

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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



Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24th

4:30 pm & 10:00 pm

*Children's Choir at 4:30 pm Mass

*Christmas Carols at 9:30 pm by Gaudete Choir

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25th

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

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11



"Hoy les ha nacido, en la ciudad de David, un salvador, que es el Mesías, el Señor". - Lc 2, 11

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCO
Leccionario I ©1978 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

A Christmas Message

From Fr. Bob

When I was a Capuchin Franciscan studying for the priesthood and living in Chicago, I worked as a teacher aide for kids in a Catholic grade school in a poor neighborhood on the southside of Chicago. As the celebration of Christmas neared, they would share with me their thoughts and feelings about Christmas. The most important thing for them was not the gifts, and, in fact not even Jesus, but the feeling and sense that everyone **seemed happier at that time of the year, and wanted to reach out and help one another.** People who didn't talk to one another would say, "Merry Christmas" on the streets, or, even ask God's blessing on them. The children longed for that sense of peace and tranquility in their difficult and frequently violent lives.

In his book "The Happy Hypocrite" Max Beerbohm writes about a man who has no scruples. The man's name is Lord George Hall. He is a terrible villain who not only is mean but also looks mean. Just looking at his face is enough to put one in mortal fear.

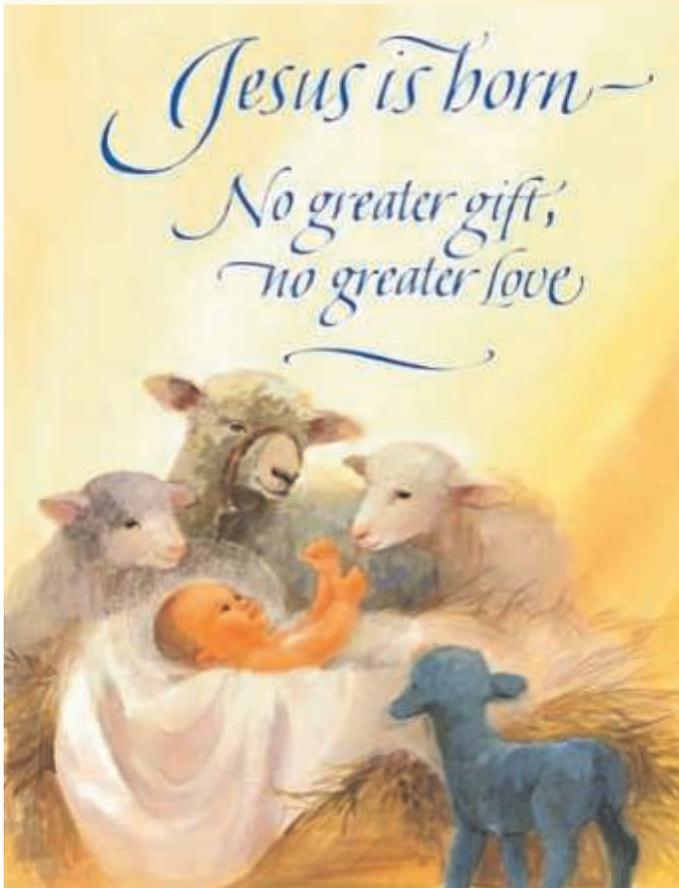
Lord George Hall falls in love with a beautiful and innocent maiden named "Little Miss Mere". She refuses his offer of marriage, saying, "I can never be the wife of a man whose face is not saintly". As a result, Lord George Hall engages the services of the finest mask-maker in the land who fashions for him the mask of a saint -- perfect in every detail.

Again Lord George Hall seeks the hand of the beautiful and innocent Little Miss Mere. But this time, he is wearing the saint's mask, and she accepts his offer of marriage. Minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, and day-by-day, Lord George Hall does everything he can to keep up the hypocrisy. In short, he tries to act like a saint. He is careful, always, to portray himself as a kindly, unselfish, patient and attentive husband. He is especially careful not to reveal any of his evil tendencies.

He is successful in maintaining this saintly image until the day when he encounters an old enemy who sees through the facade. The old enemy tears off the mask in front of Lord George Hall's lovely wife. But when the mask has been torn away, a saint's face is revealed. Lord George Hall had actually become the person he was trying to be, minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, and day-by-day. Practice had made perfect.

Practice to become perfect: that is the spirit of the Christmas Message. Minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, and day-by-day, practice becoming the beautiful, loving, caring person God made you to be. Minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, and day-by-day, practice living in defiance of everything in this world that distorts the picture of God's loving mercy revealed in Jesus, from the Cradle to the Cross.

Today celebrate Incarnation! Today we rejoice! Eternal God into flesh & blood of humanity. Little children learn today Jesus' birthday. But only touch the edge of the gigantic event which brings us together. The Good News is, Jesus incarnate seeks to incarnate in our hearts & souls. He seeks to give us a new identity, to change our ways ... to give us the perfect peace and joy we all seek.



From Fr. Peter

When Fr. Bob or I have a funeral, we often speak about the importance of Baptism. Baptism is the gateway to our life in Christ. Whereas some of our **Protestant brothers and sisters say that they are "born again" when they accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior,** we Catholics believe that we are born again when we are baptized. In Baptism we are born to a new life in Christ. Being faithful to that life in Christ requires us to allow Christ to live constantly in our hearts. It requires us to allow Him to be born in our hearts.

One of the great spiritual images in the history of the Church is that of the manger. It was in a manger that Jesus was born. Our hearts must become like mangers for Jesus to be born in. Just as the manger was poor, humble and docile to the Son of God entering into it, so, too, we must be poor in spirit, humble and docile so that the Son of God may enter into our hearts. By entering deeper into a life in Christ through prayer, receiving the Sacraments, and living a virtuous life, we allow the Son of God to dwell in our hearts and to work in our lives.

How does God want to be present in our lives this Christmas?



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

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)

Safe Haven Sunday – March 10

In the coming weeks, you will be learning more about an initiative called Safe Haven Sunday that will equip parents to protect their family from the harms of pornography. Why is this important? Let's look at a few facts about youth and pornography. In 2016, a study by the Barna Group discovered among teens age 13-17

- 7% came across porn daily; 8% intentionally sought it out daily.
- 21% came across porn weekly; 18% sought it out weekly.
- 21% came across porn once or twice a month; 11% sought it out.
- In total, 57% of teens sought out porn at least monthly.

Learn more about ending porn exposure on Safe Haven Sunday – March 10.

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 St Matthew Parish!

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

Stewardship December 9th.....\$8,406.47

Retirement for Religious.....\$1,312.50

Immaculate Conception.....\$2,334.00

Stewardship December 16th.....\$10,605.30

3rd Sunday Collection.....\$3,008.00

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.dioc.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://dioc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

March for Life – Washington, DC



The Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, DC, January 16-20, 2019 is sponsored by the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry. 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 dioc.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.

January 12, 2019 at Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church in Tomah

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://dioc.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.dioc.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@dioc.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://diocncyc.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://diocncyc.weebly.com/more-info/register.html>



This Week at Saint Matthew

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Parish Center Offices Closed
No School (Dec 24-31)

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass with Children's Choir

9:30 pm Christmas Carols before Mass
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass with Gaudete Choir

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day: The Nativity of the Lord

Parish Center Offices Closed
6:30 am Spanish Christmas Mass
8:00 am Christmas Mass
10:00 am Christmas Mass



Wednesday, December 26

Bible Timeline - **Church, Emily's Room: 10:30** - noon
Peacemaker Quilters - Parish Center Patio Room: 1 pm
Bible Timeline - Parish Center Patio Room: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
NO Religious Education Class



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

Another year is coming to an end! Let us be thankful for all blessings bestowed upon us, and welcome 2019 with a giving heart by showing our thankfulness by doing God's work on earth. The Diocesan Annual Appeal is one way we can do just that. Please fill out your pledge cards, if you have not done so, and be numbered with those who have. Thank you and God be with you!

*Everything people leave after them in this world is lost, but for their charity and almsgiving they will receive a reward from God.
St Francis of Assisi*

Christmas - Liturgical Ministers

Monday December 24 4:30 pm	Monday December 24 10:00 pm	Tuesday December 25 8:00 am	Tuesday December 25 10:00 am
Lectors			
Lee Peek Micheline Beattie	Tom Roovers Mike Jilek	Peggy Bant Ron Lawrence	Monica Kunze
Eucharistic Ministers			
M Beattie M Bourguignon F Heil L Heil P McDonald C BUSH* N FELTY*	K Miilu T Roovers MP Roovers L Przesmicki D Baxter K STENCIL* A SEUBERT*	P Bant R Lawrence J Zernicke J Pritzl J Peterson D DEDERICH* S PETERSON*	E Tierney K Tierney A Boller S Boller R Keen J WITZELING*
Ushers and Greeters			
Ken Chapman Norm Chapman Marcy Heil	Ron Huebsch Joey Huebsch Mike Baxter	S Ostrowski J Babl Pat Ruesch	R Krueger K Malovrh Don Kohnhorst
Servers			
The DeByles	Kelly Huebsch Ben Nichols	A Hynes G Hynes	Sidney Poole Adalyn Schmitt
Musicians			
Youth Choir	Nancy Losinski Dorothy G/Choir	Ellen Schumann	Sandra Brandtner Sara Schmitt



Mass Intentions

December 24 - 30, 2018

Monday 8:00 am - †Frank & †Agnes Bembenek

Christmas Eve

Monday 4:30 pm - †Dorothy Schmitz
10:00 pm - †Willard E Graveen

Christmas Day

Tuesday 6:30 am - Living & †Deceased St Matthew Parishioners
8:00 am - †Jerry & †Lois Kufalk
10:00 am - †Blume & †Gaffney Families

Wednesday 8:00 am - Living & †Deceased Butzen & Beever Families

Thursday 8:00 am - †James A Radtke
Friday 8:00 am - †Delores Schneider
Saturday 8:00 am - †Lorry Dederich, †Leesa & †Ted
4:30 pm - †James "Jim" Lecher

Sunday 8:00 am - †Mary Jo Borowczyk
10:00 am - †Ethel Niewolny
12 noon - Living & †Deceased St Matthew Parishioners



This Week's Scripture Readings

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Tuesday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday, December 26 - Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Thursday, December 27 - Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1, 2-8

Friday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

Saturday, December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Sunday, December 30 - The Holy Family

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



Weekend - Liturgical Ministers

Saturday December 29 4:30 pm	Sunday December 30 8:00 am	Sunday December 30 10:00 am
Lectors		
Mary Holm Norm Howe	Theresa Stubbe Bernie Dohr	P Wallschlaeger Lynn Meyer
Eucharistic Ministers		
D Burish M Holm L Lach P McDonald C Vircks J PEDERSON* G PIASZAK*	K Stencil G Dederich S Low T Hynes, B Hynes B DOHR* N KIPP*	B Britten T Brzezinski M Jelinek B Jelinek R Keen J FERGOT* B CVEYKUS*
Ushers and Greeters		
D Mayer Lee Peek Jay Rolfeson	J Stubbe Ron Huebsch Joey Huebsch	C Miller J Reeves Larry Sanders
Servers		
A Peek M Peek	Sondelski's	O Reeves A Malbone Lollie
Musicians		
Bernie Riehle Annette Southworth	Bill Dohr Annette Southworth	Jim Washebek Nancy Losinski
Children's Liturgy of the Word		No Class



Wishing you the gift of faith,
the blessing of hope
and the peace of His love
at Christmas and always.

We wish you a joyous Christmas
and blessings in the coming New Year.

Father Bob, Father Peter
and the
Staff at St Matthew Parish

2018

Prayers and Condolences

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family and friends of:

Josephine Bergs

She died on December 10th (100 years old)

She is the grandmother of Trinka (Jerry) Banks

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



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

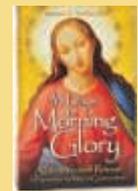


As you may have noticed, we couldn't wait to start decorating the church and Angelorum for Christmas. However, we still need your help to finish decorating on December 23rd. Join us for a little Christmas Fun & Fellowship!



33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat

Fr Bob and team will begin the 33 Days to Morning Glory retreat at St Matthew's on Monday January 7th with an orientation and the first session of the retreat. After this first session, there will be five more Monday sessions. Each session is about 90 minutes.



The actual retreat will begin (at your home) on January 9th. It will culminate with a Consecration to Jesus and Mary on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11th.

If you are interested in attending this course, please contact the parish office or send email to: marian33days@mm.st

Let us know your preference: afternoon or evening.

The cost for the course (books and materials) is \$30. If you already have the books (a workbook and the textbook), or have taken the course before there is no cost.

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.

Begin the New Year with Emotionally Mature Children



Do your children test your resolve with their emotional immaturity? Do you need some suggestions on how to moderate the drama in your family? Then plan to attend the *Raise Them Well Webinar* on emotional maturity, January 7th at 7 pm. You can be part of this webinar from the comfort of your own home. Just register and watch the entire presentation on your computer or smart phone. Cost \$5.

Register at diolc.org/marriage/webinars/

Buy SCRIP Gift Cards for Everyone this Christmas!!!

SCRIP Gift Cards will be sold on weekends in the Angelorum and can also be bought during the week at St Matthew Parish Center: 715-842-3148



Volunteers are needed to help sell SCRIP after Masses on weekends. If you are interested please sign up on the sheet in the church, or call the Parish Center: 715-842-3148. SCRIP Gift Cards make great gifts and help the parish at the same time! Thank you to those of you who have bought SCRIP!



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

"Feed My Lambs"
Coffee Table Book

Available
in the Angelorum
or the Parish
Center



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.