

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Eucharistic Revival - 2022 through 2025:**

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

**Message for the week of January 28: A Minute with Jesus: Why does Jesus want to live in your heart?**

God has created each person absolutely unique – there is only one of you. Jesus knows you and loves you, and wants to be with you always. Jesus has a love in His Heart that only you can receive. If you don't receive Jesus' love for you, it will be "wasted." And likewise, you have a love in your heart that only you can give to Jesus. If you don't give that love, there will be an empty place in Jesus' Heart. Let's pray this right now and every day this week. Jesus, I want to receive all the love You have for me, and I want to give You all of my love. This week, read about how much God loves you in John 3:16. To make this personal, replace "the world" with your own name.

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

"The Answer" Eucharistic Rally on Friday, June 7, 2024, is for catechetical leaders, catechists, interested adults, families, parents and their 7-12 grade students. This will be the largest event for our diocese; you don't want to miss it. Please encourage the people of the parish to join us for a Eucharistic Procession with Bishop Barron and Bishop Callahan, excellent speakers, music, vendors, and, of course, Mass, adoration and confession. Discounted tickets are now available for purchase. 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.

**Heritage Bake Sale:** Please join us on Saturday, February 10th from 9am - Noon for Blessed Sacrament Parish Women's Club Heritage Bake Sale, held in the parish hall. Featuring Polish Pierogis, Norwegian Lefse, Bohemian Kolotchkys, St Wenceslaus' Hot Lunch Fudge Bars, and other ethnic sweets! Plus, a live Lefse demonstration! **Location:** Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall - 130 Losey Blvd S, La Crosse WI 54601 **Date:** Saturday, February 10th, 9am – Noon.

**Vocations:** Do you know someone in your life that you think would make a good priest? Have you ever told them that? If not, you should! A significant contributing factor to young men discerning the priesthood has been the invitation and encouragement they receive from others, particularly parents, teachers, mentors and role models. Don't be afraid to tell a young man that they would make a good priest, as that may be just what they have been waiting for. Once you encourage them, don't hesitate to put them in contact with me to continue that conversation. I can be reached at: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

**Kids Korner**

*Baby Jesus is Presented in the Temple*

On February second we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. That is the day that Saint Joseph and Our Lady took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to consecrate Him to God. The Jews were supposed to dedicate their first-born sons to God, so Mary and Joseph were obedient to the law even though their Baby was God Himself!

This was a most amazing moment, even though almost nobody noticed it: here was the great Temple where the people came to worship God, and now God had actually come into it- as a little Baby! But only Mary and Joseph and the prophets Simeon and Anna knew what had happened.

Saint Paul tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Every time you receive Holy Communion, it's like baby Jesus entering the Temple. When you go to Communion, remember that you know that amazing secret- that even though the rest of the world might not know, you have just received Jesus! What a special moment!



Answers to Unscramble: man, cats, destroy, holy, come, spirit, voice, they, saying, AUTHORITY

**Unscramble: Jesus Casts out a Demon**

Sort out the letters to fill in the blanks. Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the last row of boxes.

And immediately there was in their synagogue a    (NMA) with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us,    (ESSJU) of Nazareth? Have you come to    (YDSETRO) us? I know who you are, the    (OYLH) One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and    (MEOC) out of him!" And the unclean    (TRSIPI), convulsing him and crying with a loud    (IOCEV), came out of him.

And    (YEHT) were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves,    (YSNIAG), "What is this? A new teaching!

With         he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."



**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**

Mark Nicolai (Chairman), Rachel Persson, Brandon Flock & 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)  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**JANUARY 28, 2024**



**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

1/31 Wed. 8:00 AM – No Mass

2/1 Fri. 8:00 AM – No Mass

2/3 Sat. 8:00 PM –

**St. Peters Parish Family**

2/4 Sun. 10:00 AM –

**† Rick Schermerhorn, Arnold  
& Theresa Arentz (RPS)**

Ministry Servers

**Saturday February 3 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub

Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Don Halderson

Lector: Lynda Hurtz

**Sunday February 4 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Arnie Nicolai & Kate Gronemus

Ushers: Gary Gronemus & Mark Stephenson

Lector: Kathy Flock

**\*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!!

From the Pastor's Pen

**Jesus teaches with authority!**

Our readings today remind us of God's authority. In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord.

As we reflect on our Gospel, we recognize that God possesses all authority and that we want to give Him all authority. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. All were fixed on His words and astonished at what He had to say. Suddenly, everyone's attention shifted to a man with an unclean spirit who began to question Jesus and His authority. Jesus responded, "Quiet, come out of him!" and removed the evil spirit from the man. All were amazed at the healing of this man.

Life can sometimes look like the synagogue in Capernaum. We are living as disciples of Christ when we suddenly recognize evil around us — through events in our lives, temptations we are enduring, or by falling into sin. It can distract us, consume our attention, or even cause us to despair. In these moments of trial, we must remember the Healer in our Gospel today. Recall His words, "Quiet, come out of Him!" Jesus has the power and authority over evil, for He has conquered sin and death. He also has the power and authority over us. And when we invite Him to have that authority, He will heal us and help us persevere.

Today, we are reminded that God is in control, and we want Him to be in control. In our lives, Jesus can free us from anxiety and bring us into union with the Father in the kingdom to come. He is the loving Healer Who will work miracles in our lives if we give Him the authority to do so.

Let us then put our trust in him – in the God who so loves us that he sent his only Son to speak and act on our behalf, on behalf of our salvation. We can then be free of anxieties about things of this world because when Jesus speaks, God acts. This is astonishing indeed.

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord known commonly as Candlemas Day. The Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates not only the obedience of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the Mosaic Law in going to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of Christ, but also the Presentation of our Lord in the temple. Candles are blessed on this day, a symbolic representation of the words of holy Simeon concerning Christ: "A light of revelation to the Gentiles." So, the Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term "Candlemas."

Parish News

**Visiting Priests:** We welcome Msgr. Robert Hundt and Fr. Dan Sedlacek while Fr. Biju returns home for a visit. There will be no weekday masses until Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Peter's Childrens Choir:** Our next practice will follow the 10:00 mass on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Peter's Couples Night:** Valentine's day is a time to celebrate your love. St. Peter's Couples Night will be **Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 - 9 PM in the church basement. There will be an inspirational speech by Fr. Billy Dodge, intimate multi-course meal with your Sweetheart, romantic music and Christian fellowship. Make your reservations by **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** by calling the parish office or send an email to [parishoffice@stpmr.diolparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpmr.diolparish.org) or speak to Tom or Melissa Schaub. This event is open to all married or engaged couples. At this time only one couple has responded. We will need several more to make this event happen. This is spiritual food for your marriage!!

**Mark Your Calendars:** Cabin Feverfest, St. Peter's annual Euchre party & Luncheon, is planned for March 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at noon. **We will need more help from parishioners this year as many who have helped in the past are out of town.** There will be fliers and a sign-up sheet for food donations closer to the event.

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development:** This collection will take place on the weekend of February 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch for an envelope in your bulletin.

**Members of St. Peter's Parish:** The ladies of the parish who met this last month are hoping to be able to provide a service to our church members and greater community. We are going to try to organize and be available to those who may need some help. We are going to begin with meals and/or visits to those who may be needing this type of assistance. We are asking those able-bodied members of the parish to provide their contact information to be added to a list that will be utilized if a need arises. No one will be asked too much. We are hoping with enough of us involved that the needs of parish members can be spread out over the rest of us to provide assistance. Many hands make light work. This will allow us to be the hands of Christ in a more active manner and extend beyond our own families. I know all of us are busy. But I am hopeful that by making a group of us available and willing to help, the responsibilities for caring for others will be shared by all. Please contact LaVonne Hundt at [lvhundt@gmail.com](mailto:lvhundt@gmail.com) or 608-317-9541 to add your name to the volunteer list.

**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 4<sup>th</sup>.** Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.

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

Wed. Jan. 31 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 - 8:15 PM

Fri. Feb. 2 - Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule

Sun. Feb. 4 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 - 9:45 AM

Sun. Feb. 4 - Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Sun. Feb. 4 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Wed. Feb. 7 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 - 8:15 PM

Fri. Feb. 9 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Peter's Couples Night

Sun. Feb. 11 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 - 9:45 AM

Wed. Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday mass at 8:00 PM

Wed. Feb. 14 - CCD Students attend mass with your family



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)

Thursdav.....8:30am



**Goal: \$11,760.00**

**Total Pledged: \$6,560.00**

**Total Received: \$6,560.00**

**Under Goal: \$5,200.00**

**Participation: 56%**

**Pray Often & Daily!!!**

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target - \$1,870.00

Last Week's Total - \$981.00

-\$889.00

Year to Date Target - \$54,230.00

Year to Date Total - \$65,675.38

+\$11,445.38

Readings for February 4, 2024

**First Reading:** Job 7:1-7

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:29-39