

Diocesan and Community News

Human Trafficking Prevention Month: January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Learn more about the vast, tragic reality of human trafficking, and what you can do to make a difference, by visiting uscgb.org/offices/migration-refugee-services/human-trafficking.

Small Group Study for the New Year - Rescue Project: An engaging faith study for small groups is entitled "Rescued" by Fr. John Riccardo of Acts XXIX. This will be the focus for the New Year. There are nine sessions with FREE videos, a compelling book for a reduced price, discussion questions and other FREE materials are available. Go here for more information: <https://watch.actsxxix.org/therescueproject>.

Healing Ministry for those Who Have Lost a Baby: Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of losing a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, or abortion? Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of La Crosse offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608.860.6698 or email Hope4U@diolc.org. There are also healing retreats offered in the Diocese of Madison. For more information, visit <http://madisondiocese.org/rachel>.

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.

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.

CALIX: A Catholic Substance Abuse Recovery Support Group: Calix is an association of Catholics wanting to live free of addiction to alcohol or drugs, and it is also for affected family members. It is not a substitute for AA or Al-Anon, but provides a Catholic perspective to complement these 12-step programs. "Calix," Latin for "chalice," was founded in Minneapolis in 1947 by a group of five men, all recovering alcoholics, who saw their Catholic faith as a sure path to serenity without alcohol. If you are interested in learning about the Calix group that meets every other Tuesday by Zoom in the Diocese of La Crosse, email Christine at healthandharmonywi@gmail.com. To learn more about Calix <http://www.calixsociety.org/>.

"Called and Gifted" Workshop at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield: An in-person "Called and Gifted" workshop will be offered on Saturday, March 21, 2026. The Office for Catechesis & Evangelization and the Marshfield parishes will be hosting the workshop. The "Called & Gifted" discernment process offered by the Catherine of Siena Institute has been used since 1993 by over 200,000 Catholics around the world. It is designed to help Christians discern specific charisms in their lives. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit. God calls each of us to (and gifts us for) the work that we most love. We want to know what gifts God has given to us because when we use them, our life is enriched with purpose and joy. The "Called and Gifted" workshop will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield. Promotional resources with further details to follow.

Kids Korner

John the Baptist: Was He the Messiah?



Everybody thought that John the Baptist was a great preacher and prophet. Some people thought that he might even be the Messiah who would save their people. But John knew that was not his job. When Jesus came to him at the river to be baptized, John pointed at Him and told the people, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" He told the people that he was not the great one; Jesus was.

Saint John the Baptist is an example to all of us. If we are really good then our lives will show other people the way to Jesus.



John the Baptist taught the people by telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized. God wants some people to teach about Him by teaching and preaching to the people. But for most of us, the best way to teach others about God is by living a good life and loving God. If you really do your best to love God then your life will be like St. John the Baptist's and point the way to Jesus.



What is something that you can do today to lead someone to Jesus?

Answer to Psalm 40 Word-Find: O Lord I come to do Your will.



H O L O C A U S T O
E W I T H I N O O F
A L O W E A R S P F
R H E A R T R A E E
D E L I G H T C N R
D I C T O W A R D I
C O M E O M E I T N
L O R D O D O F Y G
O U R J U S T I C E
O B E D I E N C E W
I L W R I T T E N L

PSALM 40
Word-Find

See if you can find all the words that are in CAPITALS. Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

I have WAITED, waited for the LORD, and He stooped TOWARD me and HEARD my cry. And He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God.

SACRIFICE or OFFERING You wished not, but EARS OPEN to OBEDIENCE You gave me. HOLOCAUST or sin-offerings You sought not; then I said, "Behold I COME."

"In the WRITTEN scroll it is prescribed for me, to do Your will, O my God, is my DELIGHT, and Your law is WITHIN my HEART!"

I announced Your JUSTICE in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as You, O Lord, know.

— — — — —
— — — — —!

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 18, 2026

Here is the
LAMB OF GOD
who takes away the sin
of the world!
John 1:29



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

1/21 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

St. Peter’s Parish Family

1/23 Friday 8:00 AM –

† Stan Hundt (AH)

1/24 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Deanna Koresh (THW)

1/25 Sunday 10:00 AM –

† Joseph Flock (MLH)

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 January 24 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen

Ushers: Bill Korn & Tom Schaub

Lector: Melissa Schaub

Sunday January 25 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Allis Gronemus & Sadie Gronemus

Ushers: Gary Gronemus & 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

Wed. Jan. 21 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. Jan. 25 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Wed. Jan. 28 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

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

Sun. Feb. 1 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Fri. Feb. 13 – St. Peter’s Couples Night (tentative)

Sun. March 1 – St. Peters Annual Cabin Feverfest Euchre Tournament & Luncheon



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 8:00 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.

Stewardship Reflection

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s readings offer clear and inspiring reminders of the most fundamental aspect of our identity — that we are servants of our most high and holy God, His modern-day disciples, and stewards.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus's holiness and the response due to Him when he encountered Christ in person on the day they met at the Jordan River. His response, which we read in our Gospel passage from St. John, was, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world... He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’”

What a powerful description of our Lord and the place He should rightfully hold in each of our lives. He is truly our Savior, the only one who can free us from our sinfulness. We are wholly and utterly dependent on His power, love, and mercy. Therefore, He truly does “rank ahead” of us; He deserves to be first, above all other priorities and plans in our lives. Let us examine our daily lives and encourage our children to do the same.

Does the way I spend my time reflect that God comes first? Do prayer and weekly Mass, regular confession, and time with my family “rank ahead” of everything else on my calendar? Do I use my talents, skills, and energy to serve my family, parish, and community in thanksgiving and recognition that God’s kingdom comes before any other goals or ambitions? Do I spend my money and use my material possessions to glorify God?

Challenge questions, to be sure. But questions worthy of our high calling as Christian stewards, offered in service to our Lord and His kingdom. What will our response be?

Parish News

St. Peter’s Annual Couples Night: In the second week of February we celebrate National Marriage week by putting on a romantic dinner celebrating married couples and those who have been recently engaged. This year we hope to do this on Friday February 13th. Before plans can be firmed up, we need a commitment from a minimum of 12 couples that wish to enjoy a 4 course gourmet meal, music, fellowship with other married couples and inspiration. We need interest confirmation before January 30th to continue with plans. Please contact the parish office or Tom & Melissa Schaub with interest.

Appreciation: “A heart-felt thank you from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission Office to St. Peter Parish of Middle Ridge for answering our Holy Father’s call to be ‘Missionaries of Hope Among the People’ with your generous response of prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. We will forward your financial contribution of \$145 to our national office. They can in turn support Catholic institutions most in need. Gratefully in the Lord, Rev. Woodrow H. Pace”

Mass intentions: We are getting low on our mass intentions once again. If you would like to order one, please place your request with \$20 per mass in an envelope and drop it in the offertory basket.

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!

Celebrating Growth: The 156 parishes of our diocese have been taking Mass counts for over two decades. Even with a large number of deaths, our Mass attendance has increased each year for five straight years. Praise God! See the latest updates here: <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>

Following up on Listening Sessions: After some unexpected technical delays, you can now view comments and analysis from the 40 listening sessions that were held throughout the diocese this fall at <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>. One of the biggest themes was a desire to grow by drawing young people and new families into the Church. With that desire, people named a need for guidance and training in evangelization and accompaniment. We will begin hosting Evangelization Summits and follow up resources for that purpose. Stay tuned!

January Pro-Life Initiatives, Prayers and Intentions: Though the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision declaring a right to abortion was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022, many states’ laws are hostile to preborn children. And so our pro-life prayers and efforts are just as important as ever. Learn more and find parish and personal resources from our U.S. Bishops at respectlife.org.

Keep in Your Prayers: World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in parishes on the weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Please pray for all those who have answered the call to consecrated life, aspiring towards joyful holiness in the service of the Church and world. Pray also for many more laborers to enter the vineyard so that Jesus Christ may be better known, experienced, and loved.



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

[DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP](https://diolc.org/stewardship)



GOAL

\$13,405.00

COMMITTED
AND RECEIVED

\$10,690.00

OF DONORS

27

Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$1,595.70
	-\$304.30
Year to Date Target -	\$53,200.00
Year to Date Total -	\$54,309.97
	+\$1,109.97

Looking Ahead: Readings for January 25, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17