

Diocesan and Community News

Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus Christ: Community

The fifth characteristic is that we participate in our parish community and foster deeper relationships with individuals with whom we can share and grow in our faith. A disciple knows that one’s faith is not meant to be lived in isolation. We are part of a family. “We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). Disciples of Jesus actively seek each other out and look for opportunities to celebrate the love of God together, whether that be at Mass, on retreat, at a restaurant, at work or school, or even at a football game.

Join us for Oct. 16 Gospel of Life White Mass & Banquet: On Friday, Oct. 16, at 6:00 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, Bishop Battersby will celebrate the “White Mass,” at which the faithful honor and pray for Catholic healthcare professionals. A banquet will follow, with Fr. Justin Kizewski speaking on the vital topic of “The Art of Dying Well: Spiritual Preparation for Death.” As the end of life draws near, much attention is paid to medical decisions, life insurance, a will, a cemetery plot, etc., but nothing is as important as preparing the soul for passage into eternal life. Fr. Kizewski will shine a light on the beautiful teaching and practice of the Church as she accompanies us, and our loved ones, in the last days and hours of life. All are invited to attend this special evening. Visit here to learn more: <https://diolc.org/social-concerns/gospel-of-life>.

Annual Pancake Breakfast: St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 11, 2026 from 7:30 AM – gone or Noon (whichever comes first). Meal includes: delicious stack of pancakes with local real maple syrup, eggs, sausage, applesauce, milk, orange juice and coffee! Also purchase a tasty treat to take home from the bake sale! \$10 for adults, \$5 children ages 6-12, 5 and under free. Make your pancakes just the way you like them with our topping bar! Your choice of maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate syrup, sprinkles, whip cream and peanut butter (while supplies last).

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>.

Local Mom Group: This new group will meet here on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the basement starting in October. They will meet at other local churches on the other Tuesdays of the month. The rosary will be prayed, followed by fellowship, coffee for the moms and snacks for the kids. If you are a mom looking to enrich yourself spiritually, join the GroupMe group called “Gathered in Grace -Driftless Region” for more information.

Kids Korner

A Full Day's Wages

Today in the Gospel, Jesus tells a story of several men who were hired to work at a vineyard. The owner of the vineyard went out at different times to find men to work. At the end of the day, he gave each man a whole day's wages, even though some had only worked for a little while!

THAT'S NOT FAIR – THEY GOT A WHOLE DAY'S PAY! Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this too: some people spend their whole lives working for God, and some people only turn to Him at the last minute. God opens Heaven to all the people who choose to love Him.

At first this doesn't seem fair. After all, some people give their whole lives to God and some give hardly any! But here is why it is fair: the only reason that any of us turns to God is because He gave us that grace. Some people have to live their whole lives without God's grace until the very end, but some of us have been given grace all our lives.

Fill in the blanks:

Saint Paul tries to decide if it is better to live or die!

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks, and then put the letters from the boxes into the spaces at the bottom.



Brothers and _____⁵_____, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and _____²_____ is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means _____⁴_____ labour for me. And I do not know which I shall _____¹_____. I am caught _____⁶_____ the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for _____³_____ benefit.

between
death
sisters
your
fruitful
choose

Like Saint Paul, we
should be ready to
either live or die for

1 2 3 4 5 6

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



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 20, 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

9/23 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
St. Peter Parish Family
9/25 Friday 8:00 AM –

† Michael McMahon (JLP)
9/26 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Eugene Flock (LF)
9/27 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Larry Cavadini (ML)

Ministry Servers

Saturday September 26 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Madi & Sadie Gronemus
Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Phil Gronemus
Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday September 27 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson
Ushers: Mark Gronemus & Leo Leis
Lector: Joseph Peterson

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

Tues. Sept. 22 – Parish Pastoral Council meeting @ 7 PM
Wed. Sept. 23 – Office closed for staff to attend RLD
Wed. Sept. 23 – Rural Life Day at Creamery Creek Farms
Wed. Sept. 23 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sat. Sept. 26 – Clean Garage & Basement for Sauerkraut
Supper beginning @ 9 AM PLEASE COME HELP!!!!
Sun. Sept. 27 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AA
Tues. Sept. 29 – Supper prep & cleaning @ 6 PM
Wed. Sept. 30 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Thurs. Oct. 1 - Supper prep & cleaning @ 6 PM
Sun. Oct. 4 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. Oct. 4 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM



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

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In our First Reading from Isaiah, the Lord declares, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” As disciples, we are called to see life from God’s perspective and to use our time, talents, and treasure with eternity in mind. This is the heart of stewardship: recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and is meant to serve His mission.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus shares the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Some labor all day, while others are called only near the end, yet each receives the same wage. Rather than comparing ourselves to others, we are invited to rejoice in God’s generosity and remember the privilege of being called to work in His vineyard.

When we embrace stewardship as a way of life, we do more than give; we participate in God’s mission. We help carry forward the Gospel, strengthen our parish community, and share Christ’s love with others.

May we thank God each day for calling us to share in His mission and respond generously as faithful stewards.

Parish News

Condolences: The parish family extends sympathies to the family & friends of Eunice Reget who passed away on Thursday, September 17th. Eternal rest grant unto her, Oh Lord, and may her soul rest in peace.

COME CELEBRATE Rural Life Day! Sept. 23, 2026 - Creamery Creek in Bangor: Join us for the 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration at Creamery Creek, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family (*St. Peter’s parishioners*). Rural Life Day is a beautiful diocesan/deanery event that brings together several hundred members of the faithful to honor rural life in our communities. Our celebration begins with Mass at 10:00 AM, celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby, together with many priests and deacons of the diocese. This is followed by special awards and the blessing of crops, animals, and machinery of the farm. We conclude our celebration with a delicious lunch and a freewill offering to benefit Project Milk. Creamery Creek is located at W1250 County Road U, Bangor, WI 54614.

Local Celebrities: Everyone in the parish receives the Catholic Life magazine in their mailbox each quarter. This month there are TWO articles that mention St. Peter’s! On page 4 is a wonderful story about our former pastor, Fr. Biju. On page 20 is a beautiful spread featuring our parishioners, the Peterson family, and the Rural Life Day event coming up September 23rd at their farm. If you didn’t receive the magazine or misplaced it, there are a few copies on the bookshelves behind the last pew. Read & enjoy!!!

Sauerkraut Supper is Wednesday October 14th!! It may seem like a ways in the future but getting ready for the Sauerkraut Supper starts *weeks* in advance! Here are some important dates to get on your schedule!! **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!!!

Queen of the Americas Guild Conference: Join the Queen of the Americas Guild for a 2-day conference examining Our Lady’s role as Compassionate Mother to All That Live Together in This Land. Open to all those who wish to enhance their faith and learn more about this important topic. Date: October 16 and 17. Location: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Cost: \$125. See the flier and brochures on the bulletin board in the back of church for more information.

Organ Recitals at the Cathedral: The first in a series of three autumn organ recitals will be performed here at the Cathedral on Sunday September 27 at 3:30 by Gabriel Rivera Bird, an Aquinas High School student beginning his Senior year. Gabe is an outstanding organist who was a finalist in the 2025 American Guild of Organists regional competition. He studies organ with Dr. Brian Luckner and has participated in workshops and private lessons with faculty from major music schools over the past three summers, including Oberlin, Curtis, Eastman, Michigan, and Juilliard. The recital will be about one hour in duration. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be accepted. Ample parking is available. Come hear this remarkable young organist perform a thrilling program—his final recital here before leaving for college. **See the flier in the back of church for information on October 25th and November 22nd upcoming recitals.**

Welcome One Home - The Power of Your Invitation: Though there are many reasons why Catholics stop attending Mass and other aspects of parish life, it is safe to assume the majority will only come back if they are personally invited. A simple invitation to someone who has been away from the parish can remind them that they are remembered, loved, and always welcome. A personal invitation can become the first step toward someone coming home. No matter how long someone has been away or what circumstances have shaped their journey, the Catholic Church remains a place where God’s mercy, healing, and love are always offered. If even one person is absent from our parish family, their absence has an impact on the community.

What is “Rebuild My Church”? The Rebuild My Church Initiative exists to accompany the priests, people and parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse as we go through a process of pastoral planning that will allow us to live more abundantly as disciples of Jesus who make disciples. Change is inevitable, but we want to choose changes that build a culture of discipleship and accompaniment in our parishes. Piloting of local pastoral planning begins in August. You can stay updated here: <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates>.

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.

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week’s Total -	\$2,489.50
	-\$589.50
Year to Date Target -	\$20,900.00
Year to Date Total -	\$15,552.52
	-\$5,347.48

Looking Ahead: Readings for September 27, 2026

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28
Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32