

October 12, 2025

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 Wierzb...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, October 14, @ SH

8:15 am +Ernest & Dorothy Dombrowski
by Family

Wednesday, October 15

8:15 am +Ron & Ruth Werachowski
by family

Thursday, October 16, (SH)

7-8 am Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions
8:15 am +Samantha Wittman

Friday, October 17,

7-8 Adoration 7:30-8 am Confessions

8:15 am +Emily Zwicki
by Larry & Eunice Zwicki

Saturday, October 18,

8:15 AM @ SH

+Gladys Lepak by Family

+Gerald Stedl by Lisa Zdroik

60+ Members of the PCCW by PCCW

2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm +Richard & Linda Konkol by family

October 19, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am @ SH

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

10:00 am +Ervin Pliska by Shirley & family

GIVE
THANKS

*in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you*

1 Thessalonians 5:18





"Let us do our duty as it presents itself. This is the secret of true faith and peace. Suppose a religious man, for instance, is in the society of strangers. He takes things as they come, discourses naturally, and does good according to each opportunity. His heart is in his work and his thoughts rest without effort on his God and Savior. This is the way of a Christian."

- St. John Newman

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Oct 5

Offertory	\$ 106.00
Building Fund	85.00
Adult Env & ACH	1810.00
Total	\$2001.00

Dear Parishioners:

On **October 19**, the Church recognizes its missionary role in spreading the Gospel. The specific department of the Vatican for this effort is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. We are all called to spread the Gospel as clergy and laity, each in his or her own way. Of course there are those priests and religious brothers and religious sisters whose specific charism is to be missionaries. There will be envelopes available for your use. We should all take this to prayer and see what the Lord may be asking of us as far as helping this effort monetarily. The envelopes will be available for a few weeks, afterwards we will send the collected amount to where it needs to go. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Sincerely,
Fr. Miller



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, Valerie Stanczyk, Shirley Pliska, Henry Gagas, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Denny Elsenrath, Adam Cohen, Sharon Zblewski, Jerry Lepak, Ken Wierzba, Jim Zblewski, 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 the parish. Hospitals do not make us 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



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

Coordinator of Religious Education Jessica Bielen
(715)347-3367 or jwier319@gmail.com



Confirmation Please remember in your prayers **Madison Stremkowski** as she prepares for Confirmation. May God continue to guide and fill her with his grace as she journeys closer to him.



3rd grade - Jessica Bielen
5th & 6th - Sarah Raschka
7th & 8th - Amy Stremkowski
9th & 10th - Christine Sapa
THANK YOU TEACHERS

Family Mass Sunday, October 19th at 10 a.m. ALL STUDENTS and THEIR PARENTS are asked to attend. This is part of our Faith Formation Program.



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.**

**Join us Sunday,
October 19th
after the 10 am**



**Mass for our
COFFEE & DONUT
SOCIAL**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Hosted by Group 5

PROMISE TO
PROTECT



DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate, and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor, or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that

report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to submit their reports directly to the relevant civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse or the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.



Gazebo/Convent
Gift Shop. Gazebo
Gift Shop behind

Polonia Convent is open dawn to dusk. Self-serve with instructions inside the gazebo. Enjoy browsing and supporting this on-going fundraiser which helps the MSDI Polonia Convent. Thank you to all who come and shop and blessings to you!! • New items added frequently so please come and see inside the gazebo!

BUY SCRIP

After Mass

October 19th

If you need scrip before Scrip Sunday, please call Shelly (715-592-3775) Thank you for supporting our scrip program.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

11th-Chet Raschka 12th-Henry Gagas
13th-Brad Britz & Brenda Retzlaff
14th-Lorraine Glodowski
15th-Eunice Zwicky 23rd-Pat Klosinski 29th-Betty Kitzerow
30th-Lisa Firkus 31st-Lenny Pliska

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU! Yes, we might be a little early. To celebrate **St. Mary's Immaculate Conception 150th Anniversary**, on November 16, 2025: We have created a beautiful CHRISTMAS CARD. A beautiful snow scene of St. Mary's I.C. church on the front with our altar at Christmas inside the card. Please check out the sample of the card in the entrance of Church. These cards are for you to purchase, 10 cards for \$20.00 or 20 cards for \$40.00. Orders will be taken on October 19th & 26th in the entrance. Cards will be ready for pick up on November 16th & 23rd.



Fueling Missions of Hope

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." – John 20:21

We are reminded that every baptized Christian shares in Christ's mission to bring light, love, and healing to the world. Through our Diocesan Annual Appeal, we come together

to fuel missions of hope—acts of mercy, service, and evangelization that flow from the heart of the Church. The blue cross anchors our mission in Jesus Christ, the source of grace and truth. The red flame symbolizes the Holy Spirit's power to renew and transform us. The golden waves represent the far-reaching impact of our generosity, touching lives in every corner of our Diocese and beyond. When we support the Annual Appeal, we: - - - Educate future priests and support seminarians Feed the hungry and serve the poor Form the youth and evangelize families Empower parishes and proclaim the Gospel Let us respond to Christ's call with hope and joy. Your gift is a spark that God can transform into a flame. **Pray: ** Lord, send me. Let me be a bearer of hope.



"That Man Is You" men's group, the sessions are held every Tuesday starting with breakfast at 6:00 am, followed by a video presentation and small group discussion, ending at 7:30 am, at Sacred Heart. This year we are going back to year 1, the foundation of TMIY, **Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart**. This is not a repeat of year 1. We've

kept the heart of the original and some of Steve Bollman's most impactful talks, however, now you'll hear from multiple dynamic speakers, each sharing personal stories and insights that speak directly to the challenges men face today. **This is for all men in the Stevens Point Deanery.**

Liturgical Appointments

SUNDAY, Oct 12 8:00 MASS

LECTOR Deb USHERS Randy M, Travis
SERVERS Landon & Leo
MONEY COUNTERS Randy, Joanna, Marie
MUSICIANS Mary & Jim

SUNDAY, Oct 19

LECTOR Nora USHERS Randy I, Anthony
SERVERS Spencer & Samantha
MONEY COUNTERS Jeremy, Lisa, John
MUSICIANS Carolyn & Jacquie

St. Joseph Holy Name Society

15th Annual Pork Roast Dinner

Saturday, October 18

Serving From 4:30-7:00p.m.

Dine-in or Carry-out available



Menu

Roast Pork
Parsley Boiled
Potatoes
Baked Beans
Sauerkraut
Cole Slaw
Brownies
Rolls

Tickets:

Adults: \$15

Children under 12: \$5

50/50 Drawing
Basket Raffle

Reservations are requested by
October 12, 2025

Call: 715-340-4857 or

Email: daniels.mmlj@gmail.com

Please specify dine-in or carry-out when
making reservations. Thank you.

St. Joseph Parish - 1709 Wyatt Avenue - Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-341-1617 - www.PointCatholicFaith.org

Pilgrimage to Mexico - Marian

Messengers February 8-13 Come

and visit Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr. Tim Oudenhoven. We will be walking the actual steps of St. Juan Diego and learning firsthand of the incredible message and mission that Mary has for us! Infor: www.marianmessengers.org 800-842-4842 (International Tours in partnership with Theology of the Body Institute)

RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2025

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

With great joy we celebrate October as Respect Life Month amid the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope. This Jubilee Year "offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama."¹ The life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious.

Yet, the daily headlines remind us of how desperately our world is thirsting for the hope that only God can provide. Every day we witness the overwhelming disregard for human life: through rising rates of abortion and assisted suicide; the killing of innocent school children, even at prayer; the mistreatment of our immigrant sisters and brothers as they endure an environment of aggression; and political and ideological violence inflicted against unsuspecting victims. These attacks threaten life precisely when it is most vulnerable and in need of protection.

Despite these realities, the gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death. It is of the utmost importance that we work to ensure that every life, in every stage and circumstance, is protected in law.

Earlier this year, history was made when Planned Parenthood and other big abortion businesses were banned from receiving federal Medicaid dollars for one year. I thank Catholics across the country who

"The gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death."

have embraced a [nationwide call to prayer](#) for the end of all taxpayer funding of abortion centers, and I ask that we continue those prayers throughout the month of October.

This Jubilee Year we are challenged to be agents of hope to those whose hearts are burdened by trial, difficulty, or suffering, offering them the hope that comes from Christ Jesus alone. *[Walking with Moms in Need](#)* and *[Project Rachel Ministry](#)* are just two examples of how the Church continuously reaches out with love, compassion, and mercy to those most in need of a message of hope.

As we begin Respect Life Month, together we embrace the words of Pope Leo XIV, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."² Each of us is called to be a witness to the Gospel of Life, proclaiming in word and deed the innate goodness and dignity of every human person.

For information on Respect Life Month, visit <https://www.respectlife.org/>.

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.



The Meaning of Life

The Longing for God is Written on Your Heart.

Every human heart longs for something more. We look for a happiness that never fades, for the meaning of life especially during difficult times, and for the truth that sets us free from fear and worry. We may enjoy success, comfort, and love from others—but there always remains that “something more” we cannot quite name. Deep down, we know that nothing in this world ever completely satisfies.

That unmet longing within us is actually a gift, for that longing is God’s call written on our heart. It is the voice of God calling within every heart. Nothing in this life can fulfill our desire, for a time maybe but not forever; deeply, but not as deeply as our heart desires. This is true because nothing created can fully satisfy our desires. Only in God will we find the joy and fulfillment we seek because God alone is sufficient. As St. Augustine said, *“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord.”*

Why? The reason this longing points to God is because you are created in the **image of God**. You have a mind, which is capable of knowing Him; a will capable of choosing Him. And you have a heart made to love Him. No

other created thing in the universe has this dignity.

And because of this dignity, God has written into your very being a desire for Himself. He calls each of us **by name** into a relationship with Him. That is the deepest truth about each one of us. You are not an accident of history. You are wanted. You are chosen. You are loved.

Yet, if we are honest, we know how easy it is to forget this. Evil in the world, distractions, indifference, even bad examples from others—these can all drown out God’s voice. Sometimes we turn away because of fear, or because we’re too busy, or because we wonder if God could really *want* us – you and me.

But the “Good News” is this: God never stops calling you. Never! Even when we wander away from Him, He pursues us. Even when we close our hearts to Him, He knocks gently at the door. Even when we feel farthest from Him, He is closer than our very breath.

This is why Jesus came: to reveal the face of the Father, to draw us back into that relationship of love. He – Jesus – is not just an idea, not just a teacher, but a Person. And when you encounter Him, your life cannot remain the same.

Think about your own life. Be encouraged to listen to that desire in your heart. Look back over your life – those times when God felt close, those times when you wondered where He was. See how His hand has been guiding you, even in ways you didn’t notice at the time.

And then, start fresh today in your desire to go deeper in your relationship with God - Jesus. Take five minutes each day this week. Sit quietly with the Lord. Speak to Him from your heart. Listen to His Word. Let Him remind you that you are His beloved son or His beloved daughter. It is essential that you be “fed” every day with a steady diet of the truth of God’s unconditional love for you. The reason is because this truth gets “crowded out” through the busyness of life and the contradictory messages of the culture.

The meaning of your life—the answer to your restless searching—can only be found in God. And the good news is, not only did He create you and want you, He has been seeking you, and will never stop seeking you, to be in the deepest friendship with Him.

By Ann Lankford, Office for Catechesis