



## February 11, 2024 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46  
1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1  
Mark 1:40-45

*"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

#### LENTEN GAME PLAN

Dear Family,

Lent is upon us this Wednesday. The Super Bowl is upon us today. As the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers prepare for the world championship of football, each team is looking to the coaching staff to provide for them a winning game plan, based on the opponent's strengths and weaknesses. They expect nothing less! After all, what awaits the victor is the title WORLD CHAMPION!

Lent is our time of battle in which we wage war on the Enemy. This battle, even more than that of the Super Bowl, requires a game plan, for there is an eternal reward. After all, what awaits us as victor is the title of ETERNAL CHAMPION better known as SAINT!

So, from the National Catholic Register, here's a guide for your game plan. Each of us needs to tailor this plan to our own individual situation based on what we know about ourselves.

1. Sacrifice Big – Make personal sacrifices that really mean something to you! Only in stretching ourselves can we grow. There must be some discomfort or else there will be no progress. As the sayings go, No pain, no gain; no cross, no crown; no gall, no glory! It's just true!
2. Don't sacrifice too big – The ancient philosopher, Socrates said, "'Tis great wisdom to know thyself". Know the boundaries between discomfort which strengthens and pain which weakens. Also, don't set yourself up for failure. Begin slowing but be certain to progress and intensify!
3. Mortify yourself – As the NCR article says, "Every single saint practiced some form of mortification. You and I need to as well! Though there may be no sin and not practicing some mortification, there is also no progress when we don't.
4. Fast – Again, the article says, "Every single saint fasted" which makes us realize that we do not live by bread alone. We learn the difference between what we want and what we need. And God provides for all of our needs. In this we grow in trust of Him.
5. No feasting – On Sundays during Lent it is permissible and, I would argue, even advisable, to exit from your Lenten discipline for that day. However, one should not become a glutton through overindulgence in the very things that one gave up. Also, I find it more difficult to renew the discipline after having taken that Lord's Day break, which adds to the benefit of the Lenten sacrifice.
6. Pray – Have a clear prayer plan that is greater than your prayer regiment throughout the rest of the year. Lent isn't only about giving up things, it's about adding to the good that one does. In this case, it is adding more time in personal relationship with God. Without prayer, without God, we can do nothing!
7. Reach out – Remember, the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and *almsgiving*. Challenge yourself to be more generous than you normally are. It may not be with money, but even more impactful on all involved would our increased generosity in time serving others. Refer to the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy for ideas.

Lent is our opportunity for life-long change and to more fully commit to living the life of a saint. After all, for every saint, named and unnamed, awaits the title, ETERNAL CHAMPION! God bless and Mary keep you!



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## Weekly Calendar

### **Monday, February 12 – No Mass - Office Closed**

6:30pm Choir Practice

### **Tuesday, February 13**

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † Tom Kren

### **Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday**

12:10pm Mass: † Quentin Hagen and  
Ted & Ella Dux

7:00pm Mass: † Roland Schoen

### **Thursday, February 15**

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Marjorie Hainz Becker

6:00pm Finance Council Meeting – Parish  
Office

6:00pm Lenten Small Group Series – Parish  
Office

### **Friday, February 16**

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Elsie Fliss

6:00pm Soup & Stations – Church Hall

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday, February 17 – Incense Free**

*Memorial of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite  
Order*

8:00am Mass: Healing for Evan Stemper

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Clarence & Rosalie Becker

### **Sunday, February 18**

*First Sunday of Lent*

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Ivan & Gertrude Durst and  
Anne Durst

9:45am Confession

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

11:30 am Baptism – Grant Donnerbauer

## 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

**February 3-4, 2024**

Tithe	\$3,102.00
Student	1.75
Offertory	589.30
Fuel Offering	100.00
Catholic Times	140.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,933.05</b>

**Weekly Budget** **\$5,600.00**

Green Envelope Fund \$395.00

## Liturgical Ministries

**Saturday-Sunday February 17-18**

### Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Delores Schmitt	<u>8:00am</u> Rick Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Sherry Hickey
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### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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### Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u> Andrew Hoesser Adam Hoesser	<u>8:00am</u> Brody Swita Landon Schoen	<u>10:30am</u> Theodora Hannasch Kennedy Kren
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### Cantor

10:30am  
Jody & Judy  
Conner

### Ushers for February

<u>5:00pm</u> Brent Ahlgren Al Durst Gary Nauertz Mary Nauertz	<u>8:00am</u> David Bohac Walter Domaszek John Langton Sandy Mayer	<u>10:30am</u> Byrne Family
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### Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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## Proverbial Wisdom

“Take away the Supernatural,  
and what remains is the unnatural.”  
--GK Chesterton

## Parish Announcements

Friendly  
Reminder

There is a Finance Council Meeting  
Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the  
Parish Office.

### Ash Wednesday Mass Times 2024

Lent begins February 14, 2024 with Ash Wednesday  
The Mass times are 12:10pm and 7pm

### Liturgical Ministries

### Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024

#### Lector

#### 12:10pm

Judy Conner

#### 7pm

Dr. Gregory Foster

### Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Jack Hammond

Donna Opelt

#### Servers

Steven & Gregory Lehn

Colton, Carter & Clayton  
Hannasch



## STATIONS of the CROSS

### **The Stations of the Cross will be available as follows:**

- Wednesdays starting February 21<sup>st</sup> and every Wednesday to follow thru Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Fridays starting February 16<sup>th</sup> and every Friday to follow thru Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**All Stations of the Cross will start at 7pm**

**SOUP and STATIONS:** A beautiful Lenten devotion is walking the passion of Christ through praying the Stations of the Cross. We invite everyone in our parish family to gather every Friday during Lent, starting February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Church Hall to enjoy a simple soup supper. If you would like to help prepare the meal, bake bread or help cleanup, there is a sign up in the carport. Childcare will be provided during the 15-minute presentation. Following the meal, we will all go up into the Church to pray the stations together.



### **\*\*LAST WEEKEND!\*\***

### **The Annual Soup-er Bowl Soup Can Collection Challenge**

- The local Churches in Neillsville are having a Soup Can collection to help keep the Food Pantry stocked. The Church with the most collected soup cans will have bragging rights. The collection will run through Super Bowl Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a display in the Narthex for you to drop off your cans. Kick off the new year by helping those in need. Thank you! *(Food pantry soups will be added to this collection also)*

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### Faith Formation News



### Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>

Family Formation families are encouraged to attend Mass with their family. There will be a 12:10pm and 7pm Mass ON February 14<sup>th</sup>.

CCD students in grades 7-12 will attend Mass at 7pm instead of the classroom time. Please have them come 10 minutes ahead of Mass so attendance can be taken in the Narthex. They may sit with their family after checking in with their catechist for attendance. Of course, they may sit with their class as well. (If they go to the 12:10pm Mass, please kindly let us know at the office for attendance recording).

### Family Formation

### This week's at home lesson

### First week in February-Lenten Activities

**First week in February-Lenten Activities-** Lent is our annual reminder that we have probably strayed from our love of Jesus in some way and He is lovingly extending His mercy and inviting us to return.

\*Lent is 40 days long after Jesus' own 40 days in the desert. We have 3 traditional practices we use during Lent: Fasting, Almsgiving, Prayer.

\* Before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we should pray and plan the things we will do in order to grow spiritually and be closer to God.

### **Memory item:**

**Grades K-3:** "By His stripes we were healed." Isaiah 53:3

**Grades 4-6:** *The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: 1- The Agony in the Garden, 2- The Scourging at the Pillar, 3-The Crowning with Thorns, 4- The Carrying of the Cross, 5- The Crucifixion*

\* February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. Mass Times are 12:10pm and 7:00pm on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Diocesan Annual Appeal**

**2023-2024 Assessment**

**\$45,050.00**

**As of February 8, 2024**

**\$20,950.00**

**Parishioner participation: 22%**

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.

## Encounter Jesus!

### Join Us in a Lenten Small Group Series

Lent calls us to deepen our relationship with Jesus. One of the best ways to do this is with a group of like-minded Catholics. We develop strong friendships in Christ as we walk with others who are also seeking to grow closer to God. With this in mind, you are invited to participate in *Jesus and the Eucharist*, a seven-week series that is beautiful, compelling and presented in a way that is understandable for people at all levels of faith. The sessions incorporate well known presenters like Chris Stefanick, and short personal testimonies. There is no better time to get involved in this small-group series than this Lent. Catholics all over the country will be participating in it as part of the Eucharistic Revival. When: Thursdays at 6pm in the church office. If you can't make all 7 sessions, please come to those you are able to as it is not necessary to see anyone to follow the other sessions. Contact Judy Conner at [cre@stmaryneillsville.org](mailto:cre@stmaryneillsville.org) or call the office at 715-743-3840 if you would like to take this journey during lent.



### Parish Lenten Mission

Jesse Romero will be offering a talk entitled *What is Authentic Eucharistic Revival* on Wednesday, February 21, beginning at 7pm at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Marshfield. Jesse is a bilingual Catholic Lay Evangelist who is nationally acclaimed for his dynamic, upbeat, Christ centered preaching. His preaching apostolate is "On Fire Evangelization." Jesse has been on Catholic radio for over 15 years, currently on [virginmostpowerfulradio.org](http://virginmostpowerfulradio.org) hosting "The Terry and Jesse Show," and "Jesus 911." Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

**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, go to: <https://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

**Women's Lenten Retreat** - Are you struggling to carve time for spiritual enrichment? Join the Women's annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse. The FREE event starts with 8 am Mass followed by Rosary & Adoration. Hospitality in the Undercroft (lower level) and presentations will follow. In this time of Eucharistic Revival, the theme is *FAITH & THE REAL PRESENCE: Recognizing Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread*. This event is sponsored by the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Women and Catholic Daughters of America. All are welcome!



**"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.



Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Project Rachel Ministry offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608.860.6698 or email [projectrachel@diolc.org](mailto:projectrachel@diolc.org).

## Area Events

### **Knights of Columbus Trinity Council #10774 Fish Dinner**

The Knights of Columbus Trinity Council #10774 at St. Raymond of Penafort Church, in Fall Creek, will be having a Fish Dinner Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm. Carry-outs are available call 715-877-3400. They will be serving deep fried & baked cod loins, coleslaw, dessert, famous bread pudding, au gratin potatoes, french fries, green beans, baked beans, milk & coffee. 3 pc. Dinner \$15, 2 pc. Dinner \$13, ages 6-11 \$7.

**60<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner** – St. Mary's Parish, Greenwood is having their Drive thru only 60<sup>th</sup> annual turkey dinner Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> in the St. Mary's School Hall. Serving from 11am to 1pm. Cost is \$14. Sponsored by Holy Name Society, Greenwood.

**Melody Gardens Skateland** - There will be a *Christian Music Skate* on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Admission is \$3.00 and a \$1.00 skate rent. Families and groups welcome.

**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 [julieeastud@gmail.com](mailto:julieeastud@gmail.com)