

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 a prayer of hope, asking that by the grace of the Holy Spirit we allow Jesus to reign in our lives. It is Jesus’ perfect actions of His life, crucifixion, death and resurrection that are the “all-sufficient merit” that saves us and makes us ready for eternal life in heaven. In essence, this is a prayer for deep personal surrender to God and a plea for salvation through Christ’s work, because we are not able to save ourselves by our own doing.

Let us open our hearts with great hope to encounter the living Christ Child on Christmas, especially when we receive the Holy Eucharist.

The fourth verse:

By Your own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;

By Your all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Your glorious throne.

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.

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.

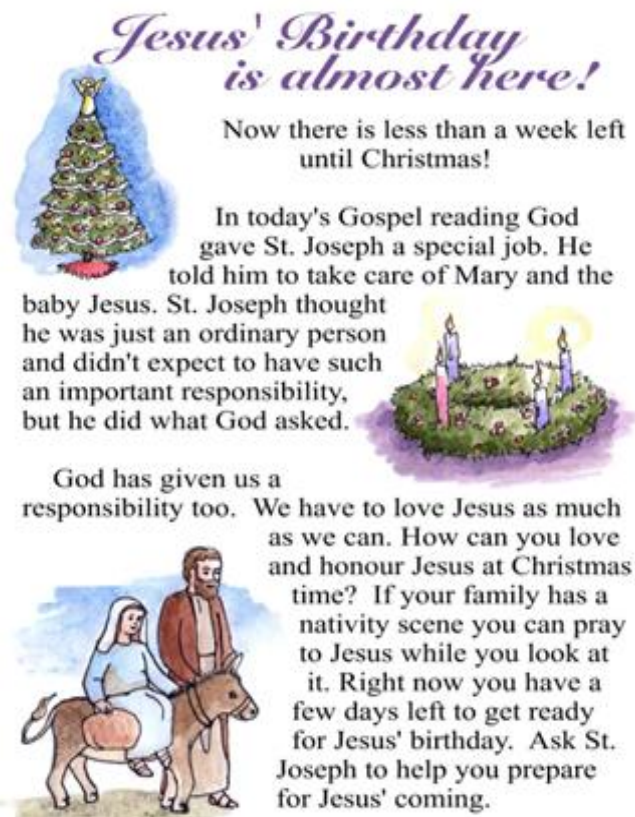
Franciscan Spirituality Center: Winter can be an especially challenging time of year for people who are experiencing grief. The Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market St., La Crosse, WI, offers the following programs, open to anyone seeking support and understanding amid the loss of a loved one.

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.

Rebuild My Church: What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall? Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to “pivot from maintenance to mission” at this link: <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>.

Kids Korner



THANK YOU to those who welcomed the CCD students into their homes this past Wednesday for Christmas caroling! And thank you to the CCD students who were willing to spread the Christmas cheer! God bless you all!



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), Brandon Flock,
Louisa Peterson, James Hundt & Nick Gronemus
(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

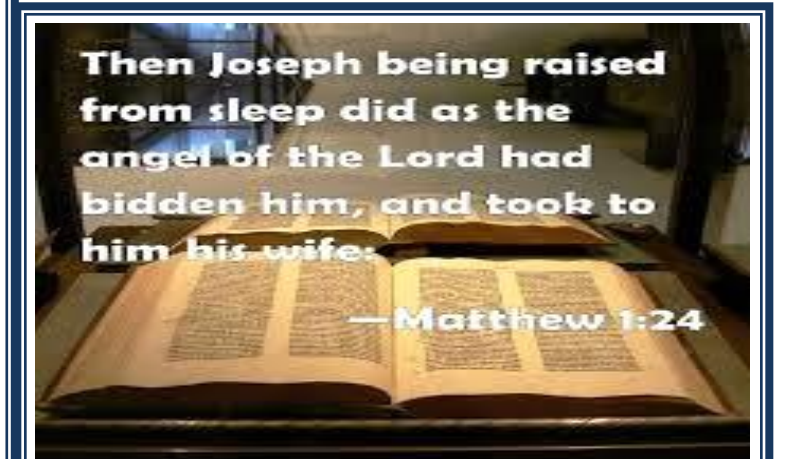
Terese Slattery, Coordinator
Leland Gregorich, Organist

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

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 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

12/24 Wednesday 8:00 PM –
Schermerhorn Family (JPS)
12/25 Thursday 10:00 AM –
† Stanley & Steven B Hundt (AH)
12/26 Friday 8:00 AM –
St. Peters Parish Family
12/27 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Madonna & Jerry Hundt (AH)
12/28 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Rick Schermerhorn (JPS)

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

Wednesday December 24 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Matthew Schaub & Mason Leis
Ushers: Tom Schaub & Mike Schaub
Lector: Melissa Schaub

Thursday December 25 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Allis & Sadie Gronemus
Ushers: Leo Leis & Gary Gronemus
Lector: John Hundt

Saturday December 27 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen
Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Bill Korn
Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday December 28 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Avin & Brynn Stephenson
Ushers: Mark Stephenson & Peter Benzing
Lector: Pam Benzing

Parish Calendar of Events

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
Wed. Dec. 31 – Grades 7-10 NO CCD Class
Sun. Jan. 4 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Jan. 4 – Epiphany Parish Potluck after mass
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

Please be reminded of the Mass time changes at St. Joseph Parish from January 1, 2026. The Thursday, First Saturday, and Sunday Masses will be at 8 AM.

Stewardship Reflection

Fourth Sunday in Advent

As our Advent preparations end and Christmas fast approaches, today's readings should demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do but offer our lives in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give? Recognizing God's perfect love inspires us to live out our faith through active service and gratitude.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, who obeys God's call through the message of an angel. Let us follow his example by actively listening and responding faithfully to God's call in our own lives.

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born, and it was he who cleaned and prepared it for Mary and Jesus, demonstrating active service. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, comfort, and well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph, his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, by reflecting on how we can give our lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

Parish News

St. Peter's: Christmas Eve Mass is on Wednesday, December 24 th at 8 PM. Christmas Day Mass is Thurs., Dec. 25th 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. 25th 8:30AM. New Year Day Mass is January 1, 2026, at 8 AM.
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PCCW Cookie Sale: Thank you to all who bought **AND BAKED** goodies for our cookie sale. We raised \$440. The proceeds will go to the Warming Center in La Crosse and Cashton Cupboard.

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.

Gratitude: The parish family sends out a huge Thank You to Rachel Persson for her time served on the Finance council. We Welcome new members Nick Gronemus and James Hundt to the council. Thank you all for your service.

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 or Fr. Sen if you are interested in volunteering.

Epiphany Parish Potluck: Join us after mass on January 4th for good food & fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.

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. A meeting will be planned soon. Let's step out in faith together!

Diocese Hiring for Two Positions: The openings for the Diocesan Graphic and Media Designer position and the Digital Evangelist position are located at <https://diolc.org/jobs/> and on Indeed.

This Christmas, Help Catholic Charities Love our Neighbors in Need: Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbors in need in so many ways, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst (especially in winter) to giving hope and support to moms before and after birth to working with married couples looking to adopt, to assisting the poor and people with disabilities. Especially in this holy season of Christmas, find out how you can help by visiting cclse.org.

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.



AS THE FATHER HAS
SENT ME, SO I SEND YOU.
- JOHN 20:21
DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP



GOAL **\$13,405.00**
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED **\$6,750.00**
OF DONORS **19**

Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	<u>\$1,959.71</u>
	\$59.71
Year to Date Target -	\$45,600.00
Year to Date Total -	<u>\$40,826.75</u>
	-\$4,773.25

Looking Ahead: Readings for December 28, 2025

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23