

Diocesan and Community News

Need Hope? Take A Minute to Get to Know the “God of All Hope”
Jesus is Our Hope (1 Tim 1:1) The Advent hymn *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* is about hope as it refers to Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah promised throughout the Old Testament. Jesus is “the hope of all the earth” because He brings salvation to each and every person, fulfilling God the Father’s universal plan for redemption. Jesus is the “dear desire of every nation” because He is the ultimate answer to the deepest longings and needs of every person.

The second verse of *Come, O Long Expected Jesus*:
Israel’s strength and consolation, You, the *hope* of all the earth,
Dear desire of every nation, come, and save us by Your birth.

Let us make a good confession before Christmas to purify our hearts for the celebration of the Incarnation—God becoming man to save us from Satan, sin and death.

Pro-Life Workshop with Emily Geiger: *Effective Dialogue with ‘Pro-Choice’ People – What we’ve learned from talking with thousands:*
Join us for this outstanding workshop with Emily Geiger of the Equal Rights Institute. Emily’s winning approach to pro-life dialogue has been tested and proven on college campuses all over the country. A dynamic speaker, she has appeared on MSNBC, EWTN, Relevant Radio, Focus on the Family, Christianity Today, and more. The Jan. 17 workshop will be held from 10:00 AM-3:30 PM at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 1414 W 5th St., Marshfield 54449, with lunch included. Visit diolc.org/respect-life for complete details.

Franciscan Spirituality Center: Winter can be an especially challenging time of year for people who are experiencing grief. The Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market St., La Crosse, WI, offers the following programs, open to anyone seeking support and understanding amid the loss of a loved one.

LONGEST NIGHT, 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, December 19: This participatory prayer service over Zoom brings together anyone who is feeling sadness, grief or loneliness as we approach the Winter Solstice. We’ll pause to remember the darkness and affirm the feelings and memories that are part of our story.

LISTENING TOGETHER, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, January 12: This free, drop-in gathering on the second Monday of the month is open to anyone who would like peer support and a safe place to share stories and process emotions – after an immediate loss as well as those that surface years later.

GRIEF CIRCLE, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays starting January 21: This six-week, in-person gathering is a welcoming space to share thoughts, feelings and concerns with others who understand the depth of your pain. For more information or to register, please visit www.FSCenter.org or call 608-791-5295.

Celebration Closing: The Jubilee Year of Hope officially ends on January 6th when Pope Leo XIV closes the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. A Mass to close the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of La Crosse will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman by Msgr. Richard Gilles, 10 a.m. on December 28th. All are welcome.

Kids Korner

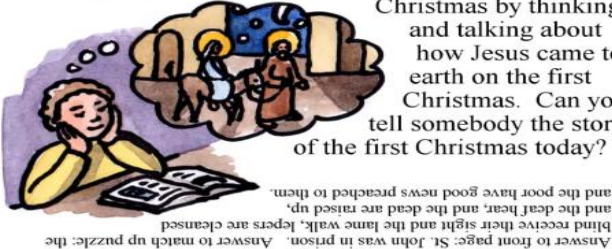
Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we’re half-way to Christmas.



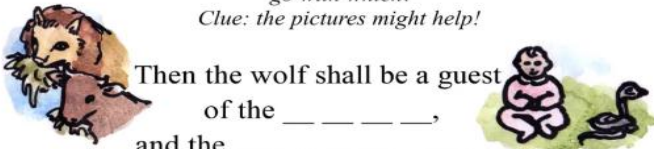
In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God’s people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



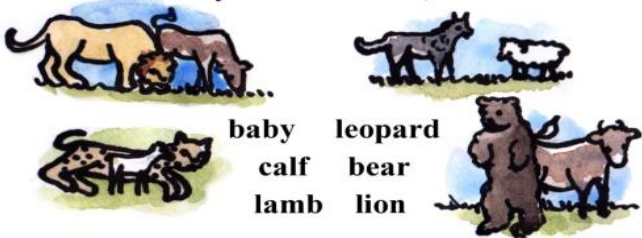
Peace Among the Animals

In today’s first reading, the prophet describes peace between animals and people in God’s kingdom. Can you figure out which animals (or people) go with which?
Clue: the pictures might help!



Then the wolf shall be a guest of the _____, and the _____ shall lie down with the kid; the _____ and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the _____ shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the _____ shall eat hay like the ox.

The _____ shall play by the cobra’s den,



PARISH PRIEST

Rev. Sengole Vethanayagam
(Fr. Sen) (715) 615-1774
frsengolevema@gmail.com

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday and Friday.....8:00 AM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....8:00 PM
Sunday.....10:00 AM

ADORATION

Wednesday....7:00 PM with Benediction at 8:05 PM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday during Adoration
Before Saturday mass & 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

Bulletin deadline:Wednesday
Email: parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org

PARISH WEBMASTER

Christopher Pundzak

SACRISTANS

Richard Korish & Austin Menn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Miranda Flock & Carol Gronemus (assistant)

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

FUNERAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Deborah Leis

MUSIC

Terese Slattery, Coordinator
Leland Gregorich, Organist

St. Peter’s
Catholic Church
Middle Ridge, WI
W697 State Hwy 33
Rockland, WI 54653
608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025



CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- Joining the Parish • Weddings • Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick
- If you are home-bound & would like to be visited

Parish Intentions

12/17 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
† Asa & Ruth Ann Rowell (MLH)
12/19 Friday 8:00 AM –
Living & deceased members of the
Joseph & Marie Kaiser family (KF)
12/20 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Vicki Johnson (MJM)
12/21 Sunday 10:00 AM –
St. Peters Parish Family

Attention: If you would like to have a mass prayed for your intention, you can place it in a marked envelope in the offertory. If you have a certain date you would like, please specify. The mass intention fee is now \$20.

Ministry Servers

Saturday December 20 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen
Ushers: Tim Leis & Don Halderson
Lector: Julie Lundeen
Sunday December 21 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Arnie & Adeline Nicolai
Ushers: Mark Stephenson & Mark Gronemus
Lector: Kathy Flock
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

Wednesdays: Rosary @ 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Exposition @ 7:20 PM – Quiet Prayer/Confession - Benediction @ 8:05 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

Sun. Dec. 14 – Retirement Fund for Religious collection
Tues. Dec. 16 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30 PM
Wed. Dec. 17 – Grades 7-10 Christmas Caroling
Sun. Dec. 21 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Dec. 21 – Christmas decoration set up after mass
Mon. Dec. 22 – Confessions at Cathedral 9 AM – 6 PM
Tues. Dec. 23 – Confessions available 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Wed. Dec. 24 – Grades 7-10 NO CCD Class
Sun. Dec. 28 - Grades 1-6 NO CCD Class
Sun. Jan. 4 – Rosary in church @ 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.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
(Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 p.m.)
Thursday.....8:30 a.m.
First Saturday Mass.....8:30am

Stewardship Reflection

Third Sunday in Advent

Good news, Christian stewards — we are making progress in our Advent journey, and it's time to pause and rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will return in victory one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are full of reminders of God's ultimate victory over suffering and injustice, and they encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to living as faith-filled disciples. Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world today. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we wait for the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." "Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged." This is excellent advice for us, Christian stewards, as we face the challenges of daily life in our broken world, especially during the hectic days before Christmas when stress can cause us and those around us to be less than our best. St. James reminds us that we have the power to choose our response to both the major strains and minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude by "making our hearts firm" through practicing patience with others and refusing the temptation to complain. Remember, we have the choice to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, regardless of the circumstances we face. This is a source of hope and optimism that can guide us through the challenges of our daily lives.

Parish News

Office Hours: The office hours for Fridays up until Christmas may vary. Wednesdays are best if you need to contact the secretary.
PCCW Cookie Sale: Thank you to all who purchased cookies after mass last weekend. We raised \$440. The proceeds will go to the Warming Center in La Crosse and Cashton Cupboard.

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 senior men and women religious. An envelope can be found in your bulletin today. Please return it next week and thank you for your generosity.

CCD Update: Wednesday, December 17th students will be Christmas caroling for the elderly of the parish. Students, please meet in Portland at 6:30 PM.

Confessions Available: St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral will have several priests available for confessions on Monday, December 22nd from 9 AM to 6 PM. On Tuesday December 23rd Fr. Sen will be available here from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Mission Trip: Join Us for a Life-Changing Mission Trip to Casa Hogar! Get ready for an unforgettable adventure! In August 2026, students from our parish are invited to travel to Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Peru—a home filled with joy, faith, and hope. You'll serve alongside incredible families, help with community projects, grow in friendship, and experience the vibrant culture of Peru. This is more than a trip—it's a chance to make a real impact and let God work through you in amazing ways. Want to learn more? Contact Mike Klinkner or Carol Gronemus. Let's step out in faith together!

Christmas Flowers & Church Decorating: Anyone wanting to donate towards the beautiful flowers that adorn our church during the Christmas season you may place your donation in a marked envelope in the offertory. We will set up the Christmas trees and decorate church on Sunday December 21st after mass. Please plan to help as many hands makes light work!!

Christmas Gift to Parishioners: The book '7 Pillars of Catholic Spirituality' will be given out at the Christmas Masses. Parish members are welcomed to help distribute these to families on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses. Please contact Melissa if you are interested in volunteering.

Reasons To Celebrate! Wedding Anniversary Blessings: At the first weekend masses Father Sen will bless all of the Wedding Anniversaries for the month. This Wedding Anniversary Blessing will continue for each subsequent month at the first weekend masses. Birthday Blessings: At the second weekend masses, Father Sen will bless the birthdays for the month. The Birthday Blessing will continue each subsequent month at the second weekend masses.

Looking Ahead:

St. Peter's: Christmas Eve Mass is on Wednesday, December 24 th at 8 PM. Christmas Day Mass is Thurs., Dec. 25 th at 10 AM. New Year Day Mass is on January 1, 2026, at 10 AM.	St. Joseph's: Christmas Eve Mass is on Wednesday, December 24 th at 4 PM. Christmas Day Mass is Thurs., Dec. 25 th 8:30AM. New Year Day Mass is January 1, 2026, at 8 AM.
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Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,440.00
	-\$460.00
Year to Date Target -	\$43,700.00
Year to Date Total -	\$38,867.04
	-\$4,832.96

Looking Ahead: Readings for December 21, 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24