



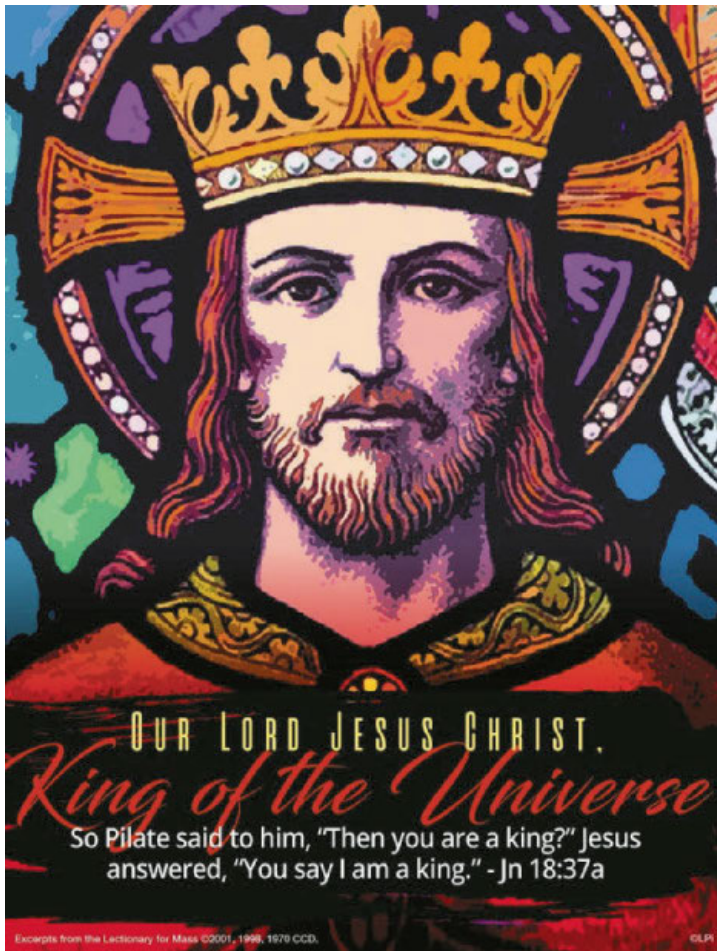
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www.straymond.us



Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of
ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND
 OF PEÑAFORT

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe | November 21, 2021



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

November 20 through November 28

Sat., Nov. 20	4:00p	SM	† Mr. & Mrs. Anton Liedl
	6:00p	SR	† Bob Kotecki
Sun., Nov. 21	8:30a	SR	† Sue Weiss
	11:00a	SM	† Rose Peterson
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention
Mon., Nov. 22	————	No Mass	————
Tue., Nov. 23	8:00a	SR	Peter & Lisa Melrose
Wed., Nov. 24	————	No Mass	————
Thu., Nov. 25	9:00a	SR	† Catherine Starck
Fri., Nov. 26	————	No Mass	————
Sat., Nov. 27	4:00p	SM	† Rich Wahl
	6:00p	SR	† Myra Kamrowski
Sun., Nov. 28	8:30a	SR	† Henrietta Bauer
	11:00a	SM	† Sue VanHemert
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday	<i>Cancelled this week</i>	SR
Saturday	10:00a–12:00p	SM

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Tuesday	5:00p–9:00p	SM
Thursday	<i>Cancelled this week</i>	SR

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs	9a-Noon or by apt	SM
Sunday	Noon-3p	SM
Tues/Thurs	9a-Noon or by apt	SR

Pastor

Fr. Derek Sakowski
 On Sabbatical

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Peter Kieffer
 715-855-1294 ext. 140
PKieffer@diolclergy.org

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Reflections from Jon Jones



Bring It Into The Light

One of my favorite phrases from support groups like AA is “bring it into the light”. Bring it into the light. Whenever I get rattled or upset, experiencing a serious disturbance in my heart, from a spiritual standpoint I am wrestling with the symptoms of a deeper problem. Whatever is going on in that

moment, God’s voice in my mind and heart is drowned out by the noise of painful emotions. How can I get back to that centered place of peace and dependence on my loving Father who wants to give me my heart’s desire? I bring what is bothering me into the light of his mercy.

I love the imagery from St. Theresa of Ávila as she discusses the complexity of the soul. She says that it is like a castle. We don’t really have castles in the United States, so the idea of a mansion resonates with me more. The soul, in other words, is like a huge house with lots of rooms. Some are made for gathering, while others are for more intimate and private purposes. Jesus says that he stands at the door and knocks. Am I going to let him in?

Sometimes there are certain rooms I don’t want him to see. My house should be clean for the King, right? He should not see my dirty laundry, whether it be anger, sadness, resentment or something else. As a courteous host I should provide a pleasant home to be in, so I conveniently close that door of my heart and the other one, too, and keep those locked for everyone but me.

But that is not what Jesus wants. In fact, in the Gospels we see that it was the dirty, unkempt places where Jesus was most interested in hanging out. Regularly chastised for hanging out with “sinners and tax collectors”, Jesus made quite the effort at getting to know the undesirable people and places in town. My heart and yours are no different to him.

Jesus wants me to bring into the light the secrets and lies that I like to keep stowed away so that I can experience the very thing he was Incarnated to do—to heal the wounded. “But sin is more than a stain,” says the Holy Father. “Sin is a wound; it needs to be treated, healed.” I experience sin when my interior focus shifts away from my security in God’s embrace, and spending time with Jesus brings reconciliation.

I think about Adam and Eve and how things would have turned out differently had they brought their temptation into the light. Instead, they made a decision on their own and immediately were ashamed of their nakedness. When God looked for them, they hid. When He called for them,

they were afraid. They preferred to stay in the dark, hidden in secret.

But, God called them out of the darkness. Sure, there was bad news once they came out, but there was also tenderness and love as they received clothes from their Creator. They did not lose their dignity as imago Dei (image of God), and neither have we. But, they did experience something that they had not up to that point—God’s mercy. When we let ourselves be seen by God, when we let His mercy into our lives, into our memories, into our hearts, then we allow ourselves to be touched and cared for by Him. This means that our sin, the secret closets of our hearts, are actually the places where we can encounter most strongly God’s tenderness. As St. Ambrose wisely points out, when brought to Jesus, sin does more good than harm because it brings us into contact with our redemption.

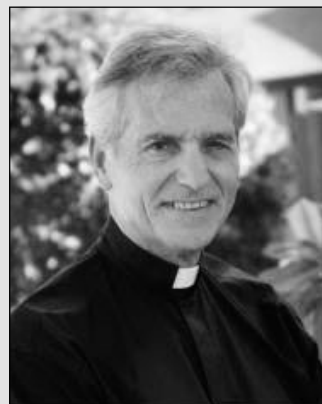
Pope Francis has discussed this, saying “the place where my encounter with the mercy of Jesus takes place is my sin. When you feel his merciful embrace, when you let yourself be embraced, when you are moved—that’s when life can change, because that’s when we try to respond to the immense and unexpected gift of grace, a gift that is so overabundant it may even seem “unfair” in our eyes.”

With Advent approaching, and as we think about how we will prepare our hearts for the Incarnation of our Lord, let us enter the light of the confessional. If we do, we will be able to say for ourselves “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone*” (Isa 9.2). “*The offense did us more good than harm, because it gave Divine Mercy the opportunity to redeem us.*” --St. Ambrose



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor



Father Frank Iacona of Cross Catholic Outreach will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in

America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Staff Directory

Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones, Director

715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)
715-877-3400, x 121 (SR)

↳ JJones@SMSRCatholic.com

Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

715-855-1294, x 100 (SM)
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↳ SJulson@SMSRCatholic.com

Communication

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

Pastoral Outreach

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)
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Breanna Munns, Marriage Prep & Wedding

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)
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Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation

715-855-1294, x 109 (SM)

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Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation Coord.

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

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Finance, Building & Grounds

Bonnie Firkus, Director

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Charles Thurner, Maintenance (SM)

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↳ CThurner@SMSRCatholic.com

Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)

715-492-9677 (SR)

↳ RGrzyb@SMSRCatholic.com

Music & Liturgy

Tyler Andreae, Director

715-855-1294, x 147 (SM)
715-877-3400, x 120 (SR)

↳ TAndreae@SMSRCatholic.com

St. Mary's Stewardship: Last Week

Adults.....\$6,445.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$844.00

Total Envelope & Plate.....\$7,289.00

Thank you!

St. Raymond's Stewardship: Last Week

Adults.....\$4,445.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$472.00

Total Envelope and Plate.....\$4,917.00

Thank you!

Job Opportunities

Pastoral Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's & St. Raymond's

This is a part-time position, usually 8-10 hours per week. Position Overview is to provide structure, resources, and vision necessary for activating parishioners as channels of God's love through hands-on, practical deeds of compassion to those in need or suffering. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter describing interest and experience with Pastoral Outreach to Jon Jones, Director of Pastoral Ministry, at JJones@SMSRCatholic.com. Please include in the subject line Pastoral Outreach.

St. Mary's Faith Formation Coordinator

Do you have a knack for dotting "i"s and crossing "t"s? Do you love meeting parents and their little (or not-so-little) ones? Are you a disciple of Jesus looking for a place to serve Him with your professional gifts? The St. Mary's Faith Formation Coordinator role is a flexible, part-time position that usually works remotely, except when on-site to host our dynamic family events. You'll receive meaningful ministry training, ongoing spiritual formation, and personal growth, all while collaborating creatively with the Faith Formation and Evangelization team as we help families grow strong in faith, with Jesus, and with each other! Be part of a team that's making a significant difference in the Church and in the lives of each individual we encounter. If that sounds like you or someone you know, contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com to learn more!

Communication Coordinator for St. Mary's & St. Raymond's

Transforming Lives by Communicating Truth: St. Mary's and St. Raymond's Parishes are currently seeking candidates for a part-time Communication Coordinator. This position serves an important role by keeping everyone well-informed of parish events and helps foster a culture of evangelization and accompaniment. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter describing your interest in and experience with communication, journalism, and/or marketing to Jon Jones, Director of Pastoral Ministry, at JJones@SMSRCatholic.com. Please include the subject line "Application: Communication Coordinator."

Volunteer Coordinator with Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is hiring a full time Volunteer Coordinator to manage our extensive volunteer program. The coordinator is responsible for activities related to the recruitment, on-boarding, and matching of volunteers to Catholic Charities programs and projects. Candidates for this position need to possess excellent communication skills, and ability to provide consistent organization of volunteer events & opportunities. Candidates will have proven ability to conduct outreach and form relationships with various community organizations throughout Wisconsin. Prior recruitment experience or management of volunteer or community programs is desired. Travel is required to our various offices/communities in La Crosse, Eau Claire, and Wausau areas. Driver's license, reliable transportation, and auto insurance is required. Pay range is \$17-\$20 per hour based on education and experience. This position is full time with benefits and can be based out of our La Crosse or Eau Claire office.

Two Food Service Employees Needed

Calling all stay-at-home parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends! Are you or someone you know looking for a part-time employment opportunity within our schools? Our Regis Catholic Schools Food Service program is currently looking for kind and dependable people who are willing to work a few hours each day. We currently have 2 opportunities available: **Head Cook at Immaculate Conception Elementary School** This position works 5-6 hours per day when school is in session. **Assistant/Float Cook** This position works approximately 15 hours per week. Primary responsibilities will be at Regis but you may be asked to work at other locations as needed. If you, or anyone you know is interested, please contact Teresa Culbert, Director of Food Service, at (715) 832-4623 or at tculbert@RegisCatholicSchools.com

St. Mary's & St. Raymond's Parish News

Save the Date!

- Nov. 23** Claim Your Inheritance Faith Study - 6:00p
St. Mary Conference Room
- Nov. 24** St. Mary's 5:30p Mass
Cancelled
- Nov. 25** Thanksgiving Day Mass at
St. Raymond's - 9:00a
- Nov. 25** Eucharistic Adoration and
Confessions cancelled at
St. Raymond's
- Nov. 28** Advent Scripture Study
begins after Sunday Mass at
St. Raymond's
- Nov. 28** Office Closed at St. Mary's
- Nov. 30** Mass moved to 9:00a for
Regis Retreat
- Dec. 1** Renewal deadline for the
Magnificat
- Dec. 7** Mass moved to 9:00a for
Regis Retreat
- Dec. 10** Father-Daughter Dance
Fundraiser at Regis High
School to purchase gifts
for children at Mayo
Hospital.
- Dec. 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe
Spanish Mass, 7:00a at
St Mary's. Las mananitas
celebration at 6:00p
- Dec. 12** Social Sunday at St. Mary's
and St. Raymond's
- Dec. 19** Bilingual Mass, Fourth
Sunday of Advent, 12:00p at
St. Mary's (No 11:00a or
1:00p Mass)

Magnificat Renewal

The Magnificat is a monthly publication designed for daily use to develop your prayer life and to participate in Mass. The cost is \$30 for 12 months. Orders will extend your current subscription. Register online or in the narthex/gathering space. Orders can be dropped in the collection basket or turned in to the office. Make checks payable to St. Mary Parish. Payment and signups/renewals are due by December 1.



Men of the Beatitudes

Would you like to grow in your faith while connecting with other men? Men of the Beatitudes is a small group of men sharing their faith, holding one another accountable, and deepening their prayer life. Together they discuss vulnerably how they experience the Beatitudes as a path to healing of their own brokenness and woundedness. These groups will start a new 8-week segment in early November. If you are in need of fellowship and connection and would like to join a group, contact Lucas Munns at munnslid@gmail.com.

Faith Study

Claim Your Inheritance: Starting November 9, we will begin a new series on claiming our inheritance from the early Church. Focusing on the first three centuries of Christianity, we will explore important writings that laid the foundations for the Church and how we continue to benefit from this living Tradition today. Topics will include apostolic authority, the Eucharist, and more! Come join us every-other Tuesday in the St. Mary Conference room starting on Tuesday, November 9 from 6:00-7:00p. For more information or to RSVP, contact John Glassbrenner at jaglassbrenner@gmail.com.

Advent Scripture Study

Want to make this Advent a special time of prayer and reflection? Join us at St. Raymond's for the Advent Meditation and Scripture Study every Sunday of Advent. Our sessions will begin on November 28 and will be right after Mass. We'll have some light hospitality in the parish hall before we start. Bring your Bible and an open heart and get ready for a relaxing time of community and prayer!

Thanksgiving Holiday Changes

- Thanksgiving Mass at St. Raymond's on Thursday, November 25 at 9:00a.
- Eucharistic Adoration and Confession are cancelled on November 25.
- Office closed at St. Raymond's on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25.
- Office closed at St. Mary's on Sunday, November 28.

Angel Tree Tags

St. Raymond's will have Angel Tree Tags on the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space for the Christmas Season. Please take a tag off of the Christmas tree representing a needy child in our area, purchase the toy/gift described on the tag and return them to the Gathering Space, unwrapped, by Sunday, December 5. The St. Raymond PCCW will make sure the gifts are delivered to the child. Thank you for your generosity!

WI Safe Haven Laws

Wisconsin Safe Haven Laws allow parents to relinquish an infant under 72 hours old to any first responder, including police officers, 911 emergency medical staff, or hospital staff members, no questions asked. If a woman has given birth and is unsure what they want to do, Catholic Charities has social workers available to discuss their options. Parents needing assistance can call us at 888-212-4357 or use our 24/7 text help line, 715-600-6391. If you wish to learn more about this law, visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cps/safehaven>.



Assist Afghan Refugees

Help Catholic Charities, of the Diocese of La Crosse, assist Afghan Refugees. They are assisting thousands of Afghan refugees at Ft. McCoy, near Tomah. Find out how you can help by volunteering or donating at cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance.

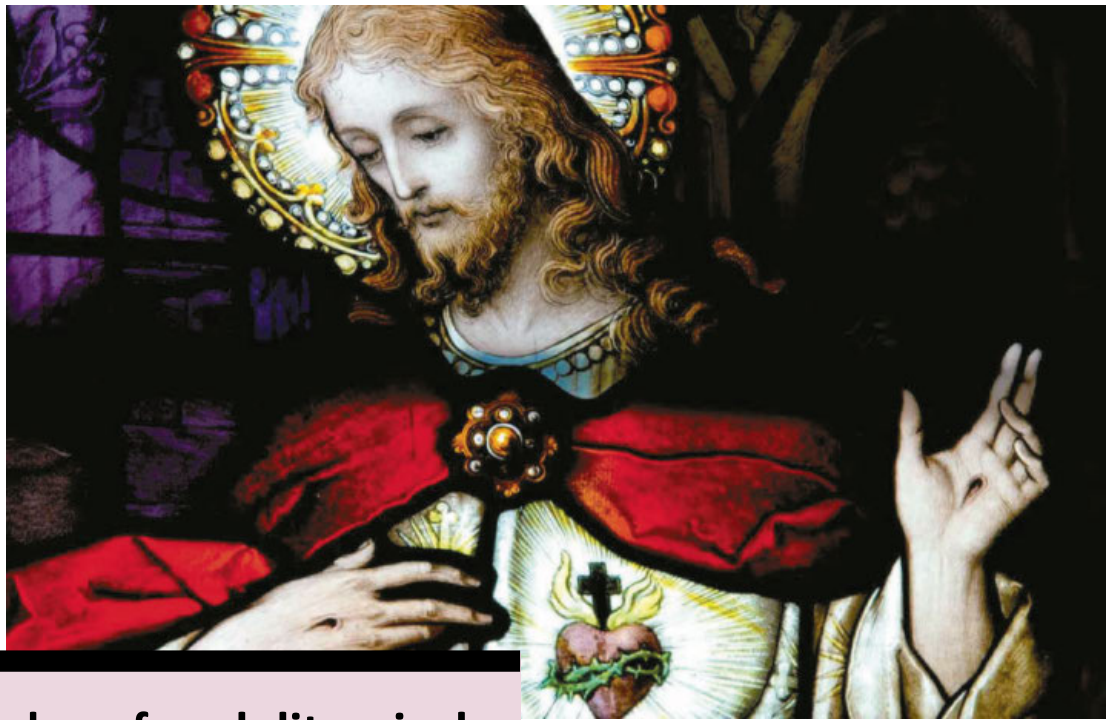
Father-Daughter Dance

Friday, December 10, 6-8:00p, Regis High School Gym, \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Regis High School students Riley Kostka and Madie Olson are hosting a Christmas father-daughter dance for their National Honor Society project. The proceeds will be used to purchase gifts for children at Mayo hospital.

Mass Changes

- Tuesday, November 30 and December 7 the morning Mass at St. Raymond's will be moved to 9:00a due to Regis Retreat.
- There will be no 1:00p Mass on Sunday December 12 at St. Mary's.

About Christ the King



On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* (“In the first”) to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI’s encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever.

Jesus Christ “is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind” (*Quas primas*, 7).

Christ’s kingship is rooted in the Church’s teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. “From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures” (*Quas primas*, 13).

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ’s kingship with our whole lives: He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the

doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, ‘as instruments of justice unto God.’ -*Quas primas*, 33

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. “Thus by sermons preached at meetings and in churches, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them for their King” (*Quas primas*, 26).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

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