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

**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | August 1, 2021**



**18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." - Jn 6:32-33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCC

**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**

**July 31 through August 8**

Sat., July 31	4:00p	SM	† Doreen Bauer
	6:00p	SR	David Nowicki
Sun., August 1	8:30a	SR	† Wayne Kostka
	11:00a	SM	† Margo Gieremek
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	Parishioners of SM & SR
Mon., August 2	No Mass		
Tue., August 3	8:00a	SR	David Mountain
Wed., August 4	8:00a	SM	† Paul & Clara Bauer
Thu., August 5	8:00a	SR	† Leo & Dorothy Tice
Fri., August 6	<b>MASS CANCELLED</b>		
Sat., August 7	9:00a	SM	Priest Intention
	4:00p	SM	BJ Wogernese
	6:00p	SR	† Raymond & Joan Ruiz
Sun., August 8	8:30a	SR	Parishioners of SM & SR
	11:00a	SM	† Clarence Mousel
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention

**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

## Reflections from Fr. Peter Kieffer



When I was in college, one of my professors had a saying that went like this:

*Good, better, best.  
Never let it rest.  
Until the good becomes better, and  
the better becomes the best.*

*Why?*

*Because the human mind and the human heart were made for the best.*

*And, they will never truly be at rest, until they have the best.*

*So...*

*Hitch your wagon to a star.*

*In other words, aim high.*

*Because, if you aim low, you may just end up below the below.*

The theme of this poem is to seek out the best. The best, that we only will find in God and in being who God creates us to be. Searching for the better and the best requires a certain amount of comparison on our part. It requires us to make use of good comparison and to avoid bad comparison.

Good comparison makes us better and is from God. In Matthew 5:48 Jesus says, "Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jesus knows that we will never be perfect. Only God is perfect. Yet, Jesus calls us to strive for the best and to be our best. This kind of comparison leads us to seek out what is true and good. When we compare in this way, we come to appreciate reality. We see ourselves as who we are, and we flourish. It makes us grateful and appreciative of the gifts that God has given to us, and it makes us aware of the things that need to change in ourselves.

Bad comparison, on the other hand, makes us worse and is from the devil. Bad comparison is debilitating and can keep us from being ourselves. It prevents us from being who God makes us to be. Rather than focus on the reality of who we are (for better or for worse), comparison makes us focus on something imaginary or fake, that may never actually come to pass. It turns us in on ourselves, and it causes us to compare ourselves to others about unimportant things. It makes us ungrateful, and it distracts us from overcoming the bad habits and vices that we have.

What kinds of comparisons do you make? Are you someone who makes good comparisons, or are you one who falls into bad comparisons?

How could you improve? What things should you spend less time focusing on? What things should you spend more time focusing on?

*Good, better, best.*

*Never let it rest.*

*Until the good becomes better, and the better becomes the best.*

**Mass Cancellation:** No Daily Mass on Friday, August 6th

**First Saturday Devotions:** Sat., August 7th - Confession starting at 7:30am until Mass at 9am and again from 10am-noon. 8:10am Procession + Rosary. Celebration of Mass at 9am. Every First Saturday of the Month at St. Mary's.



### Blood Drive!

**St Mary's  
Catholic Church**



The Altoona Knights of Columbus will be hosting a blood drive at St. Mary's on August 18th from noon-6pm. Your donation is urgently needed at this time. You can sign up for a time, either by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-723-2767) or by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and selecting St. Mary's Blood Drive. Please be generous.

### Job Opportunity

**St. Mary's Faith Formation Coordinator:** This is a part-time position, with average of 10 hours per week. Position overview is to coordinate, organize, and execute the administrative details of all parish faith formation programs. Applicants can send résumé and cover letter expressing interest and experience in Faith Formation to [JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com](mailto:JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com). (Subject Line: Faith Formation Coordinator)

## Staff Directory

### Pastoral Ministry

#### **Jon Jones, Director**

715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 121 (SR)

↳ SmSrPastoralMin@gmail.com

#### **Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist**

715-855-1294, x 100 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 100 (SR)

↳ StMaryRecAltoona@gmail.com (SM)

↳ StRaymondParish@gmail.com (SR)

#### **Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Office Assistant**

715-855-1294, x 109 (SM)

↳ CarmenAide4@att.net

#### **Heather Halberg, Communication Coord.**

715-855-1294 (SM)

715-877-3400 (SR)

↳ SmCommCoord@gmail.com

#### **Carla Kostka, Pastoral Outreach Coord.**

715-225-7419 (SM & SR)

↳ KostkaCarla@gmail.com

### Evangelization & Faith Formation

#### **Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director**

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ JacquelineEVanHemert@gmail.com

#### **Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation Coord.**

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ MaCallaghan115@gmail.com

### Finance, Building & Grounds

#### **Bonnie Firkus, Director**

715-855-1294, x 146 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 118 (SR)

↳ bfirkusstraymond@gmail.com

#### **Charles Thurner, Maintenance (SM)**

715-855-1294, x 141 (SM)

↳ StMaryMaintAltoona@gmail.com

#### **Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)**

715-492-9677 (SR)

↳ AutoBobs@outlook.com

### Music & Liturgy

#### **Tyler Andreae, Director**

715-855-1294, x 147 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 120 (SR)

↳ tja5300@gmail.com

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

Adults .....\$6,475.00

Offertory (Plate) .....\$670.04

**Total Envelope & Plate .....\$7,145.04**

*Thank you!*

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

Adults ..... \$2,304.00

Offertory (Plate) ..... \$277.75

**Total Envelope and Plate .....\$2,581.75**

*Thank you!*

## Upcoming Events

# An Evening of Intercession

Jesus allows us to participate in his ministry of intercession, and he gives all of us his Spirit to strengthen our prayer and make it fruitful and effective.

**Let us come together to begin praying as a group for the needs of our parish.**

Are you called to be an intercessor? You might be if you have ever experienced anything like:

- Praying for others as one of the most powerful ways that God works in the world
- Praying for long periods of time, even hours, and emerging refreshed and energized
- Waking up in the middle of the night with feelings of being prompted to pray for a particular person, situation, or place
- A sense of feeling the Holy Spirit praying through you
- Fruit born in others' lives after praying for them, sometimes even miraculous fruit



### St. Mary Parish "Evening of Intercession"

Wednesday, August 18, 7:30-8:30 PM, starting in the parish library and ending in the Church

### St. Raymond of Peñafort "Evening of Intercession"

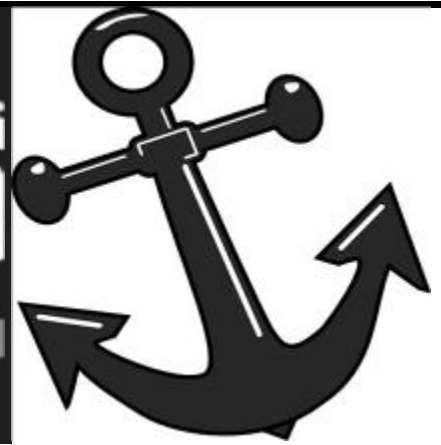
Thursday, August 19, 7:30-8:30 PM in the parish library unless needing to move to the Hall for space (come enjoy Adoration or visit the confessional before or after to make the night a mini-spiritual retreat!)

The evening will include:

- A look at intercession from the Scriptures
- Group discussion
- The Chaplet of Divine Mercy



## News from Peru - Being the Anchor of Hope!



A common petition at daily Mass of the children and families is, **"We pray for all of the people who help us here at Casa so that we can live the life we have and be safe."** This reality is significant to us during these days of the pandemic. Peru is full of unrest and division as the country decides its future president and hospitals continue to fill. Amid the instability and uncertainty, providing a safe home where the children and staff can grow is more important than ever. **Your support** helps us offer the anchor of stability and hope for our 72 children, teachers, staff, and families who call Casa their home.

Virtual classes occupy most of our daily life here at Casa, where we put to good use every tablet, phone, and computer donated. Mass, Holy Hour, meals, sports, and music fill our days. On the weekends, the children take turns visiting with members of their biological families who visit, all the while maintaining social distance. The consolation for the visiting family members is that they know the children are safe, cared for, and solidly prepared for a promising future.

What is it that our children need most of all at this time? They need to know that there are people who care for them during all the chaos and that we will fight for them and give them the tools to face life with hope and courage. Our hope is not to survive the pandemic; we are here to learn how to thrive through the pandemic. The children are learning this kind of hope and perseverance to stay strong. ***Father Joe Walijewski always taught the children to breathe with both lungs of family and faith if they are to have a future.***

*Soon we will have a new Development Director to take over for Sarah Sceery, who will always be with us as a promoter of Casa. I sincerely appreciate her dedication to the Cause of Father Joe Walijewski and Casa Hogar. We ask for your patience during this time of transition and hope to introduce a new person soon.*

**We are ever grateful for your support.** It means so much at any time and ***even more during these difficult times.*** Please know that we are praying for you, and May the Lord bless you and your families.

In Christ,

Msgr. Joseph Hirsch  
Director

**You can offer support today by visiting:**  
**[www.homeajpm.org/donate](http://www.homeajpm.org/donate)**





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**Sunday, August 8th - St. Mary's Fall Fest Kickoff & Scavenger Hunt!!!**

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**Register your team by 2pm on Sunday, August 8th**  
**[www.StMarys-Altoona.com](http://www.StMarys-Altoona.com)**

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**Sunday, August 8th**

**Fall Fest Kickoff**

Fall Treats, Guessing Jar, Raffle Tickets,  
Volunteer Sign-up & Scavenger Hunt (2pm)

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**Sunday, Sept. 12th**

**Family Fun Day 12pm-3pm**

Concessions, Children's Games & Kevin's Balloons

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**Saturday, Sept. 18th**

**Adult Night Out/Kid Night In 5pm-9pm**

Outside - Beer Tent, Barbecue Concessions & Music

Inside - Children's Movie, Pizza & Piñata

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**Sunday, Sept. 26th**

**Fall Fest Finale**

11:30am-2:30pm Chicken Dinner

11:30am-3pm Silent Auction, Country Store & Cake Walk

3pm Raffle Drawings & Silent Auction Final Closing

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**Fall Festival Raffle**

**Grand Prize \$1,500**

**Second Prize \$500 (2)**

**Thrid Prize \$100 (5)**

Ticket Cost: \$5.00

Raffle Drawing

Sept. 26th at 3pm

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**Coordinators and  
Volunteers Needed!**

Coordinators needed for Adult Night  
Out, Kid Night In & Cake Walk.

Volunteers needed to sell Raffle  
Tickets! Sign-up in the Narthex on  
August 8th or contact Toni Buck at  
[ToniBuck.88@gmail.com](mailto:ToniBuck.88@gmail.com)

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