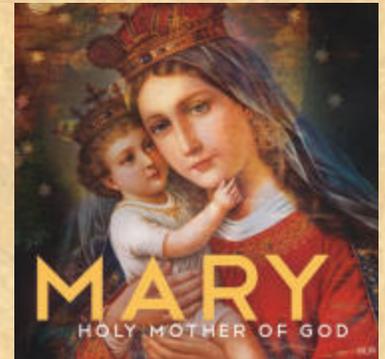


# Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 27, 2020

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

It had been revealed to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to Him, he took Him into his arms and blessed God... Lk 2:26-28



### Holy Day "Mary, The Holy Mother of God"

Vigil Holy Day Mass  
Thursday  
December 31st  
5:30 pm

Holy Day Mass  
Friday  
January 1st  
9 am  
11 am - Spanish

#### Parish Center Office (Oficina)

(Behind school/atrás de la escuela)  
221 S 28th Avenue - 715-842-3148

#### Temporary Office Hours (call 1st):

Monday: 9 am - 3pm  
Tuesday: 1 pm - 3 pm  
Wednesday: 9 am - 12 noon  
Office Closed:

Thursday - Dec 31st, New Year's Eve  
Friday - Jan 1st, New Year's Day

Website: [www.stmatthewwausau.org](http://www.stmatthewwausau.org)  
YouTube: St. Matthew Wausau  
Facebook: St Matthew Catholic Church

#### Mass Schedule - Horario de Misas

Weekends: Saturday: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am  
Español-Spanish: 12:00 noon

\*The obligation to attend Sunday Mass & Holy Days  
has been dispensed by Bishop Callahan.

\*Sunday Mass can be viewed on our website  
any time after 4 pm Saturday and all day Sunday.

Weekdays: Monday - Saturday: 8 am  
\*Weekday Masses live-streamed on YouTube.

#### This Week Eucharistic Adoration

Monday & Wednesday: 9 am - 5 pm  
Thursday: 7 - 8:30 pm

#### Guidelines for Attending Sunday Mass

- † **Face Masks are Required inside the Church.** Please bring your own face mask. Hand sanitizer and some face masks are available at entrances.
- † We welcome you to attend Mass. Please come 10 minutes early, so ushers can seat everyone before Mass begins. Social distancing guidelines are being followed.
- † Accommodations will be made if attendance is greater than 120 individuals (25% occupancy)

**Face Masks are Required in Church, the Parish Center, and the School.**



## RITE OF PASSAGE: 2020 → 2021 “THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH”

One of the rites of passage in our family was attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. We were not allowed to attend until we reached second grade. I remember before reaching second grade I would have “temper tantrums” because I wasn’t able to go, and everyone else did.

The first time I attended Midnight Mass was magical. St Mary’s in Janesville is a very large, old church and the large manger scene was set up on the right side of the sanctuary in front of the St Joseph altar. Numerous Christmas trees surrounded the manger scene, and their branches were decorated with blue lights set against aluminum holders shaped like stars. It was beautiful! And, I could pick out my dad’s beautiful tenor voice in the large adult choir that sang from the balcony. It was such a holy and blessed night.

I never really thought much about it till now, but my family was a holy family, too. My mom and dad did all they could to raise us in the Faith. Of course, nobody gives new parents a manual on how to raise children ... and each one is so different! Maybe you have noticed it in your own family, or among your own children.

In an ordinary family, the members of the family may get frustrated with each other. They may occasionally argue. But ultimately, the members of an ordinary family will strive to love each other and support each other. They will try to humbly serve each other, and be Christ for each other. They won’t do it perfectly, but they will try to be holy. But we are not all raised in “ordinary families”, are we? Every family, it seems, has its share of struggles and trials as it seeks to live in love of one another.

Holiness is not something you put on like a shirt, or a dress, or a pair of shoes. It’s a constant attempt to put aside one’s own selfish interest and think of the other. That’s one of the beauties of gift giving at Christmas. We are forced to think of the other and what he/she might like, what will make them happy.

Despite their failures and imperfections, there is hope that any family can be like the Holy Family. Pope Francis has some good suggestions for families to grow in holiness:

“Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.” This holds true for individuals, parents, children and families.

The best way to take care of your spiritual life is regular prayer — both personal and communal. “Resting in prayer is especially important for families. It is in the family that we first learn how to pray. And don’t forget when the family prays together, it remains together. This is important.”

While saying prayer before meals and bedtime is important, the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is our best prayer. Here we express all forms of prayer as praise and adore God, ask His assistance, ask the saints to intercede on our behalf, even as we praise and thank God for ‘simply’ being God. When a family regularly prays together at Mass, all other prayer becomes a regular and natural part of family life. “As Christians, you too are called, like Joseph, to make a home for Jesus. You make a home for Him in your hearts, your families, your parishes and your communities.”

*Pope Francis, Jan. 17, 2015*

### Turn to St. Joseph in this “Year of St. Joseph”

Pope Francis shares his own reliance on St Joseph: “I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church. Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: pray for this.”

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and a holy New Year!

**Fr Bob and Fr Juan Pedro**

### A Christmas Letter from Fr Peter Kieffer

Dear St. Matt’s Parishioners,

Fr Bob asked me recently to write a little bulletin article, giving you all an update on what I have been up to the last few months. Since moving from Wausau, I have been serving as the associate pastor at St Mary’s Parish in Altoona, WI, and St Raymond’s Parish near Fall Creek, WI. We also serve the Hispanic community of Eau Claire at St Mary’s. In a number of ways, my parish assignment now is similar to the one I had in Wausau (serving multiple parishes, being at a bi-lingual parish, etc.). While there are similarities, there has been a lot to learn, as well. It’s interesting how much I forgot that I had learned at my first assignment in Wausau until I moved to Altoona and realized how much I had to re-learn (names, who is responsible for what, etc.). Overall, it has been a very positive experience, except that there are no diocesan sesquicentennial books to sell, which has been a bummer.

In addition to my parish responsibilities, I also serve as the chaplain at Regis High School and Middle School in Eau Claire, which are part of the Regis Catholic School system in the Eau Claire area. Having served as the chaplain at Newman made the transition to serving as chaplain at Regis much easier. Obviously being a chaplain is different now during the pandemic, so we at school have had to be flexible, adjusting to the reality that life at school is different now than it was just a year ago. Minus one two-week period of virtual learning back in October, we have been able to maintain a general pattern of five days a week in-person for school at Regis. I think we’re all ready to go back to normal school life, but, until then, we’re grateful to be able to have in-person school and the efforts many here have taken to make that happen.

Thank you to all who have sent me Christmas cards. For those who haven’t, Christmas season lasts until January 10. All kidding aside, I hope you all are well, and know of my prayers for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless!

**Fr Peter**

## La Crosse Diocese Televised Mass

### Wausau TV channels (Ch):

**Cable & Satellite:** Ch 12 at 6:30 am Sunday

**Public Access:** Ch 980 at 6 pm Sat, 9 am Sun

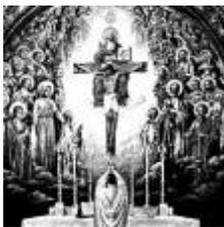
### La Crosse Diocese Weekday Mass:

Mass is available any time of day at:

- [www.dioc.org/live](http://www.dioc.org/live)
- [www.dioc.org/tvmas](http://www.dioc.org/tvmas);
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/dioceesoflacrosse](http://www.youtube.com/user/dioceesoflacrosse)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pg/diocl/videos](http://www.facebook.com/pg/diocl/videos)

**EWTN:** [www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live](http://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live); EWTN App; YouTube Channel, & TV Sunday and daily Masses are at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm & 11 pm

**Relevant Radio:** [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) & on Relevant Radio App  
Live-streamed Sunday and daily Masses: 12 noon Sunday - Saturday.  
Previous Masses available 30 minutes after live broadcast.



## Visiting and Anointing of the Sick

With the current covid 19 situation, hospital and nursing home visits by a priest are not always allowed. If you or a loved one would like to receive the **Sacrament of the "Anointing of the Sick"**,

**please call as soon as possible:**

**Dorothy at (715-432-5519) or the Parish Center (715-842-3148)**

When you know in advance that you are going to the hospital for a procedure, it will be easier for a priest to come to your home to anoint you. The hospital and nursing homes may not always allow visitors.

Often we have not received information from the hospital when a parishioner has been admitted, so please call us to let us know. Even if Fr Bob or Fr Juan Pedro are not able to visit the hospital or nursing home, you and your loved ones can be prayed for. Critically ill patients may receive exceptions for a priest to come to provide them with the Sacraments, so please notify us. Thank you!



## Celebration of Sacraments

**Confession** - Saturday: 11:00 am - 12 noon  
or by Appointment

**Baptism** - A Baptism Preparation Class must be attended by the parents. The Godparents are encouraged to attend. You must register one week before the class by calling the Parish Center at **715-842-3148**.

**Next Baptism Class:** Monday, January 11: 6:30 pm

**Bautismo** - Para Bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase de preparación. Generalmente las clases son el primer martes de cada mes a las **6:30 pm en el centro parroquial**. Para mayor informes y registrarse para la clase llame a **Joy al 715-842-3148**.

**Marriage** - Contact Fr Bob 6 months in advance for arrangements.

**Anointing of the Sick** - Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 to make arrangements for:

- + **Anointing of the Sick** - available when you are seriously ill or before a scheduled surgery.
- + **Visits to the Homebound** - visits to your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

**Hospital Visits** - Let the hospital know when you are admitted that you would like to have Fr Bob or Fr Juan Pedro visit you.

**In Need of Prayer?** - Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you when you need extra prayer. Call **Bonnie at 715-675-9876**.

\* You may also call the Parish Center at 715-842-3148



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In the search bar for choosing your "charitable organization" type:

**St. Matthew Parish Wausau**

Then choose "**St. Matthew Parish**" as your *charitable organization*.

**Thanks for supporting St. Matthew Parish!**

## March for Life:

### January 2 in Madison and January 29 in Washington, DC

While the Diocese of La Crosse is not taking pilgrims to the March for Life this year, you can choose to participate in the March for Life in Madison on January 2nd or the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 29th.

For more information on both, visit [www.prolifewi.org/marchforlife](http://www.prolifewi.org/marchforlife).

If you plan to attend the March for Life in Madison, please email [cruiff@dioc.org](mailto:cruiff@dioc.org) or [crogers@dioc.org](mailto:crogers@dioc.org) and we will discuss a rendezvous point for pilgrims from our diocese.



## January 30th: Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection "Walking with Moms in Need"

Some people accuse pro-lifers of caring only about the child in the womb and not women in need. Not true at all, as you will see from



keynote speaker Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando, FL. You will also hear about the fourteen Pregnancy Care Centers in the Diocese of La Crosse and what you can do to help one near you. This afternoon of reflection will have broad appeal for families, adults and teens. More details coming soon!

## Collecting Calendars for Nursing Homes

If you have extra calendars you would like to donate for nursing home residents, please put them in labeled box by the Blue Bins in the Angelorum.

**Thank You!**



## Heroic Men Website: [www.heroicmen.com](http://www.heroicmen.com)

Offering more than 100 feature-length films, TV shows, documentaries and short films, Heroic Men seeks to source the best Catholic media available and bring it all to you, all in one place.

It is a **100% FREE Catholic streaming platform** designed especially for men who want to discover (or re-discover) the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith.

Tell others about this great website!



## Heaters for Sale

Heaters used to heat the school when boiler was out are available for sale.

**Original cost: \$80.00 Make an Offer!**

If you are interested, call Jason at:

**715-581-2005**





**This Week at Saint Matthew**  
**"We Wish You a Blessed and Happy New Year"**

**Tuesday, December 29**

No Bible Study

**Thursday, December 31 - New Year's Eve**

Parish Center Closed

8:00 am Daily Mass

5:30 pm Vigil Holy Day Mass for "Mary, The Holy Mother of God"

7:00 - 8:30 pm Adoration

**Friday, January 1 - Holy Day - Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

Parish Center Closed

9:00 am Holy Day Mass for "Mary, The Holy Mother of God"

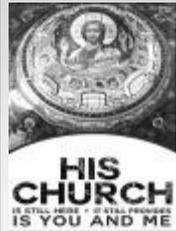
11:00 am Spanish Holy Day Mass

No Eucharistic Adoration Today

**May you have a Blessed New Year's Day!**

**Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021**

**Target: \$72,700**



For any gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal to be considered for the 2020 Calendar Tax Year, it must be postmarked by 12/31/2020; otherwise, it will be regarded as a 2021 gift on your taxes.

**Thank you for your generosity to the Diocesan Annual Appeal!**

**Wishing you a very Blessed, Healthy, Happy New Year!**

**Sharing God's Blessings**  
**Thank You**  
**for Your Support!**

Minimum Amount Needed Weekly per Budget.....\$9,612.00

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Immaculate Conception Collection ..... | \$1,476.76 |
| Sunday Collection .....                | \$9,734.04 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious.....     | \$1,257.58 |

**Calendar Raffle Winner: December 14 - Carrie Wagner (#965)**

**Parish Contributions:** Our weekly offertory collection provides the necessary funds to meet our financial obligations - staff payroll, insurance payments, utility bills, building maintenance, etc. While public Masses are limited at this time, our daily work of parish and pastoral ministry will continue on. Please consider sending your weekly donations by:

- **Mail** (St Matthew Parish, 221 S 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401)
- **Monthly Electronic Funds Transfer** from your bank (to set up, contact Barb at: 715-842-3148 or email: barbfinance@stmatthewausau.org).
- **Bill Pay through your Bank** (contact your bank to set up).
- **Online Giving:** (via credit card or direct debit)
  - www.stmatthewausau.org/donations (one-time donations)
  - www.stmatthewausau.org/payments (recurring donations available)

**Parish Staff (715-842-3148)**

**Pastor:** Rev Robert C Thom  
 frbob@stmatthewausau.org

**Associate Pastor:**  
 Rev Juan Pedro Roblez Baltazar  
 frjuan@stmatthewausau.org

**Pastoral Care:** Dorothy Giallombardo  
 dorothy@stmatthewausau.org

**Deacon:** Rev Mr Tom Tierney

**Parish Secretary:**

**Plant Manager:** Jason Seliger

**Finance Secretary:** Barb Splinter  
 barbfinance@stmatthewausau.org

**DRE & Hispanic RE:** Joy Orozco  
 joydre@stmatthewausau.org

**Bulletin Editor:** Rosemary Beever  
 rosemarybulletin@stmatthewausau.org

**Bulletin Deadline: 3 pm Monday**



**Mass Intentions**  
**December 28, 2020 - January 3, 2021**



**Monday** 8:00 am - †Richard Piaszak  
**Tuesday** 8:00 am - Dominic Perez - Thanksgiving  
**Wednesday** 8:00 am - †Marge Rosnostick  
**Thursday** 8:00 am - †Tom Connolly  
**Dec 31 - Vigil Holy Day Mass - Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
**Thursday** 5:30 pm - †Chris and †Sharon Seubert  
 †Jim Hoard  
**January 1 - Holy Day Mass - Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
**Friday** 9:00 am - †Poor Souls in Purgatory  
 St Matthew Parishioners  
 Spanish 11:00 am - †Billy Stoltz  
**Saturday** 8:00 am - Uziel and Rosalba Perez  
 4:30 pm - †Joseph Berndt  
**Sunday** 8:00 am - †Jim Gierl  
 10:00 am - †Deceased Family of George & Sharon Drefcinski  
 Spanish 12 noon - St Matthew Parishioners



**This Week's Scripture Readings**

**Monday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18  
**Tuesday, December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**  
 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35  
**Wednesday, December 30**  
 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96/Lk 2:36-40  
**Thursday, December 31 - Saint Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve**  
 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18  
**Friday, January 1 - Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day**  
 Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
**Saturday, January 2 - St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**  
 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28  
**Sunday, January 3 - The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



**Holy Day - Liturgical Ministers**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Vigil Holy Day Mass</b><br>Thursday, December 31<br>5:30 pm | <b>Holy Day Mass</b><br>Friday, January 1<br>9:00 am |
| <b>Lectors</b>   |  |
| Mary Holm  | Mike Jilek   |

**Weekend - Liturgical Ministers**

|   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>January 2<br>4:30 pm | <b>Sunday</b><br>January 3<br>8:00 am | <b>Sunday</b><br>January 3<br>10:00 am |
| <b>Lectors</b>                          |                                       |  |
| Mary Holm                               | Theresa Stubbe                        | Joel Hynes                             |
| <b>Musicians</b>                        |                                       |  |
| Lynn Meyer<br>Nancy Losinski            | Marie Stubbe<br>Annette Southworth    | Joel Stubbe<br>Sara Schmitt            |



We wish you and your loved ones an abundance of God's Blessings in 2021!

God Bless & Protect You!

Fr Bob, Fr Juan Pedro and the Staff at St Matthew Parish



Soup Sale Fundraiser in January

St Matthew Parish would like to be able to hold the "Soup Sale" fundraiser in January. The exact date is still undetermined because we need volunteers for preparation and selling the soup.

All workers/volunteers will be required to social distance and wear masks. If you are interested in helping, please call the Parish Center, 715-842-3148, and we will keep you informed.

This Year Buy SCRIP Gift Cards for Special Occasions, for your everyday purchases, or for any reason!

They make great gifts & help the parish!



SCRIP can be bought at the Parish Center and we will begin selling Scrip after some weekend Masses in the Angelorum (observing social distancing protocols).

For any questions on dates Scrip will be sold at church, or to volunteer to help sell Scrip, call the Parish Center at: 715-842-3148.

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Happy New Year!



"Wausau West Side Circle of Joy"



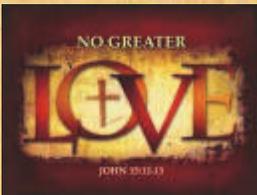
The Salvation Army Shelter is collecting Blankets, Spreads,

Quilts, & "Snuggles" to give to their Homeless Residents so that they may have something in which to wrap themselves for the night once they leave the shelter. NONE of these have to be new, however, they do have to be clean and in good repair.

If you have any extra blankets etc. (any size) to spare, please drop them off in the BLUE BINS in church or call Lou at 715-848-4177 for other arrangements. We are very concerned about the HOMELESS in our area especially now that cold weather is setting in.

We also are in need of a couple of bedroom chests of drawers or dressers for a family in need. Thank you very much!

We Are the Hands of Your Charitable Hearts



There are few things in life that are more uplifting than being able to help someone or be there for someone in need.

When we can use our gifts and talents to make someone else's life better, it can bring joy to not just our lives, but to those we are able to serve as well.

Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend. As friends of Christ, we are called to love in this way, to be willing to lay down our life for others.

A powerful way to do this is by being a priest of Jesus Christ. He is calling young men to consider this call to serve, to offer their lives out of love for their sisters and brothers. He may be calling YOU! If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, please contact me at: 608.791.2667 or

Fr. Nate Kuhn
Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse
3710 East Ave. S. - PO Box 4004
La Crosse, WI 54602

God bless you!



U.S. Bishops' Statement on Ethics of COVID-19 Vaccines

There are currently three vaccines that are likely to be made available in the coming months, those from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine. A confirmatory test, however, employing the commonly used, but morally compromised HEK293 cell line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) was performed on both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any connection to morally compromised cell lines, in this case the connection is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion.

The AstraZeneca vaccine is more morally compromised and should be avoided. The HEK293 cell line was used in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be used instead. Where that is not possible or would mean significant delay, the AstraZeneca vaccine may be used, in the same way that the Rubella vaccine is used because there is no alternative.

We should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research. ... For our part, we bishops and all Catholics and men and women of good will must continue to do what we can to ensure the development, production, and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine without any connection to abortion and to help change what has become the standard practice in much medical research, a practice in which certain morally compromised cell lines are routinely used as a matter of course, with no consideration of the moral question concerning the origins of those cell lines.

To read the full statement on the vaccines, visit usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines

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