

December 7, 2025

*Second Sunday of Advent*



## ***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 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.

### **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

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Couples requesting the celebration of Marriage should contact the parish at the time of formal engagement or at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Please contact the parish to schedule a baptism class and request a date for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents are encouraged to attend before the birth of their child.

### **Mass Intentions**

**Monday, Dec 8 Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8:15 am @SH St. Mary's & Sacred Heart  
Parish Families

6:00 pm @SMIC

+Antoinette Roach & Ruth Stransky by Nora

Tuesday, December 9,

8:15 am (SH) +Richard Konkol

**Wednesday, December 10**

8:15 am **Special Intentions**

Thursday, December 11, (SH)

7-8 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +Aggie Peplinski

**Friday, December 12,**

7-8 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +Chuck Egle by Mary & family

Saturday, December 13, (@ SH)

8:15 am For the health of Leonard Schulist  
by Randy Schulist

+Jeanette Kaminski by Bernadetta Karch

For Souls in Purgatory by Deb Adamski

2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm +Raymond Gagas by Family

**December 14, 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

10 am +Pat Somers by Elsie Mansavage & Family

+Chuck Egle by Dave & Rosemarie Cieslewicz

+Myron & Frances Soik by The Soik Family





O God, You looked on man when he had fallen down into death, and resolved to redeem him by the advent of Your only begotten Son; grant, we implore You, that they who confess His glorious Incarnation may also be admitted to the fellowship of Him their Redeemer; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Advent Prayer of St. Ambrose of Milan

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, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Valerie Stanczyk, Shirley Pliska, Henry Gagas, Denny Elsenrath, Sharon Zblewski, Deagen Selner, Adam Cohen, Ken Wierzba, Jerry Lepak, Jim Zblewski, Bob Zimbauer, Cheryl Dodde, 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* **FIRST NAMES ONLY** will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen

**Advent: Jesus is Our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)** The Advent hymn *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* is a prayer of hope, asking that He come because we need a Savior. Jesus came to set us free from our attachment to bad habits, which creates barriers and can even separate us from our friendship with Him. Due to His unconditional love for us, Jesus desires to help us break away from sin so that we can be more closely united to Him. During Advent, set aside time for quiet prayer, to watch and wait for the coming of the Christ Child into our heart at Christmas. Let us allow Jesus to spiritually renew us with greater hope, peace and joy, even amidst difficulties.

The first verse: Come, O long expected Jesus,  
 Born to set Your people free;  
 From our fears and sins release us;  
 Free us from captivity.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**Last week**

<i>Offertory</i>	\$ 263.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	25.00
<i>Flowers</i>	50.00
<i>Picnic</i>	100.00
<i>Adult Env</i>	
<i>&amp; ACH</i>	<u>1115.00</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$ 1553.00

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED AND CONTINUE TO DONATE TO OUR BUILDING FUND.** 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.



On December 8, the Church celebrates one of the most beautiful Truths of our Faith: the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This solemnity honors the moment when Mary, from the first instant of her existence, was preserved free from all stain of original sin. God prepared Mary in a unique way to be the Mother of His Son.



Mass @ Sacred Heart 8:15 am  
 And  
 @ St. Mary's I.C. 6:00 pm



## 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)

**Family Mass Sunday, December 21st, 10 a.m.**

**ALL STUDENTS and THEIR PARENTS** are asked to attend. This is part of our Faith Formation Program.



*Join us Sunday, December 21st after the  
10:00 am Mass for our COFFEE &  
DONUT SOCIAL ALL ARE WELCOME*

Hosted by Group 7

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE** we ordered extras. Share memories of St. Mary Immaculate Conception church with family members. \$3.00 each available at the office, call 715-592-4330 to reserve.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th ALTAR SOCIETY**

**MEETING 12 noon** praying of the Rosary in church, followed by a lunch prepared by Rose 2 Gift exchange; each attendee is asked to bring 3 doz. homemade cookies to be exchanged plus 3 extra cookies for lunch. Bring a friend, **all women of the parish welcome.**



**HOOKED ON LOVE** candy canes are up and ready to be selected. The holiday season is a time of loving and giving. We are asking you to add another one to your giving list. Think of single mothers, the joy baby supplies will give them. You would like to give but have no idea how to do it. With Hooked on Love, we try to make sharing your love easier.

At the entrances of the church is a Christmas tree with color-coded candy canes.

TAKE A CANDY CANE, YOUR RIBBON COLORED CHOICE, IS THE AMOUNT YOU WANT TO SPEND. The color of the ribbon indicates the cost of the suggested item. **RED RIBBONS** (\$5-\$10.00), **WHITE RIBBONS** (\$10.00+), and **GREEN RIBBONS** (\$25+). **SCRIP**; \$25.00 Target, Wal-mart, Aldi or Metro Mart gifts cards are accepted along with any monetary donations, (**Mark envelopes Hooked on Love or Baby Supplies**) and drop it in the church collection. **NO formula or perishable food items or used items. Items need to be new**, a full listing of needed items on entrance wall. Please drop off in the crib in the entrance of Church before 11AM on Dec. 14th. They will be packed for delivery after Dec. 14th Mass for the First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center.

**WANTED NAMES OF PARISHIONERS THAT COULD USE EXTRA Baby Supplies!** If you know of **any-one** in the parish or area who could use help with baby supplies contact Marie Helminiak (715-592-4971 or 715-592-4330) and leave a message on the recorder as soon as possible, before Dec. 14th. Names will be kept confidential.

## St. Mary's I.C. Meeting:

*Pastoral Council -  
December 11, 6:30 pm*

If any member of the parish has an item that they would like discussed or added to the Pastoral agenda, please contact any of the members.

Fr. Mark Miller,  
Deacon Jim, Nora Stransky,  
Marie Helminiak, Jacquie Wille, Randy Maslowski



### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

7th-Betty Rozek,  
Bernice Kepler

8th-Mary Zurawski

10th-Sue Stremkowski

11th-Dennis Mocadlo

16th-Bernie Fritschler

21st-Colleen Raschka

23rd-Lisa Piesik

24th-Deb Sniadajewski,

Randy Iwanski,

Nick Stremkowski

CHRISTMAS FLOWER 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.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TOWARDS OUR FOOD DRIVE!**

It was a great success! If you know of anyone who could use some groceries, please call the office 715-592-4330. Our **Little Pantry** outside has also been restocked. We will continue to collect items through December so we can give a food basket to our 3 families for Christmas. Please remember to check expiration dates, we will not accept outdated items. We also accept scrip gift cards. **THANK YOU** for your generous support!

Please pick up your **2026 Church Support Envelopes** located on the table in the back of church. If you contribute through **DIRECT WITHDRAWAL** you will still need to pick up your envelopes. Included with the weekly offering envelopes are Special Collections, Holy Days and Building Fund. Thank you for your support.

**ACH applications:** Please consider signing up for ACH for your regular Weekly/Monthly contribution. Please call the office, 715-592-4330 for more information.

**REMINDER:** Please contact the office: 715-592-4330 or [stmary@wi-net.com](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com) if you have a change of address, phone number, or if you would like to join our parish family. Thank you

**2026 Calendars....**A gift for St. Mary's I.C. parishioners. Please one per house hold. **A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to **PISARSKI FUNERAL HOMES** 703 Second Street, Stevens Point and 2911 Plover Road, Plover, for donating the calendars.

**Pregnant and in distress?** Confidential help is available from First Choice Pregnancy in Stevens Point, call 800-712-help or [www.firstchoicepc.org](http://www.firstchoicepc.org). or Catholic Charities at 844-644-7223 (844-64-GRACE) or text 715-600 6391. To learn more, [cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant](http://cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant). Additional resources and locations, visit [diolc.org/pregnancy](http://diolc.org/pregnancy) resources.

*Liturgical Appointments*

**SUNDAY, Dec 14**

**LECTOR** Tom **USHERS** Randy & Anthony  
**SERVERS** Spencer & Samantha  
**MONEY COUNTERS** Tom, Jeremy, Lisa  
**MUSICIANS** Mary & Jim

**SUNDAY, Dec 21**

**LECTOR** John **USHERS** Randy & Travis  
**SERVERS** Landon & Leo  
**MONEY COUNTERS** John, Brad, Bette  
**MUSICIANS** Jacque & Carolyn

**SUNDAY, Dec 24 4:00 pm**

**LECTOR** Kirk **USHERS** Volunteer  
**SERVERS** Hutton, Keaton, Nolan  
**MUSICIANS** Mary

**BUY SCRIP**

After Mass December 14th  
If you need scrip before Scrip  
Sunday, please call Shelly  
(715-592-3775)

Remember: **SCRIP MAKES  
GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

UPDATE: NOW -Papa Murphy's  
\$25 denomination and Wooden  
Chair \$25 denomination  
NEW: \$10 Crumbl Cookie

November Sales = \$16,765.00  
Profit Total = \$ 751.46 WOW!!

**Thank you for supporting  
our scrip program.**



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**4:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE  
MASS will be held at  
St. Mary's I.C.**

Beginning with Carols  
at 3:30 pm

Midnight Mass & 9 am  
Christmas Day Mass will  
be held at Sacred Heart



# December 8th

## The Immaculate Conception of Mary

On December 8, the Church celebrates one of the most beautiful truths of our faith: the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. This solemnity honors the moment when Mary, from the first instant of her existence, was preserved free from all stain of original sin. Many people mistakenly think this feast refers to Jesus' conception in Mary's womb; it does not. Rather, it celebrates Mary's own conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX defined this teaching: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, **by a singular grace and privilege** granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

This proclamation confirmed a truth long held in the faith of the Church, celebrated in liturgy, and reflected upon by saints throughout the centuries. The Pope's definition made clear what the faithful had already intuited: that God prepared Mary in a unique way to be the Mother of His Son.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was not something she earned, but a pure gift of God. As Pope Pius IX explained, this grace was given *"in view of the merits of Jesus Christ."* In other words, the redemption won by Christ on the

Cross was applied to Mary in a special, anticipatory way. She was saved by Christ, just more perfectly and more completely than any other human being, because she was chosen to bear Him who is the Savior. God made her a fitting dwelling place for His Son.

Two passages help us understand Scripture's evidence regarding the Immaculate Conception. In Genesis 3:15, God is speaking to Satan following the sin of Adam and Eve. It contains the "Good News" of God's mercy by **promising to deliver** us from the enemy.

*Genesis 3:15* reads: **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel"**. The seed or "offspring" of the woman is Jesus Christ. Through His passion, death and resurrection, Jesus will strike at the head of the serpent (Satan) and ultimately defeat him. The words to Satan, "you shall bruise His heel," refers to Jesus' death, but the Lord rose from the dead, winning the victory over Satan, sin and death. The word "enmity" means total opposition that exists between the "woman" (Mary) and Satan, which foreshadows the gift of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

The second Scriptural reference is revealed in the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary: "He came to her and said, Hail, **full of grace**, the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28). The title 'full

of grace' is used as a substitute for Mary's name by the angelic messenger of God because this *fullness* of grace is part of Mary's very nature. God chose to apply a "fullness of grace" to Mary so that Mary might give to Jesus a human nature free from the effect of sin.

### What This Solemnity Teaches Us

The Immaculate Conception is not just about Mary; it is also about what God desires for all of us. In Mary, we see the fullness of what grace can do. She is the image of the Church in her perfection, the promise of what we hope to become through Christ. As the Pope wrote, Mary is "our most loving Mother, ever spotless and most fair, who shows forth the beauty of holiness."

This solemnity invites us to trust in God's plan for our lives, to open ourselves to His grace, and believe that holiness is possible for us, too. Mary's sinlessness reminds us that God's grace is stronger than sin, and that He is able to make us new.

You are invited to pray this prayer: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Loving Mother, you were prepared from the first moment of your existence to be the dwelling place of God's Son. Help us to say "yes" to God as you did, that His grace may transform our hearts and lead us closer to your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Ann Lankford, Catechesis & Evangel.



**Special Invitation**

*The congregation of*  
**THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE DIVINE IMAGE (MSDI)**  
 Catholic Diocese of Bomadi  
*Cordially invites you* To the

**FINAL RELIGIOUS  
 PROFESSION OF VOWS**  
*of her beloved sister*  
**Sr Mary Justina Ifeyinwa  
 OSUMUNE**

*By His Excellency*  
**MOST REV. GERARD  
 W. BATTERSBY, D.D.**  
 Bishop Of The Catholic Diocese  
 Of La Crosse

**DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2025**  
**VENUE:**  
 SACRED HEART PARISH POLONIA, USA.  
**MASS: 10:00AM**

**R.S.V.P** Sr Rosemary Essien Mother Ugochi  
 Med. Dr. Louise Smyth Vivian Ozurumba  
 Tel: 7153402006 (Call or text) Foundress (MSDI)



**St. Peter Parish**  
**Family Life**  
**Presents their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**Christmas Cookie Walk**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**7:30 am – 10:30 am**

(Arrive early before cookies and candy are sold out!)

**Kolbe Hall (Lower Level of St. Peter Church)**  
**800 Fourth Avenue – Stevens Point, WI**

**Cookies and Candy - \$10 per Pound**  
**(Gloves and Containers Provided)**

**AND**

**HOLIDAY SILENT AUCTION**

*Featuring KitchenAid Mixer, Fireside Theatre Package for  
 Four, Winter Brunch for Six, Wellness Spa Package  
 Holiday Decorative Items, Gift Cards and More...*  
**(Silent Auction – 7:30 am – 10:00 am)**

**Come and Select Your Own Goodies and Leave the  
 Baking to Us While Enjoying a Complimentary Coffee  
 with a Sweet Treat!**



St Peter Parish  
 will be selling  
 Christmas Wafers  
 for the Christmas  
 Holiday Season.  
 Wafers can be  
 purchased  
 before and after  
 weekend masses  
 or at the Parish  
 Office from  
 8:30am - 3pm  
 Mon -- Thurs until  
 after Christmas.  
 Each envelope  
 contains 2 wafers  
 and the  
 cost is \$2 per  
 envelope.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**



**12/13/25- 2:30 - 5:30 pm | 12/14/25 7-9:30 am**

**7379 Church St. Custer, WI 54423**  
**715-572-7247**

**LESSONS  
 & CAROLS**

**AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE,  
 MUSIC AND PRAYER  
 PRESENTED BY THE PARISH CHOIR**

**DECEMBER 19, 2025**

**SERVICE STARTS AT 6:00PM | RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**ST BRONISLAVA PARISH, PLOVER WI**

**St. Bron's and Legacy Dinner  
 Theater Present**

**Christmas**  
*in the*  
**DELLS**  
**SHOWTIME: 1:30PM**

**BUS LEAVES ST. BRON'S AT 9:45 AM AND RETURNS 5:15PM**

**SATURDAY DEC 13 2025**

**COST IS \$100**  
**INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, 4 COURSE MEAL AND SHOW**

**For More Information Contact:**  
 Call Parish Office at 715-344-4326  
 or register online at [www.stbrons.com](http://www.stbrons.com)



**LET'S EAT!**



**Pancake Breakfast!**  
**Sunday, Dec. 14**  
**8:30-11:30 or until**  
**all are served**

**Table Service Provided by Boy Scout Troop #201**

