

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Preparing for Lent:** The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Each one of us needs cleansing and healing in our lives and so the 40 days of Lent are a call to enter this time of "purification and enlightenment." However, before we turn our attention to faults, failures and making sacrifices, we want to focus on God's love and review all the ways that He has blessed us. Our starting point in preparation for the season of Lent is to realize and remember what God has done for us, recently or even looking farther back. And, of course, we want to be thankful! For the next several days, set aside some quiet time to think of five different things each day for which you are thankful to Jesus. The list could include such things as your spouse, health, children / grandchildren, food, a warm house. Remembering and thanking God for His generous love is the best way to enter Lent, but also, to continue this practice throughout Lent.

**Kevin Matthews Broken Mary Presentation:** Kevin Matthews was the top disc jockey in Chicago on The Loop. Millions of people tuned into his radio station every day. A tragic health event led him to a broken statue of Mary, where he heard a voice say, "Will you deny me? Will you deny My mother?" Realizing this was the voice of Jesus, Kevin embraced the statue of Mary and had the two pieces glued back together, but left the remaining chips and broken pieces as they were. "She is broken, just like I am", he realized. Kevin asked a priest to bless the statue, and that is when the miracles began. Since then, Kevin has been traveling with this Broken Mary statue, bringing healing to our broken world. Come with your own brokenness and hear his story of God's healing. FREE! All are welcome!

Sunday, Feb. 22 1:30 pm St. Mary's University in the Page Theatre / 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN

Monday, Feb. 23 6:00 pm Aquinas High School Auditorium / 315 11th Street S, La Crosse, WI

**Kids Korner**

**Ash Wednesday**

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is a special time in which we prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



Lent is a time of repentance. We make sacrifices and try to improve our lives to become more like Jesus. Jesus never sinned but He gave up His life to pay for our sins. That is why we make sacrifices-out of love for God and to make up for our sins. We offer our sacrifices to God the Father, just as Jesus on the cross offered up His life to God the Father.

On Ash Wednesday if you go to Mass you can receive ashes on your forehead. The ashes are a sign of repentance. They remind us that without God we are nothing and that someday we will die and be buried. But they can also remind us that if we do have God living in us, after we die we will rise from the dead, just as Jesus did on Easter, after He died on the cross.



Answer to Word-Find: "you will be blessed"

**Psalm 119 Word-Find**



See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

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

Blessed are they who FOLLOW the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they whose way is BLAMELESS, who WALK in the LAW of the Lord. BLESSED are they who OBSERVE his DECREES, who SEEK him with all their heart.

You have COMMANDED that your PRECEPTS be DILIGENTLY KEPT. Oh, that I MIGHT be FIRM in the ways of keeping your STATUTES!

Be GOOD to your SERVANT, that I MAY LIVE and keep your WORDS. OPEN my EYES, that I may CONSIDER THE wonders of your law.

If you obey God's law, \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto: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](http://www.saintpetersparish.net)



SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 15, 2026



Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them, but to fulfill them

Matthew 5:17

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

**St. Peters Church - Middle Ridge**

**Cabin Fever Fest**

**Euchre Tournament & Luncheon**

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**\$15 per person**

**Time: Basement Doors open at 12:00 p.m.**

**Cards start at 1:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place prizes awarded (possibly more placings)**

**Soups, Snacks and Beverages**

**Included in the price!**



St. Peters Parish Basement  
W697 State Rd 33  
Rockland WI 54653  
608-452-4680  
[parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org)

Parish Intentions

**2/18 Ash Wednesday 8:00 AM –**  
**St. Peter’s Parish Family**  
**2/18 Ash Wednesday 8:00 PM –**  
**† Lou Dolente (TMS)**  
**2/20 Friday 8:00 AM –**  
**† Orvin Lee (ML)**  
**2/21 Saturday 8:00 PM –**  
**† Ione Hauser (TMN)**  
**2/22 Sunday 10:00 AM –**  
**† Stan Hundt (AH)**

**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

**Ash Wednesday February 18 – 8:00 AM**  
 Volunteers needed for all ministries  
**Ash Wednesday February 18 – 8:00 PM**  
Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen  
Ushers: Tom Schaub & Duane Leis  
Lector: Melissa Schaub  
**Saturday February 21 – 8:00 PM**  
Servers: Matthew Schaub & Mason Leis  
Ushers: Mike Schaub & Bill Korn  
Lector: Lynda Hurtz  
**Sunday February 22 – 10:00 AM**  
Servers: Arnie & Adeline Nicolai  
Ushers: Leo Leis & Gary Gronemus  
Lector: John Hundt

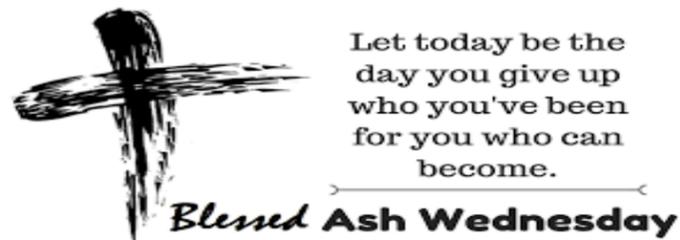
**\*Reminder\*** We understand everybody’s schedules get busy. If you are not able to make it on a day you are scheduled PLEASE make the effort to find a replacement or at least let somebody know ahead of time!!

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.*  
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. Feb. 18 – Grades 7-10 NO Class – Attend Mass!!!**  
**Wed. Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday masses @ 8 AM & 8 PM**  
**Sun. Feb. 22 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM**  
**Wed. Feb. 25 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM**  
**Sun. March 1 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM**  
**Sun. March 1 – St. Peters Annual Cabin Feverfest Euchre Tournament & Luncheon**  
**Sun. March 1 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM**



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

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today’s readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts in relation to stewardship, beyond special occasions or commitments. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card — or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and a way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach, teaches that our good God has given us the freedom to make this choice — “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.”

The concept of stewardship helps us live out this fundamental choice to prioritize God. Stewardship is not intended to be merely an external exercise we participate in occasionally. It is designed to be embraced as a way of life—a life that involves a continuous conversion of heart. This ongoing process can motivate us to keep striving for internal growth.

In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus shows that a true change of heart in stewardship involves recognizing everything as a gift from Him, such as our time, talents, and resources, and using them for His glory and the good of others, not just external compliance. Our Lord is asking us not only for external acts but also for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

In the week ahead, let us examine the state of our hearts and ask whether we have allowed stewardship to shape our daily lives. When we do, we open ourselves to its more profound meaning and its capacity to change our hearts. The choice is ours, empowering us to take responsibility for our spiritual growth.

Parish News

**Ash Wednesday & Stations of the Cross:** There will be mass at 8:00 AM AND 8:00 PM on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> here at St. Peter’s and 6:00 PM at St. Joseph’s. Wednesday night CCD students are required to attend mass. Beginning Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> there will be Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM followed by Adoration & Benediction. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Stations please contact Fr. Sen.

**Lenten regulations are as follows:**

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.
2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

**Sympathies:** The St. Peter’s Parish family extends our condolences to Deb & Gary Flock on the loss of her mother, Alvena Leis.

**Book Drive:** This Lenten season, our CCD students are putting their faith into action by collecting new and gently used children’s books to share with families in our parish and community. As part of their Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, CCD students will gather and prepare these books to be gifted to families at Easter — a reminder of hope, joy, and new life in Christ. How you can help:

- Donate new or gently used children’s books for ages toddler–12
- Place donations in the collection box at church during Lent

**St. Peters Cabin Feverfest:** Our annual Euchre tournament and soup luncheon will take place on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at noon. Please find fliers in the back of church to take around to places you patronize. Look for the sign up sheet of what items are needed there too. Parishioner help is appreciated. Let’s have a good turn out of St. Peters parishioners!!

**Honoring our Intentions:** If you have requested a mass intention, Fr. Sen would like you to volunteer to bring up the gifts for that mass. This is a way to be more involved in the mass. Parishioners, if you see there isn’t a family coming forward, please help out. The masses for our Parish Family are open for ANYONE to help! The younger kids love to be a part of this and it gives them something to watch for & get excited about. Let us all be more present and participate in the Mass.

**Men of the Cross: Forged for Mission | March 21, 2026 | Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church:** Men of the Diocese of La Crosse! This is your invitation to step away from the noise of daily life and be renewed in faith, brotherhood, and purpose. Join other Catholic men for a powerful day of encouragement and formation as we grow stronger as disciples, husbands, fathers, and leaders forged for mission.

Featured Speaker: Bart Schuchts  
 Mass Celebrant: Fr. Sam Martin  
 Cost: \$45 (includes breakfast & lunch) High School Men: Attend FREE with a parent/guardian  
 Come be strengthened, challenged, and inspired to live boldly for Christ and bring His mission into your home, parish, and community. Register today at <https://menofthecross.org/> and invite a friend!



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

GOAL	\$13,405.00
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED	\$10,990.00
# OF DONORS	28

**Pray Often & Daily!!!**



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$1,293.00
	-\$607.00
Year to Date Target -	\$60,800.00
Year to Date Total -	\$59,280.49
	-\$1,519.51

Looking Ahead: Readings for February 22, 2026

**First Reading:** Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
**Second Reading:** Romans 5:12-19  
**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:1-11