



# ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI PARISH

P.O. Box 839, 264 South Grant Street - Ellsworth, WI 54011

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office.....715-273-4774  
Pastor, Fr. Eric A. Dadson.....715-273-4774  
Fax.....715-273-4066  
St. Francis School. ....715-273-4391  
Office Hours .....Mon-Fri. 8:00am-3:00pm  
[sffrancisrectory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sffrancisrectory@sbcglobal.net) [www.sffrancisellsworth.com](http://www.sffrancisellsworth.com)

**December 17, 2017**

**Third Sunday of Advent**



## SAINT FRANCIS WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

If you are new to the parish, please call the office to register.

### NEED PRAYERS OR A VISIT?

If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call the parish office. Let us know if someone would like to be listed in the bulletin prayer. Please call the parish office at 715-273-4774.

### LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

Adult weekly including ACH's - \$10,398.00. Offertory - \$817.12.  
Children's Envelopes - \$4.00. Immaculate Conception - \$520.00. Religious Retirement - \$808.65.

## PARISH RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00pm. There will be three Priests to hear confessions.**

**WELCOME BACK FATHER ERIC!!**

## WELCOME TO

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

#### Mass Schedule

Weekend.....Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:30am

10:30am

Confession...Saturday 4:30 before Mass

### SAINTS and INTENTIONS

**For the week of December 18-25**

**Monday, December 18**

No Mass

**Tuesday, December 19**

8:30am Mass

+Goldie Campbell

**Wednesday, December 20**

8:30am Mass

+Willard Langer

**Thursday, December 21**

**St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor**

No Mass

**Friday, December 22**

8:30am Mass

John and Karen Woehrl

10:00am Mass at Atrium Care Center

**Saturday, December 23**

**St. John of Canty, Priest**

5:00pm Mass

+Deceased Zimmer Family members

**Sunday, December 24**

8:30am St. Francis Parish

10:30am +Francis and Mike Hager

**CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Adult Choir – Tuesday,  
December 19 at 5:30pm.  
Kid’s Choir – Wednesday,  
December 20 at 5:00pm.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday, December 24.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Lester Hines will be 90  
Saturday, December 23. If you  
wish to send him a birthday card,  
his address is 1040 North Maple,  
Ellsworth, WI.

**BISHOP CALLAHAN**

Recently Bishop Callahan  
attempted to reach out to each  
one of us in the Diocese of La  
Crosse to extend his blessing for  
this Advent season. In return, he  
asks that we share with him a  
personal intention that he could  
pray for at his Christmas Mass  
Celebrations. If you missed the  
call, did not receive a call, or just  
want to listen to his message  
again you can do so by calling  
(608) 352-9565 or by visiting the  
Diocesan website  
at <http://www.dioc.org/pray>

**END OF YEAR  
CHARITABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

Donors must deliver or mail (and  
postmark) checks on or  
by December 31, 2017, in order  
to claim a charitable  
contribution deduction for 2017.  
Checks that are placed in the  
church offering on the first  
Sunday in 2018 will not qualify  
for a charitable contribution  
deduction in 2017, even if the  
check is predated to 2017 or  
was actually written in 2017.  
This includes the Diocesan  
Appeal.

**FATHER ROY’S ADDRESS**

St Mary’s Parish  
7176 Esker Rd,  
Custer, WI 54423.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Mass for Christmas Eve,  
Sunday, December 24 will be  
at 4:00pm. Christmas Day,  
Monday, December 25 will be  
at 8:30 and 10:30am.**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
this year falls on December 24.  
Masses during the day will  
celebrate the Fourth Sunday of  
Advent, while Masses on Sunday  
evening will observe the Vigil  
for Christmas. Catholics are to  
attend Mass twice that weekend,  
once to observe Sunday and once  
for Christmas.

One week later, Sunday,  
December 31, we will celebrate  
the Feast of the Holy Family  
during the morning Masses.  
Monday, January 1 St. Francis  
will have Mass at 8:30am.  
January 1, is not a Holy Day of  
obligation in 2018.

**GRIEFSHARE**

GriefShare is a  
nondenominational seminar/grief  
support group that is facilitated  
by leaders who have lost loved  
ones of their own. Our next  
session will begin on Monday,  
January 8, 2018 at First Lutheran  
Church in Red Wing. We will  
meet from 7:00-8:30 P.M. For  
more information call Tina at  
651-301-1548 or Suzy at 507-  
398-3729 or  
[www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

**RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS**

A religious sister writes, “When  
we see the generous response of  
so many thousands of persons in  
order to help us, religious men  
and women, we are left  
speechless.” Senior sisters,  
brothers, and religious order  
priests across the country send  
heartfelt thanks and prayers for  
your donation to last week’s  
Retirement Fund for Religious  
collection.

**ATTENTION ALL  
FAMILIES –**

The Colleen and Paul Belland  
Family are hosting the annual  
Youth Group sledding party at  
their home Friday, December 29,  
6-10 pm. Everyone is invited!  
They have great hills! So mark  
your calendars, bring your sled  
and a snack to share. Hot dogs  
and hot chocolate will be  
provided.

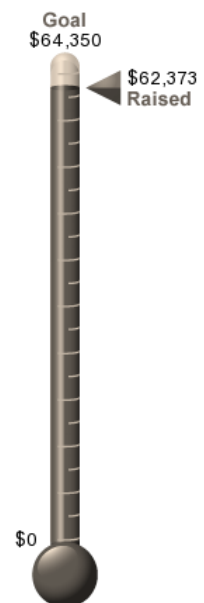
Permission slips are a  
must! **Please see the parish  
website for the Comprehensive  
Medical and Supplemental  
forms – which everyone must  
complete to attend.** Print them  
out, complete, and bring them  
with you to the sliding party.  
Parents should make sure they  
have their background checks  
done as well as the verification  
and questionnaire forms on file  
at the parish office.

Any questions, please contact  
Cheryl  
[Kaufer.goshawk@bevcomm.net](mailto:Kaufer.goshawk@bevcomm.net).

**DIOCESAN APPEAL**

We have received \$62,373.00 in  
pledges towards our parish goal  
of \$64,350.00. This is 96.9% of  
our goal

**DIOCESAN APPEAL  
THERMOMETER**



**SAINT FRANCIS SCHOOL NEWS**

St. Francis before school care program: St. Francis will be offering a before school care program that will start at 7:00am each school morning beginning Thursday, January 4. We are excited to provide this service to our families!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Grades 1 – 5.** Classes for students will meet on Wednesday, December 20, from 5:45 to 6:45 pm.

**Religious Education Grades 6 - 9:** Classes will be held this Wednesday, December 20, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

**10th Grade Confirmation Students:** Class will be held this Wednesday, December 20, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**December 23 & 24**

**5:00pm Mass.**

**Lector** – Cheryl Kaufer. **Mass Servers** – Nic Loesch, Rachel and Bethany Kaufer.

**Eucharistic Ministers** – Linda Donnelly, Kathy Flanigan, Joe and Judy Hines, Mary Hines, Dorothy Hallock, and Dee Dee Schutz.

**8:30am Mass.**

**Lector** – Ron Johnson. **Mass Servers** – Lauren, Austin and Logan Brand.

**Eucharistic Minister** – Kim and Terri Wagner, Karen Webster, Colleen and Paul Belland, Dean Hines, and Doug Hines.

**10:30am Mass.**

**Lector** – Gayle Nissen. **Mass Servers** – Tyler, Maggie, and Kalen Berns

**Eucharistic Ministers**- Rose Mickelson, Chuck and Joan Foley, Ann Hines, Jeff Hines, Morgan Hines, Margie and Marty Kulak.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER**

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for providing and serving supper last Wednesday. We will be serving again on Wednesday, December 20 from 5:15PM – 7:00PM for all grades. All are welcome.

**SAINT FRANCIS SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST MENU – December 18 - 20**

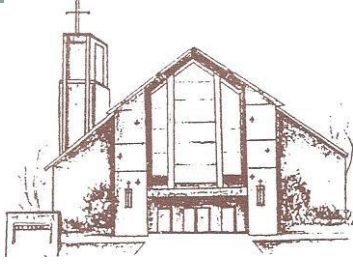
Monday:	Breakfast: Breakfast-on-a-Stick	Lunch: Mini Cheese Ravioli w/Meat Sauce, tossed salad, apple sauce, bread stick
Tuesday:	Breakfast: Cheese Omelet	Lunch: Brunch Lunch! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh fruit, juice, tater tots
Wednesday:	Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll	Lunch: Chicken Patty on a Bun, peaches, beets, and special treat

**FATHER ROY’S HOMILY**

Many have asked for a copy of Father Roy’s homily when he talked about Father Donaldson. It was written by Father Krieg.

“I will never forget the day Fr. Tom Donaldson, a native of Eau Claire, came to my parish during the last year of his life. He was assisting me with a school reconciliation service. When our prayer was over, I felt moved to ask the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to say a prayer for Father Donaldson because he was sick. We extended our hands as I spoke a prayer of blessing. My prayer was serviceable, I’m sure, but it was his words that followed that sunk deeply into the hearts of all who heard him

He said, “I want to thank you, boys and girls, for praying for me. And I hope you keep praying for me. You know, I am sick. I have cancer. And you can pray if you want for my cancer to go away. I like life a lot, and I think it would be good to keep living a lot longer. But when you pray for me, what I really want you to pray for is my faith – that my faith stays strong. I really believe and truly feel that God loves me and is close to me. I might get better, but I might get a lot sicker real soon, and what’s most important to me is not that my cancer goes away but that my faith stays strong. If I continue to feel close to God and feel God’s love, it will really be OK if I get sicker and die.”



Dear Friends:

Peace, Joy and Love!

**Are you interested in the Catholic Faith?**

Starting **January 2018**, St. Francis Parish will begin a new journey in faith to share the richness of the Catholic Church and our parish family. We invite you to learn what the Church teaches, and be introduced to some of our parish members. These sessions also are opportunities for you, and others that you may wish to invite, to ask questions you may have about the Church.

**Who is RCIA for?**

1. Persons in need of Baptism.
2. Person baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic.
3. Persons baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), speaks of conversion as a “spiritual journey.” centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to bring about a thorough catechesis, significant experience of the parish community, and commitment to the liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful.

**How long is the RCIA process?**

The time varies, but the Diocesan Office of Catechesis and Evangelization highly recommends a 15-month process. The RCIA is a process of conversion that is meant to form and prepare adults to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ and courageous witnesses to the Catholic Faith. After experiencing both the 15-month and two year processes, there is no comparison to the 9-month model.

As a parish community, we are not asking too much in carrying out a 15-month RCIA process. As Pope John Paul II wrote: “it would be wrong to think that ordinary Christians can be content with (a limited presentation of the faith and) a shallow prayer that is unable to fill their whole life. Especially in the face of many trials to which today’s world subjects faith, they would be not only mediocre Christians but ‘Christians at risk’” (Novo Millennio Ineunte, n. 34). How can we offer any less to those coming to us to receive the fullness of the Truth and Grace? Rather, let us give to those searching for a deep relationship with Christ and His Church “The Pearl of Great Price.”

If you are interested, please feel free to call Joan Foley (RCIA Coordinator). Her phone number is 715-338-1199. Feel free to email her at [cfoley@dishup.us](mailto:cfoley@dishup.us)

Pastor