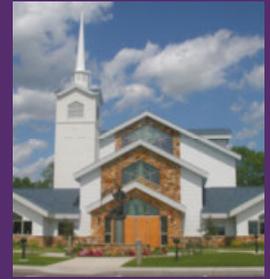




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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of  
**ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND**  
 OF PEÑAFORT

**Second Sunday of Advent | December 5, 2021**



**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

December 4 through December 12

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
Mon., Dec. 6	No Mass	
Tue., Dec. 7	<b>9:00a</b> SR	Priest Intention
	<b>7:00p</b> SR	† Henrietta Bauer
Wed., Dec. 8	<b>9:00a</b> SM	† Valerie Risler
	<b>5:30p</b> SM	SM & SR Parishioners
Thu., Dec. 9	8:00a SR	† Greg Parr
Fri., Dec. 10	9:00a SM	† Peter Kovar
Sat., Dec. 11	4:00p SM	† Jerry Shermo
	6:00p SR	SM & SR Parishioners
Sun., Dec. 12	<b>7:00a</b> SM	Priest Intention
	8:30a SR	† Kenneth Jaenke
(Misa en español)	11:00p SM	† JoAnn LeMere

**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

**Pastor**

**Fr. Derek Sakowski**  
 715-855-1294 ext. 101  
[DSakowski@diolclergy.org](mailto:DSakowski@diolclergy.org)

**Parochial Vicar**

**Fr. Peter Kieffer**  
 715-855-1294 ext. 140  
[PKieffer@diolclergy.org](mailto:PKieffer@diolclergy.org)

Rectory: 715-514-0161

## Reflections from Fr. Kieffer



### How Are You Preparing?

Every year in late November my immediate family and I gather at my parents' home for a three-day get-together we like to call Christmagiving. We used to gather annually twice around the holidays: first, around Thanksgiving; and then shortly after Christmas. About eight years ago, my oldest brother and sister-in-law were expecting the birth of their third child around Christmas. Since they

were unable to travel at Christmas that year, my family decided that year to combine the Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations into one, under the title Christmagiving. The weekend was so well-received that Christmagiving became an annual event and has been so for the past nine years.

In anticipation of the following year's Christmagiving my mom and dad have a calendar in their family room, which counts down how many months, weeks, days or hours it is until Christmagiving. My mom usually is the one who updates it throughout the year; however, once the other family members arrive, the younger kids are the ones who begin updating the calendar, especially the closer that it gets to the opening of presents on Christmagiving morning. Once Christmagiving ends, the calendar switches from "00 hours until Christmagiving" to "12 months until Christmagiving." The wait begins until the following year's gathering.

Were my family to have Christmagiving every single weekend, the anticipation would not be as high. It would become anticlimactic and boring. The experience would not be the same. I am sure that the younger kids would enjoy getting presents every single weekend. But, even that, I'm sure, would start to get less interesting after a while. Having to wait a year is part of what makes Christmagiving what it is.

That same lesson is important for all of us to remember as we continue journeying through this Advent season. The word Advent derives from the Latin word "advenire," which literally means to come to. Advent is a time in which we as a Church come to Christmas, the time in which we celebrate Jesus coming to us 2,000 years ago.

Christmas is a major celebration. As with any event or celebration, one needs to know how to prepare before coming. Not preparing well could take away from the experience. If one dresses the wrong way for an event, then he would feel out of place. If one does not bring something to a potluck, then he would stand out. Coming prepared makes the celebration so much more fun, meaningful and special.

So how do we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas? I would like to propose three ways: 1) waiting; 2) praying; 3) reconciling.

First, waiting. Waiting is one of the more challenging things to do this time of the year. We live in a society in which we expect results right away. Technology has accelerated that trend. Some people expect their text messages or emails to be answered very soon or right away. We shop more and more online, rather than patiently searching through the shelves of a store. We begin

decorating and watching Christmas movies as early as Halloween. Waiting can be hard. But, the virtue of patience allows us to have more self-control and self-discipline as we wait and prepare for what is good.

Second, praying. When I was younger, Mass seemed to take a long time. Now, as a priest, Mass goes by very quickly. Not preparing to celebrate Christmas can make the celebration of Christmas go that much more quickly. Just as during Lent we try to delve deeper into prayer, so, too, can we do so during Advent. By more intentionally entering into prayer during Advent, we can more intentionally celebrate the feast and season of Christmas.

Third, reconciling. Just as during Lent we traditionally take time to participate in the Sacrament of Confession, so, too, can we do so during Advent. We usually enjoy parties more when we are with people whom we know well and love. Being reconciled to God allows us to know and love Him better. Being reconciled to God, thus allows us to better celebrate the season of Christmas. We offer the Sacrament of Confession on Thursdays at St. Raymond's from 7pm-9pm and on Saturdays at St. Mary's from 10am-12pm. During Advent this year we also will offer the Sacrament of Confession at St. Mary's on Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm and on Saturday, December 11 from 8am-3:30pm.

For my family, the countdown to Christmagiving 2022 has already begun. For the Church, our countdown to Christmas 2021 has already begun.

How are you preparing to celebrate Christmas this year?



### Diocese of La Crosse

#### Guidelines for Reporting Instances of Child Abuse

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or [intakeagent@diolc.org](mailto:intakeagent@diolc.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: [diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting](http://diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting). **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679; or [tbrown@diolc.org](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).

## 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**

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### **Communication**

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### **Pastoral Outreach**

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### Evangelization & Faith Formation

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

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#### **Breanna Munns, Marriage Prep & Wedding**

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#### **Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation**

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

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### Finance, Building & Grounds

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

715-855-1294, x 146 (SM)

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

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#### **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.....\$3961.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$1243.00

**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$5204.00**

*Thank you!*

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

Adults.....\$2161.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$293.00

**Total Envelope and Plate.....\$2454.00**

*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 [munnslld@gmail.com](mailto:munnslld@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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

### **FORMED.org - Catholic Faith on Demand**

This week Formed now tackles the question, "Do we make too much of Mary?" Throughout our Marian feast days, you might wonder why Catholics think so highly of Mary. Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.

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

## Save the Date!

- 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. 7** Solemnity of Mary Mass at St. Raymond's at 7:00p
- Dec. 8** Solemnity of Mary Masses at St. Mary's at 9:00a and 5:30p.
- 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 and at St. Mary's.
- Dec. 18** St. Mary's Giving Tree Deadline to return gifts.
- 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!
- Dec. 19** Join us at 2:00p to decorate St. Mary's for Christmas. Bring the whole family!

## First Saturday Devotion

**First Saturday's at St. Mary's:**

**7:40-9:00 am--Confessions**

**8:10 am--Entrance Procession**

**8:11 am--Holy Rosary**

**9:00 am--Holy Mass**

**10:00 am--Confessions resume**

*Join us for this special devotion!*

## St. Mary's Giving Tree

St. Mary's will be setting up a giving tree in the Narthex to help the Sojourner House of Eau Claire this Christmas season. This is a Catholic Charities shelter that helps the homeless in our area and are in constant need of some essential items. All you have to do is grab a tag from the tree, purchase the items on the back and return them to the baskets below the tree by December 18. Most of the items are inexpensive and easily found at a grocery store or big box retailer. All of us pulling together a little can make BIG changes.

## Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation will be celebrated on December 7 at 7:00p at St. Raymond's and at St. Mary's on December 8 at 9:00a and 5:30p. Incense will be used at all three Masses.

## Mass Changes

-Tuesday, 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.

## SM & SR Poinsettia Memorials

Our Churches 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 from the packet or label a blank envelope with "Christmas Flowers", your name and the name of your loved one. Each memorial is \$10. Deadline is Dec. 12 and memorials will be listed in the Dec. 19 bulletin.

## Friday Fiat

Subscribe to our Friday Fiat! Are you getting our weekly email updates? Do you want to know more about what is happening at our parish? Sign up by contacting your parish office at 715-855-1294 or 715-877-3400. Through our weekly email we highlight some amazing ministries and introduce new things the staff has been working on.

## St. Raymond's KOC

Joining the Knights of Columbus can change your life! As a Knight you have the opportunity to strengthen our parish, give back to the community and grow in your Catholic faith. The membership number in the Knights of Columbus, in the world, is over two million! To join the Knights of Columbus call Grand Knight John Jaenke at 715-429-0052.

Beginning the weekend of November 28 and throughout Advent, the Knights will be selling the 'Keep Christ In Christmas' signs for \$5 each.



## St. Mary's KOC

The next St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Meeting will be December 6 at 6:00p in the McGivney room.

## 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.

## 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@SMSRCatholic.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@SMSRCatholic.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@SMSRCatholic.com.

# What is celebrated on December 12?

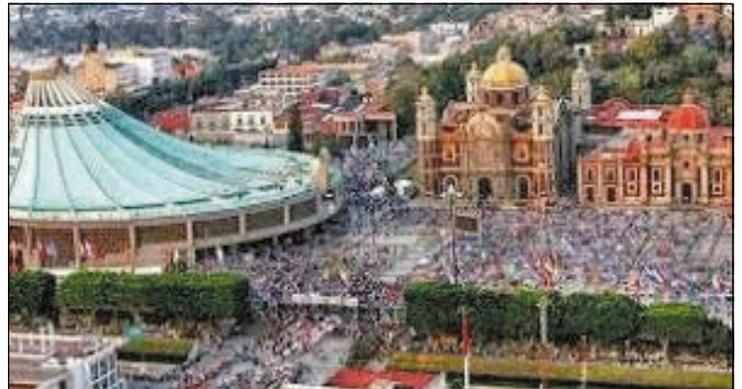
**This is one of the most important Catholic holidays in Mexico. Mexico City prepares year after year to welcome millions of Guadeloupien pilgrims who arrive from various parts of the country and abroad to celebrate the Virgin of Guadalupe on December 12.**

The Catholic religion is deeply rooted in the Mexican culture, and many of its' beliefs and traditions have endured and evolved throughout history. For example, the celebrations around the Virgin of Guadalupe on December 12, which begin with the end of the year celebrations that are part of the Guadalupe - Reyes Marathon.

According to traditional accounts, on December 12, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared in front of Juan Diego for the fourth time in what is now Cuatitlán in the state of Mexico. The story goes that the indigenous man was looking for someone who could help his sick uncle, when he met the Virgin on the road, who according to tradition informed him that his uncle was already cured.

The origin of 'Las Mañanitas' to the Virgin of Guadalupe, according to Catholic believers, that day the Virgin Mary asked Juan Diego to climb to the top of the Tepeyac hill in search of some roses, which he had to gather to take them before the bishop as proof of her miraculous apparitions, in which he was to request that a temple be built in her honor, as stated by the religious weekly Desde la Fe. The story approved by the Vatican tells that Juan Diego heeded the instructions of the Virgin and brought the roses to Bishop Zumárraga, who received it and witnessed how, according to the believers, when he dropped them from his mantle, the image that we all know of the Virgin of Guadalupe was revealed.

This 'miracle' has become a celebra-



tion! The pilgrimages began with the appearance of the image on Juan Diego's cloak. However, historical records place the first celebration of the Virgin's appearance in the year 1667, that is, 136 years after the last appearance supposedly occurred.

In that year, December 12 was instituted in Mexico as the day in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe through a papal order from Clement IX.

During Independent Mexico, in the year 1824, December 12 was declared a national holiday by the national congress. Since then, the festivities are held year after year on the eve of December 12. At the present time

of the national holiday, several famous artists sing Las Mañanitas to the Virgin and thousands of pilgrims gather in the Basilica of Guadalupe to pray. In addition, Masses and festivals are celebrated throughout the country in honor of La Guadalupana, in what constitutes one of the most popular and important acts of faith in Latin America.



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