

January 14, 2024 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

*"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

The Art of Fasting

Dear Family,

It's hard to believe that Lent is only a month away because the Christmas season just ended Monday. Nonetheless, it's time to start preparing for spiritual "training camp", better known as Lent, which is training for Easter.

First let's remember our Lady's words telling us that with prayer we can ask God for anything, but with prayer and fasting we can ask God for the impossible. Who among us does not have some concerns about which we need to pray? Some of them can be very large, pressing concerns while others are less troubling. No matter how large or small your concerns are, they are real and God wants to be with you in the midst of them. There certainly is no shortage these days of intentions for which we need to pray.

God hears all our prayers. But when we accompany our prayers with fasting, our fasting, in a sense, amplifies our prayer. Fr. Rocky used this image on Relevant Radio (93.9 FM) last week. I thought it was very effective. God already knows what we need even before we ask Him and He hears our prayers. But when we fast, it's as if we are crying out loudly, "No, Lord, this is soooooo important for me."

Therefore, beginning with the First Friday of February and each one thereafter, I invite you to join me in making that day a day of prayer and fasting. By way of suggestion, I invite you to adopt a person or persons on the prayer list in the bulletin for whom to offer your prayer and fasting. Add them to your other prayer intentions. Offering a rosary or Chaplet of Divine Mercy to accompany your fasting, I believe will bear incredible fruit. I think we're going to seem miracles in many different forms.

So, the question becomes, "How do I fast?" "Do I have to go without food all day?" Fasting is not only done through avoidance of food. Fasting is done when one forgoes something that is good, offering it for a greater good. Fasting isn't so much about the severity of the sacrifice – although this can be beneficial – as much as it is about the love of the heart with which the sacrifice is offered. Each person's fasting can take on quite different forms and levels of severity with just as great an effect so long as your fast is done from a heartfelt intention of love for another. So, by way of example, one can give up food for an entire day while at the same time another can give up sugar in their coffee. Each are equally a good fast as long as they are done with equal love of another. Often times a good penance is to simply follow what we do during Lent on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, i.e. one moderate meal for the day.

Again, the key is love, not necessarily severity. In whatever manner you think God is calling you to fast, do so with love and you will, in time, see God's power unleashed. As Jesus tells us in Mark's Gospel, "some evils can only be cast out with prayer and fasting" (Mk 9:29)

Let's keep praying for one another! You are in my prayers every day. God bless and Mary keep you.



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Weekly Calendar

Monday, January 15 – No Mass - Office Closed

6:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 17

Memorial of Saint Anthony, abbot

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration
7:00am Mass: † Mark Lezotte
6:30pm Catechist In-service – Church Hall

Thursday, January 18

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Bella Mazola
6:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting – Parish Office

Friday, January 19

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Roger Ingold

Saturday, January 20 – Incense Free

Memorials of Saint Fabian, pope and martyr and Saint Sebastian, martyr

8:00am Mass: † Clarence & Rosalie Becker
9:00am First Reconciliation for 2nd Graders
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Ed, Mary and Lawrence Prem

Sunday, January 21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

January 6-7, 2024

Tithe	\$4,825.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	432.00
Christmas	20.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Solemnity of Mary	390.00
Easter Flowers	10.00
Catholic Times	20.00
CCD Donation	20.00
Fuel Offering	50.00
Bazaar & Dinner	50.00
Total	\$5,829.25

Weekly Budget **\$5,600.00**

Building Fund	\$165.00
Uganda Student Sponsorship	\$1,000.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday January 20-21

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Jeanne Strey	Rick Kuhn	Sherry Hickey

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Delores Schmitt	Donna Opelt	Gary Veltus

Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Andrew Hoesser	Brody Swita	Hayden Poeschel
Adam Hoesser	Landon Schoen	Corbin Wirkuty

Cantor

<u>10:30am</u>
JoAnn Blum
Rose Marie
LaBarbera

Ushers for January

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Richard Hagen	Clinton	Larry Kyle
Al Spaete	Hannasch	Kevin Schoen
Doug Spaete	Cody Kallian	Dan Schreiner
Jim Zschernitz	Kent Luedtke	Tom Silbernagel
	Rodney Schoen	

Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Larry Hoesser	Jack & Theresa	Gary Veltus
	Hammond	

Proverbial Wisdom

He who ignores instruction despises himself, but he who heeds admonition gains understanding.

—Prov 15:32

Parish Announcements

Father Greg will be on Retreat starting January 22nd thru January 30th. There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or daily Masses starting Tuesday January 23th thru Tuesday January 30th. Masses will be celebrated at their regular times on Saturday and Sunday January 27th and 28th.

There is a Pastoral Council Meeting Thursday January 18th at 6:30pm in the Parish Office



Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day. You can sign-up under the Mass that you attend regularly. Please consider helping those in need.

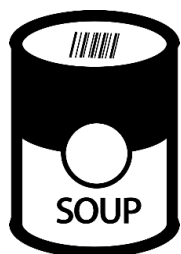
St Mary's First Responder Ministry - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal 6:2 The Family Life Commission has formed a First Responder ministry who are looking for new members. This ministry, made up of parish volunteers, would respond early and expediently to catastrophic events within our parish family as well as the local and surrounding community. Anyone wishing to be a part of this important ministry should contact Mary Luedtke at 715-937-5054. Contact the Parish Office or Mary Luedtke as soon as you become aware of a situation.



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 2023.

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 11th. 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*)

Knights of Columbus News

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting Tuesday January 16th starting with the Rosary at 7:15pm. All Knight members are encouraged to attend.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



Parents of 2nd graders: First Reconciliation will be held on January 20th from 10-12 pm with a luncheon to follow.

NO CCD on January 17th for grades 7-12. There will be a catechist in-service that evening.

This week's at home lesson

Second week in January- *The Call of Samuel*-The story of Samuel tells us that God has a special job for you, just as he did for Samuel.

Tell the Lord: "Speak, Lord. I'm listening." Will you listen to his call?

What call is He giving to you? What does He want you to do? How do you find out? How do you know what God is calling you to do? Pray to Him. Ask Him. Listen to what He is saying in your heart and in your mind. Then obey Him.

God spoke to Samuel in an audible voice, but it is more likely He will speak to you in other ways. God can speak through your well-formed conscience, through reading Sacred Scripture, and through the wise advice of your parents, priests and teachers, among other ways. God will always tell you to follow the Commandments, He will always tell you to follow Jesus' loving example, and He will always give you the grace to make the right decisions if you want to cooperate with His will.

Memory item:

Grades K-3: "Speak, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:9

Grades 4-6: Family Vocation Prayer: *Oh God, We earnestly ask You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters who will love You with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Your Church and to make You known and loved. Bless our families, bless your children. Choose from our homes those needed for Your work. Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us, pray for our priests and religious, obtain for us many more. Amen.*



Come and hear Patrick Conley, (who is a host on Relevant Radio's programs *The Inner Life* and *Practicing Catholic*) on January 17 at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Church in the parish hall. He will share with catechists and anyone interested the *Thresholds of Conversion*, taken from the book *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell. These thresholds serve as a helpful guide in accompanying others in their journeys of faith. Patrick Conley lives in Thorp and holds a degree in theology. He currently serves as the DRE of St. Bernard-St Hedwig in Thorp and as the 3rd-8th grade Religion teacher at Thorp Catholic School. He is in formation for the permanent diaconate.



There will be a Bruce Mound Tubing Night for Grades 6-12 on Saturday, February 10th from 5-8 pm. This will be a fun night joining with our community's protestant brothers and sisters families for fun and laughter. Families will need to provide transportation for their children. Cost is \$10 per student. Please RSVP by Feb 2 to Judy Conner, CRE at cre@stmaryneillsville.org. Please submit payment to St. Mary Parish, drop it off at the office or put it in an envelope with your name on it and put it in the collection at Sunday Mass.



“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.

Chrism Mass Pilgrimage (Diocese of La Crosse). One of the most beautiful rites of the Catholic Church is the Chrism Mass celebrated during Holy Week at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse (as well as all Diocese throughout the world). The Bishop concelebrates the Mass with all the priests during which he consecrates the sacred Chrism for Baptisms and blesses the other oils which will be used by each Parish throughout the coming year for Confirmations and Anointing's. A bus is being planned to take parishioners of St. Mary's **Tuesday, Marsh 26** to witness and partake in this most sacred rite. More information to follow. If interested or have question, contact Mary Luedtke at 715-937-5054.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2023-2024 Assessment

\$45,050.00

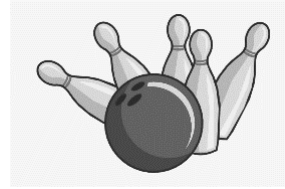
As of January 11, 2024

\$16,900.00

Parishioner participation: 19%

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.

Area Events



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.

Melody Gardens Skateland - There will be a *Christian Music Skate* on Saturday, January 26, 2024 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Admission is \$3.00 and a \$1.00 skate rent. Families and groups welcome.

Pancake Breakfast – Catholic Financial Life & St. Anthony Holy Name Society in Loyal are having a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 28th from 8am to 12:30pm. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for ages 5-12, preschoolers are free. They will be serving regular, blueberry and potato pacakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese curds and applesauce. Matching funds by Catholic Financial Lfe.

Pancake Breakfast – Celebrate Catholic Schools Week by attending a pancake breakfast at St. Joseph's Church in Boyd on Sunday Janauary 28 from 9:30am until 1pm. Adults are \$10, children 4-12 are \$8 and children 3 and under are free. They will be serving pancakes, strawberries, eggs and sausage links. Matching funds provided by Catholic Order of Foresters CT 1536. All funds will benefit the school.

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 Immacualte Heart of Mary Reparatrix. Mission Trip cost: \$2500. More info: contact Julie Studinski 715-340-4846 or julieastud@gmail.com

