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www.straymond.us



Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of

ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND

OF PEÑAFORT

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time | February 27, 2022



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

February 26 through March 6

Sat., Feb. 26	4:00p	SM	+ JoAnn Deters
	6:00p	SR	+ Harold, Frances, Rick Bohle
Sun., Feb. 27	8:30a	SR	Chuck and Karen Zabrowski
	11:00a	SM	SM and SR Parishioners
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	+ Roger Haas
Mon., Feb. 28	No Mass		
Tue., Mar. 1	8:00a	SR	+ Earl and Loretta Quirk
Wed., Mar. 2	9:00a	SM	Priest Intention
	5:30p	SM	Priest Intention
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	7:00p	SM	+ Drucilla Pace
	7:00p	SR	+ Wayne Kostka
Thu., Mar. 3	8:00a	SR	Eric and Diane Walker Family
Fri., Mar. 4	9:00a	SM	+ Paul and Clara Bauer
Sat., Mar. 5	9:00a	SM	Fr. Sakowski
	4:00p	SM	+ Mildred Fandel
	6:00p	SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Mar. 6	8:30a	SR	SM and SR Parishioners
	11:00a	SM	+ LaVonne
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	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

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

Pastor

Fr. Derek Sakowski

715-855-1294 ext. 101
DSakowski@diolclergy.org

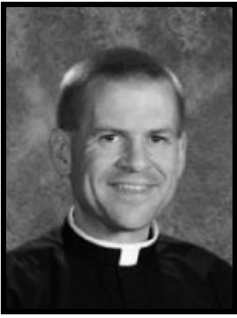
Parochial Vicar

Fr. Peter Kieffer

715-855-1294 ext. 140
PKieffer@diolclergy.org

Rectory: 715-514-0161

Reflections from Father Derek Sakowski



“Purity Culture” – Lie #4

As we face our own sexual woundedness, the boldest of human tasks emerges: to allow desire to be awakened within our hearts. There can be no chastity and no holiness without awakened desire. Desire is the rocket fuel that propels every saint.

Lie #4: Purity means fleeing from my desires.

When it comes to unwanted sexual behaviors, the go-to answer for many a Christian has been the Monty Python solution: “Run away! Run away! Run away!”

Certainly, in the moment of temptation, it makes sense to turn promptly away, to get one’s mind and body engaged in something else, to connect with a safe person, and to reassess. But as most of you know, when an individual or a dating couple reach that moment, they find it rather hard to change their mind. Their bodily passions betray them – or do they?

We easily forget that it is God who created our bodies, our sexual arousal, and our capacity for orgasm. These are among God’s greatest gifts to us, ordered to his glory. When Scripture describes us as being created in the very image and likeness of God, it does so at the moment of describing how God created us as sexual beings, male and female (Genesis 1:27).

Our desires do not come from the devil. The devil cannot create! He can only present us with the good and beautiful things God has created and invite us to seek them in a disordered way that ruins us. He is the enemy of human nature. He envies us; he hates us; he seeks to ruin all that is best in us. The devil’s ultimate strategy is not to lure us into sexuality; his strategy is to ruin sexuality.

We can give the devil his due – he is a brilliant and cunning strategist. He sneaks in early and often in our life to whisper his lies and bind us up in toxic shame. As our bodies mature (in exactly the way God designed), the devil works his early and mid-game strategy to set us up for later torment. He stealthily labors to get us ashamed of our bodies, our sexuality, and our capacity for intense joy and delight. When he’s the most masterful, we don’t even realize he’s been there. We develop our own inner shaming voice – which we even think to be divine. Then we start doing the devil’s work for him – cursing our own bodies, our desires, and our capacity for honor and delight. As shame increases over the years, unwanted sexual behaviors are anything but secret delights. They leave us feeling more and more hollow and devoid of life. They become a renewal of unholy vows – consummating again and again the lie that we are worthless, dirty, or unlovable. The devil’s genius is that he can take something so amazing as sex and sexual arousal and use those good things to convince us that

we are detestable.

And here we find the real context for Christian asceticism – practices of penance or self-denial. Jesus connects fasting to the absence or presence of the bridegroom. The real reason for asceticism is to enlarge our desires and allow ourselves to enter excitedly into the wedding feast, the nuptial union between Christ and his bride, the Church (Matthew 9:15).

Too often, “self-denial” becomes a misguided and harmful attempt to cut off desire. Then our asceticism becomes pride-filled and shame-driven, as we punish ourselves in a sense of unworthiness. We begin depriving ourselves of things that are authentic human needs: rest, play, joy, delight, or deeply meaningful work. By contrast, I think of Francis of Assisi. His heart was overflowing in all of those blessings. His radical poverty and his freely embraced celibacy, far from cutting off desire, opened him to be a man full of delight, in a fruitful way of life that has allured millions over the centuries.

Authentic asceticism is about a deeper claiming of our God-given desire. It leads to *more delight, not less! We deny ourselves certain things so that we can get incredibly excited (aroused!) about greater things.*

We are created for desire, for arousal, and for union – to experience intense delight as we receive and give love. Sexual union between husband and wife is meant to be a ritual act of worship that points as a sign to heaven itself – which is going to be a wedding feast! Godly celibacy is also fueled by *eros*. *It is described by Jesus as a gift “for the sake of the Kingdom” precisely because it, too, is a passionate giving and receiving of love that reminds us of the heavenly wedding feast. That heavenly union is so “real” that all earthly marriages will fade away in its sight (cf. Matthew 22:29-30).*

The problem is not that we desire too much, but that we desire too little. Actually, desire is always there, sometimes buried deeply or tangled up among so many diversions or distractions – but ever ready to be stoked into flame. Our fallen tendency is to resist going into the depths of our desire, which is where we grow in the virtue of Hope. To desire and not yet possess, to seek the beloved and not yet find him – this can be agony indeed. It is far easier to plunge into austere penances or indulgent pleasures than to abide in a holy longing.

God knows how hard it is to grow in hope. He does not unduly pressure us. Catholic mystics over the centuries have been enamored with the Song of Songs, that book of the Bible consisting of erotic love poetry, in which the beloved desperately seeks her lover in the dark, agonizing until she finds him. The author acknowledges the intensity of this pursuit: “I adjure you, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not awaken or arouse love until it is ready!” (Song of Songs 8:4)

Is your desire for Christ ready to be awakened and aroused this Lent?

Staff Directory

Stewardship Totals: 02/20/2022

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

715-877-3400, x 119 (SR)

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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
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Finance, Building & Grounds

Bonnie Firkus, Director

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Charles Thurner, Maintenance (SM)

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Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)

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Music & Liturgy

Tyler Andreae, Director

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Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones, Director

715-855-1294, x 108 (SM)

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Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

715-855-1294, x 100 (SM)

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Communication

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

Pastoral Outreach

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

St. Mary's Stewardship:

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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.



Ritual Books Needed

For more than a thousand years, the Church has used ritual books in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. The time has come to replace some of our ritual books. 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)**

Save the Date

Lenten Devotional Opportunities

- Mar. 3** March Birthday Celebration
8:30am @ SR
- Mar. 4** Fish Fry 4:00pm-7:00pm
@ SR
- Mar. 5** First Saturday Mass and
Devotions @ SM
- Mar. 5-6** Trinity Council KC
Membership Drive @ SR
- Mar. 6** Rite of Election in La Crosse
@ Cathedral
- Mar. 6** FFF/Edge @ SR
- Mar. 6** FFF/Edge in Spanish @ SM
- Mar. 7** Guadalupe Council KC
Meeting 6:00pm @ SM
- Mar. 8** Pastoral Council Meetings
- Mar. 9** FFF/Edge in English @ SM
- Mar. 11** Fish Fry 4:00pm-7:00pm
@ SR
- Mar. 12** Anniversary Blessings
-13 at all weekend Masses
- Mar. 12** Fellowship and Hospitality
-13 after Masses @ SR
- Mar. 13** Social Sunday @ SM
- Mar. 14** Trinity Council KC Meeting
7:00pm @ SR
- Mar. 16** Confirmation Session
6:30pm @ SR
- Mar. 17** Elizabeth Ministry
Gathering 6:00pm @ SM
- Mar. 18** Fish Fry 4:00pm-7:00pm
@ SR

Stations of the Cross



Sundays at 5:00pm @ SR
Fridays at 7:00pm @ SM



Family Adoration Hour @ SM

Friday, March 4 at 6:00pm

40 Hours Devotion @ SR

Begins at the end of 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass @ SR and runs through 3:45pm on March 4 before the Fish Fry.

We are in need of scheduled adorers for this event! Sign up at the links below!

Day 1: <https://straymondpenafort.flocknote.com/signup/81338>
Day 2: <https://straymondpenafort.flocknote.com/signup/81339>
Day 3: <https://straymondpenafort.flocknote.com/signup/82541>

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5	\$68,288	\$75,288
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*As determined by the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on the federal income tax return for the prior calendar year (2021 for the 2022-23 school year).

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St. Mary's



St. Raymond's





You are invited to Father Sakowski's **Sabbatical Summary**



This past fall, Father Sakowski lived for three months with the monks of St. Martin's Abbey in Washington State. During that time of sabbatical, the Diocese of La Crosse sponsored him in trainings that will allow our parishes and our diocese to provide better pastoral care for those impacted by trauma or struggling with addictive behaviors. All three of the trainings hold the core principle that we cannot lead others into places we have been unwilling to go ourselves. This principle holds for priests as well as parents and other leaders. Our Catholic Church family continues to need healing and renewal in Christ, as do our own families, as we carry out Jesus' desire to protect and heal all of God's children.

Will you spend an hour to hear more?

Choose from two options:

1) Sunday, February 27, 2022—3pm-4pm @ St. Mary's

—Held in the church

—Father Sakowski will be available afterward for questions.

2) Thursday, March 3, 2022 — 6pm-7pm @ St. Raymond's

—Held in the church as part of the 40 hours of Adoration

—Followed by Confessions from 7 to 9pm

(two priests available)





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