

Diocesan and Community News

Message for the week of December 15:

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus Came Into the World to be Our Model of Holiness. Jesus, God of the universe, the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, humbled Himself and took on human flesh, being born as a tiny infant in Bethlehem. The New Testament highlights the fact that Jesus' entire Earthly life was dedicated to loving and serving each person He met. Today, Jesus is our model of unconditional love in giving Himself to us in the holy Eucharist. Through receiving Him in holy communion, we are strengthened to follow Jesus' example of giving ourselves in love and service to others. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help us to read the Bible so that we can learn to follow Your example of self-giving love in all circumstances. This week, read how Mary responded to the "hint" from the angel Gabriel to go and serve Elizabeth, who was with child in her old age through a miracle of God in Luke 1:36-56.

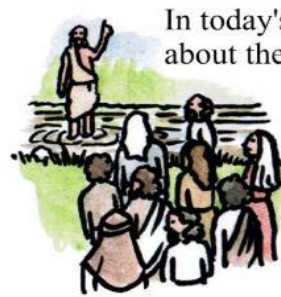
Advent Sets the Stage for Christmas Joy: Even if you are too busy or exhausted from all that you desire to accomplish during Advent, you can ask the Holy Spirit to give you a hunger for Christ's presence. He will answer that prayer. Planning the specified time for prayer each day is important; otherwise, it can so easily fall by the wayside. Further, making a good confession during the season of Advent is something you don't want to miss. Your burden of guilt and the weight of sin will be taken away, which leads to healing and interior freedom. This cleansing from sin allows more room in your heart for the Christ Child. You can also fast from TV programs or desserts or other things that you like a little too much, which in the end, really don't satisfy your heart. Fasting helps increase your hunger for Christ. Please know that it is not too late to begin the internal preparation for the coming of the Christ Child! During these days, prepare your heart so that the birth of the Christ Child coming as your Savior is your greatest gift on Christmas Day.



On December 7th Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals from 16 countries at a consistory at St. Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican. One is from Fr. Biju's home state. Msgr. George Jacob Koovakad, 51, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State who is responsible for organizing papal trips. Please keep him in your prayers.

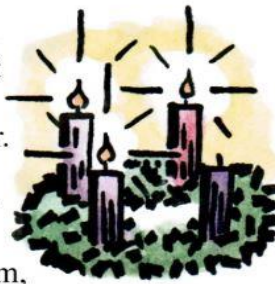
Kids Korner

Pointing the Way to Jesus



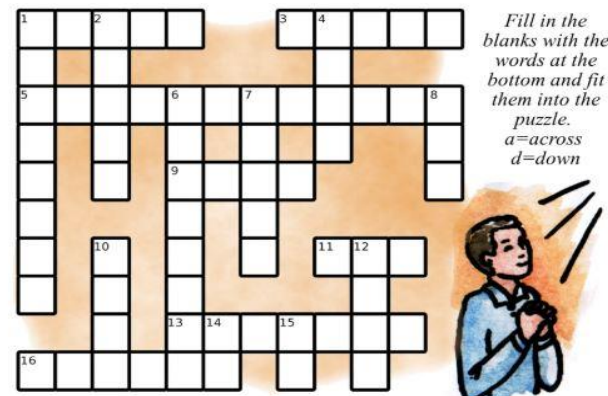
In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming- by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to see and hear him, and he showed them the way to God.



How can you be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to Jesus?

Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle. a=across d=down

Brothers and _____ (13a): Rejoice in the _____ (12d) always. I _____ (3a) say _____ (14d) _____ (2d): rejoice! Your _____ (6d) should be known _____ (15d) all. The Lord is _____ (9a). _____ (4d) no anxiety at _____ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and _____ (1d), with _____ (5a), make _____ (10d) requests known to _____ (8d). Then the _____ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will _____ (7d) your hearts and minds in _____ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

PASTOR

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS

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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

Miranda Flock

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, Pat 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 15, 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

**12/18 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
Living & deceased members of
the Korish, Walker, Roth &
Sandau families (RJK)**
**12/20 Friday 8:00 AM –
† Albert Skroska (PTS)**
**12/21 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Mary Weber & family (BJL)**
**12/22 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Stanley & Steven Hundt (AH)**
**12/24 Tuesday 8:00 PM –
† Arnold & Theresa Arentz &
Rick Schermerhorn (RPS)**
**12/25 Wednesday 10:00 AM -
† Dave & Marcie Hundt (HF)**



"For we are co-workers;
you are God's field,
God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9
DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

GOAL **\$12,520.00**

PLISHED AND RECEIVED **\$7,750.00**

OF DONORS **25**

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,682.00
	-\$188.00
Year to Date Target -	\$43,010.00
Year to Date Total -	\$33,239.13
	-\$9,770.87

Readings for December 22, 2024

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4
Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Ministry Servers

Saturday December 21 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen
Ushers: Tim Leis & Mike Schaub
Lector: Julie Lundeen
Sunday December 22 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Arnie & Adeline Nicolai
Ushers: Leo Leis & Mark Gronemus
Lector: John 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

Wed. Dec. 18 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Wed. Dec. 18 - Confessions available starting at 6:15 PM
Sun. Dec. 22 - No CCD Grades 1-6 / Christmas break
Sun. Dec. 22 - Christmas decorating of the church
Tues. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Mass @ 8:00 PM
Choir will sing from 7:30 until time of mass
Wed. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day mass @ 10:00 AM
Wed. Dec. 25 - Grades 7-10 NO CCD CLASS
Sun. Dec. 29 - No CCD Grades 1-6 / Christmas break
Fri. Jan. 3 - Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule
Sun. Jan. 5 - 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
Third Sunday of Advent

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. We rejoice because we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and we wait for Christ's return in glory.

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John is asked, "What must we do?" There are three outstanding things about John's message. He began by demanding that people should share with one another. Let the tax-collectors be good tax-collectors, let the soldiers be good soldiers. People had a duty to serve God where God had placed them.

John the Baptist, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. We must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat others justly. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives.

As Advent quickly moves along, I encourage you to take some time to reflect upon the great mysteries we celebrate at this time of the year. Incarnation shows how much God loves us. Be prepared to receive Him. The Sacrament of penance is an important part of our Advent preparation for a worthy celebration of Christmas.

Wishing you a grace filled Gaudete Sunday!

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Religious Retirement collection: 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 last week. 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.

Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate towards the flowers that will decorate our church you can place your donation in an envelope in the offertory. **We will be decorating the church on December 22nd after mass.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: We will have confessions available here at St. Peters on Wednesday December 18th beginning at 6:15 pm with 2 priests available. There will be all day confessions at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman on Monday, December 16th from 9 am - 6 pm. There will be four to five priests available to hear confessions at any given time.

Save the Date: There is a new fundraiser being planned to support our parish. Mark your calendars for February 8th and watch the bulletin for more information. If you would like to help with panning please contact Rachel at 608-386-9543.

Diocesan Thank You: "A heart-felt thank you from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission office to St. Peter Parish of Middle Ridge for your generous response of prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. Your response to Pope Francis' call to 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet' gives witness to your commitment to Christ. We will forward your financial contribution of \$371.00 to our national office."

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 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 next on January 3rd.** Contact Father if there is a need before then.

Diocesan Annual Appeal: Our goal this year is \$12,520. The funds collected go towards the running of the Diocese and other smaller collections. Keep in mind that any donations over our goal come back to our parish for our own projects.

Parishioners: Please remember that we have a group of ladies willing to help with meals or visit for you or a family member if needed. Please call or text LaVonne at 608-317-9541 for more information.

Hearing Assistance: For anyone finding it difficult to hear during mass we now have head-sets available in the sacristy that can be used to help. They are linked into our sound system directly.