

Diocesan and Community News

Message for the week of March 9:

A Minute with Jesus: As you take "steps forward," your faith in Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist will grow

We cannot simply convince ourselves through reason that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. One of the best ways to grow in this faith is to spend some time in conversation with Jesus, truly present in a Catholic Church. Go there and share something with the Lord that is on your heart. You will notice that probably without saying or feeling anything special, you will leave with a quieted heart. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help me commit to spending some time in conversation with you in Church. This week, read about how we can always find Jesus in His Father's house in Luke 2:41-51.

Lenten Mission with Our Lady of Guadalupe:

When: March 22, 2025

Where: St. Patrick Parish, 118 S K St, Sparta, WI

Join us as we explore one of the most amazing events in the history of the Church. Father Tim Oudenhoven will be presenting the vital message of Guadalupe for our troubled times. Let us stand close to Mary as she teaches us how to live for and love Jesus in our daily lives that all may come to believe and follow! Free Will Offering. Snacks & lunch will be provided.

Schedule: 8:15 am Mass, 9:30-1:30 program, 1:30-3:30 Adoration & Confession, Mass at 4:30pm

An Opportunity for a Deeper Experience of God's Presence - Jubilee of Hope 2025:

You are encouraged to participate in this Jubilee of Hope to receive God's gifts and experience His presence in a much deeper way. The gift of hope is especially important for us. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines hope as "the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817). Ask God to increase the gift of hope in you. Further, make simple acts of hope by saying, "Jesus, I trust in You."

For further details, visit diolc.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope.

Morning of Reflection: The Founder of W.I.N.E., Women in the New Evangelization, Kelly Wahlquist, is our speaker for this morning get together. It starts at 9 a.m. April 5, 2025 at the Cathedral. She is a dynamic and inspiring speaker that travels the United States with her message to be witnesses of our faith and part of the New Evangelization. This is an opportunity to have a wonderful conclusion to your Lent that will sustain you through the rest of this Jubilee year. All Catholic Women are welcome. There will be a light breakfast served and there is NO COST to anyone. It is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, Court 1183, and the La Crosse Deanery Council of Catholic Women. For more information call or text Kay Kesler at: 608-780-0485 and to let her know how many people are coming.

Kids Korner

Lent:

Getting ready for Jesus' death and resurrection

Lent is the special time when we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. We get our souls ready by doing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer is talking with God. We need to talk with God even more than we need to talk to our family and friends. Lent is a good time to get into a habit of talking with God every day.



Fasting is eating less than you normally would. It's a good idea to give up a little something you like for Lent. Giving things up helps us remember we need God, not just food.



Almsgiving means giving to those who are in need. It helps us to be generous like God. Maybe you have a bit of money you can give to the poor or to the Church.



Answers to True or False: 1. true, 2. false, 3. false, 4. true, 5. false, 6. true, 7. false.

Jesus Was Tempted by the Devil: True or False?

How well do you know the story from today's Gospel reading?

1. Jesus went to the desert and didn't eat anything for 40 days. True or False?
2. Jesus was never tempted by the devil. True or False?
3. Jesus wasn't hungry, even after 40 days with no food. True or False?
4. The devil said that all the kingdoms of the world belonged to him. True or False?
5. Jesus said that He would only worship the devil if he gave Him all the power first. True or False?
6. Jesus wouldn't throw Himself off the Temple because He said it was "putting God to the test." True or False?
7. The devil kept bothering Jesus, even when he ran out of things to tempt him about. True or False?



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

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
608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 9, 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

3/12 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
The marriage of Cohan & Monica Bonow (MLH)
3/14 Friday 8:00 AM–
Our Neighbors (PTS)
3/15 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Asa & Ruth Ann Rowell (MLH)
3/16 Sunday 10:00 AM –
St. Peters Parish Family

Ministry Servers

Saturday March 15 – 8:00 PM
 Servers: Isabell Korn & volunteer
 Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Bill Korn
 Lector: Lynda Hurtz
Sunday March 16 – 10:00 AM
 Servers: Max & Abel Slattery
 Ushers: Rob Slattery & Peter Benzing
 Lector: Pam Benzing
 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!!

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays during Lent @ 7:30 PM
Adoration to follow

Parish Calendar of Events

Tues. March 11 - Cemetery Committee meeting @ 7:30 PM
Wed. March 12 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 - 8:15 PM
Sun. March 16 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 - 9:45 AM
Wed. March 19 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 - 8:15 PM
Sun. March 23 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 - 9:45 AM
Fri. April 4 - Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule
Sun. April 6 - Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM
Wed. April 9 - Confessions/2 priests available @ 6:30 PM

From the Pastor's Pen

First Sunday of Lent

The Season of Lent has begun. This is a time of penance, purification, and conversion. Every first Sunday of Lent brings us meditation on Jesus being led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where He faces intense temptations from the devil. This happens immediately after his Baptism by John in the Jordan. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt to freedom.

This episode of Jesus in the wilderness not only reveals Christ's victory over sin and His total reliance on the Word of God, but it also serves as a powerful reminder that our journey of faith requires perseverance, trust, and active engagement with God's grace. Jesus' resistance to temptation is a testament to His active commitment to the Father's will.

In our own faith journey this Lent, let's reflect on how we can resist the "temptations of the wilderness" in our lives. Let this Lent be a special time to exam how each of us is living our Christian life. Let these days be a time of spiritual renewal. Let these be a time to participate in the Mass either in person or virtually every day. Let it be a time of personal prayer, reading the Holy Scripture, setting aside some of our blessings to be a blessing to others. Let these be a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the "Stations of the Cross", visiting the sick and those in nursing homes and doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy.

We will have the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at St Joe's and 7:30 pm at St Peter's.

Wishing you a grace filled Lent.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju MSFS

Parish News

Stations of the Cross: On Wednesdays during Lent we will recite the Stations of the Cross beginning at 7:30 pm with Adoration to follow. This is a prayerful biblical meditation of 14 incidents from the Gospel accounts and traditions of the journey of Jesus from Pilate's house to being placed in the tomb. If you would like to volunteer to be the reader, please contact the parish office.

BIBLE Study: There will be a Bible study on Tuesday evenings at the St. Joseph school hall beginning March 11th and continuing March 18th, 25th, April 1st, 8th, and 15th called "Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God" with a clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy. In six video sessions Lectio: "Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God" captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love. Please contact Stacy Burns (608-769-8828) to sign up (so study guides can be ordered).

The Bible study includes:

- The Lectio Divina approach of Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Contemplating
- Penetrating questions and insights for the six video sessions
- Additional resources for a fuller understanding and application
- Daily reflections to deepen the meaning of prayer in your life

Penance Services Available: There will be confessions available at St. Peters on April 9th beginning at 6:30 pm until done. As previous years, there will be 2 priests available. This year the sacristy location will have a divider to be able to choose between a private or face-to-face confession. Two priests will be available at St. Josephs on Wednesday, April 2nd, beginning at 6:30 pm until done. There is also an opportunity at the Cathedral on April 14th from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM with several priests available.

Diocesan Annual Appeal: We have reached our goal of \$12,520. **Don't stop now!!** Any money collected over our goal comes back to St. Peter's for our own use towards projects and evangelization.

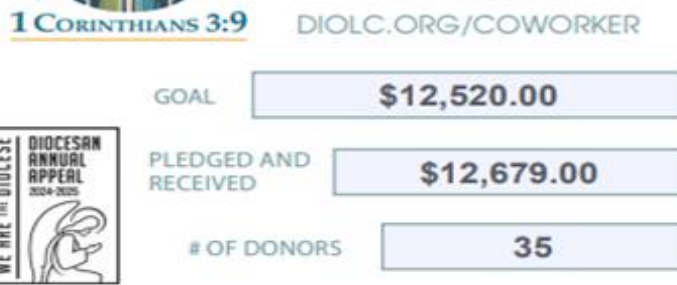
First Sunday Rosary: We pray the rosary on the first Sunday of each month in church at 7:30 PM. **The next one will be April 6th.** Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.

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 April 4th.** Contact Father if there is a need before then.



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

DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER



Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$2,697.00
	\$827.00
Year to Date Target -	\$65,450.00
Year to Date Total -	\$60,462.19
	-\$4,987.81

Readings for March 16, 2025

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-18
Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36



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
 Monday5:30pm
 Tuesday..... 5:30pm
 (Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 pm)
 Thursday.....8:30am