

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

*"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

Dear Family,

This is mine and Harley's Christmas card to all of you. Thank you so much for all the ways you have shown us your love over these past years. Thank you for your beautiful cards, heartfelt notes, and for your incredibly generous gifts!!! I am quite literally humbled and deeply thankful!!!...and so is Harley. 😊



May each of you and your families experience a profound sense of our Lord's presence in your hearts, homes, and lives, this Christmas and always. God bless and Mary keep you!



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Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

12:00am Midnight Mass: † Duane Peterson

10:00am Mass: † Tom Kren

Tuesday, December 26

Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † Ronnie Carl

Wednesday, December 27

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Duane Peterson

Thursday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Allen Mohr

Friday, December 29 – Office Closed

Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Deceased members of the Grotta & Stein Families

Saturday, December 30 – Incense Free

8:00am Mass: † Ed, Mary and Lawrence Prem

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Mark Lezotte

6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal – Mindy Schoengarth & Riley Geiger

Sunday, December 31

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family

9:45am Confession

10:30am Mass: † Jana Snyder

1:00pm Wedding – Mindy Schoengarth & Riley Geiger

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
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 16-17, 2023

Tithe	\$4,468.00
Student	2.20
Offertory	599.66
Immaculate Conception	15.00
Christmas	475.00
Christmas Flowers	105.00
CCD Tuition	50.00
Total	\$5,714.86

Weekly Budget

\$5,600.00

Building Fund	\$10.00
Uganda Student Sponsorship	\$2,200.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday December 30-31

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> Delores Schmitt	<u>8:00am</u> Jack Hammond	<u>10:30am</u> Phyllis Carney
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Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u> Andrew Hoerer Adam Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Joseph Roehl Veronica Roehl Peter Rosno	<u>10:30am</u> Henry Schoen Nathaniel Schoen Hayden Poeschel
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Cantor

10:30am
Jody & Judy Conner

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> Russ & Annie Augustine	<u>8:00am</u> Dr. Gregory & Linda Foster	<u>10:30am</u> Kathy Nicks
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Proverbial Wisdom

A [thankful] heart is the health of the body,
But a [greedy] spirit dries up the bones.

--See Prov 17:22

Parish Announcements



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

Monday December 25, 2023
Midnight and 10:00am

Carols will be sung 15 minutes prior to each Mass



Please note that January 1, 2024 is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Mass will be celebrated though Monday January 1, 2024 at 12:10pm.

Birthday Cards for Jesus and Crib Prayer – If your child has made a birthday card for Jesus please see the box by the manger. Also feel free to take a Christmas Crib Prayer that is located by the manger. Merry Christmas!

Office Hours for December 24th thru January 1st – The week of December 24th the office will be open Tuesday thru Thursday from 9am to 4pm. Closed on Friday December 29th. The bulletin announcement deadline for the week is 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.

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.

The 2024 Usher Schedules have been emailed or sent in the mail. Please contact the Parish office if you need one sent to you.



Please consider signing up for First Friday Adoration now known as First Friday Adoration and Devotions, which is Friday January 5th, starting with Mass at 7am with Adoration from 7:30am until 7pm. Please come spend some time with Jesus.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



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

This week's at home lesson

Third week of December – The Holy Family and Epiphany – The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children, the family reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian Family has an evangelizing and missionary task.

* In God's great plan and by His divine design, we have a perfect Holy Family to follow as an example. Joseph was the head of the family and was a holy and humble man who was very obedient to God. Mary was also obedient to God and served God and her family in holiness. Joseph and Mary were undivided in their commitment to each other as husband and wife. *The first and primary duty of a child is to grow in holiness. The family can be considered the first school of holiness.

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.

*Next Faith Formation meeting is Jan 3rd at 6pm. Dinner served before lesson at 5:00 pm.

PCCW Potluck and Christmas Party

There will be a PCCW potluck and Christmas party, Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 6:30pm. If possible, please attend Mass and pray for the PCCW that God will continue to bless everyone; bring a dish to pass and join your friends at the Christmas Party. This is also the time that we "Shower the Elizabeth Ministry Program" by bringing an item for use in the Elizabeth Ministry Baskets that are given to the newly baptized babies. Items may include clothing (12-month size or larger), religious articles, shawls or small blankets and/or child proof, safe toys with no removable decorations. Gianna Kuhn will be attending and sharing her experiences at World Youth Day in Portugal. An open invitation is offered to all to attend.

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.



"Thank you to the PCCW for the generous donation for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The price of yarn has gone up just like everything else. If you or someone you know would like to make prayer shawls please contact me at 715-486-6674 and I can answer any questions and donate money to help defray the cost of making this precious gift to those in need of prayer and comfort." God Bless, Gretchen Fitzmaurice



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.

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/>

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2023-2024

2023-2024 Assessment: \$45,050.00

As of December 19, 2023 \$9,555.00

Parishioner participation: 9%

Please prayerfully discern your pledge and return your pledge 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.



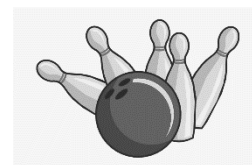
"the Answer" Eucharistic Rally: We are very excited to announce "the Answer" Eucharistic Rally that will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the six days that the Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

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/> or scan the QR code above.

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.



Harrington Family Benefit

14-year-old Alexis was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in mid November. Her father, Andrew has recently become paralyzed with a spinal cord contusion.

There will be a benefit for the family Sunday January 21st at Strike Time Lanes in Neillsville. There is cosmic/moonlight 9 pin-tap bowling \$20 a person. 1st shift – registration at noon, 12:30 bowling, 2nd shift – 3pm registration, 3:30pm bowling. There will be a raffle, silent auction and a live auction at 6pm. Drop off baskets, silent auction items, monetary donations, at Citizens State Bank of Loyal or Gross Motors. For pick up call Marcia at 715-797-4335, Jayne at 715-937-1505 or Derek at 715-937-3908. Thank you for your support.

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.