



St. Mary
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www.stmarys-altoona.com

St. Raymond of Peñafort
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 715-877-3400
www.straymond.us



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 14, 2021



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YOUR CHILD COULD ATTEND TUITION FREE!

We participate in the **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program!** Families with incomes below 220% of the federal poverty level are eligible to apply. Learn more at www.RegisCatholicSchools.com.

Application Deadline
April 15 at 4 p.m.

Other tuition assistance is also available, including the St. Benedict Tuition Assistance Scholarship, which is a needs-based financial award.

Questions? Call (715) 830-2273, ext. 1400



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

March 13 through March 21

Sat., Mar. 13	4:00p	SM	† Carl & Janet Thurner
	6:00p	SR	† Gary Ball
Sun., Mar. 14	8:30a	SR	† Rick Bohl
	11:00a	SM	† Angela Mroczenski
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	† Gary Ball
Mon., Mar. 15	No Mass		
Tue., Mar. 16	8:00a	SR	Phyllis Carney
Wed., Mar. 17	8:00a	SM	† Doreen Bauer
Thu., Mar. 18	8:00a	SR	† JoAnne Ahlers
Fri., Mar. 19	SM School Mass		† Angela Mroczenski
Sat., Mar. 20	4:00p	SM	† Michael Meyer
	6:00p	SR	† Deceased Family of Al Komrowski
Sun., Mar. 21	8:30a	SR	Parishioners of SM & SR
	11:00a	SM	John Weiss Jr
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday	7:00-9:00p	SM (Confessional)
Thursday	7:00-9:00p	SR (Library)
Saturday	10:00a-12:00p	SM (Confessional)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sunday	5:00p	SR
Friday	7:00p	SM

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK & TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.

Pastor

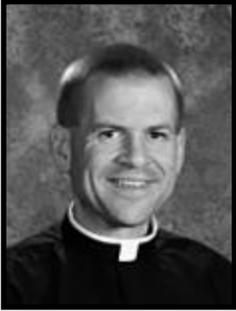
Parochial Vicar

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

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



God Will Be Enough

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

These opening words of Psalm 23 are familiar to most of us. But each of us can ask ourselves honestly: Do I really believe that?

Speaking for myself, the truthful answer is both “yes” and “no.” It is one thing to know at an intellectual level that God is all-good, all-powerful, and all-loving; or to state that I believe that he will provide for all my needs. But I also know the bind I sometimes feel. There can be that clutch of dread or panic about impending conflict, or the suffocating feeling that those I thought I could trust are now pulling back and leaving me unprotected. In those moments, there are parts of me that urge me to hide and isolate rather than surrender unconditionally into God’s hands. It can feel so much safer to take matters into my own hands and to feel some measure of control rather than surrendering to God – what if his love won’t be enough??

In my own case, this inner resistance I sometimes experience isn’t so much in the form of words or thoughts as I do in the form of bodily sensations or deeply felt feelings. One way or another, I am quite familiar with the inner cry that screams out, “It won’t be enough!!”

I know I am not the only one.

There is a reason why Psalm 23 is so appealing. It speaks soothing and reassuring truths to so many of us who need to hear them again and again as we internalize them. We all need to know that God is abundantly good to us. We need to know that our hunger and thirst will find deep satisfaction in him. We need to know that we will be mightily protected by his rod and always guided by his staff – never abandoned in a place of powerlessness or stuck alone in a valley of death. We need to taste and see his goodness – even in this life.

What do we do when part of us screams out, “It won’t be enough!!”?

I can rattle off the things so many of us tend to do in those moments – pull out our phones, scroll through social media, play games, eat comfort food, binge on sugar or caffeine, fantasize about ways of getting away from it all, bury ourselves in busy work, fixate on the faults of those around us, and so many more. These days, there

are no shortage of surrogates we can turn to in an attempt to replace real relationships. Then we reach a point of disillusionment and realize that these things we pursued to make sure it would be enough actually seduced us and betrayed us. We feel frustrated with ourselves and tend to trust God even less and to want to hide ourselves even more. A vicious cycle.

The ultimate answer is to be found in an experience of genuine relationships, connection and communion, abiding in love and truth, staying present to others and God – and to those parts of myself that still try to tell me that it won’t be enough.

Ironically, I think many Christians have learned how to pray in a way that keeps God at a distance – especially from the ways in which we most need his loving presence. There have been seasons in my life in which I have looked at prayer much more as a “should” or a matter of being disciplined enough or getting it right. Rather than a close connection with God, many of us either avoid the vulnerability of prayer (and shame ourselves for being “lazy”), or we stay “busy” in prayer in a way that allows us to feel safe and in control, but hinders receptivity.

God invites us to come to him as we are and receive his blessings. Whether grief, anger, lustful fantasies, over-eating, bitter resentments, panic, anxiety, or deep feelings of powerlessness – what would it look like to experience these things with God? If my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, why not tell the Holy Spirit he is welcome in my body (including where I happen to be feeling dread or shame or grief or loneliness)? Why not consecrate it all to God – giving him all the pieces. If we do not, how can we say we are loving him with our whole heart?

Similarly, what would it look like to cultivate relationships with trustworthy people in which I allow them to see and know the real me – including all the parts I’d rather hide away? Many of us were wearing masks long before this pandemic began! To be fair, we may have needed to do that for a long time. The pain of deprivation or powerlessness or abandonment is simply too much to bear until we are in a position in life in which deep prayer and meaningful relationships are really possible. When we allow ourselves to experience these relationships consistently in our lives and in our prayer, real change begins to happen.

Saint Mary and Saint Raymond of Peñafort Parishes

St. Mary Parish News

Part-time Marriage Prep & Wedding Coordinator

This is a part-time position, usually involving Saturday weddings and Friday rehearsals, in addition to meeting with couples prior to the wedding. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter describing interest and experience with marriage ministry to Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, at JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com. Please include the subject line "Marriage Prep and Wedding Coordinator."

St. Mary's PCCW

SM PCCW will have their Low Sunday Collection the weekend of April 11 after each Mass. All money collected will be sent to LaCrosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman. Thank you for your generosity!

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
↳ 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

Looking to Volunteer?

If you enjoy working behind-the-scenes & looking to get involved at St. Mary's in a meaningful way, contact Maria Ricciardi to learn about how you can help with Family Faith Formation! Just a few short hours can make a huge impact.

Food Drive



Bring those nonperishable items that you have in your homes! Beginning

February 27 through March 28, St. Raymond's will be collecting food items to donate! Some items that are most needed are; peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and canned items with pop tops!

St. Mary and St. Raymond are also joining together to coordinate a Virtual Food Drive! In case you can't make it over to St. Raymond to drop off food, you can donate money! Check out the link below to donate! The Virtual Food Drive will end April 11!

<https://give.fmpfoodbank.org/parishfooddrive>

Thank you so much!

St. Mary's Stewardship: This Week

Adults \$5,384.00
Offertory (Plate) \$624.00
Total Envelope & Plate..... \$6,008.00
Diocesan Appeal Goal
\$39,460.00

Received \$27,375.00

Thank you!

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

Adults..... \$5,965.00
Offertory (Plate) \$116.00
Total Envelope & Plate \$6,081.00
Diocesan Appeal Goal
\$45,925.00

Received..... \$21,886.04

Thank you!

St. Raymond Parish News

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Right to Life Baby Bottle Campaign. It runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day! This can be a very fun family project that the children can help with handing out the empty bottles and collecting the bottles as people bring them back. Anyone interested please contact the parish office. With our current status on abortion this is so needed!

All supplies are provided and you will get all the information needed!

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
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Communication Coordinator

Ellen Hernandez
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Sacred Music (SM & SR)

Tyler Andreae
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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



Knights of Columbus

Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their famous Fish Fry at St. Raymond on Fridays of Lent starting at 4pm! Next one is March 19. Hope to See you there!

Blood Drive

KOC will be sponsoring a blood drive March 17 at St. Raymond! To request an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org

Knights of Columbus (SR)

Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus??? Now through March 15th is your opportunity! Contact Andy at 715-828-3625 or frenchy3625@yahoo.com for more information!

For updates from the KOC, call St. Raymond Parish (715-877-3400) and push "3" to reach the KOC mailbox. There you will hear the latest news and meeting information.

SM & SR

Marriage Blessings

We are happy to announce that Marriage Blessings are back! They will be given the 2nd Sunday each month, please sign up in the parish office if your anniversary is next month and you would like to receive a blessing!

Easter Lily

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the flower donation in your envelope packet or put your donation in an envelope with your name on it and who the memorial or honor is for. You can put it in the Sunday collection or drop off/mail it to the parish.

Liturgy of the Hours

Join us in praying Morning and Night prayer every Thursday of Lent! March, 11, 18, & 25, April 1! Check out the St. Mary or St. Raymond Facebook pages for the zoom link!

St. Mary Ministries

Greetings Parish Family! Our next MSP (Ministry Scheduler Pro) schedule has been finalized, and begins on **March 1st!** Please use your MSP account to view your scheduled times. Please note, we have quite a few open positions throughout the various ministries. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for any of these openings as your qualifications allow. You can do so by going to the schedule and simply clicking "volunteer now." If you have any questions about your schedule or MSP account, please reach out to Tyler Andreae at tja5300@gmail.com. Thank you for your ministry!

Let us know if you want to be apart of any of these amazing ministries or have questions on how or where to create an account!

WEEKLY PRAYER	
READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAR. 14	
SUN 3/14	2CHR 36:14-16,19-23/PS 137:1-2,3,4-5,6[6AB]/EPH 2:4-10/JN 3:14-21 OR 1SM 16:1B,6-7,10-13A/PS 23:1-3A,3B-4MS,6[1]/EPH 5:8-14/JN 9:1-41 OR 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38
MON 3/15	IS 65:17-21/PS 30:2AND 4, 5-6,11-12A AND 13B[2A]/JN 4:43-54
TUE 3/16	EZ 47:1-9, 12/PS 46:2-3,5-6,8-9[8]/JN 5:1-16
WED 3/17	IS 49:8-15/PS 145:8-9,13CD-14,17-18[BA]/JN 5:17-30
THU 3/18	EX 32:7-14/PS 106:19-20,21-22,23[4A]/JN 5:31-47
FRI 3/19	2SM 7:4-5A,12-14A,15/PS 89:2-3,4-5,27,29[37]/RDM 4:13,16-18,22/MT 1:16,18-21,24A OR LK 2:41-51A
SAT 3/20	JER 11:18-20/PS 7:2-3 9BC-10,11-12[2A]/JN 7:40-53
SUN 3/21	JER 31:31-34/PS 51:3-4,12-13,14-15[12A]/HEB 5:7-9/JN 12:20-33 OR EZ 37:12-14,ROM 8:8-11/PS 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8[7]/JN 11:1-45 OR 11:3-7,12,20-27,33B-45

Diocese

New Lay Formation Institute (LFI)

Class starts in the fall – Registration underway! Registration is open for the next two-year Lay Formation cycle that begins in fall of 2021. Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! See complete information, schedule and application form at diolc.org/layformation. Discuss with your pastor and contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or call (608) 791-0161.

Planned Giving— Leaving a Legacy, Wills, Bequest, and Endowments.

Our Estate Planning Guide can help people save several hundred dollars in legal and financial estate planning costs. If you would like more information, please contact our office. Our Planned Giving website is diolclegacy.org. People can find calculators, additional information, sign up for a newsletter and request copies of specific estate planning guides and information.

New Leader of Prayer Class

Begins in July 2021 Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in care facilities or jails); and by leading parishioners in prayer at other times. Applicants must have completed the Lay Formation Institute and be sponsored by their pastor. For more information and to apply, visit diolc.org/ministries and click on "Leader of Prayer."

Reminder

Bishop Callahan's Lenten Video Message Bishop Callahan's Lenten video greeting is available here. youtu.be/tN3ivPPH3x0

St. Joseph



St. Joseph is a powerful patron. He is, as St. John Paul II called him, the Guardian of the Redeemer. He humbly accepted his role as guardian, husband and father in the Holy Family. Therefore, St. Joseph's intercession has been sought for centuries. St. Joseph was clearly very close to our Lord and so we come to him with this novena with a sense of humility because of his great humility. There are actually a few different feast days for Saint Joseph, but March 19th has been most celebrated as his feast day in Western Christianity. But of course, you can pray a novena to him anytime.

Join us in praying this beautiful novena starting on his feast day, below you can find day one of this beautiful novena! Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-joseph-novena>

St. Joseph Novena - Day 1

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Saint Joseph, you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I come to you as an example for holiness, for you are especially close with God. Therefore, I humbly commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, pray for me to have a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore:

(Mention your request)

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. St. Joseph Most Just, Pray for us! Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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