

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
1Thes 5:16-18

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses Sunday, December 24th

- * 5:00 pm
- * 12:00 am Midnight

Christmas Day Masses Monday, December 25th

- * 8:00 am
- * 10:00 am
- * 12:00 Noon - Spanish



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

****This Mass will be "Live-Streamed" on YouTube**

Go to our website: www.StMatthewWausau.org, click on icon "Today's Mass" for direct link. For other Masses click on icon "YouTube-Recorded Masses". Or go directly to YouTube: "St. Matthew Wausau"

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Wednesday 4:30 pm: Evening Prayer,
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction)

TV Sunday Mass

- Channel 7.4 WSAW - Sunday 9 am
- Channel 12 - Sunday 6:30 am
- Ch 980 Public Access - Sat 6 pm & Sun 9 am

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: 8:00 am - 12 noon

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

Emailed Bulletins:
www.parishesonline.com

Diocese of La Crosse: www.dioc.org



Gospel Meditation A Deeper Understanding of Scripture 3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen Him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen Him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

Father John Muir ©LPi

Rejoice always,
Pray without ceasing,
In everything *Give Thanks*;
For this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

A Constant Companion

by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday Christians, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take Him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of Him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give Him all your time and let His presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the One who loves you the most, the Incarnation Himself.

The Tradition of the "Nativity Scene"

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."



Resources for Meditation

Check out the following websites during Advent:

- * Bishop Barron's daily Gospel reflections
www.wordonfire.org/reflections/advent
- * Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA - Weekly Advent Reflection Videos (2 min.): What can we give Jesus for Christmas?
www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/advent-14416
- * Hallow's Advent Pray25 with C.S. Lewis
<https://hallow.com/blog/pray25>
- * Matthew Kelly: Best Advent Ever
www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.htm
- * EWTN daily Advent Reflections
www.ewtn.com/catholicism/reflections/advent
- * Seven Scripture Readings for Advent on a downloadable prayer card available under the title "Praying with Scripture" diolc.org/deeper
- * Scripture Readings from Mass each day during Advent
bible.usccb.org

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.

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor: Rev Sebastian Kolodziejczyk - padreseko@icloud.com

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Plant Manager: Jason Seliger

Bulletin Editor: Bulletin Deadline: See Holiday Schedule

Rosemary Butzen - rosemarybulletin@stmatthewausau.org

Eucharistic Revival - A Minute with Jesus

Jesus Wants To Stay With Us Always



Jesus loves each one of us so much that He gives Himself to us in Holy Communion at Mass. We receive Jesus Himself. When the priest prays the words of Jesus over the bread and wine at Mass, they are no longer bread and wine but the

Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus gives Himself to us because He wants to stay with each one of us always.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week:

"Jesus, thank You that You desire to stay with us always."

Read from Scripture about the birth of the Christ Child in Luke 2:1-7

Holiday Bulletin Submission Dates

Bulletin submission dates change during the upcoming holidays. Please refer to the schedule below for submitting announcements for the bulletin. Please submit announcements by 11 am on the deadline date or on the day before to Rosemary at:

rosemarybulletin@stmatthewausau.org or call 715-842-3148

Submission Deadline: For Bulletin on:

Friday, December 22 - December 31, Sunday

Tuesday, January 2 - January 7, Sunday



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

Baptism Preparation Class: January 2024 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.**

Bautismo

Para Bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase de preparación. Generalmente las clases son el primer lunes de cada mes a las 6:00 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.

Buy SCRIP Gift Cards for Everyone this Christmas!!!

Next SCRIP Sales in Angelorum:

December 23rd & 24th

You can always buy SCRIP at the Parish Center.

Scrip lists available in back of church by the cry room.

We still sell Kohl's gift cards in \$25 or \$100 with a 7% rebate. These can be used at the time of purchase to give you the same discount benefits as your charge card, but can no longer be used to pay a credit card bill. Also can order Maurice's at \$20 with a 7% rebate. Great gift cards for any clothes buying member of the family!

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Merry Christmas!



WINTER PROJECT

"New Beginnings" (the public organization helping resettle refugees arriving in the Wausau area) is collecting **winter clothing, furniture, personal products, bus tokens, bedding, boots, shoes, and most anything** for the most recent refugees who have arrived in the area. They have a bus parked in front of **Walmart** for your convenience if you're shopping in that area & would consider purchasing some winter items OR clean, smoke free, like new items are being accepted as well. For our parishioners convenience, the **Wausau West Side Circle of Joy** is assisting them by accepting items in our large **Blue Buckets** in the **west entrances of the church** which we'll deliver to **New Beginnings** closet downtown.

NOTE:--All donations are tax deductible! If you desire a receipt, please indicate that in some form with your donation to

"New Beginnings". For more info or if you have questions please contact **Lou at 715-848-4177. Thank you!**

"WE ARE THE HANDS OF YOUR CHARITABLE HEARTS"

The Wausau West Side Chapter of the Circle of Joy.



HELPING HANDS THANKS YOU!

Once again we thank you for your donation to Helping Hands in the November church envelope. We know at this time of year you are asked to donate to many worthy causes, so we very much appreciate your giving hearts. The many needs of the Kenyan people never seem to be any less throughout the year. Helping Hands is blessed to have fellow parishioners whose hearts are caring. As the Lord said, "whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me". *God bless you always, but especially this beautiful time in the church year!*



Prayer Group

Bonnie Jelinek will be unavailable from December 12 to mid January to take calls requesting prayers. For that month, people should leave prayer requests at the parish office.

Church Christmas Decorating

Come join us to help decorate the church on
Sunday, December 17th at 1:15 pm.
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 bring a non-breakable ornament for the **"Family Christmas Tree"** in the Angelorum. These ornaments can be home-made or bought. Please put your ornament in the bin marked **"Family Christmas Tree Ornament"** and we will put them on the tree on and after December 17th. Thank you!

Ray's Breakfast Club

All men are invited to join us for breakfast on
Wednesday, December 20th 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 20th at 9 am
at 2510 Deli.

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



Knights of Columbus Corporate Communion Mass Sunday, December 31st 8:00 am Mass at St Matthew Parish

Members of the Wausau Knights of Columbus and their wives are invited to the 8:00 am Corporate Mass at St Matthew Parish.

There will be a breakfast following the Mass at Trails End Restaurant.



Thursday, December 28th at 6:30 pm St Mary's Church in Marathon

Parents come with your children of all ages to be with the Lord!

Plan for 30 minutes of guided Adoration geared towards school age children.

Religious coloring sheets and books will be provided for use as needed for toddler age children.

The focus of our prayer will be on the season of Christmas.

For more information email
 Caitlin Lemmer at
caitlinborchardt@gmail.com



Congratulations on Your
60th Wedding Anniversary!

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May God Bless You!



Blessing of Your Baby Jesus

During Advent weekend Masses, families are invited to bring Baby Jesus from your home manger scenes for a blessing. Father Sebastian or Father Isaac will meet you at the Communion railing after Mass and bless your Baby Jesus.



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!!!



Are you able to build some storage shelves?

We are looking for someone to build storage shelves in the church. Please contact Jason at 715-581-2005 if you can help.
Thank You!



Advent Prayer



Dear Jesus, help us focus on You during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy You bring into our lives. We want to find You in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to Your manger on Christmas. Amen



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