



Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 22, 2019

4th Sunday of
Advent

229 South 28th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-3148

www.stmatthewausau.org



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th

Mass at: 4:30 pm & 10:00 pm

*Family Choir at 4:30 pm Mass

*Christmas Carols at 9:30 pm by Gaudete Choir

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th

Mass at: 9:00 am

Mass Schedule - Horario de Misas

Weekends

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 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

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

Vespers - Evening Prayer: Wednesdays - 5 pm

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 the Parish Center at 715-842-3148.

Next Baptism Class: Monday, January 13th
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.

Parish Center Office (Oficina): 715-842-3148

221 S 28th Avenue

(Behind school/atrás de la escuela)

Hours/Horas: Monday-Thursday: 8 am - 4 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 noon



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.” - Mt 1:21



I was greeting people after one of the Masses this past weekend when I saw a little girl looking lovingly at the Guardian Angel statue in the corner of the library/reflection room on the southwest side of the Angelorum. Her mother, who was watching her, said she loves visiting the statue and touching it, kissing it, and praying to it after every Mass. I watched as the little girl gently touched the cheek of the angel. Who knows what she was thinking or praying for as she stood before the angel. God can use our imaginations and our littleness to comfort and console us in profound ways. For example:

"The Boy and the Creche" is the true story of what happened one Christmas Eve in front of the Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City. The story is told by The Reverend Clarke Kimberly Oler who was **pastor of the Church at the time: "There he was again. He was barely six years old and wearing his red stocking hat, his face pressed against the iron fence which surrounds the Church of the Holy Trinity garden. It was not unusual for a child so young to be out on the streets alone, and I had seen this little boy before -- always wearing the same grimy red hat pulled over his ears, the same old sneakers, the same tattered jacket. Several times I had spoken to him, trying to find out who he was, but each time he just looked at me in distrust with large solemn eyes and, without a word, ran off down the street and disappeared.**

It was Christmas Eve. The snow had been falling all day, and I was looking out the rectory window. The street was dark and deserted. The only bright spot shone from the huge Nativity scene erected in the Church garden. Life-sized figures of the shepherds and kings and barnyard animals attended a lifelike figure of the Baby Jesus. And on the ground, surrounding the manger was a thick covering of real straw. The figure of Mary knelt by the manger, tenderly contemplating the Holy Child.

Then it was that I saw him again -- with that unmistakable red hat, and nose red from the cold -- peering through the fence at the creche. As I watched, he ventured timidly into the garden through the Church gate and for a long time he stood before the creche. Then, suddenly, he climbed inside and curled up in the straw, under the gentle gaze of the Virgin Mary.

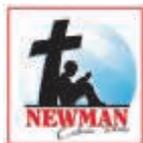
For half an hour I watched, not daring to go outside because I knew that the moment I opened the door he would scamper away. Now and again, when there was no one passing by, I could see a little arm reach up and small fingers would touch Mary's cheek. Then something startled the boy and, in a flash he was up, out the gate and down the street. He disappeared into the night.

I felt as though I had been granted a momentary look into a lonely child's heart. I ached for him. I felt utterly helpless. All I could do was breathe a prayer that somehow he had been comforted by Mary's **unchanging expression of love.**" (Oler, C.K., "The Boy and the Creche" (adapted)

The beautiful gaze of the guardian angel, mentioned above, never changes. But that girl, and the young boy mentioned in the story, encountered a consoling presence, a peace, a listening ear, in something inanimate from one point of view, but very real and alive from another perspective.

Today, or tomorrow, rather than glance at the creche, the manger scene reminding us of the birth of Jesus, let your heart enter more deeply into that event as your gaze fills your heart with the peace and love of a God who comes to us so humbly in the manger.

Fr Bob



Christmas Greetings to the Faithful People of St Matthew:

As the new face at Newman Catholic Schools, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to your parish. After being retired for about 3 1/2 years, I decided to join you as the Interim President for Newman Catholic Schools, effective on November 1st. My work has been in the field of education both in the classroom and administration over a span of 37 1/2 years. While the majority of my experiences were in public education, the last 11 1/2 years were in Catholic education, which I found to be both professionally and personally spiritually impactful.

In this season of Advent, my prayer for you, as preparations are being made for the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is that you are blessed with a deeper spiritual sense that will sustain you on your faith journey throughout the Church year. As St. John Henry Newman was canonized on October 13th of this year, so too, does Newman Catholic Schools find opportunity to celebrate its Catholic Identity in the way that our patron saint lived his life. May his example of discipleship be a model for us all.

I am grateful to St. Matthew parish for the enduring support that you and your fellow parishioners, and the resident clergy, past and present, have unselfishly given so that Newman Catholic Schools is able to continue its mission and build on its proud tradition. It is because of your time-honored effort of supporting Catholic education, as a ministry, that we are able to educate our students in academia, and also to form them in the naturalness of being a life-long disciple of Jesus.

As we move rapidly through another rewarding school year at Newman Catholic Schools, our school community wishes each and every one at St. Matthew parish a blessed Christmas. May the Holy Spirit be with you throughout the upcoming 2020 year, and bless you and your family abundantly. In the spirit of **Christmas we humbly say "Thank You" for being our partner in educating our Catholic youth.** Merry Christmas!!

St. John Henry Newman, pray for us!

John Reetz
Interim NCS President



Celebration of Sacraments

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

Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 to make arrangements for:

- ▣ Anointing of the Sick - available when you are seriously ill or before a scheduled surgery.
- ▣ Visits to the Homebound - visits to your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Hospital Visits - Let the hospital know when you are admitted that you would like to have Fr Bob or Fr Peter visit you.

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

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor - Rev. Robert Thorn	
Associate Pastor - Rev. Peter Kieffer	
Deacon - Rev. Mr. Tom Tierney	Plant Manager - Jason Seliger
Pastoral Care - Dorothy Giallombardo	DRE & Hispanic RE - Joy Orozco
Secretary - Ann Graveen	Bulletin Editor - Rosemary Beever
Finance Secretary - Barb Splinter	rosemarybr@stmatthewausau.org
	<u>Deadline Next Bulletin: 3 pm Monday</u>



The History of the Twelve Days of Christmas

Used with permission from the Catholic News Agency

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the one that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, "Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals":
 The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity]. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from Helping Hands



Thank you, dear parishioners for the wonderful support in the November Helping Hands church envelope.

Volunteers will be leaving for Kenya on January 6th and returning on February 4th. While there we will be working to improve the

lives of as many families as our funds will allow.

We will also be working with the Maasai tribe to expand their school through classroom 6. When we first started to help them with their school, they had 1 room with all grades in it. Our hope is to build classroom 7 and 8 during the 2020 trip to complete the primary school. There currently are 145 students.

Another project we have started with the Maasai tribe is the *Family to Family Program*. A family in the USA sponsors a Maasai family for one year to help support them with everyday living needs. The cost is \$30.00 per month, or \$360.00 for the year. If you would like to sponsor a family for 2020, please contact Tom or Mary Pat Roovers (715) 842-4270.

The Helping Hands volunteers have been busy getting the new **storage/packing building organized. It is a large building (34'x180'), but it didn't take long for it to be brimming with items. The plan is to load and ship a 40' container to Kenya by the end of December, as well as a truck load of items for the *Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor* in Montego Bay, Jamaica.**

A volunteer trip is planned for Jamaica from February 25th to March 12th. If you would be interested in this trip, please contact Tom or Mary Pat Roovers (715) 842-4270 or tgroover@att.net.

Please keep all Helping Hands volunteers and supporters in your prayers.

Wishing each and all a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!



Catholic Life Magazine

We hope that all parishioners are enjoying the Catholic Life Magazine that is published and sent by the Diocese of La Crosse. St Matthew Parish has ensured that our parishioners are receiving this magazine, in order to keep current with catholic events in our diocese and the world.

Donations to help cover the cost of this magazine are appreciated and can be placed in the Sunday Collection

Basket in the "green envelope" that is provided in your Contribution Envelopes.

Thank you and God bless you!

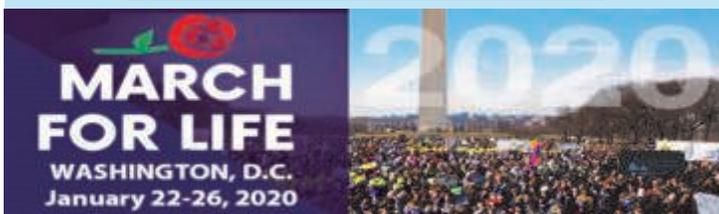
March for Life!

Chicago, Jan. 11, 2020:

Pro-Life Wisconsin is sponsoring buses from Wausau, Plover, Onalaska and Tomah. See www.dioc.org/respect-life for more information

Here is the diocesan Facebook link for this event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3033261200037070/>



Washington, D.C., Jan. 22-26, 2020:

Major diocesan pilgrimage for youth and adults. For information and online registration visit www.dioc.org/vya/march-4-life-2020/

Here is the diocesan Facebook link for this event.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/470858483538468/>



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack
 February 21-22, 2020
 Stevens Point

Through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event at the Stevens Point Airport, Noel Hangar, on February 21-22, 2020, our community will provide 108,000 nutritious meals for **God's starving children around the world. We invite you to join us!** We need 545 volunteers to pack meals and help raise \$26,000 for this MobilePack event.

Adults and children 5 years and older will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags and prepare boxes for shipping. Volunteer registration will open online in January. Event Coordinator Michelle Shulfer:

715-346-2780, mshulfer@uwsp.edu.

"Plugged In"



Wonder if a TV show or movie is family friendly? *Plugged In* reviews movies, videos, music, TV and games from a Christian perspective. Their website can be accessed in both English and Spanish. It rates today's entertainment and helps families make better entertainment choices. *Plugged In* is affiliated with Focus on the Family. Check out: www.pluggedin.com



This Week at Saint Matthew

Monday, December 23

Spanish Catechism Class - Parish Center Library: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Parish Center Offices Closed

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass with Family Choir

9:30 pm Christmas Carols before Mass

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass with Gaudete Choir

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day - Holy Day of Obligation

May you have a Blessed Christmas Day!

9:00 am Christmas Mass

Parish Center Offices Closed

No Eucharistic Adoration Today

No Religious Education Classes

Thursday, December 26

Jubilee House Free Community Meal

School Cafeteria: 4:30 - 6:00 pm



"Joy" Diocesan Annual Appeal 2019-2020 Target: \$71,505



Thank you for your generosity to the Diocesan Annual Appeal!

Wishing you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. Stay safe!



Thank you for generously supporting Saint Matthew Parish!

Minimum budgeted amount needed weekly\$9,612.00

Stewardship Last Weekend.....\$10,405.62

3rd Sunday Debt Reduction Collection.....\$2,480.31

Christmas - Liturgical Ministers

Tuesday December 24 4:30 pm	Tuesday December 24 10:00 pm	Wednesday December 25 9:00 am
Lectors		
Mary Holm Joel Hynes	Bernie Dohr Tom Roovers	Peggy Bant R Lawrence
Eucharistic Ministers		
M Beattie L Lach G Piaszak J Bocke N Felty M HOLM* C VIRCKS*	T Roovers MP Roovers D Baxter K Teeters K Miilu K STENCIL* A SEUBERT*	C Bush P Bant S Crow G Dederich S Peterson J PEDERSON* J ZERNICKE*
Ushers and Greeters		
K Chapman D Mayer Mike Lawrence	Ron Huebsch Mike Baxter	D Kohnhorst R Krueger K Malovrh
Servers		
The Hynes'	Joey Huebsch The Sondelski's	Alexis Barber A Schmitt
Musicians		
Jordan Baur	N Losinski Dorothy G./Choir	Gordon Crow Sara Schmitt



Mass Intentions

December 23 - 29, 2019

Monday 8:00 am - †Richard Piaszak

Tuesday 12:05 pm - †Sharon Seubert

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 4:30 pm - †Ron Hinker

10:00 pm - †Gary Mueller

Christmas Day - Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday 9:00 am - St Matthew Parishioners

Thursday 8:00 am - †Lorry Dederich, †Leeza & †Ted

Friday 8:00 am - †James H Radtke

Saturday 8:00 am - †Marv Knoeck

4:30 pm - †Ron Hinker

Sunday 8:00 am - †Marlene Ptaszynski

10:00 am - St Matthew Parishioners

12 noon - †Cibriano Pintor



This Week's Scripture Readings

Monday, December 23 - Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Morning: 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

Weds, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation

Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday, December 26 - Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

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

Friday, December 27 - Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

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

Saturday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday, December 29 - The Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



Weekend - Liturgical Ministers

Saturday December 28 4:30 pm	Sunday December 29 8:00 am	Sunday December 29 10:00 am
Lectors		
Jeanne Alexejun Norm Howe	Bernie Dohr Peggy Bant	Monica Kunze
Eucharistic Ministers		
J Alexejun M Holm L Lach J Pederson G Piaszak F HEIL* L HEIL*	B Dohr P Bant J Pritzl K Stencil, G Dederich D JANSSEN* C JANSSEN*	D Evert J Fergot R Keen K Miilu M Nichols B HOLL* J HOLL*
Ushers and Greeters		
Don Baur Mary Baur Mike Lawrence	N Schmitt J Stubbe Al Seubert	C Miller J Reeves L Sanders
Servers		
Bobbi Jo Zimick	Jeremy Fech The Huebsch's	A Peek M Peek
Musicians		
Cindy Blair Jeff Borski	Bill Dohr Annette Southworth	Jim Washebek N Losinski



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

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain... Rev 21:4*

Our Prayers & Sympathy go to the Family & Friends of:



Joe Ginzinger
He died December 5, 2019
He is the Brother-in-Law of
Lyn & Don Hieronimus

John (Jack) Ludkey
He died December 16, 2019
He is the husband of Marcie Ludkey

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

Buy **SCRIP Gift Cards** for Everyone this Christmas!!!
They make great gifts & help the parish!



SCRIP is sold after weekend Masses in the Angelorum.
SCRIP can also be bought at the Parish Center:
715-842-3148.

(If you can help sell SCRIP after weekend Masses,
call the Parish Center.)

"Spotlighted SCRIP Businesses"

New Scrip Retailer: HuHot Mongolian Grill \$25 at 25% rebate

The following low denominations available for the Holiday Season, must be
ordered by noon December 16th:

\$5 Cards: Barnes & Noble, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Taco Bell

\$10 Cards: **Amazon, Applebee's, CVS, IHOP, Marcus Theatre, Walmart,**
Olive Garden, Home Depot

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Merry Christmas!



Advent Communal
Penance Services

Several priests are
available for individual
confessions.



Monday, December 23: 6:30 pm - St Therese



On Sunday, December 22nd at 1:15 pm
Mark Your Calendars and Join in the Fun!!!
Join us in decorating the
Church and Angelorum for Christmas



Families - Your Feast Day is Almost Here!

December 29th 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 29th to

celebrate your feast day?

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.



**FINAL WEEKS TO BUY
CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS**

Our Parish fundraiser is winding down.
Only a couple weeks left to buy tickets.

Have you bought some for yourself, sold to your friends, family,
neighbors or co-workers?

For \$20 per Calendar Ticket,
you get 52 chances to win \$150.00 or more!

\$8000 in total CASH Prizes awarded!

Drawing is held every Monday in 2020 at 9:00 am.

Calendar Raffle Ticket Update
887 SOLD with 613 To SELL Yet
Only 2 weekends left to buy tickets!

Thank you to all those who have bought tickets
and who are helping sell tickets!

Any questions, call Sheila at 715-848-1106
or Barb at the Parish Ed Center.

Proceeds from the Calendar Raffle Fundraiser will be used
towards expenses of St. Matthew Parish.