



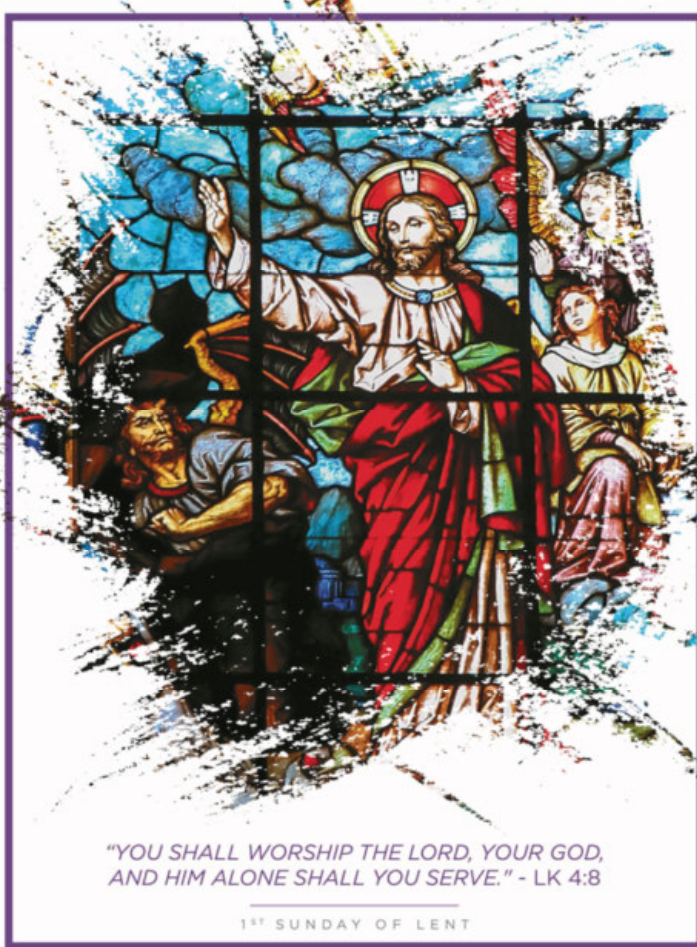
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of  
**ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND**  
 OF PEÑAFORT

**First Sunday of Lent | March 6, 2022**



**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

March 5 through March 13

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
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	Priest Intention
Mon., Mar. 7	No Mass	
Tue., Mar. 8	8:00a SR	+ Ann Young
Wed., Mar. 9	5:30p SM	+ Robert and Joanne Manthey
Thu., Mar. 10	8:00a SR	+ Becky Eckman
Fri., Mar. 11	9:00a SM	+Carla Knepper
Sat., Mar. 12	4:00p SM	+Calvin Melgard
	6:00p SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Mar. 13	8:30a SR	+ Leo and Dorothy Tice
	11:00a SM	Priest Intention
(Misa en español)	1:00p SM	SM and SR Parishioners

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Thursday	7:00–9:00p	SR
Saturday	10:00a–12:00p	SM

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Tuesday	5:00–9:00p	SM
Thursday	5:00–10:00p	SR

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Sunday	5:00p	SR (Soup supper right after)
Friday	7:00p	SM

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Pastor**

**Parochial Vicar**

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

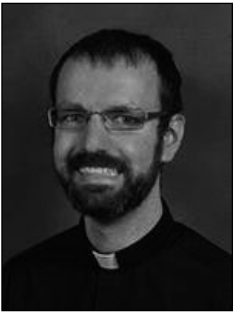
**Fr. Peter Kieffer**  
 715-855-1294 ext. 140  
[PKieffer@diolclergy.org](mailto:PKieffer@diolclergy.org)

Rectory: 715-514-0161

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## Reflections from Fr. Peter Kieffer

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### What a Difference...

Two years ago I remember attending a state-qualifying basketball game, knowing that the brand-new Covid-19 was on its way into the United States. Lent 2020 recently had begun, and there were many unknowns on the horizon.

Due to health concerns surrounding the uncertainty of the virus, the priest with whom I worked at the time decided that it would be best for him to isolate himself out of town for two weeks, hoping that things would sort themselves out by the time that he returned. He trusted that I would handle things at the parish well until he got back.

As we all know, Covid did not sort itself out in two weeks, and I was left at the parish, attempting to figure out how to communicate with the parish at large, without a Communications Coordinator, without a livestream system, and without functioning parish social media.

I remember the first Mass, which I attempted to load to the parish's brand-new YouTube channel. After celebrating the Mass, I remember feeling excited about making Mass available, in some limited capacity, for the parishioners. However, I quickly found out that I had not recorded the Mass properly on my computer. In fact, I had not recorded it at all.

What a difference two years makes. The parish I worked at now has a functioning livestream system, as do our parishes at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's. Our parishes' livestream systems are so well-regarded in the Diocese of La Crosse that we have been asked to livestream a presentation at St. Mary's at 7:00pm on Monday, March 7.

The presentation will be given by Valentyna Pavsyukova. The presentation will be in-person and open to the public, so we hope that you can attend. Valentyna will be speaking about the situation in the Ukraine, as well as the spiritual and humanitarian work of Chalice of Mercy, an organization she helped to found. She will talk about how we can support Chalice of Mercy's mission to the suffering people of her homeland, Ukraine.

While we can reflect on what a difference two years can make for us, the people of Ukraine are acutely aware of what a difference a week can make,

and even what a difference a day can make. Many of us has heard stories of the hundreds of thousands of individuals who now find themselves as refugees, unsure of what exactly their future will look like or feel like. For the Christians of Ukraine this likely will be a very difficult Lenten season, one in which they will share deeply in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

While we as a Church continue to pray and to support those who are suffering right now, we, too, find ourselves at the beginning of this season of Lent, one which is marked by being one of change, one of transformation, and one of conversion. The question for us is: how is God calling us to be different after this Lenten season?

Traditionally, the Church has offered us three ways by which we can enter more deeply into conversion during Lent: 1) prayer; 2) fasting; and 3) almsgiving.

By prayer, we do not just repeat words, which we have learned or memorized, but we seek to communicate in a deep and personal way with God. When we pray, we realize that it is not just we who are communicating with God, but that it is also God communicating with us. That can be challenging, because we do not always know what God will place on our hearts, how He will challenge us, or how He will invite us to be different.

By fasting, we seek to deny ourselves of something that keeps us from being the person who God wants us to be. Fasting is not merely giving up something just because it is Lent, only with the intention of picking that thing back up as soon as Easter Season begins. Rather, fasting challenges us to examine what in our lives is holding us back and enslaving us and to decide which steps need to be taken in order to achieve greater freedom and joy.

By almsgiving, we strive to grow in the Christian virtue of charity. We attempt to become not only more generous, but also more trusting in God's goodness. God is good to us and blesses us in many ways. Almsgiving is a way to share God's goodness with others, especially those who are in most of need.

Well, I am grateful that I do not need to livestream Mass anymore from my computer or from my cellphone. Much has changed, and much is different from two years ago. As we begin this Lenten Season, how is God calling us to change? How is God calling us to be different?

## Staff Directory

## Stewardship Totals: 02/27/2022

### 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**

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↳ BMunns@SMSRCatholic.com

**Carmen Nuñez, Bilingual Faith Formation**

**Coordinator (SM)**

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**Marianne Callaghan, Faith Formation**

**Coordinator (SR)**

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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**

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**Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist**

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↳ SJulson@SMSRCatholic.com

**Communication**

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

**Pastoral Outreach**

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

### St. Mary's Stewardship:

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**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$6365.25**

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### St. Raymond's Stewardship:

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*Thank you!*

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## Join Our Team

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

This is a part-time position, usually 10 hours per week.

Interested candidates should send their résumé and their cover letter to Jacqueline Van Hemert at

JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com.



## 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. Our Catholic Church family continues to need healing and renewal in

Christ, as do our own families. Thank you to Father Sakowski for presenting about his sabbatical on February 27 at St. Mary's and on March 3 at St. Raymond's.



## Save the Date

- Mar. 6** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR  
**Mar. 7** Guadalupe Council KC Meeting 6:00pm @ SM  
**Mar. 7** Valentyna Pavsukova's Talk on Ukraine 7:00pm @ 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 at all weekend Masses  
**Mar. 12** Fellowship and Hospitality after Masses @ SR  
**Mar. 13** Social Sunday @ SM  
**Mar. 13** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR  
**Mar. 14** Trinity Council KC Meeting 7:00pm @ SR  
**Mar. 16** Confirmation Gathering 6:30pm @ SR  
**Mar. 17** Elizabeth Ministry Gathering 6:00pm @ SM  
**Mar. 18** Fish Fry 4:00pm-7:00pm @ SR  
**Mar. 20** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR  
**Mar. 25** Fish Fry 4pm-7pm @ SR

### 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



## Lenten Book Study

Are you familiar with the story of the prodigal son? Have you seen yourself in that story? Join us this Lent for a book club journeying through *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen. We will discover parts of our heart in each character in that parable. Meetings will be on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Holy Family Room at SM beginning March 8. Please contact Maryjo Frank to sign up. [mdtimme@rocketmail.com](mailto:mdtimme@rocketmail.com) or (715)563-3808. You can purchase the book on Amazon or wherever you buy books.

## 40 Hours of Adoration

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration during the 40 Hours Devotion at SR from March 2-4. We pray that the people who visit our parishes during Lent will receive many graces and grow more deeply in their identity as a disciple of Jesus.

## Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations to Caroline Rae Larson and Helena Grace Rief who received the Sacrament of Baptism at the 11am Mass at St. Mary's on February 27! May God continue to bless you in your life of discipleship.



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5	\$68,288	\$75,288
6	\$78,276	\$85,276

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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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**Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow**

# Valentyna Pavsyukova on the War in Ukraine

Monday, March 7 at 7:00 PM

St. Mary Parish, 1812 Lynn Ave., Altoona, WI 54720



Valentyna Pavsyukova will describe the situation in Ukraine, which has revealed both the darkness of evil and the light of courage. She will talk about the spiritual and humanitarian work of Chalice of Mercy, and what we can do to support its mission to the suffering people of her homeland. This talk will also be live-streamed at [diolc.org/live](https://diolc.org/live).


## Women Reaching Women



Thank you to the St. Raymond's Parish Council of Catholic Women for hosting the Women Reaching Women Brunch at SR on February 27!

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