



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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December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Christmas Memories

Dear Family,

Christmas for me has always been a season of some of the greatest family memories. I was – and still am – blessed with a wonderful family that said this is time for us with God in a special way. I would like to share some of them with you.

I remember one evening as we were watching Frosty the Snowman – I was about 4. I loved Frosty – felt a connection to him...I was 4, what do you want? © Anyway, when he melted I just fell apart. I cried and cried until...he came back to life. All I remember is my mom and dad on either side of me consoling me and assuring me it would turn out ok. And it did.

I remember another Christmas during the time my dad was sick. My mom went "a little over the top" with gifts. © We literally needed my dad's pick up (8' box not 6 1/2) to get all the presents to my sister's house. When the kids started passing out the gifts, my dad was sitting in a chair and before long he disappeared behind the pile of his gifts. We literally couldn't see him. He had to unwrap his way out.

I remember again, when I was about 4 or 5, as we were heading to Midnight Mass. (This is forever etched in my memory.) We were a little late and I remember it was so cold. (It always seemed extra cold on Christmas eve when I was growing up – cold in a good way.) I remember walking from the car to the church. I remember one particular step I took – I watched my right boot as I took a step and could hear the crunch of the cold snow under my boot. To this day that sound has always reminded me of going to Midnight Mass. As we climbed the 15 or so steps up to the main entrance doors I could begin to hear the organ as Mrs. Guian was warming up. Then we opened the doors – great big wooden ones – and all at once, like a blanket being softly laid over me, as if right on cue, the choir sounded their first notes of the pre-Mass concert, the smell of the votive candles in the vestibule filled my nose with the smell of prayer and then I looked up...the altar was magnificent. Candles covered the high altar, the Christmas trees each wore cloaks of white light, the altar boys were busy setting up for Mass and the people were trying to get a seat before the church filled up...and I knew where I was...I was home for Christmas...I was with my family; my mom, dad, brother and sister; my parish, and my heavenly Father all welcoming into our lives our eldest Brother, Jesus. What a gift!

These are just a few precious memories I wanted to share with you as we prepare for His arrival into our parish family.

May our Lord provide you and your family with those most precious memories that only time with God and family can provide.

May God bless and Mary keep each and every one of you close to their hearts this Christmas and always.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 18 – No Mass – Office Closed

6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

Tuesday, December 19

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † Bernard Langreck

7:15pm Knights of Columbus Meeting – Church Hall

Wednesday, December 20

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Allen Mohr

7:00pm CCD – Grades 7-12

Thursday, December 21

Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: Special intention for Bev Mazola

9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall

6:00pm Beverage and a Book Study – Parish Office

Friday, December 22 – Office Closed

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Duane Peterson

1:00pm Decorating the Church for Christmas

Saturday, December 23 – Incense Free

Memorial of Saint John of Kanty, priest

8:00am Mass: † Danny Bravener

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Clarence & Rosalie Becker and Harris & Anne Schoengarth

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Tennille Thomas

9:45am Confession

10:30am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family

5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass: † Quentin Hagen

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.

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

December 8-10, 2023

Tithe	\$5,427.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	640.50
Immaculate Conception	1,009.00
Christmas	25.00
Christmas Flowers	790.00
Total	\$7,893.75

Weekly Budget \$5,600.00

Building Fund \$1,120.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday December 23-24

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Delores Schmitt	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Phyllis Carney
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Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Cindy Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Rick Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u> Andrew Hoerer Adam Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Colton Hannasch Carter Hannasch Clayton Hannasch	<u>10:30am</u> Theodora Hannasch Gregory Lehn Corbin Wirkuty
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Cantor

10:30am
Renee Schoen
Kathy Nicks

Ushers for December

<u>5:00pm</u> Al Durst Richard Hagen Cindy Hoerer 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 Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Bonnie Langreck	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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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.

Office Hours for December 18th thru January 1st – The weeks of December 17th and December 24th the office will be open Tuesday thru Thursday from 9am to 4pm. Closed on Fridays December 22nd and December 29th. The bulletin announcement deadline for those weeks are Wednesday by noon.

2024 Church Calendars are available in the carport vestibule. These calendars are a great resource to help follow the liturgical year. Please take a moment to pick one up.

2024 Church Envelopes are available in the Narthex

If you know someone who is homebound and you would like to take their envelopes to them, please feel free to do so.

End of Calendar Year Charitable Contributions: As the end of the calendar year approaches just a reminder to remit your donations for the parish by December 26th, 2023.

Annual Report - St. Mary's Annual Parish Report for 2022-2023 is available in the carport vestibule. We encourage all families to take one. Enjoy the read!!!

Need a 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.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



CCD **will be** held December 20th. There will be no CCD on December 27th for the Christmas holiday. Wishing you a most blessed Christmas!

This week's at home lesson

Second Week of December- Christmas Activities – "To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom"

* Use the activities to become closer to Our Lord Jesus who came as a child at Christmas- Spend time with the Christ Child in Adoration.

*Learn about and enjoy many of symbols of Christmas and how they relate to Jesus and the Faith. Stars- like the star of Bethlehem and that Jesus is the Light of the World born during the winter solstice, the darkest night of the year. The 12 days of Christmas Song point to aspects of the faith :)

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.

Knights of Columbus News

There will be a Knights of Columbus Meeting Tuesday December 19, 2023, starting with the Rosary at 7:15pm in the Church Hall.

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.



Come Share Your Christmas Spirit: Anyone willing to be part of the crew to decorate the Church for Christmas is invited to join on Friday, December 22nd starting at 1pm. All help will be welcome and appreciated. Please contact JoAnn Blum at 715-743-3987 or via email joannblum@tds.net if you would like to help or have any questions.



Our religious women and men offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

Mark Your Calendar
St. Mary's Parish Leadership Party
Friday, January 5, 2024
Benediction at 6:45pm

The invitations have been mailed. If you are a catechist, support staff, council or committee member, liturgical minister, choir member, or in another leadership role here at St. Mary's and did not receive an invitation, let us know at the parish office. We don't want to miss anyone. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 2nd so we can plan accordingly.



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.



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

Clark County Area Food Pantry & Resource Center is OPEN at 1031 Division St. Suite 4, Neillsville (across for the fairgrounds) – Hours of operation are Tuesdays 9am to 1 pm, Thursdays 1pm to 5pm or please feel free to call for an appointment at 715-743-2885.

Domestic Church Retreat - Save the Date

The next Domestic Church Retreat will be held April 13-14, 2024, at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Wisconsin Rapids. During the retreat, couples are invited to delve more deeply into the graces of their shared spiritual journey. The retreat's goal is to strengthen the couple's spousal union and lead them to experience complete harmony and joy in their marriage through simple formation and meaningful dialogue that intentionally places Christ in the center. To register and for more information, click this link:

<https://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

"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

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.

Winter Parking: The Pastoral Council strongly advises all people to park in the main parking lot during the winter months (November through April). Clearing of the snow from the back parking lot and the sidewalks to the north of the Church may not be complete prior to Mass. For you and your family's safety, please park in the main parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

