

December 21, 2025

*Fourth 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)

### **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 Wierzbka....[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

### **Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, December 23,

8:15 am (SH) +Edwin Gagas by Family

### ***CHRISTMAS EVE @ SMIC***

***Wednesday, December 24***

***3:30 pm Christmas Carols***

***4:00 pm +John & Troy Bronk***

*by Mike & Julie Melum & Family*



### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Thursday, December 25,**

**BOTH MASSES HELD AT SH**

12 Midnight +Leo Kurszewski

by Virginia Groshek

9 am St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart  
Parish Families

***Friday, December 26,***  
***NO MASS***

Saturday, December 27, (@ SH)  
**NO 8:15 am MASS**

2:45 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm +Clarence Ostrowski by Betty

### ***December 28, The Holy Family of***

***Jesus, Mary & Joseph***

8:00 am @ SH +Jerry Shroda by Lori Shroda

***10 am St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart***  
***Parish Families***

### **JANUARY 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

8:15 am @ (SH) St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred Heart  
Parish Families

***6:00 p.m. @ St. Mary's I.C.***  
***+Wayne Raschka by Chet Raschka***

4th Sunday of Advent



## **Candle of Love**

Lord Jesus, as we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love, we thank You for the love that came down to us in the manger. Fill our hearts with that same love, so we may share it with those around us. Help us to reflect Your love in all that we do, and prepare our hearts to welcome You with joy and peace this Christmas. Amen.



"Almighty and Eternal God, whose light has shone in our mortal darkness; reveal Your presence in our souls, and direct us in our thoughts, words and deeds; awaken us from the sleep of sin, and make us know that now is the accepted time and now the day of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (a traditional Advent prayer)

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, Donna Wierzba, Sharon Zblewski, Denny Elsenrath, Henry Gagas, Adam Cohen, Ken Wierzba, Jerry Lepak, Jim Zblewski, Deagen Selner, 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.

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** 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.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**December 14**

Offertory	\$ 95.00
Religious Retirement	100.00
Adult Env	
& ACH	2500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2695.00</b>



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

[DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP](http://DIOLC.ORG/STEWARDSHIP)

GOAL	<b>\$22,655.00</b>
COMMITTED AND RECEIVED	<b>\$18,412.50</b>
# OF DONORS	<b>48</b>
<b>% of Goal Pledged: 81.27%</b>	

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

All contributions postmarked 12/31/25 will be posted and processed for the calendar/tax year 2025. All contributions received or postmarked after 12/31/25 will be posted into 2026, regardless of whether a 2025 giving envelope was used. Thank you.

**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





## 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)



### Christmas Eve Choir:

All parishioners are welcome to join the Christmas Eve Choir, no experience required. We will meet in the choir loft at 3:00pm on Christmas Eve, Wed Dec 24, to

warm up and go over the songs. We will be singing traditional Christmas carols, so you already know the words and melodies!

Come! Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



### HOOKED ON LOVE BIG THANK YOU

to parishioners for being **awesome** in donating supplies for Hooked on Love. Young mothers are grateful for the love

shown to them with needed baby items and \$270.00 gift cards you provided for "First Choice Prenatal Care Program". Especially with the rising cost of baby items. Thank you for the extra effort to give them a joyful Christmas and a good start on the New Year.



This summer and fall, 3,622 of our people participated in 40 listening sessions to help launch Rebuild My Church, an ongoing effort of renewal and pastoral planning for our Diocese.

What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall? Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary

of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to "pivot from maintenance to mission." The web address: <https://www.dioc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates>



### 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**

### Televised Mass Schedule for Christmas:

\*Stevens Point (Public Access),  
Channel 984 and Channel 3, at 7:30  
p.m. Christmas Eve, and 1:00 p.m.  
on Christmas Day.

\*Wausau, Channel 12, at 5:00 and  
6:00 a.m. on Christmas Day

\*Wausau (Public Access), Channel  
980, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on  
Christmas Day.

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be **NO MORNING  
MASSES** on December  
26th , 27th, 30th & 31st  
and also on January 2nd at  
St. Mary's I.C. & Sacred  
Heart.

**MASSES on JANUARY 1st—  
Solemnity of Mary, the  
Holy Mother of God (Holy  
Day of Obligation)**  
8:15 am @ Sacred Heart  
6:00 p.m. @ St. Mary's I.C.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS** 21st-Colleen Raschka 23rd-Lisa Piesik  
24th-Deb Sniadajewski, Randy Iwanski, Nick Stremkowski



**Inclement Weather Policy: Parish Office and Scheduled Activities**  
 St. Mary's I.C. and Sacred Heart Parishes follows Stevens Point AND Rosholt Schools for delays, closures, and cancellations. When Stevens Point AND/OR Rosholt Schools close and/or cancel evening activities, the Parish Office and Sacred Heart School will close and all activities at the parish are cancelled. Cancellations and closures will also be posted on the website  
 \*If Parish office is closed due to inclement weather, Father will still celebrate daily Mass at scheduled time at Sacred Heart. There will be no Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. **PLEASE NOTE: When Mass is scheduled at St. Mary's I.C. Father will still celebrate the Mass, but at Sacred Heart. If you are ever unable to drive safely, please do not risk coming to Mass.**



**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 except scrip gift cards. **THANK YOU** for your generous support!

**Advent: Jesus is Our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)** The Advent hymn *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* is a prayer of hope, asking that by the grace of the Holy Spirit we allow Jesus to reign in our lives. It is Jesus' perfect actions of His life, crucifixion, death and resurrection that are the "all-sufficient merit" that saves us and makes us ready for eternal life in heaven. In essence, this is a prayer for deep personal surrender to God and a plea for salvation through Christ's work, because we are not able to save ourselves by our own doing.

Let us open our hearts with great hope to encounter the living Christ Child on Christmas, especially when we receive the Holy Eucharist.

The fourth verse:

By Your own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;

By Your all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Your glorious throne.

**(Reminder)** The Jubilee Year of Hope officially ends on January 6<sup>th</sup> when Pope Leo XIV closes the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. A Mass to close the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of La Crosse will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman by Msgr. Richard Gilles, 10 a.m. on December 28<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

The Best Gift for your Spouse--Harmony and Hope! A weekend for married couples facing a difficult time in their relationship to be held in Wausau area Feb 13-15, provides a path to rediscover the spouse you fell in love with. "We could not talk without arguing. Eventually, our marriage entered a second honeymoon. We are now able to live in harmony thanks

***Liturgical Appointments***

**Dec 24 4 PM CHRISTMAS EVE**

**LECTOR** Kirk **USHERS** volunteer

**SERVERS** Hutton, Keaton, Nolan

**MUSICIANS** Mary & Choir

**SUNDAY, Dec 28**

**LECTOR** Christine **USHERS** Kyle, Vincent

**SERVERS** Nolan, Keaton, Hutton

**MONEY COUNTERS** David, Rosemarie, Marie

**MUSICIANS** Mary & Cheryl

**JANUARY 1 6 PM NEW YEARS DAY**

**LECTOR** Kirk **USHERS** volunteer

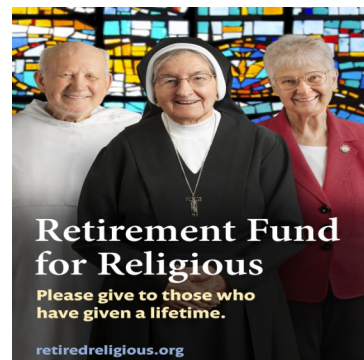
**SERVERS** Hutton, Keaton, Nolan

**MUSICIANS** Mary & Jacquie

**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.



**Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help.** Decades of service with little or no pay have left many without sufficient retirement savings. Over 20,500 elderly religious rely on the Retirement Fund for Religious for care and assistance. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime. Envelopes are in the pews and in the entrance of the Church. Please bring back to Church next week.