



St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish

Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423

Phone: 715-592-4330

Website: www.stmaryscuster.com

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.

CLERGY

Pastor -

Fr. Alan M. Guanella (715) 592-4221

aguanella@gmail.com

In case of emergency only please call
715-629-9952

Senior Priest in Residence

Fr. Roy R. Witucki

PARISH STAFF

Secretary-Donna Wierzba

stmary@wi-net.com

Bookkeeper-Diane Wysocki

stmaryicfinance@gmail.com

CCD Coordinator-Jessica Bielen

Custodian-Jeanne Hintz

Maintenance/Grounds keeping

Josh Genskow

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 5 (SH) *St. John Neumann*

8:15 am †Gary Omernik by Lorraine Kluck

Wednesday, January 6 *St. Andre Bessette*

8:15 a.m. ***Knights of Columbus***

Thursday, January 7 (SH) *St. Raymond of Penafort*

7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am †Fran Zaborowski by Dan & Family

Friday, January 8

7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am †Clarence Pampuch

by Ken, Denise, Katie, Kyle Glodowski

Saturday, January 9 @ SH

8:15 am +Elaine Omernik by PCCW

+Scott H. Woitczak by Kathy Troyanoski-Moon

+Jerry Rozek by Roger & Dee Lepak

2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Anticipatory Mass @ SH

†Frank & Jeanette Wierzba

Sunday, January 10, ***Baptism of Our Lord***

8:00am @ SH St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart
Parish Families

10:00am †Romona Huff by family

†Butch Gagas by Pat & LeRoy Wierzba

†Bette Maslowski by Brad & Bette Britz

†Gusty & Janet Peplinski by family



I offer my sincerest thank you to everyone who offered me both birthday and Christmas cards, gifts, treats, and other items this past Advent and Christmas Seasons. I am humbled by your kindness and generosity. While I am unable to write thank-yous to everyone, please know of my prayers for you all and please continue to keep me in your prayers. God bless you! -Fr. Guanella



"2020 has been a year like no other!" By now the line has become trite. I'm certainly tired of hearing it; I'm also sick of saying it! But at the risk of piling on and of adding to our weariness, let me say the obvious again: what a year to have lived in! Something that may not be so obvious, yet is a reality much more hopeful and moving, is the unchanging presence and care of God—in good times, and in bad. 2020 has had its share of hard times. It has also revealed the goodness of God and of others.

I think, for example, of the care that God's people have shown to one another. As many began to stay home, others began to reach out and connect with them: via phone, email, or the socially-distant visit. As schools, work, and other activities were postponed or cancelled, family members became reacquainted with each other. No doubt, this had its times of trials and occasions to practice patience and charity. But for those who made the effort, their family is in many ways stronger now than it was a year ago. Our parishes also faced the year with faith and courage. Cancelling Masses, especially during Holy Week and Easter, caused much grief for us all. But in time we moved forward, I took prudent and reasonable precautions, and opened the doors again for public prayer and sacramental celebrations.

This year, I invite you to take some time to enter into Christmas through the eyes of St. Joseph as we consider his role in the Incarnation and his unfailing trust in God's plan for our salvation. Despite the many obstacles and circumstances with which he was presented, the Church celebrates his heroic virtues and has given him many titles.

St. Joseph, in a very humble and obedient fashion, took Mary as his wife, despite learning she was with child. St. Joseph was given peace when the angel explained to him the message of the Incarnation and Mary's role in salvation history. St. Joseph rightly bears the title *Spouse of Mary* and we can look to him for inspiration when we are faced with difficult situations. St. Joseph is also heralded in the Church as the *Foster Father of Jesus*. As a Jewish man and well aware of the Messianic Prophecy, Joseph took on the role as the protector of both Mary and Jesus. God chose to have his Son come into the world into a family. St. Joseph was there to provide for His earthly needs and to name Him "Son of David." Together with Mary, they cared for and nurtured the Son of God from the moment of His Divine Conception. We look to St. Joseph as a *pillar of families*. It was Joseph, who by his constant care, gave us a perfect example and model of Family Life. We "Go to Joseph" in times of trial and also in times of joy. Entrust your families to the protection of St. Joseph and pray for his intercession. As you gaze on the Nativity scene this year, pay particular attention to St. Joseph. Remember how he cared for Jesus and Mary so many years ago. Be inspired by his presence and strive to be more like him whenever possible.

While there is much to dispirit us about the year, there is more than enough goodness, charity, grace, and joy to give us hope for today and tomorrow. Let the blessings of the past and present time—the ones I've mentioned, and the ones belonging to you, personally—be foremost in our minds. Recall that the infant Jesus and his parents had their own worries: born in a stable, sought by the murderous Herod, on the run into a foreign land. Yet in fidelity and courage they overcame. Do not lose heart: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

+Bishop William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Sunday Weekly Service - 12/27/20
Offertory Plate - \$13
Adult Envelopes + ACH - \$1020
Building Fund - \$200
Total = \$1233

Christmas Eve Service - 12/24/20
Offertory Plate - \$14
Adult Envelopes - \$3303
Flowers - \$10
Total = \$3327

ALL 2020 DONATIONS after the 31st will be entered as 2021 contributions. Thank you.

ACH applications: Please consider signing up for ACH for your regular Weekly/Monthly contribution. Extra forms are in the entrance of Church, or please call the office, 715-592-4330 for more information.

****You can mail your weekly contributions to St. Mary's I.C. 7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423 or dropped in collection box. Thank you for your continued support.**



ENVELOPES FOR MONTHLY 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



HIS CHURCH
IS STILL HERE
IT STILL PROVIDES
IS YOU AND ME

St. Mary's I. C. Parish 2020-21 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

GOAL	\$19,810.00
Total Pledged	
& Received:	\$18,004.00
Amount Received:	\$16,494.00

Percent of Goal Received 83.26%

THANKS to those who have contributed.



Religious Education Class

Meet on Sunday, K-8th Grades 8:30-9:40 am
10th Grade meet 6:00-7:15 pm

Coordinator of Religious Education
Jessica Bielen jwier319@gmail.com



THANK YOU to parishioners for being *awesome* in donating supplies for the **Hooked-on Love** donations and the Religious Education students that took the time to make the baby blankets. Young mothers are grateful for the love shown to them with needed baby items we delivered to First Choice Prenatal Care Program. Especially with the raise in cost of baby items. Thank you for the extra effort to give them a joyful Christmas and a good start on the New Year.



Our Mission is to provide an environment of learning, giving and loving to enhance the fellowship and growth of the women's faith community of St. Mary's

Women on a Mission will meet **This Monday, January 4th at 6:30 PM** to tie quilts and blankets for The Kids Closet. They get donations of clothes but are in need of blankets. All women of the parish are welcome. We do wear masks and will distance.

Please pick up your 2021 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 box of envelopes. Included with the weekly offering envelopes are Building and Holy Day envelopes.

FACE MASK NOTICE Governor Tony Evers has issued an emergency order which includes a statewide mask mandate. All individuals over the age of 5 are required to wear a mask in all enclosed spaces except their personal residence Bishop William Callahan calls on the Catholic faithful to comply with these regulations, given our reverence for life and human dignity. Face masks/coverings must be worn by all individuals, 5 years or older, present within all churches, businesses, and office spaces, or attending any function associated with the ministry of the Diocese of La Crosse. Face coverings are required even if you are able to maintain proper social distancing. They must be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely and should not include face shields, mesh masks or masks with holes, openings or vents

Mass Readings the Week of January 3rd:

Sunday: Is. 60:1-6; Ps. 72; Eph. 3:2-6; Mt. 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn. 3:22-4:6; Ps. 2; Mt. 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn. 4:7-10; Ps. 72; Mk. 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn. 4:11-18; Ps. 72; Mk. 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn. 4:19-5:4; Ps. 72; Lk. 4:14-22
Friday: 1 Jn. 5:5-13; Ps. 147; Lk. 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn. 5:14-21; Ps. 149; Jn. 3:22-30

Please remember in your prayers

Gladys Pampuch, Tom Schmenk,
Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Mike Mrozek,
Myron Soik, Edward Lukasavage,
Ken Wierzbza, Brigid & Al Pellatt,
Nora Miller, Ray Sommers

Due to the coronavirus situation, home visits and communion calls are suspended. If there is an emergency situation (that is, end of life) please do not hesitate to contact the parish or Father Guanella's emergency line in order for the sacraments to be administered. Special procedures are currently in place.

Reminder-Weekend Masses cannot exceed 25% capacity and seating is limited, please call the parish office, 715-592-4330 every week **By Wednesday** ~ Thank you for your cooperation.

The dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass remains in effect for those who are vulnerable and have concerns returning to a publicly celebrated Mass.

2021 Calendars-A gift for St. Mary's I.C. parishioners: **A SPECIAL THANKS to Pisarski Funeral Homes**, 703 Second St, Stevens Point and 2911 Plover Rd, Plover for donating the calendars.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S Wishing you Birthday Blessings!

5th-Elsie Mansavage, 8th-Bette Britz, 9th-Joe Raschka, 10-Liz Mocadlo,
12-Elizabeth Yarbrough 14-Marie Helminiak, 17th-Kevin Zurawski,
28th-LeRoy Feltz & Trevor Kluck, 30th-Tom Fields

BUY SCRIP-Scrip is always available just a phone call away, Shelly 715-592-3775.



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.

THANK YOU for your generous support that has helped 3 parish families during this difficult time.

People Helping People



The Sacred Heart Saturday Mass Intentions: Beginning January 9, will be a "collective intention." This means that there is no limit to the number of Mass intentions for the Mass. Anyone can add to the collective intention. The \$10 stipend is still requested (the priest only receives one, however). Everyone who submits an intention must be informed that the Mass will have a collective intention. Please contact the Sacred Heart Parish office to add an intention or if you have questions.

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

Sacred Heart School Portesi Pizza Sale to raise money for their technology fund. The pizzas are \$7 each. Order forms can be found at the entrances of the church, please fill out a form and return them to Sacred Heart office by January 15th. All orders will be delivered after January 29th. Your support is greatly appreciated. ~ Thank you



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

St. Mary's I.C. Salvation Army Servers

We prepare dinner for people in need at the Salvation Army on the **First Monday** of every month. Please consider donating your time for this wonderful cause.

NEED SERVERS FOR MARCH

Information please contact
Gina 920-540-7804

Liturgical Appointments

SUNDAY, January 3

LECTOR Kirk USHERS Randy
SERVERS Samantha & Zach
MONEY COUNTERS: Lisa & Jeremy
MUSICIANS Jacque & Carolyn

SUNDAY, January 10

LECTOR Christine USHERS Eddie
SERVERS Julia & Vincent
MONEY COUNTERS David & Rosemarie
MUSICIANS Mary & Jim

SUNDAY, January 17

LECTOR Jim USHERS Travis
SERVERS LeRoy & Addy
MONEY COUNTERS: Kirk
MUSICIANS Jacque & Carolyn

SUNDAY, January 24

LECTOR Christine USHERS Eddie
SERVERS Julia & Vincent
MONEY COUNTERS Dave & Lorraine
MUSICIANS Mary & Cheryl

SUNDAY, January 31

LECTOR Tom USHERS Travis
SERVERS Cassie & Madison
MONEY COUNTERS: Tom & Brenda
MUSICIANS Bob & Sandie

In Search of Young Adults!

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics through retreats and parish youth ministry each year! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit www.spiritusministries.org/ beamissionary, contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org, or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information

Please use these following resources to help in your Sunday prayer:

- *Daily Mass readings www.usccb.org/bible/readings
- *Daily Mass from the Cathedral at: www.dioc.org/live
- *Sunday Mass 11am: www.nationalshrine.org/mass
- Noon: on Public Access Cable Channel 984 5:30 p.m. on Saturday
- *EWTN broadcasts Mass daily and online at video.ewtn.com/daily-mass
- *Relevant Radio broadcasts Mass Noon & 7:30PM every day, 9AM Sundays