

Diocesan and Community News

Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus Christ: Service

The fifth characteristic is service. 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). We devote our time, talent, and treasure to our parish, our community, and to those in need, encountering Jesus in “the least of these.” Jesus could not be clearer: he is present in the poor and needy, and we will be judged by how much we loved him through them. St. James wrote, “If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,’ but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?” (James 2:15-16). A disciple actively serves those in need.

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

Changing Your Mind

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord tells the parable of the two sons whose father asked them to help in the vineyard. The first son told his father he wouldn't help, but then he changed his mind and did what he was asked. The second son said he would help, but he didn't.

In the end it doesn't matter so much if we say we are going to do what's right. What is important is that we do it. We call ourselves Christians because we believe in Jesus and the Church He gave us, but we only really are being Christians if we do what He says.

I should have done my homework... I'll do it now.



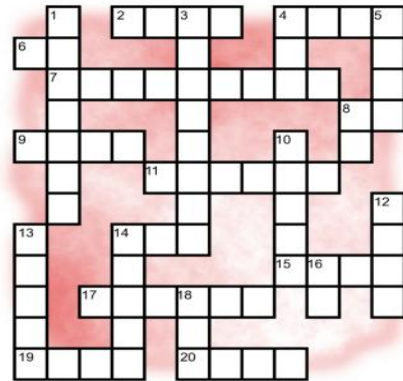
Sometimes we decide not to obey God. But if we are sorry afterwards and do what is right, God will not look at the bad things we did. On the other hand, if we do good things and then change to doing bad things, then we have decided to turn away from God, and we will be punished for our sins.



Ezekiel 18 Cross-Word

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks in the reading and the puzzle. a=across & d=down.

COMMITTED
INIQUITY
BECAUSE
UNFAIR IT
VIRTUE IS
TURNS IF
SHALL HE
SINCE DIE
MUST ALL
LORD SAY
SAYS FAIR
JUST SINS
DOES LIVE



Thus _____ (5d) the _____: (20a) You _____, (14a) "The Lord's way is not _____!" (2a) Hear now, house of Israel: _____ (8a) it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways _____? (17a) When someone virtuous _____ (10d) away from _____ (11a) to commit _____, (3d) and dies, _____ (8d) is _____ (1d) of the iniquity he committed that _____ (6a) _____ (12d) die. But _____ (16d) he turns from the wickedness he has _____, (7a) and _____ (4a) what is right and _____, (9a) he shall preserve his life; _____ (14d) he has turned away from _____ (18d) the _____ (15a) that he committed, he _____ (13d) surely _____, (19a) he shall not _____. (4d)

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-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 27, 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

9/30 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† Norb Hansen (JLP)

10/2 Friday 8:00 AM –

For the marriage of Ty & Caeli
Patterson (MLH)

10/3 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Elrita Meyers (LF)

10/4 Sunday 10:00 AM –

St. Peter Parish Family

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.

Ministry Servers

Saturday October 3 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Brielle, Brooklyn & Emerson Lundeen

Ushers: Bill Korn & Don Halderson

Lector: Julie Lundeen

Sunday October 4 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Avin & Brynn Stephenson

Ushers: Mark Stephenson & Peter Benzing

Lector: Kathy Flock

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. 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

Fri. Oct. 2 – Parish office closed

Sun. Oct. 4 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Sun. Oct. 4 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

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

Sun. Oct. 11 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Sun. Oct. 11 – Donuts w/ Knights of Columbus after mass

Tues. Oct. 13 – Food prep for supper @ 8 AM

Wed. Oct. 14 – SAUERKRAUT SUPPER – Help needed all day beginning at 8 AM. All hands on deck!



***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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As Christian stewards, we are called to a high and holy standard: to live as disciples of Christ every day, in every circumstance, and with every person the Lord places in our path. This call is not merely about doing more; it is about allowing our hearts, choices, and actions to be shaped by God's will so that our lives bear fruit for His mission.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of two sons whose father asks them to work in his vineyard. One son says "yes" but does not follow through. The other first says "no," but later changes his mind and goes. The lesson is both challenging and hopeful: what matters to God is not empty words but a heart that turns back to Him and a life that responds.

For us as Christian stewards, this is deeply consoling. We may not always respond perfectly to God's call. At times, the demands of discipleship, service, generosity, forgiveness, or sacrifice may feel too difficult. Yet God does not require perfection before inviting us into His work. He asks for hearts willing to be changed.

Parish News

Thank You! Rural Life Day 2026 was a true community lift, well beyond any farm event we've hosted at Creamery Creek before, and St. Peter's offered help without end. There were countless pans of dessert bars, help with parking, the tent reset from Mass to meal, serving the food, and the helpers stayed until the last table was folded. Our parish supported the event financially, on par with parishes many times our size. Father Sen brought the altar items so Bishop Battersby could celebrate Mass. Over 500 meals were served, including the Providence Academy school kids, who also had a lesson when they watched a dairy calf being born. Thank you for your time and your generosity. We are very proud and thankful to farm among neighbors like you.

With gratitude, Justin and Louisa Peterson and Family

Blessing of Pets: October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals! To celebrate, we invite you to **bring a picture** of your family pet(s) to the 10:00 am Mass. At the end of mass, Father will offer a special blessing for our pets.

Goodie Gathering: Join the Knights of Columbus after mass on October 11th downstairs for fellowship, donuts and refreshments.

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.

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. 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!!!

Respect Life Month: October is Respect Life Month. Catholic Charities offers free, confidential pregnancy and parenting support and adoption services. For pregnancy support, call 1.844.64GRACE (1-844-644-7223) or text 715.600.6391. For adoption information, call 888.212.4357.

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.**

Building Brighter Futures: Legacy Guild Dinner Celebrates Casa Hogar's Strong Foundation: Supporters of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II are invited to the 2026 Annual Legacy Guild Benefit Dinner on Friday, November 6, 2026, at the Holy Cross Diocesan Center in La Crosse. Every strong future starts with a solid foundation - and that's exactly what Casa Hogar provides for the children and young people who call it home. This dinner is a chance for supporters to gather, reconnect, and hear stories from the past year at Casa. Thanks to the generosity of faithful supporters, Casa continues to offer a foundation of faith, family, education, and opportunity for its children - a foundation that stands strong because of you. RSVP by Friday, October 23, 2026. Contact info@frjoesguild.org.

Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year)

Weekly Target - \$1,900.00

Last Week's Total - \$1,864.00

-\$36.00

Year to Date Target - \$22,800.00

Year to Date Total - \$17,416.52

-\$5,383.48

Looking Ahead: Readings for October 4, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-43