

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 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

Priorities

In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that if we love anyone more than we love Him we are not worthy of Him. What He means is that we need to keep God first in our lives. The two great commandments He gave us are 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

How can we keep God first in our lives? We can start by talking to Him as soon as we start our day. We can tell Him we love Him and offer our day to Him! We also keep God first by following His laws-making sure we go to Mass at least every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, and going to Confession when we have a serious sin.

I'd like to play but I have to look after my baby brother.

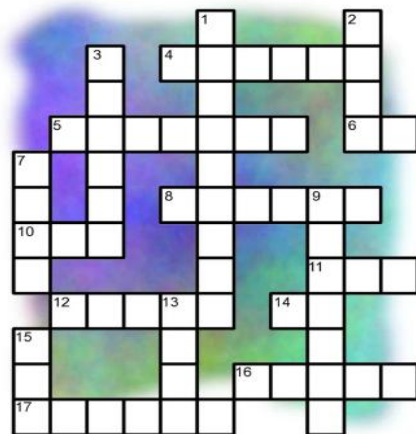


The next most important thing is loving others. God wants us to love and care for the people He has put into our lives. First we must care for our family that He has given us and then our friends and neighbours.

What is the most important thing for you to do today? How can you put God first every day this week?

Answers to Crossword: ACROSS: 4 little, 5 prophet, 6 to, 8 reward, 10 say, 11 cup, 12 cross, 14 me, 15 loves, 17 mother. DOWN: 1 right, 2 sent, 3 worthy, 7 lose, 9 receive, 13 sake, 15 him.

A Gospel Crossword



Fill in the missing words in today's Gospel reading to find the answers to this crossword!
A=Across
D=Down

He who loves father or _____ (17A)
more than me is not worthy of me; and he who _____ (16A)
son or daughter

more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his _____ (12A) and follow me is not _____ (3D) of me. He who finds his life will _____ (7D) it, and he who loses his life for my _____ (13D) will find it. "He who receives you receives _____ (14A), and he who receives me receives _____ (15D) who _____ (2D) me. He who receives a prophet because he is a _____ (5A) shall _____ (9D) a prophet's reward, and he who receives a _____ (1D) man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's _____ (8A). And whoever gives _____ (6A) one of these _____ (4A) ones even a _____ (11A) of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I _____ (10A) to you, he shall not lose his reward."

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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
JUNE 28, 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

7/1 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

† Adeline Clements (ACF)

7/3 Friday 8:00 AM –

† John & Louise Kotek (AB)

7/4 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Douglas Hurlburt (AH)

7/5 Sunday 10:00 AM –

St. Peters Parish Family

Ministry Servers

Saturday July 4 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Matthew Schaub & Volunteer

Ushers: Ron Hurtz & Volunteer

Lector: Lynda Hurtz

Sunday July 5 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson

Ushers: Leo Leis & Gary Gronemus

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

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

Mon. July 6 –Ladies “Whine, Cheese & Chocolate”
Gathering @ 7 pm at the church rectory

Sat. July 11 & Sun. July 12 – Mission Coop visiting priest

Sun. July 12 – Parish Picnic @ ballfield after mass



Happy Feast of our patron, St. Peter!!
(June 29)

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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings take us back to some basics of stewardship living and demonstrate the genius of this way of life.

Our First Reading, from 2 Kings, shows us the necessity and power of hospitality. It recounts the story of a woman who showed loving hospitality to a visitor, inviting him to dinner with her family and arranging a room for him in their home so that he would have a comfortable place to stay during his travels through her town. She reached out to the man in a simple, practical way to make him feel welcome, and was rewarded in an extraordinary way.

In our Second Reading, from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us of the power of our Baptism and how this sacrament makes us disciples. What does that mean for us here and now? St. Paul tells us very clearly: “You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.” We must live for Christ! Nothing less will do.

Our Lord proclaims this same instruction in a rather shocking way in our Gospel passage from Matthew: “Whoever finds his life [by living for oneself] will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” But how do we lose our lives? Precisely through loving actions towards others, loving them as if they were Christ. “Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple... he will surely not lose his reward.”

The simple brilliance of stewardship living — only our infinitely creative and compassionate God could conceive it!

Parish News

Summer Youth Event: Thank you to all the cowboys & cowgirls who attended this Western themed event. A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU to Carol Gronemus (the mastermind of this rodeo), Miranda Flock, other parents and Tom & Melissa Schaub (with shotgun riders Abigail Leis & Rebecca Schaub) who provided horse & wagon rides across the rough terrain. A great time was had by all!!

Attention Ladies!! Please join us on Monday, July 6th 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 12th** for fun, food, fellowship & maybe another surprise! We will meet at the ballfield after mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Brats and hotdogs will be provided. Come spend time with your Parish family!!!

Choir News: Eternal rest grant unto Leland Gregorich, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. 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!!

Mission Coop: Fr. Juby Chacko V.C., a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India will be in our parish on July 11 and 12 to participate in our Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will share his missionary experience at all the Masses and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.

The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.), a Religious Congregation, was founded in Kerala, India in 1904, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing Religious Congregation are engaged in mission work in all parts of India and in East Africa and in Peru. Please visit their web site, <https://www.vincentians.in/> to learn more about them.

The Vincentian Missionaries need our help to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities. They need our special financial support for the training of young men studying for priesthood. There will be special mission collection to help the Missionary work of the Vincentian Fathers. We urge you to be very generous in your mission offering since these Missionaries need our help. Please keep Fr. Juby and all the Vincentian Missionaries in your prayers. Thank you.

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.

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>.



Sunday, July 12th

At the ballfield after mass

Bring a dish to pass

Brats & Hotdogs will be provided

Food, fun, fellowship & a special surprise!

**Come spend time with
your parish family!!!!**



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	\$931.42
	\$968.58
Year to Date Target -	\$96,900.00
Year to Date Total -	\$103,071.44
	+\$6,171.44

Looking Ahead: Readings for July 5, 2026

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Second Reading: Romans 8:9-13

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-30