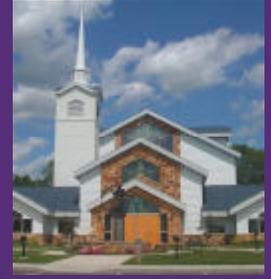




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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of
ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND
 OF PEÑAFORT

First Sunday of Advent | November 29, 2020



ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND

ALTOONA, WI | FALL CREEK, WI

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mk 13:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2007, 1998, 1975 CCC.

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Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Derek Sakowski
 715-855-1294 ext. 101
frsakowski@gmail.com

Fr. Peter Kieffer
 715-855-1294 ext. 140
frpeterkr@gmail.com

Rectory: 715-514-5113

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

November 28 through December 6

Sat., Nov. 28	4:00p SM	†Marilyn Hayden
	6:00p SR	†Bernice Greene
Sun., Nov. 29	8:30a SR	†Joe Behlert
	11:00a SM	†Stephen Valasco
	1:00p SM	Parishioners of SM & SR
Mon., Nov. 30	No Mass	
Tue., Dec. 1	8:00a SR	Joe & Marlene Gallick
Wed., Dec. 2	8:00a SM	†Valarie Risler
Thu., Dec. 3	8:00a SR	†John Pipkorn
Fri., Dec. 4	9:00a SM	†Patty Gosnell
Sat., Dec. 5	4:00p SM	†Bob Collodora
	6:00p SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Dec. 6	8:30a SR	†Ray & Joan Ruiz
	11:00a SM	†Dolores Liedl
	1:00p SM	Priest Intention

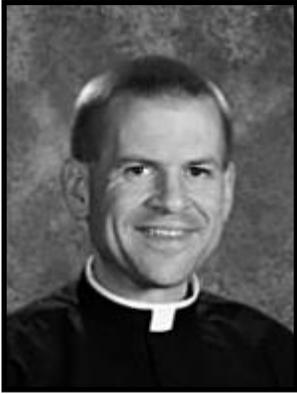
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday	7:00–9:00p	SR (In the library)
Saturday	10:00a–Noon	SM (In Confessional)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Tuesday	5:00–9:00p	SM
Thursday	5:00–9:00p	SR

Reflections from Father Sakowski



As we celebrate another Thanksgiving weekend, I think back to my four years in Rome at the Casa Santa Maria, where our celebration of this holiday was always a memorable one. Our house of 60 American priests was a little island of American culture amidst the loosely organized chaos that is Rome. While the rest of the city went on with business as usual, we

celebrated our American holiday with great festivity.

Some professors scratched their heads as suddenly dozens of Americans were absent from their Thursday classes, but most others probably didn't even notice or care. By Italian standards attending 75% of the lectures is considered normal, so missing one day wasn't a huge deal.

We kicked the day off with a late-morning Mass, normally with Wisconsin's own Cardinal Burke presiding. After Mass there was a social, and then the Thanksgiving dinner – a fascinating hybrid of Italian and American traditions. We began with a course of pasta, as is customary at any big meal in Italy. Following the pasta was the very best attempt by our Polish nuns and Italian cooks to replicate the traditional American Thanksgiving menu – which they've only seen in photographs or movies. Neither Italians nor Poles are particularly familiar with this strange fowl that is native to North America, nor with cranberries or pumpkins for that matter. The stuffing always had a very Italian flavor to it. If you visit an Italian grocer, the spice rack is rather simple: rosemary, oregano, basil, and thyme. But it was nearly all made from scratch and with love, and we had a great time.

The meal concluded with a flute of champagne and the decades-old custom of offering three toasts: one to the Holy Father, one to the United States of America, and one to the North American College (the American seminary founded in Rome in 1859).

Afterwards we adjourned to the courtyard for coffee and *digestivi* (Italian after-dinner drinks to "help the digestion"). Despite November being the rainiest month in Rome, we somehow always had sunny and comfortable weather on that day, and usually had a lovely afternoon. At one point we broke out into a chorus of "My Country 'tis of Thee." Of course the two Englishmen living in our house insisted on singing the words of the original "God Save the Queen" instead – at which point they were assaulted with various projectiles. I, however, am perfectly happy to pray for God to save her, along with every other monarch in England.

They have all needed saving!

It was a day when many of the priests felt the most homesick – sorely missing the land of the free and the home of the brave. It was a day on which we were all profoundly grateful for our great nation.

I must say this – my four years in Europe (2008-2012) made me all the more thankful for all that is great in America. While I am always full of hope as a disciple of Jesus, I am no Pollyanna; I am a realist who sees clearly all the signs of demise in our culture, and the very serious challenges ahead in our Church, regardless of who is in public office. We live in a hedonistic, consumeristic, me-first culture, fueled by many secular lies. We have a daunting task ahead of us as we try to build up a culture of life and a civilization built on Christ-centered love.

But we also have abundant reason to be grateful. We tend to take for granted the peace and stability that we have enjoyed on our shores. Not since 1814 has an invading army stepped foot on our continent. For many in the world (and in the history of the human race), it is only a matter of a few years before the next war or disaster obliterates everything they have worked so hard to build up.

Few of us feel our lives or security threatened when we step out our door or drive down our streets. We have our basic needs more than adequately met. Despite recent threats, we still enjoy a religious freedom in a way that few nations on earth do.

I know that the pandemic, combined with an election year, has worn out just about all of us – with plenty of mistrust, misunderstandings, and bigotry among some people (on both sides!). We need to pray for peace, reconciliation, and healing of hearts.

All the same, what an amazing blessing that we can have a peaceful passing on of power on January 20. The United States Constitution is one of the greatest success stories in history – 217 years under the same governing document (one civil war notwithstanding). Italy, Spain, Germany, and France, by contrast, have gone through multiple changes in governing structure during this period – and these are "First World" nations!

On this weekend, we have great cause to give thanks to God. Our blessings in America have been far beyond what we deserve. Every day is a gift from Him, as are all the benefits we presently possess and enjoy. This Thanksgiving weekend (and always) let us be sure to express our profound gratitude to God who has so blessed us. We turn to Christ our King, and beg him to bless us and keep our hearts open to his blessings in the challenges that lie ahead.

Saint Mary and Saint Raymond of Peñafort Parishes

St. Mary Parish News

A Christmas Surprise?

Father has planned a special surprise for the St. Mary Parish to be unveiled at our Christmas celebration. Stay tuned for hints to see if you can figure out what it is...

???

Looking to Volunteer?

If you've been looking for a way to get involved in the parish and if you enjoy proofreading or working with technology contact Ellen Hernandez or Jon Jones to get involved with proofreading the bulletin or helping with livestreaming!

Calvary Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery is having its annual meeting on Wednesday Dec. 2 at 10am. It will be a virtual meeting. If you have any requests for the agenda, please notify our pastor or our representative. If you are interested in

attending, please contact the Vice-President (Fr. Derek Sakowski) at frsakowski@gmail.com

Mass Cantor

We are hopping to begin to introduce cantors back into Mass starting Advent both at St. Raymond and St. Mary Parish! If you are interested contact Tyler Andreae at tja5300@gmail.com
No prior experience is needed!

St. Mary's Elementary School

Regis High School

A Regis student, Maddy Ott, has asked to leave a box for collecting donated coats as a class project. The donation box can be found in the breezeway at the front entrance of St. Mary Parish through December 15.

Virtual Learning Dates

December 21-21
January 19-29

Magnificat Orders

Need to renew your yearly subscription?

Order renewals at discounted price now through **December 15**. Stop by the parish office or check out the St. Mary's website! Only **\$30!** It is a great source of prayer with access to daily readings, meditations, prayers, and more!

St. Mary's Stewardship: Last Week

Adult Envelopes\$14,484.00
Offertory (Plate)\$263.10
Holy Day Env\$5.00
Flowers\$30.00
Total Envelope & Plate..... \$14,782.10

Thank you!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our parishes through your weekly offering! We have had a good response even though we have not been in Church together! If you have questions about how you can get your offering to Church, please feel free to call

St. Raymond's Stewardship: Last Week

Adult Envelopes\$1,909.00
Capital Campaign\$315.00
Offertory (Plate).....\$232.00
Holy Day Env\$25.00
Building Env.....\$40.00
Endowment\$10.00
Flowers\$170.00
Youth Envelopes\$1.40
Total Envelope and Plate..... \$2,702.40

St. Raymond Parish News

Knights of Columbus

The KOC will be hosting a Blood Drive at St. Raymond's on December 1st from noon to 6pm! Call 1-800redcross to schedule your appointment. Thank you!

Advent

50 free copies of Word Among Us Press' Advent Devotional are available. Stop by the parish office to get your copy Today!

Poinsettia Memorials

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church in memory of a loved one look for a special envelope in your envelope packet or place our request in a blank envelope with the label "Christmas Flowers" and the name of your loved one. Please return to the parish office or place in the offertory by Dec. 13. All names will be listed in a bulletin insert on Sunday, Dec. 20.

ST. MARY'S PARISH STAFF

FULL TIME DIRECTORS (SM & SR)

Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones 715-855-1294, x 108
↳ smsrpastoralmin@gmail.com

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert 715-855-1294, x 106
↳ JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com

Business & Finance

Bonnie Firkus 715-855-1294, x 146
↳ bfirkusstraymond@gmail.com

PART TIME COORDINATORS

Communication Coordinator

Ellen Hernandez 715-855-1294
↳ smcommcoord@gmail.com

Sacred Music Coordinator (SM & SR)

Tyler Andreae
↳ tja5300@gmail.com

Marriage Preparation (SM & SR)

Kaylee Peikert 715-855-1294, x 142
↳ Kaylee.Peikert@gmail.com

Pastoral Outreach (SM & SR)

Carla Kostka 715-225-7419
↳ kostkacarla@gmail.com

Family Faith Formation (SM)

Maria Ricciardi 715-855-1294, x 106
↳ FaithFormationSM@gmail.com

Maintenance (SM)

Charles Thurner 715-855-1294, x 141
↳ Stmarymaintaltona@gmail.com

ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary (SR)

Carla Kostka 715-877-3400
↳ straymondparish@gmail.com

Family Faith Formation (SR)

Marianne Callaghan 715-877-3400, x 119
↳ macallaghan115@gmail.com

Business & Finance (SR & SM)

Bonnie Firkus 715-855-1294, x 146
↳ bfirkusstraymond@gmail.com

Maintenance (SR)

Robert Grzyb 715-492-9677
↳ autobobs@outlook.com

Communication Coordinator

Ellen Hernandez
↳ smcommcoord@gmail.com

Sacred Music (SM & SR)

Tyler Andreae
↳ tja3500@gmail.com

Marriage Preparation (SR & SM)

Kaylee Peikert 715-855-1294, x 142
↳ Kaylee.Peikert@gmail.com

Pastoral Outreach (SR & SM)

Carla Kostka 715-225-7419
↳ kostkacarla@gmail.com

Senior Priest In Residence (SR)

Fr. John Schultz 715-271-0018
↳ schultzjohna@gmail.com

What's Happening

Vocations— Joseph Lynch



Hello Fellow Parishioners, I'm excited to be able to share with you that I am discerning

religious life. Little by little, the Lord has been inviting me to join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and their life of prayer, service to the poor, and evangelization. I'm ready to

follow His call, but before I can do that I must overcome a significant obstacle stopping hundreds of men and women like me from entering religious life. This obstacle is student loan debt.

As a next step, the Franciscans and I have partnered with the Labouré Society. I'm grateful to have Fr. Sakowski's support in this work and I hope that you will join me as well. I humbly ask you for your prayers as my

Labouré classmates and I work to overcome this obstacle by December 31st.

I look forward to speaking with you all soon to invite you on my journey. God Bless and see you soon - Joseph

rescuevocations.org/Joseph

LABOURÉ
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS

Information about Returning Safely to Public Masses

Public Mass AND Social Distancing

As we return to Mass, each of us has a serious moral duty to do our part to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, while also respecting emotional and spiritual needs and the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives. Unfortunately, this virus is not going away just yet. Any of us could be carrying the disease without knowing it. As we gather for Mass, we will be taking appropriate precautions:

(1) **No Obligation.** All of us are dispensed from our obligation to attend Sunday Mass - probably for several weeks. No one is obliged to come, and for those who come, no one is obliged to receive Communion. If you are at risk, please be safe!

(2) **Wearing Masks and Washing Hands.** The Governor of Wisconsin has declared a State of Emergency, effective August 1, including a requirement for everyone over 5 years old to wear masks in public buildings. The fine for not wearing a mask is \$200. Bishop Callahan encourages us to comply with the Governor's decree. Please bring your own face covering if you have one. We will also provide them while supplies last.

(3) **Socially Distanced Seating.** Our team of trained ushers will seat everyone. We will limit ourselves to 25% capacity, and will keep each individual/household at least 6 feet apart from the next one. We expect that 50-70 people will fit safely in the church. If more than this amount choose to come, we plan to direct the overflow to the parish hall, where people will be seated a safe distance apart, and where they can participate via live stream and be brought Holy Communion during Mass.

(4) **Limited Ministries.** We are limiting the number of people in the sanctuary. Over time, we will start scheduling in servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, etc.

(5) **Communion Precautions.** The priest distributing communion will wear a mask during that time, for your protection. The communion line will keep each household 6 feet apart as they wait. Hand sanitizer will be on hand both for communicants and for the minister. Please wait until you are dismissed into the communion line. Take your time and be reverent.

(6) **Holding Off on Congregational Singing.** Unfortunately, research is showing that singing propels our germs much like coughing or sneezing does. We will use instrumental music or one-person singing for now. One step at a time.

(7) **Stationary Offertory Basket.** We will not be passing any baskets. You can drop off your offering on the way into Church or on the way out

(8) **Dismissal After Mass.** When Mass is ended, our team of ushers will dismiss the people row by row. There will not be the opportunity to stay after Mass or to congregate or visit. Everyone will have to exit so that we can lock the Church and allow our cleaning crew to sanitize everything.

(9) **Sanitizing.** A crew of volunteers will sanitize after Mass. It doesn't take long, but is an important safety step. We need regularly scheduled volunteers to do this. Please consider signing up!

Mass

Beginning at 9am



Rosary

Beginning after
Mass



Confession

Beginning from
10am-Noon

During Advent Confessions
will also be heard on
Tuesdays from 7-9pm



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