Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-0567 or Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM, Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak Administrator

Sunday 1/21/2024 AM = \$1,830.00 Attendance = 80 Amount needed per week--\$ 1,662.69

Mass Intentions

1/28/2024— Mayme Nowak

2/04/2024— Remembrance of Lois Hartlaben by Steve & Sheila Hartlaben

Mass Servers -

1/28/2024 — Ava & Jared Peters, Beau Diemel

2/04/2024—Alex, Reagan Krings, Landon Fischer

Ministers of the Word -

1/28/2024 — Randy Short

2/04/2024 — Judy Berreitter

Hospitality

1/28/2024—Karen VanLanen, Katlyn Bohr, Rick Banker

2/04/2024 — Jack Banker, Rick Banker, Amy Guyette

Trumpet January Sponsor — Peace on Earth

Bulletin January Sponsor — Living & Deceased family members of Wetts, Salmon Families by Pam Wetts

Upcoming Events— Chili Dump February 18 after mass with games to play.

RE NEWS SCHEDULE - RE Class every Wednesday 6:30—7:45 PM

St Mary's in Bear Creek, WI Winter Golf Classic "Fun for the entire family" Sat. February 17, 2024. Poster is up on the bulletin boards for more info.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry Wednesday, Feb.21 — 4-6 PM Saturday, Feb. 24 — 9-11 AM

December report 38 Families, and 99 Individual.

"The Social Concerns group is reporting that the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry had an increase of 31% for families and 42% for individuals in 2023. In addition to the 'item of the month', we will be keeping our tree up at the main entrance. If you feel it is easier to donate a cash amount instead of shopping for the 'item of the month', you can grab an envelope off the tree and put your donation in the collection box. There will also be envelopes at the side entrance. We realize that there are a lot of demands on your time and money, so we wanted to offer you an 'either/or' choice. Thank you all for your help in 2023 and we hope for a successful 2024 as well! May God bless you all!"

Mass Intentions, Bulletin, and Trumpet Sponsors for 2024:

Please call the office if you want to reserve any of the available dates.

Thank you

I want to Thank everyone that sent a card, called, attended the funeral, and left a message of sympathy for the loss of my mother in law Delores Sorensen. A Memorial Fund has been established in her name. She is missed dearly. Thank you! Love "The Sorensens"

Happy Birthday!

January 28 Eli Inman; 29 Landon Fischer, Ami Hanus, Sierra Peeters; 30 Jack Banker, Keith Pennings February 1 Nathan Johnson, James Peters; 2 Tony Eggers; 4 Harold Lorenz; 5 Isaac Tepolt, Jayden Batlthazor; 8 Gary Urban; 9 David Burch, Collin Guyette; 11 Wendy Meeuwsen; 13 Mason Herb; 16 Jean Short, Alex Tepolt; 18 Nicholas Renner; 19 Crystal Short; 20 David Burch, Mary Ellen Peeters, Natalie Fischer; 21 Violet Martin, Gregory Strayer; 22 Stanley Heinemeyer; 25 Shelly Stascak; 26 Patricia Stammer; 27 Irene Jarek; 28 Eleanor Couch, James Jarek, Brody Maroszek



FORMED is an awesome website for all of us, from little kids, to teens, to young adults and older adults, to discover so much about our Catholic Faith, anytime of the day—24/7, on our computers, Laptops, Tablets and Smartphones. It's a FREE gift to you from our parish. It is a joint subscription with St. Mary's Parish in Black Creek. There may be stuff on the internet that tells people that God or the Catholic Faith are not important or relevant to our lives, especially the lives of our young people, isn't it nice to know that there is something that says they are.

So, give FORMED.ORG a try!

ATTENTION!!—It's here on FORMED— a new series—The Catholic Parent

This six-episode series features real Catholic families sharing their daily struggles and victories. Created by the Augustine Institute and Catholic Sprouts, *The Catholic* Parent encourages moms and dads as they embrace their God-given role to form their families in the Catholic faith. The Catholic Parent is ideal for adult formation, small groups, or parents of kids preparing to receive a sacrament. The downloadable participant guide includes questions for group discussion, topics for personal reflection, and ideas for parents (and grandparents) to try at home.







Blessing of Candles and Blessing of Throats Friday, 2 February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known at Candlemas Day. We will have a special Mass at 12:00 noon that day in which candles will be blessed. A table will be provided in the sanctuary for people to put candles they would like to have blessed for their personal use. We will have the Blessing of Throats, in honor of St. Blaise, after the Mass on Sunday, 4 February.

Message from Fr. David—If you receive a text, voice or email message that is soliciting something, and it has my name attached to it, **THIS IS A SCAM!** Please do not respond to it, and delete it.

Reflection on the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is an article titled: "More Thoughts for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B," found on the Young Catholics website—young-catholics.com:

Embracing the Prophetic Voice

The first reading from Deuteronomy introduces a powerful theme: the prophetic voice that speaks with God's authority. This voice, as promised by God, is one like Moses, who would lead and guide the people in truth. In our own lives, recognizing and embracing this prophetic voice is crucial. It's not just about listening to words; it's about an encounter with the divine truth. The challenge lies in discerning who, in our time, carries this mantle of truth.

We are surrounded by many voices claiming authority – in media, in politics, in our communities. How do we recognize the true prophetic voice? The key is in its alignment with the teachings of Christ and the Church, and its fruits in love, justice, and peace. Embracing the prophetic voice means allowing it to challenge and transform us, leading us closer to

Speaking from Real Life

Jesus' way of teaching starkly contrasts with that of the scribes, as seen in the Gospel reading. The scribes, though knowledgeable, lacked the ability to connect deeply with the common people. Their teachings often hovered in the realm of theory, detached from the lived realities of those they were meant to guide. Jesus, on the other hand, spoke from real life. His authority was rooted not just in knowledge but in experience and empathy. He spoke of the Kingdom of God using parables and examples that resonated with the everyday experiences of His listeners.

This approach made His teachings accessible and transformative. It wasn't about complicated theological arguments but about truth presented in a way that reached hearts and minds. In our own lives, when we share our faith with others, are we speaking from real life? Do we connect our understanding of God's word with the practical realities people face every day? Speaking from real life means making faith relevant and accessible, just as Jesus did.

The Call to Undistracted Devotion

Paul's message in the second reading from 1 Corinthians presents a compelling call to undistracted devotion to the Lord. He contrasts the concerns of married and unmarried individuals, highlighting how the latter can focus more fully on God. This is not a denouncement of marriage but rather an invitation to consider how our states of life can best be oriented towards God.

For the married, it is a challenge to find balance – to love and serve their families while keeping God at the center. For the unmarried, it's an opportunity to use their freedom for greater devotion and service. Paul's advice is timeless: our primary focus, regardless of our state in life, should be on pleasing the Lord. This call to undistracted devotion is a reminder to assess our priorities and attachments. Are they leading us closer to God, or are they pulling us away? In a world filled with distractions, this message is more relevant than ever. We are called to a devotion that is undivided, a heart that seeks God first in all things.

These readings collectively invite us to a deeper understanding of our faith. They challenge us to discern and embrace the true voice of God, to speak and live our faith authentically, and to orient our lives towards undistracted devotion to God. The message for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time is not just about listening to these themes but about integrating them into our daily lives, allowing them to shape our actions, our relationships, and our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ.





2024 Bishop's Appeal

The 2024 Bishop's Appeal kicks off next weekend—3/4 February. The Bishop's Appeal is a stewardship opportunity for each of us to reach out to thousands of people in search of Jesus' love. Each gift given supports the ministries of the Diocese of Green Bay which serve our parishes, Catholic schools, and communities. Your gift truly helps bring the heart and hands of Christ to our children, young adults, families, and neighbors here in northeastern Wisconsin. The goal for St. Lawrence Parish this year is \$13,854.00, which is an increase of \$1,060.00 from the 2023 goal. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.