

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) *Christmas: Jesus is Our Hope*

As we continue to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us seek deeper communion with the Son of God who is our hope. We are reminded at Christmas that "each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of contemporaries; His power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share His power, if, through holy faith and the Sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ." (Saint Charles Borromeo)

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter | Feb 13-15, 2026 | Dubuque, IA:

Married couples - would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Join us February 13-15, 2026 in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited. For more information contact Greg and Denise at drubner9419@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Mexico with Fr. Tim – Marian Messengers: Join us February 8-13, 2026. Come and visit Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr. Tim Oudenhoven. We will be walking the actual steps of St. Juan Diego and learning firsthand of the incredible message and mission that Mary has for us! See the flier in the back of church for more information!



Kids Korner

The Holy Family



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. When God sent His Son Jesus into the world He wanted Him to come in a humble and quiet way. He wanted Jesus to have a mother and an earthly father and be raised in a happy home.

God brings us into the world in families too. He wants us to have good and loving mothers and fathers to look after us and teach us. Our Lady and Saint Joseph are great examples for parents. They loved Jesus and kept Him safe and let Him grow and learn.



Jesus is an example to children, too! Love your father and mother, obey them and pray for them. Today is a good time to think of how your family can become more like the Holy Family, living in peace, joy and love. Can you think of a way to be more obedient, loving or generous with your family?

Fill in the Blanks

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and use the circled letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom.

The angel of the Lord appeared to

_____ ¹ in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his _____, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell _____ ⁴. _____ ² is going to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph rose and took the _____ ⁹ and his mother by _____ ⁸ and departed for Egypt. He _____ ⁶ there until the death of Herod, that what the _____ ³ had said through the prophet might be _____ ⁵. Out of _____ ¹⁰ I called my son.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Matt. 2:13-15

FULFILLED
MOTHER
STAYED
JOSEPH
HEROD
CHILD
NIGHT

YOU
LORD
EGYPT



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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
DECEMBER 28, 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

12/31 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
Wedding anniversary & family of Jim & Janice Suhr (MLH)
1/1 Thursday 10:00 AM –
† Orvin Lee (ML)
1/2 Friday 8:00 AM –
Janet Korish (RK)
1/3 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Eugene Flock (LF)
1/4 Sunday 10:00 AM –
St. Peter’s 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

Thursday January 1 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Lukas, Max & Abel Slattery
Ushers: Rob Slattery & Mark Gronemus
Lector: Kathy Flock
Saturday January 3 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Matthew Schaub & Mason Leis
Ushers: Mike Leis & Tom Schaub
Lector: Melissa Schaub
Sunday January 4 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Madi Gronemus, Evelyn Flock & Marlayna O’Heron
Ushers: Leo Leis & Gary Gronemus
Lector: John 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

Wednesdays: Rosary @ 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Exposition @ 7:20 PM – Quiet Prayer/Confession - Benediction @ 8:05 PM
Come spend some quiet time with Jesus.

Parish Calendar of Events

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
Wed. Jan. 7 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. Jan. 11 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Jan. 11 – Take down Christmas decorations



St. Joseph’s Ridge Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
(Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 p.m.)
Thursday.....8:00 a.m.
First Saturday Mass.....8:00 a.m.
(Please note new mass times)

Stewardship Reflection

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

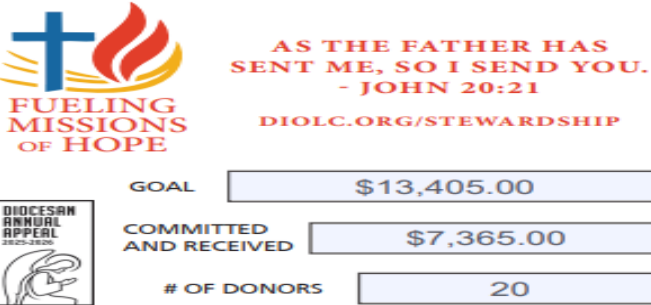
As we continue celebrating the Christmas season, today’s feast of the Holy Family invites us to reflect on the gift and calling of family life. The Church calls the family the “domestic church,” the place where our faith takes root — and where the stewardship virtue of hospitality begins. Consider simple ways to make your home more welcoming, such as sharing meals or praying together as a family, to foster faithfulness and love. Why is hospitality vital to family life? Because our homes should be spaces filled with love, welcome, and renewal. We can’t expect to grow in prayer, service, or faith if our home environment feels disconnected or tense. Even when conflicts occur, intentionally practicing patience and forgiveness helps build a home where everyone feels loved and appreciated, despite imperfections. Our readings provide practical wisdom. In the Book of Sirach, we learn about the blessings that come when children respect their parents — and when grown children lovingly care for their aging parents. Respect and tenderness foster a home filled with unity and peace. St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians provides even more insight. He reminds us that each family member is “God’s chosen one” and encourages us to “put on” compassion, kindness, humility, and patience — even when we don’t feel like it. These small, daily acts of love foster genuine hospitality at home, which then extends to the larger community. The Holy Family also faced hardships. As today’s Gospel reminds us, they encountered danger, displacement, and uncertainty. Yet Mary and Joseph stayed faithful, trusting in God’s plan. They serve as powerful intercessors for our families today. On this feast, may we renew our commitment to making our homes places of love and welcome. Let’s honor God by how we treat each other at home—with patience, forgiveness, and kindness. Happy Feast of the Holy Family to everyone who embodies the stewardship lifestyle!

Parish News

Thank you to those who donated towards our beautiful Christmas flowers:

- In memory of the deceased members of the Al Antony family
- In memory of Gene Flock, Chad Mlsna & Kylie VonRuden
- In memory of Jacob Gronemus
- In memory of Rick Schermerhorn, Arnold & Theresa Arentz
- Margie Lee, Ann Hundt, Pat & Darla Lucey, Gary & Deb Flock

Condolences: The parish family extends our sympathies to the friends & family of Gerard “Gary” Elsen who passed away last week. May he rest in peace with our Lord. He will be laid to rest in St. Peter’s Cemetery on Sunday, December 28th at 3:00 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.
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.
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 .
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/>.



Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$3,312.00
	\$1,412.00
Year to Date Target -	\$47,500.00
Year to Date Total -	\$44,138.75
	-\$3,361.25

Looking Ahead: Readings for January 4, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-6
Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12