

ST. MARY'S Church

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Tomahawk, WI 54487

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St. Mary, St. Augustine & St. Francis Parishes Please read and connect with us!



St. Mary, St. Augustine & St. Francis Parishes

Winter 2020



My dear brothers and sisters of St. Mary's of Tomahawk; St. Augustine of Harrison; St. Francis of Pier Willow:

I come to you with prayers and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the joy of Christmas be with you throughout the coming year (2021).

May all your family members be safe and secure in the presence of our Lord. I hope and wish that you are all doing well in the midst of the corona virus. I know that you are all taking care to prevent the virus. May God bless all your efforts and keep you safe and happy.

I am very happy to tell you that we hired a new DRE for our parish cluster. The interviews for the DRE position were so pleasant and the interview committee unanimously selected Marianna Merkatoris as the new DRE beginning January 2021. More information about her will be published in the coming weeks.

To make people more comfortable and not crowded in the Church, this year we have three Masses on Christmas Eve. We will continue to sanitize the church between each of these Masses for your safety, thanks to our group of volunteer sanitizers.

I would like to bring to your attention the financial status of our parish cluster. First, I would like to thank you for your generosity during these difficult times. I know that you are making many sacrifices to contribute to the church. May God bless you. I feel very delicate to request you to further support the parish, taking into consideration the expenses that we need to meet in the parishes. Our business manager, Laura, has given you financial status details on page 2 of this newsletter. At this juncture I would like to thank you for your generous contributions towards the church, school and Catholic Service Appeal.

Once again, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and bright New Year. May God bless you abundantly and keep you always in His Sacred Heart.

Fr. Louis Maram Reddy, Parochial Administrator



Christmas Mass Schedule:

December 24:

3:00PM St. Mary
5:00PM St. Mary
7:00PM St. Mary
9:00PM St. Augustine

December 25:

9:00AM St. Mary
11:00AM St. Francis

New Year's Mass Schedule:

December 31:

4:00PM St. Mary
6:00PM St. Augustine

January 1:

9:00AM St. Mary

Advent Penance Services:

(General Absolution)

December 9:

6:00PM St. Mary

December 15:

7:00PM St. Augustine

St. Mary's Office Hours

Mondays: 8:00AM-3:30PM
Tuesdays: 8:00AM-3:30PM
Wednesdays: 8:00AM-3:30PM
Thursdays: 8:00AM-3:30PM
Fridays: 8:00AM-3:30PM

Thrift Cellar Hours

Tuesdays: 4:00-7:00PM
Wednesdays & Fridays: 9:00AM-3:00PM

St. Mary's Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday at 6:00PM
Sunday at 8:00AM
Sunday at 11:00AM

St. Mary's Weekday Mass Schedule

Wednesday at 8:45AM
Thursday at 8:45AM *
Friday at 8:45AM

Reconciliation

Saturday at 9:00AM or by appointment
(715-453-2878)

Rosary

Wednesday at 8:15AM
Thursday at 8:15AM
Friday at 8:00AM

Adoration with Confession

Following the 8:45AM Mass on Fridays

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with Adoration & Benediction

Following the 8:45AM Mass on first Fridays

Anointing of the Sick

Following the 11:00AM Mass on Sundays or anytime by appointment (715-453-2878)

*The Thursday weekday Mass at St. Mary's is normally held at Golden Age or Riverview at 9:15AM, but due to COVID-19 it will be held at St. Mary's at 8:45AM until further notice.

St. Augustine's Mass Schedule

Tuesday at 8:30AM
Sunday at 9:30AM

Rosary

Sunday at 8:55AM
Tuesday at 8:00AM

St. Francis-Pier Willow Mass Schedule

Saturday at 4:00PM

From St. Augustine

Between the pandemic and the loss of parishioners who have died, we have struggled in our parish, but our faith tells us that we grow in our struggles. This has been a time when we must truly prepare for God. Our reconciliation service on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00PM will be general Absolution, so please come. Thank you all for being a truly good and supportive parish. Also, those who are able, Dynamic Catholic has "The Best Advent Ever" series available. This is a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas. ~ Deacon Dan and Chris Towle

From St. Francis of Assisi

2020 certainly has been a strange year for our St Francis of Assisi family parish. Being closed from our last Mass on March 14 through late September, has left all of us feeling a bit frazzled! We missed our friends, neighbors, Fr. Louis, and most definitely our Holy Sacraments.

In mid-June we joined the beautiful family celebration of the life of our dear friend, Laurie Langfeldt. On Labor Day, we hosted the lovely family wedding of Mary and Dennis Baumgartner, and many hunters joined us on Saturday, November 21 for the 7:00PM Hunter's Mass, which Fr. Kevin Farrell celebrated with us.

As Advent has started, our hearts and prayers are heavy with so many suffering and grieving families. Our Lord's love and healing grace surrounds us, as we echo the scriptures: "Come Lord Jesus!"

It is said, "He is the reason for the season!" When we realize we are the reason for the season, then we are truly preparing for His coming and our redemption!

Christmas blessings from our little parish!

ST. MARY		ST. AUGUSTINE		ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI	
For the four months July 1, 2020 - October 31, 2020		For the four months July 1, 2020 - October 31, 2020		For the four months July 1, 2020 - October 31, 2020	
INCOME:		INCOME:		INCOME:	
Church	\$143,779	Church	\$23,859	Church	\$ 5,998
RE/Youth Ministry	\$ 1,049	Cemetery	\$ 877	Cemetery	\$ 952
Cemetery	\$ 5,313	TOTAL INCOME	\$24,736	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,950
School	<u>\$221,921</u>	EXPENSE:		EXPENSE:	
TOTAL INCOME	\$372,062	Church	\$29,514	Church	\$11,547
EXPENSE:		Cemetery	<u>\$ 1,897</u>	Cemetery	\$ 0
Church	\$137,236	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$31,411	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$11,547
RE/Youth Ministry	\$ 782	NET LOSS	\$ - 6,675	NET LOSS	\$ - 4,597
Cemetery	\$ 5,357	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday collections are down 18%. • St. Augustine has met 54% of its Catholic Services Appeal, with \$4,969 left to collect. • Cemetery expense for this year included a granite purchase. • No fundraisers yet this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday collections are down 55%. • St. Francis of Assisi has met 81% of its Catholic Services Appeal, with \$875 left to collect. • Maintenance was done on the church roof, including the removal of the chimney. 		
School	<u>\$143,535</u>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;"> Thank you for your support! </div>			
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$286,910				
NET INCOME	\$ 85,152				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday collections are down 18%. • There is only \$9,800 left to pay on the Heating Project loan. • St. Mary's has met 67% of its Catholic Services Appeal, with \$17,500 left to collect. • The Cash raffle raised over \$7,200 for St. Mary's Church. 					

From Jan

Waiting in Hope

The beautiful season of Advent began thousands of years ago, but I wonder if we will ever forget THIS Advent. We usually are caught up in the pre-Christmas frenzy of over-stimulation. Our distraction this year seems to be stress; so rather than denying or avoiding the hurdle, we might do better to acknowledge an offering of prayer from our uneasiness. It's hard to be filled with hope when we recognize the names of COVID-19 victims—some are friends and family—or think of how we can possibly gather for Christmas without getting sick. Recognizing that we share our concerns somehow connects us—we're separate, but together. Our faith will see us through this murky time, and we will celebrate again. For now, the season calls us to quieter times of deeper reflection.

Our cluster Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

December 24: 3:00PM, 5:00PM and 7:00PM at St. Mary's
9:00PM at St. Augustine (Harrison)

December 25: 9:00AM at St. Mary's
11:00AM at St. Francis of Assisi (Pier Willow)

A reminder that seating is limited to 25% of our capacity, and everyone is reminded to wear a mask and practice social distancing. We have added the extra Mass this year to accommodate all who wish to come.

You will feel an air of nostalgia and simpler beauty in our decorating plans this year. Thanks to so many memorials, our beautiful new Christmas Tree will glow with the lights of our loved ones whom we will always remember, but who are not physically with us. This year we will also use a special heirloom Nativity set, which first appeared about 75 years ago, in the "old" St. Mary's School. Many of us St. Mary's School alumni will recognize the figurines, which have been carefully restored. We hope you will enjoy seeing it again. Advent blessings to all!



We are pleased to announce the newest member of our St. Mary's staff—**Marianna Merkatoris!**

Marianna will be serving as our Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister starting in January. Marianna comes to us from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where she held the position of Director of Religious Education. Marianna has roots in the Green Bay area, and is looking forward to moving back to Wisconsin. Please give her a warm Northwoods welcome when she arrives in January!



From St. Mary's School

The staff and students at St. Mary's School wish each of you a joyous Advent Season and a very Merry Christmas. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot perform our traditional Christmas Program. Instead we have planned something else special: **St. Mary's School 12 Days of Christmas**. Watch our Facebook page beginning on December 13 to see one class perform a special Christmas Carol each day for the 12 days before we celebrate Christmas. The students really enjoyed creating their special videos and we hope you enjoy them too. We hope it brings a little extra cheer to our Christmas season.