



St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 27, 2020

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, December 29

No Mass

Wednesday, December 30

8:15 a.m. †Kathleen Sommers by Ray

Thursday, December 31 (SH)

4:00 pm †Lorraine Falkavage

by Falkavage Family



Friday, January 1 @ SMIC

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord,

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 am St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart

Parish Families

Saturday, January 2 @ SH

8:15 am †Edmund Bruske by Family

2:45 pm Confessions

4:00pm Anticipatory Mass @ SH

St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart

Parish Families

Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am @ SH †Harleigh Firkus

by Roger & Jan Firkus Family

10:00am †Phyllis Klesmith

by Bernard & Marlene Schulist

**Merry
Christmas!**

*and a
Blessed New Year*



Thank you to all who volunteer at St. Mary's I.C. We appreciate all that you do for our parish family!

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! I pray that the newly born Christ child has blessed you and your homes this year and brought joy to you during these challenging times. May we who have known the mysteries of Christ's light on earth also delight one day in his gladness in Heaven!

For this Christmas, I had a holy card printed with an image of the nativity and a prayer to be prayed at the Christmas crib. If you were unable to get one after one of the Christmas Masses, please feel free to pick one up in the back of church—there are plenty—and it is my Christmas gift to you, humble though it may be.

The image is painted by Lorenzo Lotto, a Venetian painter born in 1480. This painting struck me for a number of reasons, most especially because of the crucifix present in the background of the image. In my studies of spirituality, I was always attracted to what is called "the French School of Spirituality." Founded by French Cardinal Pierre de Bérulle, the French School was the principal devotional influence in the Church from the mid-17th century through the mid-20th century. Among other things, it focuses heavily on the Incarnation of Christ. For Cardinal Bérulle, the mystery of the Incarnation was that which centered his contemplation. This emphasis on the Incarnation does not detract, however, from the passion and death of Our Lord. Rather, for the French School, only in Jesus can humanity be both reconciled and re-created. The way to Jesus is through the Cross.

With this in mind, the image of the crucifix in the background of the nativity in Lotto's painting struck me (even though Lotto painted the image long before Bérulle). An Italian priest, Father Andrea Coldani, notes that the crucifix "shows us how Lotto's nativity does not yield to a certain sentimentality typical of Christmas but presents us with the truth of the evangelical revelation. Christ was born with the destiny of announcing salvation by defeating death on Calvary." The author James Monti notes: "The shadow of the cross colors each chapter of the Christmas mystery... The wooden manger was the foreordained throne for the Infant God Incarnate who was to die on the wood of the cross for us."

In the opposite corner of the painting from the crucifix is a block of wood. Some have said this is just a piece of interlocking wood representative of Joseph's work as a carpenter. However, the Italian art scholar, Fern Rusk Shapley, sees it as a mousetrap. Why? Father Coldani explains: "Observe the location of the trap: it is on the opposite side of the crucifix, but in direct correspondence with it as if they were joined by an invisible thread. Between these two elements, [lay] the figure of the child Jesus." In fact, St. Augustine notes in one of his sermons: *The devil exulted when Christ died, and by that very death of Christ the devil was overcome: he took food, as it were, from a trap... The cross of the Lord became a trap for the Devil; the death of the Lord was the food by which he was ensnared.*

There is even more I could say about this painting but I'll close with this: it is the Cross that has saved and redeemed us and Jesus was born into the world to do just that. In one of the often-unsung stanzas of the Christmas carol *Silent Night*, the original German states:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Die der Welt Heil gebracht — Silent Night, holy night, that has brought the salvation of the world. And that, my friends, is what Christmas is all about.

In Christ,
Father Guanella

A Christmas Message
from
Father Alan Guanella

<https://youtu.be/AGGx6e461I4>

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

12/20/20

Offertory Plate	\$ 21
Adult Envelope	\$1,898
ACH Adult Envelope	\$ 615
Flower Donations	\$ 180
Retirement Fund	\$ 280
Total	\$2,994

Please turn in your 2020 Church support by Dec 31st to be included in the 2020 tax report. ALL 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 *No Classes Today,*
Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

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 be meeting **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.



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



Reminder-Weekend Masses cannot exceed 25% capacity and seating is limited, please call the parish office, 715-592-4330 every week **By Wednesday** (Office will be closed Dec 31 & Jan 1) just a reminder we don't check answering machine and emails on Saturday & Sunday ~ 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.

Mass Readings for the Week of December 27th:

Sunday: Sir. 3:2-14; Ps. 128; Col. 3:12-21; Lk. 2:22-40
Monday: 1 Jn. 1:5-2:22; Ps. 124; Mt. 2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 Jn. 2:3-11; Ps. 96; Lk. 2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 Jn. 2:12-17; Ps. 96; Lk. 2:36-40
Thursday: 1 Jn. 2:18-21; Ps. 96; Jn. 1:1-18
Friday: Num. 6:22-27; Ps. 67; Gal. 4:4-7;

Please remember in your prayers

Gladys Pampuch, Tom Schmenk, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Mike Mrozek, Myron Soik, Edward Lukasavage, Ken Wierzba, 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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

Wishing you Birthday Blessings!

1st-Bonnie Herek, 5th-Elsie Mansavage,
8th-Bette Britz, 9th-Joe Raschka,
10-Liz Moadlo, 12-Elizabeth Yarbrough,
14-Marie Helminiak, 17th-Kevin Zurawski,
28th-LeRoy Feltz & Trevor Kluck,
30th-Tom Fields

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 FIRST NAMES ONLY will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.

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

Thank you to everyone who purchases SCRIP.

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.

Saturday Mass Intentions: Beginning January 9, the Sacred Heart Saturday Mass intention 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. Since open Mass intentions are few, this is a good way to have a Mass said for your loved ones. Please contact the Sacred Heart Parish office to add an intention or if you have questions.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY at St. Mary's!
Take as you need, Donate if you are able!
 My Girl Scout Troop 6207 has built a **Little Free Pantry** to work toward earning their bronze and silver awards and placed it at St. Mary's IC. If you know anyone in need, please spread the word that we have a **LITTLE FREE PANTRY** at St. Mary's! Thank you for your support! If you have any questions or wish to donate but the pantry is already full, please reach out to me at (715) 409-6163.
 Jenny Genskow Girl Scout Troop #6207 Leader



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 FEBRUARY

Information please contact
 Gina 920-540-7804



A special thank you to everyone who participated in our *Christ Our Cornerstone Campaign*! We are so grateful for the outpouring of support we have seen from throughout the diocese, and especially from within this community. If you have not yet had the chance to make your pledge, now is the time to act. Please join your fellow parishioners and parishes by participating in this campaign. Pledges can be made using the provided materials found on the table in the entrance of church or by visiting cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone.

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

Liturgical Appointments

SUNDAY, December 27

LECTOR Nora USHERS Eddie
 SERVERS Cassie & Madison
 MONEY COUNTERS Dave & Lorraine
 MUSICIANS Mary & Cheryl

Friday, January 1st

LECTOR Pat USHERS volunteer
 SERVERS LeRoy
 MONEY COUNTERS Pat & LeRoy
 MUSICIANS Jim & Deb S

SUNDAY, January 3

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

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.

Please Take Note: Some parishioners 2021 envelope numbers have changed

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