

**Diocesan and Community News**

**Lent: Remembering God's Goodness and Acknowledging Our Sin**

An important component of our Lenten journey is to realize and remember what God has done for us. Jesus proved His love for us as He gave His life for us on the cross that we might spend eternity with Him in perfect bliss. The foundation of our Lenten practices needs to be based upon thanking Jesus for His kindness, generosity and self-sacrificial love. Take time to look back over the day to see where you have experienced His kindness and generosity. Repentance is a major focus during the season of Lent. Repentance means to turn away from sin and then turn toward God. A good way to enter into the spirit of repentance is by making a good confession. Jesus instituted the sacrament of reconciliation because we need healing from the effects of personal sin after Baptism. The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, as Jesus – the Divine Physician – restores our soul to innocence, freedom and a peaceful calm.

**Kevin Matthews Broken Mary Presentation:** Kevin Matthews was the top disc jockey in Chicago on The Loop. Millions of people tuned into his radio station every day. A tragic health event led him to a broken statue of Mary, where he heard a voice say, "Will you deny me? Will you deny My mother?" Realizing this was the voice of Jesus, Kevin embraced the statue of Mary and had the two pieces glued back together, but left the remaining chips and broken pieces as they were. "She is broken, just like I am", he realized. Kevin asked a priest to bless the statue, and that is when the miracles began. Since then, Kevin has been traveling with this Broken Mary statue, bringing healing to our broken world. Come with your own brokenness and hear his story of God's healing. FREE! All are welcome!

Sunday, Feb. 22 1:30 pm St. Mary's University in the Page Theatre / 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN

Monday, Feb. 23 6:00 pm Aquinas High School Auditorium / 315 11th Street S, La Crosse, WI

**Kids Korner**

**What Happens in Lent?**

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!



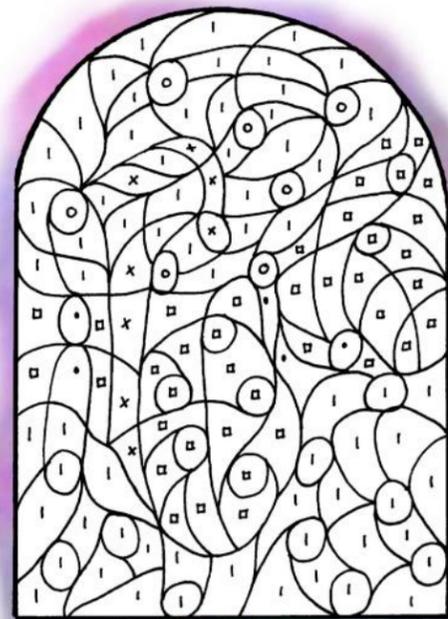
Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!

The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.

What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.



Today's first reading tells us about sin. Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces and find out what the story was.



■ blue    | green    x brown  
 ○ red    • skin colour

**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](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**

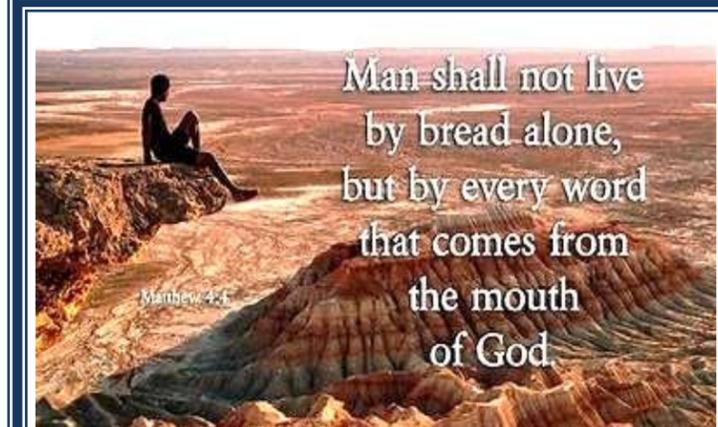
Terese Slattery, Coordinator  
 Leland Gregorich, Organist

**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)



**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
 FEBRUARY 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

**St. Peters Church - Middle Ridge**

**Cabin Fever Fest**

**Euchre Tournament & Luncheon**

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**\$15 per person**

**Time: Basement Doors open at 12:00 p.m.**

**Cards start at 1:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place prizes awarded (possibly more placings)**

**Soups, Snacks and Beverages**

**Included in the price!**



St. Peters Parish Basement  
 W697 State Rd 33  
 Rockland WI 54653  
 608-452-4680  
[parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org)

Parish Intentions

2/25 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† Joe Flock (ML)

2/27 Friday 8:00 AM –

† Adeline Clements (ACF)

2/28 Saturday 8:00 PM –

Living & deceased members of the Peter & Mary Leis family (TS)

3/1 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 now \$20.

Ministry Servers

**Saturday February 28 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson

Ushers: Tom Schaub & Phil Gronemus

Lector: Melissa Schaub

**Sunday March 1 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Avin & Brynn Stephenson

Ushers: Peter Benzing & Mark Stephenson

Lector: Pam Benzing

**\*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

Wed. Feb. 25 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

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

Sun. March 1 – St. Peters Annual Cabin Feverfest Euchre Tournament & Luncheon

Sun. March 1 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Wed. March 4 – Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

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

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

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

Mon. March 30 – All day Confessions at Cathedral



**\*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

**First Sunday of Lent**

As we embark on the transformative journey of Lent, the Church warmly invites us to 40 days of profound renewal and spiritual focus. This sacred season is not merely about sacrifice; it is about creating intentional space for God in our lives. For those dedicated to Christian stewardship, Lent serves as a powerful reminder to evaluate how we use the precious gift of time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, we witness Adam and Eve turning away from God, allowing seeds of doubt to take root. Their trust gives way to self-reliance, shattering the Garden's harmony. Similarly, we face temptations that challenge our faith, especially when our lives become cluttered with distractions that pull us away from God.

In stark contrast, the Gospel presents us with the example of Jesus. In the solitude of the desert, He devotes Himself to prayer and fasting, grounding Himself in Scripture and placing unwavering trust in the Father. By deliberately setting aside time for God, Jesus powerfully resists temptation and remains steadfast in His faith.

Lent calls each of us to follow this path. By intentionally creating space in our busy schedules for prayer, reflection on Scripture, and quiet contemplation, we nurture our trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship transforms into a way of life, preparing our hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter. Embrace this opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and experience the renewal of spirit that Lent offers. Jesus places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful.

Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

Parish News

**St. Peters Couples Night:** A HUGE thank you goes out to all who attended our annual event celebrating World Marriage Week. Each year gets better & better. Special thanks to Deb Leis for delicious desserts and charcuterie board, Fr. Sen for his jokes and words of wisdom, Kathy Flock for beverages and to all of our helpers including Joleen Happel & Andrew Schaub. May God bless married couples with the grace to live out their vocation with joy!

**Stations of the Cross:** There will be Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM followed by Adoration & Benediction throughout Lent. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Stations please contact Fr. Sen. *"The Stations of the Cross allow us to prayerfully journey with Jesus to Golgotha, the place of His Crucifixion. The Stations of the Cross are also a means to enter into our suffering and experience the hope we have in Christ through the Resurrection. They give us the courage to journey alongside those who are suffering, to provide a helping hand to those who have fallen, to help someone carry their cross, to offer an act of compassion in the midst of humiliation, to simply sit at the foot of the cross and witness suffering and know that as we encounter others who suffer, we encounter Christ, as well."*

**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

**St. Peters Cabin Feverfest:** Our annual Euchre tournament and soup luncheon will take place on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at noon. Please find fliers in the back of church to take around to places you patronize. Look for the sign up sheet of what items are needed there too. Parishioner help is appreciated. Let's have a good turn out of St. Peters parishioners!!

**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.

**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 15th, through Friday, March 20th. 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.



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

[DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP](http://DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP)

GOAL

COMMITTED AND RECEIVED

# OF DONORS



**Pray Often & Daily!!!**



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,386.35
	-\$607.00
Year to Date Target -	\$62,700.00
Year to Date Total -	\$60,666.84
	-\$2,033.16

Looking Ahead: Readings for March 1, 2026

**First Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4

**Second Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-10

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 17:1-9