

**Diocesan and Community News**

**A Catholic Phrase to Understand Better- The Love of Jesus**

**Christ:** Jesus loves each person unconditionally, seeing their goodness and their potential. Jesus proves His love by giving His life on the Cross for every person so that our sins can be forgiven and we can be reunited with the Father. Jesus desires that we grow in love of Him, others and ourselves so that each of us can become the person He created us to be.

**Religious Freedom Week—June 22-29, 2026:** Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the U.S. Bishops invite Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom. To learn more and to participate, visit <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week>.

**American Saints:** In celebration of America's 250th birthday, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion will host a nine-day in-person observance featuring a novena for the United States, praying for unity, holiness, and renewal through Our Lady's intercession.

The Shrine will also present a Carlo Acutis-inspired exhibit on American Saints, Blessed's, Venerable's, and Servants of God - including Servant of God Father Joseph Walijewski of the Diocese of La Crosse - with talks on their lives and causes, along with opportunities for prayer and veneration of relics. All are invited to join in prayer and reflection for our nation. Learn more about this event at: <https://championshrine.org/americansaints> or see the flyer in the back of church.

**Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical addressing Artificial Intelligence:** To read Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, in which he addresses the need to safeguard the human person in this age of artificial intelligence, visit <https://www.usccb.org/magnifica-humanitas>. At the same website there are additional resources from the U.S. Bishops related to the encyclical and to both the benefits and the dangers associated with AI.

**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 stilled 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, go to <https://diolc.org/rachelministries> or see the flyer in the back of church.

**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**

**Don't Worry!  
God Cares About You!**

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us not to fear those who can kill us. He tells us that God pays attention to the sparrows, which are just little birds. How much more He cares about us, His people!



I feel all alone...  
But God is still with me!



What Jesus says reminds us that we should always remember that God loves and cares for us. We don't need to live in fear, because God always wants what is best for us.

Sometimes bad things happen to us - we can become poor, we can lose friends, we can get hurt or sick. But God is still caring for us through those times. These things can help remind us of how much we need God. Just food and possessions and other people and even our health are not enough

Every time you see a picture of Jesus remember that God is caring about you right now! Thank Him for His love and try to share His love and care with those around you!



Answers to Fill-in-the-Blanks: LIGHT, PROCLAIM, FATHERS, OF, NOT, MORE, EARTH, BEFORE, BUT, God cares for you!

**Fill-in-the-Blanks**

Fill in the blank spaces with the words from the list. Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end!

What I tell you in the dark, utter in the \_\_\_□\_\_\_; and what you hear whispered, \_\_\_□\_\_\_ upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the \_\_\_□\_\_\_ but \_\_\_□\_\_\_ kill the soul; rather \_\_\_□\_\_\_ him who can kill both body and soul in Hell. Are not two \_\_\_□\_\_\_ sold for a \_\_\_□\_\_\_? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your \_\_\_□\_\_\_ will. But even the hairs \_\_\_□\_\_\_ your head are numbered. Fear \_\_\_□\_\_\_, therefore; you are of \_\_\_□\_\_\_ value than many sparrows. So \_\_\_□\_\_\_ who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge \_\_\_□\_\_\_ my Father who is in heaven; \_\_\_□\_\_\_ whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

- SPARROWS
- EVERYONE
- PROCLAIM
- FATHER'S
- CANNOT
- BEFORE
- PENNY
- LIGHT
- MORE
- BODY
- FEAR
- NOT
- BUT
- OF

\_\_\_□\_\_\_!

**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](mailto: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](http://www.saintpetersparish.net)



**TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
JUNE 21, 2026**

SO DON'T BE AFRAID;  
you are worth more than many sparrows.



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**

**6/24 Wednesday 8:00 AM –**

**† Connie Goodreau (AH)**

**6/26 Friday 8:00 AM –**

**NO MASS (Fr. Sen at Priest Unity Days)**

**6/27 Saturday 8:00 PM –**

**† Leo Bouska (AB)**

**6/28 Sunday 10:00 AM –**

**St. Peters Parish Family**

**Ministry Servers**

**Saturday June 27 – 8:00 PM**

Servers: Brielle & Brooklyn Lundeen

Ushers: Bill Korn & Duane Leis

Lector: Julie Lundeen

**Sunday June 28 – 10:00 AM**

Servers: Arnie & Adeline Nicolai

Ushers: Peter Benzing & Mark Gronemus

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!!

**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**

**Tues. June 23 – Wed. June 24 – Summer Youth Event @ 3**

**Thurs. June 25 – Sauerkraut Supper Planning Mtg @ 7 PM**

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

**Mon. July 6 – PCCW Mtg/Ladies Fellowship Gathering @ 7**

**Sun. July 12 – Parish Picnic @ ballfield after mass**



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

**DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP**



GOAL	\$13,405.00
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED	\$17,360.00
# OF DONORS	32

**Diocesan Annual Appeal:** Congratulations! We have surpassed our goal and are now receiving our rebates back to the parish to use on projects of our choice. If you would still like to donate toward this appeal, the deadline is 6/30/2026. Please mail early.

**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**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings highlight the importance of trust, helping us feel valued and motivated to deepen our faith as we seek to live the stewardship way of life.

The Lord knows that facing our fears and trusting Him in all areas of our lives is an ongoing challenge for us. He is generous with reassurances to us throughout the Scriptures. Today's Gospel passage from Matthew is a case in point. In the span of eight verses, Jesus addresses the topic of fear four times.

- "Fear no one."
- "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."
- "Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body."
- "So do not be afraid."

And the reassurance continues. "Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted." Highlighting that Jesus calls God "your Father" helps us feel comforted and reassured of His intimate care for us.

With that, let us all breathe a huge sigh of relief. All is well. Our Father knows us through and through, sent His Son to save us, and will always take care of us.

Let's stop wasting any more time with fear. Instead, let's live with confidence, putting all our energy, talents, and treasures into trusting this great and loving God, using all that we are and all that He has given us to bring Him glory.

**Parish News**

**Summer Youth Event:** Please join us **Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** through **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** for a Western themed, rootin' tootin' good time! Enjoy a horse & wagon ride, obstacle course, games, Hoe-down dance & of course, FOOD!!! There will also be a candlelight rosary, movie and a campfire, including campfire songs (just like the cowboys do)! Contact Carol Gronemus to RSVP. Come join for as much as you would like. Spending the night is optional. All ages are welcome!!!

**Sincere Gratitude:** The parish family extends a huge Thank You to Richard Korish (and his wife Jan) for his service as our sacristan for the past few years. Enjoy your retirement! Thank you to Andrew Schaub for stepping up to fill this roll. God bless you both!!

**Sauerkraut Supper:** There will be a planning meeting on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Please plan to attend to lend a voice to our main parish fundraiser. This event takes a lot of planning, so we need to start early!

**Attention Ladies!!** Please join us on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> for a "WHINE, Cheese & Chocolate" gathering at the church Rectory. This will be a social and information gathering event. All ladies are welcome! Let us be the leaders that God has created us to be!

**Parish Picnic:** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>** for fun, food, fellowship & maybe another surprise! We will meet at the ballfield after mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Come spend time with your Parish family!!!

**June Celebration:** The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The beautiful prayer provided by the Bishops of the United States is most appropriate for the entire month of June. Please find a copy of the prayer in this bulletin.

**Help Needed:** Our housekeeper/cleaner/decorator/master of all things, Margie Lee, has expressed wanting to retire soon. If you are interested in doing all or even part of what she does please contact Margie, the parish office or Fr. Sen for more information.

**Summertime Adoration:** There will be a slight change to the times of our Wednesday night adoration. Please see the block to the left and front page for more information. Please take the opportunity on a quiet summer evening to spend some time with Jesus in prayer.

**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. Parents, since you are bringing your children to class anyways, why not take this opportunity to help shape our students' lives.

**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.

**"Legacy of Love: Celebrating Decades of Married Life."** We are pleased to introduce a new way of celebrating wedding anniversaries in our diocese! Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, or 80th will be invited to participate in *Legacy of Love: Celebrating Decades of Married Life*. This free event will begin with Mass and include pictures with Bishop Battersby followed by a simple reception. Each couple is invited to bring two guests with them. Couples can register by going to <https://dioceseoflacrosse.regfox.com/legacy-of-love> or calling Laura Boden at 608.791.2680 or emailing her at [lboden@diolc.org](mailto:lboden@diolc.org).

**Saddle up, Mosey on over for a BIG Hoedown at St. Peter's Youth Summer Event**

For Games, Movie and Sleepover at the Middle ridge Ballfield

Wednesday June 23, 2026 3:00 PM to Thursday June 24, 2026 10:00 AM ish

ALL AGES are welcome to attend (Adults too)

Hobo Dinners of Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs with potatoes and carrots, treats and drinks

Games/Crafts/Fun

- ♦ Horse and Wagon Rides
- ♦ Obstacle Course Games
- ♦ Hoedown Dancing
- ♦ And Much More

Western/Cowboy Fun

Let's have a Hoot'in and Holler'in Good time

- ★ Popcorn, treats and drinks Wednesday evening
- ★ A light pancake breakfast will be served Thursday morning
- ★ Candle Light Rosary
- ★ Campfire Songs
- ★ Movie

❖ Come join for as much as you would like, staying the night is optional.

❖ Bring your own tents, sleeping bags, blankets and pillows

Please RSVP to Carol G 608 487 - 6170 by June 22, 2026

**Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)**

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$12,743.05
	\$10,843.05
Year to Date Target -	\$95,000.00
Year to Date Total -	\$102,140.02
	+\$7,140.02

**Looking Ahead: Readings for June 28, 2026**

**First Reading:** 2 Kings 4:8-16

**Second Reading:** Romans 6:3-11

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 10:37-42