

Saint Matthew Catholic Church December 18, 2022 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



"Saint Joseph did not do extraordinary things, but rather by the constant practice of the ordinary and common virtues, he attained that sanctity which elevates him above all other saints."

Saint Joseph Marello



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses Saturday, December 24th

5:00 pm - English 10:00 pm - English & Spanish

Christmas Day Masses Sunday, December 25th

> 8:00 am 10:00 am

Mass Schedule - Horario de Misas

Weekends:

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: **8:00 am, 10:00 am Español-Spanish: 12:00 noon

Weekdays:

**Monday: 6:00 pm **Tuesday: 12:05 pm

**Wednesday - Saturday: 8:00 am

** Mass live streamed on:

YouTube: St. Matthew Wausau
Website: www.stmatthewwausau.org

Sacrament of Confession

30 minutes before every Mass Saturday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday & Friday: 9 am - 5 pm (in Church)
4:30 pm Wednesday: Evening Prayer,
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction

Diocese Weekend Mass on TV in Wausau

6:00 pm Saturday & 9:00 am Sunday:
Public Access Channel 980
6:30 am Sunday: Cable/Satellite Channel 12

Parish Center Office - Oficina

(Behind school/atrás de la escuela)

221 S 28th Avenue - 715-842-3148

Office Hours - Oficina Horas

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday: 9:00 am - 12 Noon

Website: www.stmatthewwausau.org

Emailed Bulletins: www.parishesonline.com

Diocese of La Crosse: www.diolc.org



Gospel Meditation A Deeper Understanding of Scripture

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is

unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.



Las Posadas - The Hispanic Advent Custom

"Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on

December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.



FORMED is Free for St Matthew
parishioners and provides the very best
Catholic content to help you explore your faith

anywhere. Movies, ebooks, audio, & programs for children and adults. Watch, listen and read, anywhere, anytime! Access on your computer, cellphone, tablet, smart tv, etc.

Steps to Sign Up for FORMED:

- 1. Go to: www.formed.org/signup
- 2. Under "Create a New Account" to find your Parish or Organization type in the zip code "54401"
- When "St. Matthew Parish" shows up click on it to select it, then click on "Next"
- 4. Create a New Account by typing in "Your Name" and "Your email address" then click "Sign Up"

There are many wonderful Advent & Christmas Programs available.



The Chosen is now available on FORMED! To help Catholics better understand and appreciate the fullness of the faith while watching *The Chosen*, FORMED is creating original content to complement each episode which will offer a Catholic take on the scenes depicted:

https://watch.formed.org/catholic-commentary-on-the-chosen

The Chosen is also available for free on "The Chosen" App available from Apple's App Store & Android Google Play on your devices, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and on *The Chosen* website:

https://watch.thechosen.tv

According to The Chosen website: "The Chosen is the first-ever multiseason TV show about the life of Jesus. The Chosen allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him."

The opening credits of the 1st episode of season 1 stated:

"The Chosen is based on the true stories of the gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all biblical and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the gospels. The original names, locations and phrases have been translated into English for anything spoken."

Experts from 3 Christian faith traditions: a Messianic Rabbi, a Catholic Priest, and Evangelical Christian Scholar work with Dallas Jenkins, the creator of The Chosen, in reviewing scripts and providing facts or context on the biblical, cultural, and socio-political history of the storyline.

Episode 1 of Season 3 was released on December 11th. The remaining 7 episodes will be released every Sunday after that. If you haven't watched *The Chosen* yet, start with Season 1, then 2, then 3. The exception are the Christmas episodes that can be watched out of order. You can find these and other "extras" on The Chosen App or website. Christmas episodes on the App: under the "Episodes" tab, Season 1 Episode 9 "The Shepherd" and under the "Extras" tab, "Our Big Christmas Special" and "Christmas with The Chosen".

Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus said he always aims to "empty out as much of himself as possible" to allow the Holy Spirit to work in him. He is a practicing Roman Catholic. You can find more information about The Chosen, the creator and the actors on YouTube.



Unwrap the True Meaning of Christmas

By Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan (edited) December 21, 2017

Christmas commemorates that God entered this world in human form. It is the celebration of the Birth of the Savior. God has taken on human flesh. Nothing like that had ever taken place previously. Oh, yes, God was very active in the creation of the world and in forming man and woman; further, in the making of a covenant with Israel, God promised to be with and to save them. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. He is God's Word who saves all humanity from the tragic consequences of sin.

At His birth in Bethlehem the Infant Jesus was placed in a wooden manger by His loving Virgin Mother, Mary, and her husband, Saint Joseph. That wood would be replaced at the end of His life by the wood of the Cross on which He accomplished salvation. From the Cross, He rose to life. His Birth was a prelude to His Resurrection.

The true meaning of Christmas is that God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son; that God shared our human condition even to death; that salvation was accomplished by God within the grittiness of

This is why the angel announced to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." To climax this announcement a whole army of angels appeared and sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

Their angelic song awakens in us a deep longing to experience the closeness of God; a desire to live in a peaceful world; a hope to end suffering and a wish to eliminate grudges and hatred in our relationships with our families, coworkers, and communities.

This Christmas we need to unwrap the Savior, Jesus Christ, whose presence as the Infant of Bethlehem is God's Word to us. God's promise has been kept. "Fear not," the shepherds are reminded. "Fear not," God is with you.

Let us hear this Good, this Very Good News. Let it encourage our faith in God. Let it resonate in our homes and families, among our friends and coworkers. May it be preached from our pulpits. The Savior is born and He and ONLY HE can take away fears and free us from sin. No one else can; nothing else can do that for you.

For some, Christmas evokes memories, especially of loved ones who have died. Consider Mary in the years after Jesus' death. She understands your pain. Each year after His death on the Cross she surely remembered the day of His birth, that first Christmas. Talk to Mary about whomever you miss this Christmas. She understands what is going on in your heart.

May you unwrap the TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS who is Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord. With wishes and prayers for a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Weekly Giving **Weekly Minimum Amount Needed** per Budget: \$9,612.00

Sharing God's Blessings Thank You for Your Support!

Envelopes (December 11)......To be announced.

Parish Contributions: Our weekly offertory collection provides the necessary funds to meet our financial obligations. If you are not attending Mass in person, please consider sending your weekly donations by:

- Mail (St Matthew Parish, 221 S 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401)
- Monthly Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank (to set up, contact Jerry at: 715-842-3148 or email: jerryg@stmatthewwausau.org).
- Bill Pay through your Bank (contact your bank to set up).
- Online Giving: (via credit card or direct debit)
 - www.stmatthewwausau.org/donations (one-time donations)
 - www.stmatthewwausau.org/payments (recurring donations available)















Anointing

Baptism

Communion Confirmation Reconciliation Marriage

Holy Orders

Celebration of the Sacraments

Confession

30 minutes before every Mass and Saturday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am.

Baptism Preparation Class: January 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm

The Baptism Class must be attended by parents - Godparents are encouraged to attend. You must register one week before the class by calling the Parish Center: 715-842-3148.

<u>❷</u> 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.

Marriage - Contact Fr Sebastian 6 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick and Home Communion Visits

Call Dorothy: 715-432-5519 or the Parish Center: 715-842-3148 for:

- * Anointing of the Sick for those seriously ill and before a scheduled surgery.
- * Communion Visits to the Homebound if you would like to receive Holy Communion at your home, rehab center, assisted living facility, or nursing home.
- * Visits at the Hospital If you are anticipating a hospital stay, call and let us know as we are not always notified by the hospital.

In Need of Extra Prayer? - Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you! Call Bonnie: 715-675-9876 or Parish Center: 715-842-3148.



December 22 at 6:30 pm St Mark Parish presents "Come Let Us Adore" The Nativity story told through contemporary music. Featuring a choir and orchestra from area parishes.

Saturday, 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass Looking for Families Who Would Like to Help Lead the Singing at This Mass

If your family is able to attend the 5 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, think about making it extra special by



joining in singing in the choir area - or the pews in the front on the right hand section in church. Open to singers of all ages! Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 or Annette at 715-845-2569 with any questions.



This Week at Saint Matthew Parish

Monday, December 19

Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 20

Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Ray's Breakfast Club (all men) - Log Cabin Restaurant: 9:00 am Marlene's Breakfast Club (all women) - 2510 Deli Restaurant: 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm Remedial Class - Parish Center Patio Room: 5:30 pm

Choir Practice - Church: 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 22

Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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

Friday, December 23

Parish Center Closed

Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Las Posadas - School Cafeteria: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Christmas Eve Masses:

5 pm Mass with Family Choir

10 pm Mass with Gaudete Choir - Mass in English & Spanish

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

"We wish you a blessed Christmas Day!"

Christmas Masses:

8 am and 10 am

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor: Rev Sebastian Kolodziejczyk

padreseko@icloud.com

Pastoral Care: Dorothy Giallombardo dorothy@stmatthewwausau.org

Parish Secretary: Patricia Lahr patl@stmatthewwausau.org

Bulletin Editor: Rosemary Beever rosemarybulletin@stmatthewwausau.org

Deacon: Deacon Tom Tierney ttierney@diolclergy.org

DRE & Hispanic RE: Joy Orozco joydre@stmatthewwausau.org

Finance Secretary: Jerry Grunow jerryg@stmatthewwausau.org

Plant Manager: Jason Seliger

Bulletin Deadline: See Schedule Below

Mass Intentions December 19 - 25, 2022



Mon, Dec 19 - 6:00 pm - †Beverly Zellner

Tue, Dec 20 - 12:05 pm - †Raymond Krebsbach

Wed, Dec 21 - 8:00 am - †Bob Scheurer

Thu, Dec 22 - 8:00 am - † Mother of Mary Pat Roovers

Fri, Dec 23 - 8:00 am - †Deceased Fischer Family

Sat, Dec 24 - 8:00 am - †William and †Loretta Warmbier

Christmas Vigil 5:00 pm - †William and †Margaret Butzen

English/Spanish 10:00 pm - †Joseph and †Faye Weidenbenner

Sun, Dec 25 - 8:00 am -†Glenn and †Dorothy Schmitz

10:00 am - St Matthew Parishioners

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

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



Wednesday, December 21-St Peter Canisius, Priest/Doctor of Church

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

Thursday, December 22

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

Friday, December 23 - Saint John of Kanty, Priest

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

Saturday, 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

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus

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

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

Luke 2:10-11



If you have a bulletin announcement, **please submit it by 2:00 pm** according to the following holiday submission date.

Send announcements to:

rosemarybulletin@stmatthewwausau.org

Deadline to Submit Announcements: For Bulletin on:

Friday, December 23rd January 1st



Liturgical Ministers			
Christmas Eve Vigil December 24 5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Vigil December 24 10:00 pm	Christmas Day December 25 8:00 am	Christmas Day December 25 10:00 am
Lectors			
Mary Holm	Mike Jilek	Peggy Bant	Lee Peek
Ushers and Greeters			
John Bocke Mike Lawrence Dave Mayer	Jay Rolefson Al Seubert Kevin Ellenbecker	Dennis Janssen David Krause Tom Mullaley	Randy Krueger Bob Charlier Sharon Charlier
Musicians			
Jim Washebek Annette Southworth	Gaudete Choir Nancy Losinski	Marie Stubbe Annette Southworth	Lynn Meyer Sara Schmitt

Church Christmas Decorating

Come join us on December 18th after the 12:00 noon Mass to help decorate the church.

It is always a lot of fun!

If you have any questions, call Nancy: 715-675-6796





St Matthew's Family Christmas Tree

All families are invited to put one or more ornaments on the tree in the Angelorum with the sign: "Family Christmas Tree".

Please bring non-breakable ornaments which can be purchased or homemade!





Ray's Breakfast Club

All men are invited to join us for breakfast on Wednesday, December 21st at 9 am at the Log Cabin Restaurant.

Join us the 3rd Wednesday of each month at various restaurants for good food and good fellowship!



Marlene's Breakfast Club

All ladies are invited to join us for breakfast on Wednesday, December 21st at 9 am at 2510 Deli.

Join us the 3rd Wednesday of each month at various restaurants for good food and good fellowship!

Our Aging Religious Give Thanks!!!

Thank you for supporting those who have given a lifetime!



"Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," said a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the *Retirement Fund for Religious*. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.





Sacrament of Reconciliation in Preparation for Christmas available on Wednesday, December 21st 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm



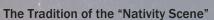
Candle & Flower Donations for Advent and Christmas

Donating candles or flowers to decorate our sanctuary and church is a beautiful way to give thanks to God for someone in your life, past or present and for the gift of His son, Jesus!

Put your donations in an envelope along with the following information:

- * Your Name
- * Name of the Person & if it is "in memory of" or "in honor of" Put in the Collection Basket or Mail to:
- St Matthew Parish Center, 221 S. 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
 Thank You and May You have a Blessed Christmas Season!!!





Families are encouraged to set up the Christmas crib at home together so that children learn the facts of the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. The Nativity Scene can help us understand the true meaning of Christmas because it expresses the humility and merciful goodness of Jesus Christ, who though He was rich He made Himself poor for us (2 Corinthians 8:9). Christmas brings joy, peace and hope to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 10-12) This is still the true meaning of Christmas. We need a Savior; the Son of God came to us as a tiny infant in the poorest of

circumstances. Jesus is the Savior because in Him and through Him is the grace necessary for us to overcome all of the dysfunction, sinfulness, shame and guilt which separates us from God and from one another. In Him is the grace to overcome all obstacles to friendship with God. In Bethlehem "a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."



Adult Foster Care Position

Looking for adult foster care placement for elderly parishioner, in your home, preferably in the Wausau area.

Catholic man, wishing to attend Mass at least once/week, mostly independent, needs minimal assistance. For more information call Peggy: 715 820-1439 or Jim: 715 842-3195. This is a paid position.

Buy SCRIP Gift Cards for Everyone this Christmas!!!

They make great gifts & help the parish!



You can still buy Scrip before Christmas at the Parish Center.

Scrip lists can be picked up at the Parish Center or in church on Scrip sale dates.

Next Scrip Sales: January 7th & 8th
In the Angelorum before and after Mass
(Saturday 4:30 pm and Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am)

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Merry Christmas!



Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery

There are 2 cemetery plots available at Restlawn. Call Cindy at 1-815-861-0841 if you are interested.



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME

Steve Swenson

sswenson@4LPi.com

(800) 950-9952 x5815



tion ◆ Remodeling ◆ Handyman Service Brad Higar, General Contractor 715.551.1907 cell 715.842.1907 fax Wausau, WI

Fully Insured • Free Est Parish Family



Beyond the Network dirksgroup.com • 715-848-9865



Wausau East/Wausau West 715-845-6900 www.petersonkraemer.com



Benedictine LIVING COMMUNITY | WAUSAU SHORT-TERM REHAB

AND LONG-TERM CARE 1821 N. Fourth Avenue, Wausau, Wl 715-675-9451

S.D. Ellenbecker Inc.

General Contractor

Commercial - Industrial - Agricultural Concrete Specialists

1222 Mount View Ln., Athens, WI 54411 Phone 715.257.7666 Fax 715.257.7982





Your Trusted IT Partner Since 2004

715.302.0152 | pcportal.us



715-581-3082 shervlhrealestate@gmail.c



AND CREMATION CENTER

www.brainardfuneral.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Serving Families Since 1874

(715) 842-3993 www.helke.com





CLU, ChEC, CASL, LUTCE CPCU, Agen

NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!



Have our bulletin emailed to you every week.



MODERN BUILDERS & SUPPLIERS, INC.

Designers & Suppliers of Fine Homes Bus. Phones: 848-3263 or 845-4258 Fax 842-3623

3704 W. Stewart Ave. Wausau, WI 54401-3997



1800 GRAND AVE · WAUSAU SUNPRINTING.COM 715-845-4911

ADT-Monitored Home Security

3et 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

SafeStreets

833-287-3502

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!

NE'RE HIRING! AD SALES EXECUTIVE

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION

WORK WITH PURPOSE



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Steve Swenson

sswenson@4LPi.com (800) 950-9952 x5815



Tlusty, Kennedy & Glascock, S.C.

Law **■** Firm

715-359-3188

TlustyLaw.com

