBERTY to CAPTIVES and RELEASE to the PRISONERS, to ANNOUNCE a YEAR of FAVOUR from the Lord and a day of VINDICATION by our GOD.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 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

12/20 Wed. 8:00 AM –
† John Thurk (MLH)
12/22 Fri. 8:00 AM –
† Steven Hundt (AH)
12/23 Sat. 8:00 PM – **† Bobby & Arlene Arentz (DKS)**
12/24 Sun. 10:00 AM –
† Donna Leis (LF)
12/24 Sun. 8:00 PM – Christmas Eve
† Madonna Hundt (MLH)
12/25 Mon. 10:00 AM – Christmas Day
† Judy Murphy, Leonard, Alberta & Andy Kick (MAS)

Ministry Servers

Saturday December 23 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Isabell Korn, Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen
Ushers: Duane Leis & Tim Leis
Lector: Dan Korn
Sunday December 24 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson
Ushers: Peter Benzing & Mark Gronemus
Lector: Joe Peterson
Sunday December 24 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub
Ushers: Tom Schaub & Mike Schaub
Lector: Melissa Schaub
Monday December 25 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Madi & Allis Gronemus
Ushers: Leo Leis & Gary Gronemus
Lector: John Hundt

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday @ 7:30 until 8:30 PM
 Come spend some quiet time with Jesus. Confessions

Parish Calendar of Events

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
Wed. Dec. 27 – Grades 7-10 NO CCD
Sun. Dec. 24 - Grades 1-6 NO CCD
Fri. Dec. 29 – No Weekday Mass
Fri. Jan. 5 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule
Sun. Jan. 7 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Jan. 7 – Potluck after mass. Please plan to attend!!
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

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light". (Jn 1:8)

The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice". The rose-colored vestments and rose candle on our Advent wreath remind us that we are halfway through the Advent season. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. Prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. When the Jewish authorities question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. He tells them "I am not the Christ." John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

Pope Francis turns 87 on this Sunday. Please keep him in your prayers. Pope Francis revealed that he will be buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome in a recent interview. He explained that he had decided on this because he said he has a "great devotion" and "a very great relation" to the revered Byzantine Icon of Our Lady, Protectress of the Roman People ("Salus Populi Romani"). Six of his predecessors are also interred in the basilica: Honorius III (1150-1227), Nicholas IV (1227-1292), Pius V (1504-1572), Sixtus V (1521-1590), Clement VIII (1536-1605) and Clement IX (1669-1669).

Wishing you a grace filled Gaudete Sunday!

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Special Thanks: Thank you to the parishioners and CCD organization for donating and making meals for those in need of an extra treat this holiday season. The students did an amazing job preparing meals. Your kindness and good intentions are much appreciated!

Children's Choir: The St. Peter's Childrens Choir will sing at the 10:00 mass on Epiphany, January 7th. We will practice after mass Sunday December 31st. Thank you for making a "joyful noise" this past Sunday. New singers are welcome!

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

Mark your calendars: We will have a Parish Potluck after mass on Sunday January 7th in the church basement. Please plan to come and continue the Christmas camaraderie with your Parish family! We will plan to take down the Christmas decorations the following Sunday January 14th after mass.

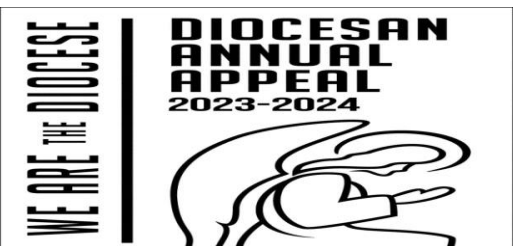
Christmas Songs: Perhaps some people wonder why Christmas songs are not sung during Advent. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church #524, it explains that when the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, it makes present the long wait for the Messiah's first coming. We share in it, and we 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.

Our women and men religious offer gratitude: A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

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

Attention Ladies: All Ladies of St. Peter are invited to a social hour at the Hundt residence on January 8 at 6:30 pm. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. We would like to get all ages of the women of our parish together to discuss how we as a group can do more service in our community. We would like input from **all** members. Please call or text LaVonne with an RSVP to 608 317 9541 to let her know who can come and she can give you the address.

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.



Goal: \$11,760.00
 Total Pledged: \$5,035.00
 Total Received: \$5,035.00
 Under Goal: \$6,725.00
 Participation: 42%

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$2,694.30
	\$824.30
Year to Date Target -	\$43,010.00
Year to Date Total -	\$34,140.85
	-\$8,869.15

Readings for December 24, 2023

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-16
Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38