

Diocesan and Community News

Message for the week of December 7:

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus came into the world so that we might know God's love. It is deeply moving to read these words from Scripture: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). During this holy season of Advent, we want to take time to ponder the meaning of Christmas, as proof of God's love for us. The Nativity of Our Lord celebrates the point in history when the Son of God took on human flesh for our Salvation – an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, in order to offer Himself for us on the Cross, and now, give Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Heavenly Father, help me to realize how much You love me in that You sent Your Son on the first Christmas as my Savior. This week, read how the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that She would be the Mother of our Savior in Luke 1:26-38.

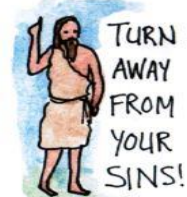
Advent - A Time of Preparation: The four weeks leading up to Christmas are to be different from our ordinary routine. Yet it is not meant to be a time of celebration, as that really begins on Christmas Eve. Advent is to be spent preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and eternal death. This focus of spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation can be difficult to maintain in the hectic hustle and bustle of the materialistic side of this sacred season. An important point for Advent is to keep everything simple by placing a limit on shopping and baking, while setting aside time for quiet prayer and for simply being with family members. Most of us don't need more gifts, but rather more time with each other. It is an opportunity to gather the family and prepare by remembering the darkness that pervaded the time of the people of God as they awaited the birth of the Savior.

Cookie Walk & Craft Sale: Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 14, in the parish hall located at 2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Homemade cookies, candies, breads, pies, Scandinavian sweets, handcrafted items, Scrip gift cards and raffles are available for sale. Serving breakfast (featuring egg bakes and cinnamon rolls) and lunch (homemade soup and chili). Door Prizes announced every half hour.

Holy Trinity Cookie Walk: Saturday, December 14, 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Large assortment of Christmas Cookies. Basket raffle drawing at 11 (need not be present to win). **ATTENTION CRAFTERS** - there are still some tables available for crafters to rent during the Holy Trinity Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14th. Email us at htstannes@gmail.com for information!!

Kids Korner

We Joyfully Wait for Jesus



Advent is a time of joy, when we happily look forward to the coming of Jesus. Today's Gospel reading tells about how Saint John the Baptist went around telling everyone to repent and prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

An Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of Jesus, our Light, into the world. It has three purple candles and one pink candle. One candle is lit on the first week of Advent, and one more is added every week until Christmas. Every week it gets a bit brighter because we are getting closer to Jesus' coming at Christmas.

The purple candles stand for repentance- being sorry and making up for our sins. The pink candle represents joy. It is lit on the third week of Advent because we rejoice that the waiting is half over.



Immaculate Conception Word-Find

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



See if you can find the words that are written in CAPITALS. The leftover letters spell the name of a special prayer we can say to Mary on her feast day.

This year, December 9th is the feast day of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. That is a name for MARY that means that GOD made her WITHOUT SIN because he had CHOSEN her to be the MOTHER of HIS SON. Her SOUL was FREE from ORIGINAL sin even before she was BORN. All her life she KEPT her HEART PURE and without the STAIN of sin. Mary NEVER OFFENDED God, and with his GRACE, she spent her whole life LOVING JESUS.

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 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

12/9 Monday 8:00 PM –
† Otto & Theresa Schaub (SF)
12/11 Wednesday 5:15 PM –
† Doug Briedel (AMM)
12/13 Friday 8:00 AM –
Fr. Michael Klos (RK)
12/14 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Eustache & Gertrude Schaub
(TS)
12/15 Sunday 10:00 AM –
St. Peter's Parish Family

Ministry Servers

Monday December 9 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub
Ushers: Mike Schaub & Don Halderson
Lector: Melissa Schaub
Saturday December 14 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Isabell Korn & volunteer
Ushers: Bill Korn & Ron Hurtz
Lector: Lynda Hurtz
Sunday December 15 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Lukas, Max & Abel Slattery
Ushers: Rob Slattery & Mark Stephenson
Lector: Ann Hundt

Advent Retreat Wednesday December 11th

Mass at 5:15 PM
 Parish Social at 6:30 PM
 Speaker Fr. Dan Sedlacek at 7 PM
DON'T MISS IT!!!

Parish Calendar of Events

Mon. Dec. 9 – Immaculate Conception mass @ 8:00 PM
Tues. Dec. 10 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30 PM
Wed. Dec. 11 – Parish Social @ 6:30 PM, Advent Retreat with Fr. Dan @ 7 pm followed by Adoration
Wed. Dec. 11 – Grades 7-10 CCD Christmas Caroling
Sun. Dec. 15 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
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
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

Second Sunday of Advent

Quite likely you have a long checklist of things that you need to do before Christmas, which is now only three weeks away. But is "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" on that list? Advent is the time given to us to revive our hopes for the glorious coming of our Savior. St John teaches us to prepare the way for the Lord. But it is not about the path in a literal sense, but rather about our hearts, about our conversion, that is, cleansing ourselves from sins, about getting rid of pride and selfishness, about smoothing out roughness in dealing with our neighbors, about acting for what is good. And so, we have to make our own lives a straight path to God, a path without potholes we can fall into nor compromises that can send us on a detour. This is our task. Let us not waste the time that is given to us - let us convert ourselves and pray for the conversion of others.

Next Wednesday is advent confession at St Joseph. There will be one more priest assisting me from 6:15 pm. Please make yourself available to prepare for Christmas. On Wednesday December 18th confessions will be available at St Peter. How are valleys filled in, mountains made low, paths made straight, and rough ways smoothed? There is only one answer : Repentance!

Normally on December 9 we celebrate the feast of SAINT JUAN DIEGO but this year we celebrate the feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the Blessed Virgin is the patron of the United States. This is a major feast—in fact a Holy Day of Obligation—for the Church in the United States of America. This year is an exception with the feast not being a holy day of obligation. But we do have masses in both churches. Mary as the Immaculate Conception is the Patron Saint of the United States and Brazil.

Have a blessed Advent!

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Religious Retirement collection: Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 21,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

Holy Day Mass: There will be a mass on December 9th at 8:00 PM to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy day of Obligation.

Parish Advent Retreat: On Wednesday December 11th we will have an Advent gathering. There will be mass at 5:15 PM, a Parish Social gathering with refreshments at 6:30 PM and Fr. Dan Sedlacek will speak at 7:00 PM. Adoration will follow. Please plan to attend as a way of preparation for the coming of our Lord. All are welcome.

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. There will be 2 priests available. St. Joseph Ridge will have confessions on Wednesday December 11th at 6:15 pm. 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.

Fundraising Help Needed: If you would like to help brainstorm and execute a new fundraiser for the parish, please contact Rachel Persson: 608-386-9543. We are looking for alternative ways to help financially support our parish. **There is a new fundraiser currently being planned.** Please contact Rachel if you would like to help!

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.



"For we are co-workers,
 you are God's field,
 God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:9

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

GOAL

\$12,520.00



PLEGDED AND RECEIVED

\$7,650.00

OF DONORS

24

Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$3,972.09
	-\$2,102.09
Year to Date Target -	\$41,140.00
Year to Date Total -	\$31,557.13
	-\$9,582.87

Readings for December 15, 2024

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18