

December 22, 2024



St. Mary ' s
Immaculate Conception
7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423
Phone: 715-592-4330
Website: www.stmaryscuster.net



PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Mark Miller, Pastor 715-600-6942
fr.miller@sacredheartpolonia.com
Deacon Jim Sniadajewski
dcn.jim@sacredheartpolonia.com

You may reach Father Miller for both emergency and non emergency situations by calling Sacred Heart office at any time of the day.

PARISH STAFF

Secretary-Donna Wierzba....stmary@wi-net.com
Bookkeeper-Rebecca Jones
stmaryicfinance@gmail.com
Coordinator of Religious Education-
Jessica Bielen
Custodian-Jeanne Hintz
Maintenance/Grounds keeping
Josh Genskow

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples requesting the celebration of Marriage should contact the parish at the time of formal engagement or at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Please contact the parish to schedule a baptism class and request a date for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents are encouraged to attend before the birth of their child.

Parish Mission Statement

St Mary's Parish is a practicing Catholic Community providing spiritual, social and educational opportunities for all God's people that we may deepen our love of God and one another through prayer and deed.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE
3:30 pm Christmas Carols
4:00 pm +Richie Zblewski
by Sharon, Barb, Lori, Richard Jr, Amanda, Suzy

Wednesday, December 25, CHRISTMAS
BOTH MASSES HELD AT SH
12 Midnight +Jerry Shroda by Lori Shroda
9:00 am St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart
Parish Families

Thursday, Dec 26 & Friday, Dec 27
NO MASS

Saturday, December 28
NO 8:15 am MASS

2:45 pm Confessions @ SH
4:00 pm St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart
Parish Families

**Sunday, Dec 29, The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
8:00 am @SH +Clarence Ostrowski by Betty
10:00 am +Gladys Lepak & Casimir Yenter
by Deb & Roger Yenter

Wednesday, January 1,
8:15 am For the Health of Isaac Miller
6:00 pm @SH St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart
Parish Families





"Almighty and Eternal God, whose light has shone in our mortal darkness; reveal Your presence in our souls, and direct us in our thoughts, words and deeds; awaken us from the sleep of sin, and make us know that now is the accepted time and now the day of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (a traditional Advent prayer)

Dear Parishioners:

As we enter into these last days of the Advent Season, I hope the past number of weeks have been fruitful for you. In these remaining days, I pray that the Lord come into all of our hearts and souls that whatever you and I need to do in our own lives may be accomplished so that we may prepare as best as possible for the coming of the Lord.

Cordially,
Fr. Miller

PLEASE NOTE

There will be NO MORNING MASSES on December 26th-28th at St. Mary's I.C. and Sacred Heart. Also, NO MASS on December 31st.

A Minute with Jesus: Jesus came into the world to save us.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan for His birth on Earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: *Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.*

This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

Please pick up your **2025 Church Support Envelopes** located on the table in back of Church. If you contribute through DIRECT WITHDRAWAL you will still need to pick up your envelopes. Included with the weekly offering envelopes are Special Collections, Holy Days, and Building Fund. Thank you for your support.

2025 Calendars... A gift for St. Mary's I.C. parishioners, please one per household. **A SPECIAL THANK YOU to PISARSKI FUNERAL HOMES, 703 Second Street, Stevens Point, and 2911 Plover Road, Plover, for donating the calendars.**

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT
December 15**

Offertory	\$ 127.00
Retirement Collection	80.00
Christmas Flowers	20.00
Adult Env & ACH	1409.00
Total	\$ 1636.00

End of the Year Contributions

All contributions postmarked 12/31/2024 will be posted and processed for the calendar/tax year 2024. All contributions received or postmarked after 12/31/24 will be posted into 2025, regardless of whether a 2024 giving envelope is used.

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Envelopes for the Ground Level Hall and Church Renovations can be found in your Parish support envelopes. This project is for current and future generations of St. Mary's parishioners. Please be generous.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO OUR BUILDING FUND



St. Mary's I.C. Faith Formation Program

Coordinator of Religious Education Jessica Bielen
(715)347-3367 or jwier319@gmail.com



St. Mary's Immaculate Conception
Faith Formation

Scan this QR code and join!

Prayers for those in need are so very important; so if you would like someone added to the list please contact the parish office. Always be sure you have permission to add someone's name.

Please remember in your prayers

Please pray for the following and all who are ill in our parish:

*Valerie Stanczyk, Henry Gagas, Sharon Zblewski,
Joe Raschka, Jean Miller, Shirley Pliska, Betty Kowalski,
Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Jerry Lepak, Mike Mrozek,
Ken Wierzba, Brigid & Al Pellatt*

If anyone is in need of spiritual care at your home or the hospital (e.g. Holy Communion, confession, or Anointing of the Sick) please call the parish to make arrangements. Father Miller is here for your spiritual and sacramental needs. Also, be aware that if you are in the hospital for an extended period of time, and would like a visit, please contact the parish. This is important, hospitals do not make us aware of these situations.

For prayer support through the unpublished **St. Mary's I.C. Parish Prayer Chain** please call *Elsie Mansavage 715-592-4174, or the Parish Office 715-592-4330 or stmary@wi-net.com FIRST NAMES ONLY will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.*

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen



ST. MARY'S I.C. FOOD PANTRY

We will continue to collect non perishable items and monetary donations for local families. Please help us help those in need. Drop off items in the cart in the entrance of the Church.

Please check the expiration date on items you are donating.



NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday January 1, 2025, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at
8:15am at St. Mary's I.C.
6:00pm at Sacred Heart

"For we are co-workers; you are God's field, God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9
DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

GOAL	\$22,455.00
PLEGGED AND RECEIVED	\$14,032.50
# OF DONORS	53

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

January 3rd, 9 am-3pm at St. Mary's I.C.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3 pm followed by Benediction. All are welcome and encouraged to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. **Please consider "adopting" an hour to sit with our Lord.** A sign-up sheet is located in the table in the Church entrance.



Mass stipends for the Wisconsin Province will increase to a maximum of \$20 effective July 1, 2024. If you would like to offer a Mass at St. Mary's I.C. Parish, kindly consider an offering between \$10-20 dollars.

DATES AVAILABLE - WE HAVE SOME DAYS OPEN IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY. Please contact the office this week to schedule a Mass. Thank you.

BUY SCRIP After Mass JANUARY 12th & 26th

If you need scrip before Scrip Sunday,
please call Shelly (715-592-3775)

Thank you for supporting our scrip program.

SCRIP sold in Month of December
total=\$11,095.00 profit= \$ 506.71

Inclement Weather Policy:

Parish Office and Scheduled Activities.

St. Mary's I.C. and Sacred Heart Parishes follows Stevens Point Public Schools for delays, closures, and cancellations. When Stevens Point Public Schools close and/or cancel evening activities, the Parish Office and Sacred Heart School will close and all activities at the parish are cancelled. Cancellations and closures will also be posted on the website.

If Parish office is closed due to inclement weather, Father will still celebrate daily Mass at scheduled time at Sacred Heart. There will be no Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

PLEASE NOTE: When Mass is scheduled at St. Mary's I.C.

Father will still celebrate the Mass, but at Sacred Heart. If you are ever unable to drive safely, please do not risk coming to Mass.



Liturgical Appointments

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE 3:30 pm Carols

LECTOR Deb USHERS Travis

SERVERS Leo & Landon

MUSICIANS Carolyn & Jacquie

SUNDAY, Dec 29

LECTOR Nora USHERS Anthony

SERVERS Samantha, Spencer

MONEY COUNTERS Jeremy, Lisa, Denise

MUSICIANS Bob & Sandie

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st 8:15 am

LECTOR Deb USHERS volunteer

SERVERS volunteer

MUSICIANS Jacquie & John C



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21st-Colleen Raschka

23rd-Lisa Piesik

24th-Deb Sniadajewski

Randy Iwanski

REMINDER: Please contact the office: 715-592-4330 or stmary@wi-net.com if you have a change of address, phone number, or if you would like to join our parish family. Thank you

"Getting Ready" During these final days of Advent, we want to step back from our busy lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This time of penance and sacrifice can include something like not having dessert occasionally, turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. This can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices so that during this season of grace we might have an open, welcoming heart with more room to receive Jesus on Christmas.

We will be surprised how these long-held Catholic traditions of preparing allow us to see and understand truths that may be hidden from our human eyes. In the silence of prayer, the Lord will give us new insights, that we may see with "spiritual eyes" and understand better the wonder of the mystery of the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

The Rosary in a Year Podcast: Renew Your Prayer

On January 1st, Father Mark-Mary Ames is launching *The Rosary in a Year* podcast with Ascension Press! You are most welcome to join for FREE as an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and the Blessed Virgin as you understand the beauty and significance of the rosary. This will be a 10-minute daily podcast to hear about the basics, what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and Mary, the meaning of the prayers, understand better the different mysteries and how to meditate on the life of Christ to encounter Him. Download the prayer plan at AscensionPress.com/RosaryinaYear.