



March 3, 2024 Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

*"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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DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

The Meaning of Lent

Dear Family,

I would like to share with you something that I first saw done by a priest at a retreat I at which I was assisting when I was a seminarian. I told myself I must remember this for when I was ordained...and then I promptly forgot about it until now. I was reminded of it while listening to Relevant Radio's "Glen's Story Corner" some time ago and this was his story for the day.

A man who was caring for orphans saw an adolescent boy who was particularly distant from the others. The man finally won the boy's trust enough for the boy to share with him the reason he was so distant; he said it was because he was unlovable; too much had happened to him and he had done too much wrong.

So, the man took a \$20.00 bill from his wallet. It was nice and crispy with no wrinkles. The man asked the boy if he would like the money. The boy said emphatically, yes, he would. Then the man took the 20 and tore it. He asked, "do you still want the money?" The boy, just as emphatically, said, "Yes". Then the man tore the bill again, almost in half. "Do you still want it?", the man asked. Again, with just as much enthusiasm, the boy said, "Yes!". Then the man crumpled up the twenty, threw it to the ground and stomped on it in the dirt. Now the bill was torn, tattered, dirty and crumpled. It barely resembled itself from just a few minutes ago when it was fresh, crispy and new. But the boy wanted the twenty just as much as when he first saw it.

The man gave the boy the twenty and said, "No matter how torn, or tattered, or crumpled and dirty we are, God wants us just as much as when he first made us. No matter what you have done to anyone, no matter what anyone has done to you, you have not, and you can never, lose your value. You are priceless!"

The boy gave the man the \$20 back and said, "I don't think I need this so much. I've got God and He's got me!"

During Lent, we are called to recognize our sinfulness...this is true. The Enemy wants us to believe his lie that "you are worthless". But the God Who created you and gave you inestimable value wants you to believe the truth...You Your Name are always priceless in My eyes; You Your Name are worth dying for!". No matter what, in God, YOU ARE PRICELESS!"

Have a good Lent! God bless and Mary keep you,

Weekly Calendar

Monday, March 4 – No Mass - Office Closed

Memorial of Saint Casimir
6:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 5 – No Mass

Wednesday, March 6 – No Mass

5:00pm Family meal for religious education families
6:00pm Family Formation – Parents & Grades K-6
7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12
7:00pm Knights of Columbus - Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 7 – No Mass

Memorial of Saint Perpetua and Felicity
9:00am Bible Study – Parish Office
6:00pm Jesus & the Eucharist Study – Parish Office

Friday, March 8 – No Mass

Memorial of Saint John of God, religious
6:00pm Soup & Stations – Church Hall
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9 – Incense Free

Memorial of Saint Frances of Rome, religious
8:00am Mass: † For the souls in purgatory
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Davey Crockett

Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday of Lent
7:00am Confession
8:00am Mass: † Charles & Terri Galetka and Sue Daniels
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

February 24-25, 2024

Tithe	\$4,782.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	423.09
Easter	100.00
Easter Flowers	10.00
Fuel Offering	150.00
Catholic Times	40.00
Total	\$5,507.34

Weekly Budget **\$5,600.00**

Green Envelope Fund	\$50.00
Uganda – Student Sponsorship	\$669.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday March 9-10

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Jeanne Strey	<u>8:00am</u> Dr. Gregory Foster	<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> Theodora Hannasch Kennedy Kren
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Cantor

10:30am
Lorraine Spencer
Annie Mrozek

Ushers for March

<u>5:00pm</u> Larry Nauertz Richard Hagen Larry Hoesser Cindy Hoesser	<u>8:00am</u> John Langton Walter Domaszek Ritch Kohlnhofer Bev Friemoth	<u>10:30am</u> Rick Fitzmaurice Gretchen Fitzmaurice Michael Norks William Poeschel
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Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u> Larry Hoesser	<u>8:00am</u> Dr. Gregory & Linda Foster	<u>10:30am</u> Larry Kyle
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Proverbial Wisdom

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors and love our enemies, Probably because they are generally the same people.

--GK Chesterton, *Illustrated London News*, July 16, 1910

Parish Announcements



Father Greg will be gone starting Tuesday March 5th thru Friday March 8th. There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or daily Masses during that week. Masses will be celebrated at their regular times on Saturday and Sunday March 9th and 10th.

Communal Confession for Lent

There will be Communal Confession for Lent on Sunday March 17th from 3pm to 5pm. *"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble ad defile many."* Hebrews 12:14

Stations of the Cross - The Stations of the Cross are available every Wednesday and every Friday evening during Lent through 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 THIS 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.



The Knights of Columbus will be having their Annual Chili Take Out/Drive Thru Charity Fundraiser Saturday March 16th from 4pm to 7pm and Sunday March 17th from 9am to Noon or until it is gone. **Free Will Offering!** If you would like to

bring your own container for you purchase of chili, please feel free to bring one from home. Proceeds will go to Pro Life. To order call 715-937-6551. Come taste the almost World Famous Yooper Chili!

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation News



The next **Family Formation** meeting for children and parents will be March 6 at 6pm. The meal planned is Grilled Cheese Night! Enjoy thick and hearty grilled cheese and ham sandwiches with tomato soup. Also serving veggies and fruit, desserts as well as white and chocolate milk. Serving from 5-6:30 pm to accommodate middle and high school students. There is a sign-up sheet in the carport vestibule if you would like to bring a treat.

CCD students (grades 7-12) will be attending Stations of the Cross on March 13 at 7 pm and confession will be offered for the 7th, 8th and 9th grade students that night. If time runs short for all to have the chance to go to confession, know that there are confessions on the weekend before each Mass. There will also be a communal confession on Sunday March 17 from 3-5 pm.

First Week of March- Bonus-

Audio: Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, John Neumann, Paul Miki and Companions and Bernadette. Use QR code or <https://tinyurl.cpm/FebSaints> to access stories. May their lives and devotion to God and His mission be an inspiration to us all

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

*Next Faith Formation meeting is March 6 at 6pm. Dinner served before lesson at 5:00 pm.

PCCW News

There will be no meeting in March. Members are encouraged to attend Mass and Adoration; participate in Soup & Stations and pray for the upcoming Eucharistic Renewal to be held in June. Please check future bulletin announcement for April meeting date.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2023-2024 Assessment

\$45,050.00

As of February 29, 2024

\$21,300.00

Parishioner participation: 23%

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.

Pastoral Election - The Pastoral Council Election will be held the weekend of April 13th & 14th, 2024. To broaden the representation of the pastoral council we will ask you, the parishioner to nominate who you think would be a good candidate. Next weekend, March 9th & 10th there will be nominee ballots in the pews for all registered parishioners to nominate who they would like to see on the council. There will be a box marked "Nominee Ballot" in the narthex to drop your completed ballot. Our present members are, Jody Conner, Gretchen Fitzmaurice, Clinton Hannasch, Larry Hoesser, Adam Kren and Tina Schoengarth.



An Invitation - Currently there is a group of men and women that meet every Thursday morning from 9-11am to reflect on and discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel and readings. Workbooks with Sunday's readings and reflections are available to order for \$20.00 (Or just bring your bible, or just yourself!) All who attend have said this weekly reflection has made the Sunday Gospel so much more meaningful and with added anticipation for Father Greg's homily. Come every week, once or twice a month. All are welcome any time. Meetings are in the Church Hall.

Green Envelope Fund - The Green Envelope Fund is a fund that was started to have funds available in case St. Mary's needed funds for emergency maintenance. The Pastoral & Finance Councils have requested to make the green envelopes available the first Sunday of each month in the pews. Thank you to everyone who has continued to fund the green envelope fund and also for those who keep the Church in their prayers to help St. Mary Parish run a little smoother.

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! \$65 per person. **Deadline for registration is March 10th** Go to www.ldccw.org now to register and get more details.

Walk To Mary - United in Step from Shrine to Shrine - Why we walk - We walk to Her because she calls us. Walk To Mary will be Saturday May 4, 2024. The walk is a 22-mile walking pilgrimage starting from the National Shrine of St. Joseph at Old St. Joseph Church on the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere, WI to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Champion, WI. (Shorter routes are available). For more information and to register go to WalktoMary.com. Sponsored by Relevant Radio, Sartori Foundation, Nicolet National Bank and Hospital Sisters Health System.



"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 early bird special is now over, the cost for this event is \$20 per person.** This rally is for youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. 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.

Our Lady of Fatima Home of the Needy Children - Uganda - Sister Salome, formerly Head Mistress of Uganda's St. Kizito High School, and now head of Our Lady of Guadalupe High School (which some members of our parish helped build) is currently filling her days with running the Our Lady of Fatima Orphanage. Sister Salome is in the process of building more rooms for the orphaned children. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for more details. In this season of Lent as we focus on the pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving please pray for Sister and the people of Uganda. When almsgiving, if you can find it in your heart to make a donation to the worthy cause so that we can make Sister's Easter one of greater joy, put an envelope in the offertory collection with your name and labeled it UGANDA. If writing a check, please make it to St. Mary Parish. If you have questions, please contact K Weirauch at 715-797-7157. Thank you!

Area Events

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.