

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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 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, May 5, (SH)

8:15 am +Delphine Shulfer

by Kent & Susanna Lepak

Wednesday, May 6

8:15 am +**Michael V. Kosobucki**

Thursday, May 7 @ SH

7 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am In Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart School Alumni Donors by Sacred Heart Students & Staff

Friday, May 8

7 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +**John, Helen, Raymond Schulist, Maynard, Dorothy, Ray Richter**

by **Bernard & Marlene Schulist**

SATURDAY, MAY 9, @ SH

8:15 am +Lillian Drefcinski by Conrad & Delores Lepak +Patricia Kluck by Don Kluck +Gladys Lepak by Family +Alfred & Theresa Prondzinski by Family +Tom Printz by Mary, Kim, Andreas Family +David K. Trzebiatowski by Dennis & Anna Mlodik

2:45 pm Confessions

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am @ SH +Edwin Drefcinski by Conrad & Delores Lepak

10 am +**Phyllis Klesmith**

by **Kevin & Laurie Miester**

+**MaryAnn Meyer & Marcie Rozek**

by **Kenny & Betty Rozek**

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-stmaryicfinance@gmail.com

Coordinator of Religious Education-

Jessica Bielen

Custodian-Jeanne Hintz

Maintenance/Grounds keeping

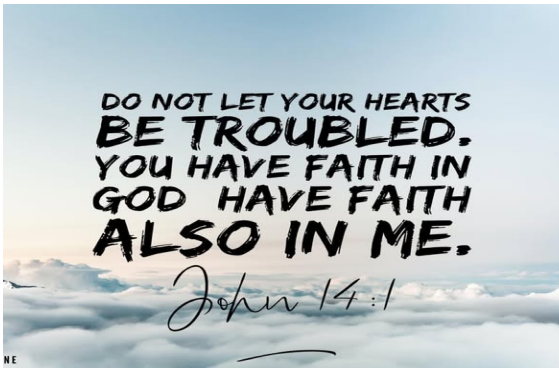
Josh Genskow

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.





"The devil does not have only one weapon. He uses many different means to defeat human beings: now with bribery, now with boredom, now with greed he attacks, inflicting mental and physical wounds equally. The kind of temptations varies with the different kinds of victim. Avarice is the test of the rich, loss of children that of parents, and everyone is exposed to pain of mind or body. What a wealth of weapons is at the devil's disposal!" - St. Ambrose

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT	
April 26	
Offertory	\$ 270.00
DCCW	10.00
Building Fund	100.00
Adult Env	
<u>& ACH</u>	<u>1468.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,848.00

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.

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: *Tom Sbonik, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Joe Raschka, Denny Elsenrath, Henry Gagas, Valerie Stanczyk, Shirley Pliska, Sharon Zblewski, Jim Zblewski, Ken Wierzba, Jerry Lepak, 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.*

BUY SCRIP After Mass
Sunday, May 10th & 31st
 If you need scrip before Scrip Sunday, please call Shelly (715-592-3775)

Thank you for supporting our scrip program

March Total Sales = \$17,840.00
 Profit Total = \$ 749.78



The Importance of Praying the Rosary in May

The Rosary is important because it focuses on the pivotal moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary, known as the "mysteries." In reflecting on these major events of Jesus' life, you will come to recognize more how much Jesus loves you personally. You will also be guided by the Holy Spirit to make connections between each mystery of Jesus' life and your own life. And you may ask the Holy Spirit to help you see how this mystery gives guidance to your life right now.

Praying the Rosary, with the repetition of the Hail Marys, creates a quiet, contemplative space in a noisy world, allowing the mind and heart to focus on God. Take 5 minutes to pray a decade of the Rosary (one Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, and Glory Be) with your family.



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

Coordinator of Religious Education

Jessica Bielen (715)347-3367 or 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.

Happy BIRTHDAY!

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

TO BE ADDED TO THE WEEKLY BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME AND BIRTH DATE TO DONNA.
 STMARY@WI-NET.COM
 715-592-4330



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5th-Jessica Bielen 6th-Christine Sapa
- 7th-Kate Peterson 8th-Diane Wysocki,
- David Cieslewicz 11th-Rick Weronke
- 14th-Sarah Kosobucki 15th-Carol Trem
- 16th-Molly Dombrowski, Pat Johnson
- 17th-Dave Glodowski 19th-Jason Dombrowski
- 24th-Steward Kepler, Duane Kluck
- 27th-Jacque Wille, Bob Armatoski
- 28th-Brian Britz 31st-Cheryl Sbonik

CAUTION:

RENOVATIONS HAVE BEGUN




Please use caution when visiting St. Mary's.

While this is an exciting time to witness the changes we are making, please be respectful of the equipment and materials.



Join us
Sunday, May 17
after the
10 am Mass for our
COFFEE & DONUT
SOCIAL
ALL ARE WELCOME
 Hosted by Group 8

Father Joseph Walijewski
Legacy Guild
 Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II



DIocese of LA CROSSE

PROJECT MILK envelopes are in your pew. Project Milk provides milk for the Casa Hogan Orphanage in Lurin, Peru. By giving your support, you are not only supporting the orphanage but also promoting the use of Wisconsin milk. This milk project started 40 years ago to help feed Peru orphans and can continue with the use of Wisconsin milk. Thanks to your donations that keep coming in despite the hard economic times. Because we know that hunger knows no seasons. Your donation helps buy and ship the 50 lb. of bags of milk which cost \$100.00. Each week one sack of milk provides milk for 72 orphans. That is not a whole lot of milk per child. The diocese's goal for its' next shipment is 800 bags. **LET'S SEE HOW MANY BAGS OF MILK WE CAN FILL, please return your envelope by May 24th.**



Evangelization Summit
 Tuesday, May 19th, 9 am to 3 pm
 St. Paul Catholic Church
 603 4th St, Mosinee

Are you a pastor, parish staff member, or lay volunteer desiring to see your parish fully alive on mission? Step aside for the day to learn how we change the "soil" of our Catholic culture in order to plant the seeds of evangelization.

At this summit, you can expect to:

- Encounter Jesus and others who desire a culture of discipleship in our parishes.
- Practice praying, listening, and discerning together.
- Grow in clarity of vision - what does "culture of discipleship and accompaniment" mean?
- Identify what support and resources are most needed to live this way.

Scan to register



\$20 suggested donation to offset costs for lunch and presenters

CALIX: A Catholic Substance Abuse Recovery Support Group: Calix is an association of Catholics wanting to live free of addiction to alcohol or drugs, and it is also for affected family members. It is not a substitute for AA or Al-Anon, but provides a Catholic perspective to complement these 12-step programs. "Calix," Latin for "chalice," was founded in Minneapolis in 1947 by a group of five men, all recovering alcoholics, who saw their Catholic faith as a sure path to serenity without alcohol. If interested in learning about the Calix group that meets every other Tuesday by Zoom in the Diocese of La Crosse, email Christine healthandharmonywi@gmail.com.

The Diocese of La Crosse Chapter of Catholic Rural Life, in partnership with a local family farm and a seed dealership, has been entrusted with a generous opportunity to give back to our farming community. We are pleased to offer 30 bags of current-year, high-quality 99-day seed corn -- free of charge -- to be shared among three deserving recipients. This gift is intended to support approximately 25-30 acres for each family farm. We recognize that agricultural finances can present challenges, and it is our privilege to walk alongside those in our community during difficult seasons. Please direct all inquiries to: Rural Life Chair: Anne Marie Ellwing Annemarie.elwing@wallstonellc.com

Calling all current middle school boys! Bring yourself and a friend Monday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 17 to St Lawrence Seminary High School in Mt Calvary for three days of field olympics, team building, games and prayer. You're sure to have a blast living the dorms, eating lots of food, making new friends, and growing in your Catholic faith! Cost is \$50 and includes housing and food. Free transportation is available from select cities throughout the state. Register at www.stlawrence.edu/retreats

Liturgical Appointments

SUNDAY, May 3

LECTOR Tom USHERS Betty & Ron
 SERVERS Nolan, Hutton
 MONEY COUNTERS Kirk, Tom, Marie
 MUSICIANS Jacquie & Carolyn

SUNDAY, May 10

LECTOR Christine USHERS Randy & Vincent
 SERVERS Keaton, Elizabeth
 MONEY COUNTERS Randy, David, Rosemarie
 MUSICIANS Mary & Jim



ST. MARY'S I.C. FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to donate to our Food

Pantry your non perishable items and monetary donations go to local families. Please help us help those in need. Drop off items in the cart in the entrance of Church. Please check the expiration date on items you are donating.

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, (stmary@wi-net.com)

DID YOU KNOW? The Polonia Convent gift shop has First Communion Dresses, some veils, and beautiful handmade rosaries plus many unique gifts. Saturday mornings are a good time to visit or call the MSDI Polonia Sisters at 715-592-4213 to pick a visit time just for you! Thanks for supporting this on-going Convent fundraiser.



Building Together
Uniting Hearts and Spaces



**GROUND BREAKING
FOR PHASE 1** will be
today **Sunday, May
3rd** after the 10 am
Mass. All parishioners
are welcome to join us.

BUILDING TOGETHER - UPDATE

Exciting News!! - We have approval from the Diocese to proceed with Phase 1 of the Church Hall project - with the caveat that this approval does not impact the status of the Parish when the Diocese is implementing its Parish Planning We are so appreciative to have the continued support of our major donors and of the anonymous donors to continue to move forward - we need the infrastructure to remain vibrant as a parish.

We have the contract signed with Ellis Construction and are finalizing the details and scheduling. The intention is to start construction in the next few weeks. Phase 1 will create a new entrance and connection to the church that has ADA accessibility and a ground level bathroom. There will be a covered car port from the upgraded parking lot. There will also be an expansion of the sacristy. During construction, the ramp entrance to the church will no longer be available. The ushers and more mobile members of the church will assist those who usually enter via the ramp to enter through the back.

We have 85% to 90% of the funds in hand so we would welcome anyone who would like to donate to the building fund. Any extra funds will get us started on Phase 2, which would be the kitchen and hall, when we are ready for that. Those can be included in the Building Fund envelopes in your box of envelopes.

Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who has worked on this project, supported this project, and giving their financial support. We also appreciate everyone's patience in making this project a reality. There have been many recent upgrades to St. Mary's, it is exciting to see how this parish works together by Building Together!



1875



2026



2025



The Our Father

Learning to Pray Like Jesus

When the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray,” He gave them a gift that has been handed on to every generation. It is the *Our Father* prayer. This prayer is not just something to memorize; the specific words reflect Jesus’ own life of prayer. Jesus invites us to call the one, true God “Father,” which is remarkable because it signifies that we have the privilege of sharing in Christ’s divine union with the Father.

When we pray the *Our Father*, we are not speaking words that float away in the air; we are speaking to Someone who truly listens, cares, and responds. We are not merely individuals; rather we are adopted sons and daughters of the living God through Jesus’ costly sacrifice of His death and Resurrection. Our Heavenly Father knows us completely, loves us deeply, and desires a relationship with each one of us. The Lord’s Prayer is a way to enter into a living relationship with God, who is not distant, but our loving Father.

The prayer begins by turning our attention to *Our Father, Who art in Heaven*. Before we ask for anything, we are reminded who God is – the Creator of the Universe. We are to keep God’s name holy – as set apart above everything – ensuring all other earthly desires are in their proper place, with the Father as

the center of our life. We pray for the Kingdom of God’s reign, which Jesus began in His Person to set things right, who reunited divinity and humanity. We seek the Father’s will because He is infinitely generous, loving, and worthy of our trust. These words reorient our hearts. It teaches us that prayer is not just about asking, but also about belonging to the family of God.

Then, Jesus invites us to bring our needs before the Father. We ask for our daily bread and this refers, above all, to our request for “supersubstantial bread,” spiritual nourishment for our souls through the incredible gift of the Holy Eucharist – Jesus Himself. We ask for forgiveness, and at the same time, we commit ourselves to forgive others. This is not always easy, but it is essential. A heart that receives mercy must also show mercy toward others.

We also ask for strength: *lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*. Due to the effects of original sin, we should expect that interiorly, we will experience resistance to God’s good and holy will. And we cannot reject this resistance on our own. We need God’s grace to guide, protect, and strengthen us to choose what is good.

One of the most important lessons of the *Our Father* is trust.

God always answers our prayers, but not always in the way or the timing we expect. Sometimes the answer is “yes,” sometimes “no” because God knows that what we are asking for will not be good for us, and sometimes “not yet.” Even in silence, God is at work, shaping our hearts and drawing us closer to Him.

Jesus did not give us this prayer simply to repeat words, but to form our hearts. When we pray this beautiful prayer, slowly and with intention, we begin to see the Father differently and our lives differently. We grow in peace, trust, and charity because of the Father’s unconditional love for each one of us.

This week, take time to pray the *Our Father* more deliberately. Speak it from your heart. Pause on a phrase. Let these compelling words become a conversation, not just a routine, because in this prayer, we are not just saying words; we are speaking with our eternal Father and realigning our heart with Him.

If you would like to download a prayer card of the *Our Father* with a simple format that fosters a more personal way to pray it, and/or additional resources, visit diolc.org/catechesis/going-deeper-in-prayer

By Ann Lankford
Catechesis & Evangelization