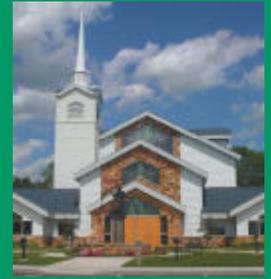




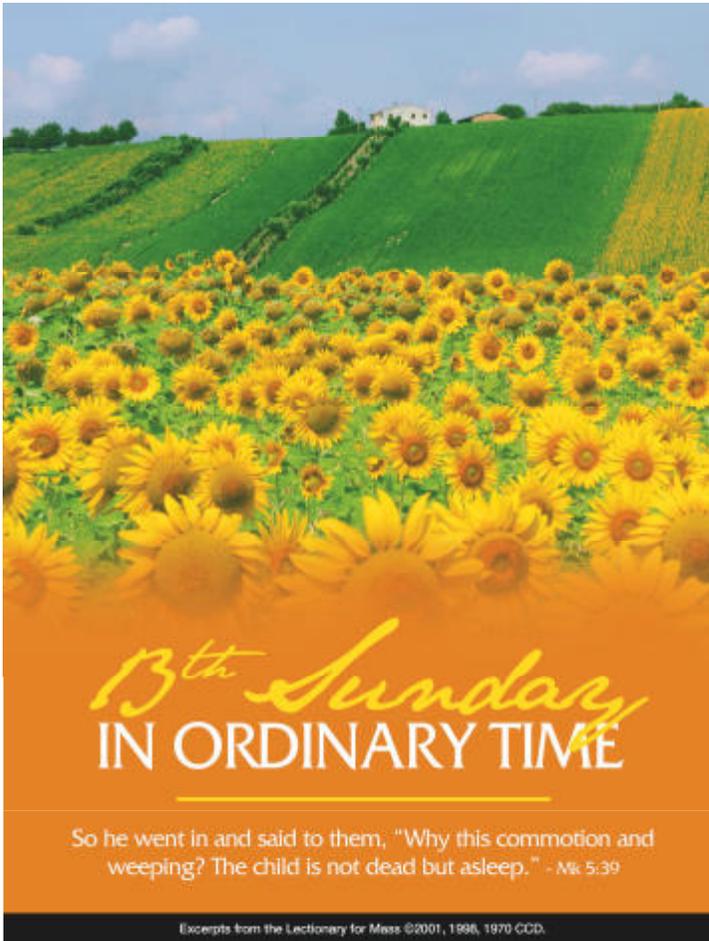
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of  
**ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND**  
 OF PEÑAFORT

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | June 27th, 2021**



*13<sup>th</sup> Sunday*  
**IN ORDINARY TIME**

So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." - Mk 5:39

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCB.

**Pastor**

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

**Parochial Vicar**

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**June 26 through July 4**

Sat., June 26	4:00p	SM	† Joe Weiland
	6:00p	SR	† Harold, Frances & Rick Bohl
Sun., June 27	8:30a	SR	Marlas Hazen
	11:00a	SM	Chris Schoenfeld
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention
Mon., June 28	No Mass		
Tue., June 29	8:00a	SR	Pete & Lisa Melrose
Wed., June 30	8:00a	SM	† Rich Wahl
Thu., July 1	8:00a	SR	John Volak
Fri., July 2	9:00a	SM	† Joanne Poppe
Sat., July 3	9:00a	SM	Priest Intention
	4:00p	SM	Mr & Mrs Arthur Bohl
	6:00p	SR	Travis Families
Sun., July 4	8:30a	SR	Marlas Hazen
	11:00a	SM	† Marilyn Hayden
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	Parishioners of SM & SR

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

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

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION**

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

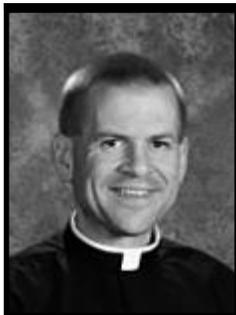
**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Thurs	9a-noon or by apt	SM
Sunday	noon-3p	SM
Tues/Thurs	9a-noon or by apt	SR

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## Reflections from Fr. Sakowski

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### Religion or Religiosity?

Religion isn't exactly gaining popularity these days. Even though most people believe in God or some higher power, fewer and fewer people are willing to be associated with religion.

Rather than immediately viewing these trends as a threat, rather than shifting to a posture of judgment or accusation, it may behoove us to be curious and ask, "why?"

Why does this or that individual no longer want anything to do with religion? Each person has a story, and we can often be surprised by what we learn. However, they may not tell us the whole truth unless they really believe we are going to listen. If they sense contempt or condemnation, control or manipulation, they won't feel safe enough to share their story (and who could blame them?).

Many of our families – including our church families – have been toxic and dysfunctional. Often, under the pretext of religion, we have been guilty of "religiosity." As a result, many would-be Christians, some of them deeply hurt and betrayed, have decided they want nothing to do with religion. In many cases, it is not actually religion that they are rejecting (much less God himself), but a "religiosity" masquerading as religion. And if so, in some cases the attempt to reject religion may actually be a step in the right direction! When a family becomes dysfunctional, the "black sheep" is sometimes the one with the most personal integrity! For example, I think of that great scene in *The Adventures of Huck Finn* in which Huck chooses to be a "bad" Christian and to risk "going to hell" by doing the unthinkable and helping a slave escape.

What is "religion" anyway? I would invite everyone back to the root meaning of the word. *Religio* in Latin comes from *re-ligare*: to "to re-bind" or "reconnect." Authentic religion heals and restores our relationship with God, our relationship with each other, and our relationship with ourselves. It leads us to deep and true and meaningful connection, intimacy, love, and unity. If it does not do those things, it is not authentic religion!

Notice that authentic religion is both objective and subjective, both real and relational. Many today (even Wikipedia!) make the mistake of viewing religion in purely subjectivist terms – as though religion is the product of our efforts to make meaning out of life and human existence. To be sure, seeking and finding meaning is incredibly important. But God is real, independent of human seeking and striving. He has really revealed himself, and he desires us to find fulfillment in our desire of him by being received into real relationship with him. Religion is ultimately initiated by him and freely responded to by us. The new and eternal Covenant.

On the flipside, in the name of "the truth" many Christians today have forgotten about the real relationships involved. Much like the Pharisees, they have slipped into religiosity, which becomes a distortion of authentic religion in a manner that turns people away from the living God.

I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have often been guilty of "religiosity" in the name of religion. I have focused more on being right than on forming a deep and meaningful relationship with the person in front of me. I have focused more on trying to coax or convince others to do the "right" thing, rather than attuning to the deep desires of their hearts and noticing what God is doing there. I have held contempt toward those who disagree with me rather than practicing empathy and seeking to understand them deeply in their own story, and especially in their suffering. I have clung to resentments rather than entering into authentic grieving, which allows me to manifest God's mercy from the depths of my heart.

There are some, in their clinging to religiosity and claiming to represent the Church, who have gone so far as to fixate on condemnation and hellfire in unwholesome ways. For them, the "Good News" becomes all about avoiding hell and deciding who goes there. Loving others means "saving" them by turning them away from hell by whatever means necessary: name-calling, fear-mongering, shaming, manipulating, or coercing. Perhaps the greatest irony is if we Christians call ourselves "Pro-Life" and then engage in these behaviors that are so against the dignity of the human person, and so clearly against Jesus' commandment to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Who among us honestly desires others to call us names, to manipulate us, to coerce us, to shame us, or to motivate us by fear? These things are spiritual abuse. They are not religion. If we have done them, may we repent and make amends!

Yes, hell is real, and the Good News is that I don't have to live in hell anymore! We tend to think of hell and heaven as future realities, but they begin even now, already-but-not-yet. The humble person is willing to admit that his life has become a living hell, and that he cannot save himself. What Good News to discover an authentic path to freedom and peace, and to enter into real relationships through authentic religion (authentic "reconnecting" with the living God).

If our religion is real, our relationships will be thriving: the Trinity dwelling within each one of us ever more fully (as our desire increases daily), vibrant and joyful relationships with each other, a deep respect for and rejoicing in the dignity of each human person, the flourishing of each culture, a unity and love that is palpable, and so much more.

I repent of my religiosity and desire instead to grow into real religion. Do you?

**Check out Father's blog at [www.abideinlove.com](http://www.abideinlove.com)**

# Job Opportunities

# Stewardship

## 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](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com). Please include in the subject line "Marriage Prep and Wedding Coordinator".



## St. Mary's Faith Formation Coordinator

This is a part-time position, variable depending on the time of year, with average of 10 hours per week. Position overview is to coordinate, organize, and execute the administrative details of all parish faith formation programs, especially those that see their "student" as the whole family. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter describing interest and experience with Faith Formation Ministry to Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, at [JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com). Please include in the subject line "Faith Formation Coordinator".



### Knights of Columbus (SR)

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 info.



St. Raymond's Parishioners: Please return your baby bottles full of change to Support the Eau Claire Chapter of Right to Life!

### St. Mary's This Week

Adults .....\$5,326.10  
1st Offering.....\$10.00  
Offertory (Plate).....\$825.00  
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$6,161.10

### St. Mary's Diocesan Appeal

Goal: \$39,460.00

Received: \$38,100.00

Thank You!

97%

### St. Raymond's This Week

Adults .....\$3,081.00  
Holy Day.....\$0.00  
Offertory (Plate).....\$352.00  
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$3,433.00

### St. Raymond's Diocesan Appeal

Goal: \$45,925.00

Received: \$27,599.04

Thank You!

60%

## ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT PARISHES

# DIRECTORS

### Evangelization & Faith Formation



Jacqueline Van Hemert  
715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)  
715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

[JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com)

### Finance, Building & Grounds



Bonnie Firkus  
715-855-1294, x 146 (SM)  
715-877-3400, x 118 (SR)

[BFirkusStRaymond@gmail.com](mailto:BFirkusStRaymond@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Ministry



Jon Jones  
715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)  
715-877-3400, x121 (SR)

[SmSrPastoralMin@gmail.com](mailto:SmSrPastoralMin@gmail.com)

### Music & Liturgy



Tyler Andreae  
715-855-1294 x 147 (SM)  
715-877-3400 x 120 (SR)

[TJA5300@gmail.com](mailto:TJA5300@gmail.com)

### St. Mary's Dedicated Staff



Faith Formation Coordinator,  
Maria Ricciardi  
715-855-1294, x 106  
[FaithFormationSM@gmail.com](mailto:FaithFormationSM@gmail.com)

Maintenance,  
Charles Thurner  
715-855-1294, x 141

[StMaryMainAltoona@gmail.com](mailto:StMaryMainAltoona@gmail.com)



### Office Support Staff



Parish Receptionist, Shelli Julson  
(Serving Both Parishes)  
715-855-1294, x 100 (SM)  
[StMaryRecAltoona@gmail.com](mailto:StMaryRecAltoona@gmail.com) (SM)  
715-877-3400, x 100 (SR)  
[StRaymondParish@gmail.com](mailto:StRaymondParish@gmail.com) (SR)

Bilingual Office Assistant,  
Carmen Nuñez (SM's Only)  
715-855-1294, x 109  
[CarmenAide4@att.net](mailto:CarmenAide4@att.net)



Faith Formation Coordinator,  
Marianne Callaghan  
715-877-3400, x 119  
[MaCallaghan115@gmail.com](mailto:MaCallaghan115@gmail.com)

Maintenance,  
Robert Grzyb  
715-492-9677

[AutoBobs@outlook.com](mailto:AutoBobs@outlook.com)



### Coordinators Serving Both Parishes



Communication Coordinator,  
Heather Halberg  
715-855-1294  
[SmCommCoord@gmail.com](mailto:SmCommCoord@gmail.com)



Marriage Prep & Wedding Coordinator  
COULD THIS BE YOU?  
Send Résumé to Jacqueline Van Hemert  
[JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com)



Pastoral Outreach Coordinator  
Carla Kostka  
715-225-7419  
[KostkaCarla@gmail.com](mailto:KostkaCarla@gmail.com)

For Baptism Prep, Marriage Prep & RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Contact Faith Formation Coordinator

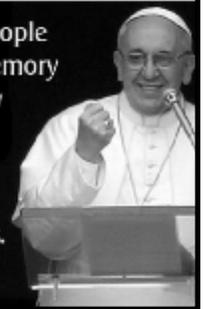
# St. Mary's and St. Raymond's Parish News

At St. Mary's and St. Raymond's, we are seeking a few new catechists to join our team this coming year! If interested, please Contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at [JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com)



Catechists are people who keep the memory of God alive; they keep it alive in themselves and they are able to revive it in others.

-Pope Francis



## Summer Series: *Maturing in Christ*

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Jon Jones  
Masters in  
Christian Thought



Michael Van Hemert  
World Religious  
Studies Degree

Please RSVP to [SmSrPastoralMin@gmail.com](mailto:SmSrPastoralMin@gmail.com)

Walk ins welcome! Join at anytime!

All are invited to delve deeper into scripture and encounter with Christ.



## ST. MARY'S Elementary School

Are you considering providing your child(ren) with a Catholic education for the 2021-2022 school year? St. Mary's Elementary School is now enrolling students from three year old preschool through Fifth grade! Financial assistance is available, making Catholic Education even more affordable. Please contact Carisa Smiskey, School Principal to learn more! Call: 715-830-2278 or Email: [CSmiskey@RegisCatholicSchools.com](mailto:CSmiskey@RegisCatholicSchools.com)



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EVERY FIRST  
SATURDAY OF  
THE MONTH AT  
ST. MARY'S

ROSARY

8:10AM  
PROCESSION  
+ROSARY

JULY 3

CONFESSION

STARTING AT  
7:30 AM  
AND  
10AM-NOON



MASS

CELEBRATION  
OF MASS AT 9AM





With gratitude to God the Father,  
 you are invited to watch the ordination to  
 the priesthood through the laying on of hands  
 and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by  
 The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan,  
 Bishop of La Crosse.

ARTURO VIGUERAS ESTRADA  
 TIMOTHY MATTHEW REITHER  
 ERIC JOSEPH MASHAK

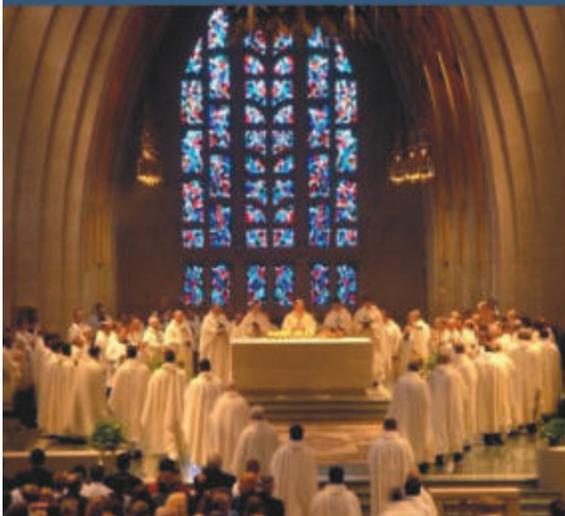
On Saturday, the Twenty-Six of June  
 in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand  
 and Twenty One at 10:00 in the morning  
 at Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral  
 530 Main Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin

View this Celebration Live Online  
 at [diolc.org/live](http://diolc.org/live)

GRANT, WE PRAY. ALMIGHTY FATHER,  
 to this, your servant, the dignity of the  
 priesthood; renew deep within him the  
 Spirit of holiness; may he henceforth possess  
 this office which comes from you, O God,  
 and is next in rank to the Office of Bishop;  
 and by the example of his manner of life,  
 may he instill right conduct.



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ANNIVERSARY  
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 FR. PETER KIEFFER JUNE 24, 2017  
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 Matthew J. Krische • Attorney  
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