

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.

Message for the week of January 8: Wise men came to worship Jesus. Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The wise men gave precious gifts to the Savior, gifts for a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They knew that Jesus was a great king, even though He looked like a small Child. Jesus gives us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. But, thank You for giving us the most precious Gift of Yourself in the Eucharist. This week, read how the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts in Matthew 2:1-12

GIVEN Retreat on Jan. 28, 2023: GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating and engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, and adoration, prayer and reconciliation. GIVEN retreats help couples foster a deeper relationship that is rooted in Jesus Christ and His Church. This mini retreat will:

- * Encourage a greater devotion to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist
- * Develop a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage through Theology of the Body
- * Provide couples the encouragement to live the vocation of marriage well in a culture that is increasingly more hostile to the sacrament.

Married, Engaged and Seriously Dating Couples are invited to attend. Speakers will be Ted and Julie Imgrund and Michael and Jacqueline VanHemmert. Cost: \$45 per couple For more information, contact Chris Rogers at crogers@diolc.org

Help Needed: Are you looking for a way to live your faith through service? Then become a volunteer or employee with Catholic Charities of the La Crosse Diocese! We are currently looking for volunteers to help in our La Crosse Warming Center this season. Take a look at the Volunteer website at: <https://cclse.org/volunteer-opportunities/> for information.

Kids Korner

THE EPIPHANY AND BAPTISM OF JESUS

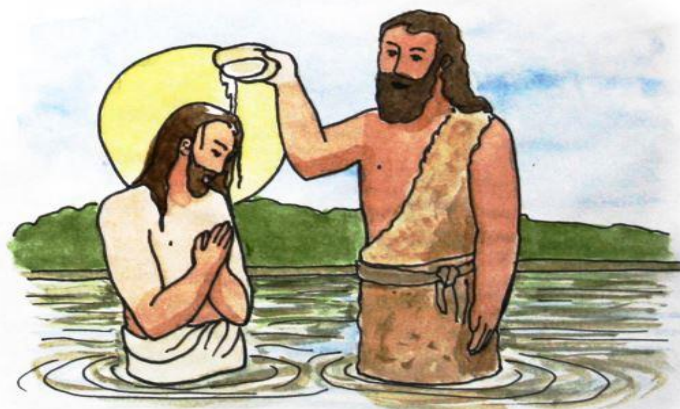
This week we celebrate both the Epiphany of our Lord and His baptism in the Jordan river. Today (Sunday) is the Epiphany, which is the day that we remember the wise men from far away in the East coming to worship the newborn baby Jesus. God let them know that His Son was coming and gave them a special star in the sky to follow to find Him. When they found Jesus with His mother Mary they knelt down and gave Him their precious treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Tomorrow (Monday) we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river. Jesus went to Saint John the Baptist, who was baptizing people and helping them repent from their sins. John knew that Jesus hadn't sinned but Jesus asked him to baptize Him anyway. This was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Until this time He had been living a life hidden from the rest of the world.



Like the wise men, we can give Jesus our best treasure: ourselves! If we decide to live our lives for Jesus then we will show the love of Jesus by our love for others.

**Epiphany Sunday January 8th, 2023
Baptism of the Lord January 9th, 2023**



What did Saint John the Baptist see that showed him that Jesus was the Son of God? Connect the dots to find out!

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 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

1/11 Wed. 8:00 AM – † Joyce DeFlorian (DF)

1/13 Fri. 8:00 AM – † Kathy Doyle (ANN)

1/14 Sat. 8:00 PM – St. Peters Parish Family

1/15 Sun. 10:00 AM – † Glenn Schmitz (MLH)

Thank you to all who donated towards our beautiful Christmas flowers!!

- In memory of deceased members of the Lee family (ML)
- From the Halderson family (MJH)
- From the Lucey family (PDL)
- In memory of Paul Hundt, Peggy Arentz & Marcie Hundt
- From Lavina Flock (LF)
- From Gary & Debra Flock (GDF)
- In memory of Raymond, Audrey & Janessa Korn, Charles & Elrita Leis
- From the Stephenson family (MJS)
- In memory of Rick Shermerhorn, Theresa & Arnold Arentz (JPS)
- In memory of Bobby & Arlene Arentz (DKS)
- In memory of Stan & Steven Hundt (AH)

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,700.00
Last Week's Total -	<u>\$3,815.20</u>
	\$2,115.20
Year to Date Target -	\$45,900.00
Year to Date Total -	<u>\$46,935.37</u>
	\$1,035.37

Readings for January 15, 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

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 January 14 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Andrew Schaub & Volunteer

Ushers: Tim Leis & Ron Hurtz

Lector: Dan Korn

Sunday, January 15 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Madi Gronemus & Arnie Nicolai

Ushers: Leo Leis & Mark Gronemus

Lector: Pam Benzing

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

Sun. Jan. 8 – Parish Potluck after mass

Mon. Jan. 9 – Inspired by the Spirit mtg @ 6:30 pm

Wed. Jan. 11 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. Jan. 15 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Sun. Jan. 15 – Take down Christmas decorations

Wed. Jan. 18 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. Jan. 22 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Fri. Feb. 3 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available after mass; contact Fr. Biju to schedule

Sun. Feb. 5 – Donuts, coffee & Sauerkraut Supper Conversation after mass

Sun. Feb. 5 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM



***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

The Epiphany of the Lord

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11

Happy Epiphany of the Lord! "Epiphany" means "Showing" or "Revelation". The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world. Mainly there are three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the first Sunday that follows. This year the feast of baptism of our Lord is going to be on the Monday after epiphany. Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honored tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2023 — is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 23**. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "23" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

"Jesus, ich liebe dich!" Jesus, I love you. These were the final words that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI uttered before he died, a powerful final expression of love and faith. May his soul rest in peace. On 28th of December 2022 the church celebrated the fourth centenary of the death of St Francis de Sales a man who was known for his gentleness, wisdom and holiness. To mark his death anniversary Pope Francis had the apostolic letter called 'TOTUM AMORIS EST' which means "EVERYTHING PERTAINS TO LOVE". his feast day is celebrated on the 24th of January. Being a special year, I will have the part of my message extract taken from 'TOTUM AMORIS EST'. As Missionaries of St Francis de Sales we follow the spiritual legacy left to us by Saint Francis de Sales, who died four centuries ago, on 28 December 1622, in Lyon. "Francis was born on 21 August 1567 in the Castle of Sales, near Thorens, the son of François de Nouvelles, Lord of Boisy, and Françoise de Sionnaz. "His life spanned two centuries, the sixteenth and the seventeenth, and he embodied the best of the teachings and cultural achievements of the century then drawing to a close, reconciling the inheritance of humanism with the striving for the Absolute proper to the currents of mysticism".

"The criterion of love - By experience, Francis had come to realize that desire is at the root of all true spiritual life, but also the cause of its debasement. Drawing abundantly from the spiritual tradition that had preceded him, he recognized the importance of constantly testing desire through the exercise of discernment. He found the ultimate criterion for this assessment in love. In that final conference in Lyon, on the feast of Saint Stephen, two days before his death, he had said: "It is love that grants perfection to our works. I will tell you much more. Take a person who suffers martyrdom for God with an ounce of love; that person merits much, since he could give nothing greater than his own life. Yet another person who has only suffered a scratch with two ounces of love will have much more merit, because it is charity and love that give value to our works". There is more to be found on our parish website under "Bulletins" as an attachment for this week.

This Monday I want to welcome all of you to the open session of the *Inspired by the Spirit* Campaign on Monday January 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the St Joseph School Hall. This meeting will be with Jeff McSweeney who is a representative from the Lynch company which is helping the diocese with the appeal. He will be able to clarify any questions about this campaign. Its open to everyone. Your presence is recommended. Have a blessed week.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Christmas Decorations: We will take down the decorations after mass on **January 15th**. Please plan to help!!

Donation Envelopes for 2023: The production for our 2023 envelopes is behind schedule. We will get them out as soon as we can. In the meantime, feel free to use any old envelopes you may have (your number doesn't change) or place in a regular envelope with your name on it. Thank you for your understanding!

Inspired by the Spirit Campaign Meeting: There will be a meeting regarding the *Inspired by the Spirit* Campaign on **Monday January 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm** at the School Hall. **We need to put together a committee for this campaign. Please contact Fr. Biju if interested.** All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Inspired by the Spirit Campaign: This year our Diocesan Annual Appeal will be held in conjunction with the Inspired by the Spirit campaign and 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 **February 5th**. Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.

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 Friday February 3rd**.

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!