



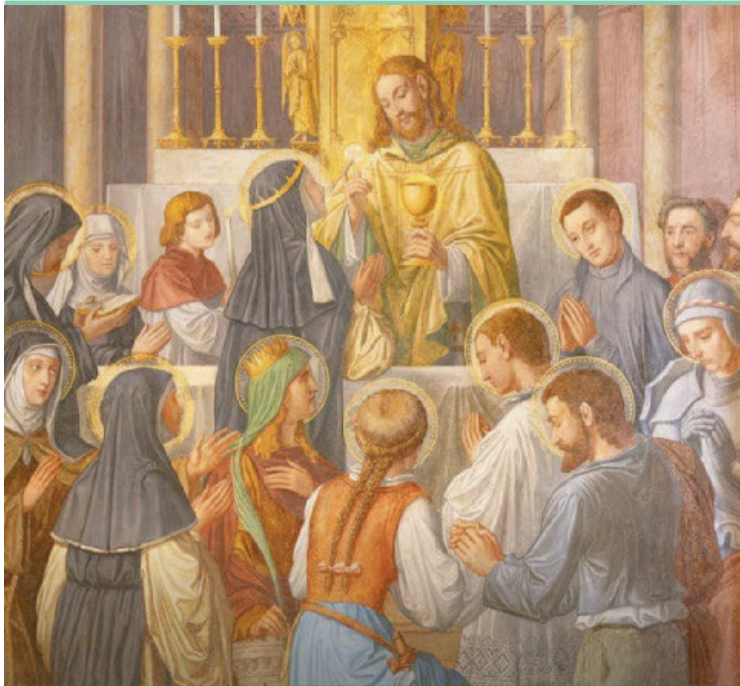
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of
ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND
 OF PEÑAFORT

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | February 13, 2022



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

February 12 through February 20

Sat., Feb. 12	4:00p	SM	+ Florentina Velasco
	6:00p	SR	Andrew Marter
Sun., Feb. 13	8:30a	SR	+ John Solomon
	11:00a	SM	SM and SR Parishioners
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	+ Bonificio and Irene Rabasol
Mon., Feb. 14	No Mass		
Tue., Feb. 15	8:00a	SR	+ Guy and Mary Wood
Wed., Feb. 16	5:30p	SM	+ Donald Kamrowski
Thu., Feb. 17	8:00a	SR	+ Wayne Kostka
Fri., Feb. 18	9:00a	SM	+ Rita Schmitt
Sat., Feb. 19	4:00p	SM	+ Pauline Meyer
	6:00p	SR	SM and SR Parishioners
Sun., Feb. 20	8:30a	SR	+ Ann Young
	11:00a	SM	Priest Intention
(Misa en español)	1:00p	SM	+ Patricia Devney

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are you who are now hungry,
 for you will be satisfied.
 Blessed are you who are now weeping,
 for you will laugh."
 - Lk 6:21

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

Pastor

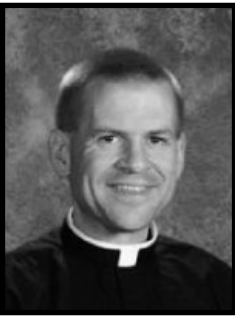
Fr. Derek Sakowski
 715-855-1294 ext. 101
DSakowski@diolclergy.org

Parochial Vicar

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



“Purity Culture” - Lie #3

Few would deny that we live in an age of unhealthy and dysfunctional sexuality. The “purity culture” we’ve been discussing is an understandable reaction to a real threat. But those engaging in the fight often act as though sexuality is itself the threat.

Lie #3: We have to protect our children against sexuality.

Few Christian families and churches have healthy and helpful conversations about sex.

It’s not merely the message that matters; it’s the modeling of the message. A family may have snappy Christmas postcards and impeccable social media posts. They may seem to have it all together. But those who have eyes to see can tell when a married couple is healthy and joyful in their relationship (including their sexuality). Children can be incredibly intuitive and insightful. If their parents feel shame around their bodies, their desires, their fantasies, or their behaviors, the children will be impacted significantly. Parents who are unhealthy in their own sexuality will invariably transmit their dysfunction to the next generation.

When the Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses healthy sexuality (n. 2339), it offers the image of *apprenticeship in virtue, particularly in the virtue of chastity. Chastity here is not synonymous with celibacy; it applies to everyone. Chastity is a free, joyful, wholehearted, and creative giving and receiving of love – in the way that best suits the place we find ourselves (married, single, celibate, dating, engaged, elderly, prepubescent, adolescent, same-sex attracted, sick, disabled, divorced, widowed, etc.).*

Our sexuality is a stunningly beautiful gift from God, one that affects all dimensions of our existence. He has created us intentionally as sexual beings, male and female. He declares us “very good” in his own image and likeness. He invests us with a spark of creativity that none of the other creatures receive. Thus empowered, we are intended to be the stewards of the entire cosmos.

Pope Benedict XVI described this divine spark of creativity as *eros – the Greek word for “love” as an intense or erotic desire. Far from seeing eros as a threat, he saw it as God’s greatest natural gift to the human race. The creativity of eros shows up in sex, for sure, in the amazing gift of procreation. But eros, when directed in virtue, also fuels every other shining achievement: poetry, music, art, architecture, scientific research, discoveries, and inventions.*

Our sexuality is a precious gift and a powerful gift. As such, it requires ongoing maturing through slow and steady growth. Growth in the virtue of chastity yields increasing freedom and fruitfulness. This process only happens well through *apprenticeship. Think of a lumberjack or a blacksmith teaching his trade to children, or of Mister Miyagi teaching karate to Daniel LaRusso. They train their youth to wield something powerful – harmful if mis-*

used. It’s all the more reason to teach patiently, step by step, how those tools and methods work. Growth and mastery happen through thousands of small moments – including setbacks, conflicts, mistakes, and failures. Nor is the maturing involved simply a matter of skill or technique; it is a style of relating and a way of life.

Many my age and older received zero instruction from our parents around our sexuality. At best, there was “the talk” – as though one awkward conversation would yield a life of virtue and holiness in one’s sexuality. Effective apprenticeship means that children trust both the teaching and the example of their parents. It means they readily go to them when they are struggling.

Perhaps the most helpful thought experiment is what happens if a child stumbles across pornography. These days, sadly, it is not a matter of “if” but only of “when.” It will almost certainly happen before the child reaches 18, and quite possibly before they reach 10.

The normal instinct of the young (both mammals and humans) is to run to their parents when they unexpectedly stumble on something big or unknown or powerful. You don’t have to teach them – it happens automatically!

Why is it, then, that so few children go to mom or dad when they stumble on pornography, or have an unexpected sexual encounter? Something has happened in their experience that warns them that it will not be safe. The more shame that mom or dad feel around their bodies and their sexuality, the less likely the children will be to go to them.

There are indeed real threats in the culture (internet pornography, sexual predators, and human trafficking). I have met children and adults from all walks of life (including the strictest of families) who were exposed to pornography early. In those rare cases that they ran to their parents and received good care, they will not suffer lasting trauma. Good care includes helping them understand how normal and healthy it is to feel aroused and to feel curious, and to offer guidance on why God created us to feel that way. Then the shame of the experience melts away.

As well-meaning as it is to “shelter” children, we need to train them instead. Ask yourself this simple question: **would you rather that your children get information and answers from you or from Google?**

Our children are as God created them to be: sexual beings with developing bodies, natural curiosity, and capacity for arousal. That means talking with them, early and often over the years, about their bodies, their body parts, and pornography – using the correct words for all of them and an explanation that makes sense for them at the time.

I find that parents who have had the courage to engage their own story and heal from their own shame become the most comfortable and confident at mentoring their children in chastity. Obviously the parents themselves are called by Christ to continue maturing, and may need to seek out some remedial mentoring! Their growth in chastity will attract and guide their children. We cannot expect them to grow in ways that we have not grown ourselves!

Staff Directory

Stewardship Totals: 02/06/2022

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

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Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

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Pastoral Outreach

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Total Envelope & Plate.....\$2,956.50

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Join Our Team

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

Part-time position, usually 15-20 hours per week. Résumé and cover letter can be sent to Jon Jones at JJJones@SMSRCatholic.com.



Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Mary's

Part-time position, usually 10 hours per week. Résumé and cover letter can be sent to Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com.



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Save the Date

Appreciation Dinner

- Feb. 14** Trinity Council KC Meeting
7:00pm @ SR
- Feb. 16** Parent/Child Activity Night:
1st Communion Prep.
6:00pm @ SR
- Feb. 17** Elizabeth Ministry Meeting
6:00pm @ SM
- Feb. 18** KC Appreciation Social and
Dinner 5:30pm @ SR
- Feb. 20** EMHC & Training for
Ministry to Sick and
Homebound 9:30am @ SR
- Feb. 20** Family Service Day 9:30am
@ SR
- Feb. 20** RCIA/Pathways 12pm @SM
- Feb. 22** Beatitudes Night for Men
6:00pm @ SM
- Feb. 23** Confirmation Class
6:30pm @ SM
- Feb. 26** Confirmation Retreat
10:00am-7:00pm @ SR
- Feb. 27** Women's Brunch 9:30am
@ SR
- Mar. 2** **Ash Wednesday**
- Mar. 2-4** Adoration and Forty Hours
Devotion @ SR
- Mar. 3** March Birthday Celebration
8:30am @ SR
- Mar. 4** Fish Fry @ SR
- Mar. 6** FFF/Edge @ SR
- Mar. 6** FFF/Edge in Spanish @ SM

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 by scanning your parish's code below.



St. Mary's



St. Raymond's



The Trinity Council Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an Appreciation Dinner on February 18 at St. Raymond's for those who helped with Fish Fry's and Rosettes this past year. Social hour begins at 5:30pm; dinner at 6:30pm. RSVP to John Jaenke (715-429-0052) before February 15.

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

Every Thursday Fr. Derek and/or Fr. Peter visit the sick and homebound who live within the parish boundaries of St. Mary's and St. Raymond's. Currently, there are *twelve* different routes that they serve. To ensure that the sick and homebound are able to receive Communion on a more regular basis, we have a team of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who help with visits to the sick and homebound. The next training for Ministry to the Sick and Homebound will be after the 8:30am Mass at St. Raymond's on February 20. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, contact Jon Jones at JJones@SMSRCatholic.com

Beatitudes Night for Men

Beatitudes Night for Men will be Tuesday, February 22 at 7pm at St. Mary's. Come and enjoy a night of fellowship and connection with other men. We will watch the movie *14 Peaks*. The event is open to men from both parishes. Movie and discussion at 7pm, followed by prayer at 9pm. For more information, contact Lucas Munns at munnsld@gmail.com.

Women Reaching Women

Join the St. Raymond's Parish Council of Catholic Women for brunch, socializing and comradery after the 8:30am Mass on February 27 at St. Raymond's. This is an opportunity to gather as women, socialize over brunch, talk about the needs of women, and offer ideas to the PCCW about how to meet those needs. RSVP either by calling Julie Graaskamp (715-878-4399) or by signing up on the sheet in the St. Raymond's gathering space.

40 Hours Devotion

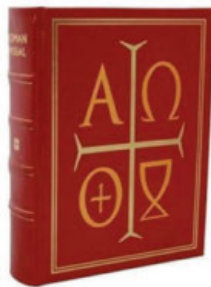
Every year we host a 40 Hours Devotion at St. Raymond's to kick off Lent! Parishioners are invited from the entire deanery. It begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass on March 2, 2022, and runs until 3:45pm on Friday, March 4 before the Fish Fry.

Ritual Books Needed!

For more than a thousand years, the Church has used ritual books in the celebration of the sacred liturgy. These books contain the rubrics or instructions about the particular ritual(s) contained inside and also the actual texts of the prayers and Scriptures that we hear proclaimed. Often the ritual books are beautifully adorned with sacred art to remind us of God's majesty and glory. Our ritual books are used many times each week, and over time, they do get worn and, every so often, need to be replaced.

The time has now come to replace some of our ritual books and we invite you to consider memorializing them in memory of a loved one who has died or by marking a special occasion such as a milestone wedding anniversary or the birth of a child or grandchild. The memorials will be acknowledged in the bulletin if you so choose. Contact Tyler Andreae at tandreae@smsrcatholic.com or 715-855-1294 ext 147 in order to memorialize a ritual book.

- **1 large edition of The Roman Missal which contains the prayers and instructions of the Mass - \$500 (St. Raymond)**
- **1 Book of Gospels which contains the Gospel readings from Sunday Masses and other occasions - \$200 (St. Raymond)**
- **1 Book of Gospels (Spanish Edition) - \$500 (St. Mary)**



Elizabeth Ministry — February 17



Women are welcome to join us every third Thursday in the St. Mary's 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. February's topic will be The Communion of Saints. **Time** 6:00pm-8:00pm in the St. Mary's Conference Room.

New Sound System at St. Mary's

Thank you to a very special donor who donated a new sound system at St. Mary's. The new system includes a new amplifier rack, a touch panel for sound control, microphones, and produces a much louder and clearer feed into the church. The new system is donated in loving memory of Pauline Meyer. Thanks again for this generous gift that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.



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