



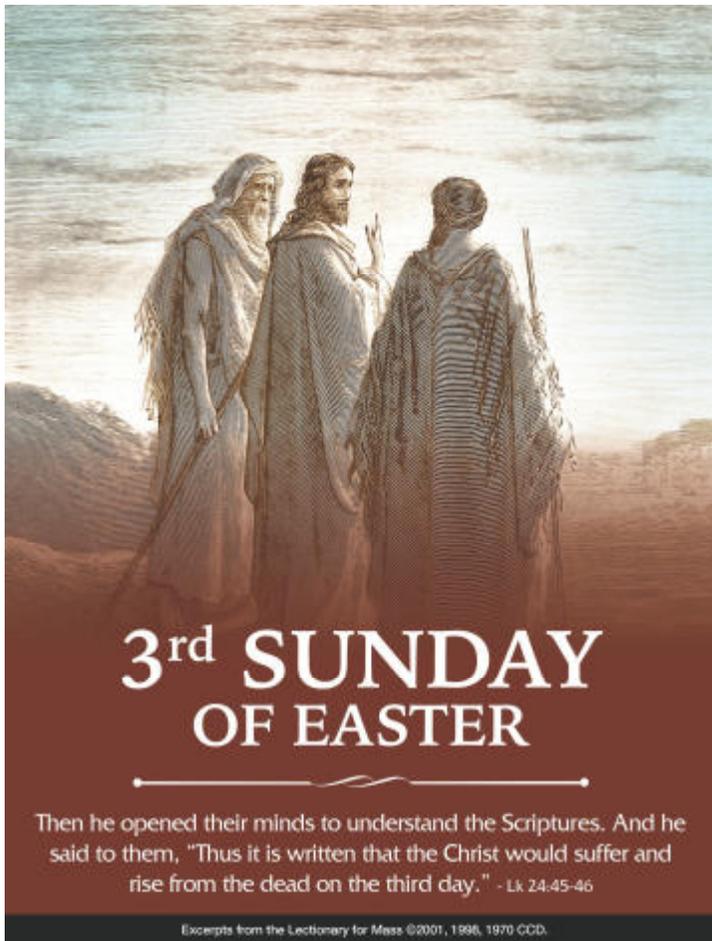
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 715-877-3400  
 www.straymond.us



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

**Third Sunday of Easter | April 18, 2021**



**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**April 17 through April 25**

Sat., Apr. 17	4:00p SM	† Robert & Joanne Manthey
	6:00p SR	† Christine Weiss
Sun., Apr. 18	8:30a SR	Alvera Michaelson
	11:00a SM	Stephen, Barbara, Jacob & Ashley Chilson
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p SM	Parishioners of SM & SR
Mon., Apr. 19	No Mass	
Tue., Apr. 20	8:00a SR	† Ron Haggerty
Wed., Apr. 21	8:00a SM	† JoAnn LeMere
Thu., Apr. 22	8:00a SR	† Matthew Schermerhorn
Fri., Apr. 23	SM School	Faith Family Formation
Sat., Apr. 24	4:00p SM	† Mr. & Mrs. Anton Liedl
	6:00p SR	Pete & Lisa Melrose
Sun., Apr. 25	8:30a SR	Parishioners of SM & SR
	11:00a SM	† Thomas Knack
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p SM	Priest Intention

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Thursday	7:00–9:00p	SR
Saturday	10:00a–12:00p	SM

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION**

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK & TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES**

**Pastor**

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

**Parochial Vicar**

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

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## Reflections from Jon Jones

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### Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is always a solemn affair at the Jones house. We make a concerted effort to respect the sacredness of the day, keeping before us the entombment of our Lord following his horrible death the night before. The music is kept low, we read meaningful passages from our favorite books, and we do not plan any activities. This opens up time for us to live moment by moment and see where it takes us. The following conversation took place on Holy Saturday morning over breakfast between me and a couple of kids. Enjoy.

**Child:** “So, I know that Jesus died to save us. But, what exactly did he save us from?”

**Me:** (nearly jumping out of my seat) “That’s a GREAT question! In fact, that is THE question, isn’t it? He came to save us from eternal separation from Him. God would rather die than let you live separated from Him.”

**C:** (eyebrows raised) “What? What does that mean?”

**Me:** “Jesus dying on the cross bridged the gap that our ancestors’ sin caused, keeping God and us apart. Here, let me draw it for you.” (taking a napkin and pen)

So, here’s God. Let’s make Him a cloud, because the Bible says that God is Spirit and that no one can see Him and live (drawing a cloud on the left side). Plus, whenever He appears it is usually like a cloud or some really cool fire. Let’s give some glory coming out around Him. Then, we have Adam and Eve over here (sketching some really awful stick figures on the right side). They are facing away from God because when they chose the fruit (thought bubble with an apple), they made their own choice against what God had said and turned away from Him. A chasm, or an empty space, opened between them and they were separated. These are our ancestors. With me so far?

**C:** “Mm-hmm.” (holding in laughter at how bad of a drawer Daddy is)

**Me:** “So, when God made us, He made us in His image. Another way to say it is that God made us His icons. When we look at each other we should see and think of Him. We reflect something bigger and greater than ourselves, something higher (drawing a sun). This is why

*we look for happiness in other things, because we were not made to make ourselves happy but to find it in something, or Someone, else. Idols are things that we look to for happiness that only God can give us. This is why Israel made their own idol of a calf and worshipped it (horribly failing a representation of a cow that is truly indistinguishable from a cat). You remember that?”*

**C:** “Yeah!”

**Me:** “Yeah, that’s why they did that. Cows are important, especially up here in Wisconsin, but they aren’t GOD! (laughing together). BUT, God loves you and me sooo much that he *condescended*, a fancy word for saying He ‘came down.’ He became one of us. Just like we say in the Creed: “God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, He came down from Heaven” (connecting the cloud to the sun, then arrowing down from the sun). Jesus wasn’t made the natural way, he was made like Adam was—by the Holy Spirit. He is Second Adam, or Adam 2.0. And since he was both completely God (pointing to the cloud) and completely human (pointing to the stick figures), he was able to bridge the gap that separated us (filling in the chasm with the cross) AND this enables us to turn around now. That’s what ‘repentance’ means, turning around. He re-lived Adam’s chance to live upright and succeeded. Just like we inherit the first Adam’s consequence for choosing against God, now we can inherit Jesus’ righteousness when we are reborn in baptism. That’s why Jesus died for us, so that we wouldn’t have to stay over here away from our Heavenly Father, but so that we could join Him back over here and find our greatest happiness. Make sense?”

**C:** “Yeah, okay! ...Can I have another bowl of cereal?”

“These words which I command you this day shall be upon our heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Dt. 6.6-7



Happy Easter!

# 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."

### 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.

## 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

#### Music & Liturgy

Tyler Andreae  
↳ tja5300@gmail.com

### PART TIME COORDINATORS

#### Communication Coordinator

Ellen Hernandez 715-855-1294  
↳ smcommcoord@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

## WANT TO USE YOUR VOICE FOR THE CHURCH AND INSPIRE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

St. Mary's and St. Raymond's Parishes are currently hiring candidates for part-time Communication Coordinator. This position serves an important role by keeping everyone well-informed of parish events and helps foster a culture of evangelization. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter describing your interest in and experience with communication, journalism, and/or marketing to Jon Jones, Director of Pastoral Ministry, at smsrpastoralmin@gmail.com. Please include the subject line "Application: Communication Coordinator."

For more information see the Parish websites

## St. Mary's Elementary School

Our 4K and first through fourth grade classes are near or at our anticipated capacity for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have not already registered, we encourage you to complete the process soon in order to reserve your child(ren)'s spot(s) for next year. If you have completed the enrollment form but have not received an Enrollment Confirmation email, please reach out to our enrollment coordinator (715) 830-2273 ext. 1400 to determine what steps need to be taken to complete your registration.

### St. Mary's Stewardship: This Week

Adults .....	\$10,715.00
Offertory (Plate) .....	\$519.00
Easter .....	\$410.00
<b>Total Envelope &amp; Plate.....</b>	<b>\$11,644.00</b>

### Diocesan Appeal Goal \$39,460.00

Received ..... \$28,510.00

Thank you!

### St. Raymond's Stewardship: This Week

Adults .....	\$2,908.00
Offertory (Plate) .....	\$266.00
Easter .....	\$330.00
<b>Total Envelope &amp; Plate.....</b>	<b>\$3,504.00</b>

### Diocesan Appeal Goal \$45,925.00

Received ..... \$22,843.04

Thank you!

## St. Raymond Parish News

I want to thank all of you who donated food items or money through the virtual food drive for Feed My People recently.

It was a great success! We donated \$280 wick was enough to provide 1100 meals to those in need in our area. Thank you again for your generosity and God Bless!

Tammy Smith

St. Raymond Community Service Coordinator

### Faith Formation

First Holy Communion will be Sunday, May 2nd at the 8:30a Mass. Please be aware that seating will be limited that morning. Please pray for our First Communicants!

## 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

Dear St. Mary's / St. Raymond's parishioners,

Next weekend (May 1st and 2nd) we will be celebrating First Communions! As we prepare to welcome all of these new little ones to the Eucharistic banquet for the first time, I am fondly remembering my own reception into the Church several years ago. I was so warmly welcomed by all of you here at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's!

Our parishes are well-known for their exceptional hospitality, generosity, and willingness to sacrifice for others. It's one of the things many new members comment on as the reason they've decided to attend here! As we get ready for First Communion weekend, I am calling upon your hospitality one more time, in order for us to warmly welcome our First Communicants and their families and guests (many of whom are coming back to church for the first time in a long while) while also respecting current social distancing guidelines.

The 11am Sunday Mass at St. Mary's has been especially well-attended in recent weeks. This is a wonderful problem to have! But it does make it difficult for us to accommodate everyone given our seating restrictions. As a gesture of hospitality, if you are a regularly attending parishioner at the Sunday 11am Mass, would you consider attending a less-attended Mass time on the weekend of May 1st and 2nd, perhaps attending St. Raymond's instead, or even joining us via Livestream, to make more room for our First Communion students and their families and guests? I appreciate your help and care here. So grateful for each of you!

Jacqueline Van Hemert  
Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation

**Pastoral Council**

Our next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on May 11. Please pray for our Council members as they gather to discuss the state of our parish and consult with our Pastor. If you have something you wish to discuss with a Council member, see the roster posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

 **Knights of Columbus**

*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.*

The KCs will not be having a pancake breakfast this weekend.

**SM & SR EMHCs**

Praise God that we have been able to begin taking Communion to some of our homebound parishioners. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact our Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, Carla Kostka, at [kostkacarla@gmail.com](mailto:kostkacarla@gmail.com)

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**Diocese**

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**Heroic Men Website**

If you haven't done so, check out the Heroic Men website here, and let the Catholic men in your parish know about this great site. It is a 100% free Catholic streaming platform designed especially for men who want to discover (or re-discover) the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. Offering more than 100 feature-length films, TV shows, documentaries and short films, Heroic Men seeks to source the best Catholic media available and bring it all to you, all in one place. <https://heroicmen.com>

**Courage / EnCourage:**

Are you or a loved one experiencing same-sex attraction and looking for answers? Courage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of persons with same-sex attraction. EnCourage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who deal with same-sex attractions. If you are interested in being part of a Courage Chapter, or an EnCourage Chapter, please contact Ann Lankford, Office for Catechesis and Evangelization, Diocese of La Crosse. 608-791-2658 or [alankford@diolc.org](mailto:alankford@diolc.org) Resources can be found here: [www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)

**Family Life and Men of the Cross**

**Facebook Pages**

The diocese has combined their "Marriage and Family Life" and "Youth and Young Adult Ministry" Facebook pages into one page called "Diocese of La Crosse Family Life". Also, there is a Facebook page for the men of the diocese called "Men of the Cross".

**COVID-19 Vaccine**

U.S. Bishops cite ethical problem with Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine  
The U.S. Bishops, citing the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, have judged that, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. While the vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna did use an abortion-derived cell line for testing, they did not use the problematic cell line in their vaccine development and production. By contrast, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was developed, tested and produced with abortion-derived cell lines, raising additional moral concerns. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's. Sadly, when it comes to a number of vital vaccines – such as the one for Rubella – there is no other choice than either to make use of a tainted vaccine or to forgo vaccination altogether. For a broader discussion, visit [www.diolc.org/respect-life](http://www.diolc.org/respect-life) and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines-Ethics."

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## Faith Formation

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Ever wonder what goes on during Faith Formation? Check out some photos of our staring contest to kick off the night that ended with some Eucharistic Adoration!



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