



# October 15, 2023 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Matthew 22:1-14

*"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,

As you are likely well aware, the Israeli people along with Palestinians and others were attacked by Hamas terrorists from the Gaza Strip this past Saturday. Over a thousand people were killed, maimed, and/or captured in what can only be described as a raw, satanic bloodletting. It was an indiscriminate mass murder that included some 40 or more babies. The darkness of a soul that would do such a thing, let alone celebrate or justify it is beyond imagination and comprehension. There is NO moral equivalency to any injustice used as justification for these acts. That's because the taking of innocent life and/or torture of another is without justification!

As the world tries to come to terms with what has happened and how to respond, we Catholics and all other Christians already know at least part of our mission which is given us at our baptismal anointing as priest, prophet, and king. I'll suggest something of what each means for us in this situation. I'll start with the last one first.

As a baptismal king, we are called to work to regulate the world by first regulating ourselves through self-mastery; to do good and avoid evil. In that pursuit, we will be equipped to become moral leaders in moving our society toward an ordered and peaceful community.

As baptismal prophet, we are called to speak the Truth, always and everywhere, "whether in season or out of season, whether convenient or inconvenient". (cf 2Tim 4:2) We cannot adopt a political speech that requires ultimate allegiance to a political party but rather the speech of God, which is love, that requires ultimate and total allegiance to the One Who is justice, mercy, and peace itself.

This leads to our baptismal priesthood. As priest, one is called to offer sacrifice and be sacrificed. In other words, we are called to use the gifts given us, i.e. faith, time, finances, skills, or even self, to help those innocent people who have been so deeply impacted by these atrocities. It also means that we are to sacrifice ANY desire for revenge. This in no way means that we don't insist on justice as it is essential for an ordered society.

A conscience that is alive in Christ cannot look at the images we have seen or hear the reports we've heard about this abhorrent massacre without being moved all the way to our very soul. It ought to elicit anger, even deep anger; an anger that is indeed justified. Yet, we do not, in fact, we must not seek revenge but rather justice. The difference is that revenge is done for my sake only whereas justice is done for God's sake, for the sake of a victim AND for the sake of the perpetrator of evil. True justice is always motivated by love, which means the willing of the highest and best thing for the other. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Mt 5:44) Therefore, justice is always tempered with mercy. This means that justice is applied with the prayerful hope that it will bring about conversion and repentance from the perpetrator of evil.

Let us join together to pray for all those in harm's way as a result of this grotesque terroristic evil and let us also not forget our brothers and sisters who are still ravaged by war in Ukraine. May the peace of Jesus Christ envelop our world today and always! God bless and Mary keep you and our whole world.

## Weekly Calendar

### **Monday, October 16 – No Mass – Office Closed**

*Memorials of Saint Hedwig, religious; Saint Margaret*

*Mary Alacoque, virgin*

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

### **Tuesday, October 17 – No Mass**

*Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr*

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

7:15pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### **Wednesday, October 18**

*Feast of Saint Luke, evangelist*

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Eleanor Neville

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12

### **Thursday, October 19**

*Memorial of Saints John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests, and Companions, martyrs*

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: Blessings for Father Greg

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

6:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting – Parish Office

### **Friday, October 20**

*Memorial of Saint Paul of the Cross, priest*

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Maureen Meier

2:30pm Wedding: Richard Schmitz & Marilyn Rastall

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

### **Saturday, October 21 – Incense Free**

*Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00am Mass: † Rob Kleinschmidt

9:00am Servers Outing – Clinton Hannasch home

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Quentin Hagen

### **Sunday, October 22**

*Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Mary Slavek

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** Contact with the parish is required six  
months to one year before marriage.  
**Holy Matrimony** 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  
**Transportation to Church Functions** Mary Luedtke – 715-937-5054

## Weekly Collection

**October 7-8, 2023**

Tithe	\$3,909.00
Student	8.25
Offertory	572.06
CCD Tuition	80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,569.31</b>

**Weekly Budget** **\$5,600.00**

Building Fund \$107.00

## Liturgical Ministries

**Saturday-Sunday October 21-22**

### Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Jeanne Strey	<u>8:00am</u> Rick Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Sladich	<u>8:00am</u> Donna Opelt	<u>10:30am</u> Gretchen Fitzmaurice
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### Altar Servers

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

<u>10:30am</u> Jody & Judy Conner
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### Ushers for October

<u>5:00pm</u> Gary Nauertz Mary Nauertz Brent Ahlgren Al Durst	<u>8:00am</u> Jack Hammond Ray Pagenkopf, Jr. James Boyer Robert Schoen	<u>10:30am</u> Rick Fitzmaurice Gretchen Fitzmaurice Wayne Opelt Kevin Schoen
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### Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u> Jared Thomas	<u>8:00am</u> Rick & Donna Kuhn	<u>10:30am</u> Kathy Nicks
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## Proverbial Wisdom

Love your enemies,  
And pray for those who persecute you.  
--Jesus (Mt 5:44)

## Parish Announcements

**November 1 – All Saints Day - Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Mass Times - Tuesday, October 31 - 6pm**  
**Wednesday November 1 - 7am**  
**Wednesday November 1 - 7pm**

Mass will not be celebrated Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Father Greg will be at the Fall Ministry Conference in La Crosse.

There is a Pastoral Council Meeting Thursday October 19, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Parish Office.

There is a Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday October 24, 2023 at 6:45pm in the Parish Office.

St. Mary's Parish Parking Lot will be closed starting Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> through Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> for repair. Please use the north driveway by the Parish office to enter and exit for daily Mass or to stop into the Church or Parish office. Thank you.



World Mission Sunday will be celebrated next weekend October 21-22, 2023. Pope Francis' takes us to that place of enthusiasm this year with a theme from Emmaus. For World Mission Sunday 2023 he offers us a summary of what the disciples felt and did, "**Hearts on fire, Feet on the move**" (Lk 24:32-34). It was in the breaking of the bread that they finally had their minds opened. It was in His vanishing that they wanted to share their awe in the encounter. They became missionary, returning to Jerusalem, the fearful place of revelation, to share their joy. Be the spark that transforms lives. Give now. Please look for the envelope in next weekend's bulletin.

**PCCW News:** October is the month of the Rosary, the prayer of Our Blessed Mother Mary. She in her role as Mother of Good Counsel is the patroness of the Council of Catholic Women. To honor her and recognize her special role, members of our PCCW are presenting the gifts of the Eucharist at the Masses.

**Congregation Participation Needed:** The choir is learning two new songs for November. Please join us 5 minutes before 1030am Mass on October 21st and October 28th to go over these new songs: "How Firm a Foundation" #724 and "At the Name of Jesus" #729. Both of these are also in our new hymnal. New choir members are always welcome. Thank you, Lorraine Spencer - Choir Director

### **Knights of Columbus News**

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> starting with the Rosary at 7:15pm.

**Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale** will be held October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> following the

Masses. Thank you for your support.



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### **Faith Formation/CCD News**



There will be a Catechist In-service on October 25, therefore there will not be any CCD classes for grades 7-12 that evening.

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

### **November 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **This week's at home lesson- Second week of October**

**- The Liturgy of the Eucharist-** Through the sacrifice Jesus instituted at the Last Supper, He gives us a memorial of His death and resurrection: a tangible expression of His love, a sign of unity and a bond of love meant for all believers. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

\* The Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass is the second part of the prayer that makes up Mass.

\*The gifts of bread, wine and the offering that are presented represent all of us giving our gifts to the Father. This is a time to recollect all of the gifts of love, prayer, work and sacrifice from the last week that we would like to present to God.

\*The Eucharistic Prayer is the most important part of the Mass. The priest asks the Holy Spirit to come down upon the gifts and prays Jesus' words at the Last Supper- "This is my body..."

**Memory item Grades K-6:** As we are giving glory to God, we are tracing a small cross on our forehead, lips and heart and silently praying, "Your Word, O Lord, be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart."



The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) typically begins in the fall. OCIA is for those wishing to join the Catholic faith. But if you have questions and are Catholic or not, or know someone who wants to know more or join the Catholic faith, please call Judy at the parish office. We would like to offer education about the Catholic faith and tailor it to all who may be interested.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!** All St. Mary's altar servers are invited to a server fun day on Saturday, October 21st from 9am-12:30pm at Clint and Caitlin Hannasch's home - N3090 Fairground Ave. Please dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Lunch will be provided. Any questions, please contact Steven Lehn @ 608-780-6938.



# Sophia Smrz Memorial Scholarship Fund

Please see giving options below



Use the QR code here or visit [www.marshfield.foundation](http://www.marshfield.foundation).

Send donations to:  
(please write Smrz in memo)

Marshfield Area Community Foundation  
211 E 2nd Street Suite 2  
Marshfield, WI 54449

This scholarship was created as a memorial for Sophia Smrz. Sophia was 17 years old and just began her senior year at Marshfield High School in 2023 when she was killed in a tragic car accident. Sophia and her family were parishioners of Father Greg's when he was at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Milladore. If you would like to donate to this memorial scholarship fund please scan the QR code or visit [www.marshfield.foundation](http://www.marshfield.foundation). Please keep Sophia and her family in your prayers.



**All Saint's Celebration!** Everyone is invited to join in celebrating All Saint's Day in the church hall starting at 3pm on Sunday, October 29th. Come dressed up or choose from the many costumes we have for kids and adults. Or just be you, a future saint! We will play party games, practice saintly deeds, share tasty treats, and learn about saints. There will be something for all ages to enjoy. We need a few teens or parents to lead the party games so everything runs smoothly. The jobs needed are help with frosting and decorating cookies (heavenly crowns), hand out prizes for the little kid games, correct the saint quizzes, go through the guesses for how much candy is in the jars to find the winners, and lead the saint guessing games. If anyone has artistic talent to make posters, or decorate the posters for stations, please let Rebekah Lehn know in person or by emailing her at [rdlehn15@charter.net](mailto:rdlehn15@charter.net) or let Judy know at the office.



**ONLY A FEW BOXES LEFT!!!** Bless a child in an impoverished country with a Christmas Gift to tell them they are loved by God and you. Boxes will be available in the Narthex along with gifting guides. A \$9 donation supports the priests and nuns who minister to the children in these areas as well as the shipping of the boxes. You can easily make your donation online or mail it in the pre-paid Box of Joy envelope. They should **NOT be placed** in the boxes as in previous years. One donation can be made for multiple boxes or on its own. Boxes will be due back on Sunday, November 5th. May God bless you for your generosity.



## Fall Change of Seasons Clean-up

**Saturday November 4, 2023**

Consider this a great opportunity to serve our elderly and infirmed. **Start your morning with breakfast at St. Mary Parish Church Hall at 8:30am.** Bring rakes, leaf blowers, and tarps. Bring your 4-H group, Boy Scout Troop, Girl Scout Troop and your whole family! If you have any questions, please contact Judy Morrow at Interfaith by calling 715-743-2885.



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.

**Belgian Waffle & Pancake Breakfast** – Holy Rosary Parish in Owen, is having a belgian waffle & pancake breakfast Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Marian Hall from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Adults: \$10, Students under 14: \$5, Preschoolers are free. This event is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



**TRIVIA IS BACK!!!**  
More details  
to come soon!!!

**House of Mercy 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser** – House of Mercy is having it's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> by calling the House of Mercy at 715-503-1005 or Gary Veltus at 715-937-6551. Tickets will be available at the House of Mercy, 141 N. Main St, Loyal and St. Mary's Parish, Neillsville. Join the fun and support the House of Mercy.