



**St. Mary**  
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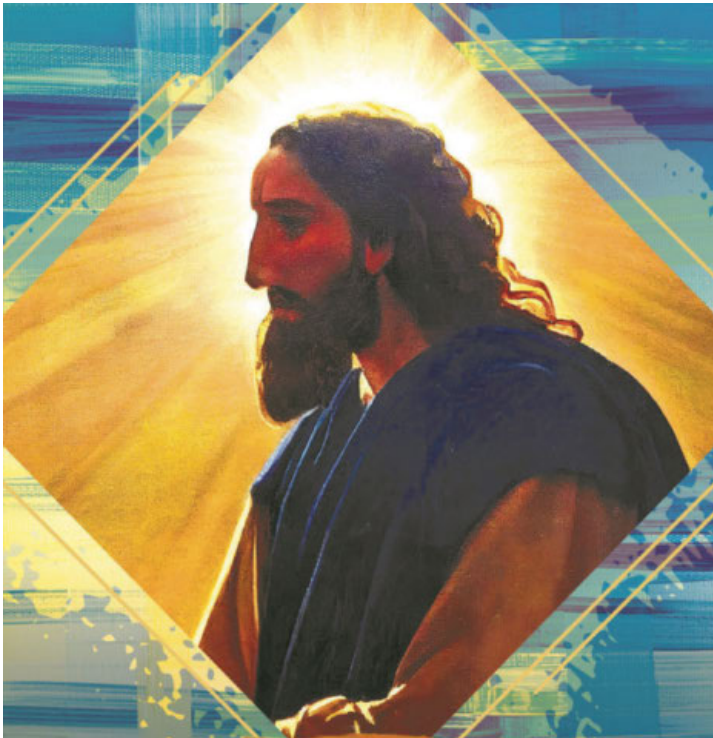


Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of

# ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND

OF PEÑAFORT

**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time | June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father." - Mt 10:31-33

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1996, 1970 CCD, OCLPI

**Pastor**

**Fr. Derek Sakowski**  
 715-855-1294 ext. 6502  
[DSakowski@diolclergy.org](mailto:DSakowski@diolclergy.org)

**Parochial Vicar**

**Fr. Levi Schmitt**  
 715-855-1294 ext. 1012  
[LSchmitt@diolclergy.org](mailto:LSchmitt@diolclergy.org)

**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 4:00pm † Darlene Henrichs (SM)  
 6:00pm SM & SR Parishioners (SR)

**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30am Phyllis Carney (SR)  
 11:00am David Meyer (SM)  
 1:00pm † Roberto Nuñez (SM)  
*(Misa en español)*

**Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> ——— No Mass ———**

**Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00am Pat Lewis (SR)

**Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:30pm Harris Weller (SM)

**Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00am Alvira Michaelson (SR)

**Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00am Teresa Miniatt (SM)

**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**  
 9:00am † Paul & Clara Bauer (SM)  
 4:00pm † Donna Mae Leslie (SM)  
 6:00pm † Norbert Dienger (SR)

**Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 8:30am † Harold, Frances, & Rick Bohl (SR)  
 11:00am † Henri Vellmure (SM)  
 1:00pm SM & SR Parishioners (SM)  
*(Misa en español)*

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**St. Mary** Tuesday: 5pm–8pm  
**St. Raymond** Thursday: 5pm–10pm

**OFFICE HOURS**

**St. Mary** Sunday: Noon–3pm  
 Mon–Wed, Fri: 9am–Noon\*

**St. Raymond** Thursday: 9am–Noon\*

\*or by appointment

## Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



### Fatherhood and Play

“Play is the language of paternal love and kindness.”

I was stunned by those words from Kelly McDaniel in her 2021 book entitled *Mother Hunger*. She writes from the perspective of a secular therapist, but in the process affirms several core biological, emotional, and relational truths about motherhood – all of which are strongly reinforced by the latest findings of neuroscience and attachment theory. My May bulletin articles benefitted from a few of her insights. She is writing to adult daughters, inviting them to consider what they needed and didn’t entirely receive from their own mothers. And then she casually drops her comment regarding fatherhood, kindness, and the language of play.

In that timeless moment of hearing her quote, I was immediately transported back one year in time to Tallahassee, where I was assisting as chaplain for the priest retreat at the John Paul II Healing Center. As is common, the 18 priest participants showed up with fears, resistance, and defenses. It was amazing to watch those melt away in totally unexpected ways. Play played a huge part!

I already shared with you last June about the “human sculpting” exercises we engaged in each day. Bob Schuchts invited me, three days in a row, to play the part of God the Father. Another played God the Son, another the Holy Spirit, along with several human and angelic (and demonic) characters. We were invited to follow our intuitions and interact with each other in a visual scene. I felt fear and constriction at first – the familiar perfectionistic pressure to perform well – *or else*. I turned to Bob and whispered, “I’ve never done these before – what am I supposed to do?” He smiled and shrugged. I felt the familiar dread in my gut. But I reconnected with my body and was able to tap into my deeper desire and intuition. Each sculpt was a surprise. Many participants received insight or healing. For me, it was a oneness with the heart of the Father that shifted my connection with him. I felt *his* poverty of heart – the way he willingly honors our freedom amidst his ache for our flourishing.

Each day, play opened us in receptivity and a rediscovered joy of fatherhood. The team there ever so simply invited us into play each evening – a cornhole tournament with Sister Miriam as a DJ taking song requests, a Pictionary competition with three teams, a trip to the cinema to watch Father Stu, a group hanging around the campfire each night and laughing together. Everyone felt more authentically human – which is so important to being a healthy priest, much less to being true spiritual fathers! Then Bob shared (without naming names) about the retreat for bishops they have started doing. Bob described busy bishops, buried beneath impossible pressures

and ugly problems, laughing and playing together like little children. How healing! Obviously, deep prayer is the foundation. But without a playful heart, fathers cannot be fathers!

I can only imagine the plight of bishops. It’s hard enough to be a parish priest these days. I am at my worst when I am in a scarcity mentality. In those moments I feel a drivenness that screams loudly “*I don’t have time for that!*” – no time to slow down and delight, or savor, or play, or connect, or rest. It is then only a matter of time before I wind up in a place of resentment, and then entitlement – seizing small pleasures that bring no true joy.

At times, I still have the hoarding heart of an orphan – a heart that is terrified of needing and depending on the Father or others. In those moments, fueled by shame and fear, I stockpile and self-protect; I hide my truer and deeper self. At my core, I am highly sensitive, highly creative, eager to connect, and totally playful. But I frequently feel inhibition around play – or at least around being seen in play. It’s so much easier around children, or when I am unaware of anyone watching. It is in those moments when I am the most childlike in my faith, and when I am willing to engage in play with others, that God most powerfully shows up. It is then that I receive the most, and then that others receive the Father’s love through me.

On the retreat, Jake Khym left us with profound words on the Father’s love, encouraging us to anticipate his affection day after day: “Over and over, I will be good to you, my son.” He invited us to notice and receive those frequent moments of affection, to allow the Father to be playful with us and delight in us.

If I pause in the afternoon or evening to reflect on the day in a General Examen, it is a marvelous request I can make to God the Father: ***Show me how you were affectionate to me today.*** If I allow myself the time and space for that meditation, it is remarkable how quickly he shows me moments small or large in which he was playfully affectionate to me. He is always a good Father, tending to me in my poverty, and inviting me to become playful as he is playful. I just struggle to believe that it can be so simple and so effective. I struggle to trust amidst that poverty that he will keep showing up and keep being affectionate. Yet he always does!

I believe all men are called to be one or another kind of father – not in the toxic masculinity of the last few hundred years, but in our uniqueness and individuality. Whatever fatherhood may look like for each of us, playful affection will be the language the Father speaks to us, and playful affection will be the language he teaches us to speak to our children.

***Father’s Blog: [AbideinLove.com](http://AbideinLove.com)***

## Staff Directory

### Evangelization & Faith Formation

**Daniel Gutierrez, Director**

715-855-1294, x 6505 (SM)

↳ DGutierrez@SMSRCatholic.com

**Breanna Munns, Marriage Prep & Wedding Coord.**

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### Finance, Building & Grounds

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**Charles Thurner, Maintenance (SM)**

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**Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)**

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### Music & Liturgy

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### Pastoral Ministry

**Michael Van Hemert, Director**

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**Christine Martin, Parish Receptionist**

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**Heather Halberg, Communication Coord.**

715-855-1294, x 6510 (SM)

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**Mark Burmesch, Pastoral Outreach Coord.**

715-855-1294, x 6512 (SM)

↳ PastoralOutreach@SMSRCatholic.com

## Estate Planning

There are many ways to financially invest in our communities. *Would you prayerfully consider treating one of the parishes as one of your children in your will or estate planning?* For more information contact Bonnie Firkus: [bfirkus@smsrcatholic.com](mailto:bfirkus@smsrcatholic.com).

## Eucharistic Minister Volunteers



HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire is seeking Catholic Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion to hospital patients. Volunteers normally spend one to two hours every week or every other week. Volunteers need to be authorized Eucharistic Ministers in their home parishes. Volunteers need to be trained for distribution of Communion at the hospital with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

We want to distribute Communion every day of the week, especially Sunday. If interested, please contact Eric Butters in the Spiritual Care Department at Sacred Heart Hospital. Email: [Eric.Butters@hshs.org](mailto:Eric.Butters@hshs.org) or call 715-717-6174.

## Young Couples Bible Study

Young Couples Oriented Weekly Bible Study. St. Mary Library **Sundays from 4pm to 6pm**. The goal of this study is to hear God's voice in scripture each week and how it applies to our current situation. The weekly meetings will be very informal and involve gently guided discussion. Please contact John Thurner ([thurnerj28@gmail.com](mailto:thurnerj28@gmail.com)) with any questions. Children are welcome!

## Knights of Columbus 2023 Scholarships

The Trinity Council is proud to announce that we are now accepting applications for \$500 scholarships that are for students who are members of St. Raymond! We are allocating up to three scholarships to help our young parishioners in their pursuit of higher education. Applications are now available at [StRaymond.us](http://StRaymond.us). The application deadline is noon on Sunday, August 13th.



## SMSRCatholic Current Job Posting



**St. Mary and St. Raymond Parishes are now seeking to fill the Full-Time (32h) position of *Director of Music and Liturgy*.**

**Position Overview:** To provide outstanding leadership and teambuilding in all areas of liturgical ministry, particularly sacred music – all with a view to leading disciples into deeper conversion and fellowship, while ensuring that the parishes' liturgical celebrations are uplifting and deeply prayerful.

**To apply,** send your résumé and cover letter to Fr. Derek Sakowski at [DSakowski@diolclergy.org](mailto:DSakowski@diolclergy.org)

A detailed description of the position and job responsibilities can be found by scanning the QR Code or by visiting either of the parish websites.



<b>Thank You! Stewardship Totals Last Week Thank You!</b>		
	<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>St. Raymond</b>
Adults:	\$3,357.00	\$2,800.00
Offertory (Plate):	\$1,323.00	\$ 416.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,680.00</b>	<b>\$3,216.00</b>
<i>Donate Online!</i>	<b>SCAN ME</b> 	<b>SCAN ME</b> 

## Upcoming Events

- June 25** Young Couples Bible Study 4pm - *St. Mary*  
**June 28** Parish Ensemble 6:30pm - *St. Raymond*  
**June 29** Coffee Community 8:45am - *St. Raymond*  
**June 29** Spanish Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm - *St. Mary*  
**July 1** First Saturday Devotions 7:30am - *St. Mary*  
**July 2** OCIA Summer Gathering 9:45am - *St. Raymond*  
**July 2** Young Couples Bible Study 4pm - *St. Mary*  
**July 3** Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm - *St. Mary*  
**July 4** Church Office Closed in Observance of July 4th  
**July 4** **No 8am Mass** - *St. Raymond*  
**July 4** **Adoration Canceled** - *St. Mary*  
**July 5** Parish Ensemble 6:30pm - *St. Raymond*  
**July 6** Coffee Community 8:45am - *St. Raymond*  
**July 6** Spanish Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm - *St. Mary*  
**July 8 & 9** Anniversary Blessings at all Masses  
**July 9** Welcome Reception for Fr. Greg Bohren after each Mass  
**July 10** Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm - *St. Raymond*  
**July 12** Parish Ensemble 6:30pm - *St. Raymond*  
**July 13** Coffee Community 8:45am - *St. Raymond*  
**July 13** Spanish Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm - *St. Mary*  
**July 16** Pathways Summer Gathering 9:15am - *St. Mary*  
**July 16** Young Couples Bible Study 4pm - *St. Mary*

## Pathways Summer Gatherings

What is Pathways? Pathways is also known as Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC). A process for children 8 and up along with their parents, who would like to become Catholic and/or receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, & First Communion). Pathways Summer Gatherings **Sundays 9:15am-10:45am at St. Mary July 16, July 23, and August 6.** Scan the QR Code to fill out an inquiry form or feel free to contact me for more information. Please RSVP to: Daniel Gutierrez, Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation  
Email: [dgutierrez@SMSRCatholic.com](mailto:dgutierrez@SMSRCatholic.com) Phone: 715-855-1294 Ex. 6505



## OCIA Summer Gatherings

Are you an adult interested in becoming Catholic, learning more about the Catholic Faith, or receiving sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion)? If so, the Becoming Catholic process also known as the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is designed for you! OCIA Summer Gatherings will be after the 8:30am Mass at St. Raymond **July 2, July 30, and August 13.** The OCIA is a journey of invitation and initiation into the Catholic Faith. Throughout the journey, you are encouraged to prayerfully discern God's call. For whom is OCIA intended for? Those who have never been baptized in a faith tradition. Those baptized in a faith tradition other than Catholic. Those baptized Catholic who have been inactive since that time and have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. For all those considering this amazing journey, our first gathering (without any obligation) will be Sunday, July 2nd. We will initiate with our 8:30am Mass at St. Raymond Parish. There will be reserved seating for you. Afterwards, we'll gather in one of the parish rooms for a meet and greet (9:45-11:00am). Scan the QR Code to fill out an inquiry form or feel free to contact me for more information. Please RSVP to: Daniel Gutierrez, Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation  
Email: [dgutierrez@SMSRCatholic.com](mailto:dgutierrez@SMSRCatholic.com) Phone: 715-855-1294 Ex. 6505



## Fr. Alan Guanella 10th Anniversary



Father Alan Guanella, who previously served at our parish, will be celebrating his 10th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood this summer. There will be a special Mass on **Sunday, July 2nd at 10:00 AM**, with a reception to follow, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, 750 10th Ave S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. All are welcome to attend; no RSVP needed.

## St. Mary Fall Festival 2023

Save the Date! **Oct 7-8th** St. Mary's Fall Festival will be celebrating another fun community event for St. Mary's parishioners and neighbors. If you are interested in helping organize this event please contact **Megan Glassbrenner** at **715-577-6061** or email [johnandmeg@live.com](mailto:johnandmeg@live.com). We are in need of helpers with the children's carnival, chicken dinner, parish hall country store and more!

**Join our Flocknote Group!**

Get notifications about Mass changes, event updates, ministry launches and so much more!



**Communication Request Form**

Do you have an upcoming ministry event or upcoming news that needs promotion?

Fill out the Communication Request Form or call the parish office to request publication for all SMSR Catholic Platforms.





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LA CROSSE

Office for Ministries & Social Concerns

## LFI classes start September 2023

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"As a pastor, I will always do my best to have parishioners enrolled in the Lay Formation Institute. Our RCIA team is filled with LFI graduates, not to mention all our parish ministries and committees. This is one investment that has always paid immediate and lasting dividends!"

—Fr. Sam Martin

"The Mass has come alive for me and my parish family is closer to my heart. So much has 'fallen into place' that I now feel comfortable discussing and sharing my faith confidently."

—Catechist, Parish  
Religious Education

"I truly fell in love with the Catholic Church during the past two years. I learned so much from such amazing disciples of Christ. It was a wonderful new beginning to the rest of my life!"

—Elementary School  
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