



THE CHANCERY BULLETIN & CATECHETICAL LEADER

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 68 | NO.10

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR | THE BISHOP HAMMES CENTER

CONTENTS

CHANCERY NEWS	02
JUBILEE YEAR 2025	07
BISHOP HAMMES CENTER	08
OFFICE OF ECCLESIAL MINISTRIES	10
OFFICE OF WORSHIP	11
SUBMITTED EVENTS	15
CLERGY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY LIST	17

ATTACHED AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN:

- Respect Life Parish Bulletin Inserts: *Life, Our Sign of Hope* and *Hope that Anchors Us*
- Respect Life Month Statement from Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
- A Prayer for our Church
- Flyer: The Story of St. Francis Transitus
- Flyer: Eucharistic Miracles Display at St. Michael, Iron River

LINKS

[CLERGY PRAYER CALENDAR](#)
[WORD OF LIFE](#)
[WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED](#)
[IMPACT](#)
[SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS](#)
[HANDBOOK CHANGES](#)

CONTACT US

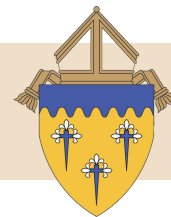
CHANCERY
Amy Little: alittle@catholicdos.org
715.394.0225

BISHOP HAMMES CENTER
JulieAnne Johnson:
jjohnson@catholicdos.org
715.234.5044

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 3 - 4 SCHOOL OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP ST. ANTHONY TONY
OCTOBER 12 - 14 CLERGY WORKSHOP HAYWARD
OCTOBER 15 NEW PRINCIPAL ORIENTATION VIRTUAL
OCTOBER 17 - 18 LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER INITIAL FORMATION ST. MARY TOMAHAWK
OCTOBER 24 FALL CONFERENCE ST. JOSEPH RICE LAKE
OCTOBER 25 FOCCUS TRAINING ST. PETER CAMERON

Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls. -Mother Teresa



CHANCERY NEWS



THE FALL CLERGY WORKSHOP | October 12 - 14 | Hayward, WI

SEMINARIAN POSTERS AND PRAYER CARDS

If you have not yet received the current seminarian posters or prayer cards, or are in need of more, please let your priest know that they will be available for pick up at the October 12 - 14 Clergy Workshop in Hayward.

NORTHLAND FERTILITYCARE TO SERVE THE DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

With the support of Bishop Powers, Northland FertilityCare is honored to begin serving the Diocese of Superior through a new diocesan-wide partnership. For over 40 years, Northland FertilityCare has been dedicated to walking with women and couples by providing professional instruction in the Creighton Model



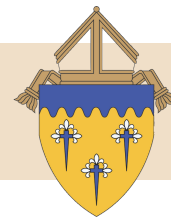
FertilityCare™ System—a natural family planning method that honors the dignity of the human person, strengthens marriages, and equips families with tools for understanding fertility and health.

Parishes will be receiving promotional materials from Northland FertilityCare to help launch this initiative locally. Once you have received these materials, they must be given to all couples in marriage preparation. This is a highly valued partnership that provides each new client one full year of personalized care for women and couples seeking NFP. The Diocesan membership includes the cost of the first year of NFP sessions through Northland FertilityCare, leaving a small cost of the materials to the client. Please contact Emily Sjomeling with any questions regarding implementing this Natural Family Planning and Fertility Education Program in your parish at: (715) 394-0229 | esjomeling@catholicdos.org.

AN INTRODUCTION TO NORTHLAND FERTILITYCARE | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:00pm - 8:30pm | Virtual

In addition to receiving your promotional materials, Anna Crain, Director of Northland FertilityCare™, will be conducting a special virtual introductory session on Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00pm for all clergy, parish staff, marriage prep mentors, and anyone who may be referring parishioners to Northland FertilityCare™. This informative session will help you assist parishioners who would like access to Natural Family Planning and Fertility Education. Northland FertilityCare practices are fully aligned with the standards set by the USCCB. To help prepare, please register by October 3rd here: [Register for the Event](#) or email: anna.crain@northlandfc.com



CHANCERY NEWS

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October is a month filled with initiatives that focus on human dignity. Recently, Most Reverend Daniel E Thomas, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities has come out with this year's Respect Life Statement (attached at the end of this bulletin). In his statement he also touches on the topics of migration (included in last month's bulletin) and various mental health issues. October 10th - 18th, we have the opportunity to pray the Novena for Mental Health. Some of the topics included are Removing Stigma, Families, Suicide Prevention, Youth and Young Adults, etc. You can find the **Novena for Mental Health** at: usccb.org/mental-health-novena or sign up for daily emails during the novena along with more information on Mental Health resources.

National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD) Affiliate Membership: The Diocese of Superior is an affiliate member of NCPD which allows us to pass along the benefits to our parish and diocesan personnel. Please use the code: 2026-AFFILIATE10 to receive discounts on NCPD courses which include information on autism, faith formation, parish advocates, sacraments, etc. You can find more helpful information at: ncpd.org.

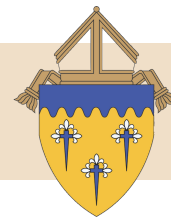
NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK | WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (WDMR)

This year, National Migration Week took place September 22nd - 28th and will culminate with the Vatican sponsored World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Although WDMR typically occurs on the last Sunday of September, this year it will take place on October 4th - 5th to coincide with the [Jubilee of Migrants](#). The primary theme for this year's WDMR is "[Migrants, Missionaries of Hope](#)," which highlights "the courage and tenacity of migrants and refugees, who bear witness daily to hope for the future despite difficulties."

The Justice for Immigrants website has a WDMR/National Migration Week subpage that will host a variety of pastoral and practical resources. Particularly important is a newly developed resource that provides guidance to Catholics who are interested in preparing a faith rally and/or vigil in support of migrants to help to raise public visibility on the migration issue and hopefully inspire Catholics to evaluate the issue of migration in light of their faith.

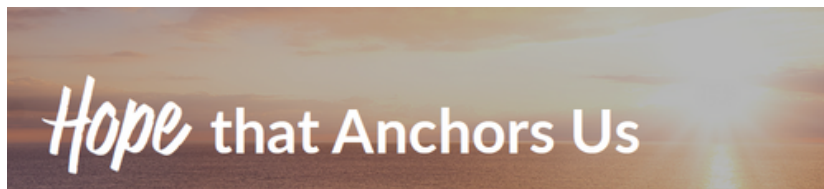


[How to Prepare a Faith Rally and Vigil To Stand with Migrants](#)



CHANCERY NEWS

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY | OCTOBER 5

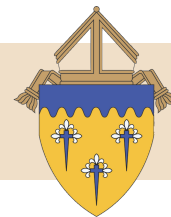


By now each parish and school should have received a packet from the USCCB containing a poster, prayer cards, and letter from Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. This year's theme is Life: Our Sign of Hope, and centers on the gift of our Baptism. Respect Life Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday of October each year and a focus on the culture of life is especially important during the month of October but continues through September of the following year. Please find attached at the end of this bulletin a couple items to be used as a bulletin insert: "Life: Our Sign of Hope" reflection and an article titled, Hope that Anchors Us. Check out the many resources available at www.RespectLife.org. Please contact Bonnie Thom, bthom@catholicdos.org if you have any questions.

LIGHTS OF RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Bishop James Powers is continuing to require/direct all diocesan parishes to maintain a "Light of Reconciliation and Forgiveness" in their worship spaces. This is a multiple-day votive light inserted into a holder and placed on a stand. Its position, color, design and appearance should strictly avoid any confusion with the sanctuary or tabernacle lamp. Incorporating the color purple into the design of the candle and/or its stand is suggested but not required. A position in or near an existing devotional area may be best, or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel if available. Having copies of "A Prayer for Our Church" nearby is encouraged. Please see the Diocesan website [Safe Environment Page](#) under Prayers for the text of [A Prayer for Our Church](#).





CHANCERY NEWS

DIOCESAN POLICY MANUAL NOW ONLINE

The Diocesan Policy Manual is now on the diocesan website at catholicdos.org/diocesan-policies. A hard copy version will not be sent out to parishes. This electronic version will allow us to update policies in real time. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Gronski, cgronski@catholicdos.org.

OCTOBER MASS COUNT SURVEY | OCTOBER 18 - 19

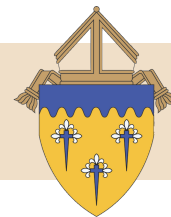
Mass attendance counting started in July of 1999. This information, especially when combined with the SAQ data, is essential to both short-term and long-term diocesan planning. The October Mass Count is scheduled for the weekend of October 18th - 19th. A tally sheet for recording attendance will soon arrive via email. Please contact Amy Little, alittle@catholicdos.org if you have any questions.

QUARTERLY PARISH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT | ANUNCIO DEL BOLETÍN PARROQUIAL

Pastors, parochial administrators, parish life coordinators, and parish directors are reminded that the following notice should be published quarterly in parish bulletins. "The Catholic Church is working diligently to prevent sexual abuse by parish employees, volunteers, deacons, and priests. If you have been sexually abused by someone associated with the Church and would like to report or discuss the experience, we urge you to contact: Bonnie Thom (715) 718-1110. The Diocese of Superior welcomes your call and understands how difficult it may be to reach out in this situation. The phone number provided is confidential and dedicated solely to these calls. Know that your call will be treated with respect, dignity, and compassion. The Diocese of Superior is bound by civil and canon law to report sexual abuse of a minor to civil authorities. Anyone who believes that they have been sexually abused is strongly encouraged to report as well."

"La Iglesia Católica está trabajando arduamente para evitar que sus empleados, voluntarios, diáconos y sacerdotes cometan abuso sexual. Si usted ha sido abusado sexualmente por alguien asociado con la iglesia y le gustaría poder reportarlo o hablar con alguien, le pedimos que por favor se comuniquen con : Bonnie Thom (715) 718-1110. La diócesis de Superior entiende que es difícil pedir ayuda en casos de abuso sexual. Por eso el número telefónico es estrictamente para reportar estos casos y la llamada es confidencial. Su llamada será tratada con respeto y dignidad. Conforme a la ley civil y de la iglesia, la diócesis de Superior está obligada a reportar a las autoridades cualquier reporte de abuso sexual a un menor. A cualquier persona que piense que ha sido abusada sexualmente se le sugiere o recomienda reportarlo."

If there are questions about the above notice, please contact Dan Blank, Director of Administrative Services: (715) 394-0211, dblank@catholicdos.org.



CHANCERY NEWS

FALL 2025 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

<u>PARISHES</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
NEW RICHMOND, Immaculate Conception (17) <i>Erin, St. Patrick</i>	Sunday	October 5	9:00a
HUDSON, St. Patrick (35)	Saturday	October 11	5:00p
SPOONER, St. Francis de Sales (24) <i>Hayward, St. Joseph</i> <i>Dobie, Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	Sunday	October 12	10:00a
WOODRUFF, Holy Family (30) <i>Eagle River, St. Peter the Fisherman</i> <i>Three Lakes, St. Theresa</i> <i>Sugar Camp, St. Kunegunda</i> <i>Land O' Lakes, St. Albert</i> <i>Rhineland, Nativity of Our Lord</i>	Sunday	October 19	3:00p
CAMERON, St. Peter (11) <i>Barron, St. Joseph</i> <i>Chetek, St. Boniface</i> <i>Strickland, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Saturday	October 25	5:00p
GLENWOOD CITY, St. John the Baptist (13)	Sunday	October 26	8:00a
MEDFORD, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (38) <i>Whittlesey, Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> <i>Stetsonville, Sacred Heart of Jesus</i> <i>Rib Lake, Good Shepherd</i> <i>Merrill, St. Francis Xavier</i>	Saturday	November 1	5:00p



JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Universal Church is celebrating the [Jubilee Year 2025](#) – 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord. The Jubilee Year offers the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in local dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Bishop Powers opened the Jubilee Year on December 29, 2024 at Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior.

As a special focus in the Diocese of Superior, Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior and St. Joseph in La Pointe on Madeline Island are designated as holy sites to receive indulgences. Another special focus for the Jubilee Year is on celebrating the Consecrated Life that served our parishes in the past and the faithful sons and daughters of our diocese who committed themselves to Consecrated Life.

A handbook for parishes to use to plan events and also celebrate with the diocese can be found [HERE](#). Additional information is here: uscgb.org/jubilee2025. For any questions, please contact Peggy Schoenfuss, pschoenfuss@catholicdos.org.

CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE DAYS THROUGHOUT 2025

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. These resource packets can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their specific Jubilee celebration. These resources may also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for your community.

OCTOBER 4th - 5th | [JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS](#)



OCTOBER 4th - 5th | [JUBILEE OF THE MISSIONS](#)



OCTOBER 8th - 9th | [JUBILEE OF CONSECRATED LIFE](#)

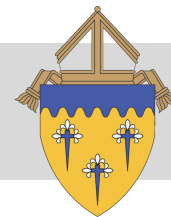


OCTOBER 11th - 12th | [JUBILEE OF MARIAN SPIRITUALITY](#)



OCTOBER 31st - NOVEMBER 2nd | [JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION](#)





BISHOP HAMMES CENTER

FALL CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 24

The 63rd Annual Fall Conference will be at St. Joseph in Rice Lake on October 24th from 9:00am - 3:30pm. The diocese plans and prepares for this conference each year in order to provide our teachers and catechists relevant and timely topics. This year's theme will focus on AI and the Catholic worldview. Our speaker - John Brahier - is the Director of Educational Engagement for Longbeard, the creator of Magisterium AI. He previously served in various roles supporting Catholic education, including Associate Superintendent for Catholic Culture in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Director of Campus Ministry at a Catholic high school, and teacher of both math and theology. The day will include Mass with Bishop Powers, two keynotes, multiple breakout session options - **including one just for clergy on AI**, lunch, and a gym full of vendors! We can't wait to see you all there! Stay tuned on all things Fall Conference [HERE](#) (including registration info).

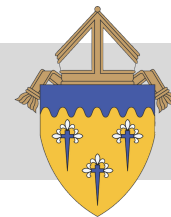
FOCCUS FACILITATOR TRAINING | OCTOBER 25 OR NOVEMBER 15

The Diocese will be offering FOCCUS Facilitator Trainings on the following Saturdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The October 25th offering will take place at St. Peter in Cameron (registration deadline is **October 10th**). The November 15th offering will take place at St. Mary in Tomahawk (registration deadline is **October 31st**). Deacon Greg Ricci and his wife Elaine of St. Anthony in Cumberland will be doing the training. The FOCCUS inventory continues to be an invaluable tool required by the Wisconsin Bishops for preparing couples for a healthy and fruitful life together in the sacrament of marriage. These trainings are for anyone your parish asks to serve as facilitators for the FOCCUS inventory, be that deacons, priests or lay couples. If you do not have someone in this role, please invite those you think would be a good fit for this. The cost per person/couple is \$60 which will cover the lunch, and the training materials that will be given to attendees. It is suggested that the parish covers this cost as the facilitators will be providing a vital service to your parish's marriage preparation ministry. To register, call or email JulieAnne at (715) 234-5044, jjohnson@catholicdos.org.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK | NOVEMBER 2 - 8



Looking for ways to celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week in your parish? Vianney Vocations has numerous materials and resources! Check out books, bulletin inserts, prayer cards, bookmarks, posters, coloring sheets & so much more. Click [here](#) to view them all!



BISHOP HAMMES CENTER

HIGH SCHOOL DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND | NOVEMBER 14 - 16

Are there high schoolers in your Faith Formation program that want to dig a little deeper? This weekend is built for them! High School Discipleship Weekend is a dive into formation, prayer & the sacraments. Also included is time for outdoor adventure & fellowship with other high school students desiring the Lord. The fall offering will be at CrossWoods Adventure Camp in Mason, WI. Note that High School Discipleship Weekend is also a requirement for any high schoolers planning to be high school leaders at Extreme Faith Camp. Click [HERE](#) for more information and parish registration form which is due **October 10th**.

OCIA WORKSHOP | DECEMBER 6

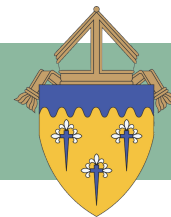
The diocese will host a workshop for OCIA teams at the St. Joseph parish center in Hayward on Saturday, December 6th from 9:00am to 2:30pm. The day will provide an in-depth overview of the OCIA process, the structure, the rites, and how OCIA fits in the broader context of the mission of Evangelization. Fr. Isaiah Schick will be the primary presenter. The Offices of Evangelization & Missionary Discipleship and the Office of Worship are co-sponsoring this important event. There is no cost for this workshop. Lunch will be provided. To register, call or email JulieAnne at (715) 234-5044, jjohnson@catholicdos.org.

ONLINE SWAG STORE
now open

Check out returning favorites, and shop new items!

link to store above | store closes **October 10!**

markitmyway.chipply.com/dioceseofsuperior



OFFICE OF ECCLESIAL MINISTRIES | [Chris Newkirk](#)

SCHOOL OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CALENDAR 2025-2026

August - April

Fridays, 6:00pm - 9:00pm and Saturdays, 8:30am - 4:00pm

Meals provided

St. Anthony Parish Hall | Tony



His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."
(John 2:5)

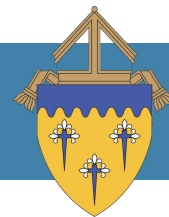
Get ready to lead with purpose! As fall approaches, so does an incredible opportunity to grow in faith, leadership, and service. The Diocese of Superior's 2025-2026 School of Servant Leadership is back – and you won't want to miss it!

This inspiring series of presentations is designed for those who feel called to lead – in the Church, in the community, or in the workplace – and who recognize that true leadership begins with service.

Led by Christine Newkirk, Bluette Puchner, and a lineup of engaging speakers, this year's program will challenge and empower you to embrace your vocation to serve with courage, compassion, and commitment. Discover what it means to be a servant leader, and, as a disciple of Christ – someone who lifts others up, fosters growth, builds community, and lives with purpose. Whether you're discerning your path or already leading in your parish or profession, this is your chance to be inspired, equipped, and transformed. Answer the call. Step into your potential. Be a light to the world.

September 12-13	Foundations in Servant Leadership	Tom Thibodeau
October 3-4	Servant Leadership through Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	Chris Hurtubise
November 7-8	Building Assets and Affirming Strengths	Bob Lecheler
December 12-13	Building Community	Richard Kyte
January 16-17	Stewardship/Ethical Decisions	Richard Kyte
February 13-14	Prophetic Leadership	Bob Lecheler
March 13-14	Peace Building Conflict Resolution	Sr. Georgia Christensen
April 17-18	Ritual/Tradition/Celebration	Tom Thibodeau

Course information and program details are available online at catholicdos.org/school-of-servant-leadership. Registration for the complete program has closed, but you may contact Christine directly if you are interested in registering for a specific course, or with any other program-related questions. Registration forms may be mailed to the address listed on the registration form, or register online by clicking the link [here](#).



OFFICE OF WORSHIP | [Paul Birch](#)

2025- 2026 DIOCESAN CALENDAR OF FEASTS, FASTS AND PARTICULAR LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES

catholicdos.org/liturgical-seasons: Call the Office of Worship at (715) 394-0233 for paper copies.

NEW TRANSLATION OF RITUAL BOOK:

Order of the Anointing of the Sick and their Pastoral Care

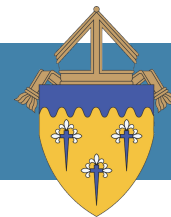
This newly translated text will replace the Anointing ritual that has been in use since the early 1980's, Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum. Besides the newly translated texts, the structure of the ritual book has changed. The ritual from the 1980's was arranged in a manner suitable for use by both clergy and lay ministers. The new ritual text will be only for use by Priests and Deacons. However, as the implementation date approaches, the USCCB will ensure that non-ordained ministers continue to have access to those texts which they use in ministry to the sick and homebound. The newly translated rite may begin to be used as of February 11th, 2026 (the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes). Its use is obligatory as of April 5th, 2026 (Easter Sunday). Once information about the publishers is released there will be an opportunity for a diocesan bulk order of the new ritual books, timed so that they will be available for pick-up at our diocesan 2026 Priest Assembly / Mass of Chrism – Sunday, March 22nd through Tuesday, March 24th. catholicdos.org/ritual-books-new-editions

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY IMPLEMENTATION STAGE 2025-2028

Within the implementation stage of the synod, our local Church is called to receive the directives of the [Final Document](#) of the Synod and begin to apply them through a process of accompaniment and evaluation. In review of the Final Document, the Diocese of Superior has identified that much of what is expressed and expected of the local Church is already in process through our Maintenance to Mission initiative and pastoral plan. As a diocese, we will continue follow the [Pathways for the Implementation](#) through our Maintenance to Mission. While we remain on this journey, **please continue to recite the Synodal Prayer at Mass at a minimum of one weekend per month**. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Schoenfuss, pschoenfuss@catholicdos.org.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE MATERIALS

The diocesan Office of Worship provides Advent Communal Penance Service materials for parish use. The format includes a leader's booklet intended for use by the Priest-celebrant and assisting ministers. A separate one-page worship booklet for assembly use is also provided. Click on the link for the materials: catholicdos.org/communal-penance-services



OFFICE OF WORSHIP | [Paul Birch](#)

LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MASS AND LITURGY OF THE HOURS ON ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY IN 2025—PROVIDED BY THE USCCB SECRETARIAT OF DIVINE WORSHIP

In 2025, the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st falls on a Saturday, with the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) taking place on the following Sunday, November 2nd. Both All Saints Day and All Souls' Day are ranked at no. 3 on the Table of Liturgical Days.

"Saturday-Monday rule," as usual

All Saint's Day is not a holy day of obligation this year, owing to the 1992 decision of the USCCB abrogating the precept to attend Mass when November 1st falls on a Saturday or Monday.

Liturgy of the Hours

- On Friday evening, October 31st, Evening Prayer of All Saints is celebrated.
- On Saturday, November 1st, both Morning and Evening Prayer II of All Saints Day are celebrated. (Though for pastoral reasons where it is the custom, Evening Prayer II may be followed by Evening Prayer for the Dead.)
- For Sunday, November 2nd, the Office for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time is said, especially in individual recitation. (The Office of the Dead may be used, however, if Morning or Evening Prayer is celebrated with the people.)

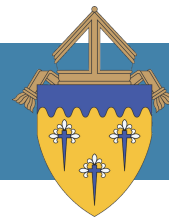
Mass

- On Friday evening Masses are those of the day since All Saints Day is not a day of precept this year and thus may not be anticipated.
- On Saturday evening any normally scheduled anticipated Masses should be for All Souls' Day. (If desired for pastoral reasons, a Mass of All Saints Day outside the usual Mass schedule may be celebrated on Saturday evening.)

The following chart may be helpful in this regard:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENING MASS</u>	<u>LITURGY OF THE HOURS</u>
Saturday, November 1 st , '25	All Souls' (anticipated)	Morning and Evening Prayer II of All Saint (EP of the Dead optional after EP II of All Saints)
Sunday, November 2 nd , '25	All Souls'	<i>Individual recitation:</i> Morning and Evening Prayer II of 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Celebrated with the people:</i> Office of the Dead

Continued on next page...



OFFICE OF WORSHIP | [Paul Birch](#)

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Ritual Masses

- Since Saturday is a common day for the celebration of Marriage in the United States, it should be noted that Ritual Masses are forbidden on All Saints Day.
- While the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage is forbidden, the Mass of the Day with the ritual itself and the nuptial blessing could be celebrated.
- Alternatively, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass could also be used if the celebration of Marriage is to take place on this day.
- Ritual Masses are also forbidden on All Souls' Day.
- Because All Saints Day is not a holy day of obligation in 2025, funeral Masses may be celebrated on this day.

THANKSGIVING DAY | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

In the diocese of Superior, Thanksgiving Day has been chosen as one of our four Special Days of Prayer and focuses on gratitude for the harvest and the fruits of the earth. Proper orations and a preface for Mass on this day are found in the Missal at Masses and Prayers for various Needs and Occasions, either its no. 28 (After the Harvest) or no. 49 (For Giving Thanks to God) along with their suggested prefaces. Options for scripture readings are found in Volume IV of the Lectionary (nos. 943-947 – In Thanksgiving to God).

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated as a holy day of obligation in 2025.

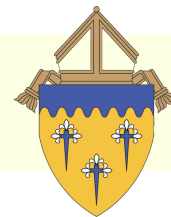
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD | THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

This is celebrated as a holy day of obligation in 2026.

LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT A 35% DISCOUNT

Most LTP materials include a 35% discount if ordered via our diocesan website [HERE](#). Upon receipt of the LTP invoice, parishes should reimburse LTP directly. LTP shipping charges (minimum \$9) are 10% of order value or actual cost, whichever is higher, plus a fee of \$6.00 per drop-ship delivery address. Orders for electronic items do not qualify for the discount.

Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls. -Mother Teresa



SUBMITTED EVENTS

ST. MICHAEL EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES DISPLAY | OCTOBER 1 - 6

St. Michael, Iron River

St. Michael in Iron River welcomes everyone to come and learn about many Eucharistic miracles confirmed from around the world. The display will be ongoing from Wednesday, October 1st - Monday, October 6th at various times. A hardcopy of the flyer is attached at the end of this bulletin. Contact: (715) 372-4756 | stmichaelironriver@gmail.com



JOIN US

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES DISPLAY

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
68105 S GEORGE ST, IRON RIVER WI



WEDNESDAY OCT 1	THURSDAY OCT 2	FRIDAY OCT 3
🕒 6pm-8pm Living Rosary 6pm	🕒 8am-3pm Adoration 8am, Mass 9am 🕒 5pm-7:30pm	🕒 8am-3pm Adoration 8am, Mass 9am 🕒 5pm-8pm
SATURDAY OCT 4	SUNDAY OCT 5	MONDAY OCT 6
🕒 2pm-7pm Mass 4pm	🕒 8am-4pm Mass 9am	🕒 8am-10am Adoration 8am, Mass 9am

Come read about & see photos of some of the Eucharistic miracles confirmed from around the world. Invite your family & friends!

NORTHWOODSCATHOLICS.ORG
715-372-4756
STMICHAELIRONRIVER@GMAIL.COM

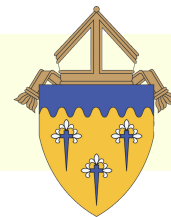
THE STORY OF ST. FRANCIS TRANSITUS | OCTOBER 3

St. Joseph, Hayward

We welcome you to join the St. Junipero Serra Secular Franciscans at St. Joseph's in Hayward at 6:00pm on Friday, October 3rd, to hear of a very old story they are sharing! The story of St. Francis' Transitus – his passage from this life to eternal life. This story will renew our Christian faith and evoke our Christian hope. Everyone is welcome – light refreshments following. Please see the flyer attached at the end of this bulletin.



Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls. -Mother Teresa



SUBMITTED EVENTS

PRE-MARRIAGE RETREAT | OCTOBER 11

Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Medford will be hosting a Pre-Marriage Retreat Day for engaged couples on Saturday, October 11th from 8:30am - 6:00pm. This retreat offers virtue-based topics on spirituality/faith, communication, conflict resolution skills, financial decision-making, intimacy/cohabitation, children, commitment, ceremony planning, marriage as a sacrament, sexuality, theology of the body, and couple prayer. The purpose of these courses is to deepen the couples' understanding of the sacrament, helping the couple to get to know each other, learn about their values, and become even more aware of one's own inner worlds. Retreat content per: "[Living a Joy Filled Marriage program](#)". Cost is \$100 / couple and includes morning coffee and snacks, lunch, and materials needed for the day. Register with Michelle Oates by **October 1st** by calling (715) 748-3336 (ext. 247).

CONFIRMATION RETREAT | OCTOBER 17 - 18

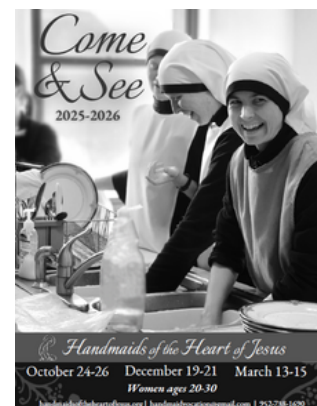
The Superior Catholic cluster would like to invite any confirmation students in the diocese to their confirmation retreat taking place October 17th - 18th at Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior. The retreat will begin at 6:00pm on Friday the 17th, and ends at 5:00pm on Saturday the 18th. Contact Virginia Kovaleski with any questions and to register at (952) 300-1671. Registration deadline is **October 1st**.

HANDMAIDS OF THE HEART OF JESUS COME & SEE OPPORTUNITIES | 2025 AND 2026

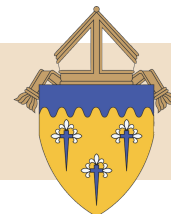
2025: October 24th - 26th; December 19th - 21st

2026: March 13th - 15th

The [Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus](#) are a religious community of sisters in New Ulm, MN. They are offering a handful of Come and See opportunities this school year. "A Come and See retreat is designed to give women an experience of our life from the inside. In addition to entering into our rhythm of prayer and the joys of community life, retreatants receive conferences on religious life and guidance in their discernment. Above all, it is a time to be with Jesus as He reveals His love and the desires of His Heart. Good candidates for a Come and See retreat are single Catholic women, ages 20-30, who are in good health and have been living a life faithful to prayer and the sacraments for at least one year." Click [here](#) for more info!



If you are interested in having an event submitted to the Chancery Bulletin, please email Amy Little (alittle@catholicdos.org) or JulieAnne Johnson (jjohnson@catholicdos.org). Please include 1) Name of event 2) Location 3) Date & time 4) Basic information about event 5) How to register (if applicable) 6) Contact person/phone/email for event.



CLERGY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Very Rev. John R. Gerritts
10/02 Dcn. Dennis C. Geisler
10/02 Dcn. John Woehrle
10/03 Very Rev. Aloysius Royan Anthony
10/04 Dcn. John E. Grek
10/09 Rev. Gregory J. Hopefl
10/11 Dcn. Thomas E. Fuhrmann
10/11 Rev. Adam Laski
10/11 Dcn. Robin Major
10/12 Dcn. Joseph J. Wesley
10/12 Rev. Thomas Naveen Sagili
10/18 Rev. Michael T. Hayden
10/24 Dcn. Peter R. Braam
10/27 Dcn. Daniel R. Kohler
10/29 Rev. Julian Druffner
10/30 Dcn. John McCaughn

ORDINATIONS

10/02 Dcn. James J. Celba
10/10 Dcn. John J. Bardos
10/19 Dcn. Thomas J. Weiss
10/21 Dcn. Michael Ryan
10/25 Dcn. Michael O. Harvey
10/29 Rev. John R. Long

CLERGY PRAYER CALENDAR

WORD OF LIFE

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

OFFICE OF RESPECT FOR LIFE | Bonita Thom

IMPACT

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT | Steve Tarnowski

SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | Intercessions for Mission/Evangelization, Youth and Vocations

HANDBOOK CHANGES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR | Peggy Schoenfuss

LIFE

Our Sign of Hope



There is perhaps no more beautiful celebration than when parents bring their newborn child to the waters of baptism. Parents, godparents, family, and friends share in this sacrament with incomparable joy. For in baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and through the outward signs of water and oil, are made *children of God* and given the hope of eternal life with Him.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope."¹ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. "Hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring."² Because of this Christian hope, we can face the unknown trials of life with faith rather than fear.

We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth. Pope Leo XIV encourages us, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."³

Sadly, there is a devastating absence of hope today. We see this most profoundly in a sweeping disregard for human life in its most vulnerable forms and stages. Abortion and assisted suicide are products of

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

hopelessness and despair. Yet even amid the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."⁴

We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened. For "hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."⁵

Having been "buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death."⁶ Confident of God's presence within us, may we share the Gospel of Life with those most in need of hope, knowing that "the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope."⁷

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² *Ibid.*, 1.

³ Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 25.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

Hope that Anchors Us

Facing the end of life, whether for ourselves or someone we love, can stir fear, sadness and deep questions about what lies ahead. Yet, in these moments, we are called to cling to a hope far greater than anything this world offers. Christian hope is not just a wish for things to improve; it is a certainty, rooted in a person who will never fail us. Our hope rests in the One who guarantees it—Jesus Christ, who holds our future in His hands.

So how do we truly live out this hope, especially when suffering weighs heavy?

Let us use the letters of the word “hope” to reflect more deeply on the assurance Jesus has given us.

Holding Fast to Christ

Our hope is not in vague ideas but in Jesus Christ: God who took on flesh, loved us to the end, and conquered death. When life’s final chapter feels uncertain, He remains our sure and steadfast anchor. We are held by a God who keeps His promises. “The mystery of the Redemption of the human person is in an astonishing way rooted in the loving involvement of God with human suffering. That is why we can entrust ourselves to God and to convey this certainty in faith to the person who is suffering and fearful of pain and death.”¹

Overcoming Death

Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ, overcame death and gave us the hope of joining Him in eternal life. Eternal life is a relationship with our Lord who does not die, who is Life and Love itself. “Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior.”² Thanks to the grace of Christ, death is not the end of life but a promise of communion with God. This is the glorious future awaiting us, and the great hope that steadies us even now when we are suffering.

Persevering in Solidarity

The Gospel is not just information; it transforms. It changes our life and enables us to act. Since we know who holds our tomorrow, we can face today’s fears with courage. This hope reshapes how we face suffering. It means living our final days not in despair, but with joy, offering our pain as prayer and witness.

This hope is not just for us; it is a light we pass to others. In hospice rooms, family conversations, and quiet acts of care for others, we become living reminders that no life is beyond God’s reach. “The scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because ‘remaining’ by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains.”³ Together, we can build communities anchored in solidarity that no illness or grief can destroy. We believe that every human

life, to the very last breath, has inestimable value and demands our protection and care.

Embracing Suffering

Jesus did not just observe human suffering—He entered into it. Our God chose to become like us! Love Himself chose to suffer with us, and that changes everything. Even when we feel alone, He is there, whispering, “I am with you.” Our suffering becomes meaningful when united to Christ’s suffering on the Cross. When we unite our pain with His, it becomes a share in God’s redeeming work, a mystery where our deepest wounds become vessels of grace. This is the scandal of our faith: a God who did not spare Himself so that we would know we are never abandoned.



Isaiah the prophet tells us, “They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (Is. 40:31). In life’s hardest moments, let us fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. He walks this path with us, redeems our struggles, and promises a dawn where every tear is wiped away. May His hope light our way, guiding us and our loved ones to our heavenly home with Him.

¹ *Samaritanus bonus*, Conclusion.

² Ibid, V, 10.

³ Ibid, II.

Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved. Excerpts from *Samaritanus bonus (On the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life)* © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Models used for illustrative purposes only. Copyright © 2025, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | uscgb.org/prolife



fb.com/uscgbrespectlife



[@uscgbprolife](https://twitter.com/uscgbprolife)



[@ProjectRachel](https://twitter.com/ProjectRachel)

RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2025

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

With great joy we celebrate October as Respect Life Month amid the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope. This Jubilee Year "offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama."¹ The life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious.

Yet, the daily headlines remind us of how desperately our world is thirsting for the hope that only God can provide. Every day we witness the overwhelming disregard for human life: through rising rates of abortion and assisted suicide; the killing of innocent school children, even at prayer; the mistreatment of our immigrant sisters and brothers as they endure an environment of aggression; and political and ideological violence inflicted against unsuspecting victims. These attacks threaten life precisely when it is most vulnerable and in need of protection.

Despite these realities, the gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death. It is of the utmost importance that we work to ensure that every life, in every stage and circumstance, is protected in law.

Earlier this year, history was made when Planned Parenthood and other big abortion businesses were banned from receiving federal Medicaid dollars for one year. I thank Catholics across the country who

"The gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death."

have embraced a **nationwide call to prayer** for the end of all taxpayer funding of abortion centers, and I ask that we continue those prayers throughout the month of October.

This Jubilee Year we are challenged to be agents of hope to those whose hearts are burdened by trial, difficulty, or suffering, offering them the hope that comes from Christ Jesus alone. **Walking with Moms in Need** and **Project Rachel Ministry** are just two examples of how the Church continuously reaches out with love, compassion, and mercy to those most in need of a message of hope.

As we begin Respect Life Month, together we embrace the words of Pope Leo XIV, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."² Each of us is called to be a witness to the Gospel of Life, proclaiming in word and deed the innate goodness and dignity of every human person.

For information on Respect Life Month, visit **<https://www.respectlife.org/>**.

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

A Prayer for Our Church



Heavenly Father,
In every age you have been our refuge.
Yet again and still, we stand before you
asking for your protection on your holy Church

For the victims of abuse and their families,
pour out your healing and your peace.

For the bishops of this country,
continue to inspire their decisions,
and guide them with your Spirit.

For the thousands of good and faithful priests,
who have followed your call to serve you and your people in holiness,
sustain them by your grace.

For the faithful who are angry, confused, and searching for answers,
embrace them with your love,
restore their trust,
console them with your clear Gospel message,
and renew them with your sacraments.

We place our Church in your hands,
for without you we can do nothing.
May Jesus, our High Priest and true compass,
Continue lead her in every thought and action –
to be an instrument of justice,
a source of consolation,
a sacrament of unity,
and a manifestation of your faithful covenant.

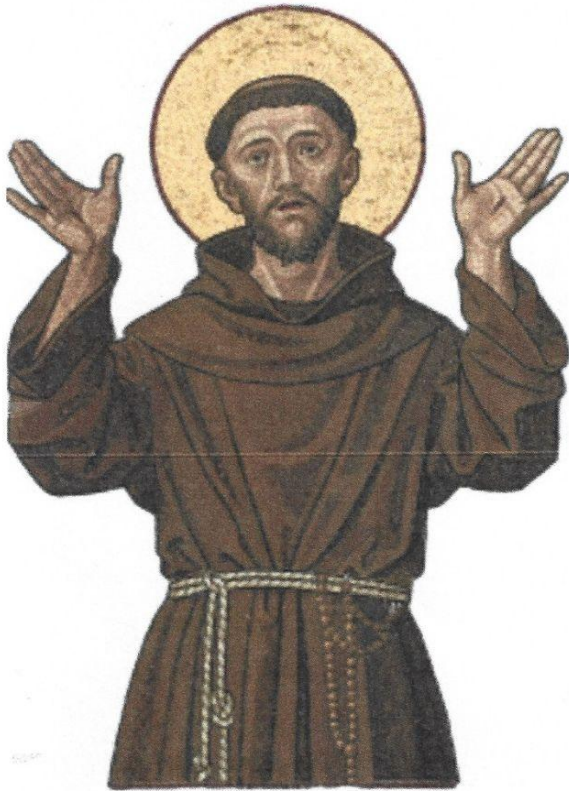
Grant this through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE STORY

OF

St. Francis' Transitus



We welcome you to join us... We have a very old story to tell!

The story of St. Francis' Transitus – his passage from this life to eternal life.

We tell this story to renew our Christian faith and evoke our Christian hope.

6:00 pm

Friday, October 3rd

Light Refreshments Following

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Everyone is welcome
10586 N. Dakota Ave
Hayward, WI 54843

EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES DISPLAY

JOIN US



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
68105 S GEORGE ST, IRON RIVER WI

**WEDNESDAY
OCT 1**

🕒 **6pm-8pm**
Living Rosary 6pm

**THURSDAY
OCT 2**

🕒 **8am-3pm**
Adoration 8am,
Mass 9pm
🕒 **5pm-7:30pm**

**FRIDAY
OCT 3**

🕒 **8am-3pm**
Adoration 8am,
Mass 9pm
🕒 **5pm-8pm**

**SATURDAY
OCT 4**

🕒 **2pm-7pm**
Mass 4pm

**SUNDAY
OCT 5**

🕒 **8am-4pm**
Mass 9am

**MONDAY
OCT 6**

🕒 **8am-10am**
Adoration 8am,
Mass 9pm

Come read about & see photos of some of the Eucharistic miracles confirmed from around the world. Invite your family & friends!

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