

St. Mary Churches-Omro & Winneconne www.stmarychurches.org

3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday **December 14, 2025**

Pastoral Coordinator: Deacon Paul Vidmar

920-379-8068

Paul.vidmar@stmarychurches.org

Priest Celebrants:

Fr. Tom Long
Fr. Ben Pribbenow

Parish Offices

St. Mary, Omro

730 Madison Ave, Omro
920-685-2258

stmaryomro@stmarychurches.org

Office Hours

M-Th 8-4pm
Fridays Closed

St. Mary, Winneconne

210 Pleasant Dr/PO Box 487, Winneconne
Office: 205 Pleasant Dr. Winneconne
920-582-7712

stmarywinn@stmarychurches.org

Office Hours

M-Th 8-5pm;
Fridays Closed

Liturgy of the Word

Mon & Wed 7:30am St. Mary, Winneconne

Weekend Masses

Saturday: St. Mary, Winneconne
3:30pm Confession
4:00pm Mass

Sunday

8:30am St. Mary, Omro
10:30am St. Mary, Winneconne

Reconciliation

1st & 3rd Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm
St. Mary, Winneconne
2nd & 4th Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm
St. Mary, Omro

Sacraments/Membership

To arrange for Baptisms, Weddings or to join
the parish please call the office.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT JOY



Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle - Joy

*"Gracious God, as we light the third
Advent candle of joy, may the joy
of your salvation fill us with
gladness. Help us to share this joy
with others, especially those
in need."*

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00pm St. Mary, Winneconne

6:00pm St. Mary, Omro

Christmas Day

8:30am St. Mary, Omro

10:30am St. Mary, Winneconne

New Year's Day

9:00am St. Mary, Winneconne

Welcome to our parishes.

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

The Third Week of Advent is often called Gaudete Sunday—the Sunday of joy. The rose candle reminds us that even in the midst of waiting, we are called to rejoice. At St. Mary’s, one of the hopes that brings us joy is the dream of having our own permanent resident priest. We’ve talked about it often, and it’s clear that this longing springs from love for our parish and a desire to grow together in faith.

While others are writing their “wish lists” for Santa, I have drafted a playful list for Bishop Ricken (don’t worry, he will never see it!) describing exactly the kind of priest we desire.

We picture someone who will always be available, yet never weary—he must be able to make a midnight hospital visit and still greet us at morning Mass with energy and compassion. His homilies will be so profound and intellectual that even the angels will take notes, yet he will preach in a relatable manner, sprinkled with humor—like Thomas Aquinas retold a bedtime story. And naturally, each homily will be the Goldilocks of sermons: not too long, not too short, but just right.

We desire a priest who will have studied theology and liturgy, but also knows how to fix the furnace on a cold Saturday night or reboot the parish Wi-Fi when it goes down. He must be young enough to relate to teens, and old enough to command respect among the rest of us—think, Justin Bieber in a Roman collar. He will be completely devoted to prayer, glowing with holiness like a stained-glass window at sunrise, yet make time to be present at every social event and be well-adjusted in matters of self-care.

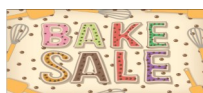
Our dream priest will speak with authority but never sound bossy—we want him to be like Moses, but with better people skills. He will have the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. He will be trendy enough for Instagram, traditional enough for incense, able to hashtag #Blessed while swinging a thurible. He will inspire holiness without ever mentioning sin and his mere presence will inspire instant repentance—but he must be a down-to-earth, regular kind of guy.

So Bishop Ricken, as we will prepare for Jesus to come again this Christmas, could you maybe corner him and assign him to St. Mary’s as our resident priest? We believe he will fulfill all of our above requirements!

Here’s the reality check: Christ himself is already within our parish communities as our true shepherd. A Priest is called to reflect his love, but it will be Christ who will always remain with us—at the altar, in our homes, and in our waiting. So let us continue to pray with joy for the priest who will one day serve here permanently—not a flawless saint dropped from heaven, but a man of presence. A priest who will laugh at himself, love and serve his people, and walk with us in our joys and sorrows.

Lyn Zahorik
Director for Spiritual Engagement

Joy



This Weekend at St. Mary Omro & St. Mary Winneconne!

The Knights of Columbus are having their annual December Bake Sale after all Masses. Stop by and select from some of their goodies.

Car Wash Fundraiser

KWIK TRIP

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Kwik Trip ULTIMATE & STANDARD Car Wash cards at all Masses. Each 5-count ULTIMATE Car Wash card can be purchased for \$35, and 5-count STANDARD Car Wash card can be purchased for \$25, and used at any Kwik Trip location that has a car wash. A check made out to “K of C Council 8810” or cash in the exact amount is appreciated. **Note:** change in \$ for cards. **Thank you for your support of our Omro and Winneconne Knights of Columbus!**



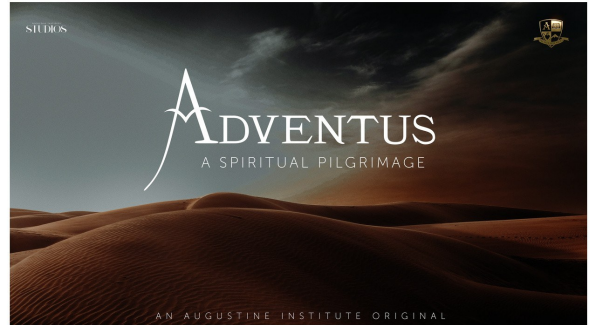
Christmas Eve Choir
St. Mary Winneconne at 4:00 pm Mass
St. Mary Omro at 6:00 pm Mass

Joint practices scheduled for:

Sunday, December 14 in Winneconne after the 10:30 am Mass

Sunday, December 21 in Omro after the 8:30 am Mass

Ron Hayes will be the accompanist for both Masses. There are 2 separate choirs, one for Omro and one for Winneconne. You will not be singing for both churches. Please plan on singing traditional carols before Mass. If interested, call the Omro or Winneconne parish offices: Winneconne: 920-582-7712 or Omro: 920-685-2258



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



A number of St. Mary parishioners were recently blessed to enjoy the wonderful musical talent showcased at the Christmas Stars program by Xavier Schools. And to top it off, Phil even won the candy bag!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



On Monday, December 8th, St. Mary parishioners gathered in Winneconne to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with Mass, followed by a rosary led by Father Pete and a cupcake rosary reception.

Below is information Fr. Pete referenced at Mass on December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Link with many saints and some of the writings: <https://saintsbooks.net/Books>
 Books referenced:

- The Mystical City of God by Mary of Agreda (4 Volumes)
- Visions of the Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

Men's Group Meeting

Saturday, December 20, 7:00-8:00 am

All men from St. Mary, Omro and Winneconne are welcome. The December 20 meeting is in Omro. We will review the upcoming Sunday gospel reading and have a discussion. Feel free to just drop in; no RSVP needed.

WINNECONNE NEWS

St. Mary, Winneconne Calendar

Mon. Dec. 15 7:30am LOW* w/Communion
 Wed. Dec. 17 7:30am LOW* w/Communion
 10:30am LOW* Highlands
 NO FF
 4:30-5:30pm Confession
 Thurs. Dec. 18 2:00pm Rosary
 Sat. Dec. 20 8:00am Men's Group (Omro)
 3:30pm Confession
 4:00pm Mass
 Sun. Dec. 21 9:30am Choir Practice (Omro)
 9:30am Advent Book Study (Omro)
 10:30am Mass w/CLOW**

Sat./Sun.: 4th Sunday of Advent

*LOW: Liturgy of the Word

**CLOW: Children's Liturgy of the Word

STEWARDSHIP OF SHARING-Winneconne

Given Week ending 12/08/2025

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes | \$4,625.00 |
| Loose cash | \$ 442.00 |
| Online & ACH Giving | <u>\$2,055.00</u> |
| Total | \$7,122.00 |
| WEEKLY GOAL: | \$6,464.00 |

There is deep joy in giving, since what we receive is much more than we give.



Birthday Cake for Jesus Sponsored by Fellowship Ministry



Birthday Cake for Jesus kits available after Mass on December 20 and 21 (limited quantities)

Free kits include cake mix, frosting, candles, angel, star, evergreens and instructions showing the symbolism of these items.

Please take a kit and share the joy and inspiration of this family experience.

Next Sunday, Dec 21 Children's Liturgy of the Word. We invite your children ages 4 thru 4th grade to listen to the Gospel in language they can understand. They will go downstairs for the readings and then return back to their pews.



Faith Formation Classes Dec 17
 NO Faith Formation Classes
 See you all in January!



Liturgical Minister for Christmas Eve & Day

Christmas Eve

Sacristan: Rose Unser, Darlene Scheidegger
 Server: Hugh Sleeman, **Volunteer**
 Lectors: Gary Scheidegger, Dave Voss
 Ushers: Eric Krueger, Deb, Jack, Emma Woelfel
 Communion: Monica Lapin, Judy Reetz,
 Andy Krueger, Sue Kuhn
 Greeters: Andy Krueger, **2 Volunteers**

Christmas Day

Sacristan: **Volunteer**
 Server: **2 Volunteers**
 Lectors: Vicky Holt, Pat Samolinski
 Ushers: **4 Volunteers**
 Comm: Vicky Holt, Pat Samolinski
 Greeters: **3 Volunteers**

If you are able to assist in filling any volunteer positions it would be greatly appreciated! Contact the office 920-582-7712 or sue.kuhn@stmarychurches.org

Check out the Rack in the Main Entrance!!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Please take a moment to look at the sponsorship display in the main entrance of church. To meet the 25-26 budget, we are asking you to prayerfully consider sponsoring an item (or two) from the display. These supplementary budget items range from \$10 - \$100. Take a card and envelope from the display and return them in the Sunday collection or the parish office.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!!!



The Giving Tree

Thank you for helping to bring a smile to a child this season.

OMRO NEWS

St. Mary, Omro Calendar

Wed. Dec. 17 4:30pm FF Gr. 1-6
 5:00pm Elementary Mass with
 St. Nick—All are welcome!
 6:30pm FF Gr. 7-10
 Sat. Dec. 20 7:00 am Men's Group
 Sun. Dec. 21 8:30am Mass with Refreshments
 9:30am Choir Practice
 9:30am Advent Book Study
 (Triple Room)

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

STEWARDSHIP OF SHARING-Omro

Given Week ending 12/08/2025

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Envelopes | \$2,463.00 |
| Loose cash | \$ 191.00 |
| Online & ACH Giving | <u>\$ 945.00</u> |
| Total | \$3,599.00 |
| WEEKLY GOAL: | \$4,044.00 |

There is deep joy in giving, since what we receive is much more than we give.



Thank you to everyone who took a gift tag and thank you if you already returned your beautifully wrapped gift! Please place your wrapped gifts (with the gift tag on the outside) under the tree or bring to the parish office by end of day, **Monday, December 15.** Thank you!



Free hats and mittens are available for anyone in need of warmth this winter, located at 124 E. Main Street in Omro. This is an annual project of the Omro Women's Service League.

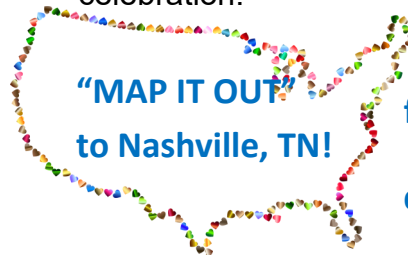
FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday, December 17

Grades 1-6: 4:30 pm
 Grades 7-10: 6:30 pm

Youth Mass Wednesday Dec. 17, 5:00pm

St. Nicholas will be joining us during Mass! He will greet the children, share a story of generosity and faith, and remind us of the true spirit of giving. Photo ops in Marian Hall. Everyone is invited to be part of this wonderful celebration!



"Be The Light"
 mission trip
 fundraiser...help our
 youth reach their
 destination! Located



Thank you to all who helped with the **St. Mary Omro parade float this year!**



Christmas Decorating Help Needed

We will be decorating the church and Marian Hall for Christmas on **Monday, December 22**, starting at 10:00 am. Please call or email Cammy in the Parish Office if you are available to help. Any amount of time you can help is appreciated!

St. Mary Omro Wish List

- *Office Desk Chair, Ergonomic Computer Chair \$135
- *Shark Upright Vacuum, Stratos with DuoClean PowerFins (AZ3002) \$250-**Purchased; thank you to an anonymous donor!!**

Readings for the Week of December 15

- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
- Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
- Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**CHRISTMAS DAY
DINNER PROGRAM**
THURSDAY DECEMBER 25, 2025

- CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
 - DELIVERY 10:30AM – NOON
 - TAKING ORDERS NOW (920) 231-2378
- MOTHER TERESA CENTER DINE-IN
 - SERVING FROM NOON – 1:30PM
 - NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B
1062 N. KOELLER STREET
OSHKOSH, WI 54902
(920) 231-2378



Confession at St. Mary Winneconne
Wednesday, December 17, 4:30-5:30 pm
All are welcome.



**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!**

**Christmas Environment/
Decorations Donation**

Name _____

In Memory Of:

Amount \$ _____ St. Mary Winneconne or Omro



Check our Giving Levels!!

How long has it been since you have adjusted your giving levels to the parish and other charities? Now may be a good time to pray about levels of generosity. Giving the same level over a period of years results in giving less.

Ex. \$20 in 2015 is NOW worth \$15 in 2025.

You can scan the **QR code to take you to our individual parish page**. It is all set to go to Sunday collection or use the drop box to put it where you desire.

St. Mary, Winneconne

St. Mary, Omro



QR Code



QR Code

**Offering
Envelopes**



Both Parishes! Church support envelopes for 2025 need to be postmarked by December 31 to go on this year's giving statement.

With the offices closed after Christmas, please mail your envelopes or place them in the collection basket. Offices will be closed starting on December 24, 2025 and will reopen on January 5, 2026. **Thank you.**

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

The end of year statements will not be mailed out to parishioners unless requested. If you would like them emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact your parish office.

Blessing Bags are at St. Mary Omro

These bags contain basic necessities that will help make someone's day a little brighter.

Please take a bag from Marian Hall to place in your vehicle. As you travel, simply pass it along to someone in need.

*Be someone's answer to prayer today.
"As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone." — Galatians 6:10*

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY: December 20
4:00pm (SMW) Carol Brennand

SUNDAY: December 21
8:30am (SMO) Phyllis Flanagan
10:30am (SMW) Don Natrop

Altar Servers

4:00pm (SMW) Stella Verich, **Volunteer**
8:30am (SMO) **2 Volunteers**
10:30am (SMW) **2 Volunteers**

Lectors

4:00pm (SMW) Dave Voss, Jill Verich
8:30am (SMO) Sue Martin
10:30am (SMW) Vicky Holt, Chris Brill

Ushers

4:00pm (SMW) **4 Volunteers**
8:30am (SMO) Mary Jo Hinderman, Mona Freund
10:30am (SMW) Peggy Benjamin, **3 Volunteers**

Sacristans

4:00pm (SMW) Rose Unser
8:30am (SMO) Margaret Potratz
10:30am (SMW) **Volunteer**

Communion Ministers

4:00pm (SMW) Mike & Tracey Losse
10:30am (SMW) Vicky Holt, Chris Brill

Greeters

4:00pm (SMW) Tanya Michalski, **2 Volunteers**
8:30am (SMO) Ron & Lawanda Jungwirth
10:30am (SMW) **3 Volunteers**

Intercessory Prayers

10:30am (SMW) **2 Volunteers**

Musicians

4:00pm (SMW) Chrissy Volpe, Katie Karweik
8:30am (SMO) Ron Hayes, Rose Luebke,
Paul Kamikawa
10:30am (SMW) Annemarie Birschbach, Leah Krohn

♥ *we appreciate you* ♥

SHARE IN THE CARE Diocese Retirement Collection

This weekend, we have the beautiful opportunity to **SHARE IN THE CARE** of those who have spent their lives serving God and his people. Through the Retirement Collection, your gift supports two groups: The **National Retirement Fund for Religious** and the **Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund**. These faithful men and women have devoted their lives to prayer, teaching, and compassionate service, often with little financial compensation. Your generosity helps ensure they receive the care, medicine, and daily support they deserve. Let's honor their lifetime of service with our prayers and gifts. Thank you for your kindness and support!



Deadline for the Bulletin

NOON on Tuesday

E-mail bulletin announcements to:

Sue Kuhn: sue.kuhn@stmarychurches.org
Cammy Miller: cammy.miller@stmarychurches.org

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Winneconne

December 21, 10:30 am Mass

Omro

CLOW will return in April 2026



St. Mary, Omro

Parish Office: 920-685-2258

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:00pm

Fridays: Closed

Office Manager: Cammy Miller
Business Manager: Pat Samolinski
Custodian: Janet Wegner
Faith Formation Coordinator: Heidi Seaman
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator: Patty Volp
Adult Faith Formation Assistant: Jolene Johnson
Pastoral Associate: Rose Unser
Director for Spiritual Engagement: Lyn Zahorik

St. Mary, Winneconne

Parish Office: 920-582-7712

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00am--5:00pm

Fridays: Closed

Office Manager: Sue Kuhn
Business Manager: Pat Samolinski
Custodian: Annemarie Birschbach
Faith Formation Coordinator: Andy Krueger
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator: Patty Volp
Adult Faith Formation Assistant: Jolene Johnson
Pastoral Associate: Rose Unser
Director for Spiritual Engagement: Lyn Zahorik

The Dowling Group LLC
Teri Dowling, Broker
 (920) 420-0773 Cell
 Oshkosh, WI
 teri@dowlinggroupllc.com
 COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL

Holiday Florist
 Full Service Florist
 217 W. Main St. Winneconne
 Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00
 920-582-3939
 www.holidayfloristwinneconne.com

OMRO PHARMACY
 328 E. Main Street, Omro
 920-685-5041

Buy, Sell, & Trade
 Toys, Records &
 Collectibles
 Call Steve & Mike
 815-579-9100
 Two Brothers Bad Boy Toys

Tipler Insurance
George A. Tipler-Agent
 920-836-2000
Erin Siegmann-Agent
 920-410-8309
 8299 Hickory Ave, Larsen

WISCONSIN CUSTOM BUILT HOMES
DOWLING CONSTRUCTION INC.
 Dan Dowling - President
 Oshkosh, WI - Phone (920) 235-8021
 www.DowlingConstructionInc.com

SCHERER FAMILY
Chiropractic, S.C.
 Dr. Cindy Scherer, Dr. Tom Scherer
 884 Airport Road, Menasha
 (920) 725-6933

VERICH LAW, LLC
Jillayne Y. Verich
 (920) 810-7480
 jverich@verichlaw.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 Omro-Winneconne Council 8810
 Come Join Us
www.KofC.org/JoinUs
 Call Gary Scheidegger 262-622-3000

LEO'S SERVICE, LLC
 302 W. Main, Winneconne
 Complete Auto Repairs
 Mini-Mart
 (920)582-7717 days

MUELLER FUNERAL HOME
 Complete Funeral & Cremation Services
 Kelly Angell
 904 E. Main St. Winneconne
 920-582-4242 • www.muellerfh.net

LOURDES ACADEMY
 PK3-12 CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!
 920-426-6421
 www.lourdes.today

Off the Wolf
 Supper Club
 204 W. Main Street, Winneconne, WI 54986
 920.582.4422
 Owners: Jeff & Jennifer Schmitz

DEX PLUS
 Construction Remodeling
JOHN R. VANDE HEI
 Owner Siding Additions
 (O)920-685-3004 Decks
 (C)920-420-1636 New Homes

Edward Jones
 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

Kwiatkowski Funeral Home
 425 Jefferson Ave, Omro
 920-685-2207

Shawn Zagrodnik
 920-850-2919
D&S PLUMBING

Miron Construction
 Building Excellence
 1471 McMahon Drive
 Neenah, WI 54956
 920.969.7000
 Miron-Construction.com

Gorgie's
 N3084 County Rd. XX
 Berlin, WI 54923
 920-987-5800
 John & Jodi Hess, Owners

SCP EverGreen
 30 YEARS
 Skids, Crates, & Pallets Inc.

Advertise Here
 Email:
Stmarywinn
@stmarychurches.org

In Memory of Evie Kress

OUTDOOR DINING
 Serving Food Daily at 11:30 a.m. (Closed Mondays)
 Large Parking Lot for Motorcycle Groups
GREAT FRIDAY FISH FRY!
 Outdoor Steak Fry once a month
 from April-November

KWIK SHADE
 Tree Service
 Phil Ertmer
 920-379-2233
 3089 Heise Rd
 Omro

Ludwig Plumbing
 Since 1960
 920-231-5770



MAIN TIRE and MAINTENANCE
 Repair on Foreign & Domestic Cars
 1121 E. Main St. Omro WI 54963
 920-685-5553

Chris Seaman Carpentry Services LLC
 Chris Seaman
 Owner
 carpentryservices3143@gmail.com
 920-312-3058
 3143 Morrow Rd, Omro

Marsh Family Eyecare
 Family Eyecare · Quality Eyewear
 Contact Lenses · Laser Care
 Winneconne Oshkosh
 Healthy Vision: One of God's Most Precious Gifts

Vida
 SPECIALIZING IN SAVING LIVES OF THE UNBORN
Medical Clinic 1484 W. South
 Park Ave, Oshkosh
Parent Support Services
 601 Oregon St, Oshkosh

Riverfront Cabinetry & Design
Jeff Noffke LLC
 920-252-5501

Compliments of
 Jim & Margaret Potratz
 Parish Members