



April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

*"In the divine image He created them
male and female; He created them." Genesis 1:27*

St. Mary Parish

1813 Black River Road
Neillsville, WI 54456

Parish Office

Phone
715.743.3840

E-Mail
parishoffice@stmaryneillsville.org

Website
www.stmaryneillsville.weebly.com

Hours
Monday Closed
Tuesday – Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Daily Adoration 1 hour prior to Daily
Mass except Saturday

Tuesday	6:00pm
Wednesday	7:00am
Thursday-Saturday	8:00am
First Friday	7:00am

Sunday	
Saturday (Vigil)	5:00pm
Sunday	8:00am 10:30am

Confessions

Saturday	4:00pm-4:45pm
Sunday	7:00am-7:30am 9:45am-10:20am
First Friday	6:00pm-7:00pm

Parish Staff

Rev. Fr. Gregory A. Michaud
Pastor
Emergency Cell: 906.282.2049

Judy Conner
Coordinator of Religious Education

Cindy Hooser
Administrative Assistant

Relativism is Absolutely True

Dear Family,

Do you see the contradiction in the title? Now, you might say, "Why this topic?" Well, our society is steeped in the throes of relativism. It is often asserted with the following statement, "All truth is relative!" Think about that statement. It is a self-contradictory statement. So, even the assertion is false. But what is relativism? Relativism is the denial that there exists objective truth/reality. It ultimately stipulates that we individually determine what is real, what is true. Ultimately, that philosophy would tell us that we determine what is right and what is wrong; it would suggest that there is no truth or reality that does not depend on our determination.

That may sound rather attractive at first. After all, if I can determine what is right or wrong, then I get to do whatever I want. That is the ultimate conclusion of relativism. It would seem to give us, individually, ultimate power. But, if relativism is true, it should stand up to a very simple test. And if it applies to one situation, it must, by definition, apply to all. In other words, if individuals themselves can determine what truth is, what reality is, then we cannot compartmentalize it and say we can determine reality in this situation but not that one. It must apply across the board. So, here is a little test using the obvious...

If each person were to decide what truth is, what is right and wrong, and, if that is a good thing, then it must have a good effect. Therefore, if relativism is true, it should not matter in the least on which side of the road I choose to drive because I decide for myself which side is true and good...today...for me. But as we all can see there are devastating effects that ensue when one does not accept the objective truth that there is a right and wrong side of the road and that each of us, for the sake of an ordered road system, has to submit to that reality! Objective truth and reality actually protect us! That's just the objective truth of the matter.

We live in a world and in a country where, today, the vast majority of people believe that truth and reality are relative; that we individually decide what is true and what is false, what is real and what is not. And, it is having devastating effects on us.

It all began in the early 1600's with Rene Descartes, a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist, who infamously stated, "I think, therefore, I am". What is wrong with that statement is that it inverts the order of existence and operation. If I think and then I exist, does not that make me the determiner of my own existence? But, am I the one who thought myself into being, or did God? And, if I determine my own existence, my own reality, then mustn't it follow that I must also determine for myself what is right and wrong, what is real and not real, what is true and false? But we've already seen through a very simple test, that that philosophy causes chaos and destruction.

Truth is what it is because it is what God – not us – made it to be. Reality is what it is because it is what God – not us – made it to be, even if we want it to be different. To deny objective truth and reality is to live in utter chaos. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life". (Jn 14:6) Let's pray intensely for a world that has summarily rejected God and is careening down the steep, chaotic, embankment of relativism. God bless and Mary keep you!



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Weekly Calendar

Monday, April 29 – Office Closed

Memorials of Saint Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church

6:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 30

Memorial of Saint Pius V, pope

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † Delores Hammond

Wednesday, May 1

Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Sue Durst

5:00pm Family meal for religious education families

6:00pm Family Formation: Parents & grades K-6

7:00pm CCD: Grade 7-12

Thursday, May 2

Memorial of Saint Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Joan Hubing

9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall

Friday, May 3 – First Friday

Feast of Saints Philip and James, apostles

7:00am Mass: † Deceased family members of the Boyer & Turczyn families

8:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6:00pm Confession

7:00pm Benediction

Saturday, May 4 – Incense Free

8:00am Mass: † Florito Batulan, Sr.

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Allen Mohr

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Belle & Elton Imig

9:45am Confession

10:30am First Communion Mass & May

Crowning

Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family

General Parish Information

Father Greg's Emergency Cell 906.282.2049

New Parishioners We invite you to join St. Mary's Parish family! Please contact the Parish Office at 715.743.3840

Prayer Chain Parish Office – 715.743.3840

Meal Ministry Mary Sladich – 715.743.4466

Elizabeth Ministry Renee Schoen – 715.743.4059

Holy Matrimony

Contact with the parish is required six months to one year before marriage. Preparation begins with the first contact.

Baptisms

May be celebrated during or following any of the Masses. Preparation classes are required. Please call the Parish Office for details.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674

Weekly Collection

April 20-21, 2024

Tithe	4,697.00
Student	2.40
Offertory	489.50
Fuel Offering	20.00
Total	\$5,208.90

Weekly Budget **\$5,600.00**

Building Fund	\$115.00
Uganda Orphanage	\$977.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday May 4-5

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Jeanne Strey	<u>8:00am</u> Dr. Gregory Foster	<u>10:30am</u> Sherry Hickey
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Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>9:00am</u> Scott Swita	<u>3:30pm</u> Bob Barth
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Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u> Andrew Hoerer Adam Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Colton, Carter & Clayton Hannasch	<u>10:30am</u> Henry & Nathaniel Schoen
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Cantor

<u>10:30am</u> Mike Hart Mary Ann Ingold
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Ushers for May

<u>5:00pm</u> Donald Kotcon Al Spaete Doug Spaete Eugene Walter Jr.	<u>8:00am</u> Walter Domaszek Bev Friemoth Jim Langreck Russell Pagenkopf	<u>10:30am</u> Larry Kyle Gary Ruzic Kevin Schoen Tom Silbernagel
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Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Kathy Nicks
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Proverbial Wisdom

"To the humble man, and to the humble man alone,
the sun is really a sun;
to the humble man, and to the humble man alone,
the sea is really a sea."

– "H.G. Wells and the Giants," [Heretics](#)

Parish Announcements

Come and Pray

First Friday Adoration and Devotions

Friday, May 3, 2024

7:30 am to 7 pm

**Confession available from 6 pm to 6:45 pm with
Benediction to follow**

Sign-up sheet located in the carport vestibule

"The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace." St. John Paul II, Church of the Eucharist Encyclical (April 17, 2003).



Come and Spend Time with Jesus

Mother's Day Banquet

Saturday May 11th

The evening will begin with the May Crowning during 5pm Mass and the banquet to follow in the Church hall. The sign up is available in the Narthex. Plan to come and enjoy. All are welcome!!!

Volunteers for Mother's Day

Banquet: Looking for men and boys to help set tables, serve food and clean up at the banquet. The sign up is available the Narthex.

There will be a Fish Fry dinner and a meeting to discuss parish security. It will be Friday, May 10th at 5pm at Schmitty's in the downstairs dining room. All ushers need to be in attendance since it directly involves you. Any other parishioners are welcome to attend as well. Officer Isaac Guyer will speak about situational awareness and those "red flags" that, if noticed, can help stop a threat to the parish before it happens. Thank you for your attention to the extremely important matter. Please call the Parish Office to sign-up.

*MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!*



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



Family Formation

Please keep the second grade children in your prayers. They will be receiving Jesus for the first time at the First Holy Communion Mass on May 5th!

First Holy Communion & May Crowning of Mary will be at the 10:30 Mass on May 5, 2024. Parents please meet in the Church Hall at 9 a.m. for rehearsal.

The final CCD and Family Formation classes will be May 1st.

For the last Family Formation meeting May 1st, the meal menu will be Pizza Hut Night! Enjoy a variety of pizza, veggies, fruit, homemade desserts, white and chocolate milk as well as Root Beer Floats in celebration of another successful year! Serving from 5-6:30 p.m. to accommodate middle and high school CCD students.

Family Formation and CCD Registration for the 2024-

2025 - We ask parents with children that will be in Kindergarten through 12th grade this fall fill out and submit with your payment the Registration forms located in the Narthex or on St Mary's website under Religious Education. We ask that you return them along with your payment by June 30, 2024 to get the early bird discount of \$10! After July 1st, there will be an additional \$10 late fee added.

Memory item:

Grades K-3: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." John 20:29

Grades 4-6: The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary: The Baptism in the Jordan, The Wedding Feast at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist

***Final Faith Formation meeting is May 1st at 6pm.
Dinner served before lesson at 5:00pm.**

CCD teacher needed for the fall of 2024: We ask that you continue to keep our CCD and Family Formation programs in your prayers. We need to start with prayer and trust that the Holy Spirit will guide and provide for our programs. We value the varied gifts and talents of our parish family contributing to its success. Please consider volunteering your talents as a catechist!

At this time, we are in need of a 12th grade catechist or couple to co-teach.

The senior year catechesis is an examination of all Christian vocations and the discernment of God's will and focuses on living a moral Christian life. It includes the examination of the sacraments related to all vocations, the dignity of the human person and its relationship to God, characteristics of living a moral life within a vocation, Catholic sexual morality as expressed in John Paul II's Theology of the Body and the importance of prayer. Please talk with Fr Greg or Judy Conner, CRE if you are interested and/or have questions.

Adventure Camp – There are 2 weeks available this year for Adventure Camp. Week 1: June 23-28, 2024 and Week 2: July 7-12, 2024. These two weeks are for youth in grades 6-12. The cost is \$430 per person (including adults) for an early bird registration (registered before June 10, 2024). The regular price after June 10, 2024, rises to \$450 per person (including adults). Funds are available thru the Family Life Committee to help with cost. For more information, registration link, click here: diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/adventure-camp/.



Following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, June 2nd, our parish family will take to the streets of Neillsville, to intentionally show our love for our Eucharistic Lord. Plan to join for all or part of the procession. When we carry our Eucharistic Lord through the streets, we give public witness of our faith and devotion to Our Lord, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. For those who would like to participate, but may not be able to walk the entire way, cars will be available.

PCCW News

There will be a PCCW Meeting Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Church hall. Guest speaker will be Mary Hartung. She will share her experiences while participating in a medical mission in Guatemala. Business meeting will follow with important issues to discuss. All ladies invited and encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Project Milk Fundraiser: No Bake Bake Sale

The PCCW will be having a “No Bake Bake Sale” to raise money for Project Milk. Hundreds of families in Peru are struggling to put food on the table for some that means rotating days on which children can eat. Your donation goes straight to the purchase, preparation and shipment of the milk. Ladies are requested to contribute monetarily instead of making bake goods. The envelopes can be found in the carport. Thank you for your generosity.



Spring Change of Season Saturday May 18th

The annual Spring Change of Seasons project co-sponsored by Saint Mary's Justice and Peace Committee and Interfaith Caregivers of Clark County will be Saturday May 18th. Cleaning consists of gutter cleaning and window washing. The event will start at 8:45am with breakfast at the United Church of Christ on 2nd Street. Please contact Interfaith at 715-743-2885 or email judydonmorrow@hotmail.com or contact Gary Veltus at 715-937-6551. Remember we can only accomplish this program with enough volunteers. This would be a good project for Scouts, FFA and Church groups. Consider volunteering to help those in need.



“The Answer” Eucharistic Rally: We are very excited to announce “the Answer” Eucharistic Rally that will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the six days that the Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of La Crosse. “the Answer” Eucharistic Rally will begin with a Eucharistic Procession across the Cameron Street Bridge in La Crosse and will end at the La Crosse Center where the rest of the rally will take place. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, powerful speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagize, and Josh Rosa, music from Luke Spehar, and plenty of vendors. **The early bird special is now over, the cost for this event is now \$20 per person.** This rally is for youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. You can find more information about the event and the other days the Marian Route will be in our diocese by visiting: <https://diolc.org/the-answer/> or scan the QR code above.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage – Marion Route – Join the National Eucharistic Pilgrims & Marshfield Deanery Parishes Monday & Tuesday June 10 & 11th. The Eucharistic Procession will start at 2pm with activities to follow through Tuesday morning June 11th. Everyone is welcome to walk and attend any of the activities. Please see the flyer for more details in this bulletin and the posters in the Narthex.

Hospitality - Thank you to all who have donated items for hospitality after the Masses. The donations are great. People are enjoying them and each other's company. Please feel free to bring items to share any time you desire.

Casa Hogar Optical Fundraiser – The Casa Hogar Optical Mission is having a fundraiser to raise \$6,000 for the purchase of a digital phoropter to help with the fitting of eyeglasses. This machine will allow them to help provide the very best prescriptions for those who desperately need them. To participate they will be selling Valley Fudge & Candy. Go to their website hogar.valleyfudgeandcandy.com or call 608-452-2042 and order today. 50% of each sale will go to the cause. Great gift for Mother's Day or any occasion, or just because you love fudge!!

Just a reminder that if you are participating in the Diocesan Annual Appeal this year to please have your pledge form in by the deadline date of June 30, 2024.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2023-2024 Assessment

\$45,050.00

As of April 25, 2024

\$29,175.00

Parishioner participation: 30%

Please prayerfully discern your pledge and return your card in the offertory collection or mail it directly to the Diocese of La Crosse. Thank you to those who have already submitted their pledge for this year.