

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### 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 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

#### 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, February 11, (SH)

8:15 am +Norman Eiden by Family

*Wednesday, February 12,*

**8:15 am +George Betro by Louise, Pam, Mark**

Thursday, February 13 (SH)

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

8:15 am +Raymond Gagas by Family

*Friday, February 14*

*7-8 Adoration 7:30-8:00 am Confessions*

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

Saturday, February 15, (SH)

8:15 am +Larry Strong by Jeanette Kaminski

+Clarence Rameczyk by Don & Adeline Mrozek

+Myron Orlikowski by Orlikowski Family

+Raymond Gagas by Sekerka Family

+Norman Platta by Raymond Richter Jr.

+Anne Bembenek by Daniel Bembenek & Falkavage Family

Marion Kurszewski & Family by Krista Glodowski

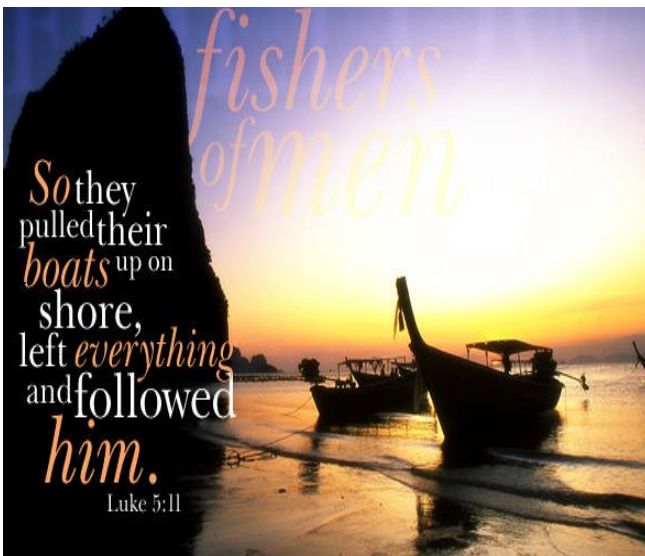
2:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm +Loretta Klesmit by Roger Klesmit

**Sunday, Feb 16, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 am (SH) St. Mary's & Sacred Heart  
Parish Families

**10:00 am For the Living & Deceased of  
St. Mary's I.C. Altar Society**





*"Those who trust in Jesus are as simple as children. They cling to his garments and in every difficulty have recourse to him. Filled with trust they exclaim: 'Help me, Lord Jesus, to overcome this enemy and this obstacle. You alone can help me and I am sure that you want to do so.'"*  
 - St. Frances de Sales

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT	
February 2	
Offertory	\$ 149.00
Building Fund	40.00
Adult Env & ACH	1080.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1269.00</b>

A Minute with Jesus: **Jesus wants us to know He is continually with us.** Oftentimes, our mind begins to wander at Mass because we only see bread and wine. What contributes to our distractions is the bombardment of noise and images on our mind that come through our physical senses (hearing, seeing). Therefore, we are much less attuned to the world of the spirit and the much deeper spiritual realities that are right here, all around us.  
 · Let's pray this right now and every day this week: *Jesus, help me to learn to be quiet and reveal to my heart the truth that the Eucharist is really You present under the appearance of bread and wine.*  
 · This week, read about Jacob in the desert, who was very much afraid, and came to realize that God was present right there with him. As with Jacob, we can say as we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:10-17)

**Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope** What is a jubilee? The idea of jubilee goes back to the Old Testament, which God commanded every 50th year. (Lev. 25:10) The jubilee year applied to the restoration of family land lost by indebtedness and the release from other debts. The Vatican website says: "A Jubilee Year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity." Jesus, through His Church, gives us release from the effects of sin and restoration of sanctifying grace through the sacrament of reconciliation. During this jubilee year, you are invited to pray for an increase in hope. You received the gift of hope from God in baptism. Hope is the gift by which you place your trust in Christ's promises. One of Jesus' promises was, "I am with you always." Jesus is here with you, to walk with you every step of the way; through trials, difficulties as well as times of joy. You are invited to participate in one of the Evenings of Hope with Bishop Battersby.

**Evening of Hope | Feb. 22, |Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman**  
 Bishop Battersby will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman. A Holy Hour follow, during which Bishop Battersby will offer a jubilee reflection on hope. Confessions. Benediction at 7:00 p.m.  
 Future Jubilee Evenings of Hope: Saturday, May 31, Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire: 2 to 5 p.m. Holy Hour, Confession, and 4 p.m. Mass  
 Sunday, Oct. 12, Resurrection Church, Wausau: 2 to 4 p.m. Holy Hour and Confession

**BUILDING FUND DONATIONS**  
 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. Please be generous.  
**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO OUR BUILDING FUND**

"For we are co-workers, you are God's field, God's building."  
 1 Corinthians 3:9  
 DIOLC.ORG/COWORKER

GOAL

PLEGGED AND RECEIVED

# OF DONORS



Are you interested in serving St. Mary's in an important and rewarding way? Parish Council will hold elections for the next two year terms in April. There are four positions available and we need volunteers or and/or nominations for all 4.  
**THANK YOU TO Patrick Johnson** who has served us diligently for multiple terms and is eligible to run for another term this year. Christine Sapa, Carolyn Iwanski and Nora Stransky are completing their first term and are eligible for another, if they choose to run. Please volunteer to run or nominate a candidate you know would be willing to serve a two year term. Nomination forms can be found in the entrance of Church or contact the office by March 16.715-592-4330.



# 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)

THE NEXT FAMILY MASS WILL BE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th.



St. Mary's Immaculate Conception  
Faith Formation

Scan this QR code and join!

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, Adam Cohen, Valerie Stanczyk, Henry Gagas, Jean Miller, Sharon Zblewski, Jerry Lepak, Denny Elsenrath, Joe Raschka, Shirley Pliska, Ken Wierzba, Ruthie & Lenny Pliska, Jim Zblewski, Mike Mrozek, 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](mailto:stmary@wi-net.com) **FIRST NAMES ONLY** will be used; members promise to respect your request in confidence.



## ST. MARY'S I.C. FOOD PANTRY

*We will continue to collect non perishable items and monetary donations for 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.***



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 9th-Mary Egle
- 17th-Julie Trembl
- 18th-Amy Stremkowski
- 20th-Kirk Wille

**BUY SCRIP** After Mass **FEBRUARY 23rd** If you need scrip before Scrip Sunday, please call Shelly (715-592-3775) Thank you for supporting our scrip program **YOU ASK—WHAT IS SCRIP?** For anyone who has never bought Scrip or not familiar with it...Scrip is a gift card you buy and use like a pre-paid credit card at local businesses throughout the Stevens Point area. Our parish receives on an average 4% from these businesses for using their cards. Any questions, call or talk with Shelly after Mass on February 23rd.

**Inclement Weather Policy: Parish Office and Scheduled Activities.**  
St. Mary's I.C. and Sacred Heart Parishes follows Stevens Point Public Schools for delays, closures, and cancellations. When Stevens Point Public 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.



## Fish Fry & Raffle

Dine-in or Carryout



### Menu Options:

\$13 - Fried or Baked Fish (2 pc.)

\$15 - Fried Shrimp (8 pc.)

\$14 - Combo: Fish (1 pc.) & Shrimp (4 pc.)

Included: Coleslaw, Choice of Potato, and Dessert

Children's Meals Available Upon Request

Dine-In: 1st come, 1st served

Pre-Order To-Go:

715-341-1617 or [PointCatholicFaith.org/fishfry](http://PointCatholicFaith.org/fishfry)

1709 Wyatt Ave, Stevens Point, WI

Retrouvaille has been a lifeline for marriages for over 45 years. This 3-phase program offers hope for all who want to restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships. Affordable, Catholic in origin and open to couples of all faiths, February 14-16, in Wausau. For info and fully confidential registration: 877-922-HOPE (4673). More at [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org).

## St. Adalbert Catholic School

3315 St. Adalbert Rd ~ Rosholt, WI 54473

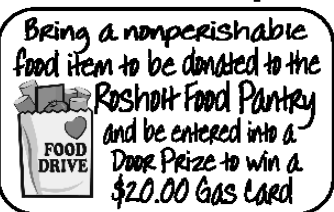
All Are Welcome!



# FEBRUARY 16

Starts at 1:00pm

Doors Open at 11:30am  
Over \$600.00 in cash prizes!



**Concessions Available**  
Including Homemade Chicken Soup and Khuski Noodles  
Fresh Pies and much more!  
**Affordable family fun!**

Thank You  
for supporting  
St. Adalbert School!

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection**  
Checks should be made payable to St. Mary's I.C.  
There are envelopes in the pews and in the entrance of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

### Liturgical Appointments

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

LECTOR Nora USHERS Ron  
SERVERS Hutton, Keaton, Nolan  
MUSICIANS Mary & John

#### SUNDAY, February 9

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

#### SUNDAY, February 16

LECTOR Kirk USHERS Randy & Anthony  
SERVERS Maddie & Elizabeth  
MONEY COUNTERS Brad, Bette, Kirk  
MUSICIANS Jacquie & Carolyn

## St. Adalbert Parish

3305 St. Adalbert Road, Rosholt, WI

# FISH FRY



Every Friday

February 28 through April 11, 2025

4:00 to 7:30 P.M.

**Dinner options include 3 fish or 6 shrimp, or a combo of 2 fish and 4 shrimp for \$15**

**2 Fish or 3 Shrimp - \$12**

Includes choice of potato, coleslaw, bread and dessert. Coffee & milk in the dinning room.

**Take-out orders: 715-677- 4518**

**Domestic & Craft Beers and Flavored Malt Beverages Available.**

**Large & Weekly Raffle!**

Eligible Portage County residents can get help completing their taxes for FREE. Training and software materials are provided by the Internal Revenue Service. Tax preparation locations and schedules:  
Aging & Disability Resource Center at Lincoln Center, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point. Thursday & Friday.  
Portage County Public Library 1001 Main Street, Stevens Point Saturday. Any senior or adult with a disability who only needs to file a Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit return call 715-346-1401 to make an appointment. All other tax assistance requires an appointment contact United Way's 211 helpline or (800)922-5590 8am-5pm Monday- Friday. Portage County residents can check eligibility and schedule their appointments United Way's 2-1-1 or (800)922-5590 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Thursday  
Feb. 13**

**Celebrate the Feast of  
Blessed James Miller**  
Prayer Service and Reception

Gather in-person to celebrate the feast of Blessed James Miller, FSC, the first religious Brother from the United States to be beatified. Born in Stevens Point, WI, De La Salle Christian Brother James Miller was martyred in Guatemala in 1982. He was beatified in 2019 by Pope Francis.

On Thursday, Feb. 13, join others interested in supporting his cause for canonization and remember this hero of faith from the local community. We will invoke his intercession at his gravesite at St. Martin's Church Cemetery, where Brother James' family farm is within view. Following the prayer service, we will meet at Sacred Heart Catholic Church's Hall for a reception and display of photos showing images of Blessed James life and cause.

**5:30 p.m.**  
**Gravesite Prayer Service\***  
St. Martin Church Cemetery  
6692 Highway 66  
Custer, Wisconsin 54423  
*\*In the event of inclement weather, the prayer service will be held at Sacred Heart Church.*

**6:00 p.m.**  
**Reception**  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
7377 Church St.  
Custer, Wisconsin 54423



**Scan to register or visit**  
[www.brotherjamesmiller.org](http://www.brotherjamesmiller.org)



## DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### A devout Catholic...

Recently, the Vice-President offered what seems to be a repeated trope these days, viz., the Catholic Church is increasing her financial health by accepting grants from the federal government. Our government asks to use our on the ground expertise to assist migrants. Not only do we not get rich from this association but we actually spend more than any of the government grants contribute. We do what the government won't or can't. We don't ask about a migrant's status when someone approaches us who is hungry, thirsty or in need of shelter. We serve Christ, following the biblical imperative: *whatsoever you do to the least of my people...* cf. Matthew 25:40-45). Perhaps you don't know this, but the Catholic Church is the largest provider of social services in the world, and only second in the United States, behind the federal government. You should be proud of the fact that together by God's grace we accomplish much in answering the scriptural mandate to love. Cardinal Dolan replied to the Vice-President perfectly, he called Vance's assertion, a scurrilous lie. As I told Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene who made a similar accusation, the Church is not in charge of the border, the federal government is, time to quit the sleight of hand Congress and do your job.

What intrigued me was not the accusation from the Vice-President but the assertion that, and this somehow justified their positions, they were devout Catholics. President Biden repeatedly asserted this about himself. It seems to me to be a rather unusual thing to say about oneself, kind of like asserting that you're extraordinarily handsome. The appellation so it would seem come from others who viewed repeatedly one's integrity as a Catholic man or woman. Being a devout Catholic would seem to be a good thing to aim for in the life of discipleship, but is it? The only degree in the life of a Catholic is sanctity. There are saints, that is, those set apart for Christ and on the path of sanctity and those who by their own choices are not. Being a devout Catholic is simply being Catholic, only heroism whose ardor is given by God, sets one apart as an exemplar of discipleship, that's what we call a saint. Each of us are called to be saints, it is said, it is the only real tragedy in life if we do not become so.

The people in my life who taught me the most about the journey of faith, taught me that it was not about them, not about me, it was about Jesus. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, without him we can do nothing (cf. John 15:5). Let Jesus make you a saint. Your job and mine is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to surrender to him that his plan may be accomplished in us, to say in wonder and with some trepidation with St. Peter: to whom shall we go Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (cf. John 6:68). To be a Catholic is a great gift from God. It is given to us so that you and I might be witnesses for others sake. Jesus gives a rather powerful commandment to those who profess their love for him: *if you love me, keep my commandments.* (John 14:15). Let's keep his commandments for love of him, let's forsake all other paths as good as they might seem, let's become the saints we're called to be, let's be Catholic.

Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby  
Bishop of La Crosse