

## Diocesan and Community News

### Message for the week of January 5:

**A Minute with Jesus:** 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 Magi gave precious gifts to adore the Christ Child, which reveal this holy Child's identity; God becoming man: gold for Christ's kingship, frankincense for His divinity and myrrh for His anointing after His sacrifice on the Cross. 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. 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.

**The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer:** On January 1st, Father Mark-Mary Ames is launching *The Rosary in a Year* podcast with Ascension Press! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at [AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear](http://AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear).

**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!

**Amen App:** The Amen app is the free Catholic prayer app that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture. You are welcome to register for this app from the Augustine Institute by clicking here: [www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/amen](http://www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/amen)

**"Behold: Prayer of the Saints" Young Adult Retreat:** This retreat is for young adults aged 18-25 and will be held on January 25, 2025, from 9 am-5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in La Crosse. Hear inspiring talks about the prayer of the Saints, foster a deeper Catholic community with other young adults, and participate in the life of God via Mass, Confession, and personal prayer. There are also optional evening socials on Friday, January 24 at 7 pm at 608 Brewing Co. and Saturday, January 25 at 6 pm at Pizzeria Dolorosa. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a warm meal. Register at [tinyurl.com/beholdprayer](http://tinyurl.com/beholdprayer).

### Kids Korner

#### 2025 Epiphany Blessing of the Home

*Epiphany* means "manifestation." The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child's identity; gold for Christ's Kingship, incense for His divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the *twelfth night of Christmas*, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to Sunday, January 5, 2025. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day.

This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, over all exterior doors:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat*

**(May Christ bless this house)**

- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year 2025: 20 + C + M + B + 25



*The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord is a special part of the Christmas season! What are we celebrating on this feast?*

### 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**

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**

Deborah 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2025



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

**1/8 Wednesday - No Mass**  
**1/10 Friday – No Mass**  
**1/11 Saturday 8:00 PM –**  
**Living & deceased members of**  
**Ken & Jean Wortman (RJK)**  
**1/12 Sunday 10:00 AM –**  
**The marriage of Steven &**  
**Hannah Hundt (MLH)**



“For we are co-workers;  
 you are God’s field,  
 God’s building.”  
 1 Corinthians 3:9

DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

GOAL

**\$12,520.00**



PLEGGED AND RECEIVED

**\$9,735.00**

# OF DONORS

**32**

**Pray Often & Daily!!!**



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$6,696.00
	\$4,826.00
Year to Date Target -	\$48,620.00
Year to Date Total -	\$46,983.13
	-\$1,636.87

Readings for January 12, 2025

**First Reading:** Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7  
**Second Reading:** Acts 10:34-38  
**Gospel Reading:** Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Ministry Servers

**Saturday January 11 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub  
Ushers: Tom Schaub & Mike Schaub  
Lector: Melissa Schaub

**Sunday January 12 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Lukas, Max & Abel Slattery  
Ushers: Robert Slattery & Mark Stephenson  
Lector: Ann 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 -
- Pray Spontaneously - Ask the Saints for help - Read the Scriptures

Parish Calendar of Events

**Sun. Jan. 5** – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM  
**Wed. Jan. 8** - Grades 7-10 Christmas Caroling  
**Sun. Jan. 12** - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM  
**Wed. Jan. 15** - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM  
**Sun. Jan. 19** - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM  
**Sun. Jan. 19** – Parish Potluck after mass  
**Fri. Feb. 7** – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule



**\*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.

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 Epiphany of the Lord**

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany. We come with the Magi to Bethlehem to worship the Lord. We want to see and honor the Son of God, born of Mary as He is revealed to all nations. The light of the star that led the three wise men to Bethlehem is also a guide for us, the people of this century. It prompts us to look for hope not in the promises of this world, but those out of this world. The star directs our gaze to Christ, the light of the world. The moment when the Magi, led by a star, adored the new King of the Jews, who also rules over the universe. And if we know this Person and allow Him to know us, then we are no longer slaves to the universe and its laws – we are free.

The Magi were *warned in a dream*, return to their homes *by another way*. It is an indication that whoever encounters God is profoundly changed, begins to walk in different ways, follow different paths. The encounters surrounding the Incarnation of the Son of God radically change everyone involved. Mary from a simple girl becomes the mother of God; Joseph from a humble carpenter develops into a housemaker of God; Shepherds tending their sheep come to tend to the needs of Jesus; Magi from pagans become the first believers. The story of Jesus’s Nativity has to transform us also. If it doesn’t, it simply means we haven’t encountered Him yet.

This weekend is also unique in many ways. It’s the first Sunday of the new year and it’s in the ordinary jubilee year, still in Christmas season. Please keep me in your prayers as I visit my family in India for couple of weeks. I wish you a New Year filled with God's blessings!

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

**Reminder:** To the parishioners who are participating in the CCD Christmas Caroling, weather permitting we will be stopping by Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> to spread some Christmas Cheer. If you will not be available that evening please contact Carol at (608)487-6170.

**Intentions for Fr. Biju:** Father will be visiting his home land from January 6 – 22 and will continue to pray a mass each day. If you would like to send any mass intentions for him to pray while he is gone, please place it in an envelope marked “Fr. Biju masses” and drop it in the collection by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Let us welcome Fr. Zach Edgar & Msgr. Robert Hundt while Fr. Biju is away.

**Nuptial Blessings:** Please keep Steven Hundt and Hannah Lazarescu in your prayers as they prepare to be wed here at St. Peters on January 11<sup>th</sup>. May God bless their union!

**Christmas Flowers: Thank you to those who have donated towards our Christmas flowers:**

- In memory of Leo & Shirley Servais (S&GF)
- From Margie Lee
- From Gary & Deb Flock
- In memory of Stanley & Steven Hundt
- From Jim & Patty Schermerhorn
- In memory of Bobby & Arlene Arentz (SF)
- From Lavina Flock
- From Jean Halderson
- In honor of the Al Antony family (AA)
- From Pat & Darla Lucey
- In memory of Alfred & Arlene Bahr (DW)

**Christmas decorations:** We will take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> after mass. Please help.

**Parish Potluck:** We will gather after mass on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> to have food and fellowship with our parish family in the church basement. Please bring a dish to pass.

**NEW FUNDRAISER!** A Beer, Wine and Cheese Tasting evening is being planned at Timmers 10-Mile Pub on February 8, 2025 from 2-5pm. Call 608-796-2270 to reserve your tickets as seating is limited. Tickets are \$25 per person and include the choice of wine or beer tasting with cheese and chocolate pairings, and an artisan pizza buffet. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:** approximately 8 volunteers are needed for day-of help, and we are asking for items/cash donations to help put together raffle baskets. Please contact Rachel Persson at 608-386-9543 if you have items to donate or wish to help. Thank you in advance!

**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 5<sup>th</sup>.** 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 February 7<sup>th</sup>.** Contact Father if there is a need before then.