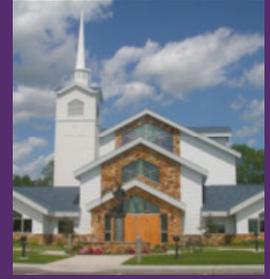




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www.straymond.us



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

First Sunday of Advent | November 28, 2021



Pastor

Fr. Derek Sakowski
 715-855-1294 ext. 101
DSakowski@diolclergy.org

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Parochial Vicar

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

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

November 27 through December 5

Sat., Nov. 27	4:00p SM	† Rich Wahl
	6:00p SR	† Myra Kamrowski
Sun., Nov. 28	8:30a SR	† Henrietta Bauer
	11:00a SM	† Sue VanHemert
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	Priest Intention
Mon., Nov. 29	No Mass	
Tue., Nov. 30	9:00a SR	† Coyne & Martha Callaghan
Wed., Dec. 1	5:30p SM	† Paul & Clara Bauer
Thu., Dec. 2	8:00a SR	Alvira Michaelson
Fri., Dec. 3	9:00a SM	Josh Cooley
Sat., Dec. 4	9:00a SM	Priest Intention
	4:00p SM	† Garret Soley
	6:00p SR	† Marybeth Smart
Sun., Dec. 5	8:30a SR	† Etta Birtzer
	11:00a SM	† Tripp Schultz
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	SM & SR Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

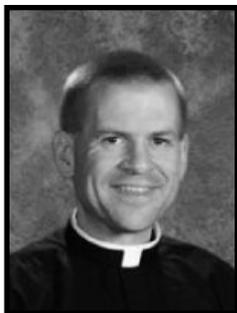
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Tuesday	5:00–9:00p	SM
Thursday	5:00–10:00p	SR

OFFICE HOURS

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

Reflections from Fr. Sakowski



Watching and Waiting

Advent is a season of watching and waiting, a time of abiding in expectant hope, confident in the coming of the King.

Advent is so much more than preparing for Christmas. The early days of Advent focus especially on the second coming of Jesus. Our watching and waiting for his coming is not static and sterile, sitting here idly until some future day when he

eventually comes. Rather, theologians often speak of an “already but not yet.” Christ has not yet come in glory, but he is already growing and bearing fruit in the lives of his holy ones.

There is a famous Advent homily in which St. Bernard of Clairvaux describes a third coming of Jesus, in between his birth at Bethlehem and his coming in glory. No, he is not talking about “the rapture,” but rather the coming of Jesus into the heart of every true believer. As Jesus promised at the Last Supper, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him” (John 14:23).

This coming into our heart is a dynamic process of nurture and growth. As we abide in expectant hope, our desire for the Lord increases. That desire itself springs from a seed planted by the Lord. The more we desire his coming, the more our capacity to receive him grows. The greater our capacity, the more we receive. The more we receive, the more deeply we desire. And the cycle of “already but not yet” continues until he comes again.

Think upon the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23). Christ sows his Word. Some seeds fall on the path, others on rocky ground, others among thorns, and others into good soil. Advent is a time to become good soil, totally receptive, growing in faith and hope.

That is the sad irony of December in the modern world. In the midst of Advent, we are constantly exposed to commercialism and consumerism and unneeded busyness. The self-indulgence of “the season” in society around us can be a rather different cry from the penitent cry of John the Baptist to “prepare the way of the Lord!” We can easily heap excessive expectations upon ourselves, thinking of all the things that we “have to get done.” Then we find ourselves too busy or stressed out to do any watching or waiting (except perhaps binge watching Netflix!).

With God’s help, we can recognize some of the weeds and thorns in our heart, obstacles that need to be uprooted with firm resolve. We also have hard and dry places in our hearts, tough soil that needs the gentle dew of the Holy Spirit to soften and moisten, freeing us to become totally receptive like Mary and Joseph.

Our free cooperation matters much. But in the end, God is the one who provides the growth and the fruit. We are called to abide in love. The watching and waiting is challenging! We are so conditioned to expect instant gratification and easy results. The parable of the sower reminds us to be patient and receptive.

Henri Nouwen wrote often about our powerlessness, and how challenging it is for us to be humble and patient. We depend totally upon God for the growth – much like the farmer in the field. Nouwen offers the image of an impatient gardener digging up the plant periodically to check on its growth. That tactic definitely

doesn’t work! How hard it is sometimes to watch and wait in hope, trusting that we are a beloved child of God and allowing the growth to happen on his timeline.

For the time being, it is the growth that matters. The fruitfulness will come in due time, so long as there is steady growth. By contrast, we will wither and die if we cut ourselves off from the source of all growth.

Healthy Christian community helps so much. True Christian friends will notice what God is doing in us and encourage us. It is good to notice the growth and to praise him for it. That thankfulness and praise stirs up the desire of our heart all the more. There is no risk of pride when our heart is Christ-centered and full of praise.

Psalm 1 offers an image of the tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, putting out its roots to the stream, staying green amidst the drought, whose leaves never fade, prospering and bearing fruit. Contrast that with the ways of the wicked, who cling to fruitless desires. They are like the chaff that gets blown away.

It is easy – especially at this time of the year – to become anxious or overwhelmed and then flee into one of our “panic rooms” – reaching for our phone, grabbing extra food or drink, plunging into pleasures that don’t actually bring peace.

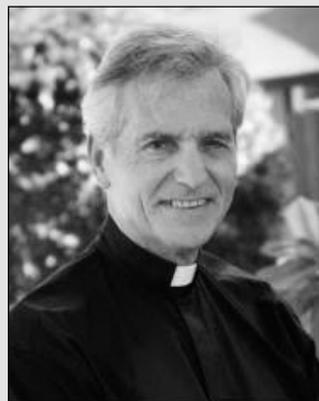
Instead, we can choose to be patient and gentle with ourselves. It is normal to feel unsettled during changes of seasons and when reconnecting with family. Instead of isolating ourselves, we can choose to stay present to our heart, present to Christ, and present to those around us. We can receive grace and grow in patience. The fruit will come in due time.

Advent has always been a favorite season of mine. It touches the deepest desires of the human heart. May God give each of us the courage to root out the weeds from our hearts. May He cultivate and soften the hard and unreceptive places. And may He help us to abide in expectant hope, watching and waiting patiently as Christ comes to us, gives us growth, and bears much fruit.



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We welcome Father Frank Iacona of Cross Catholic Outreach who is speaking this weekend at all Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in

America and the priest and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Staff Directory

Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones, Director

715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 121 (SR)

↳ JJones@SMSRCatholic.com

Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

715-855-1294, x 100 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 100 (SR)

↳ SJulson@SMSRCatholic.com

Communication

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

Pastoral Outreach

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com

Breanna Munns, Marriage Prep & Wedding

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ BMunns@SMSRCatholic.com

Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation

715-855-1294, x 109 (SM)

↳ CNunez@SMSRCatholic.com

Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation Coord.

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ MCallaghan@SMSRCatholic.com

Finance, Building & Grounds

Bonnie Firkus, Director

715-855-1294, x 146 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 118 (SR)

↳ BFirkus@SMSRCatholic.com

Charles Thurner, Maintenance (SM)

715-855-1294, x 141 (SM)

↳ CThurner@SMSRCatholic.com

Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)

715-492-9677 (SR)

↳ 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.....\$5043.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$889.00

Total Envelope & Plate.....\$5932.00

Thank you!

St. Raymond's Stewardship: Last Week

Adults.....\$2415.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$284.00

Total Envelope and Plate.....\$2699.00

Thank you!

Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities

Men of the Beatitudes

Would you like to grow in your faith while connecting with other men? Men of the Beatitudes is a small group of men sharing their faith, holding one another accountable, and deepening their prayer life. Together they discuss vulnerably how they experience the Beatitudes as a path to healing of their own brokenness and woundedness. These groups will start a new 8-week segment in early November. If you are in need of fellowship and connection and would like to join a group, contact Lucas Munns at munnslid@gmail.com.

Faith Study - Claim Your Inheritance

Starting November 9, we will begin a new series on claiming our inheritance from the early Church. Focusing on the first three centuries of Christianity, we will explore important writings that laid the foundations for the Church and how we continue to benefit from this living Tradition today. Topics will include apostolic authority, the Eucharist, and more! Come join us every-other Tuesday in the St. Mary Conference room starting on Tuesday, November 9 from 6:00-7:00p. For more information or to RSVP, contact John Glassbrenner at jaglassbrenner@gmail.com.

Advent Scripture Study

Want to make this Advent a special time of prayer and reflection? Join us at St. Raymond's for the Advent Meditation and Scripture Study every Sunday of Advent. Our sessions will begin on November 28 and will be right after Mass. We'll have some light hospitality in the parish hall before we start. Bring your Bible and an open heart and get ready for a relaxing time of community and prayer!

Elegant Afternoon Tea

Lilydale Event Venue welcomes ladies to join us for an Elegant Afternoon Tea on December 12, 2021, 1:00p-4:00p. Enjoy time with friends, delicious tea, and elegant scones and sandwiches. Our Speaker, Laura Reither, is a Catholic, faithful wife and mother of 9 (plus 3 in heaven) residing in Delano, MN. She directed religious education at the parish level for 20 years and currently works in a Catholic school. Laura is actively involved with promoting the Sacrament of Marriage, leading couples through marriage enrichment. Laura likes traveling, a good cup of coffee, and Dove chocolate. Come hear her presentation, "The Big Yes"! Recommended age is 12 and up, nursing babies are welcome. Please RSVP. Register online at www.lilydalewi.com/events.phtml. Early reservation by November 29, \$18. Regular Reservation by December 6, \$23. If unable to register online, please call Elizabeth DeCook at 715-874-4776 or email her at elizabeth@lilydalewi.com. Lilydale Event Venue is located at 6343 County Hwy. N, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Master Singers Perform at St. Charles

The Master Singers, Gary R. Schwartzhoff, conductor, will present their 29th Season of Lessons and Carols Series, Saturday, December 11 at 1:00p at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Chippewa Falls. The seasonal program features fourteen traditional carols with poetic readings, a collaboration with Lauren Ische, oboe, and Charles Deck, cello, from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Nancy Schwartzhoff and Megan Sorenson are the featured pianists. Tickets available at the St. Charles Parish office, 810 Pearl St., and online at www.themastersingers.net and at the door. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Facial masks are required for each performance at all locations. Concerning availability, patrons are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance by December 6 for each performance. The Lessons and Carols program will conclude with *Silent Night* by Franz Gruber.

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St. Mary's & St. Raymond Parish News

Save the Date!

- Nov. 28** Advent Scripture Study begins after Sunday Mass at St. Raymond's
- Nov. 28** Office Closed at St. Mary's
- Nov. 30** Mass moved to 9:00a for Regis Retreat
- Dec. 1** Renewal deadline for the Magnificat
- Dec. 5** St. Raymond's Angel Tree Tag gifts deadline for return of gifts to Church
- Dec. 7** Mass moved to 9:00a for Regis Retreat
- Dec. 10** Father-Daughter Dance Fundraiser at Regis High School to purchase gifts for children at Mayo Hospital.
- Dec. 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass, 7:00a at St Mary's. Las Mañanitas celebration at 6:00a. No 1:00p Mass this day.
- Dec. 12** Social Sunday at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's
- Dec. 12.** Deadline for Poinsettia memorials at St. Raymond's
- Dec. 19** Bilingual Mass, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 12:00p at St. Mary's (No 11:00a or 1:00p Mass)
- Dec. 19** Please stay after the 8:30a Mass to decorate St. Raymond's for Christmas. Refreshments provided!

Magnificat Renewal

The Magnificat is a monthly publication designed for daily use to develop your prayer life and to participate in Mass. The cost is \$30 for 12 months. Orders will extend your current subscription. Register online or in the narthex/gathering space. Orders can be dropped in the collection basket or turned in to the office. Make checks payable to St. Mary Parish. Payment and signups/renewals are due by December 1.



Angel Tree Tags

St. Raymond's Angel Tree Tags, on the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space, have all been chosen. Please purchase the toy/gift described on the tag and return them to the Gathering Space, unwrapped, by Sunday, December 5. The St. Raymond PCCW will make sure the gifts are delivered to the child. Thank you for your generosity!

Mass Changes

-Tuesday, November 30 and December 7 the morning Mass at St. Raymond's will be moved to 9:00a due to Regis Retreat.

-There will be no 1:00p Mass on Sunday December 12 at St. Mary's. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spanish Mass is at 7:00a, Las Mañanitas celebration begins at 6:00a.

Rosary/Chaplet at St. Raymond's

St. Raymond's will begin praying together again before Sunday Mass. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will begin at 7:50a and the Rosary at 8:00a. Please come and join in with these beautiful devotions.

Poinsettia Memorials

St. Raymond's will be filled with Christmas Poinsettia's once again this year. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia in memorial of a loved one please use your Christmas flower envelope or one of the envelopes in the Gathering Space. Each memorial is \$10. Deadline is Dec. 12 and memorials will be in the Dec. 19 bulletin.

Assist Afghan Refugees

Help Catholic Charities, of the Diocese of La Crosse, assist Afghan Refugees. They are assisting thousands of Afghan refugees at Ft. McCoy, near Tomah. Find out how you can help by volunteering or donating at cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance.

Father-Daughter Dance

Friday, December 10, 6-8:00p, Regis High School Gym, \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Regis High School students Riley Kostka and Madie Olson are hosting a Christmas father-daughter dance for their National Honor Society project. The proceeds will be used to purchase gifts for children at Mayo hospital.

Job Opportunities

Pastoral Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's & St. Raymond's

This is a part-time position, usually 8-10 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jon Jones at JJones@SMSCatholic.com.

Communication Coordinator for St. Mary's & St. Raymond's

This is a part-time position, usually 15-20 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jon Jones at JJones@SMSCatholic.com.

St. Mary's Faith Formation Coordinator

This is a part-time position, usually 10 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSCatholic.com.

St. Mary's Poinsettia's

If you would like a poinsettia placed in the Church in memory of a loved one, look for a special envelope in your envelope packet or use a blank envelope labeled "Christmas Flowers" with the name of your loved one. Please return to the parish office or place in the offertory by Dec. 12. All names will be listed in a bulletin insert on Sunday, Dec. 19

St. Mary Christmas Decorating

Join us December 19 at 2:00p to decorate St. Mary's for Christmas! Bring the whole family and help to get the Church ready for Christmas!

Holy Family Brunch

The Knights of Columbus of Stanley, WI are sponsoring a Holy Family Brunch on Sunday December 12, 2021, 9:00a-1:00p at the Holy Family Hall, Stanley. Some of the profit will be donated to seminarian Joseph Glatczak. Adults - \$12.50, age 6-12 - \$7.50, 5 & under free. Meal includes egg scramble, waffles, potatoes, pancakes, ham, sausage, fruit and more.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2021

Mass Schedule

December 7 - SR, Daily Mass at 9:00a due to Regis Retreat

December 7 - SR, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 7:00p - *Incense Used*

December 8 - SM, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 9:00a - *Incense Used*, and at 5:30pm - *Incense Used*

December 12 - SM, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spanish Mass at 7:00a, Las Mañanitas celebration begins at 6:00a, No 1:00p Mass

December 19 - SM, Bilingual Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent, 12:00p. No 11:00a or 1:00p Mass

Christmas Mass Schedule

Incense Used at all Christmas Masses

December 24

SM-4:00p, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

SR-5:00p, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Spirit Choir Singing Christmas Carols beginning at 4:30p

SM-7:00p, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, *Spanish*

SM-10:00p, The Nativity of the Lord

December 25

SR-9:00a, The Nativity of the Lord

SM-11:00a, The Nativity of the Lord

Solemnity of Mary

Not a Holy Day this year

December 31 - SR, Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, 5:30p, *Incense Used*

January 1 - SM, The Solemnity of Mary, 9:00a, *Incense Used*

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