



## ***St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish***

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2021

7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423

Phone: 715-592-4330

Website: [www.stmaryscuster.com](http://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.

*St. Mary's I.C. is open Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 9:00am-5:00pm for private prayer.*

### **CLERGY**

#### **Pastor -**

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

[aguanella@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com)

**Bookkeeper**-Rebecca Jones

[stmaryicfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryicfinance@gmail.com)

**CCD Coordinator**-Jessica Bielen

**Custodian**-Jeanne Hintz

**Maintenance/Grounds keeping**

Josh Genskow

### **Mass Readings for the Week of January 31st:**

Sunday: Dt. 18:15-20; Ps. 95; 1 Cor. 7:32-35; Mk. 1:21-28

Monday: Heb. 11:32-40; Ps. 31; Mk. 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal. 3:1-4; Ps. 24; Heb. 2:14-18;

Lk. 2:22-40

Wednesday: Heb. 12:4-15; Ps. 103; Mk. 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb. 12:18-24; Ps. 48; Mk. 6:7-13

Friday: Heb. 13:1-8; Ps. 27; Mk. 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb. 13:15-21; Ps. 23; Mk. 6:30-34

### **Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, February 2 (SH) *The Presentation of the Lord*

8:15 am †Bruce Lutz

by Patty Amman



Wednesday, February 3 *St. Blasé*

8:15 a.m. †Butch Gagas

by Russell & Diane Wysocki

*\*\*Blessing of the Throats after Mass on Wednesday and Thursday.*

Thursday, February 4 (SH)

7-8 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confession

8:15 am †Walter & Rita Kozak

by Sue Wanta

First Friday, February 5 *St. Agatha*

7:30-8:00 a.m. Confession

8:15 am †Keith & Ryan Krupka

by LeRoy & Pat Wierzba

9:00—3:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, February 6 @ SH

8:15 am †Helen Czaplinski by Anna Somers

†Poor Souls in Purgatory by Becky Skibba

+2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Anticipatory Mass @ SH

St. Mary's I.C. &

Sacred Heart Parish Families

Sunday, February 7, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am @ SH †Kathleen Sommers by Family

10:00am † Felix, Regina, Frances, Conroy Soik

by Myron Soik Family

**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.*



*The following is an excerpt from the Statement on the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th President of the United States of America from Archbishop José H. Gómez, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Read the whole statement online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).*

My prayers are with our new President and his family today. I am praying that God grant him wisdom and courage to lead this great nation and that God help him to meet the tests of these times, to heal the wounds caused by this pandemic, to ease our intense political and cultural divisions, and to bring people together with renewed dedication to America's founding purposes, to be one nation under God committed to liberty and equality for all.

Catholic bishops are not partisan players in our nation's politics. We are pastors responsible for the souls of millions of Americans and we are advocates for the needs of all our neighbors. In every community across the country, Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals, and ministries form an essential culture of compassion and care, serving women, children, and the elderly, the poor and sick, the imprisoned, the migrant, and the marginalized, no matter what their race or religion. [...]

Based on these truths, which are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, the bishops and Catholic faithful carry out Christ's commandment to love God and love our neighbors by working for an America that protects human dignity, expands equality and opportunities for every person, and is open-hearted towards the suffering and weak. [...]

On these and other issues, our duty to love and our moral principles lead us to prudential judgments and positions that do not align neatly with the political categories of left or right or the platforms of our two major political parties. We work with every President and every Congress. On some issues we find ourselves more on the side of Democrats, while on others we find ourselves standing with Republicans. Our priorities are never partisan. We are Catholics first, seeking only to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and to advance his vision for human fraternity and community.

I look forward to working with President Biden and his administration, and the new Congress. As with every administration, there will be areas where we agree and work closely together and areas where we will have principled disagreement and strong opposition.

Working with President Biden will be unique, however, as he is our first president in 60 years to profess the Catholic faith. In a time of growing and aggressive secularism in American culture, when religious believers face many challenges, it will be refreshing to engage with a President who clearly understands, in a deep and personal way, the importance of religious faith and institutions. Mr. Biden's piety and personal story, his moving witness to how his faith has brought him solace in times of darkness and tragedy, his longstanding commitment to the Gospel's priority for the poor — all of this I find hopeful and inspiring.

At the same time, as pastors, the nation's bishops are given the duty of proclaiming the Gospel in all its truth and power, in season and out of season, even when that teaching is inconvenient or when the Gospel's truths run contrary to the directions of the wider society and culture. So, I must point out that our new President has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences. [...]

I entrust all our hopes and anxieties in this new moment to the tender heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Christ and the patroness of this exceptional nation. May she guide us in the ways of peace and obtain for us wisdom and the grace of a true patriotism and love of country.

+ Archbishop José H. Gómez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
President, USCCB



## WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1/24/21

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Offertory    | \$ 12.00          |
| Adult/ACH    | \$ 885.00         |
| Building     | \$ 160.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$1,057.00</b> |

## END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

are available on the table in the entrance of the Church. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca 715-592-4330 or [stmarycfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmarycfinance@gmail.com)

**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.



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



**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED**

## BUY SCRIP

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



## 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**



### 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](mailto:jwier319@gmail.com)



Please keep Spencer Piesik and Elizabeth Raschka in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Communion.



### FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**February 5th, 9am-3pm.** At St. Mary's All are welcome and encouraged to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We are Blessed to be able to offer a First Friday Devotion but our Lord cannot be left alone. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the entrance of the church. Please sanitize/wipe down your pew area.



*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*

Our next meeting will be **February 8th** where we will be working on a sweet project! Join us at **6:30 P.M.** All women of the parish are welcome. We practice social distancing and wear masks.

### **Join Us for the Portage County Prayer for Life Sunday January 31st**

Guardian Angel Cemetery sponsored by Stevens Point 40 Days for Life. At 2pm, a 30-45 minute reflection for the unborn killed by abortion with prayer at the Memorial for the Unborn.

Locally we normally have the Portage County Walk for Life from City Hall to the Univ. Center at UWSP with a rally after. Due to COVID concerns, it has been cancelled. Jim and Gary, co-leaders for 40 Days for Life, decided to do this event in its place. God Bless and thank you for your support of the unborn that have no voice Questions email, [stevenspoint40daysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:stevenspoint40daysforlife@gmail.com) Donation basket will be passed for First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center



### St. Mary's I.C. Parish Prayer Chain

*ANYONE REQUESTING PRAYERS please call Elsie Mansavage 715-592-4174, the Parish Office 715-592-4330 or [stmary@wi-net.com](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com) FIRST NAMES ONLY will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.*



St. Mary's Parish welcomes **Rebecca Jones** as the new parish bookkeeper. Rebecca will generally be in the parish office on Mondays and Fridays from 11am to 3:30pm. She and her husband, along with their 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter, live in Junction City. She is originally from Albert Lea, Minnesota and obtained her Associates in Business Administration from Lake Superior College in Duluth and brings over ten years of experience working in bookkeeping to the parish. When not 'doing the books' she enjoys spending time with her family and quilting. Welcome to the parish office, Rebecca!



*The parish thanks Diane Wysocki for her years of service and congratulates her on her retirement. Fr. Guanella has appointed Diane a new member of the parish Finance Council*

### Please remember in your prayers

*Gladys Pampuch, Tom Schmenk, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Mike Mrozek, Myron Soik, Mary Ann Meyer, Ken Wierzbza, Brigid & Al Pellatt, 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.

### *Mass for the Feast day of Blessed Brother James Miller*

*Saturday, February 13th at 8:15am.*

*"O Blessed Brother James Miller, you heard God's call to become a Brother of the Christian Schools and so became a sign of faith to youth in the United States and in Central America. You placed your life and your trust in Divine Providence and, for spreading the faith, merited the crown of martyrdom. In a world that denies the dignity of the human person, obtain for us from Divine Providence an ever increasing love of God and our neighbor, especially the poor and oppressed. Obtain for us also the favor we are now asking for [mention request] and the grace and strength to be a witness to Christ's love to all. Amen."*



### **St. Mary's I.C. February Meetings**

**4th—6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council**

If any member of the parish has an item that they would like discussed or added to the agenda, please contact any of the following members: Fr. Alan Guanella, Pastor, Gina Kempf, chair, Russell Wysocki, Pat Johnson, Brenda Retzlaff, Terry Fritschler

**8th--6:30 pm Women on a Mission**





## 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.*



**Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection.** Envelopes are available to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than forty-six million people in the United States live in poverty today. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address obstacles as they work to make permanent and positive changes for their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [usccb.org/cchd](http://usccb.org/cchd).

### The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Divine Image

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Divine Image (MSDI) was founded in 2010. Our congregation is growing fast! We are 36 sisters who are all under the age of 55 and are rendering humanitarian services in Ghana, Nigeria, Germany and the US—now establishing a convent in Polonia, Wisconsin.

The specific purpose of our Apostolate is: 1) To promote the dignity of the human person by being cognizant that each one is an image of God, 2) To render services (Pastoral, Medical and Educational) to the poor and less privileged, especially to the sick and elderly, 3) To encourage and recruit young people for the service of nursing the sick and elderly, 4) To learn and respect the cultural and social rules of the Country where we serve, 5) To integrate properly into society without neglecting one's roots, 6) To promote youth exchange programs in collaboration with MSDI sisters in other Countries. The congregation is in need of help to fully establish the order in Polonia. To find out how you can help, please contact us for information and/or donate to help support the work we do [info@divineimagesisters.com](mailto:info@divineimagesisters.com) or visit our website at <http://divineimagesisters.com>.

**Drive-Thru Winterfest.** St. Joseph Parish Annual Winterfest Fish Fry as a drive-thru on Friday, February 12. Orders can be placed online at [www.PointCatholicFaith.org/fishfry](http://www.PointCatholicFaith.org/fishfry) or 715-341-1617. Cost \$10 for baked or fried fish or \$11 for shrimp. Meals come with a choice of french fries or baked potato. Also basket raffle will be held.

**ANNUAL TASTE OF ITALY FUNDRAISER.** Saturday, February 13, 3:30-6PM, St. Bronislava Parish. To-go and pick-up options for a Hot Spaghetti Dinner includes a generous serving of Spaghetti with homemade meatballs, salad, breadstick, and dessert for \$10/ serving. Also, pre-order a lasagna to take and bake, or freeze and eat later. A small lasagna feeds 4-5 for \$15, or a large lasagna that feeds 6-8 for \$18. Order online <https://stbrons.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/TasteofItaly> All proceeds go to our Youth Ministry Program. Thank you for your generous support!!

**Employment Opportunities at St. Adalbert, Rosholt:** hiring 2 part-time office positions: **Administrative Assistant** to perform general secretarial and clerical duties - MS Office and basic IT knowledge preferred. **Financial Secretary** to manage the financial aspects of the Parish - MS Office, general spreadsheet and basic accounting/payroll knowledge required. Ideal candidates will have at least three years' experience working in a fast-paced office environment, ability to multi-task and a desire for continued learning. For more information or to apply to a position, please visit [www.rosholtcatholic.org/employment](http://www.rosholtcatholic.org/employment)

### Retrouvaille Marriage Help Weekend February 12-14th at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon.

Whether a marriage has simply drifted apart, or has arrived at separation or divorce, Retrouvaille (Retro- vā) offers hope. Fr. Joseph Redfern, a priest of our diocese, is on the presenting team, along with 3 couples who share their personal stories of healing and reconciliation. This highly successful program is fully confidential, affordable (all volunteer-run), and open to couples of all faiths or no faith background. Call to register (877) 922-4673 or visit <https://www.helpourmarriage.org/>

**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

## Liturgical Appointments

### SUNDAY, January 31

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

### SUNDAY, February 7

LECTOR Deb USHERS Randy  
SERVERS LeRoy & Addy  
MONEY COUNTERS: David & Rosemarie  
MUSICIANS Carolyn & Jacquie

### SUNDAY, February 14

LECTOR Nora USHERS Eddie  
SERVERS Julia & Vincent  
MONEY COUNTERS: Dave & Lorraine  
MUSICIANS Mary & Jim

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

*Wishing you Birthday Blessings!*

1st-Ed Sapa, 5th-Laurie Lutz &  
Joan Feltz, 9th-Mary Egle,  
10th-Asha Demski,  
11th-George Betro,  
15th-Cassie Demski,  
18th-Amy Stremkowski,  
20th-Kirk Wille, 26th-Myron Soik,  
27th-Kenny Glodowski,  
28th David Firkus