

January 7, 2024 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

*"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



A PARISH OF THE
DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

Dear Family,

We just celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Although this year's celebration was not a holy day of obligation because it landed on a Monday, it should not diminish the importance of what the great feast celebrates.

How often have you and I heard someone who is either not Catholic or no longer practices their Catholic faith question the Church's doctrine of calling Mary the mother of God? For me it is not uncommon. If you are ever posed with this question, here are some of the biblical foundations for this Truth of the faith.

We begin with the promise of a savior in Genesis 3 when God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed." (Gen 3:15) What seed is hers? Jesus, of course, but also us. Therefore the enmity is the sinfulness you and I struggle against every day. Fast forward, now, to the birth of Jesus.

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a) Shortly after that, Mary visited Elizabeth and upon her arrival there Elizabeth said, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

Finally, the beginning of John's Gospel says, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (Jn 1:1,14)

These are some key texts but they are by no means exhaustive. So, here is what the scripture passages mean followed by a way to sum up the doctrine.

Human nature is what was damaged by the sin of Adam and Eve and that damage has been passed down through the ages up to and including you and me. This is the enmity spoken of in Genesis 3:15. And, since man does not have the power to redeem his own sinful human nature, God had to. So, God became one of us while remaining God in order to accomplish this. This is what John 1:1 and John 1:14 is talking about. Finally, when God became a man he did so by taking his human nature from Mary, and this is what Elizabeth's exclamation means – Mary is the Mother of her Lord who is God.

Now we can sum this up this way. Jesus is God and became a man while remaining God. Mary is the mother of Jesus, therefore, Mary is the mother of God.

I hope this is at least somewhat clear and helpful. Whether it is or it is not, I hope and pray you have a very blessed New Year. God bless and Mary the Mother of God keep you.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, January 8 – No Mass - Office Closed

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Choir Practice 6:30pm

Tuesday, January 9

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Mass: † Joe Langreck
6:30pm Sacred Worship Meeting

Wednesday, January 10

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration
7:00am Mass: † Clare Meier
6:00pm Family Formation for 2nd graders & their Parents
7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12
7:00pm Mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting
Church Hall

Thursday, January 11

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Parents of Leroy & Bernie
Lezotte
6:00pm Family Life Committee Meeting

Friday, January 12

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Al Mohr

Saturday, January 13 – Incense Free

Memorial of Saint Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church

8:00am Mass: † Helen & Ed McCluskey
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Maureen Meier

Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

December 30-31, 2023

Tithe	\$5447.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	589.00
Christmas	555.00
Solemnity of Mary	277.00

Total **\$6870.25**

Weekly Budget **\$5,600.00**

Building Fund	\$10.00
Uganda Student Sponsorship	\$0.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday January 13-14

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Larry Hoesser	<u>8:00am</u> Donna Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Bob Barth
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Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Delores Schmitt	<u>8:00am</u> Rick Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Gretchen Fitzmaurice
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Altar Servers

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

10:30am
Mike Hart & Mary Ann Ingold

Ushers for January

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

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Larry Kyle
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Proverbial Wisdom

Better a poor man who walks in his integrity
Than he who is crooked in his ways and rich.
--Prov

Parish Announcements

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.

2024 Church Tithing Envelopes are available in the Carport Vestibule - If you know someone who is homebound and you would like to take their envelopes to them, please feel free to do so.

Christmas Un-decorating - We welcome parishioners to help take down the Christmas decorations on Tuesday, January 9, starting at 1:00 pm. We also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in decorating. Some of the same parishioners have been doing this many, many years.



Helping Those in Need: There is a sign-up sheet in the carport vestibule for anyone who would be available now and then to give a ride to someone that is unable to bring themselves to 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 this year.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



Parents of 2nd graders: There will be an additional 2nd grade class on Wednesday, January 10th from 6-7 pm in the Church Hall for parents and children in preparation for First Reconciliation. First Reconciliation will be held on January 20th from 10am-12pm with a luncheon to follow.

There will be a mandatory Confirmation meeting for 10th grade students and their parents on Wednesday, January 10th at 7 pm in the school basement.

This week's at home lesson

First week in January-

Authority and Obedience- The duty of obedience requires all to give due honor to authority and to treat those who are charged to exercise it with respect, and, insofar as it is deserved, with gratitude and good will.

*We obey God by listening to those whom God has put in authority over us. Our parents are specially chosen from all the billions of people in the world. By obeying them, we are obeying Jesus.

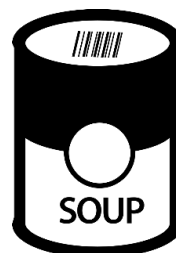
* Every person messes up, all we need to do is repent, confess our sins and try our hardest not to sin again. The important thing that God cares about is that we keep trying to obey.

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*

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)

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2023-2024 Assessment

\$45,050.00

As of January 2, 2024

\$14,190.00

Parishioner participation: 15%

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.

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/>

Clark County Area Food Pantry & Resource Center is OPEN at 1031 Division St. Suite 4, Neillsville (across for the fairgrounds) – Hours of operation are Tuesdays 9am to 1 pm, Thursdays 1pm to 5pm or please feel free to call for an appointment at 715-743-2885.



"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.



Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat to help anyone who has struggled with the aftermath of

abortion to begin healing through a supportive, trauma-sensitive approach. Each weekend is run by a team of trained volunteers (counselor, priest, and lay people), who care deeply for your needs. All interactions with the Rachel's Vineyard retreat team are completely confidential. These retreats will be offered in the Diocese of Madison on March 15-17, 2024, and Nov. 8-10 2024. For more information, visit madisondiocese.org/Rachel.

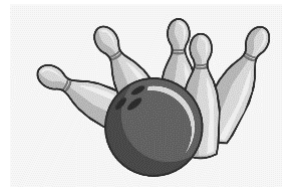
DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting or use your camera's smartphone to scan the QR code to the right. (you can also paste this QR code into your bulletin for parishioner use) Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.

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.

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