

MARCH 22, 2026

5th Sunday of Lent



St. Mary 's Immaculate Conception Parish

7176 Esker Road, Custer, WI 54423

Phone: 715-592-4330

Website: www.stmaryscuster.net

Please submit bulletin notices to stmary@wi-net.com
by noon on Tuesday.

PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Mark Miller, Pastor 715-600-6942

fr.miller@sacredheartpolonia.com

Deacon Jim Sniadajewski

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

Bookkeeper-Rebecca Jones

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 24, @ SH

8:15 am +Dan Zaborowski Family
by Family

Wednesday, March 25

8:15 am +Louise Betro

by Elsie Mansavage

Thursday, March 26 @ SH

7 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +Regina Gagag by Family

Friday, March 27,

7 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +Conroy Soik

by The Soik Family

Saturday, March 28, @ SH

8:15 am +Ray Groshek by Virginia Groshek

+Ed Drefcinski by Conrad & Delores Lepak

+Joseph & Johanna Firkus

by Tom & Julie Wanserski

2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart
Parish Families

Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday

of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 am @ SH

+Sophie Koziczkowski by Marie & Family

***9:25 am Stations of the Cross**

10 am +Bette Maslowski by Pat & Family





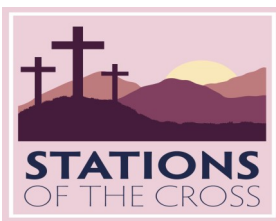
Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures – I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen.
(Prayer of abandonment - Bl. Charles de Foucauld)

Lent: 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 relationship 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.



Stations of the Cross

St. Mary’s I.C. on Sundays at 9:25am

Sacred Heart on Wednesdays at 6:15pm.

Sacred Heart School children Stations at

2:00pm on Friday: March 27th. Anyone

is welcome to attend.



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

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

GOAL	\$22,655.00
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED	\$22,922.50
# OF DONORS	60

WE BELIEVE IN GOD'S MERCY AND HIS LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

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. Any amount is welcome. Please consider making a gift to this year's Appeal if you haven't already. Thank you

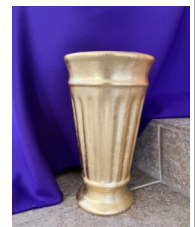
Lenten objects in the Catholic Church are tangible symbols designed to help the faithful meditate on the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They represent a journey through the "desert" of Lent, focusing on sacrifice, repentance, and preparation for Easter.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Vase: Represents the "emptiness" felt in the world without Christ's presence, highlighting the sorrow and absence of the Resurrection during the 40 days of Lent.

Significance: An empty or plain vase is often used in a "Lenten scape" to signify the "stripping away" of distractions and comforts, reflecting the emptiness of the tomb.

Context: It contrasts with the flowers that fill the church during Easter, emphasizing that Lent is a time of waiting.





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

Coordinator of Religious Education

Jessica Bielen (715)347-3367 or jwier319@gmail.com

Double Feature with Jason Evert Event | April 22, St. Bron's, Plover
Let's come together to discover the beauty of God's plan for human love. A life-changing event for teens & adults (ages 13+) Tickets \$25 Tickets: www.chastity.com/purified (Contact Jessica if interested in attending)
Event includes: Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Free resources for every attendee! Doors open at 5:30pm Info: eventcoach@chastity.com

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



A CAN A WEEK campaign Portage County population in 2023 was 71,024. Of the 30,620 household of Portage County the median income is \$69,391 with 11% below the poverty level plus 33% are below the Asset Limited Employed Category meaning they are above the poverty level but still are below the cost of living for the county. Let us NOW help them with the food supplies they need by donating towards our **CAN A WEEK Campaign. This is our last week to support the Can a Week program. Please drop your donation off by 11am on March 29th. Expired cans will be thrown in the garbage.**

If you know of a friend or neighbor that needs help, let us know, recorder is always on at 715-592-4330 or 715-592-4971.

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.**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

22nd-Marlene Bronk
24th-Larry Zwicky
27th-Kenny Rozek



Registration Now Open!

Our second Evangelization Summit will be held at St. Paul Parish in Mosinee on Tues, May 19, 9am to 3pm. Theme will be "Paul as a Model of Discipleship and Accompaniment." This is another opportunity for parish leaders to unite together around a shared vision of parishes fully alive on mission, and to connect you with more tools and resources. There will be fresh content for those who attended the first summit, but new attendees are welcome! Questions? dsakowski@diolclergy.org

St. Michael's Church - Junction City

**DRIVE-THRU
GRILLED PORK CHOP
DINNER**

Sunday-March 29, 2026

10:30am-12:30pm

\$14

Double Chop Meal



Raffle
Calendars
Available

2 Grilled & Seasoned Chops,
Baked Potato, Green Bean Casserole,
Garden Salad, Bread & Dessert

(Sunday Mass at 9:00am)

Enjoy an early taste of Summer!!!

St Adalbert Parish



3305 Saint Adalbert Rd, Rosholt, WI 54473

Friday Fish Fry Schedule

Feb 13, Feb 20, Feb 27,
Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27

Serving 4pm to 7:30pm

Menu: Fried or Baked Fish, Fried Shrimp or Combo

with choice of

French Fries, Baked Potato or Potato Salad

All meals include coleslaw, bread and dessert

Regular \$15 or Small-Child/Senior \$12

Dine In or Take Out

Phone 715-677-4518

Served in Church Hall with Elevator Available

Liturgical Appointments

SUNDAY, March 22

LECTOR Christine **USHERS** Kyle, Vincent

SERVERS Landon, Leo

MONEY COUNTERS David Rosemarie, John

MUSICIANS Mary & Cheryl

SUNDAY, March 29 Palm Sunday

LECTOR Nora **USHERS** Anthony

SERVERS Spencer, Sammi

MONEY COUNTERS Lisa, Jeremy, Joanna

MUSICIANS Bob & Sandie

**SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE**

TEACHING GRADES
4K THROUGH 6TH GRADE

ACADEMICS

FAITH

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions

**Tuesday,
March 24, 2026**

9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

7379 Church St., Custer WI 54423

5 day ALL DAY 4K Program

Tuition Assistance Available
Through the
Tanner Simons Memorial

for more info
715-600-6942

visit us
www.sacredheartpolonia.com/school

follow us on Facebook
Sacred Heart School -
Polonia, WI

**Healing Ministry for
those Who Have
Lost a Baby**

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of losing a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, or abortion? Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of La Crosse offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608.860.6698 or Hope4U@diolc.org

**ST. PETER'S ANNUAL
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND
BASKET RAFFLE**

Sunday, March 29th

800 4TH AVE, STEVENS POINT

ENJOY!

**Homemade Pancakes and Potato
Pancakes, Sausage, Loaded Tator Tots,
Scrambled Eggs, Applesauce,
Sweetbreads, Coffee, OJ or Milk**

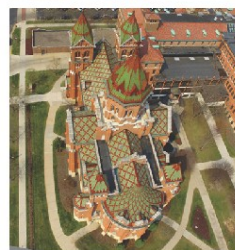
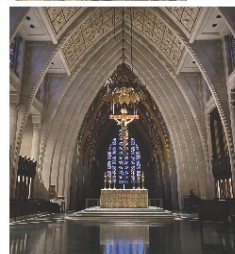


**SERVING BREAKFAST
8 AM - NOON
ADA ACCESSIBLE**

**KOLBE HALL
10 AND UP - \$10
9 AND UNDER - FREE**

*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.

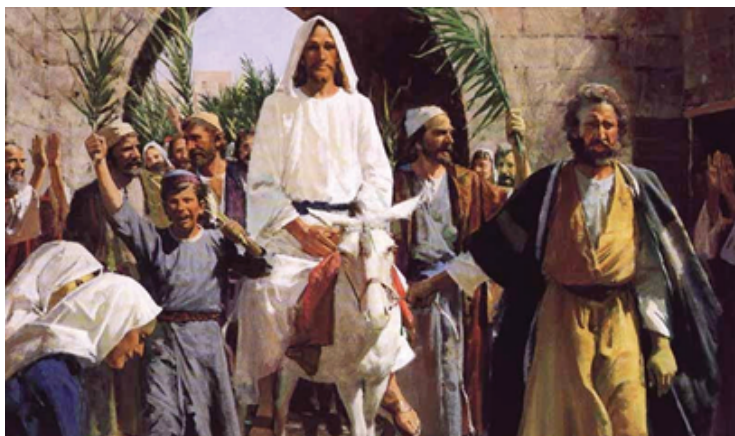
Cost is \$10/person
Children must attend
with parent or guardian.

Register online at
www.PointCatholicFaith.org/chrism
or call 715-341-1617.



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

The "Madre Peregrina" - Pilgrim Mother is a life-size sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary in her apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Originating from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, this replica is crafted to closely resemble the original miraculous image as a living apparition. The primary purpose of the Madre Peregrina sculpture is to bring the spiritual presence and intercessory power of Our Lady of Guadalupe to communities worldwide, fostering peace, love and hope among Catholic pilgrims. The veneration experience will take place at St. Peters, Stevens Point, April 16 – 22.



Entering into the Holiest Week of the Year

Holy Week Schedule

The events of Holy Week changed the world and are, therefore, the holiest days of the year. The sacred liturgies observed during this week remember and make present again the passing of Jesus from death to new life—what is called the Paschal Mystery. You will want to go through the entire week with Christ, dying to selfishness and sin in order to rise to new life along with Him.

Palm Sunday

Time: 8 am @ SH, 10 am @ SMIC

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, which commences with the blessing of palms and the reading of the Gospel somewhere outside the nave. A procession into church, with people holding blessed palm branches and singing festive songs follows, in imitation of the triumphant entrance of Jesus from Bethany to Jerusalem. Immediately afterwards, the theme of triumph changes radically with the reading of the Passion narrative, devoted to the suffering of Christ, which He endured for love of you.

Preparation Days

Time: No Masses on.....

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week are preparation days, both spiritually and physically, for the holiest days to come later in the week. It is a most appropriate time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Wednesday of Holy Week is known as Spy Wednesday. This gets its name because this is the day on which Judas betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin. Because Judas is thought to be sneaky, his actions conjured up the image of a spy.

The Chrism Mass is one of the diocesan highlights at which the Bishop blesses the oils for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick, and consecrates the Sacred Chrism used in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. Priests also renew their priestly promises at this Mass, and the faithful pray for them. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Thursday

Time: 6:30 pm @ Sacred Heart

Holy Thursday begins the Sacred Triduum – which means three days. On this first day the Church commemorates the events surrounding the Last Supper and the institution by Christ of the Holy Eucharist. At the Last Supper Jesus was with His Apostles celebrating the Passover, the annual memorial of the mystery of the Jews' escape from Egypt, and the "passing over" of the angel of death. The Passover was an exodus, or passage, from the oppression of slavery to spiritual freedom. On this night before His crucifixion, Jesus commanded that this Passover be celebrated in a new way as an unbloody anticipation of His sacrificial and saving death that would take place the next day on the cross. This was (is) the new Passover of the Lord in which we are freed from slavery to sin and death through our cooperation with His divine life of grace received in Holy Communion.

A solemn ritual of washing of feet takes place in imitation of Jesus who humbly served His Apostles by washing their feet. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.... By this, all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34, 35)

At the end of Mass, consecrated Hosts—the true presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist—are carried in procession to the side chapel of adoration. These Hosts will be received the next day in Holy Communion. After placing the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle, an atmosphere of quiet watching with the Lord begins. This commemorates how Jesus went with His Apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane, and asking them (and you) to watch and pray with Him. Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup [of suffering] pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will it." (Matthew 26:39) "And being in agony He

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DIocese of LA CROSSE, WI

Holy Week Schedule



prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground." (Luke 22:44) Remain with Jesus in His agony over what He knew He would endure for the sins of the world.

Good Friday Time: 1 pm @ Sacred Heart

The second day of the Sacred Triduum is the Passion of the Lord, known as Good Friday, the commemoration of the death of Jesus on the cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. The theme of this day throughout history has been one of quiet sorrow and mourning for the crucified and dead Jesus. Consider spending the hours of 12- 3 p.m. in quiet prayer, giving up even a drink of water, as this was the time that Jesus hung on the cross and died at 3 p.m.

The emphasis of the liturgy on this solemn day is on Scripture readings and prayers, the veneration of the cross, and the reception of the Eucharist consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Holy Saturday Time: 9 pm @ Sacred Heart

The daytime hours of Holy Saturday continue the atmosphere of Good Friday, and have been observed as a time of quiet and fasting. The Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday is the night of all nights and the primary celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. The elaborate and beautiful ritual of the Easter Vigil has four clearly-defined parts: the service of light, the Liturgy of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and the reception of the risen Christ in Holy Communion.

The service of light begins with a darkened church. The priest lights the Paschal candle, the symbol of Christ's Resurrection. The Paschal candle is used to light small candles held by those in the congregation as all process into the church to the chant of "light of Christ."

The Exsultet is sung which recounts the saving action of Christ, and it is followed by the readings of the Mass, several from the Old Testament, interspersed with responsorial Psalms and prayers. The Liturgy of the Word consists of as many as seven Old Testament readings that recapitulate God's saving action throughout history. The Gloria is then sung with the maximum amount of musical instruments, bells, and choir available to the parish. The Gospel is proclaimed that narrates eye witness accounts of those who encountered the risen Christ, stirring you to a deeper realization that He is alive! There are baptisms, bringing people to new life in Christ followed by confirmation, strengthening them to be bold witnesses for their faith in God. You will renew your own baptismal promises to live more fully as a committed disciple of Christ. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated with the greatest of joy, leading to our reception of the risen Christ in Holy Communion. This is a day to rejoice that the establishment of the Church and the celebration of the Sacraments are all made possible through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday Time: 8 am @ SH, 10 am @ SMIC

The theme of Easter morning continues the triumphant joy of the Easter Vigil. It remembers and celebrates the very foundation of Christianity: Jesus who is Lord is raised from the dead. You will want to share in this incredible joy by participating, as much as possible, in the holiest Week of the year.

