

September 17, 2023 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30-28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

*"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,

If you recall, in 2015, the Church celebrated the Year of Mercy. I remember thinking, "this is going to be pivotal in the world and the Church because of what Jesus said to St. Faustina, "The world will not know peace until they turn with trust to my mercy." Though 2015 has long come and gone, the need for mercy has not! We continually seek peace but so often from counterfeit sources. We need peace in our own lives, in our families, in our country, and in our world. I found the following article from Donald Demarco on the Catholic Education Resource Center website. It was reprinted there from a magazine called Lay Witness. I would like to share it with you for consideration as we enter into this year of mercy. It will be in two parts because of its length.

"The exalted nature of forgiveness is attested to by the fact that it presupposes a number of other virtues. Consider three virtues in particular: justice, clemency, and mercy.

Justice has the nature of an equation: Borrowing 10 dollars requires returning 10 dollars. When justice is violated, punishment or restitution of some kind is required. Herein is the timeless significance of bringing the scales of justice back into balance. Injustice demands a counterbalancing repayment. Clemency goes beyond justice, to some extent ignoring the need for precise balancing, and reduces the payment. For example, clemency may be used to reduce a 60-day sentence to 15 days. Mercy goes beyond both justice and clemency to wipe away the need for punishment. It does not turn a blind eye to the offense committed, but it does pardon the offender. Forgiveness goes beyond those three virtues, but without negating any of them. Justice, clemency, and mercy provide the very foundation that allows forgiveness to be a possibility. Forgiveness goes beyond mercy and treats the offense as if it never happened. It wipes the slate clean, as it were, and gives the transgressor a fresh start. On the part of the person forgiven, the virtues of humility, sincerity, and hope are presupposed. In this way, forgiveness represents a truly exalted virtue because of the foundational virtues it presupposes in both the forgiver and the one forgiven.

So exalted is forgiveness that it has long been described as supernatural. "To err is human, but to forgive is divine." Or, to modify this timeless maxim slightly, "To err is human, but to forgive is superhuman." By contrast, systems of justice are incapable of dispensing forgiveness. A sign posted in a Los Angeles police station brings this point home both accurately and humorously: "To err is human, to forgive is against departmental policy."

Systems are not only incapable of forgiving, but are often vehemently opposed to it. A few years ago a successful businessman died whose name happens to be well-known to enthusiasts of baseball trivia. National newspapers that carried his obituary didn't begin in the customary manner of mentioning his accomplishments or the members of his immediate family, but in the following manner: "Fred Snodgrass, whose muff of a fly ball cost the New York Giants the 1912 World Series . . ." Society remembers Fred Snodgrass, along with "Wrong Way" Corrigan and a populous class of similar individuals, solely in terms of a single, inexcusable, though often trivial, misadventure. In order to be in a position to appreciate the reasonableness of forgiveness and the accompanying horror of condemnation one must stand on a platform built on its foundational virtues. It is comparable to a father lifting up his child so that the lad can see over the heads of the people in front of him to see the parade." *To Be Continued...*
God bless and Mary keep you. Until next week...

Weekly Calendar

Monday, September 18 – No Mass – Office Closed

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine
6:30pm Choir Practice – Choir Loft

Tuesday, September 19

Memorial of Saint Januarius, bishop and martyr

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine
5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
6:00pm Mass: † Quentin Hagen
7:15pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, September 20

Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, martyrs

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration
7:00am Mass: † Clifford Gross
3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine
6:00pm Family Formation Orientation & Safe Environment
7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12

Thursday, September 21

Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: † Helen Harker
3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

Friday, September 22

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration
8:00am Mass: Blessings for Rachel Conner
3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine
4:00pm Wedding Rehearsal: Sarah Poeschel & Isaac Guyer

Saturday, September 23 – Incense Free

Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

8:00am Mass: † Betty Opelt
1:30pm Wedding: Sarah Poeschel & Isaac Guyer
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass: † Joe & Rozella Mayer

Sunday, September 24

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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. May be celebrated during or following any of the Masses. Preparation classes are required. Please call the Parish Office for details.

Holy Matrimony

Baptisms

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674

Weekly Collection

September 9-10, 2023

Tithe	\$3,876.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	537.42
CCD Donation	70.00
Bazaar and Dinner	420.00
Total	\$4,905.67

Weekly Budget

\$5,600.00

Building Fund

\$175.00

Liturgical Ministries

Saturday-Sunday September 23-24

Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Delores Schmitt	Wayne Thomas	Phyllis Carney

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Cindy Hoerer	Rick Kuhn	Gary Veltus

Altar Servers

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Andrew Hoerer	Colton	Theodora
Adam Hoerer	Hannasch	Hannasch
	Carter	Kennedy Kren
	Hannasch	Corbin Wirkuty
	Clayton	
	Hannasch	

Cantor

10:30am
Jody & Judy
Conner

Ushers for September

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Don Kotcon	Clinton	Mike Boon
Al Spaete	Hannasch	Al Durst
Doug Spaete	Ritch	William Poeschel
Jim Zschernitz	Kohlhofer	Gary Ruzic
	John Langton	
	Sandy Mayer	

Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Mary Hartung	Wayne Thomas	Kathy Nicks

Proverbial Wisdom

There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy –
That love which is benevolent, which is
compassionate,
Which raises man above his weakness
To the infinite heights of the holiness of God.

--St. Pope John Paul II

Parish Announcements

Potluck

St. Mary's Parish Potluck is
THIS SUNDAY!!

**Sunday, September 17, 2023 after the
10:30am Mass**

Come and enjoy a potluck dinner with your parish family featuring chicken grilled by Gary Nauertz and his crew. Following the dinner there will be games and fun for everyone.

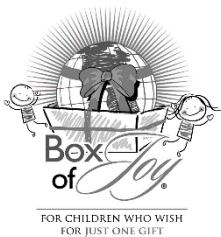
New this year is a Bounce House and dunk tank!!!



**HELP
WANTED**

St. Mary's Parish is looking for someone to plow snow this coming winter. Anyone interested in this job, please send or drop off a bid at the Parish office.

St. Mary Cemetery Notice: Just a reminder all flowers, plants, etc. need to be removed from the cemetery prior to October 1 and April 1 each year. Thank you!



Boxes of Joy! 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.

Faith Formation/CCD News



The St. Mary's Religious Education Parent-Student manual, which includes the calendar for 2023-2024 can be found on St. Mary's website under the Religious Education tab or available upon request.

Substitute Catechists - We are still looking for substitute catechists for all grade levels to help out when a teacher is unavailable.

September 20- Family Formation begins at 6 pm and runs to 7 pm in the Narthex with an additional 15 minutes for parents and children in 2nd grade. CCD begins at 7 pm in the school and office buildings.

Treats will be served the first night of CCD/FF in the Narthex for all kids in our Religious Education programs. All children and parents stop in for a treat! Please sign up on the sheet in the carport vestibule to bring a treat to share (cookies, bars, or other treats). Childcare will be available in the Church Hall.

Youth Ministry Team - St. Mary's would like to offer youth activities but we need parishioner help and involvement. We would like to have an individual or couples be part of a team with each person organizing one event in the year. For example, a couple currently leads a yearly All-Saints Day event in October. We would love to add more activities for youth-perhaps with each season. The volunteer would lead one activity per year that they are most interested in doing, like a Bruce Mound tubing day, youth camp fire evening, fishing activity, hiking fun, etc. Please contact Fr. Greg or Judy Conner CRE if you are willing to help provide this needed ministry for our youth.



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.

Thank you!!! Father Michael Apuiro, who was our Mission Cooperative Priest that visited wanted to share a thank you to all the parishioners. "The Pastor and Parishioners of St. Mary's Neillsville, I appreciate all you have done for me and our Diocese. Thank you for the hospitality and generosity. Thank you too for your patience even when I was not able to express myself well in English. I appreciate and love the different types of foods you offered me. Thank you for the comfortable accomodation. I appreciate your encouragement and both material and financial support. I pray for you, Fr. Michael Apuiro" – Moroto Diocese



Levis Mound Hiking Fun - St Mary's families are invited to join Jody & Judy Conner in a fall color hike at Levis Mound, (<https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/for-trails-levis-mound>) This area begins the "Driftless" area in the state, featuring sandstone bluffs or mounds-one of the unique natural features trail users enjoy. Meet in the Fisher Ave Trail Center parking lot (N1589 Fisher Ave, Neillsville, WI) on Sunday, October 1st starting at 1:30 pm. Levis Mound is 13 miles south of Neillsville on Highway 95. Levis Mound has varied landscape and we will be climbing to view the colors from the top mounds and the hike could be challenging. The plan is for a 1- 2 hour hike. Bring a bottle of water. Please note that trails aren't suitable for strollers. Any questions please call the parish office to speak with Judy Conner.

Men of the Cross Conference

Men of the Cross Conference is October 14th - 8:30am to 5:15pm at The La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Connect with other Catholic men from around the Diocese of La Crosse who will lift you in this role and be encouraged and challenged by men of deep faith. Tickets are \$45 per person. Fathers, make this a Father/Son day and bring your high school-age son for free! If you are planning to bring your son, please put his name in the comment section on the online registration form. So get your family members, best buds, men at your parish, and even acquaintances, together and join your brothers from all over the Diocese of La Crosse to reignite your identity as a Catholic man. For registration and more information, visit www.menofthecross.org.

**National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)
November 16-19, 2023**

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones. NCYC is the premiere Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from all across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ. Our diocese will be taking a group and would love to have youth from around the diocese join them! St. Mary's would help with fundraising efforts and finances if anyone would like to go. If you are interested in learning more please visit the website at diolc.org/ncyc. Please note that St. Mary's Confirmation students will not be able to attend due to Confirmation on November 19th. Please contact Christopher Rogers at the Diocese of La Crosse or Judy Conner as soon as possible if you'd like to attend.

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 (employee, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to the Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, Bishop of La Crosse, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Karen Becker, Victim Assistance Ministry, 608-519-8002 or kbecker@cclse.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of the Vicar for Clergy or on the diocesan website at: www.diolc.org. **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

National Eucharistic Congress - In July 2024, the National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Indianapolis, IN. This 5-day experience, "Eyes Opened, Hearts on Fire," will be held July 17-24, 2024. Speakers such as Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Fr. John Burns, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, and many more, will inspire and invite people to return to the source and summit of our Faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. In addition to the work being done in our Diocese as part of the Eucharistic Procession to Indianapolis, we are exploring the possibility of taking a group from the Diocese of La Crosse to attend the Eucharistic Congress. To prepare for such a pilgrimage, we need to know the number of pilgrims interested in joining a group from the Diocese of La Crosse to attend the National Eucharistic Congress. If you are interested in being part of this special pilgrimage, please email cre@stmaryneillsville.org.

Once we know the number of people wishing to participate, we can provide further information related to costs, travel, and registration.

Area Events

Christian Music Skate – Melody Gardens Restaurant & Skateland at 1200 S Oak Ave, Marshfield are having a Christian Music Skate once a month. The first Friday will be September 22nd. Come skate from 6:30pm to 9pm. Admission is \$3 and skate rental is \$1. Come have fun with your friends!

Parish Dinner - St. Wenceslaus Parish in Miladore is having their Annual Parish Chicken Dinner on Sunday, October 1, 2023, Drive thru ONLY. Serving from 11am to 1pm \$14 a meal, Dinner Includes: Chicken Breast and thigh with each dinner, Dressing, Potatoes, Sauerkraut with Sausage, Carrots, Dessert and Kolache.