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

**The Baptism of Our Lord | January 10, 2021**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1975 CC-BY

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### Pastor

**Fr. Derek Sakowski**  
715-855-1294 ext. 101  
[frsakowski@gmail.com](mailto:frsakowski@gmail.com)

Rectory: 715-514-0161

### Parochial Vicar

**Fr. Peter Kieffer**  
715-855-1294 ext. 140  
[frpeterkr@gmail.com](mailto:frpeterkr@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

January 9 through January 17

Sat., Jan. 9	4:00p	SM	†Darlene Wolf
	6:00p	SR	†Richard & Barbara Puglisi
Sun., Jan. 10	8:30a	SR	Parishioners of SM & SR
	11:00a	SM	†John & Arlene Weber
	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention
Mon., Jan. 11	No Mass		
Tue., Jan. 12	8:00a	SR	†Joseph Marter
Wed., Jan. 13	8:00a	SM	†Samantha Kilmisch
Thu., Jan. 14	8:00a	SR	Children of Mike & Darlene Klobucar
Fri., Jan. 15	9:00a	SM	†Leo & Irene Schuh
Sat., Jan. 16	4:00p	SM	†Marilyn Hayden
	6:00p	SR	†Anna Scheuermann
Sun., Jan. 17	8:30a	SR	†Deceased Family of Al Kamrowski
	11:00a	SM	†Franc Vogninec
	1:00p	SM	Parishioners of SM & SR

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

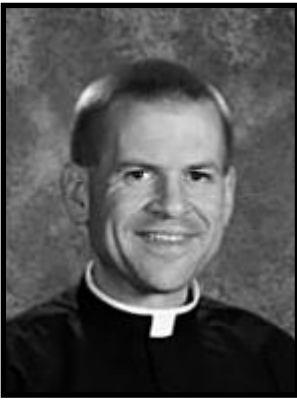
## EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

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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### Healing and the Holy Spirit

Have you ever heard testimonies from fellow Christians about powerful healing experiences and secretly doubted or judged them? Or have you perhaps felt threatened by the joy and freedom they seem to possess? I admit that I have

For every person who has a powerful healing story there are

dozens of others who have been reaching out for years and (it seems) experiencing no answer. Whether we have a physical ailment, anxiety and depression, a repeated sinful habit, an addiction, or relationship struggles, we can find ourselves suffering painfully for many years.

Reaching out and not being attuned to, not being heard, or not being cared for is one of the most painful human experiences. It can feel far safer to close ourselves off, to believe that healing doesn't really happen.

Isn't it fascinating that sometimes God works powerful graces so swiftly and suddenly, and other times he seems to keep us waiting for SO long?

There is a divine and human mystery at work here. The Holy Spirit works at lightning speed, but always in a way that respects and honors our human dignity, our desires, our receptivity, and our freedom to choose.

The Holy Spirit acts with utmost swiftness. Whether impregnating the Virgin Mary, forgiving the sins of the apostles on Easter Sunday, exorcising demons, healing the sick, or raising the dead, the Holy Spirit needs no time.

It is we who often need time. And God honors us in that need!

I know for myself that my "yes" to God's invitation, my surrender to him, seems to come with strings attached. I have experienced many grace-filled moments in which I have surrendered to him. Yet I keep discovering that I have secretly crossed my fingers behind my back, holding something back for myself.

And God waits – not with disdain or disappointment, but with eternal kindness and patience. He desires me to desire him. As a loving Father, he patiently watches me grow, without jumping in or coercing.

Receptivity in freedom is not a "one and done." Even for Jesus and Mary, who were so utterly receptive to the Father's will, so totally open to being led by the Holy Spirit, receiving was an ongoing reality. Mary was already "full of grace" when she said yes to God and received even greater blessings. Luke twice tells us that Jesus himself grew in wisdom and in grace (Luke 2:40, 52).

To be truly human like Jesus and Mary is to grow our whole life long. We are freely invited by God to become who we are. We are created to love and be loved with ever greater depth and fullness and fruitfulness.

The Father draws us to himself with Holy Desires that stretch our hearts. The more we receive and truly experience the living God, the more we thirst for him. The more we willingly thirst, the more we can receive him, and the more the Holy Spirit is then free to rush upon us, to flood us, to possess us, and to lead us in haste to give freely and sacrificially to others.

God alone knows all the reasons why healing does or doesn't happen in any particular case. In some cases, we may never know. Often, however, what feels like a delay to us is actually a deep honoring of our desires, our receptivity, and our freedom. I believe that the single hardest human thing for many of us is to be vulnerable and receive. It is so hard to do what Mary did in her *fiat* – to receive love vulnerably, freely, and wholeheartedly, setting down all our well-crafted defenses, permitting God and others to be and to stay intimately close.

Quite often, we find ourselves in a bind. One part of us deeply aches for someone to draw near, to see us, to hear us, to be intimately close to us. And then when a good and trustworthy person actually does that, we freak out and sabotage! Vulnerability is so human, yet feels so threatening. I am astounded at the lightning speed with which my defenses engage in situations like this.

The great spiritual question is the question Jesus asked at the pool of Bethesda to the man who had been crippled for 38 years: "Do you desire to be well." Of course we do! But many of us are also chained by our pride and self-reliance, our hiding and self-protection. We need Jesus to break those chains by the power of the Holy Spirit. He will eagerly do so – if and when we deeply desire it. Some of us need many years to grow in those desires and reach a point where the strength of our desire is greater than the strength of our defenses. The Holy Spirit will never force himself – but thankfully he only needs a tiny crack!

Once healing happens, the real work is only just beginning. Whether the healing received is physical, emotional, or spiritual, we are then invited in freedom to grow and mature and bear fruit. Only Jesus, through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, can liberate us. He breaks our chains, rolls away the stone that is blocking our self-created tomb, calls us forth, and unbinds us. Once these obstacles are removed, his desire is for us to keep growing in our desires, to keep receiving and giving, and to bear fruit. He wants us to be true sharers in his love, his freedom, and his dignity. We are not robots of puppets. We are no longer slaves but are led by the Holy Spirit to live in the glorious freedom of the sons and daughters of God.

# Saint Mary and Saint Raymond of Peñafort Parishes

## St. Mary Parish News

### 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!

### Interested to check out a room for a meeting??

There will be a new form to fill out if any group is interested in using room spaces at St. Mary. More info to come soon!

### Job Opportunity

St. Mary is looking for a part time janitor custodian, Mon-Fri 12:30p-3:30p Contact Bonnie Firkus 715-533-1294 ext. 146 if interested!

## 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  
↳ Stmarymaintaltoona@gmail.com

## End of Christmas Season

Christmas Decorations are coming down January 10 at 2pm. Join us if interested in helping out!

## Diaconate Discernment Retreat

Saturday, February 27. Are you a man at least 35 years of age who feels a yearning to give yourself more radically to the service of God and the Church – preaching the Gospel, serving those in need, assisting at the altar? If you think God may be calling you to be a deacon, talk to your pastor about attending the Diaconate Discernment Retreat at St. Mary's Church in Altoona on February 27, 2021. Then contact Deacon Bryan Hilts, Director of the Office for the Diaconate at [bhilts@diolc.org](mailto:bhilts@diolc.org). A new deacon formation class will begin in the fall of 2021 and attendance at the Discernment Retreat is a prerequisite.

## St. Mary's Elementary School

### Silly Serrano Mexican Restaurant Fundraiser RESCHEDULED!

Wednesday, January 27

11a-7p

329 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire

Enjoy an awesome meal with your family and help support Regis Catholic Schools! 10% of the proceeds from all Regis family orders will be donated to support our Catholic school system.

## St. Mary's Stewardship: This Week

Adult Env.....	\$3,569.00
Holy Day Env.....	\$450.00
Plate.....	\$230.00
1st Offering.....	\$6.00
Total.....	\$4,255.00

## 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: This Week

Adult Env.....	\$2,280.00
Holy Day Env.....	\$260.00
Plate.....	\$78.00
1st Offering.....	\$110.00
Total.....	\$2,728.00

## St. Raymond Parish News

### Pastoral Council

Did you know that both St. Mary and St. Raymond have a pastoral council?? Over the next few weeks we will be introducing the members of the individual councils! A date to keep in mind is January 12, that will be the first meeting for the St. Raymond Council in the New Year! More details to come!

### Knights of Columbus

Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus??? Now through March 15th is your opportunity! Contact Andy or any of the other Knights for more information!

Also mark your calendar for two great events coming up! March 15th for another Blood Drive! And Feb. 26 to start off the Fish Fry Season!

## 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

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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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## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

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With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

By Vatican News

Check out the full article at [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)

### A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*





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