

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 He come because we need a Savior. Jesus came to set us free from our attachment to bad habits, which creates barriers and can even separate us from our friendship with Him. Due to His unconditional love for us, Jesus desires to help us break away from sin so that we can be more closely united to Him. During Advent, set aside time for quiet prayer, to watch and wait for the coming of the Christ Child into our heart at Christmas. Let us allow Jesus to spiritually renew us with greater hope, peace and joy, even amidst difficulties.

The first verse:

Come, O long expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Free us from captivity.

MMOC Cookie Walk: Mary, Mother of the Church parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Sat., Dec. 13, in the parish hall located at 2006 Weston St., La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1 PM. Homemade cookies, candies, breads, pies, Scandinavian sweets, handcrafted items, Scrip gift cards and raffles are available for sale. Serving breakfast (featuring egg bakes and cinnamon rolls) and lunch (homemade soup and chili).

A Home for the Holidays Gala Benefiting Karuna House: *Together, we're creating brighter futures!* Karuna House is thrilled to announce the purchase of our first building on Copeland Avenue. We will add eight new housing units by year's end, more than a year ahead of schedule! Karuna Inc. provides safe, sustainable housing and 24-hour peer-based support, helping residents find a "life worth living." We offer stability, warmth, and hope for those facing homelessness, health risks, and life on the streets. Join us for the **2nd Annual "A Home for the Holidays" Gala** as we celebrate this milestone and raise support for our mission.

Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 5:30 – 11:00 PM

Radisson Hotel Ballroom, La Crosse

Enjoy a fun evening with a cocktail reception, formal dinner, auctions, dancing, and more! Ways to Help:

- Donate auction items (gift baskets, tickets, getaways, experiences)
- Sponsor the event
- Purchase tickets and attend

Visit karunahousing.org/gala or call Kristine at 612-803-3684 to donate or sponsor. Let's create **A Home for the Holidays** for those who need it most this holiday season.

Advent Luminary Hike at the FSPA Land: Join us for an evening gathering & peaceful mile-long hike filled with Advent reflections & candle luminaires. **All ages are welcome.** Winter attire is encouraged. Snacks & refreshments will be provided! Monday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the FSPA land on St. Joseph Ridge, W2658 WI-33, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Kids Korner

The Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



and fire. Answer to "Peace Among Animals" puzzle: lamb, leopard, calf, bear, lion, lion, baby.

Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

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 _____,

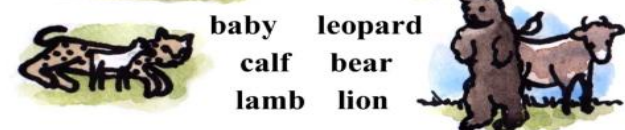


and the _____
shall lie down with the kid;

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7, 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

12/8 Monday 8:00 PM –

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

† **Leo Bouska (AB)**

12/10 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† **Ed & Lisa McGrath (THW)**

12/12 Friday 8:00 AM –

† **Ione Hauser (TMN)**

12/13 Saturday 8:00 PM –

St. Peter Parish Family

12/14 Sunday 10:00 AM –

† **Leonard, Alberta, Judy & Andy
Kick (AMS)**

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

Monday December 8 – 8:00 PM

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Servers: Matthew Schaub & Arnie Nicolai

Ushers: Tom Schaub & Duane Leis

Lector: Melissa Schaub

Saturday December 13 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Matthew Schaub & Mason Leis

Ushers: Mike Leis & Ron Hurtz

Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday December 14 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Lukas, 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!!

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. 7 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Mon. Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary mass at St. Peter @ 8:00 PM (St. Joseph @ 5:30 PM)

Tues. Dec. 9 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30 PM

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

Sun. Dec. 14 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Sun. Dec. 14 – Retirement Fund for Religious collection

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



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

Second Sunday in Advent

On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations like this: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This captures the essence of Christian hospitality, a key part of living as a good steward. When fully practiced, it can not only transform our lives but also those of others who experience it through us, encouraging and inspiring us to keep this transformative journey going.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us, as stewards, to answer the call of John the Baptist, as seen in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" and he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." There is a deep and enlightening connection between repentance and effective hospitality, guiding us on our spiritual journey.

So, how can we make repentance a regular part of our daily lives? We can include an "examination of conscience" in our daily prayers, thanking God for when we said "yes" to Him and asking for forgiveness for when we chose our own will. We should go to Confession this Advent. We can also reach out to a family member or friend when there is distance or discord and work to make peace. This support and encouragement in our journey of repentance are essential for our spiritual growth.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more welcoming people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and much more open and prepared to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

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 this weekend. The proceeds will go to the Warming Center in La Crosse and Cashton Cupboard.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary: On December 8, the Church celebrates one of the most beautiful Truths of our Faith: the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This solemnity honors the moment when Mary, from the first instant of her existence, was preserved free from all stain of original sin. God prepared Mary in a unique way to be the Mother of His Son. There will be mass here at **St. Peter at 8:00 PM** and at St. Joseph at 5:30 PM. The Masses for the Tri-Parishes will be at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart and at 7:30 PM at St. Mary's Ridge. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Memorial Mass: Lou Dolente was our organist for several years here at St. Peter and made many friends during that time. Sadly, Lou lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on November 9th. We will have a mass here for him on Saturday December 13th at 11:00 AM. The choir will sing several of his favorite songs. A potluck is planned afterwards in the basement. All are welcome.

A Lifetime of Service Deserves Care in Return: Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

CCD Updates: There are many exciting things going on with our Religious Education Program!! Check it out!

-Sunday December 7th, 1-6 grades tied fleece blankets to donate to the Bangor Elementary Angel tree program.

-Wednesday, December 10th there will be a meeting with Noel for information on a mission trip to Casa Hogar.

-Wednesday, December 17th students will be Christmas caroling for the elderly of the parish. Students, please meet in Portland at 6:30 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? Join us for the planning meeting on December 10, 2025. 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!!

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	\$5,275.00
# OF DONORS	12

Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,537.05
	-\$362.95
Year to Date Target -	\$41,800.00
Year to Date Total -	\$37,427.04
	-\$4,372.96

Looking Ahead: Readings for December 14, 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11