

MARCH 29, 2026

Palm Sunday  
of the Passion of the Lord



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

7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423

Phone: 715-592-4330

Website: [www.stmaryscuster.net](http://www.stmaryscuster.net)

Please submit bulletin notices to [stmary@wi-net.com](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com)  
by noon on Tuesday.

**PARISH CLERGY**

Fr. Mark Miller, Pastor 715-600-6942

[fr.miller@sacredheartpolonia.com](mailto:fr.miller@sacredheartpolonia.com)

Deacon Jim Sniadajewski

[dcn.jim@sacredheartpolonia.com](mailto: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](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com)

Bookkeeper-Rebecca Jones

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

Coordinator of Religious Education-  
Jessica Bielen

Custodian-Jeanne Hintz

Maintenance/Grounds keeping

Josh Genskow

**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.

**Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, March 31, **NO MASS at SH.**  
**10:30 am Chrism Mass** at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in LaCrosse

**PLEASE NOTE: NO morning daily Masses on Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday as no other Masses are allowed other than those of the Sacred Paschal Triduum. ALSO, there will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday or Friday, and no confessions, Thursday, Friday and Saturday**

Wednesday, April 1  
NO MASS at SMIC

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 @ SH**  
**6:30 pm** +Richard Konkol by Family

**PASSION OF THE LORD**  
**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 @ SH**  
**1:00 pm** Service

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, @ SH**  
**9:00 pm** St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart Parish Families

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE**  
**RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**APRIL 6,**  
**8:00 am @ SH** +Dorothy Gagas by Family

**10 am** +Myron & Frances Soik  
by The Soik Family





*Create a clean heart in me, O God: a humble heart, a meek heart, a peaceful heart, a benevolent heart, a devout heart which does evil to no one, which does not repay evil for evil, but overcomes evil with good, which loves you above all things, always thinks about you,*

*speaks about you, gives you thanks, delights in hymns and spiritual songs, and has its citizenship in heaven. Amen.*  
(Lenten Prayer for a Clean Heart)

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord** The Proof of God the Father's Love for Us Let us recall each day that God's mercy and unconditional love are central to our journey of life on our way to Heaven. The proof that the Father loves each one of us is the crucifixion – the suffering and death of the Son of God so that our sins may be forgiven.

Even when we fall, the boundless love of Christ transforms us through the forgiveness of our sin and compassion He offers, drawing us back to Himself. Jesus shows us that He loves the sinner but hates the sin. This merciful love invites us to approach Him confidently, knowing that He is always ready to forgive and heal. Mercy is the primary attribute of God.

When we enter the confessional, it is not merely a priest we face, but Christ Himself. The priest acts in the person of Christ—offering absolution in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Every confession is an encounter with Jesus, who lifts our burden of sin and restores the soul to the beauty of its baptismal innocence.

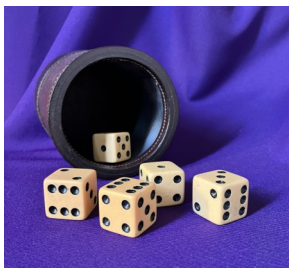
Frequent confession brings peace of soul and a clearer vision of God's will. It transforms bitterness into compassion, guilt into freedom, and loneliness into communion. It restores what sin has taken— our joy, our trust, our intimacy with the Father. Let us approach this sacrament often, not with fear, but with gratitude and hope. For in every confession, the Father embraces us, Jesus heals us, and the Holy Spirit fills us anew with His grace.

Lenten objects in the Catholic Church are tangible symbols designed to help the faithful meditate on the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They represent a journey through the "desert" of Lent, focusing on sacrifice, repentance, and preparation for Easter.

**THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**John 19:23-24** *When the soldiers crucified Jesus, and took his tunic, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be.*

**Dice:** Dice represent the Roman soldiers casting lots to divide Christ's clothes during the Crucifixion. They symbolize the gambling, carelessness, and humiliation Jesus endured for our salvation, reflecting his suffering and the disregard of the world.



**Blessed Palms from last year** Please bring your old blessed palms to church next week and put on the table in the entrance. We will use them for next year's Ash Wednesday. Thank you

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**March 22**

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Offertory          | \$ 104.00            |
| Flowers            | 235.00               |
| Building Fund      | 200,000.00           |
| Adult Env<br>& ACH | 1,389.00             |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$ 201,728.00</b> |



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I SEND YOU.  
- JOHN 20:21

DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP

GOAL



COMMITTED AND RECEIVED

# OF DONORS

Thank you to those who have contributed to the **Diocesan Annual Appeal**. We have **EXCEEDED** our Goal!

Any additional contributions to this year's appeal will be refunded back to St. Mary's I.C. Reminder **JUNE 30th** is the deadline for your contribution.

The next mailing for the annual appeal should have arrived in your mailbox this week. Please consider making a gift to this year's Appeal if you haven't already. Any amount is welcome. Thank you



**EASTER FLOWERS DONATION** envelopes can be found in your Church Support envelopes and also in the Church entrance.

Please include the name of the person you wish to donate in memory of. Thank you



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

*Coordinator of Religious Education*

Jessica Bielen (715)347-3367 or [jwier319@gmail.com](mailto:jwier319@gmail.com)



Please keep *Cordelia Carey, Sayer Konopacki and Opal Konopacki* in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on June 7th.

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:  
*Kenny Rozek, Joe Raschka, Henry Gagas, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Valerie Stanczyk, Shirley Pliska, Sharon Zblewski, Anna Sipe, Rick Maslowski, Denny Elsenrath, Jim Zblewski, Ken Wierzba, Jerry Lepak, Adam Cohen, Bob Zimauer, Brigid & Al Pellatt*

If anyone is in need of spiritual care at your home or hospital (e.g. Confession, Holy Communion 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 parish. Hospitals do not make 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](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com) FIRST NAMES ONLY will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.*

**St. Mary's I.C** is looking for a **part time bookkeeper**, set your own schedule to do parish payroll, accounts payable and receivable, federal & state reports, bank and balance sheet reconciliations, monthly reports and general administration tasks. Need some bookkeeping & accounting experience, be familiar with Microsoft Office and accounting software. Hours add up to 40+ hours monthly. Send or email resume' or letter of interest to St. Mary IC, 7176 Esker Rd, Custer, WI 54423 ([stmary@wi-net.com](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com))



THANK YOU to all who donated supplies and SCRIP for our **Lenten Can a Week**

**Campaign.** It helped our 3 parish families and the Community Thrift Store.

We will continue to collect for our Food Pantry. Please place non-perishable food supplies, toiletry items in the shopping cart, and SCRIP donations are always appreciated.

Family Life Committee

All-You-Can-Eat

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

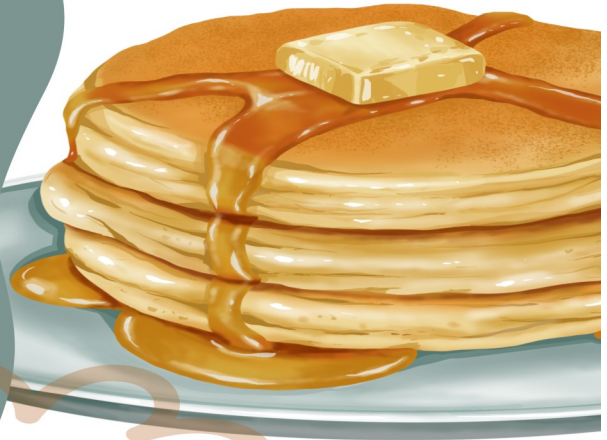
SUNDAY, APRIL 12th  
after 10 o'clock Mass

**Menu:**

Buttermilk pancakes,  
scrambled eggs, sausage,  
applesauce, desserts,  
coffee, milk  
and orange juice.

**\*Donations of eggs are greatly appreciated.**  
Please drop off between April 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>  
in the Church Kitchen Refrigerator.

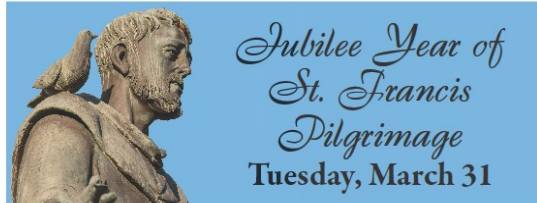
BRING A FAVORITE  
DESSERT TO SHARE



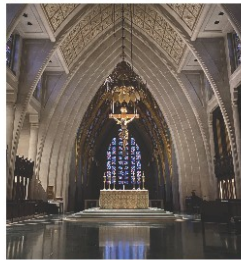
# birthday blessings

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5th-Bev Krusick  
 7th-Emily Bustamante  
 8th-Sandie Armatoski  
 16th-John Vodra  
 19th-Kyle Yenter,  
 Carolyn Iwanski  
 20th-Carla Kotolski  
 21st-Mac Yarbrough,  
 Sarah Raschka,  
 Meghan Kluck  
 26th-Pat Elsenrath,  
 Toni Bronk,  
 Pat Maslowski,  
 Judi Borski,  
 27th-Gary Klosinski  
 28th-Russell Wysocki

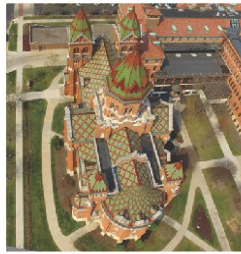


Jubilee Year of  
 St. Francis  
 Pilgrimage  
 Tuesday, March 31



### Itinerary:

7:15 a.m.  
 Bus departs St. Joseph, Stevens Point  
 Comfort stop in Tomah  
 Chrism Mass  
 Tour of Cathedral  
 Tour Maria Angelorum Chapel  
 - Home of the Franciscan Sisters  
 Lunch on your own, at either  
 Famous Dave's or Milwaukee Burger Co.  
 Arrive at St. Joseph ~6:30 p.m.



Cost is \$10/person

Children must attend  
 with parent or guardian.

Register online at  
[www.PointCatholicFaith.org/chrism](http://www.PointCatholicFaith.org/chrism)  
 or call 715-341-1617.



Sponsored by the Stevens Point Deanery  
 Hosted by St. Joseph & St. Stephen Parishes

## Liturgical Appointments

**SUNDAY, March 29 Palm Sunday**  
**LECTOR** Nora **USHERS** Anthony  
**SERVERS** Spencer, Sammi  
**MONEY COUNTERS** Lisa, Jeremy, Joanna  
**MUSICIANS** Bob & Sandie

**SUNDAY, April 5 EASTER SUNDAY**  
**LECTOR** Kirk **USHERS** Betty & Ron  
**SERVERS** Keaton, Nolan  
**MONEY COUNTERS** Kirk, Tom, Marie  
**MUSICIANS** Jacquie & Carolyn

**March for Life Wisconsin -  
 Saturday, April 25, 2-4pm,** the  
 Wisconsin Catholic Conference—along  
 with Pro Life Wisconsin, Wisconsin  
 Right to Life, and Wisconsin Family  
 Council—will host the March for Life at  
 the State Capitol in Madison. Bus  
 transportation will be available from  
 Wisconsin Rapids. For Information  
[info@marchforlifewisconsin.org](mailto:info@marchforlifewisconsin.org) .



## DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATIONS SACRED HEART PARISH, POLONIA

**DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**  
 Friday, April 3 - Saturday, April 11, 2026

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
 April 12, 2026

8:00am: Holy Sacrifice of Mass  
 9:00am – 3:30pm: Adoration with Holy Hours

**2:00pm: Presentation by the Very Reverend Samuel A. Martin,  
 Diocesan Vicar for Clergy**

12:00pm – 3:00pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 3:00pm: Divine Mercy hour/chaplet, procession of the  
 Blessed Sacrament with Benediction.  
 4:00pm: **HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS**

THE HOLY MASS WILL BE OFFERED AT 4:00PM AFTER CONFESSION  
 SO THAT "THE SOUL THAT WILL GO TO CONFESSION AND RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION IN A STATE  
 OF GRACE ON THIS DAY SHALL  
 OBTAIN COMPLETE FORGIVENESS OF ALL SINS AND PUNISHMENT"

## DCCW (Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Support

Sunday April 12 and 19. This only happens once a year.  
 Bishop Battersby asks for your help. This helps pay for  
 Lacrosse and National Catholic Women Council dues,  
 meetings, training sessions, grants and scholarships for young  
 women to advance their education. Envelopes in entrance.

# Community Seder Meal

Wed., April 1, 2026, 5:30 p.m.  
 St. Joseph Family Center, Stevens Point



**WE NEED A  
 LOTSA' MATZOH!**  
 Join us on Sat., March 28  
 at 9 a.m. for bread making.  
 No experience needed,  
 but bring a rolling pin  
 if you have one.

Enter into the mystery of Holy Week by participating  
 in this traditional Jewish Passover Meal.

Seder Plate, Lamb, and beverage will be provided.  
 Plan to bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 30 to the parish office  
 at 715-341-1617, [reception@pointcatholicfaith.org](mailto:reception@pointcatholicfaith.org)

[www.PointCatholicFaith.org/seder](http://www.PointCatholicFaith.org/seder)

**ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING Monday, March 30, 12:00 pm,** praying the rosary in church,  
 followed by a lunch prepared by Rose 1. Meeting and discussion, followed with a good time of  
 Bingo with unusual prizes. Bring a friend, all women of the parish welcome.

# Priest Calendar – April, 2026

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Pope Leo XIV
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bp. Battersby
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fr. Robert Swing
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Matthew Szymanski
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Francis Thadathil
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Irudayanathan Thanais
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Georgekutty Thayilkuzhithottu
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Daniel Thelen
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Fr. James Trempe
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Senegole Vethanayagan
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Aruro Vigueras
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Junabe Vilapaz
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Brian Ward
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Fr. James Weighner
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Steven Weller
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Timothy Welles
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Alan Wierzba
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Daniel Williams
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Fr. John Zwebber
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Larry Berger
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Bp. William Callahan
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fr. Robert Cook
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fr. Richard Dickman
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Msgr. Michael Gorman
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Fr. William Grevatch
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Fr. John Heagle
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Paul Hoffman
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Msgr. Robert Hundt
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Msgr. David Kunz
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Dennis Lynch



*Please pray some kind of prayer  
for the priests listed each day.  
It's good to pray for our priests  
in general of course, but also  
specifically.  
Thank you*



# A Personal God of Love

## A Communion of Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Every time we make the *Sign of the Cross*, we proclaim the deepest truth of our faith: that God is One, and yet a communion of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We can know by reason that God exists, but we could never discover on our own who God truly is. That is something He had to reveal to us. From the very beginning, God has stepped into human history to make Himself known, not as a distant force, but the only true, living, personal God of love. He spoke with Abraham, guided Moses, and showed His people that He is not an angry deity to be appeased, as they might have imagined, but a Father who desires a relationship with His children.

In the fullness of time, the mystery of the Blessed Trinity – God as one eternal, undivided being existing as three distinct, co-equal Persons - was revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ. At the Baptism of the Lord Jesus, we see it clearly: the voice of the Father speaks, the Son receives the mission of the Father in the waters of the Jordon, and the Holy Spirit descends like a dove upon Jesus, marking the beginning of His public ministry.

The Blessed Trinity is the central

mystery of our Catholic faith. The Father is the Creator, the source of all that is, who lovingly made all things from nothing and cares for His children. The Son is the eternal Word of the Father, who is Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, our Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit is the eternal bond of love between the Father and the Son, poured into our hearts to guide, strengthen and sanctify us, drawing us into God's own life.

At the core of reality is not chaos, not chance, not blind power, but love. God *is* love. He is not just loving, but LOVE itself. The Father gives Himself completely to the Son, the Son offers Himself completely to the Father, and their love is so real, so perfect, that it *is* the Holy Spirit, the third Divine Person. God is not a solitude. God is a living Communion of Love. And that is why we, who are made in His image, are created for relationship, with God and with one another.

**So, what does this mean for us?** It is only through God's grace that we are enabled to pray, love and forgive, and be drawn more deeply into the life of the Trinity. When we cooperate with God's grace to love sacrificially, we are reflecting the love of the Father. As we allow Christ's grace to help

us obey and follow Him, we are reflecting the Son. When we live in peace, joy, and courage, we have been moved by the Spirit.

The Blessed Trinity is not just a doctrine to recite, it is a mystery to be lived – by living in a relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It means that in our joys and struggles, we are never alone. We are held in the embrace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So, this week, take a moment before you trace the *Sign of the Cross* on yourself; do not rush through it! Remember: you are affirming your identity in the mystery of God's Love. You belong to the Father who created you, to the Son who redeemed you, and to the Holy Spirit who dwells within you.

**Pray *The Sign of the Cross***  
*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*  
*Amen*

Making *The Sign of the Cross* while saying the words *is* prayer. Prayer is relationship: It should be very personal between you and God. Each word is to be said intentionally in your heart. Practice this and you will be amazed at what happens!

Ann Lankford, Catechesis & Evangel.