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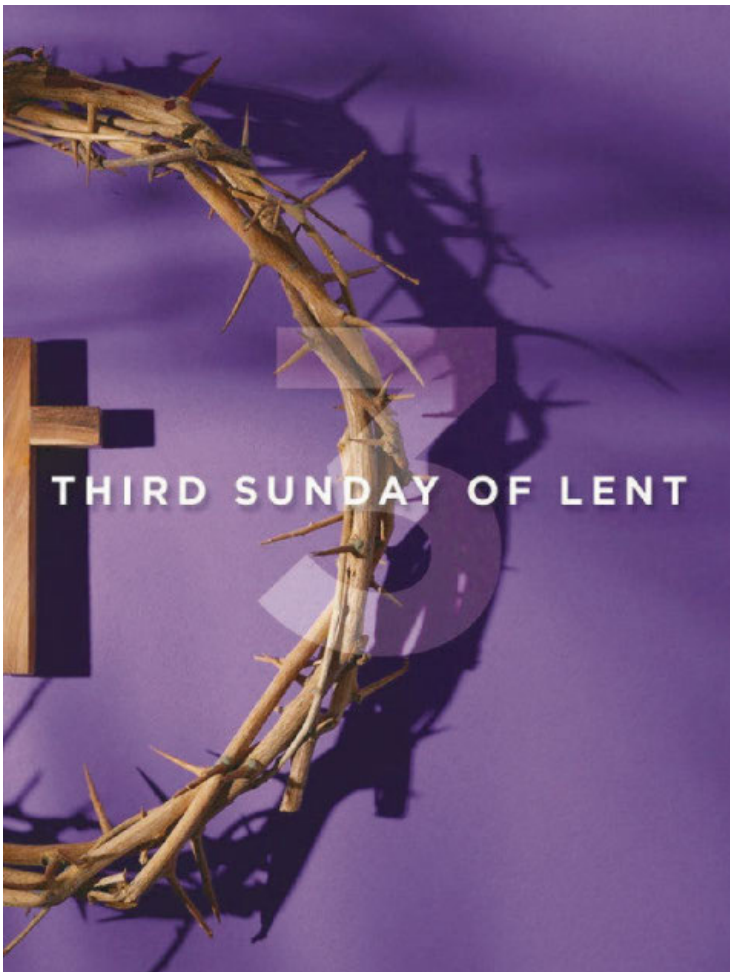


*Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of*

# ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND

OF PEÑAFORT

**Third Sunday of Lent | March 20, 2022**



## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

March 19 through March 27

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
Mon., Mar. 21	No Mass		
Tue., Mar. 22	8:00a	SR	+ Rudy and Irene Klobucar
Wed., Mar. 23	5:30p	SM	+ Fr. Wilger
Thu., Mar. 24	8:00a	SR	+ Gary Ball
Fri., Mar. 25	9:00a	SM	+ David Mayer
Sat., Mar. 26	4:00p	SM	+ Gerald and Darlene Wolf
	6:00p	SR	SM and SR Parishioners
Sun., Mar. 27	8:30a	SR	+ Andrew Lutz
	11:00a	SM	Priest Intention
<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

**Pastor**

**Parochial Vicar**

**Fr. Derek Sakowski**

**Fr. Peter Kieffer**

715-855-1294 ext. 101

715-855-1294 ext. 140

[DSakowski@diolclergy.org](mailto:DSakowski@diolclergy.org)

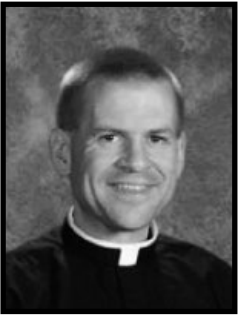
[PKieffer@diolclergy.org](mailto:PKieffer@diolclergy.org)

Rectory: 715-514-0161

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## Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski

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### Vulnerable AND Safe

For many of us, vulnerability is one of the hardest human experiences to manage. It can be terrifying and overwhelming. It can cause us to feel exposed, naked, unprotected, or unsafe – and we can find fifty ways to run or to hide.

Fleeing from vulnerability is a story as old as the human race itself. Following the fall, the whispers of shame urged Adam and Eve to run and hide themselves, and to try to cover their nakedness.

Unfortunately, I cannot be in an intimate relationship with God if I am hiding and protecting myself from Him. I cannot experience close connection with other human beings if I am hiding and protecting myself from them. You are perhaps familiar with the famous quote from C.S. Lewis:

***To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.***

In the Incarnation, Jesus chose to be vulnerable. The eternal Son of God who was immortal willingly took on our human flesh. One motive was to be able to offer himself on the Cross, to pay the price of our redemption. As God, he could not die. As man, he could. But becoming flesh was not simply about paying a ransom on the Cross. The deeper motive was to love us, to show us how to love, and to make us all capable of loving in that way. From start to finish, vulnerable love was the motive of Jesus becoming flesh and of everything he said and did in the flesh.

“And the Word became vulnerable and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). That would be another way of putting it. To be human is to be vulnerable. This is the profound insight of Curt Thompson in *The Soul of Shame*: “So much of what we do in life is designed, among other things, to protect us from the fact that we are vulnerable at all times. To be human is to be vulnerable.”

At all times we humans are vulnerable – able to be wounded, abandoned, rejected, excluded, betrayed, injured, or killed. Sometimes we barely notice our vulnerability, and other times we feel it intensely. But it’s always there.

Jesus shows us how our human condition of vulnerability need not be an experience of shame and isolation, but can be transformed into an experience of healing and salvation. When we listen to the Gospels closely, we hear one story after another of Jesus modeling vulnerability for us. His heart remains wide open in love, even when others are

misunderstanding, accusing, rejecting, or abandoning him. He does not break off to hide himself. Yes, he spends forty days in the desert, but that was actually an even deeper experience of vulnerability, enduring temptation as well as allowing himself to be comforted by the angels God sends.

Many of us resist and avoid vulnerability because we tend to associate being vulnerable with feeling shame – and shame is perhaps the most painful human emotion. When we feel shame as Adam and Eve felt it, we feel unlovable and devoid of dignity. We do not want to be seen or known. So we hide and isolate. Shame thrives in isolation. What begins as one traumatic experience – genuinely painful – becomes a perpetual cycle that we do not know how to break. Jesus, the New Adam, breaks our cycle of shame and opens for us a vulnerable path to salvation.

This path includes connecting with God and others. Again, Jesus is our model of what it means to be truly human. He does not go it alone. He consistently reaches out to his Father and to his friends – even when they choose to abandon him. He establishes the Church as a community of believers, calling each by name, but always into a community of faith. When we hear the story of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles it is a story of community and communion, not of isolation. Salvation happens in Christian community.

The name Jesus means “Savior,” and salvation means becoming safe by becoming whole and holy. It is safety that we are seeking when we hide from our vulnerability. But we will not find wholeness or holiness in our hiding. We may need it for a time, especially when our survival truly depends on it. But our places of hiding, our panic rooms, will indeed become tombs and places of death if we refuse to let ourselves be seen and known.

The invitation to salvation is an invitation to become vulnerable AND safe. We may understand this at intellectual level, but it is important to experience it as well. That means finding a safe community in which we can truly be seen and known, heard and understood, cherished and appreciated and encouraged.

There are many in twelve step programs who have claimed that they find an experience of Jesus much more easily in the church basement (in their group meetings) than in the church itself, where they find plenty of people putting on masks, bustling about, rigidly following rules, judging and gossiping, or following familiar routines – but precious few people opening up humbly in vulnerable human connection. That is quite an indictment! Is that true of me or of my parish community?

To put it differently – when broken people walk through our doors, feeling their shame deeply, what will they encounter here? Will they find a friendly face who shows them that it is safe to be vulnerable here? Or will they find fifty new ways of hiding from their vulnerability?

Those are questions that we can all take to prayer this Lent!

## Staff Directory

## Stewardship Totals: 03/13/2022

### 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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**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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**Parish Receptionist**

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↳ Receptionist@SMSRCatholic.com

**Communication**

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

**Pastoral Outreach**

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

### St. Mary's Stewardship:

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**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$6566.93**

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### St. Raymond's Stewardship:

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Offertory (Plate).....\$224.25

**Total Envelope & Plate.....\$3,821.25**

*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.



## Praying for Our Pastor

This weekend Father Sakowski is participating in a workshop to further his training to provide pastoral care for those suffering from trauma and addiction. We thank Father Sakowski for the time that he has spent to receive training in this most important ministry. Please keep him in prayer as he finishes his workshop.

## 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. On a solemnity we pray the Gloria and the Creed. A solemnity is like a Sunday celebration during the middle of the week. It is a day of rejoicing and of feasting. Just as we do not fast on Sundays in order to celebrate the Resurrection, neither do we fast on solemnities. The Solemnity of the Annunciation is coming up soon on March 25. On Friday, March 25, we are permitted to eat meat in order to participate in the joy of the solemnity.

## Save the Date

- 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 @ SM
- 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. 2** **No Confessions @ SM**
- 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
- Apr. 6** FFF/Edge in English @ SM
- Apr. 9** Confirmation Retreat  
9:00am-2:00pm @ SR
- Apr. 9** Fellowship after Mass @ SR
- Apr. 10** Social Sunday @ SM and SR
- Apr. 10** Anniversary Blessing at  
Weekend Masses
- Apr. 10** Soup Supper 5:20pm @ 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



# Encounter God's Mercy

## Lenten Reconciliation Service



Supporting Parishes:  
 Immaculate Conception Parish  
 St. James the Greater Parish  
 St. Olaf Parish  
 Sacred Heart of Jesus-  
 St. Patrick Parish  
 Newman Parish  
 St. Mary Parish, Altoona  
 St. Raymond of Penafort Parish,  
 Fall Creek  
 St. Joseph Parish, Rock Falls  
 St. Joseph Parish, Elk Mound

This deanery event will take the place of communal parish Reconciliation services in Lent.

Multiple priests will be available every hour to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be the option of an outdoor confessional.

Friday, April 1st  
2 PM-8 PM

Saturday, April 2nd  
8 AM-2 PM

Immaculate  
Conception Parish,  
1712 Highland Avenue,  
Eau Claire

## St. Mary's and St. Raymond's Pastoral Councils



SM and SR Pastoral Councils met on March 8. Father Sakowski challenged both councils to reflect upon the areas of worship, evangelization, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry. More information about pastoral council is on the websites.

St. Mary's



St. Raymond's





## Chalice of Mercy Presentation at St. Mary's



Thank you to Valentyna Pavsukova for speaking at St. Mary's on March 7 about the situation in Ukraine and the charitable work done by the organization, Chalice of Mercy. To learn more, visit: [chaliceofmercy.org](http://chaliceofmercy.org), or scan the QR Code Below





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