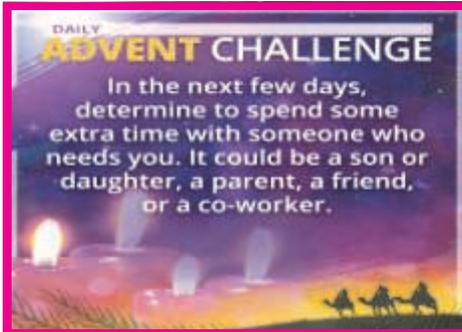


Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 16, 2018

*Third Sunday
of Advent*

229 South 28th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-3148
www.stmatthewausau.org



Mass Schedule Horario de Misas

Weekends

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

10:00 am

12 noon: Español-Spanish

Weekdays

Monday: 8:00 am

Tuesday: 12:05 pm

Weds thru Sat: 8:00 am

Confessions

Saturday: 11 am - 12 noon or by Appointment

Vespers - Evening Prayer of the Church

Wednesdays - 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

Wednesdays - after 8 am Mass until 5 pm
(Benediction at 4:50 pm)

1st Fridays - Benediction after 8 am Mass

Rosary

Daily before Mass & Wednesdays at 4:30 pm

Mon, Weds, Friday - with Prayer for Priests

Baptism

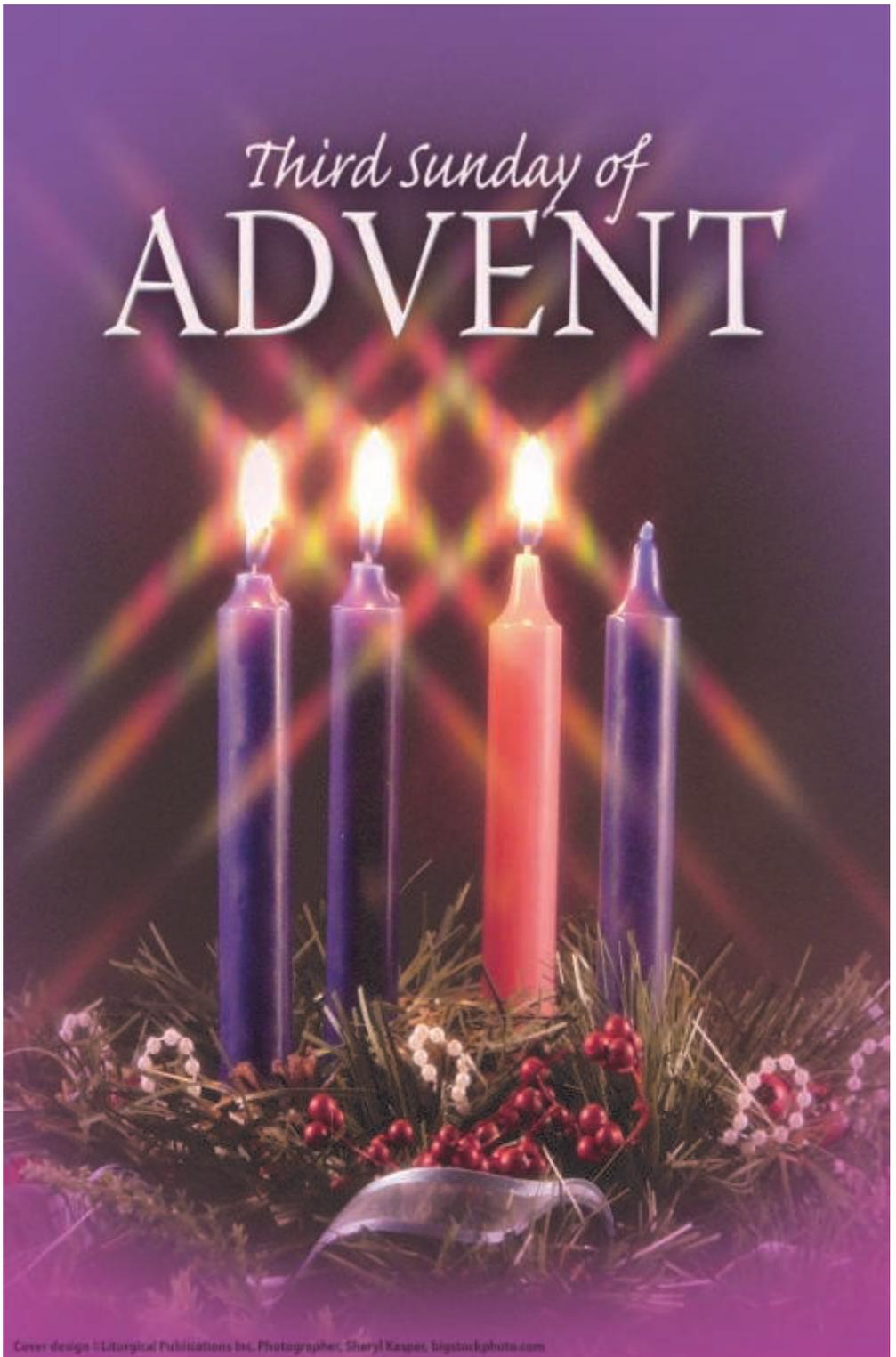
The parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class. Godparents are encouraged to attend. You must register one week before the class by calling Kris at (715) 675-6750.

Next Baptism Class: Monday, January 14th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center Patio Room.

Bautismo

Para Bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase de preparación. Generalmente las clases son el primer martes de cada mes a las 6:30 pm en el centro parroquial. Para mayor informes y registrarse para la clase llame a Joy al (715) 842-3148

Third Sunday of
ADVENT





Preparing for Christmas, for Busy People

The second part of Advent takes us into the events of Jesus' coming to be our Savior. Jesus took on human flesh, born as a baby in Bethlehem. It is truly amazing that God became one of us to keep His promise.

Letting It Become Personal:

In our longing and anticipation, we can get to know Jesus better through His relatives who prepare the way for His coming. We can see the hesitation and questioning of Zachary and Elizabeth, then Mary and Joseph. They all make great acts of faith to believe, to trust, that the promise made by God to Adam and Eve after the Original Sin as well as all the promises throughout the Old Testament would be fulfilled. We can use the background times of the third week of Advent to let our faith become personal, as we express our faith, our trust in Jesus' coming to us this year. The Readings and prayers at Mass offer us hope to believe that the coming of Jesus into our world is all about our personal liberation from whatever captivity we are in, whatever darkness or discouragement envelops us.

“Lord, Jesus, I trust that You can bring Your Light into my life, that You can give me hope as You free me and fill me with Your peace. Thank You for letting me prepare for Your coming this year. Come, Lord Jesus, come.”

Let us put down our guard enough to allow these four weeks to help us feel God's love as we reflect on His coming into this world and into our hearts. If we do that, then grace will break through our distractions and defenses and Advent will awaken in us. If possible, begin by praying a simple prayer:

“Come, Lord Jesus, Come and touch my heart. Come and be with me during Advent. Let Your Word make me defense-less before Your love.”

The Final Days of Advent – Getting to the Manger:

So often the final days before Christmas become a blur of activity. Hopefully, we have set aside a few minutes each day to focus our reflection and conversation with God the Father and with Jesus. Even though these days may be hectic, we can choose to be attuned right up to Christmas.

One way to do that is to stay focused on the manger. It is the central piece of this incredible Story and it is loaded with meaning, consolation and fruit for us. The richest of the Advent experiences are here: in letting ourselves imagine the Holy Family of Joseph and Mary arriving in Bethlehem for the census, having nowhere to stay. A special transformation begins to happen when we start to imagine that stable where our Savior was born.

Read the following Bible passage slowly:

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled...And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were filled with fear. The angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:1-11)

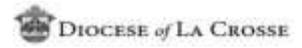
The Scripture passage is the antidote to some of the excesses of Christmas preparations: maybe too much eating and drinking, too much noise and glitz, celebrations which are quite a few degrees off center. It is there in the stable, in its humble feeding trough that we will find the fulfillment of our longing and hope. In that poverty and humility, our Savior, our Light and Peace, reveals to us the “Good News” He came to bring to each person:

- God knows and loves you personally; He created you for a relationship with Him.
- That relationship is damaged by sin but restored by Jesus Christ.
- Jesus calls you to respond, to make Him the center of your life.

Christmas Joy:

Christmas will be totally different, after this kind of deep Advent journey. We can't help but experience real joy for having prepared to be renewed in the gift of life that comes to us through Jesus.

Compiled from "Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries web site:
<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>



Used with permission."

Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week



This Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down?

We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective.

We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to "do life differently," just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.

Best Advent Ever



Remember the excitement you felt leading up to Christmas when you were a child? We have Advent every year—this period of time leading up to Christmas. It's meant to be a time of preparation. But very often the world steals that time from us in a hundred different ways by distracting us. Don't let this be just another Advent where you get distracted and busy. Rediscover the joy in the season with our free email program Best Advent Ever. Sign up at: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>

To receive inspirational daily emails including:

- h Short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Allen Hunt.
- h Personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members that will inspire and encourage you.
- h Simple tips to incorporate what you learn into your everyday life.

This year, you'll have a once-in-a-lifetime experience of Christmas because you've had your best Advent ever.

Get ready for the best Christmas of your life!





Picture Orders Are In

All pictures that were ordered for the Pictorial Directory are at the Parish Center and can be picked up during office hours. For more information call: 715-842-3148



Travel with Good News Project and be a part of a 35 year-old tradition of serving others at home and abroad.

Build homes, create friendships and learn something new about yourself. Contact Good News Project today to learn how you can give back in this most extraordinary way. 715-843-5985

St. Vincent: Family Trip - December 30 - January 12
Group of 10 to stay at St. Johns Presbytery; Mespo Minors, ages 12+, may participate if accompanied by a parent.

Dominica-Castle Bruce: Hurricane Relief - January 12 - January 26
Group of 7 to stay at Tappas Guest House in Castle Bruce, near the Carib Indian Territories

Participation Fee: \$925 (includes room and board for 2 weeks on the island)



Join Newman Catholic Students . . .

Candlelight Walk

Rudolph Environmental Center
Wednesday, December 19th
Buses to the REC will depart from
NCES: St Mark
602 Military Road, Rothschild
at 5:15 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:15 pm, and 6:45 pm
Returning every 1/2 hour from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

United States Bishops Raise Social Concerns

The U.S. Bishops invite you to make your voice heard in Washington on a number of issues, including:

- Protection of Catholic adoption and foster care agencies
- Global relief of poverty and hunger
- Protection of the right to seek asylum

For information and action alerts, see diolc.org/social-concerns.



Buy your Christmas Gifts from AmazonSmile and get Two Gifts for the Price of One

AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com) is the same Amazon you know. Same products, prices and service. AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You'll be giving St Matthew a "donation gift" when you select "St. Matthew Parish - Wausau WI" as your charitable organization.

We have already received donations from AmazonSmile!
Thank you for Supporting St Matthew Parish!!!

Eucharistic Adoration in the Area

Pax Christi Adoration Chapel - Marathon

h Sunday: 12 noon - 11 pm h Tuesday: 9 am - 11 pm
h Wednesday: 9 am through 8 pm Thursday
h Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

St Therese - Rothschild

h Tuesday after 8 am Mass until 8 am Friday
After 6 pm, ring the main entrance doorbell to enter.
To volunteer, call 715-359-8352.



Diaconate Discernment Retreat February 1-2, 2019



Are you a man at least 35 years of age who feels a yearning to give yourself more radically to the service of God and the Church? Can you see yourself preaching the Gospel, serving those in need, and assisting at the altar? Are you perhaps called to be a deacon? Talk to your pastor about attending the

Diaconate Discernment Retreat to be held at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center February 1-2, 2019, and then call the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at 608-791-0161. A new deacon formation class will begin in the fall of 2019 and attendance at the Discernment Retreat is a prerequisite. For more on the diaconate and the discernment retreat, visit www.diolc.org/diaconate

GIVEN - Unveiling the Mystery of Marriage
Mini-retreat for Couples - January 12th: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
St John the Baptist, Marshfield, WI

A short, powerful retreat called GIVEN is being offered for couples who are married, dating, and engaged. You will CELEBRATE marriage with other couples through engaging talks, lively music, adoration, prayer & reconciliation. Cost: \$25 for Engaged Couples & 40 for Married or Dating Couples; Babysitting is available; RSVP needed.

To sign up, go to: <http://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

March for Life - Washington, DC



The Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, runs January 16-20, 2019. The annual Pilgrimage for Life is open to all people ages 13 and up. Registration is still open. Contact the diocesan Office for Youth & Young Adult at 608-791-2652 or visit our website at diolc.org/m4l-reg

ENGAGING ADULTS IN THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY
Rediscovering the Meaning of Life, Love, Sex, and Gender

Burning Hearts Theology of the Body

Attend this day-long seminar where adults will learn & understand the heart of "Theology of the Body", and walk away with practical ways to form young people in helping them to understand their dignity and God's plan for sexuality.

Dates and locations are: *Each day will run 9:00 am - 3:45 pm.

- J January 12, 2019 at Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church in Tomah
- J January 26, 2019 at St Anne Catholic Church in Wausau

The first 50 people to register at each site are free. Then it's \$10 per person including lunch. Please register online by going to: <http://diolc.org/yya/burning-hearts/> and follow the instructions.

Fall of 2019 - Diocesan Lay Formation Institute Classes Begin



Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! Registration is now underway for the next two-year cycle.

Brochures and application forms can be downloaded at www.diolc.org/lay-formation. You can also watch a 3-minute slideshow shot at St Anthony's Retreat Center. If you are interested, discuss this with your pastor. For more information, contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or call (608) 791-2667.

November 21-24, 2019 - Save the date for NCYC 2019!!
(The National Catholic Youth Conference)

We are very excited that the planning process has begun for the biannual National Catholic Youth Conference event that brings together more than 20,000 Catholic youth and adults from all over the country for an incredible faith experience! Save the date for November 21-24, 2019. The Diocese of La Crosse is organizing a delegation and we want you to be part of that group!

Please go to our NCYC planning website at <https://diolcncyc.weebly.com/> to get more information and to stay up to date on the latest details! To register your group with us or sign up to receive the latest updates, please go to: <https://diolcncyc.weebly.com/more-inforegister.html>.



This Week at Saint Matthew

Tuesday, December 18

Bible Timeline - Church, Emily's Room: 10:30 am - 12 noon

Wednesday, December 19

NO "That Man Is You" until January 9th

Peacemaker Quilters - Parish Center Patio Room: 1 pm

Bible Timeline - Parish Center Patio Room: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Children's Christmas Choir Practice - Holy Name School: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Religious Education Class - Holy Name School: 6:15 - 7:30 pm

Gaudete Choir Practice - Church: 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 20

Jubilee House Free Community Meal - School Cafeteria: 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Healing Fire of the Spirit Prayer Meeting - Church, Emily's Room: 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 22

Children's Christmas Choir Practice - St Matthew Church: 9:30 - 10:30 am

Sunday, December 23

Church Christmas Decorating at 1 pm - Join the Fun!!



Diocesan Annual Appeal 2018-2019 Target: \$72,652

If you intend to declare your paid pledge amount for taxes for the year of 2018, you must do so within the week prior to 12/28/2018. Thank you!

A friendly reminder to all of our family at St Matthew parish to fill out **your Diocesan Annual Appeal pledge card, if you haven't done so.**

Thank you to all who have already done so. Large or small amounts are appreciated so that we reach our target of \$72,652. God is good and showers His blessings upon us. Let us show our appreciation by carrying out His work on earth.

Love and prayers for a safe and blessed Christmas Season.

Celebration of Sacraments

Marriage - Arrangements must be made six (6) months in advance with Fr Bob.

Anointing of the Sick - Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 to make arrangements to be anointed when you are seriously ill or before a scheduled surgery.

Hospital Visits - When admitted to the hospital, let the hospital know you would like to have Fr Bob or Fr Peter visit you.

Visits to the Homebound - Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 to arrange for visits to your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Intercessory Prayer - Call Bonnie at 715-675-9876 when you need extra prayer. Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you!

* You may also call the Parish Center at 715-842-3148

Office (Oficina) "Parish Center" - 221 S. 28th Avenue

Behind the school - atrás de la escuela.

Hours/Horas:

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 4 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 noon

Phone: 715-842-3148

Parish Staff

Pastor - Rev. Robert Thorn
Associate Pastor - Rev. Peter Kieffer
Deacon - Rev. Mr. Tom Tierney
Pastoral Care - Dorothy Giallombardo
Secretary - Ann Graveen
Finance Secretary - Barb Splinter

Plant Manager - Jason Seliger
DRE & Hispanic RE - Joy Orozco
Bulletin Editor - Rosemary Beever
rosemarybr@stmatthewausau.org
Deadline Next Bulletin: 3 pm Monday



*Thank you for generously supporting
Saint Matthew Parish!*

Minimum budgeted amount needed weekly.....\$9,612.00

Stewardship last weekend.....To be announced



Mass Intentions

December 17 - 23, 2018



Mon	8:00 am	†Arthur Hummer
Tues	12:05 pm	†Gary Mueller
Weds	8:00 am	†Marilyn Szutkowski
Thurs	8:00 am	†John Bauer
Fri	8:00 am	†Ray Kirschhoffer
Sat	8:00 am	†Falparsari Perez
	4:30 pm	†Michael "Mike" Lach
Sun	8:00 am	†Scott Zernicke & †Mike Zelenka
	10:00 am	†Jenny Hack
	12 noon	Living & †Deceased St Matthew Parishioners

This Week's Scripture Readings

Monday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Friday, December 21 - Saint Peter Canisius, Priest/Doctor of Church

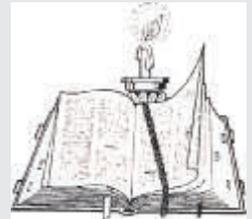
Zep 3:14-18/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8/Lk 1:46-56

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4/Ps 80/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



Weekend - Liturgical Ministers

Saturday December 22 4:30 pm	Sunday December 23 8:00 am	Sunday December 23 10:00 am
Lectors		
E Schumann J Alexejun	Mike Jilek P Thomson	Pat Loy
Eucharistic Ministers		
E Schumann J Alexejun J Woelfle J Bocke M Beattie C BUSH* C VIRCKS*	M Jilek W Thomson P Thomson J Peterson N Kipp J LOW* S LOW*	P Loy L Sanders E Tierney K Tierney V Tierney P SLIWICKI* K SLIWICKI*
Ushers and Greeters		
Dave Burish Marie Burish Al Butalla	David Mosure Joy Mosure Dave Krause	B Charlier Sharon Charlier Joe Kohn
Servers		
Bobbi Jo Zimick Alexis Barber	Madison Mosure Emily Drake	The Straub's
Musicians		
Lynn Meyer Nancy Losinski	Carla MacDonald Annette Southworth	Gordon Crow Sara Schmitt
Children's Liturgy of the Word		Jeannie Henaman

2018 **Sacrament of Baptism**
 Tate Trenton Lieders
 Son of Andrew and Amber
 Baptized Sunday, December 2nd

Ava Ann Schmidt
 Daughter of Jeremiah Lee and Amy Jo (Henaman)
 Baptized on Saturday, December 8th

“I baptize you
 in the name of the
 Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.”

Welcome Into Our Catholic Faith Community!
 May Jesus be your dearest companion!
 Congratulations!



Two Great Free Christmas Musical Programs

Sunday, December 16th at 12 noon:
 at St Mary's Church, 712 Market Street, Marathon

"Night of the Father's Love" - A Christmas Cantata, a delightful telling of the Christmas Story in narration and song - 35 minutes. Presented by the choir, musical instruments, and a narrator. Refreshments served after the program.

Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 & 6:30 pm:
 at St Andrew Lutheran Church, Rib Mountain, 3200 N. Mountain Rd.

"Favorite Hymns for Christmas" Presented by a choir of 70-80 singers with a full orchestra.



2018 Prayers and Condolences
 Our prayers and sympathy go to the family and friends of:

Joan Weisenberger
 She died on December 7th
 She is the mother of Ken (Ruth) Weisenberger

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen*



Advent Communal Penance Services
 Several priests are available for individual absolution.

December 16, 6:30 pm - St Matthew Parish
 December 17, 6:30 pm - St Therese Parish
 December 18, 7:00 pm - St Michael Parish
 December 22, 10:00 am - Church of the Resurrection



Join Us Sunday, December 23rd at 1:15 pm
 to Finish Decorating for Christmas

As you may have noticed, we couldn't wait to start decorating the church and Angelorum for Christmas. However, we still need your help to finish decorating on December 23rd. Join us for a little Christmas Fun & Fellowship!



Advent Candles and Wreaths
 Advent Candles & Metal Wreaths are available in the Angelorum.

\$5.00 - Advent Candles (1 box/set)
 \$6.00 - Metal Wreath

Please place payment in the canister on the table or in an envelope (with note what money is for) and put in the Collection Basket. Thank You and Have a Blessed Advent!



Families - Your Feast Day is Almost Here!
 December 30th is the Feast of the Holy Family

It is the day when families celebrate their ability to imitate the Holy Family (Joseph, Mary and Jesus) who showed us how to create a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect and faithfulness exist. What will your family do on the 30th to celebrate your feast day?

For ideas go to: www.catholicicing.com

On the *Feast of the Holy Family*, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement.

They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.



Buy SCRIP Gift Cards for Everyone this Christmas!!!

They make great gifts and help the parish at the same time!

SCRIP will be sold on weekends in the Angelorum and can also be bought during the week at the Parish Center.

Volunteers are needed to help sell SCRIP after Masses on weekends. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in church or call the Parish Center: 715-842-3148.

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Merry Christmas!



Teaching the Way of Love Webinar - January 7th

Parents, do you want to help your children use their emotions the way God intends? Would you like to know the role emotions play in a child's life? This webinar will reveal the beauty of God's plan for emotional maturity. You will learn how to teach your kids how to control their emotions.

Register now at: <https://diolc.regfox.com/raise-them-well-emotional-maturity>



"Feed My Lambs"
 Coffee Table Book

Available in the Angelorum or the Parish Center

Holiday Sale
 1 Book for \$30
 2 Books for \$50 (original Price \$35)

Share the "faith of our fathers" this Christmas by giving your friends and family a copy of the *150th Anniversary Book of the Diocese of La Crosse*. This beautiful book contains historical pull-out reproductions, beautiful photos, and stories of our ancestors in the catholic faith, as they established the very parishes that we worship God in today.

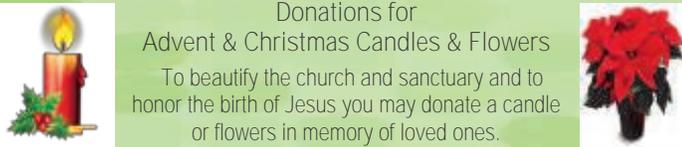


Donations for Advent & Christmas Candles & Flowers

To beautify the church and sanctuary and to honor the birth of Jesus you may donate a candle or flowers in memory of loved ones.

Place donations in an envelope and include your name and the name of the person you are remembering and put in the collection basket at Mass or mail to: (St Matthew Parish Center, 221 S. 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401)

Thank You and May You have a Blessed Christmas Season!!!



Looking to help others in need?

Our Confirmation Candidates will begin work to help Pink Box Purpose which is an organization that helps women in Third World countries who are unable to afford sanitary napkins.

Each candidate will need at least 1 yard of flannel (NOT FLEECE) and 2 yards of cotton (ie quilting fabric).

For more information please call Joy at (715) 842-3148

