



## October 22, 2023 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b  
Matthew 22:15-21

*"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,

Each day it seems that we hear about the "transgender" issue. First, I want to say that anyone who is dealing with this issue in their lives has my heartfelt empathy. To be so troubled in life for whatever reason has to be a heavy, heavy cross. So, let's all first pray for anyone who is dealing with this.

You may wonder why I put the word transgender in quotes. It's because no one can transfer from one gender to the other. It is a natural impossibility. So, when we say "so-and-so is transgender" we are using a language of non-reality. It would be akin to saying "I see the western rising sun". We wouldn't say that because it's not real. And, the reason it doesn't make sense is because God didn't create it that way.

There are many complex issues that have contributed to the fact that we are even having this public conversation. I would like to touch on one that I have mentioned before. The reason I am bringing it up again is because I believe it to be the fundamental factor. It is called relativism.

In the early to mid-1600's a French philosopher named Rene Descartes infamously said "Cogito ergo sum" which is Latin for "I think, therefore I am". What's wrong with his comment? It's rather subtle but effective. (Just because something is subtle does not, in any way, mean that it must have little effect.) What's wrong is that his chronology is backward. Our ability to think in no way determines our existence. It might signify it but it doesn't determine it. In fact, I would suggest that this statement did the most to usher in the relativism that we are burdened with today.

So, what is relativism? It basically is the assertion that there is no objective truth; that truth is relative to the person or situation. Decartes' statement essentially says that my thinking brings about my existence. I don't think that's what he intended to say, but that's the effect it has had on people. To suggest that any of us can DETERMINE reality is demonstrably not true.

Reality is what it is. I can't change that. God determined I am a male, not me. Not even my parents could determine my gender, even though they were an integral causal component to my existence. It was ultimately God who determined that I exist at all and, among other things, what gender I would be. Even if I change the externals, they cannot change the essence.

Externals are signs of a deeper reality. An oak tree has oak leaves. Even if I were to remove all the oak leaves and attach maple leaves, it would still be, in its essence, an oak tree. What a thing IS determines what it looks like. What something looks like simply PROCLAIMS what it is; in no way can it DETERMINE what it is.

So, as I said, "transgender" is really a term of non-reality. Just as an oak cannot become a maple, neither can a boy become a girl. As our society struggles under the weight of relativism and as individuals are led astray by so many different problems in our society, let's not belittle, berate, or bash any. Let's just love and pray for all. Let's speak the truth with love and entrust us all to our God who has created and determined all reality.

I hope this is somewhat clear. God bless and Mary keep you all,

## Weekly Calendar

### **Monday, October 23 – No Mass – Office Closed**

*Memorials of Saint John of Capistrano, priest*

6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

### **Tuesday, October 24**

*Memorial of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, bishop*

5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass: † Tom Kren

### **Wednesday, October 25**

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration

7:00am Mass: † Carl and Bernita Wegner

6:30pm Catechist In-service – Church Hall

### **Thursday, October 26**

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Al Mohr

### **Friday, October 27**

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

8:00am Mass: † Eugene Langreck

### **Saturday, October 28 – Incense Free**

*Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, apostles*

8:00am Mass: † Anne Durst

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass: † Clifford and Alice Gross

### **Sunday, October 29**

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00am Confession

8:00am Mass: † Bruce Spiegel

9:45am Confession

10:30am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family

3:00pm All Saint's Day Party – Church Hall

## 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. Preparation begins with the first contact.

**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** Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

## Weekly Collection

**October 14-15, 2023**

Tithe	\$4,421.00
Student	2.20
Offertory	413.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,836.37</b>

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

Building Fund \$100.00

## Liturgical Ministries

**Saturday-Sunday October 28-29**

### Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Cheyenne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Phyllis Carney
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### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u> Delores Schmitt	<u>8:00am</u> Jack Hammond	<u>10:30am</u> Gary Veltus
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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 Corbin Wirkuty
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### Cantor

<u>10:30am</u> Lorraine Spencer JoAnn Blum
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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> Mary Hartung	<u>8:00am</u> Wayne Thomas	<u>10:30am</u> Phyllis Carney
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## Proverbial Wisdom

Do good  
Avoid evil  
—The moral imperative

## 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**



World Mission Sunday will be celebrated THIS 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.

**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 22nd and October 29th 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



### **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.

The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale will be held THIS WEEKEND October 21st & 22nd following the Masses. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the special needs program at area schools. Thank you for your support.



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE  
Jason A. Bourget, FIC, PKA  
Field Agent  
715-637-7029  
N15964 Copenhaver Avenue  
Stanley, WI 54768  
jason.bourget@kofc.org

Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance  
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## 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- Third week of October – Vessels and Vestments: Things that are used at Mass-**

All the things that are used at Mass are sacred which means set apart for a holy purpose, use at Mass. In the sacred space of the church we see many beautiful things that give honor to Jesus and remind us that He is worthy of the very best we can give from material items and our whole lives.

\*Each Eucharistic banquet is much more important than the fanciest meal and means we should be surrounded by the most beautiful things we can offer.

\*Lit candles are a symbol of the presence of Christ, the "light of the world". Candles lit on either side of the altar remind us that Christ becomes truly present in the Blessed Sacrament-Eucharist.

#### **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."

\*Sunday October 29th, All Saints Day party in Church Hall at 3pm. Come dressed up for some fun!

\*Wednesday November 1- All Saints Day- Holy Day of Obligation- Vigil Mass October 31st – 6pm, Holy Day Masses 7am and 7pm Come to any Mass with your family

\*Next Faith Formation meeting is Nov. 8th at 6pm. Dinner served before lesson at 5:15pm.



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.

# 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 [rllehn15@charter.net](mailto:rllehn15@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.



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.

## Area Events

**Annual Fall Harvest Sale** – St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenwood, is having their annual Fall Harvest Sale Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1:30pm. There will be a salad luncheon, pie corner, bake sale, raffle ticket items, paddle raffle, theme basket silent auction, art and craft items and something for everyone in Grandma's Attic.

**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. Join the fun and support the House of Mercy.

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



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