



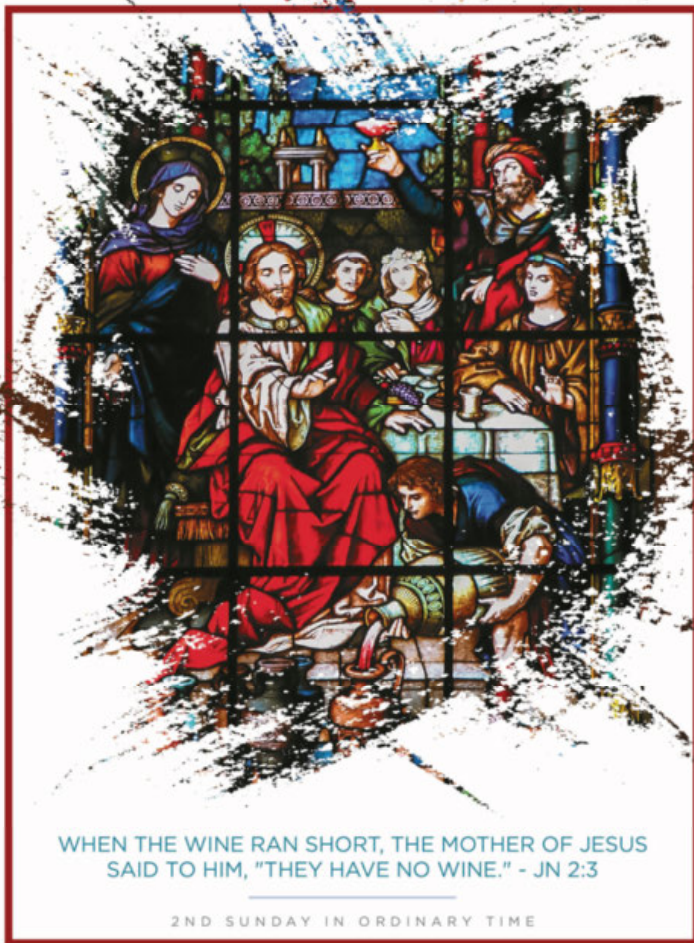
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 715-877-3400
www.straymond.us



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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 16, 2022



Pastor

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

Parochial Vicar

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

January 15 through January 23

Sat., Jan. 15	4:00p SM	† Pauline Meyer
	6:00p SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Jan. 16	8:30a SR	All PCCW Members
	11:00a SM	SM and SR Parishioners
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	† Fr. Norbert Wilger
Mon., Jan. 17	No Mass	
Tue., Jan. 18	8:00a SR	Melissa Russeau
Wed., Jan. 19	5:30p SM	† JoAnn LeMere
Thu., Jan. 20	8:00a SR	† Wayne Kostka
Fri., Jan. 21	9:00a SM	Mylene Juarez
Sat., Jan. 22	4:00p SM	† Rosetta Nelson
	6:00p SR	† John Solomon
Sun., Jan. 23	8:30a SR	SM and SR Parishioners
	11:00a SM	† Roger Haas
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	Priest Intention

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

Reflections from Jon Jones



Surrendering Our Identity

Last week we saw Jesus baptized and heard God's declaration that Jesus is his "Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." In the sixth chapter of his letter to the Romans, St. Paul makes a strong argument for our eternal hope based on our union with Christ in

Baptism. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his," (v5) he writes. I would like to focus on our union with Christ in baptism not only including our participation in his resurrection, but also Jesus' experience as God's beloved child.

Let's try a thought experiment for a moment. To start, find a quiet space where you know that you will have a few moments to yourself. Stop whatever you're doing and allow yourself a minute to get past the discomfort of simply *being*. Then, *open your heart and courageously ask yourself this question: When God thinks of me, how does he feel?*

It's a good question, isn't it? How we react to that question tells us a lot.

It takes bravery to allow ourselves to admit truly what we believe in our hearts about God's impression of us. Perhaps we feel God is disappointed or angry with us. Perhaps we are confused and cannot discern any genuine feeling whatsoever; the dissonance between our brain and our hearts creates a chaotic tangle of questions leaving us helpless. Whatever the case may be, if my experience and yours in this question is not one thing, if it is anything other than this, then there is a problem. What is that one thing, you ask? It is this: *the complete, unshakeable trust that when God sees you, his heart swells and a smile comes to his face.*

Is that what you thought? Is that what you felt? Is that really true? The Scriptures tell me that God is my Shepherd who restores my soul (Ps. 23), that when I cling to Him in love He will deliver me (Ps 91), that He has called me by name because I am precious in His sight (Isa 43), and that He desires to lift me up as a Father does His child and embrace me, feed me (Hos 11). Twice he speaks from the Heavens declaring Jesus as his beloved son (Lk 3 & 9), therefore, I am his beloved child because

I am in him. When God looks at me and you, this is what He feels toward us.

If I feel anything other than this as my first impulse when I envision God looking at me, then something stands between God and me or distorts my experience of Him. The truth is that over the course of a day I run a gamut of any number of reactions as to what I believe God thinks of me. I might feel His love and support one moment, but quickly I change and believe that He has gotten impatient with me, or that he is disappointed in me right after that. How quickly my heart shifts without me even realizing it!

The implications of this movement are so important because my motivation for serving God and others shift, too. When I can rest in the security of my life being in the palm of his hands and cherished, then I am free to love others and truly give of myself. In that vulnerability God is with me, and even when I experience harsh reactions or hurtful things I know that God is there suffering with me. But, when I live trying to dig out from underneath condemnation, impatience, or some other performance-based attitude, then my interactions are reduced to merely pleasing or taking. I am not free to give of myself and I am still focused on myself rather than on God.

One of my favorite quotes comes from David Benner who writes, "The Father's love reflects the Father's character, not the children's behavior." Our behavior is beside the point. The question is *can I trust God's love to be true and unchangeable? Am I willing to admit what stands in the way of my truly receiving his affirmation and give it to him? Am I ready to surrender to such a love? We are just like the prodigal son who gives up his destitute life by remembering that he is his father's son. All we have to do to experience God's overwhelming embrace is surrender to the Father's declaration that we are his beloved children in whom he is well pleased.*

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.

Staff Directory

Happy Birthday!

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

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

January Priest and Staff Birthdays

Robert Grzyb (January 3)

Fr. Derek Sakowski (January 9)

Marianne Callaghan (January 15)

Jon Jones (January 21)

Fr. Peter Kieffer (January 23)

Stewardship Totals: 01/09/2022

St. Mary's Stewardship:

Adults.....\$6,240.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$1,186.86

Total Envelope & Plate.....\$7,426.86

Thank you!

St. Raymond's Stewardship:

Adults.....\$4,704.00

Offertory (Plate).....\$223.50

Total Envelope & Plate.....\$4,927.50

Thank you!

Join Our Team

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 both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com.



Save the Date

Come-Grow-Serve

- Jan. 18** Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan. 18** SM Finance Council 6:30pm @ SM
- Jan. 19** SM and SR Confirmation 6:30-8:00pm @ SM
- Jan. 20** SM Elem. 1st Reconciliation 1:30pm @ SM
- Jan. 20** Elizabeth Ministry 6:00pm-8:00pm @ SM
- Jan. 21** SM FFF and SR FFF 1st Reconciliation 6pm @ SM
- Jan. 22** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Jan. 22** Youth Mass and Potluck 6:00pm @ SR
- Feb. 2** FFF/Edge in English @ SM
- Feb. 5** 1st Saturday Confessions, Devotions and Mass @ SM
- Feb. 5** Newcomers' Dinner 7:00pm @ SR

Women's Retreat

January 22 at St. Paul's Parish in Bloomer from 9:00am-Noon. You can register by contacting Diane Kuba (715-568-2388 kuba@bloomer.net) or Kathy Zwiefellhofer (715-568-3942 zeefmly@bloomer.net)



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Preschool Open House

St. James Elementary School Tuesday, February 8 4 to 6 p.m.	St. Mary's Elementary School Thursday, February 10 4 to 6 p.m.
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Kindergarten Preview

St. James Elementary School Tuesday, February 8 6 p.m. Friday, February 11 1 p.m.	St. Mary's Elementary School Thursday, February 10 6 p.m. Friday, February 11 10:30 a.m.
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Elizabeth Ministry

Women of all ages and stages are welcome to join us every third Thursday in the SM Conference Room to build community through fellowship and spiritual discussion. Our evenings will begin with wine, appetizers, desserts, and coffee/water. Elizabeth Ministry will provide drinks and a few food items. Ladies are welcome to bring a dish to contribute, but it is not a prerequisite to attendance. Our discussion for January will be about the Mass. Time—6:00-8:00pm in the SM Conference Room

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, you can contact Lucas Munns at 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 SM Conference Room continuing January 18 at 6:00pm. For more information, contact John Glassbrenner at JAGlassbrenner@Gmail.com

Youth Mass and Potluck

Come join us for our Youth Mass and Potluck on Saturday, January 22nd at SR! Youth will serve in the various ministries of the Mass at our Saturday, 6pm Mass. And then all parishioners are welcome to join in the SR Parish Hall for a potluck after. Be sure to come join in a fun time with parishioners and birthday cake for Fr. Peter. Bring a dish to share!

Subscribe to the Friday Fiat

Through our weekly email we highlight some amazing ministries and introduce new things our staff have been working on. Sign up by either calling your parish office or scanning your parish's code below.

St. Mary's



St. Raymond's



Get to Know Your Pastoral Council Members

St. Mary's



My name is Megan Glassbrenner. I am 33 years old and have lived in the Eau Claire, WI area most of my life. I have been married to my husband, John, for 13 years and we have two kids, Hudson, 9 and Lily, 7. We are Godparents to my best friends' baby who is 9 months old, Mary Grace. On my off time, John and I like to tour historical homes (mid-century and art deco styles) if we are traveling, and collecting blues/rock vinyl albums. I own and run a small business in town called The Attic Home Consignment Store since 2014, which keeps me busy most of the week. We have attended St. Mary's in Altoona since 2018 as protestants and came into the Church in 2019, after one year in RCIA classes. Since then, we have participated in volunteering in Fall Fest, ushering and taking our kids to Family Faith Formation. I like that our parish has a strong history of many generations in it, as well as priests that take all of our sacraments with such reverence. Since becoming Catholic, I have been able to grow in my faith in a way I could not have ever hoped for and my children are able to walk in their Christianity with a clear path.


St. Raymond's



My name is Luke Zwiefelhofer. My family and I have been members at St. Raymond's since moving to Eau Claire three years ago. I am originally from the Eau Claire area, and over the past 21 years we've been active members of several parishes as we moved around the country for education and jobs. I have a strong faith background that I attribute to growing up on a family farm as well as twelve years in the Catholic school system. I also have a strong background in science with a degree in physics, and have been employed as a scientist at a public university for the past 16 years. Our parish is important to me as it is the most welcoming parish I've experienced in the area. I've had the joy of meeting many of the parishioners while ushering at Sunday Mass, participating in the Faith Formation programs, and attending the pastoral council meetings. The parishioners that I have met have a true caring for our parish family, and I am blessed to be a part of it. The thing I look forward to the most as a pastoral council member is hearing the perspectives of the other council members, and providing feedback our pastors need to ensure that our parish continues to meet the spiritual needs of its members.

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