

## December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:33-37

*"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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#### **Confession – Part II**

Dear Family,

Continuing our discussion on the Sacrament of Confession as we continue through Advent, following is the second and last part of the article from our Diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization entitled, "Encounter Christ in the Sacrament".



*In the second place, [confession] reminds us that only if we allow ourselves to be reconciled in the Lord Jesus with the Father and with our brothers, can we really be in peace. And we all have heard this in our heart when we go to confession, with a weight in the soul, a bit of sadness; but when we receive the forgiveness of Jesus we are in peace, with that peace of the soul that is so beautiful that only Jesus can*

*give, only Him.*

*It is not enough to ask forgiveness from the Lord in our own mind and heart, but it is necessary to confess one's sins humbly and confidently to the minister of the Church...Even from a human point of view, to vent, it is good to talk with a priest about these things that weigh heavily in my heart. DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION!*

*When one is in line to confess, they feel these things, even shame; but then when Confession is ended, they feel free, great, beautiful, forgiveness, white (clean), happy. And this is the beauty of Confession!*

*I would like to ask you to respond in your heart: when was the last time you confessed? Has it been two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? Go; the priest will be good. Jesus is there. Jesus receives you; He receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession!*

One last thought...Please know that when you go to confession to a priest you are fulfilling our Lord's own plan for our peace. Remember He said to the first priests on the day of His Resurrection, "Whose sins you forgive they are forgiven them..." (Jn 20:23). If Jesus didn't intend for us to go to a priest to have our sins forgiven, it would make no sense for Him to have said that. Trust me when I tell you, from personal experience, it makes all the difference in the world to go to sacramental confession.

If you haven't gone to confession yet this Advent, please refer to last week's insert for a good examination of conscience that will help you make a truly good confession. Pray to the Holy Spirit to help you know your sins and then go into the sacrament with great trust saying, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

God bless and Mary keep you this Advent and throughout the Christmas season.

## Weekly Calendar

### **Monday, December 4 – No Mass – Office Closed**

*Memorial of Saint John Damascene, priest and doctor of the Church*

6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

### **Tuesday, December 5**

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: †Quentin Hagen

### **Wednesday, December 6**

*Memorial of Saint Nicholas, bishop*

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Mary Charlton

5:00pm Family meal for religious education families

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

7:00pm CCD – Grades 7-12

### **Thursday, December 7**

*Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church*

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Duane Peterson

9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall

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

### **Friday, December 8 – Holy Day of Obligation**

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

12:10pm Mass: † LaVerne Schmitt

5:45pm Vespers

6:00pm Mass: † Ed, Mary and Lawrence Prem

7:00pm Parish Family Potluck to celebrate the Solemnity – Church Hall

### **Saturday, December 9 – Incense Free**

*Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*

8:00am Mass: † Connie Stowe

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Daniel Walter

### **Sunday, December 10**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Janet Meier and Betty Bohman

9:45am Confession

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

4:00pm House of Mercy Fundraiser – Church Hall

## 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**  
**Elizabeth Ministry**  
**Holy Matrimony** Renee Schoen – 715.743.4059  
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

**November 25-26, 2023**

Tithe	\$3,502.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	479.11
Christmas Flowers	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,988.36</b>

### **Weekly Budget**

**\$5,600.00**

Building Fund

\$200.00

## Liturgical Ministries

**Saturday-Sunday December 9-10**

### Lectors

5:00pm  
Larry Hoeser

8:00am  
Rogene  
Matuszak

10:30am  
Sherry Hickey

### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

5:00pm  
Jared Thomas

8:00am  
Gregory Foster

10:30am  
Bob Barth

### Altar Servers

5:00pm  
Andrew Hoeser  
Adam Hoeser

8:00am  
Brody Swita  
Kennedy Kren  
Landon  
Schoen

10:30am  
Theodora  
Hannasch  
Corbin Wirkuty  
Gregory Lehn

### Cantor

10:30am  
Jody and Judy  
Conner

### Ushers for December

5:00pm  
Al Durst  
Richard Hagen  
Cindy Hoeser  
Larry Nauertz

8:00am  
Robert Bautch  
James Boyer  
Walter  
Domaszek  
Russell  
Pagenkopf

10:30am  
Byrne Family

### Rosary Leader

5:00pm  
Mary Hartung

8:00am  
Wayne  
Thomas

10:30am  
Phyllis Carney

### Proverbial Wisdom

A good name is ore desirable than great riches  
And high esteem, than gold or silver.  
--Prov 22:1

## Parish Announcements

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Mass Times - Friday December 8 12:10pm and 6pm**  
**with Vespers at 5:45pm**  
**There will not be a Daily Mass that day at 8am**

**Happy Feast Day St. Mary's Parish** – After the 6pm Mass on Friday December 8th there will be a Potluck. Bring your favorite dish to pass and join in the Solemnity. What better way to observe the Holy Day of Obligation!



Please welcome to our parish family, Madelyne Joyce. Parents are Joshua and Wendy Polzin. Madelyne was baptized on Saturday November 25th. Congratulations!

### **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**



The next Family Formation parent and student meeting will be Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 pm to 5:50pm for the meal and 6 pm for classes.

### **December 6th Family Formation/CCD Meal Menu:**

Taco Night! All the fixings to make soft shells, corn chip taco salads, or loaded nachos! Also serving a variety of desserts along with white and chocolate milk. Serving from 5-6:30p.m. to accommodate middle and high school students.

Please sign up on the sheet in the carport vestibule if you can bring a treat to share with the meal on Wednesday, December 6.

### **This week's at home lesson**

– Advent Activities "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:7-8

\*Advent is preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

\*The best way to prepare during advent is praying. Set aside some time for prayer and reading scripture. Ask God to show you what His plans are for your family this Advent.

### **Memory item:**

**Grades K-3:** "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."~ Matthew 25:35

**Grades 4-6:** The Corporal Works of Mercy: Feed the Hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Shelter the homeless. Clothe the naked. Visit the sick. Visit the imprisoned. Bury the dead. (See Matthew 25:31-46 and CCC 2447)

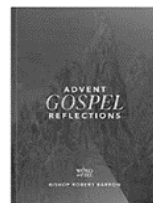
\***Next Faith Formation meeting** - Dec. 6 at 6pm. Dinner served before lesson at 5pm.

### **\*Immaculate Conception- Holy Day of Obligation**

Mass at 12:10pm, Vespers at 5:45pm with Mass to follow at 6pm December 8, 2023.

### **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.



The book by Bishop Barron, "Advent Gospel Reflections" is back in stock and available in the carport vestibule.



**You can help.** Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order Priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

**PCCW Meeting** - There will be a PCCW Meeting, Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Ladies, if possible please attend Mass and pray for the PCCW: then join your fellow members for a very interesting presentation and short business meeting. Guest speakers will be Earl and Jennifer Elmhurst, who will share their inspiring journey to becoming members of the Catholic Faith and St. Mary's Parish Family. A short business meeting will follow the Elmhurst's presentation with decision as to the donation of the proceeds from the Hunters' Bake Sale. Members are encouraged to give some serious thought as to where the proceeds should be donated and come to the meeting to share their idea/ideas. Light refreshments will be offered.

**Hunters' Bake Sale:** Thank you to all who helped make the Hunters' Bake Sale so successful. We appreciate the donations of food, monetary donations and work that was done in set-up and sales. The final total of proceeds will be announced at the PCCW Meeting, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Anyone unable to donate thus far may make a monetary donation by putting it in an envelope, marking it "Bake Sale" and depositing it in the collection basket at Mass. The proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause or causes.



**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.



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](http://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](mailto: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.

**House of Mercy 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser** – House of Mercy is having it's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary Parish Neillsville. 4:30pm gathering, 5pm dinner. They will be serving a chicken dinner catered by Schmitty's on Main - \$20 a ticket. The Neillsville Show Choir will be performing at 5:30pm. Randy Reineck will be auctioning off some delicious baked goods too!! Join the fun and support the House of Mercy.

**Community Christmas Concert** – There will be a Community Christmas Concert at St. Michael Parish Hall in Junction City on December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

