

Diocesan and Community News

Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus Christ: Identity

The first characteristic is that our identity is rooted in being a child of the Father, redeemed by the Son, and alive in the Holy Spirit. We are loved because of who we are, not what we do. "See what love the Father has lavished upon us, letting us be called children of God. For that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). This characteristic is at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is an entirely different way of understanding who we are and why we are valuable. The world would have us base our identity on how successful we are, the numbers in our bank account, or the numbers on a scale (just to name a few). Scripture tells us that our "value" is not based on any material thing, but on the love that God the Father has for us. The depths of that love can be seen on the cross, for "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Having our identity rooted in the love of God changes everything. Our decisions, our relationships, our values, our actions...everything. It opens our eyes to a spiritual reality about the meaning of life and the dignity of others.

Come and See! The Seraphic Adorers of the Child Jesus are hosting a retreat day for young women ages 18-29 on Saturday, August 1. Come meet the sisters and spend time with our Eucharistic Lord. For more information go to <https://seraphicadorers.com/works/blogs/news-and-events/come-and-see-2026>.

Retrouvaille: Whether you have drifted apart, or arrived at separation or divorce, there is hope. Retrouvaille [ˈretro- vi]: means rediscovery or joyful reunion. The Retrouvaille® program is a lifeline of hope and healing for marriages of all ages... even couples who are separated or divorced but want to try again. For More Information, frequently asked questions, or to register for the next program, visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/>. Register online or by phone: Fully confidential Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille® toll free local program info: 1-877-922-HOPE (4673).

Rachel Ministries: Hope and Healing after the Loss of a Child: Anyone suffering the loss of a child as a result of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, or abortion knows that the tremendous pain of losing a child, no matter the circumstance, holds a sacred place in a parent's heart. Grief can be stifled by the busyness of our lives, the immensity of the pain, the difficulty of the circumstances, or the feeling of being alone. Volunteers at Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of La Crosse desire to walk alongside those suffering in this way on a journey of healing, offering spiritual accompaniment and connections with needed resources within the Catholic Church. To learn more about Rachel Ministries' pathways to healing, including special Masses and a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, see the flyer in the back of church or go to <https://diolc.org/rachelministries>.

New Initiative: Mom Group starting for local parishes! If you are a mom looking to enrich yourself spiritually, join the GroupMe group called "Gathered in Grace -Driftless Region" for more information. We will gain interest from the community and begin meeting once a week in September. If you have any questions or issues joining the group, please contact Sarah Gronemus at 608-386-9546.



Kids Korner

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. He says it is like a buried treasure, that when a man finds it, he sells everything he has and buys the field where it is hidden. He also says it is like a pearl of great price, that when a merchant finds it he sells all he has and buys it.

These parables tell us how precious the Kingdom of Heaven is. Jesus is explaining that it is more important than anything else in our lives. The men in the parables sold EVERYTHING they had to get the treasures.

But what is the Kingdom of Heaven? Is it a country with a king and subjects? Well it is, sort of, but you can't see it. Jesus is the King and His people are the people who choose Him as their King. The laws of the kingdom are God's laws, and the enemy is the devil who is trying to take all the souls. Always remember that belonging to God's Kingdom is more important than everything else in your life!



King Solomon's Dream Cross-Word

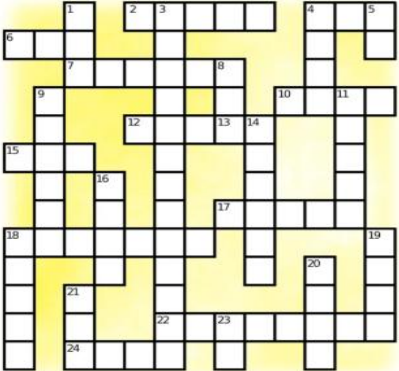
God _____ (19d) to the young _____ (24a) Solomon in a dream, " _____ (21d) _____ (23d) for whatever you want me to _____ (16d) you."

Solomon knew that he was only a young _____ (8d) and couldn't rule God's people without His help. So he said _____ (5d) God, "O _____ (20d), I am a _____ (10a) youth, not knowing _____ (1d) to _____ (4a). I _____ (18d) you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be _____ (22a) or counted. Give your _____ (18a), therefore, an _____ (3d) _____ (17a) to _____ (2a) your people and to distinguish _____ (11d) from _____ (12a). For _____ (6a) is _____ (4d) to _____ (14d) this vast _____ (9d) of yours?"

_____ (15a) was pleased with Solomon's request and told him that He would grant him _____ (7a) greater than anyone else had ever had or would have.

Use the words from this list to fill in the blanks and figure out the cross-word.

UNDERSTANDING
ME NUMBERED
TO SERVANT
ASK WISDOM
ACT GOVERN
GIVE WRONG
SAID PEOPLE
GOD JUDGE
WHO HEART
MAN RIGHT
KING SERVE
HOW LORD
ABLE MERE



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.... Eucharistic Exposition and
Rosary @ 7:00 PM
Quiet Prayer/Confession
Benediction @ 7:55 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

Austin Menn & Andrew Schaub

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

St. Peter's
Catholic Church
Middle Ridge, WI
W697 State Hwy 33
Rockland, WI 54653
608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
JULY 26, 2026

When the merchant found a pearl
of great value, he went away and
sold everything
he had and bought it.
MATTHEW 13:45-46

Parable of the Pearl



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

7/29 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† Roger & Irene Cummings (PTS)

7/31 Friday 8:00 AM –

† Leland Gregorich (SPF)

8/1 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Otto & Theresa Schaub (SF)

8/2 Sunday 10:00 AM –

St. Peters Parish Family

Ministry Servers

Saturday Aug. 1 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Mason Leis & Allis Gronemus

Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Bill Korn

Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday Aug. 2 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson

Ushers: Leo Leis & Mark Stephenson

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!!

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays: Eucharistic Exposition and Rosary @ 7:00 PM

Quiet Prayer/Confession - Benediction @ 7:55 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

Fri. July 31 – Parish Office Closed

Sun. August 2 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Tues. August 11 – Cabbage cutting @ 5 PM

Tues. August 18 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30

Please Help!

Our CCD program is seeking catechist teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. Classes begin mid-September. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office or reach out to Miranda Flock with questions.

***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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The stewardship way of life can be described as a daily pursuit of the Kingdom of Heaven. In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus uses a series of parables to help us grasp the incomparable value of that Kingdom.

First, He reminds us that living for Him and His Kingdom requires sacrifice. Yet the joy of following Christ makes any sacrifice worthwhile. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." He then compares the Kingdom to "a merchant searching for fine pearls." When the merchant finds a pearl of great price, he gladly sells everything he has to obtain it.

In both parables, the Kingdom is something precious that must be sought and recognized. We must intentionally look for it amid the world's distractions and noise.

Yet Jesus also reminds us that the Kingdom is meant for everyone. He compares it to a net cast into the sea that gathers fish of every kind.

At the same time, He reminds us that each of us will one day be judged. The angels "will separate the wicked from the righteous." It is a powerful reminder that our choices matter.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst and to pursue it above all else. There is no greater treasure, and no greater source of joy, than a life lived as a faithful disciple of Jesus.

Parish News

Office Closed: The parish office will be closed on Friday, July 31st.

There's Still Time to Join the Youth Casa Hogar Mission Trip! God is opening the door for another incredible opportunity to serve at Casa Hogar in March 2027, and there's still time to be part of it! From March 19–29, 2027, you'll have the chance to share Christ's love, encourage children at the orphanage, and experience God at work in a powerful way. The approximate cost is \$1,400, which includes round-trip airfare and your stay at the orphanage. The parish has received a grant that will help offset part of this cost and of course more fundraising can be done! The final deadline to sign up is August 15, so prayerfully consider joining us on this life-changing mission! Contact the parish office, Mike Klinkner, LorieRae Liss or Carol Gronemus if you are interested in the opportunity to serve others.

Choir News: We are in need of an accompanist for St. Peter's masses. Please let Terese Slattery know if you, or someone you know, can play the piano or organ. Perhaps we can work something out to glorify God with music!!

We Need Your Help: Rural Life Day is coming up on September 23 at 10:00 AM at Creamery Creek in Bangor, and we're hoping for a few helping hands! We're putting together volunteer teams to help bake dessert bars, direct parking, run golf cart shuttles, serve as ushers, transition tables and chairs between Mass and the meal, and assist with some light post-event cleanup. Your support is truly appreciated. To sign up or learn more, please contact Louisa Peterson or the parish office. Let us help out our fellow parishioner!!

Save the Date for the 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Creamery Creek Farms, W1250 County Road U, Bangor. There is something special about gathering on a farm with people who understand the work, the worry, the weather and the faith it takes to keep going. Join us for the Diocese of La Crosse's 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family **(St. Peter's parishioners)**.

The day includes:

- Mass at 10 a.m. with Bishop Gerard W. Battersby, joined by priests and deacons from across the diocese
- Recognition of those who support rural life and families whose farms have remained in operation for more than 100 years
- The blessing of crops, animals and farm machinery
- Lunch and fellowship with farm families, neighbors and friends from across the diocese

A freewill offering will benefit Project Milk. No matter how many acres you farm, or whether you farm at all, you are welcome.

Rural Life Day Nominations: We are seeking nominations for the following recognition awards for Rural Life Day (Sept. 23, 2026 at Creamery Creek Farms in Bangor – **St. Peter Parishioners Justin & Louisa Peterson**):

- "Friend of Rural Life" – Makes a significant contribution to the farming community. Not necessarily direct farmers themselves.
- "Strangers and Guests" – Farm family that exemplifies Catholic life, involvement in parish and community activities, hospitality, generosity.
- "Century Farms" – Families that have maintained 100+ years of continuous family ownership of their farm.

If you have someone in mind, please contact Rural Life Chairperson Anne Marie Elwing with their name and phone number: annemarie.elwing@wallstonellc.com. **Contact the parish office for the forms needed for nominating.**

Mark Your Calendars: Our Sauerkraut Supper is Wednesday October 14th!! It may seem like a long way in the future but getting ready for the Sauerkraut Supper starts *months* in advance! Here are some important dates to get on your schedule!! **Cabbage cutting:** Tues. August 11 @ 5 PM. **Clean garage & Basement:** Sat. September 26 @ 9 AM, **Scrub pots/roasters/general prep:** Tues. September 29 **AND** Thurs. October 1 @ 6 PM (TWO dates to choose from for your convenience), **Food prep:** Tues. October 13 @ 8 AM, **More food & grounds prep:** Wed. October 14 @ 8 AM. Please plan to help!!!

**PROTECT
YOUR LOVED ONES
AND CREATE YOUR
LEGACY**

YOUR LOVED ONES
NEED YOU, BUT
WHAT WOULD
THEY DO IF YOU
WERE NOT THERE?

ARE YOUR PLANS UP-TO-DATE?

A current estate plan is vital to making sure your wishes are carried out and can help you leave a lasting personal legacy. To assist you with making or updating your future plans, we can provide you

with our **FREE** Estate Planning Guide. Many of our supporters have found this guide useful in helping them think through their goals. To obtain a copy, please contact us or visit our website.



DIocese of LA CROSSE

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Phone: 608-788-7700 | Fax: 608-788-3854

Jeff Reiter, Director of Stewardship & Development

jreiter@diolc.org | diolclegacy.org

Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,432.00
	-\$468.00
Year to Date Target -	\$5,700.00
Year to Date Total -	\$3,549.35
	-\$2,150.65

Looking Ahead: Readings for August 2, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Second Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21