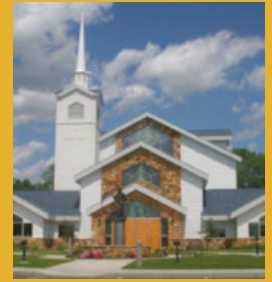




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 www.stmarys-altoona.com

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 715-877-3400
 www.straymond.us



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter | May 8th, 2022



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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Pastor

Fr. Derek Sakowski
 715-855-1294 ext. 101
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Parochial Vicar

Fr. Peter Kieffer
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Rectory: 715-514-0161

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 7th		
9:00am	Priest Intention	(SM)
4:00pm	† Kathryn Papach	(SM)
6:00pm	Troy Lewis	(SR)
Sunday, May 8th		
8:30am	Priest Intention	(SR)
11:00am	† Marie Devney	(SM)
1:00pm	People of the Parishes	(SM)
<i>(Misa en español)</i>		
Monday, May 9th	---- No Mass ----	
Tuesday, May 10th		
8:00am	† Wayne Kostka	(SR)
Wednesday, May 11th		
5:30pm	David Manthey	(SM)
Thursday, May 12th		
8:00am	† George Walters	(SR)
Friday, May 13th		
9:00am	† Paul C & Clara Bauer	(SM)
Saturday, May 14th		
4:00pm	† Pauline Meyer	(SM)
6:00pm	All Mothers of the Parish	(SR)
Sunday, May 15th		
8:30am	People of the Parishes	(SR)
11:00am	† Jeanette Haas	(SM)
1:00pm	Priest Intention	(SM)
<i>(Misa en español)</i>		

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mary	St. Raymond
Saturday: 10:00am–12:00pm	Thursday: 7:00–9:00pm

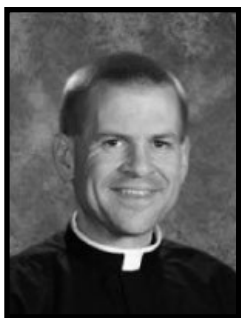
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Mary	St. Raymond
Tuesday: 5:00–9:00pm	Thursday 5:00–10:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

St. Mary	St. Raymond
Sunday Noon-3	Tues/Thurs 9am-Noon*
Mon-Thurs 9am-Noon*	
*or by appointment	

Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



Jesus and Restorative Justice

What is justice?

The greatest minds in human history have often pondered this challenging question: Plato in his *Republic*, Aristotle in his *Ethics*, Thomas Aquinas in his *Summa*. The wise do not pretend to have all the answers, but they stir

up our curiosity by inviting us to begin asking the right questions.

Justice is a theme that runs throughout the Scriptures. In God's plan, justice is wedded to mercy (Psalm 85:10). When he acts justly, it is always ultimately with a view to heal and restore the creatures he has made – if we desire it. When he acts mercifully, it is never without an invitation to tell the full truth about the harm.

Think of Adam and Eve in the garden in Genesis 3. In their shame, they hide themselves – as though from an angry tyrant who is going to make them pay. He does bring Fatherly justice – holding them accountable and explaining to them the consequences. But he also promises eventual healing and restoration through “the woman” and her offspring. Adam and Eve are unable, at first, to tell the truth about what they have done. They try to shift the blame – anything to get the attention off the shame they are feeling. God's questions are for their healing: *Where are you? Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree?* God shows both justice and mercy because he is a loving Father who ultimately desires our wholeness and our sharing in his glory. He never lies or ignores the truth, but he also does not desire our loss.

But there is so much more! The Father and Jesus desire our healing, our restoration, and our wholeness! That is the primary motive for the Father asking his Son to die and rise. Jesus proclaims to his disciples that he came so that we might have abundant life (John 10:10). When he starts appearing to people after the resurrection, he brings life, joy, peace, healing, restoration, wholeness, and holiness – so much more than what they had hoped or dreamed!

How damaging it has been to think of the death of Jesus only in the sense of paying the price for our sins. Yes, there is justice – God is a loving and truth-telling Father who does not pretend as though our sins didn't happen. But the Father desires that we come to share fully in his righteousness.

Consider Jesus and Zacchaeus, the tax collector who has exploited many vulnerable people (Luke 10). Jesus eagerly seeks out Zacchaeus, who is stunned at being desired and delighted in. But Jesus also allows Zacchaeus to name the harm he has caused and work to repair it. Mercy and justice go together.

Consider Jesus and Peter in John 21. Jesus stokes a charcoal fire there on the seashore – fully knowing

what he is going to do. Following the miraculous catch of 153 fish, he then invites Peter into a conversation that is simultaneously remembering, truth-telling, and healing. Peter stands once again by a charcoal fire, just like the night before Jesus died – only now Peter is allowed the opportunity to say three times that he loves Jesus. Peter experiences much distress in this experience – as Jesus knows he will. It is not a shaming of Peter, but rather helping Peter walk through the labyrinth of shame and begin experiencing healing and restoration.

Repair and restoration take time. But they include a safe space in which both the one who has harmed and the one who was harmed can be heard, can tell the truth about what has happened, and can seek so much more than simply making someone pay.

I have friends who desire this kind of reform in our criminal justice system – which we all know to be broken and badly in need of repair! I am not an expert in those areas, but I hope we begin asking more of the right questions! Our Biblical and Catholic Tradition have so much more to offer than a justice that only thinks about retribution.

As a priest, I am especially interested in how restorative justice can take root in our marriages, our families, and our church institutions. Too often, when serious harm has happened, we do not use our God-given creativity to open up a safe and healing forum in which all sides can tell the truth about the harm and seek full restoration for all who have been impacted.

Our families of origin and our church families have often failed in this area – especially when there has been sexual harm. Most people I know feel even more shame and awkwardness talking about sexuality – even though it is one of God's most glorious gifts to us. Consequently, those who have been harmed sexually – whether by someone working for the church or by someone else – often find that neither their family of origin nor their church family is a safe haven to bring their story. I can think of more than a dozen individuals I know personally who suffered even greater betrayal because their story was not received with care. Simultaneously, our society currently offers no path of redemption or restoration for those who have perpetrated harm – they are branded as permanent outcasts beyond the reach of mercy.

Our just and merciful Father says otherwise – he desires healing and restoration for all who will receive it. As with Adam, Eve, Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman at the well, or Peter, such restoration is only possible if we are willing to be truth-tellers – both about the harm done to us and about the harm we have done to self and others. Jesus will invite us to follow him on a healing path that includes (sometimes difficult) repair. We will die and rise with him as we come to full maturity in him. In the end, if we welcome this full encounter with his love and truth, his righteousness will shine in us.

Staff Directory

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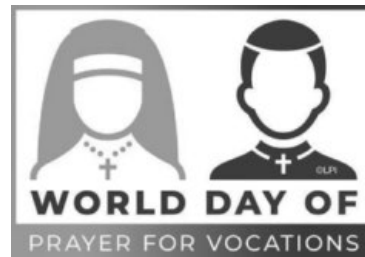
↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

Pastoral Outreach

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, May 8, 2022 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.



A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Jon Jones for the service, dedication, and outpouring of love he gave to the parishes of St. Mary & St. Raymond. During two difficult years of Pandemic, Jon devoted over 3,000 hours to building up small groups, Hispanic Ministry, communication, pastoral outreach to the sick and



homebound (over 100 people in need in a few dozen locations!), receptionists in the parish office, leadership on the pastoral councils, and much more. Please pray for their family as they prepare to move next week and the new season God calling them to. Continue to pray for parishes as we look to figure out next steps in hiring staff.

Join Our Team!

Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Mary's

A position for one who desires to authentically share their Catholic faith with others by organizing and administrating faith formation events at the parish. Play an active role in helping families prepare their children for the sacraments and providing resources for parents to help grow their family's faith.

More details are located on the Parish Websites & Bulletin Boards

St. Raymond Stewardship Total

Adults \$3,892

Offertory (Plate) \$357.21

Total:.....\$4,249.21

Thank you!



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St. Mary Stewardship Total

Adults \$4,911

Offertory (Plate) \$1,133.50

Total:.....\$6,044.50

Thank you!



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Upcoming Events

- May 9** Healing the Whole Person retreat 6pm - *St. Mary*
- May 9** Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm - *St. Raymond*
- May 10** Men of the Beatitudes reading 7:30pm - *virtual*
- May 11** Parish Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30pm - *St. Raymond*
- May 12** Hispanic Choir & Spirit Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm - *St. Mary*
- May 13** Family Adoration Hour 6pm - *St. Mary*
- May 13** Quinceañera Retreat 5pm - *St. Mary*
- May 13** Regis Walk for Virtues
- May 14** Confirmation Mass 9am - *Immaculate Conception*
- May 14** Men of the Beatitudes discussion 9am - *St. Mary*
- May 15** Spanish Baptism Prep 2pm - *St. Mary*
- May 16** Healing the Whole Person retreat 6pm - *St. Mary*
- May 17** Men of the Beatitudes reading 7:30pm - *virtual*
- May 18** Parish Ensemble 6:30pm - *St. Raymond*
- May 19** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 10am - *St. Mary*
- May 19** Elizabeth Ministry ladies gathering 6pm - *St. Mary*
- May 19** Hispanic Choir & Spirit Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm - *St. Mary*

Quinceañera Retreat

St. Mary's will be having the first Retreat for Quinceañeras on Friday May 13, 2022. We ask for prayers from our parishioners for these young ladies participating in this retreat.

The quinceañera is a traditional celebration of life and gratitude to God on the occasion of the fifteenth birthday of a young Hispanic woman. The ritual emphasizes her passage from childhood to adulthood. The family usually requests a Mass or a blessing to be held in the Church. The retreat will consist of talks, activities and prayer, together with the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. The focus on the positive contribution of women in society as well as their becoming active participants in the life of the parish.

Together, with other families, spend an hour in prayer with our Lord on the second Friday of the month. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in adoration, being as loud and active in their prayer as necessary. Come as you are - even those in pajamas!

May 13 | 6:00 p.m.
St Mary's Church

Hosted by Elizabeth Ministry



Hospitality and Fellowship May 15th

Join us after the 8:30am mass at St. Raymond May 15th for food and fellowship! Gather together as a parish family to foster a deeper sense of community and build meaningful relationships with one another.



Subscribe to the Friday Fiat!

Receive our weekly emails that highlight the amazing ministries going on in the parishes and introduce new things our staff have been working on. Sign up by either calling your parish office or by scanning the code below.



Happy Mother's Day to all physical and spiritual mothers of our parish!

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." - St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Please pray for our students as they receive the sacrament of Confirmation on May 14th at Immaculate Conception

BOOK *Share* FAITH *Share*

Women of St. Raymond's

**Do you have your summer
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Sunday - May 22 - Right After Mass

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