

Diocesan and Community News

Message for the week of February 16:

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus will help us believe what we cannot understand. The Lord always comes in to strengthen and confirm our faith in response to our desire to believe. He actually even uses our hesitation in accepting His Real Presence in the Eucharist to bring us to a deeper, more lively faith in the truth of this mystery. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, please strengthen my faith to believe that You are truly present in the holy Eucharist. This week, read how Jesus responds to those who are questioning the mystery of the Eucharist in John 6: 52-59.

Jubilee 2025—Pray as 'Pilgrims of Hope': We live in a time of much anxiety, fear, unsettledness and discontent. The theme for this Jubilee Year 2025 should capture our attention, with its focus on hope. Hope is an incredible virtue which is given to us by God at baptism that disposes us to live in relationship with the Blessed Trinity. Hope is the 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). During this year of hope, "let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus" (Heb. 12:1-2). One way to participate in Jubilee 2025 is to receive the sacraments on a more frequent basis. The sacrament of the holy Eucharist - Jesus Himself - opens our eyes to see His power and love in action in our daily lives and those around us. Let us join the parish family in gathering together each Sunday (or Saturday evening) to be strengthened in the powerful gift of hope.

Men of the Cross "Freedom in Forgiveness": Our relationship with Christ is many things. He is your refuge, someone to celebrate your joys, mourn with you in your sorrows and is the one to break the chains that bind you and set you free. What are the chains that bind you? The world tries to convince you that the baggage you carry is not too heavy and that you probably deserve to carry that burden. But that is a lie. Christ wants you to be set free. There is Freedom in Forgiveness! Maybe you have been carrying around the same burden for a long time. Maybe you really don't understand forgiveness, how to forgive others, or how to forgive yourself. You may have forgotten what it feels like to be free. Join men from all over the Diocese of La Crosse and beyond, to experience Freedom in Forgiveness through Mass, inspiring talks, honest discussion and fellowship. The Church needs men to live free, allowing them to help other men break the chains that bind them so they may also live the joy-filled life that Christ wants for us.

What: Men of the Cross: "Freedom in Forgiveness"

Who: All men (High School students who attend with a parent or guardian are free.)

When: March 8, 2025

Where: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, La Crosse, WI

Cost: \$30 per person (includes lunch!)

Registration: menofthecross.org

Speakers: Bob Kroll and Dominic Carstens. Mass with Bishop Battersby

Look for a flier on the bulletin board in the back of church and cards with more information in the vestibule.

Kids Korner

Hidden Blessings



In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us that people who are poor, hungry, or sad are blessed! Do they sound blessed to you?

Bad things that happen to us have hidden blessings in them. If you are poor then your family and friends are more important to you than money and things. If you are hungry then you appreciate food more. If you are sad then sometimes it's easier to remember to pray.

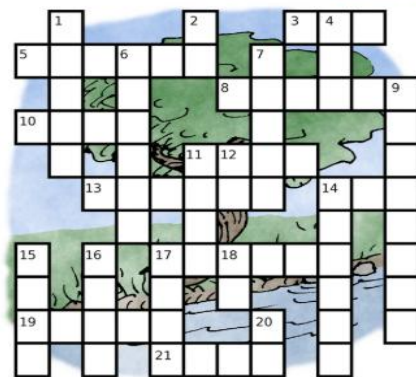
But things that seem bad have another hidden blessing in them- when you are suffering, you can give your sadness or hurt to Jesus. Tell Him you are offering it up along with Him on the cross. He will give you grace to make your soul stronger. You can offer things up for other people too, and God will use your gift to help them!

Next time you feel unhappy about something, try to find the hidden blessing!



Answers to Cross-Word puzzle:
 Across: 2. When 3. trees & bushes 2. heat
 14. but 1. things 2. heat
 14. but 1. things 2. heat
 Down: 1. green 2. is 4. his 6. stream 7. human 9. distress
 11. tree 12. he 14. beside 15. Lord 16. from 17. bush 18. in
 20. it

Trust in the Lord Cross-Word



- beings
- distress
- stream
- human
- trusts
- cursed
- beside
- roots
- barren
- green
- heat
- year
- it
- tree
- is
- but
- who
- he
- in
- his
- bush
- Lord
- that
- from

Here is today's first reading, from Jeremiah.
 Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and fit them into the puzzle.

Thus says the Lord:
 8a is the one who trusts in 7d 17a ,
 3a seeks 4d strength 18d flesh,
 whose heart turns away 16d the Lord.
 12d is like a 13a 17d in the desert
 11a enjoys no change of season,
 14a stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.
 Blessed is the one who 5a in the Lord,
 whose hope is the 15d .
 He 2d like a 11d planted 14d the waters that
 stretches out its 19a to the 6d ;
 it fears not the 21a when 20d comes; its leaves stay 1d ;
 in the 10a of drought it shows no 9d ,
 but still bears fruit.

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



Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 16, 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

2/19 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
Vocations to Holy Orders (PTS)
2/21 Friday 8:00 AM–
† Stanley Hundt (AH)
2/22 Saturday 8:00 PM –
James & (†)Kelly Klumpp (RJK)
2/23 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Chelsea Mashak (MF)



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

GOAL **\$12,520.00**

PLEGDED AND RECEIVED **\$12,679.00**

OF DONORS **35**



Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$2,383.26
	\$513.26
Year to Date Target -	\$59,840.00
Year to Date Total -	\$55,687.19
	-\$4,152.81

Readings for February 23, 2025

First Reading: Samuel 26:2-23
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38

Ministry Servers

Saturday February 22 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub
Ushers: Tom Schaub & Tim Leis
Lector: Melissa Schaub

Sunday February 23 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Lukas Slattery & Sawyer Tollefson
Ushers: Rob Slattery & Leo Leis
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.

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

Tues. Feb. 18 – Parish Finance meeting @ 6:30 PM

Wed. Feb. 19 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sat. Feb. 22 – Children’s Choir practice @ 3:00 PM

Sun. Feb. 23 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Wed. Feb. 26 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. March 2 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Sun. March 2 – Cabin Feverfest @ noon

Sun. March 2 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Fri. March 7 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule

Tues. March 11 – Cemetery Committee meeting @ 7:30 PM



***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

From the Pastor’s Pen

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Gospel reading for today comes right after Jesus has picked the twelve. Then, having chosen these apostles He leads them down the mountain and begins to speak to the people waiting there. There are also a lot of curious people who have come a long way to hear Jesus and to be healed. Jesus starts by healing those who need it, and then he turns to the disciples again, not just the twelve, but the larger crowd and begins to speak to them about the Beatitudes.

Standing in front of Jesus in the crowd are the poor, the hungry, those who mourn, and those who are persecuted. There are also those standing in the crowd who have selfishly hoarded their riches. Jesus standing in a great prophetic tradition of ancient Israel, which sees the coming ‘Day of the Lord’ as a great reversal tells them about what it means to be blessed. We are blessed when we are God-centered, regardless of our earthly circumstances, and we find woe whenever we are self-centered.

When Jesus blesses the poor and hungry, the sorrowful and the ridiculed, he isn’t saying that we should all aspire to poverty, hunger, sorrow, or being verbally abused. It would rather mean God is present with us, even when the world has abandoned us; that God loves us, even when everyone else hates us.

When Jesus announces woe to those who are rich, who eat well, and enjoy fame and admiration from people, he isn’t saying that wealth, good food, and popularity are bad things. It could mean that when we are focused on satisfying our own appetites, we have turned our attention away from God, and our self-centeredness will be our spiritual doom. Where am I in my spiritual journey? Am I self-centered or God centered?

Wish you a blessed week.

Live Jesus, Fr Biju

Parish News

Children’s Choir: We will be practicing at 3 PM on Saturday, February 22nd for about 45 minutes.

St. Peter’s Cabin Feverfest: Our annual Euchre Tournament & Luncheon is planned for Sunday March 2nd. The doors will open at Noon with card games beginning at 1:00 PM. The cost will be \$15 per person. The sign up sheet and fliers can be found in the back of church. Please take these around to the places you frequent to get the word out. **Let’s have a good ST. PETERS PARISHIONER turn out!!**

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: The Father McCaffrey Council 9438 will be holding a pancake, sausage and egg breakfast on Sunday February 23rd from 8:30 am to Noon in the basement of St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish in West Salem. This will be a free will offering for the breakfast. Proceeds from the Breakfast go to seminarians for their religious education.

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.

Evenings of Hope: You are invited to participate in one of the *Evenings of Hope* with Bishop Battersby in La Crosse, Eau Claire and Wausau. The first Evening of Hope will be held in La Crosse on Feb. 22. Bishop Battersby will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman and impart the Papal Blessing with the attached plenary indulgence. A Holy Hour will follow Mass, during which Bishop Battersby will offer a jubilee reflection on hope. Confessions will also be heard. The event will end with a closing benediction at 7:00 p.m.

Unplug! Set an easy goal: The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5. It is helpful for us to decide on what we will do before Lent actually begins so that we are ready on Ash Wednesday. Would you like to “unplug” from screens by setting an easy goal of time to fast? There will be a simple theme for each week to help stay committed:

- Set aside social media and phones
- Step out of your comfort zone
- Stand tall against what is difficult
- Spend time with family
- Savor sacred Scripture - renew your mind
- See better what is true, good and beautiful

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 March 2nd.** 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 March 7th.** Contact Father if there is a need before then.