



December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

*"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



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Dear Family,

This is from EWTN's website written by Fr. Hal Stockert, from an organization called Fishnet. I thought it was interesting to share with you.

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in **writing** indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else.

Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disemboweled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith.

The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..." The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Happy Advent and may God bless and Mary keep you and may you enjoy a truly blessed Christmas!

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 11 – No Mass – Office Closed

Memorial of Saint Damasus I, pope
6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

Tuesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Mass: †Tom Kren

Wednesday, December 13

Memorial of Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr
6:00am Eucharistic Adoration
7:00am Mass: Blessings for Damien Lehn
7:00pm Advent Mission Presentation – Church Hall
7:00pm CCD – Grades 7-12

Thursday, December 14

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church
7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: Members of the Parish that are ill
9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall
6:00pm Beverage and a Book Study – Parish Office

Friday, December 15

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † deceased members of the Grota & Stein family

Saturday, December 16 – Incense Free

8:00am Mass: † Allen Mohr
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Maureen Meier

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent
7:00am Confession
8:00am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family
9:45am Confession
10:30am Mass: † Mary Diedrich
3:00pm Thorp Deanery Reconciliation

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

Bereavement & Visitation Ministry Annie Augustine – 715.937.1432 or august.anne09@gmail.com

Spiritual Direction Renee Schoen – 715.743.4059
Elizabeth Ministry Contact with the parish is required six months to one year before marriage. Preparation begins with the first contact.

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

Baptisms Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Weekly Collection

December 2-3, 2023

Tithe	\$4,847.00
Student	2.50
Offertory	543.01
Immaculate Conception	35.00
Christmas	115.00
Christmas Flowers	46.00
Total	\$5,588.51

Weekly Budget

\$5,600.00

Building Fund

\$250.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday December 16-17

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Larry Hoeser	<u>8:00am</u> Cheyenne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Jack Hammond	<u>10:30am</u> Gretchen Fitzmaurice
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Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u> Andrew Hoeser Adam Hoeser	<u>8:00am</u> Faustina Thomas Perpetua Thomas Angeline Thomas Gibeon Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Henry Schoen Nathaniel Schoen Hayden Poeschel
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Cantor

<u>10:30am</u> Lorraine Spencer JoAnn Blum
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Ushers for December

<u>5:00pm</u> Al Durst Richard Hagen Cindy Hoeser Larry Nauertz	<u>8:00am</u> Robert Bautch James Boyer Walter Domaszek Russell Pagenkopf	<u>10:30am</u> Byrne Family
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Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u> Larry Hoeser	<u>8:00am</u> Jack & Theresa Hammond	<u>10:30am</u> Larry Kyle
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Proverbial Wisdom

"The world might have expected the Son of God to be born...in an inn.
A stable would be the last place in the world where one would have looked for Him.
Divinity is always where one least expects to find it."
--Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Parish Announcements



Christmas Mass Times
Sunday December 24, 2023
5:00pm

Monday December 25, 2023
Midnight and 10:00am

**Please note that Sunday Mass does not fulfill
Christmas Mass**

Thorp Deanery Reconciliation for Advent:

Reconciliation will be available for Advent Sunday December 17th at 3pm at St. Mary Parish Neillsville. There will be multiple Priest's available for your convenience. Just a reminder that there are regular confession times Saturday at 4pm and Sunday at 7am and 9:45am before the Masses.



Presentations of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and The Shroud of Turin

On December 12 the church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Mary's will be having a presentation on the amazing symbols & meaning of the images on the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico as the pregnant Mother of God to Blessed Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, on December 9, 10, and 12, 1531. She left a Miraculous Image of her appearance on his cactus fiber cloak, or tilma, which still exists today for all to see in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

In addition, there will be a talk on the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud of Turin also known as the Holy Shroud, is a length of linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front and back of a man. It has been venerated for centuries, as the actual burial shroud used to wrap the body of Jesus of Nazareth after his crucifixion, and upon which Jesus's bodily image is miraculously imprinted.

These presentations are for the entire parish family and the CCD students. The PCCW will be providing refreshments. The event will be Wednesday, December 13 from 7-8 pm in the Church Hall. Please come celebrate and learn about the marvelous beauty that is part of the Catholic faith!



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



This week's at home lesson

First week in December-Isaiah the Prophet- God prepared the earth for Jesus coming through the centuries. All of the aspects of the "First Covenant"-the rituals and sacrifices, symbols and figures converge on Christ. Jesus is also announced from the mouths of prophets through the ages.

* The greatest prophet of the Old Testament was Isaiah and he lived 700 years before Jesus was born. Judah was prosperous at this time and the people had stopped placing their trust in God and were trusting in their own wealth.

* Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist and Jesus because he prophesied about King and that we must prepare for Him.

Memory item:

Grades K-3: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." -Luke 1:46

Grades 4-6: The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary: The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Birth of Jesus(Nativity), the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

CCD News

For CCD classes on Wednesday, Dec 13, there will be a presentation on the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Shroud of Turin as we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day on Dec 12. Please have students arrive a few minutes early and come to the Church Hall for the presentation. The entire parish is invited and there will be refreshments for all.



Helping Those in Need: There is a sign-up sheet in the carport vestibule for anyone who would be available now and then to give a ride to someone that is unable to bring themselves to Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day. You can sign-up under the Mass that you attend regularly. Please consider helping those in need.

CREDO Hymnals - The new CREDO Hymnals are available to purchase. Cost is \$24. If you would like to purchase the Hymnal, please contact the Parish office.



PCCW Hunters' Bake Sale: Proceeds from the sale total is \$865.82. Members voted to donate to the following: \$100 to Elizabeth Ministry to purchase bibles for baskets; \$300 to Prayer Shawl Ministry for purchase of yarn needed to make the shawls and \$450 to House of Mercy. Additional funds collected will be donated to a worthy cause. Thank you for the generous support.



A message for the Very Rev. Woodrow H. Pace, Mission Office Director: *A heart-felt thank you from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission Office to St. Mary Parish for the generous response or prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. Your response to Pope Francis' call to have our "Hearts on Fire, feet on the move" gives witness to your commitment to Christ and His teachings. We will forward your financial contribution of \$1,069.00 to our national office. The collected funds will assist in spreading God's message of hope and peace to the poor, those suffering persecution for their faith, and those who are yet to experience the redeeming power of the Gospel.*



Retirement Fund for Religious

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.



Mark your calendar for Hawaiian Themed Trivia Night – Saturday February 3, 2024 starting at 7pm at St. Mary's Church Hall. 8 members per team at \$15 a person. Teams can dress Hawaiian!! Please call

Larry Hoeser to register at 715-937-5831. Proceeds will go to help the people of Hawaii who had wildfires in early August of this year.



Need a Christmas gift? St Mary's Parish Logo Wear is available: We are excited to offer you St. Mary's Parish Logo Wear! You can check out what's available and order directly from St. Mary's website at: www.stmaryneillsville.weebly.com

under the Church Merch tab. Or you may stop in at JBC Screenprinting and Embroidery LLC at 708 Grand Ave, Neillsville or call them at 715-743-3113 if you have any questions.

"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 cost for this event is only \$15 per person. This rally is for youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. **Tickets will go on sale Dec. 15, 2023.** 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/>

Mission Uganda 2024 – Join Father Woody Pace on a Mission to Uganda May 7-23, 2024. Join a group to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe School which was founded through a faithful relationship with St. Mary Parish, Neillsville. The host will be Sr. Salome Nambi and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix. Mission Trip cost: \$2500. More info: contact Julie Studinski 715-340-4846 or julieastud@gmail.com

Gross Auto Group Gives Back!



For the 14th year Gross Motors has teamed up to fill the Local Food Banks in Neillsville, Loyal, Greenwood and Granton! This year Gross Motors of Neillsville will except non-perishable food items from November 27th until December 14th. Bring your food items in to our dealership in Neillsville and we will match each item donated and deliver them to the food bank of your choice. All food from the Narthex Food Pantry basket will be donated to Gross's.

Area Events

Melody Gardens Skateland - There will be a *Christian Music Skate* on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Admission is \$3.00 and a \$1.00 skate rent. Families and groups welcome.

Community Christmas Concert – There will be a Community Christmas Concert at St. Michael Parish Hall in Junction City on December 17th. Doors open at 5:30pm and the program will start at 6pm. The St. Michael, St. Wenceslaus and St. Killian parishioners will be performing. There will be light refreshments served after the performance.

Giveaways – St. Mary's has 1-8 foot ladder and 2-6 foot ladders for decoration and 8 garage door panels to giveaway. If you would like them they are stacked along side the 2 car garage. First come, first serve.