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 1812 Lynn Avenue  
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 715-855-1294  
[www.stmarys-altoona.com](http://www.stmarys-altoona.com)

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 715-877-3400  
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of  
**ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND**  
 OF PEÑAFORT

**The Epiphany of the Lord | January 2, 2022**



**THE EPIPHANY of the Lord**

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,  
 who is to shepherd my people Israel." Mt 2:6b*

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

**Pastor**

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

**Parochial Vicar**

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

**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

January 1 through January 9

Sat., Jan. 1	9:00a	SM	SM & SR Parishioners
	4:00p	SM	Barb Black
	6:00p	SR	† Bessie Whalen
Sun., Jan. 2	8:30a	SR	† The Souls of Albert's Parents
	11:00a	SM	† John and Arlene Weber
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	SM & SR Parishioners
Mon., Jan. 3	No Mass		
Tue., Jan. 4	8:00a	SR	† Richard & Barnara Puglisi
Wed., Jan. 5	5:30p	SM	† Julia Rohn
Thu., Jan. 6	8:00a	SR	† Joseph Seufzer
Fri., Jan. 7	9:00a	SM	† Patricia Gosnell
Sat., Jan. 8	4:00p	SM	† Robert & Joanne Manthey
	6:00p	SR	SM & SR Parishioners
Sun., Jan. 9	8:30a	SR	† Tamara Mueller
	11:00a	SM	† John Hudson
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention

\*Incense used at all Masses on Jan. 2 and Jan. 9

**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

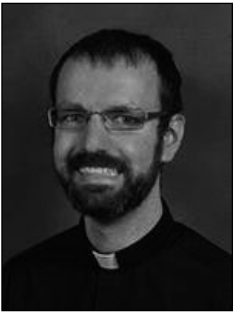
**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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## Reflections from Fr. Peter Kieffer

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### Bible in a Year

A few months ago I wrote a bulletin article talking about my goal of reading the entire Bible over the course of 2021. One book should not be that hard to read, but remaining faithful to that goal was more difficult than I anticipated.

As with most of my goals, I started out quite enthusiastic about reading the entire Bible. The first month went quite well. My first speed-bump, ironically, came during the season of Lent. I found myself trying to do too much during Lent, and my reading of the Bible eventually took a back seat to other Lenten practices.

By the spring I found myself almost thirty-to-forty days behind schedule. Inside, I felt a little overwhelmed. The thought of trying to catch up seemed daunting. However, on the inside, I kept feeling invited to keep reading and to catch up little by little. Through the months of April and May I eventually caught back up to where I should have been on the reading schedule I was following.

Over the course of the next several months, reading the Bible every day started to become more of a habit and a routine. Sometimes I would fall behind by a day or even a week, but I would eventually catch back up to schedule. Prior to Christmas I finished the last chapters of the Bible. I felt much joy and peace after finishing those last final chapters.

Throughout the year certain things stood out to me, as I read through Sacred Scripture:

First, the Old Testament is really long. Some of the longest readings I had were from stories from the Old Testament. If you look at the Bible sometime, feel how many pages are in the Old Testament and then compare it to how many pages are in the New Testament.

The other day I was listening to the radio and someone was speaking about how God acts in

Scripture when people are ready to receive something. He then went on to say that God took His time in the Old Testament because He wanted people to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

Second, God wants us to listen to Him. Over and over throughout Scripture we hear God inviting His people to listen to His words and to follow what He wants them to do. God does this because He knows what is best for us. He knows that by living a life that is healthy (spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically) that we will more fully become the people that God has created us to be. God wants us to be healthy and to have joy.

Third, God is very patient. Over and over again throughout Scripture we hear of people who disobey God (Adam, Eve, Joseph's brothers, David, the people of Israel, Peter, James, John, etc.). God does not give up on any of these people though. He does not want anyone to be lost. God knows that there are consequences for our bad choices, but God wants His mercy and love to redeem us in our sinfulness, our weakness and our woundedness.

I am very grateful to God for accompanying me and encouraging me to keep going as I read through the books of the Bible. I am grateful to God for inviting me to listen to Him and to become the person He has created me to be. I am grateful for God's patience, mercy and love that He shows toward me.

### Winter Weather Notice

If the roads are bad and travel is hazardous on Saturday or Sunday for Mass, members of the parish should use caution.

Please use your best judgment when deciding if it is safe to travel to Mass.

If schools are cancelled or delayed in the Eau Claire School District, then there will be no daily Mass.

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## Staff Directory

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### 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 Coordinator**

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

↳ BMunns@SMSRCatholic.com

#### **Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation Coordinator (SM)**

715-855-1294, x 109 (SM)

↳ CNunez@SMSRCatholic.com

#### **Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation Coordinator (SR)**

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

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## Join Our Team!

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### **Communication Coordinator for St. Mary's and 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.

### **Pastoral Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's and 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.

### **Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Mary's**

This is a part-time position, usually 10 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on the St. Mary's parish website. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com

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## New Building Hours at St. Mary's

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Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm

Monday 9:00am-3:00pm

Tuesday 9:00am-9:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am-6:30pm

Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday 7:30am-3:00pm

Saturday 9:30am-5:30pm

\*Opening and closing times may adjust depending on morning and evening events at the parish.

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## Stewardship Totals: 12/19/21

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

Adults.....\$13,417.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$795.75

**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$14,212.75**

*Thank you!*

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

Adults.....\$11,098.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$315.50

**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$11,413.50**

*Thank you!*

## Save the Date!

**Jan. 3** Guadalupe Council  
KC Meeting 7pm @ SM

**Jan. 5** Faith Formation/  
Edge @ SM

**Jan. 8/9** Marriage  
Anniversary Blessings @  
SM and SR

**Jan. 9** Faith Formation/  
Edge at SR

**Jan. 9** Social Sunday  
12:00pm @ SM

**Jan. 10** Trinity Council KC  
Meeting 7pm @ SR

**Jan. 11** SM & SR Joint  
Pastoral Council Meetings

**Jan. 12** Reconciliation  
Retreat 6:00pm-7:30pm  
@ SM

**Jan. 13** St. Raymond's  
PCCW Meeting 6:00pm @  
SR

**Jan. 15** "End of Life  
Seminar" 12:30pm-  
4:00pm @ SM

**Jan. 19** SM & SR  
Confirmation Class  
6:30pm-8:00pm

@ St. Mary's  
**Jan. 22** Youth Mass and  
Potluck 6:00pm @ SR

**Feb. 5** First Saturday  
Mass and Confessions @  
SM

**Feb. 5** Newcomers  
Dinner 7:00pm @ SR

## Come...Grow...Serve...

### Friday Fiat

Do you want to know more about what is happening at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's Parishes? Are you getting our weekly email updates? Subscribe to our Friday Fiat! You can sign up by contacting your parish office at 715-855-1294 (SM) or 715-877-3400 (SR).

Through our weekly email, we highlight some of the amazing ministries and introduce new things the staff has been working on.

### RCIA

Are you finding that Jesus is becoming more a part of your life? Are you feeling drawn toward the Catholic Church and thinking about becoming Catholic? Are you hoping to receive Baptism, Confirmation or the Eucharist for the first time? RCIA is a group where people can comfortably explore those kinds of questions with our RCIA team. If you are interested in continuing on that journey with Jesus, contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at [JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com](mailto:JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com).

### Pray for Dobbs

Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health is the Supreme Court case that could overturn Roe v. Wade, the decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states. Nine justices stand between life and death for millions of innocent children and their mothers. The hearing began December 1, with a ruling expected in June. Please fast and pray for God's grace to touch our Supreme Court justices. Pray for them by name: John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Stephen Breyer. For more information and resources, visit [PrayforDobbs.com](http://PrayforDobbs.com).

### 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. If you are in need of fellowship and connection and would like to join a group, contact Lucas Munns at [Munnsld@Gmail.com](mailto:Munnsld@Gmail.com)

### Claim Your Inheritance

Enjoy 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 the Living Tradition we continue to benefit from today. Topics include apostolic authority, the Eucharist, and more! Come join us every-other Tuesday in the St. Mary Conference Room starting on Tuesday, January 4th from 6:00-7:00pm. For more information or to RSVP, contact John Glassbrenner at [JAGlassbrenner@Gmail.com](mailto:JAGlassbrenner@Gmail.com).

### Help Catholic Charities

Thousands of Afghan refugees are being housed temporarily at Fort McCoy near Tomah, Wisconsin. At last they have hope, but imagine how hard it is to start over with nothing, trying to adjust to a new language and culture. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse is right there helping them. Catholic Charities reaches out to our neighbor in need in many other ways as well, from providing shelter to the homeless in our midst, to assisting families in need. Find out more, and how you can help, at [cclse.org](http://cclse.org). Let your heart be touched to those in need in our area.

## Getting in the Christmas Spirit!




Thank you to all who participated and helped with La Posada celebration at St. Mary's on December 19. What a fun event it was! All the kids got candy, so no tears were shed.

Thank you also to everyone who helped to decorate the churches at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's on December 19. Many hands make light work and beautiful churches.

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