

February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

*"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,

Over the last couple of weeks, I have received some inquiries regarding Lent. So, here are those with a couple more from the USCCB.

Q. Why do we say there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the "forty day fast within Lent." Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole Time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Q. I understand that all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat, but I'm not sure what is classified as meat. Does meat include chicken and dairy products?

A. Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs --- all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products (except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs, which do not have any meat taste). Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

Q. I've noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don't feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.

A. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

Q. I understand that Catholics ages 18 to 59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?

A. Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

Q. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

A. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting. God bless and Mary keep you and give you a good Lent.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, February 19 – No Mass - Office Closed

6:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 20

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Mass: † Maureen Meier
7:15pm Knights of Columbus Meeting – Church Hall

Wednesday, February 21

Memorial of Saint Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the Church

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration
7:00am Mass: † Dr. John Foster
7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12
7:00pm Stations of the Cross: Knights of Columbus

Thursday, February 22

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Pat Mrotek
9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall
10:00am Mass: Neillsville Retirement Center
6:00pm Jesus & the Eucharist Study – Parish Office

Friday, February 23

Memorial of Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Tom Kren
6:00pm Soup & Stations – Church Hall
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24 – Incense Free

8:00am Mass: † Tom Woods
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Barbara Siebert

Sunday, February 25

Second Sunday of Lent

7:00am Confession
8:00am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family
9:45am Confession
10:30am Mass: † Louis Kessler

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 10-11, 2024

Tithe	\$5,300.00
Student	2.05
Offertory	447.00
Fuel Offering	1,067.00
Ash Wednesday	65.00
Total	\$6,881.05

Weekly Budget **\$5,600.00**

Green Envelope Fund	\$180.00
Uganda Mission	\$555.00
Student Sponsorship – Uganda	\$400.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday February 24-25

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<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> Cindy Hoerer	<u>8:00am</u> Dr. Gregory Foster	<u>10:30am</u> Phyllis Carney
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Altar Servers

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

<u>10:30am</u> Renee Schoen Kathy Nicks

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> Jared Thomas	<u>8:00am</u> Jack & Theresa Hammond	<u>10:30am</u> Kathy Nicks
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Proverbial Wisdom

"What embitters the world is not excess of criticism, but an absence of self-criticism."
--GK Chesterton: "On Bright Old Things and Other Things,"
Sidelights on New London and Newer New York

Parish Announcements



The Stations of the Cross will be available as follows:

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

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 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.



Family Life Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, March 3, 2024
Serving 8am to 12:30pm**

Menu will include buttermilk, blueberry and potato pancakes, sausage, applesauce, cheese, coffee, milk, juice & breakfast bars. Free will offering! **Proceeds will support interested Youth attend "The Answer" Eucharistic Rally in La Crosse on June 7, 2024.** Catholic Financial Life will be matching funds.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the pancake breakfast, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.



To prepare for the October 2024 Synod Assembly in Rome, the Synod Secretariat has requested further documentation from each bishop's conference. The US Synod Team is asking each diocese to compile the results of continued consultation from members of the diocese, especially from voices that may not have been heard in earlier stages of the Synod. This "interim phase" consultation is focused primarily on the Church's structures and organization. The Church values your feedback regarding how Church structures and organization further or hinder the Church's mission and how such structures can help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel. Please take some time to offer prayerful consultation using the online questionnaire found at <https://forms.office.com/r/SVPGxJChAv>. Responses must be received by March 20, 2024. Thank you for your participation.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



Family Formation

This week's at home lesson Second Week of February

God's Covenant with Noah- God made an everlasting covenant with Noah and all living beings. It will remain in force as long as the world lasts.-CCC 71

* When God makes a promise, we NEVER have to worry about the unexpected getting in the way and stopping Him from keeping the promise, as can happen with humans in our life.

*The Bible has promises for us wrapped up, waiting for us to open them and make them a part of our lives. The promises God makes in the Bible are for us today. If you are afraid of the dark in your room at night, you can read Proverbs 3:24- *"When you lie down, you need not be afraid, when you rest, your sleep will be sweet."*

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*

Knights of Columbus News

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting Tuesday February 21st starting with the Rosary at 7:15pm. All Knight members are encouraged to attend. There will be discussion on the Chili Feed that is planned in March.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2023-2024 Assessment

\$45,050.00

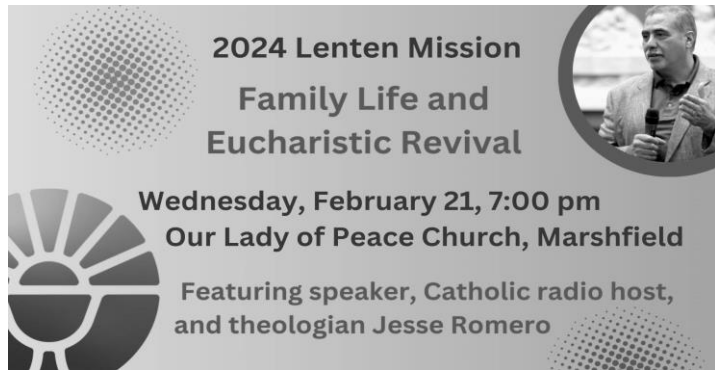
As of February 15, 2024

\$21,100.00

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.





2024 Lenten Mission
Family Life and
Eucharistic Revival

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 pm
Our Lady of Peace Church, Marshfield

Featuring speaker, Catholic radio host,
 and theologian Jesse Romero



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.



“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.

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/>

A Catholic Women's Retreat – Embracing Your Call to Holiness-- Saturday March 9th at St. James the Greater 2502 11th St. Eau Claire, WI from 8am to 4pm. An uplifting one-day retreat featuring Melanie Frei, a former Protestant Missionary now Catholic and a leader in the Council of Catholic Women along with Fr. Timothy Wells who will share inspiring presentations in story, song and testimony which will help attendees to learn more about Mary and her influence on our daily lives. Attendees will also enjoy an elegant lunch as part of the retreat, Informational flyers and registration form are in the carport.

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Biennial Convention – The convention is a one-day event on April 13, 2024 at the Radisson Hotel 200 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI. The convention will start at 9:30am and run until 4:30pm. Guest speaker is Abby Johnson former Planned Parenthood Director and the author of Unplanned (Movie Unplanned) Tickets will sell quickly! Go to www.ldccw.org now to register and get more details. **Deadline for registration is March 10th.** \$65 per person. There is a small block of rooms available if there is lodging needed. Contact the Radisson Hotel for reservation.

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

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 23rd 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.

Saint Patrick Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Our Lady of Peace Parish Action Council is hosting its annual St. Patrick Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Saturday March 9th beginning at 5pm. The cost is \$15, all dinners must be reserved and prepaid by February 29th. Click on the icon at olmarshfield.com to reserve your dinners, where credit and debit cards are accepted. If you do not have a computer, please call the Our Lady of Peace office at 715-384-9414, option 2 to make arrangements.

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Christ the King Parish in Spencer is having their pancake breakfast Sunday March 10th from 8am until Noon. Adults \$10, Students \$5 and Pre-school is FREE. Will be serving pancakes, potato pancakes, real maple syrup, eggs, ham, sausage, cheese curds, applesauce & coffee, milk & juice. Carry outs are available. Sponsored by Holy Name Society.