



Returning to Mass

Hard to believe that 6 months ago parishes across the United States shut down -- no public Mass, because of the Covid 19 crisis, and the bishops granted a temporary dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday and Holy Day Eucharist.

As you recall back at the end of May, many Wisconsin churches opened their doors to the faithful again, with certain restrictions: face mask, hand sanitizer, social (I call it "physical") distancing, communion in the pew (at St. Matthew), 25% capacity, signing up for Mass ... fortunately we no longer require the latter (signing up for Mass). Again, many thought this would be a temporary condition till the end of June.

For St. Matthew Parish the situation has also added some expenses we did not budget for: hand sanitizer, rubber gloves, face masks, sanitizer for the pews, towels to wipe down the pews after each Mass In addition, the costs incurred for upgrading our technology so we can live stream Masses and project the readings and responses on the screen in church — because we can't leave the hymnals in the pews. (I should note that sanitizing the pews every day is taking its toll on the beautiful wood finish that was applied in 2015, so we will have to find a way to restore them once this is over.)

Nevertheless, God has truly blessed our parish financially and spiritually. You have all been so generous financially during these difficult economic times. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. Matthew Parish. We are just barely paying off expenses each week so please continue to remember to support your parish.

I was so glad we were able to have adoration every day from the time the shutdown began until we reopened. Thank you for your prayerfulness and desire to be with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to many volunteer "adorers," we still continue to have adoration on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 am - 5 pm.

Yet, here we are, three and a half months after opening the doors, wondering how long this will last. Fortunately, there is a light at the end of this tunnel.

On August 31, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference of Bishops announced that dispensation from attendance at Mass would end in September 2020 across the state. The Archbishop or Bishop of each Wisconsin diocese will announce to the faithful how and when the dispensation will expire within their diocese. These communications will include clarifications on when the obligation may be excused due to illness or other factors. The bishops are grateful for the understanding and commitment of the faithful, who continue to practice care for one another through trying times.

Collectively, the bishops were enthusiastic about the return to in-person Mass and the Eucharist, which is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC, No. 1324). They echoed the Holy Father's recent statement on the importance of attending Mass: "We cannot do without the Eucharist, for it is God's memorial. And it heals our wounded memory." (Homily on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 14, 2020) As pastors, the bishops of Wisconsin encourage all who are healthy to seek the healing presence of Christ, the Bread of Life, through a return to Mass.

The priests of the Diocese of La Crosse recently received an email letter from Bishop William Callahan about the return to Mass. I am sharing with you portions of the letter.

Fr. Bob

Dear Brothers:

Peace and good to all of you!

We bishops spent some time discussing remotely when to lift the dispensation. The time seemed right for the lifting of the dispensation from the obligation, because our people, according to the observation of the bishops, seemed eager to get "back to normal attendance" at Mass.

With five Ordinaries in Zoom attendance, there were five different points of view but one clear idea seemed to emerge — that September could be the time to make the move. Different dates were brought forward with Milwaukee being the first (14 September, The Triumph of the Cross) and La Crosse being last (we are considering 30 September, with the dispensation lifted on the following Sunday, 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis [a Diocesan Patron]).

All of the dioceses have opted for different days given the different interpretations from Health Care offices in different counties.

In light of this decision many of the notes, emails, and phone calls that have been received at my office indicate an equal share of anxiety and concern. The lifting of the dispensation and the return to full in-person attendance also seems to lift the ban on 25% occupancy, etc. None of the bishops want to place any of our priests or the faithful in jeopardy of COVID 19. The return to in-person celebration, as best we can, will and must take into consideration the general fear that many of our people seem to have right now about going out in public.

So many fears weigh heavily on our minds and hearts right now — the pandemic, the political situation, civil unrest, and economic pressures. In this framework it would make sense for us to pray and to huddle close to Source and Summit of our Salvation, the Eucharistic Presence of our Blessed Lord.

We must, however, approach the Throne of Mercy and Grace with open minds and common sense. We must not abandon care and prudence in our eagerness to return to "normal." It is clear we are not completely "out of the woods" just yet. Although the Feast of St. Francis is the proposed date to lift the dispensation from the obligation for the Diocese of La Crosse, we will continue to monitor the situation closely to determine our future action.

I urge you, Pastors of Souls, to remind your people of the mercy of God and their options to pray at home if they are not well or if there are any particular difficulties that they may face. Assist them and one another to move slowly back into the sanctuary. Please keep in mind that wearing masks, social distancing, sanitation and all the advisories continue as outlined in the document issued, Guidelines for the Public Celebration of Masses in the Diocese, 14 May 2020.

We can move slowly, answer questions, and plan our way back to the Sacrament of Unity. Obviously, there will be more information and more answers to come.

God be with you — thank you for your diligent and wonderful care of the gift and mystery of the holy priesthood that we are privileged to share for and with God's holy people.

+ Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, Bishop of La Crosse



Gospel Meditation A Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What right do we have to limit the amount and degree of forgiveness we show to others when we are so desperately in need of it ourselves? In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath as a way of maintaining control. It is a way to acknowledge and express our deep hurt. We fail to realize that in doing so we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in the bondage of sin. All we gain is further alienation from ourselves, others, and especially God. We are no longer free but tethered to **all of this unresolved negativity. Don't we really want to let it go? The fact is** that we need to.

A good self-reflective posture will quickly show us that when the shoe is on the other foot and we are the ones in need of forgiveness, we desire it above anything else. This is especially true with our relationship with God. It is hypocritical to want one thing for ourselves and something else for another. Yet, many act in precisely this way.

Perhaps we think that in offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable. This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. We see forgiveness as being an eraser that easily wipes away the offense without consequence. Or, we may believe that in offering forgiveness I must somehow forget the wrong and open myself as a victim of even greater possible hurts in the future. In fact, forgiving my sister or brother of their wrongful actions or attitudes involves none of this. It does not erase anything or position me vulnerably as a doormat to be walked on.

Forgiveness is an act of freedom that restores honest dialogue, shares true, and heartfelt feelings and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes our sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we **all can be victims of our passions and ... deserve unlimited chances to get it right.**

With forgiveness, I release myself from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. I do not forget the wrong nor do I dismiss it. Sometimes, we have to stay far away from the one who hurt us. But we can still heal internally and be free.

For the one who wants to be forgiven and the one who needs to offer forgiveness, the journey can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others? ©LPi



La Crosse Diocese Televised Mass

Wausau TV channels (Ch):

Cable & Satellite: Ch 12 at 6:30 am Sunday
Public Access: Ch 980 at 6 pm Sat, 9 am Sun

La Crosse Diocese Weekday Mass:

Mass is available any time of day at:

- www.dioc.org/live
- www.dioc.org/tvmass

- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/dioceseoflacrosse
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/diocl/videos

EWTN: www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live; EWTN App; YouTube Channel, & TV Sunday and daily Masses are at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm & 11 pm

Relevant Radio: www.relevantradio.com & on Relevant Radio App
Live-streamed Sunday and daily Masses: 12 noon Sunday - Saturday.
Previous Masses available 30 minutes after live broadcast.

Celebration of Sacraments



Confession

Saturday: 11:00 am - 12 noon or by Appointment

Baptism

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

Next Baptism Class: Monday, September 14: 6:30 pm-Parish Center Patio Rm

Bautismo

Para Bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase de preparación. Generalmente las clases son el primer martes de cada mes a las 6:30 pm en el centro parroquial. Para mayor informes y registrarse para la clase llame a Joy al 715-842-3148.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance with Fr Bob.

Anointing of the Sick

Call Dorothy at 715-432-5519 to make arrangements for:

- ▣ Anointing of the Sick - available when you are seriously ill or before a scheduled surgery.
- ▣ Visits to the Homebound - visits to your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Hospital Visits - Let the hospital know when you are admitted that you would like to have Fr Bob or Fr Juan Pedro visit you.

In Need of Prayer? - Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you when you need extra prayer. Call Bonnie at 715-675-9876.

* You may also call the Parish Center at 715-842-3148



Scrip Gift Cards are Still Available to Buy at St Matthew Parish Center!!!



Call the Parish Center at 715-842-3148

or Stop by Monday - Thursday 8 am - 4 pm
Friday 9 am - 12 noon

Shop with *Scrip Gift Cards* in everyday categories including groceries, gas, restaurants and more. Over 100 Wausau Area Businesses have *Scrip Gift Cards* available for purchase.

Buy cards for you and your family for everyday purchases and **don't forget they make perfect gifts for that hard to buy for person!**

Help support St Matthew Parish without spending extra money by using Scrip when you shop. When you buy a \$25 Texas Roadhouse Scrip Gift Card you get \$25 to spend at Texas Roadhouse Restaurant and the Texas Roadhouse gives St Matthew Parish a 15% **rebate. It's a win-win situation.** St Matthew Parish receives a rebate and you get good food to eat! (Rebate percentages vary from 1.5% to 25% depending on the business. If you buy Scrip directly online, *choose St Matthew Parish as the beneficiary.*)

How to Order Scrip Gift Cards

1. St Matthew Parish Center: Call 715-842-3148 to order Scrip. To get Scrip by Thursday, call in your order by 9 am Monday. *No transaction fees when you pay St Matthew Parish directly!*
2. Newman Catholic Schools Scrip Office - Online Only: Call: 715-849-7713 Email: scrip@newmancatholicschools.com
If you pay with a credit card there is a 2.6% fee per transaction, or to order online you will need to set up a PrestoPay account.



This Week at
Saint Matthew
(Please bring a mask.)

Monday, September 14

Baptism Class - Parish Center Patio Room: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Jubilee House Core Meeting - Parish Center Library: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, September 15

Bible Study - Church, Angelorum: 10:30 am - 12 noon
Bible Study - Church, Angelorum: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Finance Committee Meeting - Rectory: 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 16

Peacemakers Quilters - Parish Center Patio Room: 1 pm
Catechist Meeting - Parish Center Patio Room: 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 17

Healing Fire of the Spirit Prayer Meeting - Church, Angelorum: 6 - 8 pm

Sunday, September 20

Catechetical Sunday - 10 am Mass



Mass Intentions

September 14 - 20, 2020



Monday 8:00 am - Living & †Deceased Butzen & Beaver Families
Tuesday 8:00 am - †Michael "Mike" Lach
Wednesday 8:00 am - †Don Southworth
Thursday 8:00 am - Jack & Mary Ann Neuens - Wedding Anniversary
Friday 8:00 am - †Lawrence & †Helen Mocello
Saturday 8:00 am - †Poor Souls in Purgatory
4:30 pm - †Juan Vargas Fernandez & †Travis Juan Vargas
Sunday 8:00 am - †Rick Henrichs
10:00 am - St Matthew Parishioners
12 noon - †Israel Jacinto, †Rey David Jacinto,
and †Rafaela Gonzalez Salinas

Annual Evening of Reflection Cancelled

We are cancelling our Annual Evening of Reflection this year. We have high hopes of having it next year, 2021. It had been scheduled for October 1st so please take it off your calendars.

Pray for an end to this Co-Vid19. Thank you.

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor: Rev Robert C Thorn - frbob@stmatthewausau.org
Assoc Pastor: Rev Juan Pedro Roblez Baltazar - frjuan@stmatthewausau.org
Deacon: Rev Mr Tom Tierney
Pastoral Care: Dorothy Gialombardo - dorothy@stmatthewausau.org
Secretary: Ann Graveen - anngn@stmatthewausau.org
Finance Secretary: Barb Splinter - barbfinance@stmatthewausau.org
Plant Manager: Jason Seliger
DRE & Hispanic RE: Joy Orozco - joydre@stmatthewausau.org
Bulletin Editor: Rosemary Beever - rosemmarybulletin@stmatthewausau.org
Bulletin Deadline - 3 pm Monday

Scripture Readings

Monday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4-9/Ps 78/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31/Ps 100/Lk 2:33-35
Weds, Sept 16 - St Cornelius, Pope & St Cyprian, Bishop - Martyrs
1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday, Sept 17 - St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop/Doctor of Church
1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118/Lk 7:36-50
Friday, September 18
1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday, September 19 - Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56/Lk 8:4-15
Sun, Sept 20 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Catechetical Sunday
Is 55:6-9/Ps 145/Phil 1:20-24, 27/Mt 20:1-16



Sharing God's Blessings

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Minimum Budgeted Amount Needed Weekly.....\$9,612.00
Sunday Collection.....\$9,388.85
SCRIP.....\$1,160.00

Calendar Raffle Winner: August 31 - Mike Ptaszynski (#619)
Calendar Raffle Winner: September 7 - Mark Shebuski (#806)

Parish Contributions: Our weekly offertory collection provides the necessary funds to meet our financial obligations - staff payroll, insurance payments, utility bills, building maintenance, etc. While public Masses are limited at this time, our daily work of parish and pastoral ministry will continue on. Please consider sending your weekly donations by:

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

Would You Like to be Visited While in the Hospital?



If you would like Father to visit you or a family member when admitted to the hospital, please call the Parish Center (715-842-3148) or Dorothy (715-432-5519).

Also, notify the hospital to put you on the St Matthew parishioner list. It is important to notify St Matthew Parish when you are in the hospital, as we cannot guarantee the hospital will always notify us. Currently, Father is able to visit those in the hospital but not in nursing homes.

Weekend - Liturgical Ministers

Saturday September 19 4:30 pm	Sunday September 20 8:00 am	Sunday September 20 10:00 am
Lectors		
Micheline Beattie	Bernie Dohr	Lee Peek
Musicians		
Cindy Blair Nancy Losinski	Bill Dohr Annette Southworth	Gordon Crow Sara Schmitt

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, August 23, 2020

Corbin Michael Tirado
and
Cayson Fox Tirado
Children of Miguel and Victoria

Baptized Saturday, September 5, 2020

Evelyn Pauline Bub
Daughter of Grant and Penny

Yaretzy Hernandez
Daughter of Tomas and Esmeralda Hernandez Bailon

Congratulations!
May Jesus be your dearest companion!



September 4, 2020

Congratulations on your
First Holy Communion!

Jonathan Wittwer

Son of
Timothy and Ann Wittwer

*May Jesus be always at your side
to guide, protect, and strengthen you!*



St. Matthew Parish Catechists
2020 - 2021

Our catechists will be commissioned on September 20th during the 10:00 am Mass.

This year the following members have generously answered the call to evangelize and help bring His children closer to Him and His Church. We are grateful indeed! May God Bless and Mary keep you always.

Melanie Barber
Aaron Boller
Amy Boller
Shannon Callahan
Kim Debyle
Janie Garcia
Jeannie Henaman
Debbie Kaiser



Joan Kirsch
Brenda Kraft
Janet Nichols
Ruth Ohm
Corina Ramos
Melissa Willemson
Kelly Ziegelbauer

EL TEQUILA SALSA

**St Matthew Parish
Fund Raiser**

TACO TUESDAY

September 29th
Pick up 5-6:30 pm
Outside South Church Entrance

Plate includes:
3 flour tortilla tacos, beans, rice,
sour cream, shredded lettuce, cheese,
chips and salsa

COST: Free-Will Donation (Menu Price \$12.95)
To Order Call: 715-845-3546 or 715-355-2179
or Email: pmcdonald728@hotmail.com

Information Needed:
Your Name, Phone #, Number of Plates,
Chicken or Beef

We're Hiring at St Matthew Parish



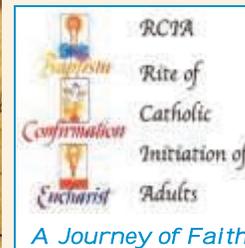
We have 2 positions available:

1. Parish Secretary (~15 hours/week)
2. Parish Finance Secretary/Bookkeeper (30-35 hours/week)

If you are interested in either one of these positions and would like a detailed job description, please contact Fr Bob at 715-842-3148 or email him at: rcthorn@imap.cc

Please send your resume with a cover letter and references to:

Rev. Robert Thorn
St. Matthew Parish
229 South 28th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401



Are You Interested in the Catholic Faith?

Join Our RCIA Classes
Starting at the End of September
and Grow in Understanding and Faith.

Are you or someone you know
interested in becoming a member of the
Catholic Church?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church?

We invite you to join our RCIA classes which will be starting at the end of September. If you are an adult catholic who has not been confirmed and would like to go through the confirmation program to be confirmed, please attend the RCIA classes.

Call 715-842-3148 or talk to Fr Bob to sign up.