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**St. Raymond of Peñafort**  
E10455 Mallard Road  
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of  
**ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND**  
OF PEÑAFORT

**Third Sunday of Advent | December 13, 2020**



**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCCD

CSPI

**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**

	<b>December 12 through December 20</b>		
Sat., Dec. 12	4:00p SM	Parishioners of SM & SR	
	6:00p SR	†Kenneth Jaenke	
Sun., Dec. 13	8:30a SR	†Gary Ball	
	11:00a SM	†JoAnn LeMere	
	1:00p SM	†Leo & Irene Schuh	
Mon., Dec. 14	No Mass		
Tue., Dec. 15	8:00a SR	Pete & Lisa Melrose	
Wed., Dec. 16	8:00a SM	†John & Arlene Weber	
Thu., Dec. 17	8:00a SR	†Gregory Quirk	
Fri., Dec. 18	9:00a SM	†Gary Gosnell	
Sat., Dec. 19	4:00p SM	†Virginia Polenz	
	6:00p SR	†Bob & Phyllis Klees	
Sun., Dec. 20	8:30a SR	Parishioners of SM & SR	
	11:00a SM	†Robert Nyberg	
	1:00p SM	Priest Intention	

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

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

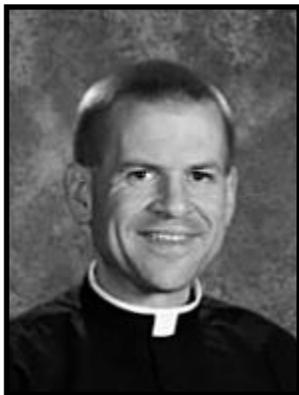
**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION**

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

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## Reflections from Father Derek Sakowski

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### Watching for Dawn

Advent is a season of presence. Jesus invites each of us, “What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’” (Mark 13:37). In Greek, this command to “watch” is *gregoreĩte*. The Christian name Gregory is derived from this invitation to sober watchfulness, so frequent in the admonitions of Jesus as well as in other New

Testament writings (e.g., 1 Peter 5:8).

Gregory the Great (ca. 540-604) is one of my favorite popes and saints. He was born into a prominent Roman family – during a time in which the faded glory of Rome was quickly passing away. Much that was good and beautiful had collapsed or was about to, and Gregory had no illusions that the clock could be turned back to “the good old days.” He answered God’s call to become a Benedictine monk, and his heart desired the peaceful prayer of the monastery. However, God and others kept tapping his talents for administration during a time of great crisis. He humbly describes his struggles to remain a man of prayer amidst the administration of stressful crises that were impossible to ignore. I can relate!

Gregory was profoundly aware that his name meant “Watchman” and that the words of Isaiah applied to him: *Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel.* A watchman is called to stand upon the heights, to keep his mind and heart in a place of calm, peace, loving awareness, discernment, wisdom, and creativity – so as to be a blessing to others. Such was Gregory’s deep desire, even though he felt and expressed his struggles: “Who am I to be a watchman, for I do not stand on the mountain of action but lie down in the valley of weakness?”

Whatever his pain and struggles may have been, Gregory’s holy desire to be a watchman prevailed. Constantly renewed and enlightened by Jesus, Gregory’s foresight led to the establishment of hundreds of monasteries, which preserved so much of the beauty, goodness, and truth of Athens and Rome, and which became vibrant hubs of evangelization in the centuries ahead. Gregory’s sober watchfulness allowed him to continue doing works of mercy in the present moment, but without being consumed in a false fantasy to prop up structures whose time had passed. His sober watchfulness was both deeply pessimistic and optimistic at the same time – accepting the depressing truth that the good old days were definitively gone, and simultaneously seeing with optimistic Faith new rays of hopeful light where other more frantic people were blinded by their busyness, fear, or denial. Survival mode does not tend to bring the best out of

human beings. Our field of vision narrows (both literally and figuratively), and we tend to keep going back to repetitive and predictable “solutions” – as though doing it for the forty-second time will somehow yield different results.

When reflecting on the great mystery that is the Church, Gregory offers one of the most profound descriptions I ever came across during my doctoral research. He compares the Church to the dawn:

*The holy Church, seeking the rewards of heavenly life, is called the dawn, for as she leaves behind the darkness of sin, she shines forth with the light of righteousness. But while we live, it is dawn, not perfect Day ... For dawn or daybreak indeed announces that the night has passed, but does not manifest the full splendor of the Day. Rather, as it dispels the night and takes on the Day, the dawn holds a light that is mixed with darkness.*

The Church, on her present sojourn through history, is indeed a mixture of weeds and wheat, darkness and light, sinners and saints. The same is true of our own hearts. Gregory proceeds:

*As long as the law of the flesh clashes with the law of the spirit, and the law of the spirit with the law of the flesh, light and darkness will blend together. Thus when Paul says, “The night is far gone” (Romans 13:12), he does not add, “the Day has arrived,” but rather, “the Day is near” ... The Day shall arrive when no darkness of sin triumphs. Then the Church of the elect will be fully day, when no shadow of sin is mixed with her.*

What wise and Hope-filled words! He can look truthfully at his own heart and at the Church and see truthfully both darkness and light. But there is Hope. The thing about dawn is that it does NOT turn back into night. So also with the Church. The gates of hell will not prevail against her. He will be with her always. No matter how deep the darkness may seem at certain moments, we can look for the streaks of light and be assured that the dawn will break into full Day.

Our present age is eerily parallel to that of Gregory. So much that we once took for granted has collapsed, and there is no turning back the clock. The only way forward is the way through, and we can easily get discouraged.

Heeding the invitation of the Beatitudes, we can embrace our poverty and grieve our losses – getting past our denial and blame. We can abide in the present moment, even when it feels disorienting and scary. We can stay sober and vigilant. Jesus will open the eyes of our heart, and help us to see the new light that he always brings. As promised, his Spirit is always at work, shining in unexpected places. Being watchful disciples means attuning to those first streaks of dawn, and allowing them to surprise us with joy!

# 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...here is clue number one!

*"It is a home to Jesus"*

### 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!

### 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 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

## St. Raymond Parish News

**Bishop Robert Barron- Daily Gospel Reflections:** Sign up for free at [adventreflections.com/](http://adventreflections.com/)

**Matthew Kelly—Dynamic Catholic with Daily Gospel Reflections:** Sign up for free video meditations on the Gospel Reading for each day of Advent. [dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever)

### Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus will be selling rosettes each week at the end of Mass until Christmas

### Advent

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

## ST. MARY'S PARISH STAFF

### FULL TIME DIRECTORS (SM & SR)

#### Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones 715-855-1294, x 108  
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#### Business & Finance

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### PART TIME COORDINATORS

#### Communication Coordinator

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#### Sacred Music Coordinator (SM & SR)

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#### Maintenance (SM)

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## Online Daily Advent Reflections

Looking for some thing to get you into the Advent spirit? Here's three great choices!

**Chris Stefanick—Unshakable Joy**, a 26 day retreat with videos and daily reflections sign up for free at [coaching.reallifecatholoc.com/unshakeable-joy](http://coaching.reallifecatholoc.com/unshakeable-joy)

**St. Mary's Stewardship: Last Week**  
**Were not available before printing date.**

*Thank you for your continual support!*

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH

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 Bonnie Firkus at 715-533-0629.

**St. Raymond's Stewardship: Last Week**  
**Were not available before printing date.**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT !**

## ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH STAFF

### Parish Secretary (SR)

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### Pastoral Outreach (SR & SM)

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### Senior Priest In Residence (SR)

Fr. John Schultz 715-271-0018  
↳ [schultzjohna@gmail.com](mailto:schultzjohna@gmail.com)

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## What's Happening

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### 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](https://rescuevocations.org/Joseph)

**LABOURÉ**  
HELP RESCUE VOCATIONS

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## Information about Returning Safely to Public Masses

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### ***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.

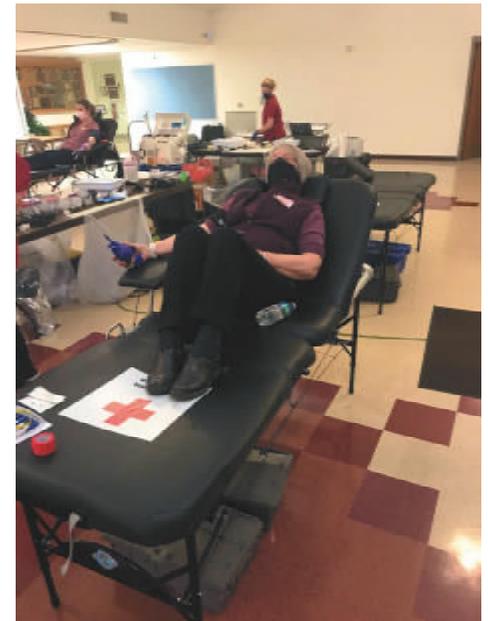
(9) **Sanitizing.** A crew of volunteers will sanitize after Mass. It doesn't take long, but is an important safety step. We need regularly scheduled volunteers to do this. Please consider signing up!

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## Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

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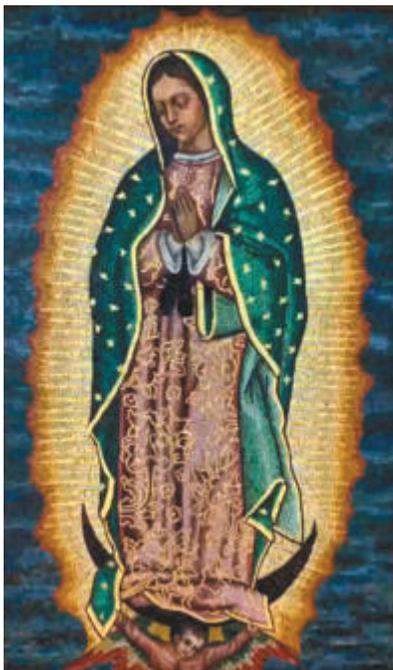
A big thank you to all who donated blood on December 1st at St. Raymond! The goal was 28 units and there ended up being 35 donors and 40 units of blood donated! There even were some first time donors, two of them pictured below, Carla and Bob! Once again thank you to all who donated, hope to see you at the next one!



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## The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

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Every year on December 12, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This feast day goes back all the way to the 16th century!

It all started when Our Lady appeared to a poor Indian named Juan Diego in a small village near Mexico City. He was instructed by her to go to the bishop and have him build a chapel where she appeared.

After many conversations with the bishop, he finally decided that he would build the chapel only if Juan Diego brought him a sign from this mysterious lady.

On December 12 Juan Diego came to the bishop opened his tilma that was filled with dozens of roses that fell to the ground. On the tilma appeared this beautiful image of Our Lady as she had appeared to Juan Diego in the hill of Tepeyac. To this day you can visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico to see the original tilma that Juan Diego showed the bishop.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!**

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