



Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."
Lk 1:35



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
- Cable TV**
- 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

The Meaning Behind The Twelve Days of Christmas

www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/twelve-days-of-christmas.html

People in the United States are fascinated by the song "The 12 Days of Christmas". Every year it's played over and over again on the radio. It's googled countless times. And it's often listed as one of the top Christmas songs. You're probably well familiar with the song, but do you know the Catholic roots?

What are the 12 Days of Christmas?

While secular culture begins Christmas after Thanksgiving (and sometimes even earlier!), for Catholics the Christmas season doesn't begin until Christmas Eve. The *time of preparation before Christmas* is called *Advent*. Catholics celebrate the Christmas season from Jesus' birth, December 25, until the day before the Epiphany, January 6. The Epiphany is the celebration of when the three wise men visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Since the Church is still celebrating, it's a great opportunity to leave your Christmas decorations up a little longer!

What is the Meaning of the Song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?

The religious wars in sixteenth century England made it dangerous to be a Catholic. Many people practiced their faith in secret. As the legend goes, Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith on to their children, like "The 12 Days of Christmas". The well-known song was used to teach children about the Catholic Church. Although the lyrics may sound like nonsense, the song actually contains hidden references:



The First Day of Christmas: A Partridge in a Pear Tree

A partridge in a pear tree symbolizes Jesus Christ, with the partridge representing Christ's willingness to sacrifice Himself and the pear tree symbolizing the cross.



The Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtle Doves

Two turtle doves represents the Old and New Testaments, highlighting the harmony and connection between the two.



The Third Day of Christmas: Three French Hens

Three French hens signifies the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).



The Fourth Day of Christmas: Four Calling Birds

Four calling birds symbolizes the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which spread the good news of Christ's life and teachings.



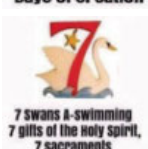
The Fifth Day of Christmas: Five Golden Rings

Five golden rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, emphasizing God's covenant with His people.



The Sixth Day of Christmas: Six Geese A-Laying

Six geese a-laying symbolizes the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.



The Seventh Day of Christmas: Seven Swans A-Swimming

Seven swans a-swimming represents the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. The 7 sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.



The Eighth Day of Christmas: Eight Maids A-Milking

Eight maids a-milking symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, highlighting the virtues and blessings of a righteous life.

The Eight Beatitudes

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



The Ninth Day of Christmas: Nine Ladies Dancing

Nine ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

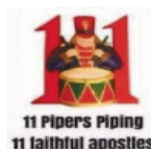


The Tenth Day of Christmas: Ten Lords A-Leaping

Ten lords a-leaping signifies the Ten Commandments, which provide guidance for a moral and righteous life.

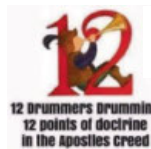
The Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.



The Eleventh Day of Christmas: Eleven Pipers Piping

The Eleven Faithful Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James the Elder, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Jude.



The Twelfth Day of Christmas: Twelve Drummers Drumming

Twelve drummers drumming represents the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.

The Apostles' Creed:

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
5. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
6. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
7. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
8. the holy catholic Church,
9. the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and life everlasting. Amen.

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor: Rev Sebastian Kolodziejczyk - padreseko@icloud.com
Associate Pastor: Rev Isaac Pecha - frisaac@stmatthewausau.org
Deacon: Deacon Tom Tierney - ttierney@diolclergy.org
Pastoral Care:
Dorothy Giallombardo & June Pritzl - dorothy@stmatthewausau.org
Parish Secretary: Patricia Lahr - patl@stmatthewausau.org
Director of Religious Education & Hispanic Religious Education:
Joy Orozco - joydre@stmatthewausau.org
Finance Director: Jerry Grunow - jerryg@stmatthewausau.org
Plant Manager: Jason Seliger
Bulletin Editor: Bulletin Deadline: See Holiday Schedule
Rosemary Butzen - rosemarybulletin@stmatthewausau.org



Celebration of the Sacraments

Confession

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

Baptism

Baptism Preparation Class: January 17, 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.

Pregnant and in distress? Confidential help is available from:



* Catholic Charities

360 Grand Avenue #800, Wausau
Phone: 715.849.3311 Text: 715.600.6391
Email: info@cclse.org Website: cclse.org
For Pregnancy Support:
www.cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant

* Hope Life Center

605 24th Ave. S. Ste 20, Wausau
Phone: 715.843.4673 Text: 715.843.4673
Email: info@hopewi.org Website: hopewi.org
For additional resources and locations:
www.diolc.org/pregnancy-resources

Eucharistic Revival - A Minute with Jesus

Jesus Came Into The World To Save Us



Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn (motel) Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan

for His birth on earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food - He literally is the Bread of Life - supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

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

"Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior."

This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

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!



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.



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.



Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery

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



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



This Week at Saint Matthew Parish

Monday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!
 Christmas Midnight Mass - 12 am
 Christmas Day Masses: 8 am, 10 am, and 12 noon (Spanish)
 Parish Center Closed

Wednesday, December 27
 NO Men's Morning Group: Bible Timeline

Thursday, December 28
 NO Bible Timeline
 Jubilee House Free Community Meal - School Cafeteria: 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 30
 Scrip Sold after 4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
 Scrip Sold after 8:00 am & 10 am Masses



Sharing God's Blessings

Thank you for your support!

**Weekly Minimum Amount
Needed per Budget:**
\$12,217.00

Envelopes (December 10th).....	\$7,139.00
Offertory.....	\$1,251.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$1,651.00
Christmas.....	\$325.00
Catholic Life.....	\$20.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$935.00
Candles.....	\$102.00
Envelopes (December 17th).....	To be announced.



It's not too late to buy SCRIP Gift Cards
for Everyone this Christmas!!!

They make great gifts & help the parish!


Next Scrip Sales:
December 30th & 31st

In the Angelorum before and after Mass
Saturday 4:30 pm & Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

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

Take the kids bowling during Christmas break with Scrip for
Dale's Weston Lanes for \$20 at a 25% rebate
or Day's Bowl-a-Dome for \$20 with a 5% rebate.
Great presents for any bowler no matter what the age.

Thank you for buying SCRIP! Merry Christmas!



Prayer

The most powerful weapon against trials.
 The most effective medicine against sickness.
 The most valuable gift to someone you love.

Please pray for the members of
Saint Matthew Parish:

"Dear Jesus, please help and heal all parishioners who are homebound, lonely, depressed, grieving, sick, in the hospital, those who are terminally ill and those who have died. Amen



Mass Intentions

December 25 - 31, 2023



Pray for Us

Mon, Dec 25 - 8:00 am - †John Bant
 10:00 am - †William & †Margaret Butzen and Family
 12:00 pm - St Matthew Parishioners

Tue, Dec 26 - 12:05 pm - †Nancy Cegelski

Wed, Dec 27 - 8:00 am - †Jim Low and Family
 - Jesus Healing Touch OCD, Depression, Anxiety

Thu, Dec 28 - 8:00 am - †Lillian Harter
 - †Willard Graveen and Family

Fri, Dec 29 - 8:00 am - †William Duginske and †Leon & †Leona Babi
 - Election in Argentina

Sat, Dec 30 - 8:00 am - †William Duginske and †Leon & †Leona Babi
 4:30 pm - St Matthew Parishioners

Sun, Dec 31 - 8:00 am - †Chris Seubert
 10:00 am - †William Duginske and †Leon & †Leona Babi
 Spanish - 12 noon - †Apolonio Bailon

*Two Mass Intentions are available when 2 priests concelebrate a Mass.

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas
 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
 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

Tuesday, December 26 - Saint Stephen, First Martyr
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27 - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1-8

Thursday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30
 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96/Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31 - The Holy Family - New Year's Eve
 Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 105/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

Weekend - Liturgical Ministers		
Saturday December 30 4:30 pm	Sunday December 31 8:00 am	Sunday December 31 10:00 am
Lectors		
Nancy Oestreich	Theresa Stubbe	Kay Washebek
Musicians		
Lynn Meyer Dorothy Giallombardo	Carla MacDonald Sara Schmitt	Cindy Blair Annette Southworth
Ushers and Greeters		
Ryan Oestreich Scott Oestreich Marie Burish	Nic Schmitt Tom Mullaley Dennis Janssen	Gary Butler Kevin Ellenbecker Kevin Malovrh
Altar Servers		
Yonathan Ramirez Luke Riehle	Adalyn Schmitt Everly Schmitt	Natalie Bergo Carolina Bergo
Children's Liturgy of the Word		Kim
SCRIP Ann Line	Kathy Miilu	Sharon Charlier



*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 Sebastian, Father Isaac
and the
Staff at St Matthew Parish*

December 29
1973

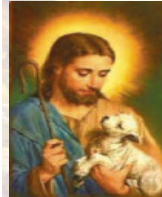


2023

**Congratulations
& God's Blessings
on your
50th Wedding Anniversary**

**John & Suzanne
Juedes**

*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:**

Donald "Chubby" Hanson

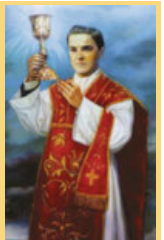
He died Sunday - December 10, 2023

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

The students and staff of Newman Catholic
Schools wish you and your family a most
blessed Advent season. May the miracles of
Advent fill your heart with joy and peace.
May the blessings of God's special gifts be
yours now and in the New Year.



**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.

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.



**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



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Kevin Kell, Broker
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