

November 5, 2023 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13
Matthew 23:1-12

*"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 HUNTING LESSON LEARNED

Dear Family,

A few years ago, the weather for bow hunting during the rut was nothing like it has been this year. It was not just unseasonably warm it was actually HOT! High temps in the upper 70's. Many people enjoy that kind of weather but, for hunters, it is anything but enjoyable when the weather that was anything but fall-like. And, though, many did enjoy the hot weather, hunters certainly did not. I know I didn't! And, even though I am a priest, as I say so often, "I am a sinner!" And my reactions to this weather were sinful! I can't tell you how many times I complained – even bitterly – to God about "my plight" of having to put up with this weather. After all, this is one of the two weeks of the year that I look forward to with the greatest anticipation...and now it's shot because of the summer-like weather when I wanted it cold.

The weather did slow deer activity down and it's precisely that deer activity that I so enjoy experiencing; those cold frosty mornings, the sound of leaves under the hoofs of bucks chasing does, the distant sound of a deep guttural buck grunt just hoping that he's headed my way; the anticipation that each time I hear deer hooves crunching leaves there will be a crown of antlers that adorn 100+ pounds of succulent deer meat...It is a magical time. Yet, this year, very little if any of that happened. I sweated more than shivered and watched far fewer deer than in years past.

As the week went on and I spent time in prayer in my tree stand, my suspicions were confirmed...it was God who took away my ideal hunting weather and the chasing deer. He took it away! But...

I finally realized that in all of this God had a few questions for me... What is really important in your life, Fr. Greg?...My will or yours?...My plans or yours?...My design or yours?...hunting for your deer or hunting for my souls? As I pondered these questions in prayer for several days I finally said, "Ok! I surrender! Your will be done! If it's hot, it's hot; if I don't get one, I don't get one; if I don't experience the rut, then I don't! Your will be done!"

Now I certainly didn't mean all that with my whole heart, but I did at least try to mean it that way. And God's response wasn't instantaneous cold weather (although there was a part of me that hoped that if I "surrendered" to God's will He would give me what I wanted. I tried to surrender that, too. ☐). In fact, His response was even warmer weather for a longer period of time. But in my honest attempt to surrender to His will, He gave me a gift!...a real sense of peace. The bitterness was gone; the sense of victimhood was gone; the sense that God was just toying with me was gone; and I actually found joy in the heat. Oh, I still didn't like the heat! But I found a true joy in knowing that close to God in my attempt to accept His will, not in my bitter complaining against it.

So, I didn't get a buck that year or experience the rut...heck there was hardly a rut to observe. But there sure was a valuable lesson learned and the gift of God's peace to go with it. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity, the time off, the hunt and family and friends to hunt with and, yes, thank you, Lord, for the unseasonably hot weather, i.e. for the lesson learned!

God bless and Mary keep you all and may all hunters be safe this year.



A PARISH OF THE
DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

Weekly Calendar

Monday, November 6 – No Mass – Office Closed

6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

Tuesday, November 7

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † LaVerne Schmitt

6:30pm PCCW Meeting – Church Hall

Wednesday, November 8

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: Blessings for Theodore Mrozek

5:00pm Family meal for religious education families

6:00pm Family Formation: Parents & grades K-6

7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12

Thursday, November 9

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Duane Peterson

9:00am Bible Study – Church Hall

6:00pm Family Life Committee Meeting

Friday, November 10

Memorial of Saint Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Bob and John Matuszak

Saturday, November 11 – Incense Free

Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, bishop

8:00am No Mass

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Ray and Rosemary Reineck

Sunday, November 12

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Kevin Opelt

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

Bereavement & Visitation Ministry

Annie Augustine – 715.937.1432 or august.anne09@gmail.com

Spiritual Direction

Renee Schoen – 715.743.4059

Elizabeth Ministry

Holy Matrimony

Contact with the parish is required six months to one year before marriage. Preparation begins with the first contact. May be celebrated during or following any of the Masses. Preparation classes are required. Please call the Parish Office for details.

Baptisms

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674

Weekly Collection

October 28-29, 2023

Tithe	\$4,207.00
Student	9.50
Offertory	444.03
All Saints	35.00
Total	\$4,695.53

Weekly Budget

\$5,600.00

Building Fund

\$5.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday November 11-12

Lectors

5:00pm

Rogene Matuszak

8:00am

Donna Kuhn

10:30am

Sherry Hickey

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

5:00pm

Cindy Hoesser

8:00am

Kim Swita

10:30am

Bob Barth

Altar Servers

5:00pm

Andrew Hoesser
Adam Hoesser

8:00am

Brody Swita
Kennedy Kren
Landon Schoen

10:30am

Theodora Hannasch
Gregory Lehn
Corbin Wirkuty

Cantor

10:30am

Jody and Judy
Conner

Ushers for November

5:00pm

Don Kotcon
Michael Morks
Russell Ratsch
Eugene Walter Jr.

8:00am

Bev Friemoth
Jim Langreck
Sandy Mayer
Ritch
Kohlhofer

10:30am

Al Durst
Larry Kyle
William Poeschel
Tom Silbernagel

Rosary Leader

5:00pm

Larry Hoesser

8:00am

Jack and
Theresa
Hammond

10:30am

Phyllis Carney

Proverbial Wisdom

The one who remains stiff-necked and hates rebuke
Will be crushed suddenly beyond cure.
When the just prevail, the people rejoice;
But when the wicked rule, the people groan
--Prov 29:1-2

Parish Announcements



Daily Mass will not be celebrated November 14th through November 17th.

Also note that Mass time for the opening of deer hunting season, Saturday November 18th will be celebrated at 7pm. Confessions will

be heard at 6pm. There will not be a 5pm Mass. Masses on Sunday November 19th will be as usual 8am and 10:30am.

November Table of Remembrance: You are invited to bring photos of deceased family members and friends. Throughout the month we will pray for them in the celebration of All Souls Day. Place the photos on the table located in the narthex.

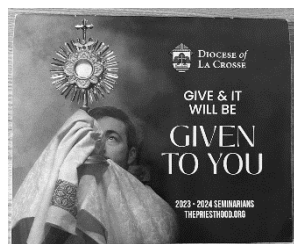
PCCW Meeting November 7, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Church hall. Ladies, please take some time to pray in adoration and attend Mass, then join your friends and fellow PCCW members for the monthly meeting. "Journey to Becoming a Carmelite" will be presented by Karen Quella, wife, mother and member of St. Mary's. Karen will share her experiences of becoming a member of the Carmelite Order. Short business meeting will follow. Refreshments will be served. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

Reminder for all Ushers! Father Greg has asked the ushers to count how many parishioners are at Mass each weekend. Please see the information on the bulletin board where the tithing baskets are. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Parish Office. Thank you for helping with this information.

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.



There is a Food Pantry donation basket in the Narthex in the seating area. Feel free to make a donation any time, weekend or week day, of non-perishable food/paper supplies/baby needs. When the basket is full, it will be delivered to our local food pantry in the name of St. Mary's. (If any other organization has a food drive, the items will be donated to their cause as well.) This is an opportunity for the family of St Mary's to praise and give thanks to God. "Your generosity will give thanksgiving to God" 2Cor 9:11



Please feel free to take a Seminarian Prayer Booklet, they are located in the carport. Priests for Tomorrow. This booklet is meant to help pray for our priestly vocations.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Faith Formation/CCD News



November 8th Family Formation/CCD

The next Family Formation session will be November 8 with a fellowship meal in the Church Hall from 5-5:50pm for Family formation families and extended until 6:30pm for middle and high school CCD students, catechists and support staff to have a bite to eat before class starts at 7 pm.

November 8th Family Formation/CCD Meal Menu:

Baked Potato Bar! All the fixings to make loaded baked potatoes. Also serving hot dogs/chili dogs, chips, homemade desserts, and white and chocolate milk. Serving from 5-6:30p.m. to accommodate middle and high school students.

Please sign up on the sheet in the carport vestibule if you can bring a treat to share with the meal on Wednesday, November 8th.

November is the month to pray for the dearly departed. Consider adding this prayer to your regular prayers this month.

'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed
rest in peace. Amen'



Adults and children had fun combined with learning activities and treats. Kids and adults shared who the saint was that they were dressed as. Many games and educational activities were held to help everyone grow in their knowledge of the saints and just have fun! The Litany of Saints was prayed and a saint procession was held to celebrate. Thanks to Steven and Rebekah Lehn for organizing this event!

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.

St. Hubert Patron of Hunters - Prayer for Hunters

Dear Lord, You open wide your hands and grant us every good gift.

We pray through the intercession of St. Hubert for a safe hunt; that we may worthily receive from Divine hands the gift of game and joy of sport that you provide for our enjoyment.

May we be nourished as to both increase our devotion and further our salvation in service to You.

We ask this through our Lord. Amen.

Area Events

House of Mercy 6th Annual Fundraiser – House of Mercy is having it's 6th Annual Fundraiser Sunday, December 10th at St. Mary Parish Neillsville. 4:30pm gathering, 5pm dinner. They will be serving a chicken dinner catered by Schmitty's on Main - \$20 a ticket. The Neillsville Show Choir will be performing at 5:30pm. Please make your reservation by November 30th by calling the House of Mercy at 715-503-1005 or Gary Veltus at 715-937-6551. Join the fun and support the House of Mercy.

Melody Gardens Skateland - There will be a *Christian Music Skate* on Friday, November 24, 2023 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Admission is \$3.00 and a \$1.00 skate rent. Families and groups welcome.

Holiday Fest – Holy Rosary Parish – Owen is having their Holiday Fest Saturday November 11th. They will be serving a Grilled Chicken Dinner from 11:30am to 1pm in Marian Hall. Dinner tickets will be sold that day for \$13, Dine-in or take-out. There will be bucket raffles with a drawing at 1pm, need not be present to win. Also selling holiday baked goods! Sponsored by Holy Rosary Parish, OWen

The Neillsville Kiwanis Club will be presenting "Facing Homelessness in Clark County", with guest speaker Mike Basford, Director of the State of Wisconsin Council on Homelessness, Monday November 13th at 6:30pm at the American Legion, Neillsville, on 6 Boon Blvd. "Before you ignore another homeless person on the street, just remember that they could be someone's father or someone's mother and they have a story," – Syska Mercado

St. Mary's Annual Christmas Fair – St. Mary's Parish in Colby is having their annual Christmas Fair Saturday November 11th from 10am to 2pm at the Colby Lion Shelter on Adams Street. They will have soups for sale and a cookie walk along with other baked goods. There will also be homemade wreathes for sale and Sien Auction Baskets. Register for instant door prizes. Catholic Financial Life Branch 234 will be matching funds.




Be a part of an exciting community initiative in Loyal. Catholic Charities seeks a Program Coordinator to provide case management services to program participants including budgeting, goal setting, independent living and tenancy skills, and connections

to community-based services. Position requires prior experience working with the homeless or vulnerable populations and prior housing and/or case management experience. Bachelor's Degree in Human Services or Social Work preferred, minimum of an Associate's Degree required. Position is 20-25 hours per week, and eligible for generous paid time off benefit and 401(k). Help us fulfill our mission of service to others! For immediate consideration, please fill out an application online at <https://cclse.org/program-coordinator-house-of-mercy/> and attach your resume and cover letter.

St. Michael's 32nd Annual Chicken Dinner – St. Michael's will be having their annual Chicken Dinner Sunday November 12th at 324 Main St. Junction City from 11am to 1pm. Drive-Thru Only! They will be serving a Chicken Dinner with Chicken soup and all the trimmings. Cost is \$14.

All Saints Craft Show – All Saints Craft Show Saturday November 18th from 9am to 3pm at Holy Family Hall, 136 E. 3rd Ave., Stanley. Area crafters selling various crafts, decorations & more! Sponsored by All Saints Crafters

Father Greg has an artificial tree he will not be using this year for Christmas. With a small donation, it can be yours. Please talk to Father Greg if you are interested.



Mark Yor Calendar!!!
Trivia Night Saturday
February 3, 2024!!!
More details
to come soon!!!



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE
Jason A. Bourget, FIC, FRC
 Field Agent
 715-937-7039
 N15964 Copenhaver Avenue
 Stanley, WI 54768
 jason.bourget@kofc.org

Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
 Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance
Protecting Catholic Families since 1882