

## 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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## September 24, 2023 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9  
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a  
Matthew 20:1-16a

*"In the divine image He created them  
male and female; He created them." Genesis 1:27*

Dear Family,

This week is continued the article on forgiveness by Donald Demarco. Remember, NOW is the time for mercy, whenever NOW is.

#### **No Islands**

The secular world has its penitentiaries, just as hockey has its penalty boxes and baseball scorecards have their error columns. The kind of forgiveness the world usually offers is of a bogus variety that of forgiving yourself. This concept of self-forgiveness is, in part, the consequence of modern secular psychology that has inflated the importance of the individual as an individual. Popular self-help books such as *How to Be Your Own Best Friend*, *Winning Through Intimidation*, *How to Get Divorced from Mom and Dad*, and others, create the impression that the individual is an island unto himself.

But forgiving oneself implies a radical form of personal disunity. Can one divide oneself into two parts: the part that bestows forgiveness and the part that receives forgiveness? And how would the former part receive forgiveness or rise above the latter part to presuppose that it can dispense forgiveness? And along what lines (fault lines?) of the personality can such a division be made?

The essence of forgiveness concerns not individuals as such, but relationships. Forgiveness repairs a damaged relationship between man and God, as well as between man and neighbor. The two great commandments to love God and to love neighbor reiterated in the Lord's Prayer, underscore this meaning of forgiveness.

#### **Exalted and Mundane**

In Peter Shaffer's play, *Amadeus*, a demented Antonio Salieri, now an inmate of an insane asylum, rolls through the hallways in his wheelchair dispensing "forgiveness" to his fellow inmates for the "sin" of mediocrity. The Salieri character went mad precisely because he could not succeed, despite trying with all the power he could muster, to forgive himself for not being a composer equally talented as Mozart.

An individual cannot forgive himself any more than soap can clean itself. Humility is the virtue we need to be ourselves. Forgiveness is the virtue we need in order to repair our relationships with others.

In the absence of forgiveness or the presence of unrepaired relationships the field is wide open for the unchecked spread of deadly vices. This is the theme of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's most enduring play, *Der Besuch der alten Dame* (*The Visit of the Old Woman*). In the play, first staged in 1956, Claire Zachanassian, now a very wealthy woman, returns to the town that unjustly condemned her and drove her out 45 years earlier. Her unforgiving attitude hardens into hatred for all the townsfolk. Drawing on a huge amount of inheritance money, she exploits the greed of the people of Gullen, seduces them into murdering her principal defamer, and leaves town with the diabolical satisfaction that the collective guilt of the people will plague them for many years to come.

Here is the fundamental paradox of forgiveness: it is supernatural and presupposes many foundational virtues while it is also elementary and necessary in order for people to get along with each other. Forgiveness is both exalted and mundane. This paradox may seem easier to grasp when one realizes that God, exalted as He is, remains with us to guide us in our relationships with Him and our neighbors every step of the way.

Let us forgive one another from our hearts. God bless and Mary keep you!

## Weekly Calendar

### **Monday, September 25 – No Mass – Office Closed**

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

### **Tuesday, September 26**

*Memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian, martyrs*

3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine  
 5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration  
 6:00pm Mass: † Arnie Carl

### **Wednesday, September 27**

*Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, priest*

6:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:00am Mass: Blessings for Aaron Nicks  
 3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine  
 7:00pm CCD: Grades 7-12

### **Thursday, September 28**

*Memorials of Saint Wenceslaus, martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, martyrs*

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
 8:00am Mass: † Duane Peterson  
 3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

### **Friday, September 29**

*Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels*

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
 8:00am Mass: † William Kastern  
 3:00pm Holy Hour for Ukraine

### **Saturday, September 30 – Incense Free**

*Memorial of Saint Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church*

8:00am Mass: Blessings for Alfred Kroening  
 4:00pm Confession  
 5:00pm Mass: † John & Christina Schmidt; Charles & Margaret Kupke & John Becker

### **Sunday, October 1**

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00am Confession  
 8:00am Mass: † Diann Janicki  
 9:45am Confession  
 10:30am Mass: St. Mary's Parish Family  
 1:30pm Levis Mound Hike – see bulletin notice

## 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** Gretchen Fitzmaurice – 715.486.6674

**Baptisms** Mary Luedtke – 715-937-5054

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**Transportation to Church Functions**

## Weekly Collection

**September 16-17, 2023**

Tithe	\$3,504.00
Student	2.25
Offertory	521.00
CCD Donation	20.00
Bazaar and Dinner	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,147.25</b>

## **Weekly Budget**

**\$5,600.00**

Building Fund	\$50.00
Uganda Mission	831.00
Uganda Student Sponsorship	669.00

## Liturgical Ministries

**Saturday-Sunday September 30-October 1**

### Lectors

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Mary Hartung	Dr. Gregory Foster	Phyllis Carney

### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Jared Thomas	Wayne Thomas	Gary Veltus

### Altar Servers

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

### Cantor

<u>10:30am</u>
Lorraine Spencer
JoAnn Blum

### Ushers for October

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

### Rosary Leader

<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Larry Hoesser	Jack & Theresa Hammond	Phyllis Carney

## Proverbial Wisdom

There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy,  
 Neither will misery exhaust it,  
 Because as it is being granted, [mercy] increases.  
 The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate,  
 Because I Myself take care of it.

--Diary, 1273

## Parish Announcements



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.

**Just a reminder!** Choir practice is every Monday starting at 6:30pm in the choir loft. Our focus will be covering the music for the upcoming weekend, learning any new songs, and also preparing for the feast days! This practice will also help us prepare for all the masses and help familiarize yourself with the new Credo Hymnal we will begin using at the start of Advent. The choir then will be singing at the 10:30am Mass each Sunday with a cantor. It is nice to see a few new faces in the choir. Anyone interested in singing in the choir can join at any time. See you Monday!

### **2023 Rosary Rally Saturday October 14, 2023 at Noon**

Over 20,000 Rosary Rally's will be held across America. Through the most Holy Rosary, we ask Our Lord and Our Lady for the conversion of America so that it may fulfill its historic mission. America is suffering a societal collapse. It is urgent that we heed our Lady's request and stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings and to avert His wrath. He will hear us, if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. Come join us in praying for our nation and in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday October 14th on the front lawn of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Neillsville. "The Rosary is a priceless treasure *INSPIRED BY GOD.*"

- St. Louis De Monfort

### **Knights of Columbus Pancake & French Toast Breakfast**

The Knights of Columbus are having a Pancake & French Toast Breakfast on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 12:30pm. Take out orders are available. Please call 715-937-0031. The Knights will be serving French toast, along with buttermilk, blueberry & potato pancakes, sausage, applesauce, cheese, breakfast bars, coffee juice and milk. It will be a Free Will Offering. Proceeds of this event will go to a local family that has suffered from a catastrophic loss. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 4963

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## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### Faith Formation/CCD News



The next Family Formation session will be Oct 4 with a fellowship meal in the Church Hall from 5-5:50pm for Family Formation families and extended until 6:30pm for CCD students to have a bite to eat before class starts at 7:00 pm. Donations towards the cost of the meal are very appreciated and can be dropped in the donation basket at the meal. Please sign up on the sheet in the carport vestibule if you can bring a treat to share with the meal.

**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.

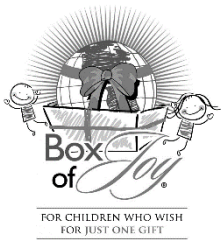


The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) typically begins in the fall. OCIA is for those wishing to join the Catholic faith. But if you have questions and are Catholic or not, or know someone who wants to know more or join the Catholic faith, please call Judy at the parish office. We would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



Do you know someone who needs a ride? Family Life would like to compile a list of people who need a ride to Mass or church functions as well as a list of people who would be willing to offer a ride to these parishioners. If you are in need of a ride or are willing to drive, please call Mary Luedtke, 715-937-5054 so we can match people up for rides.

**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.



**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. We will drive together to a west entrance 2 miles away. 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. All hikers are invited to Nick and Kathy Nicks's house, W6967 Turville Rd for a little good old fashion German GEMUTLICHKEIT (warm welcome and good cheer). A simple cookout including bratwurst and hot dogs etc. and beverages will be served after the hike. Any questions please call the parish office to speak with Judy Conner.



**MEN OF THE CROSS CONFERENCE**

Men of the Cross Conference is October 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.menofthecross.org).

**Thank you!** The Officers of Catholic Financial Life Branch 150, would like to thank all those members and non-members who helped to support our Produce and Bake Sale this past weekend. A busy weekend for all with multiple events occurring. A special thanks to Jim Ingold, Bonnie Langreck and Carol Tomasello for their assistance in set up of the sale and MaryAnn Ingold for her organization of the event. We had an enormous number of items which helped us to collect \$630 in sales and donations this year. We will be receiving \$500 in matched funds from Catholic Financial Life, which will be donated to support the St. Vincent De Paul Society in Marshfield with their mission: "A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." The Marshfield location hosts a Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Free Medical Clinic, Christian Library, Emergency Assistance, Birthright, and Fellowship Meals. The entire amount collected \$1,130, will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul Society in Marshfield. Unsold produce items are being donated to the Food Pantry of Clark County. Our great appreciation to all for donating your bountiful gifts!!! Becky Trybula, President, Lorraine Spencer, Vice President, MaryAnn Ingold and Treasurer Deb Schoengarth, Secretary

**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](mailto: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**

**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.