

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Eucharistic Revival - 2022 through 2025:**

Visit: [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org) for more information.

**Message for the week of December 24:** *A Minute with Jesus* during the Eucharistic Revival, a time for deeper understanding and love of Jesus' Gift of Himself to us in Holy Communion Jesus came into the world to save us. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn (motel), Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it was a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan for His birth on earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior. This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

**Advent: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ's Coming**  
The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is Luke 1:26-38. Now, the Readings focus on the events surrounding the birth of the Savior. The angel Gabriel announces, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God... for nothing will be impossible for God." The angel's words remind us that Advent is a season of HOPE. We are not to be afraid, for with God, nothing is impossible. These words can seem like nice thoughts, but how is it possible to have this gift of hope? One telling example stands out in the life of Pope Saint John Paul II. When he first became pope, he spoke these very words to the crowds: "Do not be afraid!" How could he have such hope when the Holy Father, in his native Poland, had lived through the Nazi invasion and the killing of almost everyone that he knew during World War II? In the aftermath of the War, the world believed that the 'Iron Curtain' would never come down. Through Pope John Paul's prayer, unwavering trust in God, and perseverance in calling for its destruction, we witnessed the downfall of this blockade to freedom without a shot being fired. The season of Advent is a time to grow in the virtue of hope – not to be afraid. One way is to commit to praying three Hail Marys with a specific intention, something that might have seemed impossible heretofore. We will ask Our Lady to pray with us, as she experienced the "impossible." Mary, Mother of the Christ Child, will intercede for us. Let us ask her to prepare our hearts to receive the true Gift of Christmas—Christ Himself—in a much deeper way, as she was the first to receive Him as a newborn Babe on Christmas Day.

**Kids Korner**

*The Holy Family*

When we talk about the Holy Family we are talking about Jesus and his mother Mary and his foster-father, Saint Joseph. Mary became the mother of Jesus when she was betrothed (formally engaged) to St. Joseph, and Jesus' real father was God the Father Himself. So Saint Joseph acted as the Father of Jesus on earth.



Saint Joseph was a carpenter and worked hard to provide for his family. Mary loved Jesus and Joseph and cooked and cleaned for them. When Jesus was old enough Saint Joseph trained Him to be a carpenter as well. Because they all loved each other with generosity and selflessness they were really the happiest and holiest family that ever lived.

We can imitate the Holy Family by loving our parents and siblings and putting others before ourselves. What can you do today to make your family happier and holier?



**Important Cemetery Information**

From the Cemetery Committee: It has come to the attention of the Cemetery Committee that several headstones in our cemetery are in need of repair/maintenance. Following is a list of the names on those headstones. It is the family's responsibility to take care of these headstones. If you are a family member or know of a family member, please consider taking care of the necessary repairs and/or contacting family members. If interested, the Committee does have the name of a person who does this kind of work. If you have questions, please contact one of the Committee members.

- Row 3** Peter & Barb Antony
- Row 4** John Schmit
- Row 4** Peter Neuburg
- Row 5** Antonia Smola
- Row 6** Ernest Muenzenberger
- Row 11** Nick Fischbach
- Row 15** Joe & Marie Kaiser
- Row 17** Casper Sieger
- Row 24** Alois Flaig

**PASTOR**

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS

Cell: (715) 495-2338

Email: [bchennala@diolclergy.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.saintpetersparish.net)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 24, 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

**12/24 Sun. 8:00 PM** – Christmas Eve

† **Madonna Hundt (MLH)**

**12/25 Mon. 10:00 AM** – Christmas Day

† **Judy Murphy, Leonard, Alberta & Andy Kick (MAS)**

**12/27 Wed. 8:00 AM** – The **Kramer & Roth families (RJK)**

**12/29 Fri. 8:00 AM** – NO MASS

**12/30 Sat. 8:00 PM** –

† **Leo Bouska (AB)**

**12/31 Sun. 10:00 AM** –

† **Marcie Hundt (HF)**

Ministry Servers

**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

**Saturday December 30 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Isabell Korn, Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen

Ushers: Bill Korn & Phil Gronemus

Lector: Julie Lundeen

**Sunday December 31 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Lukas & Max Slattery

Ushers: Peter Benzing & Rob Slattery

Lector: Pam Benzing

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday @ 7:30 until 8:30 PM

Come spend some quiet time with Jesus. Confessions

Parish Calendar of Events

Sun. Dec. 24 - Grades 1-6 NO CCD

Wed. Dec. 27 - Grades 7-10 NO CCD

Fri. Dec. 29 - No Weekday Mass

Sun. Dec. 31 - Grades 1-6 NO CCD

Wed. Jan. 3 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

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

Monday .....5:30pm

Tuesday..... 5:30pm

(Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 pm)

Thursday.....8:30am

From the Pastor's Pen

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Merry Christmas! Yes, Christmas is that magical time of the year when glittering lights and colorful decorations line the streets and homes. There is an air of jubilation and celebration. One word that we hear often during the Christmas season, especially from liturgical and other sources, is 'incarnation.' It literally means taking flesh. Christmas is the feast when, the love of God becomes human. In John 3: 16: we see "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life." As we celebrate Christmas, we contemplate the deepest and the most profound presence of God in our life and how it transforms us.

"God-with-us" transforms our fears and failings into courageous faith. When doubts and depression set in, "God-with-us" brings and nurtures hope and lifts our spirits. When things seem impossible, "God-with-us" enables us to trust and face the impossible. When friends are few and sometimes far away, "God-with-us" assures us that we are never alone. When sickness set in, when death approaches, when it is difficult to see beyond pains, sufferings, doubts, and uncertainties, "God-with-us" inspires us to trust, to hold on and "hang-in-there." Throughout our lives, in good times and in bad, it is our trust in "Emmanuel" – "God- with-us" that keeps us faithful on our journey and leads us to perfection and to holiness to which we are called.

I wish you a very Happy, Holy, Grace-filled, Joy-filled, Love-filled, Peace-filled Christmas! And may God bless you and your family and keep you safe in His Love.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

**Father Biju, the Parish & Finance Councils, Committees, and Staff of St. Peter Parish wish you all a Merry Christmas! Hope the magic of Christmas fills every corner of your heart and home with joy, now and always.**

Parish News

**Children's Choir:** The St. Peter's Childrens Choir will sing at the 10:00 mass on Epiphany, January 7<sup>th</sup>. We will practice after mass Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>. New singers are welcome!

**Christmas Flowers:** Thank you to all who have donated towards our beautiful Christmas flowers;

- In memory of Leo & Shirley Servais (DBS & WJG)
- In memory of the Halderson family (JH)
- In memory of Stan, Steven & Paul Hundt (AH)
- In memory of Bobby & Arlene Arentz (DKS)
- In memory of Arnold & Theresa Arentz & Rick Shermerhorn (JPS)
- In memory of Charles & Elrita Leis and Raymond & Audrey Korn (BJK)
- Donations from Margie Lee, Gary & Debra Flock, Lavina Flock and Pat & Darla Lucey

**Mark your calendars:** We will have a Parish Potluck after mass on Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> after mass.

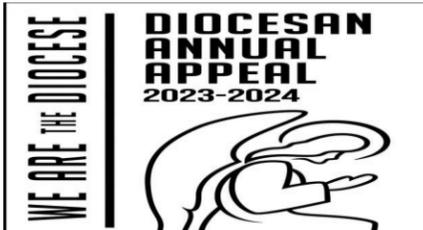
**Attention Ladies:** All Ladies of St. Peter are invited to a social hour at the Hundt residence on January 8 at 6:30 pm. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. We would like to get all ages of the women of our parish together to discuss how we as a group can do more service in our community. We 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.

**Congratulations:** Fr. Biju celebrates his anniversary of ordination on December 31<sup>st</sup>. God bless you for your dedication!

**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 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 7<sup>th</sup>.** 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.



Goal: \$11,760.00

Total Pledged: \$5,335.00

Total Received: \$5,335.00

Under Goal: \$6,425.00

Participation: 45%

**Pray Often & Daily!!!**

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target - \$1,870.00

Last Week's Total - \$2,220.00

\$350.00

Year to Date Target - \$44,880.00

Year to Date Total - \$36,360.85

-\$8,519.15

Readings for December 31, 2023

**First Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:22-40