

Diocesan and Community News

Lent: The Proof of God the Father's Love for Us

Let us recall each day that God's mercy and unconditional love are central to our journey of life on our way to Heaven. The proof that the Father loves each one of us is the crucifixion—the suffering and death of the Son of God so that our sins may be forgiven.

Even when we fall, the boundless love of Christ transforms us through the forgiveness of our sin and compassion He offers, drawing us back to Himself. Jesus shows us that He loves the sinner but hates the sin. This merciful love invites us to approach Him confidently, knowing that He is always ready to forgive and heal. Mercy is the primary attribute of God.

When we enter the confessional, it is not merely a priest we face, but Christ Himself. The priest acts in the person of Christ—offering absolution in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Every confession is an encounter with Jesus, who lifts our burden of sin and restores the soul to the beauty of its baptismal innocence.

Frequent confession brings peace of soul and a clearer vision of God's will. It transforms bitterness into compassion, guilt into freedom and loneliness into communion. It restores what sin has taken—our joy, our trust, our relationship with the Father. Let us approach this sacrament often, not with fear, but with gratitude and hope. For in every confession, the Father embraces us, Jesus heals us and the Holy Spirit fills us anew with His grace.

Entering a New Springtime: "Before spring becomes beautiful, it's plug-ugly, nothing but mud and muck. I've walked through early spring fields that will suck the boots off your feet, a world so wet and woeful you yearn for the return of snow and ice. Of course, there's a miracle inside that muddy mess: those fields are a seedbed for rebirth" (Parker Palmer). We may be entering a "new springtime of evangelization," but it sure seems messy. What can we do?

Catholic Infertility Conference | April 10-11, 2026 | Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, WI: This event will provide a safe space to engage with faith, hope, and community. Attendees will hear from experts in reproductive health, clergy, and fellow Catholics who share their personal experiences and insights. The conference will cover a variety of topics, including the spiritual aspects of infertility, medical and ethical considerations in fertility treatments, and practical advice for coping with the emotional challenges of this journey. With opportunities for prayer, reflection, and healing, this conference aims to help attendees with knowledge and support, reinforcing the belief that they are not alone in their experience. Join us to explore the intersection of faith and fertility, and find encouragement, guidance, and hope as you navigate this path. For more information and registration, please visit <https://catholiclife.org/>.

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat - Put more Joy into your Marriage: Are you a couple wanting to experience a more joy-filled marriage? Take part in the Domestic Church retreat at Franciscan Spirituality Center 920 Market St. in La Crosse on April 25 & 26th. Couples attending the retreat will experience a renewed love as spouses and find themselves united together in Christ. Register today at <https://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>. For more information, email Jeff and Alice Heinzen at LaCrosse@domesticchurchfamilies.com.

Kids Korner

God Raises People from the Dead!



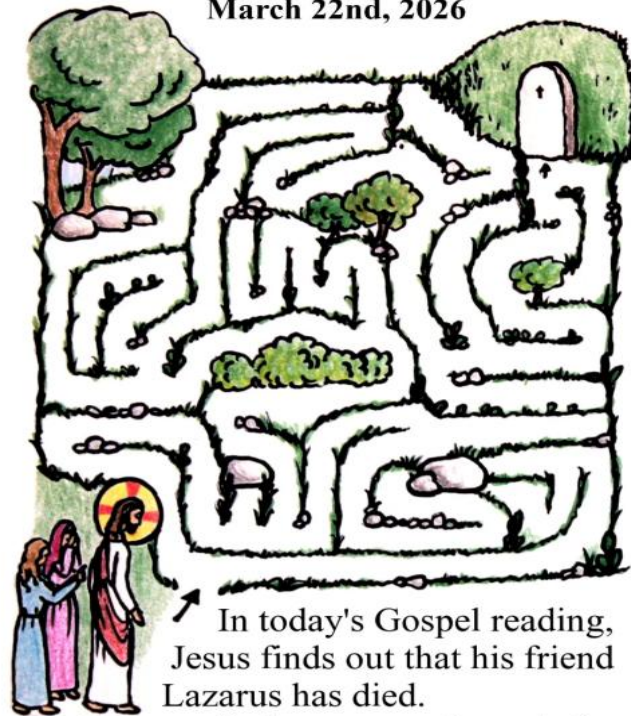
In today's Old Testament reading God promised His people that He would raise them from their graves. In the Gospel story Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. At the end of time God will raise everyone from the dead.

God does not like death. We all have to die because we are sinful, but God wants to raise us from the dead, like Lazarus.

Did you know that there is something worse than dying? Sinning is worse than dying, because when you commit a mortal sin you kill God's life in your soul. When you die you know that your body will rise again, but if you are not sorry for any serious sins then your soul will go to Hell because it doesn't have God's life in it. In Lent we should try to get rid of all the sin in our souls by going to Confession so that our souls will have God's life in them and be ready to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter!



Fifth Sunday of Lent March 22nd, 2026



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died. Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

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

Mark Stephenson (Chairman), Rob Slattery, Tom Schaub,
Peter Benzing, Kathy Flock, Sarah Gronemus (Secretary)

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

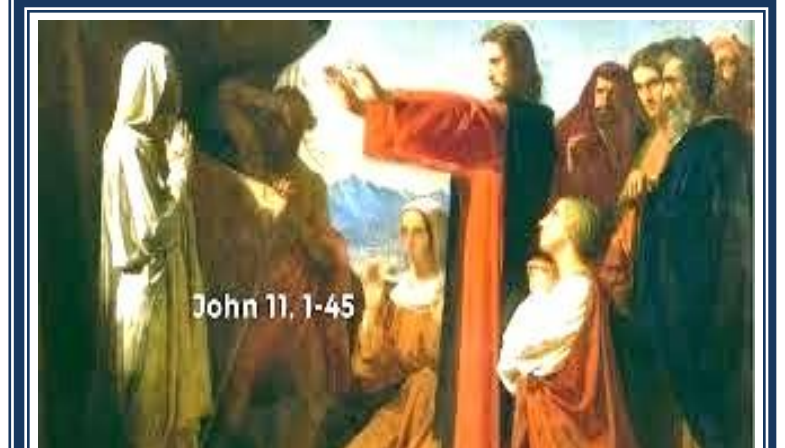
St. Peter's Catholic Church

Middle Ridge, WI
W697 State Hwy 33
Rockland, WI 54653
608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 22, 2026



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

3/25 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† **Madonna Hundt (AH)**

3/27 Friday 8:00 AM –

† **Eustache & Gertrude Schaub (TS)**

3/28 Saturday 8:00 PM –

St. Peter Parish Family

3/29 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 \$20.

Be Disciples, Make Disciples: “We are a church that exists to be disciples who make disciples.” This is the Great Commission Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20. It’s why any Catholic parish or school exists. When you look at how the parishes and schools in your area spend their money, time, and energy, are they prioritizing this purpose of being disciples who make disciples? We invite you to take this question to Jesus this Lent!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$1,293.31
	-\$606.69
Year to Date Target -	\$70,300.00
Year to Date Total -	\$66,779.06
	-\$3,520.94

Looking Ahead: Readings for March 29, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:11-54

Ministry Servers

Saturday March 28 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen
Ushers: Duane Leis & Ron Hurtz
Lector: Julie Lundeen & Lynda Hurtz

Sunday March 29 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson
Ushers: Peter Benzing & Leo Leis
Lector: Pam Benzing & Joseph Peterson

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

Adoration & Benediction to follow

Parish Calendar of Events

Sun. March 22 – Lenten Gathering & Fellowship @ 4:00 PM
Wed. March 25 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Thurs. March 26 – Confessions available 6 – 8 PM
Sun. March 29 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Mon. March 30 – All day Confessions at the Cathedral
Wed. April 1 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. April 5 – Grades 1-6 NO Class – Easter break
Sun. April 5 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

St. Peter’s Parish Schedule:

March 28th & 29th—Palm Sunday weekend
 Saturday—8:00 pm Mass; Sunday—10:00 am Mass
April 2nd ~ Holy Thursday 8:00 pm Mass
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 9:00—until Friday morning
April 3rd ~ Good Friday
 Noon Adoration until Stations
 12:30 pm Stations of the Cross
 1:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
April 4th ~ Easter Vigil 8:30 pm Mass
April 5th ~ Easter Sunday 10:00 am Mass

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.

St. Joseph’s Parish Schedule:

March 28th & 29th—Palm Sunday weekend
 Saturday-4:00 pm Mass; Sunday-8:00 am Mass
April 2nd ~ Holy Thursday 7:00 pm Mass
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00—Midnight
April 3rd ~ Good Friday
 2:00 pm Adoration until Stations
 2:30 pm Stations of the Cross
 3:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
April 4th ~ Easter Vigil 8:30 pm Mass
April 5th ~ Easter Sunday 8:30 am Mass

Stewardship Reflection

Fifth Sunday of Lent

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have embraced. Today’s readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much.

In our first reading, the prophet Ezekiel speaks God’s own words to us. “I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.” Our God wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. He has promised He will do it. But only if we make room for Him by making Him THE priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that pleases Him greatly.

How can we do this? Our second reading, from Romans, tells us. “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... You are in the spirit if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

The disciplines of Lent and a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from excessive attachment to “the flesh.” The sacrifices we make as Christian stewards are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary. They are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that come only when we make room in our lives for God.

As we draw closer to the Passion of our Lord, let us deepen our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life, inviting the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God.

Parish News

Lenten Gathering: Please join us on Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 PM for a time for prayer, fellowship & refreshments. We will recite the rosary at 4:00 in the church and then move downstairs for refreshments and fellowship. Bring your family and friends, and if you like, some food to share! All are welcome!!

Mass intentions: We are EXTREMELY low on our mass intentions. 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.

Confessions: Fr. Sen will be available on Thursday, March 26th from 6 – 8 PM for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Keep in mind he is also available Wednesday evenings after Stations of the Cross. There will be several priests available at the Cathedral on Monday, March 30th from 9 AM – 6 PM.

Easter flowers: Anyone wishing to donate towards the flowers that will decorate our church during the Easter season please feel free to put your donation in a marked envelope and drop it in the offertory. Thank you!

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

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.

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. **Birthdays 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.

Diocese Of La Crosse Guidelines For Reporting Instances Of Child Abuse: The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.