

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

SAINT PETER

CATHOLIC CONGREGATION

WINTER 2021



Dear Parishioners,

Christmas Mass Schedule – With the coming holidays observed over an extended weekend, planning when to go to Mass and which Mass counts for which obligation(s) may be a bit confusing, so a little bit of advance info may be helpful as you plan! Masses scheduled on Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021, as well as Saturday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2021, fulfill the Christmas obligation. If a Mass were offered Saturday evening, Christmas Day, December 25, 2021, that Mass would **still be for Christmas** and **not** fulfill Sunday's obligation! Masses to fulfill the Sunday obligation on **December 26, 2021**, the Feast of the Holy Family, will be celebrated at 7:30AM & 10:30AM, for your convenience. Your priests/deacon will spend Christmas Afternoon and Night as do you, celebrating and resting with family and friends!

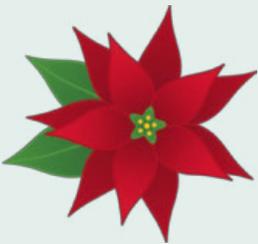
New Year's Eve/Day – Are treated differently than the Solemnity of Christmas and, due to being celebrated on an adjoining weekend, are NOT holydays of obligation! Masses on Friday evening, December 31, 2021, and on Saturday morning, January 01, 2022, will be for the feast of Mary: Mother of God; Masses on Saturday evening, January 01, 2022, and Sunday, January 02, 2022 will fulfill the Sunday obligation as we observe the Epiphany.

When I Offer Mass – I routinely include a short litany of saint's names and some have asked why. They are, in order, Ss. Peter & Paul (present Slinger, former Nenno churches), Matthias (present Nabob Chapel), Anthony (a former Allenton church), Lawrence (present Hartford church), and Margaret Mary (present Allenton church with recall of its' previous identity as Sacred Heart). I include ALL our present and past parishes as I pray for each & all of us to continue to grow in love as cluster parishes! Each of our saints represents the solid vision of the faith in our communities. Learning about each of our patron's might be a useful way to learn also about one another. The smallest worship site in our cluster communities is the chapel in Nabob named after St. Matthias. It was his lot to become one of the Twelve Apostles after Jesus' Resurrection to replace Judas Iscariot who, after betraying the Lord, despaired and took his own life by hanging. Two men were nominated for the apostolic office: "Joseph called Barsabbas, who also known as Justus, and Matthias." After prayer, they cast lots (like rolling dice) and as "the lot fell upon Matthias, he was counted with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:23-26) According to early tradition Matthias was one the seventy-two disciples sent out by Jesus to preach and teach; as such, he was constantly in association with Jesus from the time of His Baptism 'til His Ascension; he was also with in the upper room with the Apostles on Pentecost when they received the Holy Spirit and considered a worthy choice. He's said to have preached in Judea and elsewhere, notably effective due to voluntary practices of self-denial when it came to his material pleasures in order to present by lived example the importance of a spiritual life in conformity to Christ's sufferings; he didn't just talk the talk but walked the walk! His manner of martyrdom is uncertain; some say he was crucified while others say an axe was used to behead him (this is what the statue of him in Nabob's chapel shows). His feast day is May 14. The faith community in Nabob was founded in 1848, the first church being a small log cabin; the present fieldstone church (one of few remaining in Washington County) was built in 1867, a significant addition made in 1906. Mass is offered there May-October @ 8AM on first Mondays of those months; a gem of history in our cluster parishes worth experiencing!

Did You Know – 70% of Americans believe God is out there somewhere but too detached and uninterested to be of ultimate significance, like a hotel bellhop, there to pick up life's luggage when things get too heavy, but the rest of the time can be politely ignored if we feel we have things well enough in hand, that God is a cosmic force or higher power more than a person who cares. No wonder faith, prayer, religion, & worship are 'optional' in the view of many!

(continued from page one): Jesus' great commandment – “Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, mind, soul & strength and your neighbor as yourself” – indicates that He summons us to a relationship with a God Who is so personal that He would be born one of us, live with us, suffer and die for us that we might have eternal life in heaven with Him. Personal relationships require preferential love. When family responsibilities or ties summon us, we drop everything; when someone is suddenly ill, goes to ER or is hospitalized, we leave work and drop everything else we had planned in order to be with them, even though we only watch, wait and pray. Jesus wants us to see that daily prayer, Mass on all Sundays and Holydays, and willing service to neighbor are NOT OPTIONAL to Him but a part of the preferential love He expects of us. Before Sunday is our day to rest or recreate, it is Our Lord's Day! It's contradictory to think that we can just “lead a good life” and then “go to heaven” after we have preferred so much else to Jesus. If heaven is going to be eternal union with Him, why would we want to go there forever if we preferred many other things to Him? Daily prayer, Mass every Sunday/Holyday, and service to our neighbor puts our final judgment in the hands of a friend, not someone we barely know, or someone who feels we barely knew Him! If Jesus so preferred us that He gave His life for us, ought we, should we, we do less? See you at Mass!

Affectionately, Very Rev. Richard J. Stoffel



A MESSAGE FROM FR. JONATHON SCHMECKEL

As I type these words for our newsletter, we have just finished the Solemnities of All Saints and All Souls. In my homily on the celebration of All Saints, I said this, “My only goal in life is this: In two hundred years, when your grandchildren’s grandchildren come to Mass in this church, I want there to be a nice big statue near that pillar... **of me.**” All joking aside, the point is immensely important. Every single human person is called to radical holiness. Every single human person is called to become a Saint. Even if I never have a statue made of me, if I don’t become a Saint and dwell in heaven with God for all eternity, my entire life will have been a waste. As a French Catholic novelist once wrote, “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy, is not to become a saint.”

How do we become Saints? There are two things that are common to **all** of the Saints: the Eucharist and prayer. All of the Saints made attending Mass, receiving Holy Communion, worshiping His True Presence in adoration. They all knew the Eucharist was the most important thing in their lives. If we want to be like Mother Teresa or St Francis of Assisi, we have to love the Eucharist like they did. Relatedly, we have to prioritize Mass high on our list of daily activities.

With all of the business of Advent, Christmas, and a New Year, this is your invitation to take seriously the need to receive Jesus in the Eucharist every Sunday and ability to speak with God every day of our lives.

If we do this, we will become more and more like all of the great Saints that have shown up in the course of the Church’s history. Saint Bernard says, “we should aim at attaining this glory with a wholehearted and prudent desire.”

FROM THE BACK PEW - Paul Rogers

Dear Friends,

Did you ever hope for something so hard – you JUST know it was going to come true.

Well, I am sharing with you that even after 8 full months of chemotherapy, my cancer is not shrinking. The chemotherapy has left it’s imprint on my body. I have chronic back pain, nausea, and neuropathy of my feet. I also have been left with permanent hearing loss, yes, I now have hearing aids.

Friends, I could easily end up being angry with God and stuck in self-pity and depression. However, I am a man of prayer. I sincerely believe that I have faithful parishioners, relatives, friends, and colleagues praying for my well being. I continue to hope in the power of the Sacraments and Prayer. I could not forget my friend and patron, St. Peregrine. He constantly reminds me that the Lord will do his best for the salvation of my soul.

Right now, I am continuing to go through radiation treatment called, “Y-90.” We are also pursuing a second opinion for further treatment. We do not know where this second opinion will lead us but we are willing to go on this additional journey.

St. Peregrine, Pray for us and all children suffering from cancer. AMEN.



CONSIDER ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION



On November 1st (All Saints Day) our school children had the opportunity to dress up as their favorite saint. The Mass began with our school children processing into church with Fr. Rick.



Save the date: January 30, 2022 there will be an Open House for all new families that are interested in sending their children to St. Peter Catholic School. Join us at 10:30AM Mass at St. Peter and then walk over to school for Open House!

Are you looking for a school reflecting your FAITH, VIRTUES, & EXCELLENT ACADEMICS? St. Peter Catholic School could be the perfect place for your child!

If you would like more information about our school, a registration folder, to schedule a social distancing tour, meet with the teacher; please contact Cheryl Jaeger, Principal/Marketing Director at 262-644-8083 x3100 or cheryl.jaeger@stpeterslinger.org



SAVE THE DATE!

The Tri-Parish Mission is scheduled for March 7, 8 & 9, 2022 at St. Lawrence Church. Our theme is unlocking the mysteries of the Mass. Watch for more information.

ST. PETER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & MASS

We celebrate our annual Christmas Program and Mass on Sunday, Dec 19 at 9AM (note: Mass times for this Sunday will be 7, 9 and 11AM). Children will be singing and we'll all be able to participate in the Eucharist. Everyone is invited after the Mass and Program for cookies and milk/coffee.



Thursday Adult Bible/Faith Study
Thursdays, January 6 – February 11, 2022
6:30-8:30PM in Church Hall—Cost: \$7

Email resecretary@stpeterslinger.org by Dec 22 to have a book waiting for you the first night.

Welcome to *True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation*, a study crafted to teach about those who led the Church's rebirth from the ashes of confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. Learn about the true benefactors of the human race: the saints. The saints of the Catholic Reformation show us just how powerful—and beautiful—is the human heart's free response to God's generous grace.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

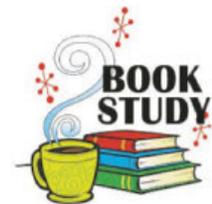
We are in the process of restructuring our ministry of prayer shawls.

If you would like to be a part of this beautiful ministry and like to crochet or knit please call Lisa Schmitt Minister of Aging at 263-224-8818 for more information.



Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity and Fraternity are the principles the Knights live by and invite more men to join us. We are very active at St Peter & in our community.... Pop-up Food Pantry, Weekend Cinnamon Rolls Sales and now serving hot sandwiches at our Blood Drives. Many of our Knights and their families are active with Bible Study groups, teaching Religious Education as well as belonging to several other church committees. ***“Be not Afraid”*** and join this wonderful men’s group.

Human Concerns Committee thanks you for your contribution to Operation Baby Bottle and St Ben’s Community in Milwaukee with Hygiene Bags. We ask our people at St Peter to once again open their hearts to work with the Capuchin Community by collecting for the **“Hygiene Bags”** and return items (bins in back of Church) before Christmas; **December 18th**. Your help is GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!!



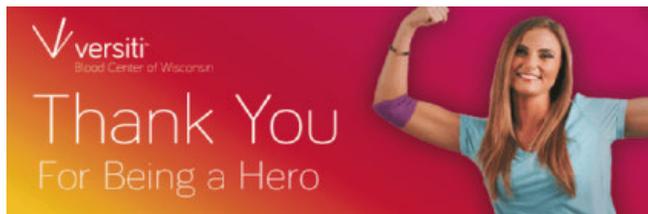
Monday Book Study
Every Monday from Noon to 1PM,
Church Hall Room 133

We read and discuss books about various aspects of Catholic Faith and Life. Reach out to find out what our next book will be.



Knights of Columbus Cinnamon Roll Sales Are Back! 4-Packs for \$5.00

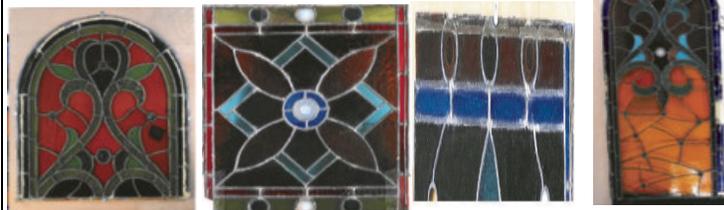
After Weekend Masses on: December 18/19, 2021, January 22nd/23rd & February 19/20, 2022
Come support our Knights!



**ST. PETER BLOOD DRIVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH 1-6PM**

Your gift of blood will give someone the gift of life this Christmas. Schedule an appointment at www.bcw.edu/slinger or call 877-232-4376 to donate. -By appointment only-

ST. PETER'S PRE-RENOVATION SILENT AUCTION
Are you interested in a historic piece of stain glass window(s) from St. Peter? Here is your one time opportunity to obtain a unique piece or two. We are having a silent auction on December 11th from 4-9PM and 12th from 7AM -12:15PM. Here are a few samples:



Mercy Mats - Wednesdays 10AM-noon | Church Hall. Everyone can help with this Tri-Parish Service Project; whether you're 4 or 104 years old, there is a task for you.



- Collect and flatten clean plastic bags
- Cut the bags into strips creating loops
- Tie the loops into long strings creating plastic yarn plarn"
- Crochet the plarn into a 3' X 6' sleeping mat
- Deliver the Mats to a homeless shelter

Join us to learn the process, stay and enjoy fellowship while you work or take it home and return it when completed. Mercy Mats provide a cushioned barrier from the cold, wet ground and from the bugs – bugs don't like plastic – allowing blankets and sleeping bags to stay clean and dry. AND it keeps plastic bags out of the landfills and oceans. Thank you for your support of this Merciful Service Project.

NEW!!! Watch for the *Be A Saint* newsletter, published at the end of every month. It can be found in the bulletin and on our website. It details formation opportunities for the upcoming month for parishioners of all ages. Including youth formation dates, activities, adult opportunities and more. This is a great resource to keep on your fridge to help you on the journey we are all called to... becoming a Saint.

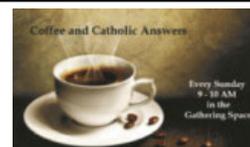


"THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS" poster contest will begin November 17th and end December 16th for grades 1 through 6. More information will be in bulletin and presented to Religious Education and St Peter Catholic students. The parish and Knights are invited to judge weekend of December 18th and 19th.
-Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus-



**Opening the Word: A Scripture study for the upcoming Sunday Gospel.
Every Thursday at 9AM
St Peter Church, Room 130**

Bring your Bible, a heart open to the Word of God and a desire to share your experience in Christ.



Coffee and Catholic Answers

Whether you have questions about the Catholic faith or just want to grow in your faith, come join our lively group discussions as topics are discussed from the heart of the Catholic Tradition. Watch the *Be A Saint* Newsletter for topics or submit your own topic for discussion.



SANTA'S HELPERS NEEDED

We once again would like to extend a Christmas wish to those that are homebound in our parish. We are asking for monetary donations to meet the special needs of our Homebound with a gift of love from the parish. Please put your donation into the offertory basket with "HOMEBOUND" written on the envelope or drop off/mail to parish office. Questions contact Lisa Schmitt, Minister of Aging at 262-644-8818. Deadline December 5th. **THANK YOU!!!!**

St. Peter Congregation
208 E. Washington Street
Slinger, WI 53086

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ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH ***** SLINGER, WISCONSIN

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



MASSES ON DECEMBER 24, 2021 CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM, 6PM, & 8PM @ St. Peter in Slinger;
4PM @ St. Lawrence in Hartford;
4PM & 10PM @ Resurrection in Allenton

MASSES ON DECEMBER 25, 2021 CHRISTMAS DAY

8AM & 10AM @ St. Peter in Slinger;
10AM @ St. Lawrence in Hartford;
8AM @ Resurrection in Allenton

MASS ON DECEMBER 31, 2021 NEW YEAR'S EVE

4PM @ St. Peter in Slinger; 4PM @ St. Lawrence in Hartford; 4PM @ Resurrection in Allenton

MASS ON JANUARY 01, 2022 NEW YEAR'S DAY

8AM @ St. Peter in Slinger
(Masses for the Sunday obligation will be at regularly scheduled times)

For the most updated information please go to: www.stpeterslinger.org



RITA'S TABLE WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 27TH, 2022

Watch upcoming bulletins for more information or call Jennifer at 262-353-1227 or Lisa at 262-644-8818.

ATTENTION SENIORS OVER 60

Do you need help with transportation? Interfaith can help you. There is an application needed and can be obtained from Lisa Schmitt, Minister of Aging by calling 262-644-8818 or in the Parish Office during office hours.