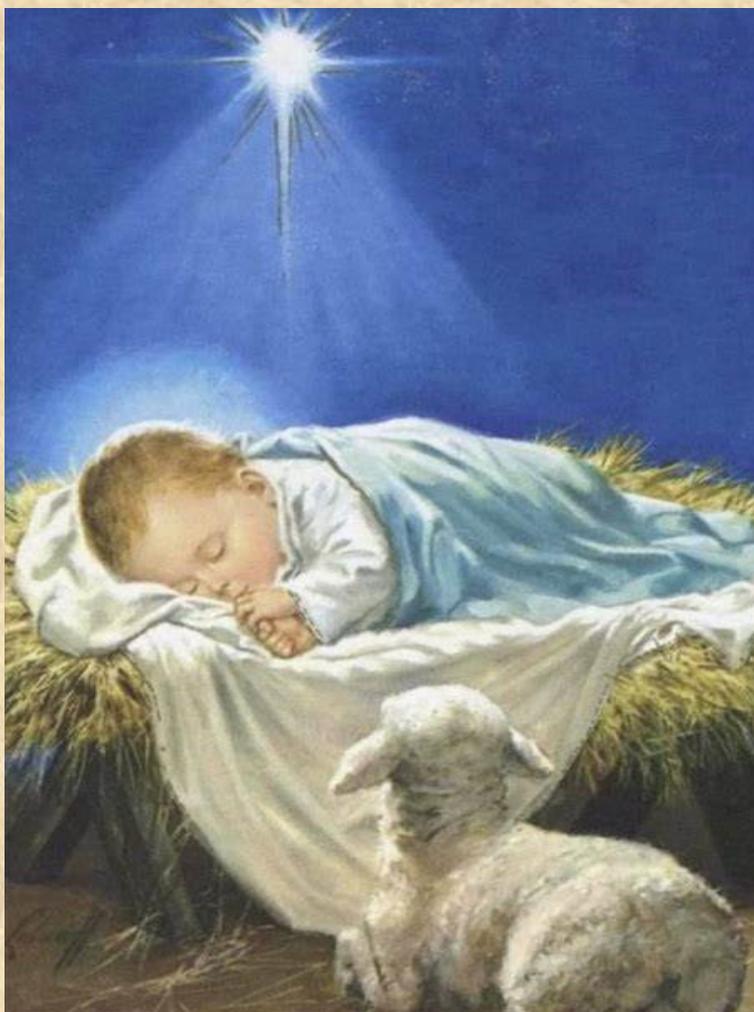


Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 21, 2025 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



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses
Wednesday, December 24th

- * 4:30 pm
- * 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses
Thursday, December 25th

- * 8:00 am
- * 10:00 am
- * 12:00 pm - Español

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-Friday: **8:00 am

**** Ways to watch a "Live-Streamed Mass"**

- www.stmatthewausau.org - near top of page "Click to Watch the Mass" on YouTube then scroll down to watch the Mass you want.
- **Our YouTube Channel: "St. Matthew Wausau"** Subscribe to get live-streamed notifications.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

30 minutes before every Mass
Saturday: 3:00 pm - 4:20 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

**This week there will
NOT be Adoration on
Wednesday & Friday - Dec 24 & 26**

First Fridays

Mass in Spanish at 5 pm, followed by
Flame of Love Holy Hour, followed by all
night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
ending with Mass in Spanish at
6 am on Saturday morning.

Parish Office - Oficina

227 S 28th Avenue - 715-842-3148

Office Hours - Oficina Horas

Parish Offices Closed This Week

Website: www.StMatthewWausau.org

YouTube: [St. Matthew Wausau](#)

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

Diocese of La Crosse: www.dioc.org



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
Deacon Tom & Deacon John
and the Staff at St Matthew Parish



CHRISTMAS

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/christmas-20423>

Why is Christmas celebrated?

The Church celebrates the “marvelous works of God” through public worship, or liturgy, commemorating the great events in salvation history. *The Nativity of Our Lord* celebrates the point in history when the Son of God became Man for our Salvation, an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, that will culminate on the Cross.

Phil 2:5-8. *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.*

Where is Christmas in the Bible?

While the name Christmas comes from the fact that the Church celebrates the day with a special “*Christ Mass*”, the event itself is recounted in the Infancy Narratives of the Gospel of Matthew, especially 1:18-25, and the Gospel of Luke, especially 2:1-20.

Each account is unique in its details. Matthew, whom scholars believe was a Jew writing for Jews, provides his readers with the prophetic preparation for Christ. Whereas, Luke, a Greek physician, writes to give an accurate account (Lk 1:1). The many details of the angelic announcement, visitation to Elizabeth, birth and early years are believed to have been obtained by interviewing the Blessed Virgin.

What is the Christmas Season?

The greatest feasts, like Christmas and Easter, have liturgical seasons dedicated to them. Christmas is preceded by the Season of Advent, a time of preparation, and the celebration of the Nativity itself is extended in the Christmas Season. This season begins on Christmas Eve, as Catholics rejoice in the *Lord's Birth* on December 25th, and extends to the *Baptism of the Lord*, on the Sunday after the *Epiphany*.

Beginning on Christmas Day, eight days are dedicated to an Octave of Christmas, after the Jewish pattern for the greatest feasts. During this octave the *Feast of the Holy Family* is celebrated, and it culminates in the honoring of *Mary as the Mother of God* on January 1st.

This title was first given to her by the early Councils, as a defense of her Son's divinity against those who argued He was not God, or not eternally so.

The cost of salvation and discipleship is never out of sight during the Octave. The Church recalls the *Holy Innocents* killed by Herod in a frantic search for the Messiah, and the proto-martyr *Stephen* was killed, as Saul (later St Paul) encouraged it.

Finally, the Christmas Season concludes by looking forward to the Public Life and Ministry of Jesus, with the Solemnity of the *Epiphany* and the *Baptism of the Lord*. These events, which mark “*manifestations*” of Christ's divinity, serve as bookends to His hidden life from infancy to the inauguration of His public ministry.

A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be Thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor: The Very Rev. Sebastian Kolodziejczyk
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Deacon: Deacon Tom Tierney - ttierney@diolclergy.org

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Finance Director: Jerry Grunow - jerryg@stmatthewausau.org

Plant Manager: Jason Seliger

Bulletin Editor: Rosemary Butzen - bulletin@stmatthewausau.org

Bulletin Submissions Due on Dec 23rd for Bulletin on January 4th

To get bulletin link emailed to you: www.parishesonline.com

Sacrament of Baptism
"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

We welcome into the Catholic Faith:
Baptized Sunday, December 7, 2025

Pedro Xoblaib Vang-Lira
Son of Pedro and Autumn

Congratulations!
May Jesus be your dearest companion!



CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Call the Parish Office (715-842-3148) to make arrangements for:

- ✦ **Confession** - by appointment outside of scheduled Confession times.
- ✦ **Baptism** - Baptisms take place the 2nd Sunday of each month.
The Baptism Preparation Class must be attended by parents. Godparents are encouraged to attend. **You must register at least one week before the class by calling the Parish Office.**
Next Baptism Class: Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 pm.
- ✦ **Bautismo** - Los bautismos se llevan a cabo el segundo domingo de mes. Para los bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase y no faltar a misa los domingos. Los padrinos deben presentar comprobante de que recibieron el sacramento de la Confirmación y no pueden estar viviendo juntos. 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**
 - * **Anointing of the Sick** - for those seriously ill and before a scheduled surgery.
 - * **Holy Communion Visits to the Homebound** - for those at home, a rehab center, assisted living facility, or nursing home.
 - * **Hospital Visits** - If you are anticipating a hospital stay, call and let us know. The hospital doesn't always inform us.
 - * **In Need of Extra Prayer?** - Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you! **Call Bonnie: 715-675-9876.**

"THIS IS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU... GOD"

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

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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

Christmas Gifts
Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Gifts at Christmas mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver.

Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of His Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

©LPi (edited)



This Week at Saint Matthew Parish

Parish Offices Closed All Week

Tuesday, December 23

January 4th Bulletin Submissions Due Today

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

No Adoration Today

Christmas Eve Masses:

4:30 pm - Christmas Family Choir Sings

10:00 pm - Gaudete Choir Sings

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas

Christmas Day Masses:

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm: Español

Friday, December 26

No Adoration Today

Sunday, December 28 - Feast of the Holy Family

Youth Choir Sings at 10:00 am Mass



**Weekly Minimum Amount
Needed per Budget:
\$11,073.00**

Envelopes (December 7th).....	\$8,258.00
Offertory.....	\$1,304.00
Christmas.....	\$70.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$526.00
Assumption.....	\$20.00
Good Friday.....	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$5.00
Catholic Life.....	\$100.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$61.00
Helping Hands.....	\$54.00
Candles.....	\$151.00
Envelopes (December 14th).....	To be Announced

November Scrip Rebate credited to Newman = \$1,275.03



Mass Intentions December 22 - 28, 2025

Pray for Us

Mon, Dec 22 - 6:00 pm - †Jim Neuens

Tue Dec 23 - 12:05 pm - †Nancy Schoepke

Wed, Dec 24 - 4:30 pm - †Maria Luisa Lopez Ruiz

Christmas Eve - 10:00 pm - The Intentions of Brittney Moniz

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

Christmas Day - 10:00 am - Graveen and Gajewski Families

Spanish - 12 noon - †Francisca Zuñiga de Pecina

Fri, Dec 26 - 8:00 am - †Mary Lynn Ruplinger

Sat, Dec 27 - 4:30 pm - Jensen and Lach Families

Sun, Dec 28 - 8:00 am - 40th Anniversary of Dominic & Cathy Bush

10:00 am - †David Richardson

Spanish - 12 noon - St Matthew Parishioners



Daily Mass Readings

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23 - Saint John of Kanty, Priest

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

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

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

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

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

Friday, December 26 - Saint Stephen, First Martyr

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

Saturday, December 27 - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

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

Sunday, December 28 - The Holy Family

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

Liturgical Ministers

Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24 4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24 10:00 pm	Christmas Day Thursday December 25 8:00 am	Christmas Day Thursday December 25 10:00 am
Lectors			
Mary Holm	Joel Stroup	Mike Jilek	Pat Loy
Musicians			
Family Choir Sara Schmitt	Gaudete Choir Nancy Losinski	Marie Stubbe Sara Schmitt	Phillip Wyman Sara Schmitt
Ushers and Greeters			
Jack Reeves Kevin Ellenbecker Jody Babl	Al Seubert Randy Krueger	Ted Stencil Dennis Janssen Nic Schmitt	Kevin Malovrh Tim Kimball
Altar Servers			
Eli Lieders Anthony Hanneman Sam Hanneman		Adalyn Schmitt Everly Schmitt	Carolina Bergo Natalie Bergo
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion			
Joy Orozco	Paul Sliwicki		

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 27 4:30 pm	Sunday, December 28 8:00 am	Sunday, December 28 10:00 am
Lectors		
Nancy Oestreich	Theresa Stubbe	Justin Loew
Musicians		
Cindy Blair Andrea Huebner	Carla MacDonald Annette Southworth	Youth Choir Sara Schmitt
Ushers and Greeters		
Ryan Oestreich Scott Oestreich John Bocke	Pat Ruesch David Krause Ted Stencil	Kevin Malovrh Tim Kimball Chuck Miller
Altar Servers		
Gary Koy Eddie Vue	Evie Constantine Max Constantine Mike Bourguignon	Natalie Bergo Carolina Bergo
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion		
Judy Koy	Al Seubert	Bernie Dohr
Children's Liturgy of the Word		Andrea
SCRIP: Judy Koy	Josie Ollhoff	Sharon Charlier

Special Blessing of Your Nativity Baby Jesus Statue



After Masses on **December 20th & 21st** The baby Jesus nativity scene statues will be blessed at the communion rail.

Church Christmas Decorating

Come join us to help decorate the church on **Sunday, December 21st at 1:15 pm**

It's always a lot of fun!! See you there!!



Donations for Christmas Flowers
(this year donations are for flowers only, not candles)



Christmas is a time to give thanks to God for the special people in our lives. We can honor them by donating flowers in their name.

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

- * Your Name
- * If it is "in memory of" OR "in honor of" and Their Name
- * Put in the Collection Basket, Bring to Office or Mail to:

St Matthew Parish, 227 S 28th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

Reconciliation Retreat

Our 2nd grade students had so much fun learning more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and working on crafts that reinforced what they learn in class and at home. Making their own set of tablets of the 10 commandments God gave Moses, representing the steps of Confession, and the treasures of the sacrament were part of the fun.

Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers as they continue the preparation to receive the Eucharist.



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:

Rosalie Mertens
She died Sunday - November 30, 2025
She is the Sister of Mrs Lou Przesmicki

Scott Bickler
He died Wednesday - December 3, 2025

Jeanette Havlovick
She died Friday - December 5, 2025
She is the Sister of †JoAnn Wachsmuth

Helen Lawrence
She died Monday - December 8, 2025
She is the Daughter-in-Law of Michael & Janice Lawrence

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



Adoration Time Available
Wednesdays: Noon - 1:00 pm

Looking for Someone to Spend an Hour with Jesus

If anyone is interested or has questions, please call Nancy at 715-675-6796

There are many benefits and graces that come to us as we "rest an hour in His Holy Presence".



Decorating the Family Christmas Tree

Don't forget to bring your children's decorated ornaments and hang them on the "Family Christmas Tree" in the Angelorum!

All parishioners are invited to bring an ornament from home and hang it on the Family Christmas Tree.



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

Remember to put "Buy Scrip Cards" on your grocery list. Get the supplies for your Christmas Dinner with Scrip Cards. If you aren't cooking for the occasion, we carry cards for grocery stores or restaurants that can make your dinner for you!

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us, Everyone!

Next SCRIP Sales:
December 27th & 28th

In the Angelorum before and after Mass. Scrip can also be bought at the Office Monday-Thursday.




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