

# ***St. Mary Churches-Omro & Winneconne***

www.stmarychurches.org

**December 31, 2023**

*The Holy Family*



There will NOT be a Mass  
on Jan. 1, 2024.

**Pastoral Coordinator: Deacon Paul Vidmar**

920-379-8068

Paul.vidmar@stmarychurches.org

**Priest Celebrants:**

Fr. Tom Long

Fr. Quinn Mann

**Sacraments/Membership**

To arrange for baptisms, weddings or to join call

**St. Mary, Winneconne:** 920-582-7712 or  
stmarywinn@stmarychurches.org

**St. Mary, Omro:** 920-685-2258 or  
stmaryomro@stmarychurches.org

# PASTORAL PONDERINGS

As we enter the new year maybe you or someone you know may be thinking about coming back to the Catholic Church. There are as many reasons for coming back to Church as there are people who left. While God is at the center of each person's decision to return, the circumstances are varied. Here are six reasons that can influence the decision of people to return to the practice of our beautiful Catholic faith.

Number 6: Because they want meaning in life. In the hustle of today's busy lifestyles, lots of people suddenly realize that their lives have lost a sense of meaning or purpose. They ask themselves what their life is about or why they do what they do. There is confusion in our culture with regard to morality and truth. If we do not quit, the Catholic Church offers a beacon of light that gives meaning to our existence and leads to eternal life.

Number 5: Because they want to be healed. Some people carry deep spiritual wounds. They struggle with anger at God over a terminal illness, debilitating injury, a broken relationship, mental or emotional problems, an act of violence against an innocent person, an unexplainable accident, some natural disaster, the death of a loved one, or some other deep disappointment. The Catholic Church cannot change these situations or explain why they happened. But there are people in the church who can assist in the process of spiritual healing and help us get on with our lives.

Number 4: Because they made mistakes. Some people become burdened with the weight of accumulated sin. They want to get rid of the guilt of having hurt others. They asked themselves will God ever forgive me or is there any way I can start over with a clean slate? We can always tell God that we are sorry, but through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we have a complete assurance of God's forgiveness. In addition, we are reconciled not only with God but with all the members of the church, the body of Christ and given the grace to start over again with a new slate.

Number 3: Because they want their children to have a faith foundation. Some people return to the Catholic Church because they recognize that raising children in a culture that promotes doing your own thing can lead to disaster. They need a structured system of belief and a firm moral foundation that goes beyond human logic and reasoning.

Number 2: Because they want to be part of a faith community. Many people seek a sense of belonging, but community is more than just friendly people, good homilies, and interesting activities. A Catholic Christian community is a group of people who gather around the person of Jesus Christ to worship God and to live in the light of the Holy Spirit. Catholics come together at Mass, in the sacraments, and in parish activities to pray, be joyful, mourn losses, serve others, provide support to each other, and receive strength for daily life.

Number 1: Because they are hungry for the Eucharist. Many people come back to the Catholic Church because they feel an intense longing for the Eucharist. Sometimes it happens at a wedding, a funeral, a baptism, a First Communion, or a Confirmation. Sometimes it happens when people are alone or facing difficulties in life. It's described as a deep hunger for the spiritual nourishment that comes when they receive the body and blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. It is without exception the number one reason that people come back to the Catholic Church.

Coming back to the Catholic Church is not a one-time event as much as a process that involves some pain, laughter, thinking, praying, discernment, and a lot of letting go and trusting God. If you or someone you know is experiencing some of these reasons to return to the Church, please reach out to us as we are ready to welcome you back home with open arms.

God bless you and your family.

Deacon Paul Vidmar

# PARISH HAPPENINGS

Reminder to join us for the  
1st Friday of the Month

*"I promise you, in the excessive of my Heart that my all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments; my divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment."*  
Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary

### How to complete the First Fridays Devotion:

1. Receive Holy Communion on each first Friday.
  2. The nine Fridays must be consecutive.
- They must be made in honor and in reparation to His Sacred Heart.

This Friday, January 5, the first Friday Mass will be said at 7:15am at St. Raphael in Oshkosh.



### PHOTO Opportunity

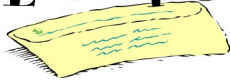
January 7 Epiphany Masses  
after 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM



The Three Kings  
will be visiting our Parish  
and be available for photos with you.



### Offering Envelopes



Church support envelopes for 2023 need to be received by Dec. 31 to go on this year's statement. This weekend is your last opportunity to make a donation which will be recorded in the year 2023.

## St. Mary's Catholic Church Ladies Night Out Group



Join the fun!



When: Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:30pm

What: Get to know Father Quinn  
Bingo with a twist – Great prizes!

Where: Kaudy Hall

Cost: Free; donations appreciated

*Come join us for a special night to get to know  
Father Quinn.*

*Followed by Bingo with great prizes and extra fun.*



To register, use the QR Code to the right or Sign up Genius link below or email Tanya at jonya830@gmail.com.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A0AA2AA7F58-46557457-stmary>



Thank you to the  
Youth in Action!!  
The meal was  
AWESOME!!

"Star of Bethlehem"  
Had the audience  
saying, WOW!!



Youth in Action  
had decorated  
star cookies to go  
with the "Star of  
Bethlehem"

# WINNECONNE NEWS

## Calendar

### St. Mary, Winneconne

- Mon. Jan. 1 No LOW/**NO MASS**  
**Happy New Year**  
Office Closed
- Wed. Jan. 3 7:30am LOW\* w/Communion  
3:05pm FF Classes  
3:35pm Decade of Rosary  
3:45pm Mass  
4:30pm Confession & Adorations  
6:30pm Bible Study
- Thurs. Jan. 4 2:00pm Rosary
- Sat. Jan. 6 3:30pm Confession  
4:00pm Mass
- Sun. Jan. 7 9:00am RCIA  
9:30am Confirmation  
9:30am 1st Comm. Meeting  
10:30am Mass w/ CLOW\*\* &  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion Enrollment,  
PMP Refreshments  
11:30am Youth in Action  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
\*LOW: Liturgy of the Word  
\*\*CLOW: Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Speakers

### You are invited to

#### St. Mary Church, Winneconne

Holy Hour with Adoration

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

**4:30 to 5:30pm**

Confession will also be offered during this hour  
with Fr. Dave.

**We hope to see you there.**



ADORATION  
of the  
BLESSED  
SACRAMENT

Next Sunday, January 7, the Parish Mission Planning (PMP) Committee will be sponsoring refreshments after Mass in the main entrance. Be sure to stop to have a treat and say HI!



*We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the families who have lost their loved one.*

*Bernice Flanigan*

*Bobbie Larson*

*Vivian Masanz*

*May the loving hand of God fill your heart with peace during this difficult time.*



## Faith Formation News

### Elementary Classes

**January 3**

Elementary 3:05-4:30pm

Middle School 6:30-8:00pm



You are invited to join us for Mass on

**January 3, 3:45-4:30pm.** All are invited. St. Mary young Catholics will help lead parts of the Mass.

See you at Mass!



Join us before Mass for a decade of the rosary at 3:35pm.

Mother Mary, Pray for us!

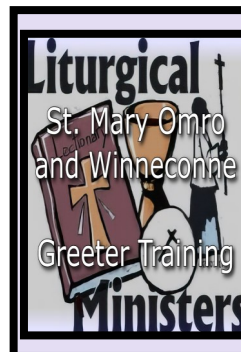


January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am -

First Communion Parent/Child Meeting followed by

Enrollment into the Preparation Program at our 10:30am Mass.

We look forward to working with you to prepare your child to join us around the Table of the Lord!



### **ALL GREETERS**

(Omro & Winneconne)

Mark Your Calendars For **Greeter Training**

**Wednesday**  
**January 17, 2024**

**5:30pm**

St. Mary Church  
**Winneconne**

Have you or your child thought about becoming an Altar Server? We will be having altar server training on

**Wednesday Jan. 17 at 3:30pm**

at St. Mary, Winneconne.



# OMRO NEWS

## Calendar St. Mary, Omro

- Mon. Jan. 1 **NO MASS**  
**Happy New Year**  
Office Closed
- Wed. Jan. 3 11:00am Fr. Joe's Mass  
4:30pm FF Gr. 1-6  
4:30pm 1st Comm. Meeting  
4:45pm Latino Bible Study  
6:30pm FF Gr. 7-10
- Sun. Jan. 7 8:30am Mass w/1<sup>st</sup> Comm  
Enrollment  
10:00am Confirmation Class  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Speakers  
Omro non-perishable food collection



**Wednesday, January 3**  
**Grades 1-6 4:30pm**  
**1st Communion Meeting 4:30pm**  
**Latino Bible Study 4:45pm**  
**Grades 7-10 6:30pm**



Sunday, January 7th at the 8:30am Mass, join us in praying for our 2nd grade students who will be enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion program.



**Father Joe Turns 90!**  
Celebrate Fr. Joe Mattern's  
90th birthday with us  
at St. Mary, Omro on  
**Wednesday, January 3**  
**at 11:00am.**

We will have a special Mass followed by light refreshments and a little reception afterward.

Wish Fr. Joe a Happy Birthday and let him know the difference he made in your life by joining us on this very momentous occasion!



Our Giving Tree was a big success! Thanks to you, we filled over 20 large boxes of goodies for 14 families in the area. Thank you for playing Santa to all those families who will now have a Merry Christmas!



## Corporal Works of Mercy— at Father Carr's



Thank you to all the "elves" who volunteered at the Children's Christmas Party at Fr. Carr's on Saturday. It was a magical event for guests and volunteers alike.

## Day by Day Warming Shelter Volunteers!!



Omro Care enjoyed Bingo and Decorating Christmas Cookies!



Thank you to all who were the Hands and Feet of Our Lord these last few months. You brought smiles to many people.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Readings for the Week of Jan. 1, 2024

**Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
The Octave Day of the Nativity of The Lord  
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28  
Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops & Doctors

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

**Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51  
St. John Neumann, Bishop

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/  
Mt 2:1-12

**The Epiphany of the Lord**



Instagram

**Check It Out!!!**

Both Parishes have an  
Instagram account!

st.marychurchwinneconne



St. Mary Catholic Church Winneconne  
st.marychurchwinneconne · Instagram

stmarychurchomro



St. Mary Catholic Church Omro  
stmarychurchomro · Instagram

## Winneconne

During the 10:30am Mass  
January 7 & 21

## Omro

During the 8:30am Mass  
January 14 & 28



CHILDREN'S  
Liturgy of the Word

**ST. MARY OMRO PRESENTS:**

**AN ENCHANTED EVENING**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

**6:30PM-8:30PM**

\*\*Limited number of tickets available.



Enjoy a magical night under the stars:

- Dinner catered by The Roxy

- Live entertainment

- Door prizes worth \$350

- Babysitting available

- Sponsored by:

- The Roxy Supper Club

- Jeff's on Rugby

- Los Ravear's Mexican Grill

- Off the Wolf Supper Club

- Jimmie's White House Inn

- Fox River Brewing Co.

- Fin n' Feather

Limited number of tickets available. This is open to both parishes and you do not need to be a couple. Bring a friend and enjoy entertainment and a great meal. Tickets are \$25/person. Call the parish office to purchase your ticket today!!

**FYI-For this winter**

**REMEMBER**



No school = no faith formation classes.  
No after school events = no faith formation classes.

**ALL CHURCH EVENTS ARE CANCELLED IF SCHOOL  
OR AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS ARE CANCELLED !**

**Deadline for the Bulletin  
NOON on Tuesday**

**E-mail bulletin announcements to:**

Sue Kuhn: sue.kuhn@stmarychurches.org  
Peggy Wilms: peggy.wilms@stmarychurches.org

**Like us on Facebook:**

St. Mary Catholic Church Omro  
St. Mary Catholic Church Winneconne

**Check us out on the web:**

stmarychurches.org

**MASS INTENTIONS**



**SATURDAY:**  
4:00pm (SMW)

**January 6**  
Jean Lee

**SUNDAY:**  
8:30am (SMO)  
10:30am (SMW)

**January 7**  
Lawrence Crowley  
Jeanne Clasen

**Stewardship of Serving-Liturgical Ministry Schedule**

**Saturday & Sunday January 6 & 7**

SMO—St. Mary, Omro

SMW—St. Mary, Winneconne

**Altar Servers**

4:00pm (SMW) **2 Volunteers**  
8:30am (SMO) Rylee & Hailey Karn  
10:30am (SMW) **2 Volunteers**

**Communion Ministers:**

4:00pm (SMW) **2 Volunteers**  
10:30am (SMW) Connie Kostichka, **Volunteer**

**Lectors:**

4:00pm (SMW) **Volunteer**  
8:30am (SMO) Kathy Hayes  
10:30am (SMW) **Volunteer**

**Greeters:**

4:00pm (SMW) **4 Volunteers**  
8:30am (SMO) Barb Geffers, Volunteer  
10:30am (SMW) JoAnn Winnekens,  
**3 Volunteers**

**Ushers:**

4:00pm (SMW) **4 Volunteers**  
8:30am (SMO) Poppy Girls  
10:30am (SMW) Peggy Benjamin, **2 Volunteers**  
JoAnn Winnekens

**Intercessory Prayers:**

8:30am (SMO) **Volunteer**  
10:30am (SMW) **2 Volunteers**



**Sacristans:**

4:00pm (SMW) **Volunteer**  
8:30am (SMO) Janet Wegner  
10:30am (SMW) Connie Kostichka

**St. Mary, Omro**

730 Madison Ave.

Omro

WI 54963

**stmaryomro@stmarychurches.org**

**Parish Office:** 920-685-2258

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday

8am-Noon 12:30-4:00pm

**Fridays:** Closed

Administrative Assistant: Peggy Wilms  
Bookkeeper: Pat Samolinski  
Custodian: Janet Wegner  
Faith Formation Coordinator: Heidi Seaman  
Pastoral Associate: Rose Unser  
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator: Mary McDonald  
Adult Faith Formation Assistant: Jolene Johnson  
Director for Spiritual Engagement: Lyn Zahorik

**St. Mary, Winneconne**

210 Pleasant Dr. P.O. Box 487

**Parish Office:** 205 Pleasant Dr. Winn

Winneconne, WI 54986-0487

**stmarywinn@stmarychurches.org**

**Parish Office:** 920-582-7712

**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday

8:00am-Noon 12:30-5:00pm

**Fridays:** Closed

Administrative Assistant: Sue Kuhn  
Bookkeeper: Pat Samolinski  
Custodian: Annemarie Birschbach  
Faith Formation Coordinator: Andy Krueger  
Pastoral Associate: Rose Unser  
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator: Mary McDonald  
Adult Faith Formation Assistant: Jolene Johnson  
Director for Spiritual Engagement: Lyn Zahorik

 <p><b>The Dowling Group LLC</b> Teri Dowling, Broker (920) 420-0773 Cell</p>	<p><b>Holiday Florist</b> Full Service Florist 217 W. Main St. Winneconne Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00 920-582-3939 www.holidayfloristwinneconne.com</p>	<p><b>OMRO PHARMACY</b> 328 E. Main Street, Omro 920-685-5041</p>	
<p><b>BJ's Nursery</b> 6992 Lakeshore Rd, Winneconne 920-582-9773 Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Perennials and more Landscaping Services</p>	 <p>In Memory of Evie Kress</p>	<p><b>Mike &amp; Cathy Miller</b> Realtor (920) 716-0959 (920) 475-0840 mike.miller@c21ace.com SMW cathy.miller@c21ace.com Parishioners <b>CENTURY 21</b> 303 S. BLUEMOUND DR. APPLETON, WI 54914 OFFICE: (920)739-2121 FAX: (920)739-1103</p>	<p>WISCONSIN CUSTOM BUILT HOMES <b>DOWLING CONSTRUCTION INC.</b> Dan Dowling - President Oshkosh, WI ~ Phone (920) 235-8021 www.DowlingConstructionInc.com</p>
 <p><b>SCHERER FAMILY Chiropractic, S.C.</b> Dr. Cindy Scherer, Dr. Tom Scherer 884 Airport Road, Menasha (920) 725-6933</p>	<p><b>VERICH LAW, LLC</b> Jillayne Y. Verich (920) 810-7480 jverich@verichlaw.com</p>	<p><b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS*</b> Omro-Winneconne Council 8810 Come Join Us <a href="http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs">www.KofC.org/JoinUs</a> Call Steve Christian 920.376.1053</p>	
<p><b>LEO'S SERVICE, LLC</b> 302 W. Main, Winneconne Complete Auto Repairs Mini-Mart · 24 Hour Towing (920)582-7717 days (920)420-9523 nights</p>	 <p><b>MUELLER FUNERAL HOME</b> EST. 1944 Complete Funeral &amp; Cremation Services Kelly Angell 904 E. Main St. Winneconne 920-582-4242 • www.muellerfh.net</p>	<p>Need prayer contact the parish office to be put on the prayer chain. Omro-920-685-2258 Winn-920-582-7712</p>	<p><b>LOURDES ACADEMY</b> Prepared for College. Prepared for Good.™ Faith-filled PreK-12 education Call 920.426.6421 for a tour or visit <a href="http://www.lourdes.today">www.lourdes.today</a>.</p>
 <p>204 W. Main Street, Winneconne, WI 54986 920.582.4422 Owners: Jeff &amp; Jennifer Schmitz</p>	<p><b>DEX PLUS</b> Construction Remodeling Siding Additions Decks New Homes JOHN R. VANDE HEI Owner (O)920-685-3004 (C)920-420-1636</p>	<p><b>thrivent</b> Focused on your financial goals. 40 W 6th Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54902 Greg J Herlihy, FIC Associate Financial Advisor 920-230-2553 greg.herlihy@thrivent.com Jason W Lowe, FIC Financial Associate 920-896-3963 jason.lowe@thrivent.com <small>Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credited to provide investment advisory services. Visit Thrivent.com or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors. 27193_R4-23</small></p>	<p><b>Kwiatkowski Funeral Home</b> 425 Jefferson Ave, Omro 920-685-2207</p>
 <p>Shawn Zagrodnik 920-850-2919</p>	<p><b>THRIFT AND GIFT</b> TU 9-12; W/F 10-3 TH 10-7; Sat 10-2 Phone #: 920-582-3932 Web: <a href="http://winneconnethriftgift.org">winneconnethriftgift.org</a> Like us on FACEBOOK Charity, Sustainability, Fellowship</p>	<p><b>Gorgie's BAR &amp; GRILL</b> N3084 County Rd. XX Berlin, WI 54923 920-987-5800 John &amp; Jodi Hess, Owners <b>OUTDOOR DINING</b> Serving Food Daily at 11:30 a.m. (Closed Mondays) Large Parking Lot for Motorcycle Groups <b>GREAT FRIDAY FISH FRY!</b> Outdoor Steak Fry once a month from April-November</p>	
 <p>SKIDS, CRATES &amp; PALLETS</p>	<p><b>Beth LeeFranzen</b> Independent Sales Consultant 920-279-1233 elizabethleeFranzen.norwex.biz <b>Norwex</b> The Norwegian Experience</p>	<p><b>Edward Jones</b> MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Eric J. Lang Financial Advisor 119 W Main St. Winneconne Phone: 920-582-4268 Cell: 920-379-1154 eric.lang@edwardjones.com</p>	<p><b>MAIN TIRE and MAINTENANCE</b> Repair on all Foreign &amp; Domestic Cars 1121 E. Main St. Omro WI 54963 920-685-5553</p>
<p>Compliments of Jim &amp; Margaret Potratz Parish Members 920-420-2501</p>	<p>Your ad will reach over 500 households each week!! Advertise today: Information stmarywinn @stmarychurches.org</p>	<p><b>Fortifi Bank</b> Growin' Wisconsin FortifiBank.com   855.876.1500 Omro   Winneconne</p>	<p><b>On This Rock</b> 216 W South Park Ave Oshkosh Phone #: 920-966-0007</p>
<p><b>Chris Seaman Carpentry Services LLC</b> Chris Seaman Owner carpentryservices3143@gmail.com 920-312-3058 3143 Morrow Rd, Omro</p>	<p><b>Marsh Family Eyecare</b> Family Eyecare · Quality Eyewear Contact Lenses · Laser Care Winneconne Oshkosh Healthy Vision: One of God's Most Precious Gifts</p>	<p>PoppyFamilyFarms@gmail.com Poppyfamilyfarms.com Facebook.com/PoppyFamilyFarms Rebecca 920-312-0970 Brian 920-295-9000 Great Quality Beef For affordable prices!</p>	<p><b>Tipler Insurance</b> George A. Tipler-Agent 920-836-2000 Erin Siegmann-Agent 920-410-8309 8299 Hickory Ave, Larsen</p>
<p><b>bella</b> SPECIALIZING IN SAVING LIVES OF THE UNBORN MEDICAL CLINIC 920.231.6006 BELLAMEDICALCLINIC.COM 1484 W. SOUTH PARK AVE. • OSHKOSH</p>	<p>Advertise Here Email: Stmarywinn @stmarychurches.org</p>	<p><b>Riverfront Cabinetry &amp; Design</b> Jeff Noffke LLC 920-252-5501</p>	