

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Lent: Keep First Things First: God's Unconditional Love for each Person**

Personal sin is a part of our lives through selfishness; all of us miss the mark. We are reluctant to go to confession as it is difficult and humbling to look at our failures and faults. However, the first thing to do is realize and recognize all the good things God has given us. Spend a few minutes to look back, or notice what happened even today, and write down the special blessings that you received from God. It becomes easier to take our sins to Christ in the sacrament of confession when we examine our conscience in light of how much He loves us. Remember, even the small choices we make in our daily life matter. We are invited to align ourselves with the kingdom of God through prayer, reflection, and cooperation with His grace received in the sacrament of reconciliation. Lent is an appropriate time to make a good confession.

**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](mailto:LaCrosse@domesticchurchfamilies.com).

- Saturday will begin at 8:00 AM with Mass and check-in.
- The retreat will conclude Sunday at 3:00 PM
- Nursing babies are welcome! We ask toddler+ ages not to attend as it is a distraction for you as parents. The focus of this retreat is you and your spouse with God at the center, and even though we love them, 2+ ages will be a distraction for you.
- Questions about the retreat can be emailed to Jeff and Alice Heinzen: [lacrosse@domesticchurchfamilies.com](mailto:lacrosse@domesticchurchfamilies.com)
- A \$200 payment is due at time of registration.

Scholarships are available for this retreat. Please email [finances@domesticchurchfamilies.com](mailto:finances@domesticchurchfamilies.com) for a scholarship request form.

**Kids Korner**

*Water...*



In today's first reading, the Israelites in the desert are thirsty and ask Moses for water. So God tells him to strike a big rock with his staff and water comes out. In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that He can give her living water so that she will never be thirsty.

Water is a symbol of life. In the first story the people in the desert would have died if they didn't get water. Now Jesus gives us His life, which is grace. We receive it especially in Holy Communion. This is the living water that He is talking about. Our souls need His grace to stay alive.



When you have a drink of water, think about how your body needs water to stay alive, and how your soul needs God's grace. Saying a prayer is kind of like giving your soul a little drink!



Answer to puzzle on front: will never thirst. "Christ died" difficulty, might, courage, God, "Christ died" answer to puzzle inside: because, hearts, spirit, given, still, time.

**Fill-in-the-Blanks**

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. Use the marked letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

And hope does not disappoint,  
 1.     the love of God has been poured into our 2.    through the Holy 3.    who has been 4.   to us. For Christ, while we were 5.    helpless, died at the appointed 6.    for the ungodly. Indeed, only with 7.    does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one 8.    even find 9.    to die. But 10.    proves his love for us in that...  
 ...WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS  
      FOR US.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

COURAGE	DIFFICULTY	HEARTS
GOD	TIME	GIVEN
SPIRIT	MIGHT	BECAUSE
		STILL

**PARISH PRIEST**

Rev. Sengole Vethanayagam  
 (Fr. Sen) (715) 615-1774  
[frsengolevema@gmail.com](mailto: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**

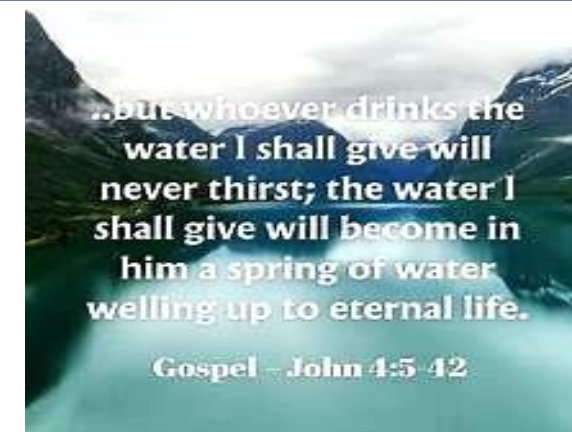
Terese Slattery, Coordinator  
 Leland Gregorich, Organist

**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)



**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**MARCH 8, 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

3/11 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† Adeline Clements (ACF)

3/13 Friday 8:00 AM –

† David “Bud” Hanson (MLH)

3/14 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Alvena Leis (GDF)

3/15 Sunday 10:00 AM –

St. Peter 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 \$20.

Ministry Servers

**Saturday March 14 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen

Ushers: Bill Korn & Tim Leis

Lector: Julie Lundeen

**Sunday March 15 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Allis & Sadie Gronemus

Ushers: Gary Gronemus & Mark Gronemus

Lector: Joseph Peterson

**\*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!!

Stations of the Cross

**Wednesdays at 7:00 PM**

**Adoration & Benediction to follow**

Parish Calendar of Events

Tues. March 10 – Cemetery meeting @ 7:00 PM

Wed. March 11 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. March 15 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Tues. March 17 – Parish Advisory Council @ 7:00 PM

Wed. March 18 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. March 22 – Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Mon. March 30 – All day Confessions at the Cathedral

Sun. April 5 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

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!



**Pray Often & Daily!!!**

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$2,321.90
	\$421.90
Year to Date Target -	\$66,500.00
Year to Date Total -	\$64,356.74
	-\$2,143.26

Looking Ahead: Readings for March 15, 2026

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel Reading:** John 9:1-41



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

DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP

GOAL	\$13,405.00
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED	\$13,990.00
# OF DONORS	29

**\*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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Today's readings for the Third Sunday of Lent focus on the theme of thirst, reminding us that a stewardship way of life both satisfies our longing for Christ and helps us respond to Christ's thirst for souls.

In our first reading from Exodus, the Israelites complain of thirst despite all God has done to free them from slavery. Yet when Moses cries out for help, God provides abundantly, bringing water from the rock to satisfy His people. This reminds us that God's generosity is always present, helping us feel cared for and confident in His ongoing provision.

In today's Gospel, we hear of the powerful encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, beginning with His simple request: "Give me a drink." He then tells her that He can offer living water — water that truly satisfies. This story reminds us that responding to Christ's call can transform our lives and those of others.

These words speak directly to us as well. Christ asks us to "give Him a drink" by sharing the gifts we have received with Him and with others for His sake. Yet it is Christ Himself who fills us with the living water of His grace.

God invites each of us to play a part in bringing others to Him through a stewardship way of life. This Lent, may we respond to that invitation with renewed commitment, offering our time, talent, and treasure so that many may come to know Christ. In doing so, we help quench His thirst for souls, giving our efforts a deep sense of purpose and significance.

Parish News

**Lenten Gathering:** Please join us on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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

**Cabin Feverfest:** Thank you to all who donated food, helped serve and attended our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Euchre tournament. We had 15 tables this year and had a profit of \$515.50. This event was created for community camaraderie and was a success in that regard!

**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.

**Venerate the "Madre Peregrina" - Pilgrim Mother Sculpture:** The "Madre Peregrina" - Pilgrim Mother is a life-size sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary in her apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Originating from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, this replica is crafted to closely resemble the original miraculous image as a living apparition. The primary purpose of the Madre Peregrina sculpture is to bring the spiritual presence and intercessory power of Our Lady of Guadalupe to communities worldwide, fostering peace, love and hope among Catholic pilgrims. **The veneration experience will take place at Christ the King Chapel at Holy Cross Diocesan Center from Friday, March 13 - Sunday, March 15** 3710 East Ave. S. in La Crosse.

**Men of the Cross: Forged for Mission | March 21, 2026 | Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church:** Men of the Diocese! 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!

**"A Retreat for a Parish on Mission":** Monsignor David Kunz will be leading a Lenten Mission at St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish, located at 210 W. Hamlin St. in West Salem, Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The times are: Sunday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m.; Monday, March 16, at 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.; and Friday, March 20, at 2:00 p.m. The daytime sessions repeat the previous evening session. All are welcome. Together we can grow closer to Christ during Lent.