

Diocesan and Community News

Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus Christ:

Receives the Sacraments

The third characteristic is that a disciple prayerfully encounters Jesus on a regular basis through the sacraments of the Church and lives in the power of the grace they have received through them. A Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ understands that sacraments are “the” way of receiving God’s grace. We are made children of God through Baptism. We are forgiven of our sins through Reconciliation. We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus through the Eucharist. Jesus also instituted the Sacraments of Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick for the sake of our salvation, so that the power He displayed in His public ministry would continue through the sacraments He gave to the Church. A disciple of Jesus frequently receives and cooperates with the graces he or she has received through the sacraments.

Local Mom Group: This new initiative will begin on September 15th at Sacred Heart in Cashton from 9:30 to 11 AM and 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. If you have any questions or issues joining the group, please contact Sarah Gronemus. **Scan this QR code to learn more info.**



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>.

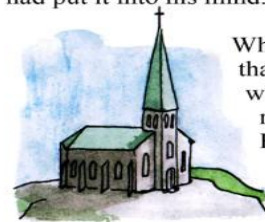
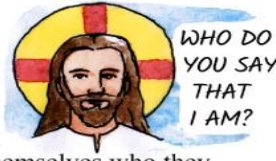
Pope Leo XIV’s Encyclical addressing Artificial Intelligence: To read Pope Leo’s first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, in which he addresses the need to safeguard the human person in this age of artificial intelligence, visit <https://www.usccb.org/magnifica-humanitas>. At the same website there are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

Retrouvaille: Whether you have drifted apart, or arrived at separation or divorce, there is hope. Retrouvaille [‘retro- vi]: means rediscovery or joyful reunion. The Retrouvaille® program is a lifeline of hope and healing for marriages of all ages... even couples who are separated or divorced but want to try again. For More Information, frequently asked questions, or to register for the next program, visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/>. Register online or by phone: Fully confidential Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille® toll free local program info: 1-877-922-HOPE (4673).

Kids Korner

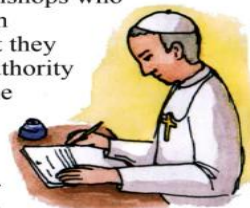
"You Are Peter."

Today in the Gospel reading, Jesus asked His disciples who people thought that He was. Everybody seemed to think He was someone special, but none of them knew who He really was. When Jesus asked the disciples themselves who they thought He was, Simon said that He was "the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Simon only knew this because God had put it into his mind.



When Simon had said this, Jesus said that his name would now be Peter, which means rock, and that on this rock He would build His Church. He made Simon Peter the first pope. He also said that the gates of Hell would not prevail against the Church. Jesus was assuring us that He would always protect the Church from error.

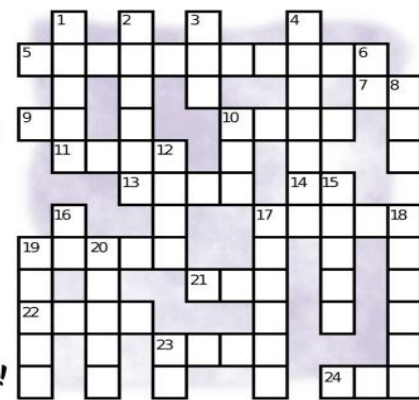
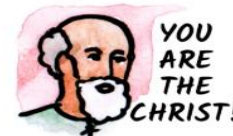
Now whenever the pope, or the bishops who are agreeing with the pope, proclaim something about God, we know that they are right. Jesus gave the teaching authority to Peter, and he passed it down to the bishops through all the centuries until now. Isn't that amazing?



Answers to Crossword: ACROSS: 5. Netherworld 7. on 9. he 10. give 11. rock 13. head 14. in 17. flesh 19. Jesus 21. set (or put) 22. name 23. have 24. son DOWN: 1. Peter 2. Church 3. are 4. prevail 6. do 8. not 10. God 12. keys 15. never 16. we 17. Father 18. Heaven 19. Jesus 20. Simon 23. he

"Who do you say that I am?" CROSSWORD

See how well you know what happened in today's Gospel story!



ACROSS
5. "...the gates of the _____ will not prevail..."
7. "...this rock I will build my Church..."
9. "Whatever you bind on earth shall _____ bound in Heaven."
10. "I will _____ you the keys of the kingdom..."
11. "On this _____ I will build my Church."
13. Jesus made Peter the _____ of the Church on earth.
14. "Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed _____ Heaven."
17. "_____ and blood have not revealed this to you..."
19. _____ asked them, "Who do you say that I am?"
21. God _____ Peter in charge of His Church on earth.
22. Jesus changed Simon's _____ to Peter.
23. "Flesh and blood _____ not revealed this to you..."
24. "...You are the Christ, the _____ of the living God!"
DOWN
1. _____ said, "You are the Christ..."
2. "On this rock I will build my _____."
3. "Blessed _____ you, Simon..."
4. "...the gates of the netherworld shall not _____..."
6. "Who _____ people say that the Son of Man is?"
8. "Flesh and blood have _____ revealed this..."
10. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living _____!"
12. "I will give you the _____ to the kingdom of Heaven."
15. When will the gates of the netherworld prevail against the Church?
16. _____ belong to the Church that Jesus started.
17. The Heavenly _____ revealed to Simon who Jesus was.
18. "...the keys to the kingdom of _____..."
19. "Blessed are you, Simon, son of _____..."
20. Peter's name before Jesus changed it.
23. Jesus ordered the disciples to tell no one that _____ was the Christ.

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

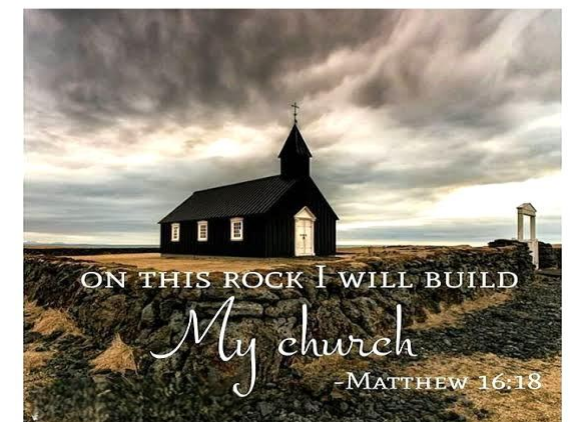
St. Peter's Catholic Church Middle Ridge, WI W697 State Hwy 33 Rockland, WI 54653 608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 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

8/26 Wednesday 8:00 AM –

St. Peter Parish Family

8/28 Friday 8:00 AM –

† Orvin Lee (ML)

8/29 Saturday 8:00 PM –

† Jeannie Halderson (MLH)

8/30 Sunday 10:00 AM –

† Larry Cavadini (ML)

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 August 29 – 8:00 PM

Servers: Brielle, Emerson & Brooklyn Lundeen

Ushers: Duane Leis & Tim Leis

Lector: Julie Lundeen

Sunday August 30 – 10:00 AM

Servers: Jake & Josh Peterson

Ushers: Leo Leis & Peter Benzing

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

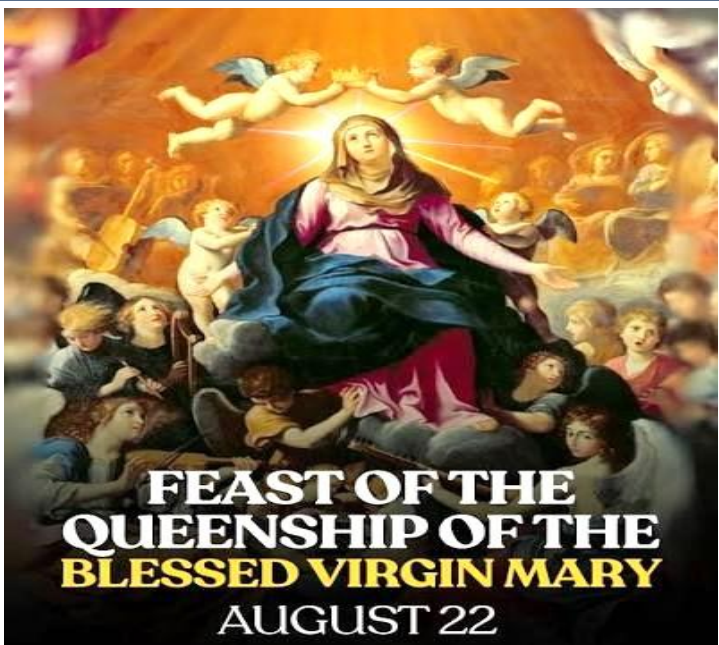
Tues. Sept. 3 – Safe Environment training @ 7:30 PM

Sun. Sept. 6 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM

Wed. Sept. 9 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM

Sun. Sept. 13 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Tues. Sept. 22 – Parish Pastoral Council meeting @ 7 PM



Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year)

Weekly Target - \$1,900.00

Last Week's Total - \$835.22

-\$1,064.78

Year to Date Target - \$13,300.00

Year to Date Total - \$9,088.57

-\$4,211.43

Looking Ahead: Readings for August 30, 2026

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27

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.



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.

Stewardship Reflection

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel from Matthew invites us to look honestly at our lives and ask whether we are truly giving God the glory He deserves. Jesus begins by asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" After they share what others are saying, He makes it personal: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responds with great faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

That same question comes to each of us today. As Christian stewards and disciples, we would probably answer as Peter did. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

But does our daily living match that beautiful profession of faith? If we truly believe that Christ came to save us from our sins and lead us to heaven, then our choices should proclaim that truth as clearly as our words. Do our priorities and ambitions show that Christ is our Savior? Does the way we use our time, talents, and treasure reveal that we are His disciples?

Every blessing God has placed in our hands is meant to be used for His glory. The greatest praise we can offer Him is not just in our prayers or our hymns, but in a life lived as a grateful response to His unfathomable love. That is the beauty and the power of the stewardship way of life.

Parish News

Blessings: We welcome the daughter of Steven & Hannah Hundt who was baptized last Sunday. Congratulations to the family!

CCD Registration & Safe Environment Requirements: CCD Registration is now open for the 2026-27 program year. Current families, please watch for an email containing registration forms. Registration forms can also be picked up in the church vestibule. Forms may be dropped off at the church or put in a sealed envelope and placed in the offertory. Registration is due on or before September 6th to allow for staffing and material distribution. Please contact Miranda Flock with questions. **There will be a Safe Environment training for all paid employees, catechism volunteers, and anyone else who would like to attend on September 3rd at 7:30 in the church basement. This training is required by the Diocese.**

Mass of Hope & Healing: Join us Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 PM at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral for a mass offered for anyone suffering the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death. A candle ceremony will begin before the mass so please arrive early to receive a votive light for your cause. Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Gerard W. Battersby. For more info call 608-788-3854. Refreshments will be served after Mass. All are welcome!

We Need Your Help: Rural Life Day is coming up on September 23 at 10:00 AM at Creamery Creek in Bangor, and we're hoping for a few helping hands! We're putting together volunteer teams to help bake dessert bars, direct parking, run golf cart shuttles, serve as ushers, transition tables and chairs between Mass and the meal, and assist with some light post-event cleanup. Your support is truly appreciated. **Please find a sign up sheet in the back of church along with pans for making bars.**

Save the Date for the 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Creamery Creek Farms, W1250 County Road U, Bangor. There is something special about gathering on a farm with people who understand the work, the worry, the weather and the faith it takes to keep going. Join us for the Diocese of La Crosse's 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family (**St. Peter's parishioners**). The day includes:

- Mass at 10 a.m. with Bishop Gerard W. Battersby, joined by priests and deacons from across the diocese
- Recognition of those who support rural life and families whose farms have remained in operation for more than 100 years
- The blessing of crops, animals and farm machinery
- Lunch and fellowship with farm families, neighbors and friends from across the diocese

A freewill offering will benefit Project Milk. No matter how many acres you farm, or whether you farm at all, you are welcome.

Mark Your Calendars: Our Sauerkraut Supper is Wednesday October 14th!! It may seem like a long way in the future but getting ready for the Sauerkraut Supper starts *months* 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!!!

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE: The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.