



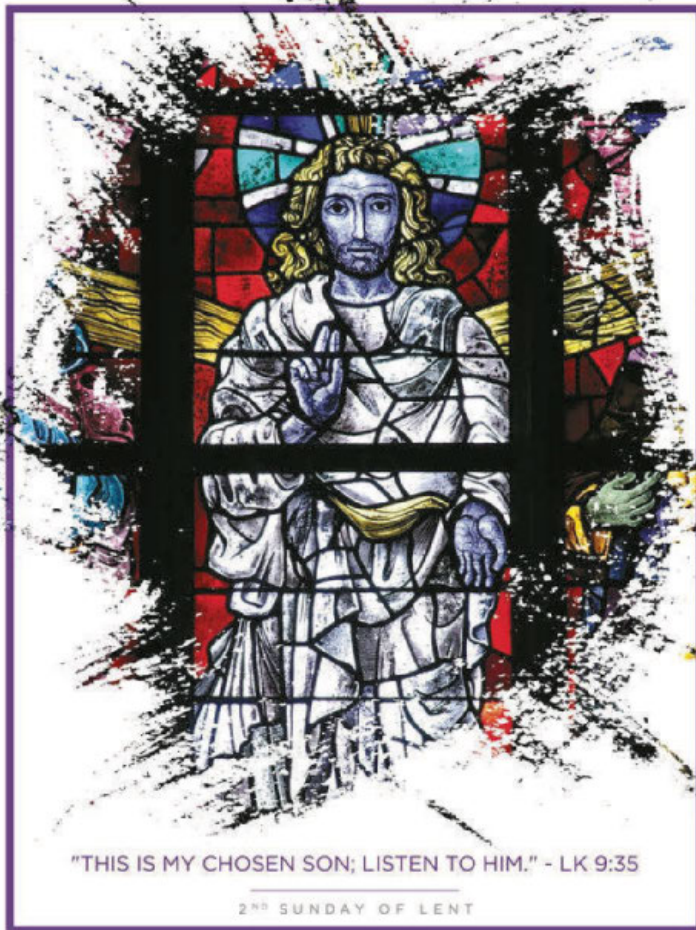
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of
ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND
 OF PEÑAFORT

Second Sunday of Lent | March 13, 2022



Pastor

Parochial Vicar

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

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

Rectory: 715-514-0161

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

March 12 through March 20

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
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	SM and SR Parishioners
Mon., Mar. 14	No Mass		
Tue., Mar. 15	8:00a	SR	+ Deb Depa
Wed., Mar. 16	5:30p	SM	+Robert Devney
Thu., Mar. 17	8:00a	SR	+ Richard and Barbara Puglisi
Fri., Mar. 18	9:00a	SM	+Kathryn Papach
Sat., Mar. 19	4:00p	SM	Priest Intention
	6:00p	SR	Christie Lueck
Sun., Mar. 20	8:30a	SR	Priest Intention
	11:00a	SM	+Bonifacio Rabasol
<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 ADORATION

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

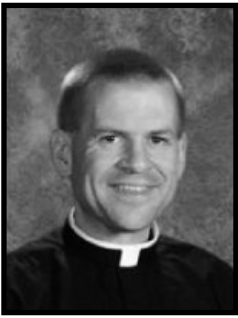
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sunday	5:00p	SR
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

Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



Purity Culture – Conclusion

Perhaps our biggest mistake in the “purity culture” of our Christian families and churches has been turning “purity” exclusively into a moral and sexual issue. That is certainly not the biblical view nor the Catholic view.

Lie #5 – “Purity” is mainly about sexual morality.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:7). Isn’t it interesting that most American Christians hear these words and instantly imagine sexual morality?

True, Jesus proceeds to address adultery and lust in the subsequent chapters. But he also addresses murder, aggression, anger, unforgiveness, and greed. He teaches about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He invites us to seek first the Kingdom of God, and in so doing to persevere in seeking, asking, and knocking.

Above all else, Jesus speaks from start to finish about **a relationship with God the Father**. *He invites us into communion. He desires us to be “blessed” by our Father, who sent his own Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. We do not and cannot earn our way into relationship by good conduct. We enter our covenant with God as ones who are poor in spirit; grieving and mourning, meek and humble; aching with hunger and thirst. Jesus knows that we will be presenting broken lives to him for mending. Purity of heart means bringing God all of the scattered pieces of our shattered hearts! It is then that real growth can begin.*

In other words, when Jesus speaks of being “pure in heart,” he is inviting us to be wholly and wholeheartedly consecrated to God. That means allowing every dimension of our being to be blessed by him. It is the opposite of hiding away parts or pieces of ourselves in shame! It was the devil who tried to convince Adam and Eve to run and hide after they had disobeyed God.

Toxic shame is perhaps the single greatest obstacle that prevents purity of heart by holding us back from letting ourselves (ALL of ourselves) be loved by God and others. Many of us are more susceptible to shame because we learned to tie performance and relationships together: “I am only lovable if...” or “I am only lovable when...” As long as those lies have root in our hearts, Christian morality becomes a torment rather than Good News.

Our shame can be healed by moving away from hiding and towards relationships: becoming truly and safely seen, known, heard, understood, and cherished – not some idealized version of ourselves, but as we currently are, a work in progress.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 2518) speaks of purity of heart as a threefold sharing in God’s purity: in our charity, our chastity, and our orthodox belief. In other words,

we are created to share in divine Goodness, divine Beauty, and divine Truth.

Truth, Goodness, and Beauty – the human heart has an almost insatiable longing for all three! The devil HATES this longing in us, but cannot erase it. So he attempts to divert and distract us away from the intimacy of relationship that is at the core of all three.

Our intellects are ordered to the Truth. Purity of heart includes surrendering to the Truth whenever the evidence is in front of us. The humble heart is willing to be proven wrong – or incomplete. The arrogant heart resists the vulnerability of surrender – either through obstinate refusal to believe what God has revealed or through a dogmatism that thinks it knows everything. The Truth is ultimately a divine person, and the closer our intimacy, the more we realize how little we truly know him!

Our wills are ordered to Goodness. We long to love and be loved. And so God commands us to love him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is a two-way street: freely receiving and freely giving. Growing in purity of heart includes recognizing any ways in which we are blocked – either in giving or receiving.

Our ache for Beauty flows from both our intellect and our will. Here we find the intense desire of *eros that is such a glorious divine gift. No wonder the devil tries so hard to ruin it! Early and often, he entices us to curse our desire for Beauty – to feel shame around this God-given longing.*

Yes, our desires often run wild – overindulging in food, becoming possessive in relationships, or wandering into sexual fantasies. That is why the Catechism speaks of “apprenticeship” in chastity. There is an appropriate pruning or discipline – not for the sake of cutting off desire, but of fully claiming it.

The word “purity” is all about our relationship with God – and sexuality is only one dimension. It is a damaging distortion to use “purity” in a moralistic sense. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church devotes ten full paragraphs to the much more helpful words “integrity” and “integrality” (see nn. 2338 -2347). Little by little, we learn how to put all the pieces together, aided by healthy relationships with God and others.

Becoming a whole person in our sexuality, our desires, our emotions, and our relationships is not a matter of “on” or “off,” maintaining or losing. It is a lifelong task. The Catechism proclaims this integration to be “a long and exacting work. One can never consider it acquired once and for all. It presupposes renewed effort at all stages of life” (n. 2342).

We are called to keep growing in charity, chastity, and truth our whole life long. The more we grow, the more we will long to grow. Getting a taste of God’s Truth, Goodness, and Beauty is described by many of the mystics as a “wound” – but in this case a wound of love that keeps us coming back to the living waters for more. Rather than fostering fear about losing purity, let’s begin spurring each other on in the lifelong task of growing into God’s Beauty, Goodness, and Truth!

Staff Directory

Stewardship Totals: 03/06/2022

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

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Pastoral Outreach

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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.



Not Getting the Friday Fiat?

Have you signed up to receive the Friday Fiat, but have not been receiving it in your email lately? If so, please let Jon Jones (jjones@smsrcatholic.com) know, so he can help you to receive the Friday Fiat again and to learn even more about the important ministries going on at St. Mary's and St. Raymond's.

Lenten Solemnities

A day of solemnity on the Church calendar is the highest level of feast day, usually honoring a most important saint or a special event. A solemnity is like a Sunday celebration during the middle of the week. Just as we do not fast on Sundays in order to celebrate the Resurrection, neither do we fast on solemnities. There are two solemnities coming up soon on March 19 and March 25. On the **evening** of Friday, March 18 through Saturday, March 19, as well as all day on Friday, March 25, we are permitted to eat meat in order to participate in the joy of the solemnities.

Save the Date

- 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 and Bake Walk
4:00pm-7:00pm @ SR
- Mar. 20** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR
- Mar. 25** Fish Fry and Bake Walk
4:00pm-7:00pm @ SR
- Mar. 27** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR
- Mar. 30** Confirmation Gathering
6:30pm @ SR
- Apr. 1** Confessions 2pm-8pm @
Immaculate Conception
- Apr. 1** Fish Fry and Bake Walk
4:00pm-7:00pm @ SR
- Apr. 2** Confessions 8am-2pm @
Immaculate Conception
- Apr. 3** FFF/Edge @ SR
- Apr. 3** FFF/Edge in Spanish @ SM
- Apr. 3** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ SR
- Apr. 4** Guadalupe Council KC
Meeting 6:00pm @ 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



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 St. Mary's beginning March 8. Please contact Maryjo Frank to sign up. mdtimme@rocketmail.com or (715)563-3808. You can purchase the book on Amazon or wherever you buy books.

Elizabeth Ministry

Women are welcome to join us every third Thursday in the Saint 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. The topic for March is "Lent at Home."

Time 6:00pm-8:00pm in the St. Mary's Conference Room



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Rite of Sending and Rite of Election



On March 6 those preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Eucharist participated in the Rite of Sending at the 8:30am Mass at St. Raymond's. They then travelled to La Crosse to participate in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral. Please continue to pray for our catechumen and candidates as they prepare to be initiated fully into the Catholic Church at Easter.



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