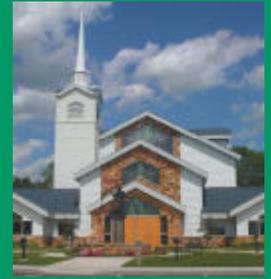




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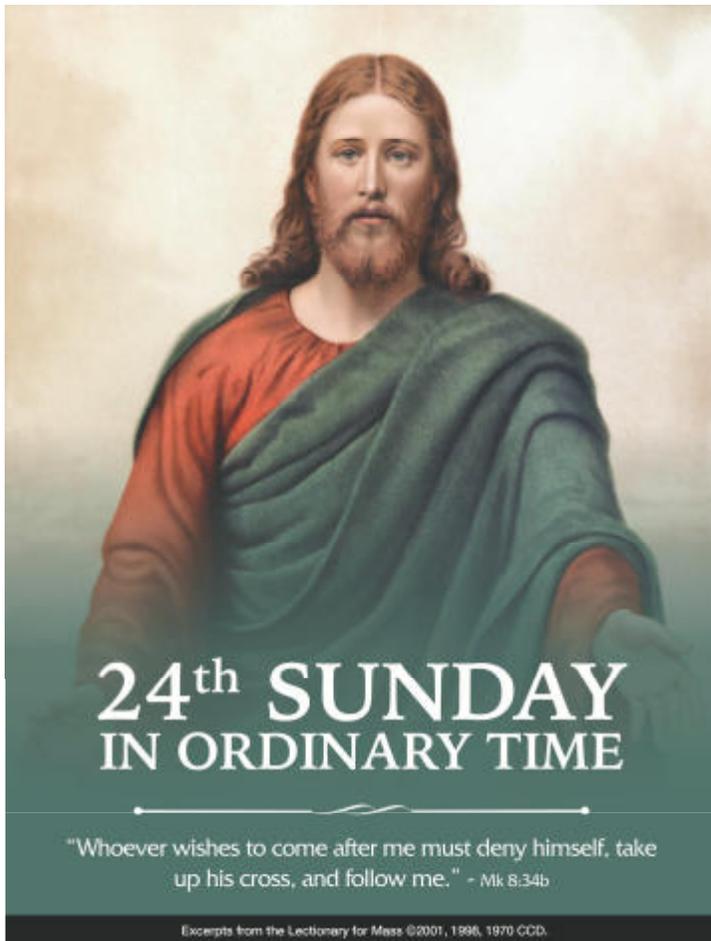


Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of

ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND

OF PEÑAFORT

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | September 12, 2021



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

September 11 through September 19			
Sat., Sept. 11	4:00p	SM	Priest Intention
	6:00p	SR	† Henry Truog
Sun., Sept 12	8:30a	SR	Priest intention
(Bilingual Mass)	11:00a	SM	† Faustino Sergiacomi
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	Mass Cancelled
Mon., Sept. 13	No Mass		
Tue., Sept. 14	8:00a	SR	Greg Parr
Wed., Sept. 15	5:30p	SM	† Bernele Schultz
Thu., Sept. 16	8:00a	SR	Rita Loechler
Fri., Sept. 17	2:30p	SM	† Donald Kamrowski
Sat., Sept. 18	4:00p	SM	† Rich Wahl
	6:00p	SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Sept. 19	8:30a	SR	Mary Gallick
	11:00a	SM	Priest Intention
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	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-10:00p	SR

OFFICE HOURS

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

Pastor

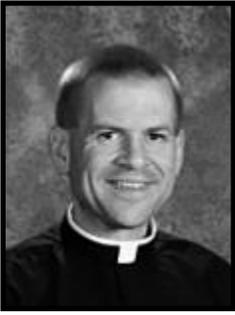
Fr. Derek Sakowski
 On Sabbatical

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Peter Kieffer
 715-855-1294 ext. 140
PKieffer@diolclergy.org

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Sabbatical Reflections from Fr. Sakowski



Spiritual Bypass

This summer marked the 15th anniversary of the animated film *Cars*. The movie breathed life and personality into dozens of vehicles, including the cocky and arrogant young racecar Lightning McQueen, who unexpectedly gets stranded in the rusted and run-down town of Radiator Springs. Initially

seeing no value in this long-forgotten place, he undergoes a deep conversion and learns many life lessons. He also comes to appreciate the story of the town, once great, then sliding into decline with the introduction of the I-40 bypass. Whereas travelers along Route 66 used to take their time to linger and enjoy this scenic stopping point, these days they just zoom on by along the bypass.

In my sabbatical trainings, I've come across a strikingly similar metaphor, encapsulated in the term "spiritual bypass."

Spiritual bypass happens when you or I use our spirituality as a way of avoiding difficult experiences or undesirable emotions. In the name of being a deeply spiritual person, we can actually evade and avoid the most difficult aspects of discipleship! When we do so, our bodies and souls suffer in much the same way as the town of Radiator Springs. Through chronic neglect, things begin to crack and crumble. The more this decay happens, the more we prefer to avoid, and the more alluring spiritual bypass becomes. And so the vicious cycle continues.

Spiritual bypass often becomes part of the very fabric of our families and our church communities. For example, we are notorious here in the upper Midwest for being "nice" – and thinking ourselves kind. Niceness is not the same as kindness! Niceness avoids conflict. Niceness pretends not to be angry. Niceness does not know how to sit with sadness, but tries to minimize or fix or anesthetize the pain of the situation. Kindness, by contrast, can be intense and messy. It takes great inner strength just to be with someone who feels deeply sad, angry, or ashamed.

In my personal journey, the Lord has definitely been inviting me and teaching me how to stay present in the face of awkward or painful situations. Historically, I did one of two things. Most of the time, I got small, hid my true self, or took the "nice" path out. Occasionally I powered up, perhaps shifting my tone or raising my voice, perhaps making a subtly shaming comment that shifted the burden onto the other person. I regret those moments and the damage they caused.

But I am learning to be patient with myself. I simply wasn't capable for a long time because I was bypassing my own heart – including neglected streets that were crumbling in sadness, loneliness, fear, and shame. If present interactions caused me to begin feeling those things, it makes sense that I would react instinctively and either flee or fight. God made us with survival instincts and defensive capacity. For a time, we probably need these defenses. We may need, for a season, to be in a state of spiritual bypass. We can't

face everything all at once. We're not ready until we are ready.

My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready. So sings the psalmist. After years of preparing my heart, the Lord gently and kindly showed me how very much sadness and loneliness I had stored up. For me the experience of coming out of spiritual bypass has been amazing, intense, and painful all at the same time. Sister Miriam James compares the experience with someone coming in from the cold with frostbite. To be in one's heart and feeling again is both good and intense.

My prayer life has shifted amidst this process. Externally, it is much the same. But interiorly, it is far more about a love relationship with the Father, and about receiving again and again all that I need. Ironically, I pray far more consistently. It's less and less of a "should." I simply need it. I need prayer. I need Jesus. I need the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And I desire all these things. I ache for them. I long to see the face of the Father. That, for me, has been the very best part about ceasing spiritual bypass. Returning to my place of heartache also opens up the freedom and capacity to ache for God. It renews and deepens faith, hope, and love.

Perhaps the best discovery of all has been to realize the stunning beauty of the human heart – my own heart and that of others. Yes, there is sin there. Yes, it's a mess. And we are beloved children of God, fearfully and wonderfully made, "very good" in his own image and likeness. You can't see the beauty of the town from the bypass. You have to slow down and spend time there. Then it captivates you. The beauty of the human heart is absolutely stunning – if we are willing to abide there amidst the mess.

I invite you to consider your own journey of following Jesus. In what ways do you take the bypass? Does it feel easier to avoid anger, sadness, fear, loneliness, or shame? How do you react when others around you feel or express those? Do they feel safe and find it easy to open up to you about the deep things of their heart? Why or why not?

Does it feel easier to "say prayers" than to open up in a tender and vulnerable relationship? Do you let yourself feel the ache of longing and desiring without yet fully possessing?

Jesus commands us to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart and mind and soul and strength. Yes, we may need to use the bypass for a time in our life, but so long as we keep doing so, there are parts of our heart that are not being consecrated to the Lord, and therefore not receiving his blessing.

Wholehearted discipleship is certainly challenging! But it is worth it. You and I are worth it.

Read more at Father's blog: www.abideinlove.com

Staff Directory

Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones, Director

715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 121 (SR)

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Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

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Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation

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Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation Coord.

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Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)

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↳ RGrzyb@SMSRCatholic.com

Music & Liturgy

Tyler Andreae, Director

715-855-1294, x 147 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 120 (SR)

↳ TAndreae@SMSRCatholic.com

St. Mary's Stewardship: Last Week

Adults \$5,856.00

Offertory (Plate) \$728.00

Total Envelope & Plate \$6,584.00

St. Raymond's Stewardship: Last Week

Adults \$3,319.00

Offertory (Plate) \$253.00

Total Envelope and Plate \$3,572.00

Thank you!

Prayer & Devotion

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
- Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10
- Tuesday:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/
Jn 3:13-17
- Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
- Thursday:** 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50
- Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
- Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/Lk 8:4-15
- Next Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
- Monday:** St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Wednesday:** Our Lady of Sorrows
- Thursday:** Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
- Friday:** St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** BVM
- Next Sunday:** 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Rest in the presence of God simply because God is God and you are you. This is all that is necessary. Out of this relationship will come inspiration, understanding, courage, constancy, truth, and virtues of all kind. We will find ourselves knowing the true meaning of things and developing a depth of insight that is not found following purely human venues. It is God who inspires and opens human hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, we understand all of our relationships with a richer appreciation and come to know who Jesus, who speaks of God's kingdom, really is. The trust that is fostered from resting with the Divine One allows us to see that God's ways are not our ways. There is something bigger going on in this picture of life. It is something mystical and magical that seeks to surprise us at every turn. It is not for us to cling to this world and its limitations. Our adventure is to dream bigger and brighter, realizing that it is even in suffering that the radiant light of the dawn will come. God's ways allow for our paths to be rocky, challenging, difficult, and even crippling at times. Purely human eyes cannot understand the 'why' of such experiences. The eyes and mind of God, however, reveal and detail a journey that ends in glorious resurrection joy. When we lose our axis and become too human in our thinking, Jesus rebukes us and gently reminds us how to see.

St. Mary & St. Raymond Parish News

St. Mary's Fall FESTivities

Sat., Sept. 18th - Adult Night Out/Kids Night In 5pm-9pm

Outside - Beer Tent, BBQ Concessions & Music

Inside - Children's Movie, Pizza & Piñata

Fall Festival Raffle - Grand Prize \$1,500

Second Prize \$500 (2) Third Prize \$100 (5)

Ticket Cost: \$5.00 Drawing Sept. 26th at 3pm

St. Mary's Fall Fest Volunteers Needed: Contact Toni Buck at

ToniBuck.88@gmail.com or sign-up in the Narthex or on-line at StMarys-

Altoona.com. **Items needed:** Crafts and homemade food items (drop off on Sept

24th for Country Store - Contact Carrie Jones 414-502-8452)



Disciples Respond, St. Raymond's Ministry Fair: St. Raymond's will be hosting a Ministry Fair themed "Disciples Respond" on September 18th and 19th after the weekend Masses. Stay after Mass to enjoy some coffee and sweet treats, and see the many opportunities to share your gifts with our Faith community. At the ministry fair, you can expect to...

- 1) Learn more about the various ministries, organizations, and educational opportunities the parish has to offer.
- 2) Share what you love and see where your gifts may fit the parish.
- 3) Ask questions and discover where God may be calling you to serve!
- 4) Meet and mingle with other parishioners!

Questions? Contact Tyler Andreae at TAndreae@SMCatholic.com

40th Annual Rural Life Day - Wed. Sept. 22 at 10am - Carla Kostka & Barry & Jeannie Kostka

Castle Rock Organic Farms - S12360 Young Road, Osseo, Wisconsin - MEMBERS OF St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish - Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency Bishop William Patrick Callahan.

We gather to... Praise God for providing an abundant food source to sustain our lives. Appreciate and celebrate the farmer in our midst who are good stewards of these resources. Educate and demonstrate the connection we have with agriculture in our daily lives.



Notice: St. Mary & St. Raymond Parishes are no longer accepting donations for King's Closet. If you would like to donate, please do so directly.



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 JVanHemert@SMCatholic.com (Subject Line: Faith Formation Coordinator).

Help Wanted - Part Time Janitor Custodian: We need your help. St. Mary parish is looking for a part time Janitor Custodian. This position will be Mon-Fri 12:30pm – 3:30 pm. There will be an occasional Saturday or Sunday to assist with post event cleanup such as weddings, funerals, etc. Main tasks are wipe down tables after lunch, cleaning of the church building, meeting rooms and worship areas. If you are interested, please call Bonnie Firkus 715-855-1294 Ext 146 and leave her a message or email her at BFirkus@SMCatholic.com.



St. Mary's Virtual Variety Show

Tune into the Live-stream on St. Mary's Facebook page on Fri., Sept. 17th at 7pm to watch the whole show. Winners will be announced during the live broadcast.



Eau Claire Catholic Women's Club: On Monday, September 20th, we will begin our new year with a welcome back lunch from 11:45 to 1:15 at River Prairie Park in Altoona (Large pavilion near the pond) Please bring your own brown bag lunch. Sanitizer, bottled water, napkins, plates and dessert will be provided. We will eat at noon, have a short meeting, followed by door prizes. All Catholic women of the Eau Claire area are invited to join us. We meet Monday's six times from September to May, gathering to share our faith, food and fellowship. Our funds are used to support Catholic schools and other local charities in need. Questions call Judi Teske (715-835-6861).

SM & SR Council Meeting: The Pastoral Councils will be meeting on September 14th. If



you have any feedback you would like to share, please speak with a Council member. Contact information for Council members is available on the bulletin board in the narthex/gathering space.



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FISH DINNER

SERVING

Deep Fried and Baked Cod Loins, Au gratin Potatoes, French Fries, Green Beans, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert, Bread Pudding, Milk and Coffee

Friday, September 24, 2021

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4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
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Ages 6-11: \$ 6.00

St. Raymond of Peñafort Church

South of Brackett or North of Foster on Highway 53
Turn East on Mallard Road (*address: E10455 Mallard Road*)

Check out and buy a chance on the Parish Council of Catholic Women Bake Sale!



<http://www.straymond.us>

Carryouts: 715-877-3400



Handicapped Accessible



Bring your family to Family Fun Night on Sat., Sept. 25th at St. Raymond's! All parishioners are welcome after 6pm Mass to enjoy a potluck (hot dogs will be provided), outdoor games and movie outside. Pray for good weather and come join in the fun!



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