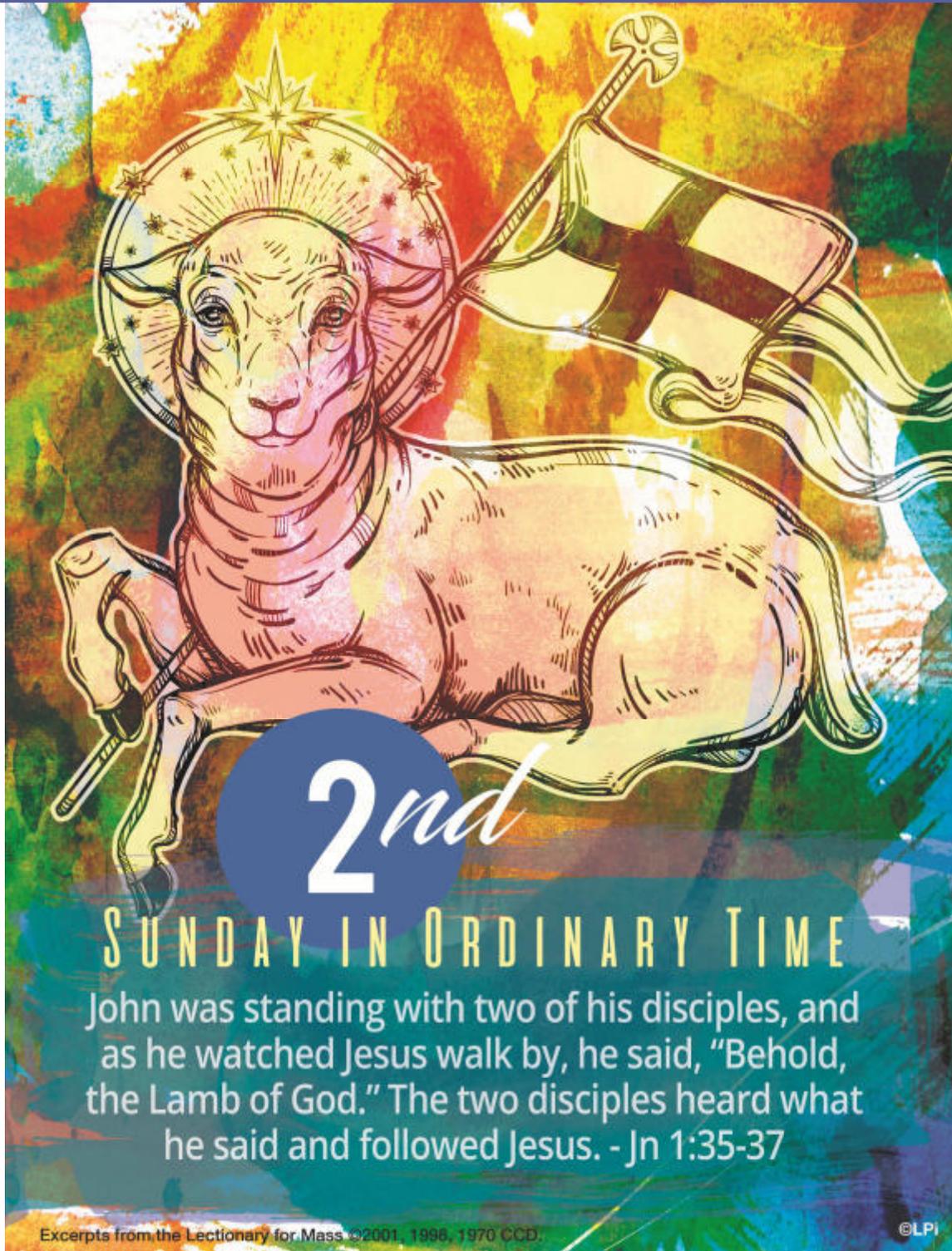


St. James the Greater

Where All Are Welcome

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time † January 17, 2020



2nd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-37

Message from Fr. Tom

(I'm writing this on Tuesday night.) I know we all continue to hold our nation in prayer these days, and many of us are on edge about what might happen next. I've seen on TV and read in news articles many things, some that add fuel to the fire and widen the wound, and others that further the cause of peace. One article I read featured sermon excerpts from Evangelical preachers delivered last weekend. To quote the article, "Samuel Rodriguez, who delivered a prayer at Trump's inauguration and has also advised him, told his congregation Sunday that America needs to hear a message of repentance. "We must all repent, even the church needs to repent. The American nation will be healed when the American church repents," he said to some cheers and applause. "We must repent for making the person who occupies the White House more important than the one who occupies our hearts. We must repent for permitting the donkey and the elephant to divide what the Lamb died for on the cross." Rodriguez said he was praying for a season of "instead of"—"Instead of destroying property, building altars. Instead of confrontation, conversations. ... Instead of many under fear, one nation under God." Easier said than done, but I appreciated his words.

Speaking of peacemaking, I hope you can tune in to at least some of the **Martin Luther King Day online observance** from 12:00 until 8:30. I was honored to be asked to be one of many persons reading King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," which kicks off the day. A live panel discussion on "Race and Religion" starts at 2:00. You can see the whole schedule by clicking January 18 on the calendar at pablocenter.org. Thanks to **Selika Ducksworth-Lawton**, from St. James, for her efforts in this event.

You can also mark your calendars to **pray for unborn life on Friday, January 22**, the day our bishops designate every year for this purpose. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be present after our masses with donation baskets. Money collected goes in part to the Eau Claire chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life, and the bulk of it goes to the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus for them to disperse.

Here's a couple **employment opportunities within the Eau Claire Catholic community**. For quite a while the **Calvary Cemetery Association** has been looking for a **MANAGER** to oversee day to day operations and serve as a first contact for people seeking a burial plot or niche. Our own St. James Parishioner, **Pete Wagener**, has served in this capacity, both ably and with pastoral sensitivity, for many years and would like to retire. The cemetery manager works in collaboration with a board of directors. Also, **Regis Catholic Schools** is looking for someone to serve as a **bus driver** to take students to and from events such as sports games or forensics competitions. The driving job pays \$17/hr, and I'm not sure what the cemetery job pays.

On **February 14** when St. James hosts another **homemade Italian take-out dinner**. This meal features Manicotti with meatballs, and Red Velvet Tiramisu. \$15 a plate; I ordered four. We can take up to 200 orders, which you can place by visiting our stjameseauclaire.org website or calling into the office.

The **Parish Pastoral Council** met this Tuesday. Our chair, Paula Winter, offered a possible structure for strategic planning that was well received and will draw on the goals and input of other parish groups in the months ahead—so get your wheels turning other groups! Our final non-agenda item was just talking about physical attendance at mass and our sign-up procedure. One member articulated very well the view held by my own brother that it is inhospitable to have a seat reservation system, and that the only good solution is to let people in without signing up and leave to everyone's own good judgement where they can safely sit. I bet that would be popular with a good many people and is what some other parishes in Eau Claire are apparently doing. **The only problem with that, as I see it**, is what to do when more people come than can be separately by the six-foot distance recommended to prevent the spread of Covid. Not seeing a safe response to that scenario is why our staff has gone with a system that requires sign-ups. We have indeed lost some parish members because of this; we have also gained parish members because they appreciate this cautious approach.

I'm so sorry this is our situation and that it has been frustrating to so many people. **At the end of the week I'm having yet another funeral for someone who died of Covid**, and this doesn't make me prone to lessen our precaution, no matter how much part of me would like to let some people feel freer and better about coming to church. The bad news is that this isn't going to get any easier for several months. I floated the idea of adding a second Saturday mass to ease the stress of it all, so like at 3:30 and 5:15, so that could happen. **Michael Brahmer** noted that on video he sees very few young families in church, and fears that we might lose them for good. He suggested a monthly family mass, which I am open to celebrating. **Mike Kolstad**, who makes a habit of monitoring the future of the Church by counting the young children at mass from his perch in the choir loft, noted that at one Sunday mass there were ten little kids, or about 15% of the congregation, which was encouraging.

In church or in your homes, know that I value your communion with St. James, and look forward to days of packed celebrations, God willing. Peace.

10 January 2020, Fr. Tom's Homily

The Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1:7-11

I want to focus my reflection today on the idea of "Dignity." I imagine a lot of us are still reeling from the events of Wednesday afternoon when we the **invasion of the capitol** by people wanting to overturn the election. A good many of us found the images scary and offensive. What I found offensive when, for example, I saw the **photo of the man with his legs up on the desk of the Speaker of the House**, was the insult to the dignity of that office, the chambers of Congress, and the capitol itself. I believe I would have been equally scandalized if left-wing groups invaded the White House and put their feet on the desk in the Oval Office. There was no respect for the dignity of the place.

I see that in churches, too. I remember when I was in Menomonie and the university liked to use our church space for orchestra or choir concerts. One even I walked through church after their final rehearsal and found drumsticks, and cymbals, maracas, and any other percussion instrument they had all laid out on our altar. I was horrified. I wasn't angry at them since I figured it was ignorance not malice, but I took all those instruments off and wrote a letter that I placed on the conductor's stand saying that I put the instruments were on the ground because **the altar is off limits for such practical uses** because it is the holy surface where at each mass we join the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross with our own offering of bread and wine. I think church people have a leg up on others when it comes to recognizing Dignity of Space due to our sacred space in church.

But if places have dignity, how much mores do people have dignity. This is the connection to our feast and our Gospel reading. It is a bedrock belief of our faith tradition that every human being has great dignity, from the moment of conception to the moment of death, and seeing each person has dignity is to say she or he has value and worth. We have it, but we don't always realize it, or we realize our own but don't see it in others.

Jesus comes out of the waters of the Jordan and hears incredible words that help him become acutely aware of his dignity: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** What could be more dignifying than that? Now, there is a lot we do not have in common with Jesus—our sins being the most obvious—but, believe it or not, feel it or not, **one thing we do have in common with Jesus is that we are beloved children of God.** We are. **The root of most of our sins and most of the problems in our world is that we do not realize this spiritual fact, and so instead of extending the love we sense from God to the world, because we don't sense that love we go looking for that sense of importance from outside of ourselves, dangerously thinking we are better than others, stronger than others, more right than others, instead loving one another.**

I'm reading a book right now called *Dignity: Its Essential Role is Resolving Conflict*. In it, the author cites a survey of 2500 maximum security prisoners convicted of murder. **They were asked why they killed**, and the most common response, the response of over half of them was **"Because I was disrespected."** There was a wound to their dignity.

Do you remember when Sen. Clinton was running for president 4-5 years ago and there was that recording of her in a small gathering referring to certain types of people as **"Deplorables"**? We all say things we'd rather not be recorded, and I'm not trying to take sides on politicians, but I will say that that was a terrible thing to say. It gets at the dignity of others. It's a common thought these days that people like those who stormed the capitol on Wednesday are people whose dignity was insulted by people they'd call liberal elites, and who found a champion in the president who in turn insulted again and again the dignity of those elites. But Jesus is here to tell us something important: **THERE IS ANOTHER WAY.** We can acknowledge people's dignity and build each other up. And we have to.

One of our differences from Jesus is that this inner voice was enough for him. It carried him through his temptations in the desert and his passion and death. He never lost awareness of his dignity through any of that. My experience is that for the rest of us awareness of our own dignity is more fragile. It's good to have it in our toolbox if we feel put down or unimportant, to remind ourselves that we're deeply loved by God. But practically speaking, **this is hard for us to sustain and so we need to encourage one another often and genuinely, by our genuine care and kind attention to one another.**

If we can do that—both benefitting from that and benefitting others—who could doubt that the world will be a much better, a more peaceful, place.

Mass Intentions & Schedule

Weekday masses are at 9:00 AM Tuesday-Friday.
 Wednesday and Friday are School Only while school is in session.
 Saturday 4:30 PM, Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 AM.
 Masks & social distancing are required.

Sat.	Jan. 16	4:30 Charlie Martenson
Sun.	Jan. 17	8:00 People of St. James 10:00 Adam & Loraine Stuckert, Gary Cripe
Tue.	Jan. 19	Theresa Maenner
Wed.	Jan. 20	Tom BaDour
Thu.	Jan. 21	Dorothy Rader
Fri.	Jan. 22	Harry Bechel
Sat.	Jan. 23	4:30 Bob Charlie Martinson
Sun.	Jan. 24	8:00 Cal & Judy Campbell 10:00 People of St. James

St. James School Events

- January 18: No School, Staff Development
- January 19-29: Virtual Learning, No in person class

Church open for prayer

Just a reminder that the church is open for private prayer
 Monday-Thursday 9-5. Enter through parish office.

COMMITMENT TO PARISH LIFE

Quarterly statements were recently mailed.
 Please look over the left side and let Anne know if you
 want to make any adjustments to your CPL for 2021.
 Changes could include the amount, frequency or method
 of payment.
 These statements are for *your* information but the right
 side can only be helpful if the numbers are correct on the
 left.

NOTE:

If you are signing up for automatic bank withdraws to
 make your donations to St. James, please use your
 envelope number as your account number.
 This saves our money counters a tremendous amount of
 time and helps to assure you get proper credit for your
 donation.

Catholic Schools Week is Feb. 1 - 5 - watch for bulletin
 insert on events!

Sermon on the Amount

January 3, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (125)	\$14,562.50
2019 same week (212166)	\$15,275.50
Students	\$2.00
Plate	\$168.00
Total	\$14,732.50
Christmas (2019—\$14,418.00)	\$7,595.00
Christmas Plate (2019—\$3,861.42)	\$1,506.00
Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through Dec. 31, 2020:	
Actual (July 1-Dec. 31)	\$322,891.00
Budgeted (July 1-Nov. 30)	\$310,891.00

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund
 and Past*Present*Future Campaign income for Jan. 3 was
 \$765.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$40,817.60.

"LIFESAVER" WEEKEND - Jan. 16 & 17:

January 22 marks the 48th anniversary of the Roe v Wade
 decision, which legalized abortions in the United States.
 Since 1973, over 62 million innocent unborn children have
 lost their lives through abortions.

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a
 fundraising event at all masses on January 16 and 17.
 Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to
 handout lifesaver candy, however, Knights will be at the
 doors of Church and would be happy to accept your
 donation enabling us to further a Culture of Life within
 our community. New this year will be an opportunity to
 support this effort through on-line giving.

Please email Bill at goldyh6@gmail.com and request the
 direct link to our "Go Fund Me" page to make your
 donation. Thank you for your support of this campaign
 which is needed now more then ever before.

Mass Sign Up

For help signing up for weekend masses, or if you have
 questions on the system, please contact Kelly Beaudrie at
beaudrie.kelly@gmail.com, or 715-828-8313.

Religious Education will resume in person elementary
 classes on Jan. 6 with Group B from 6:15-7:30.
 Middle School will continue to be virtual.

Parish Staff

Phone: 715-835-5887

Fr. Tom Krieg	Pastor	tom4664@aol.com
Christine Warloski	Pastoral Associate	christine@stjameseauclaire.org
Jacky Miller	Pastoral Minister	jacchuck@yahoo.com
Anne Henriksen	Office Manager	stjameseac@aol.com
Mary Kolstad	Crđ. of Liturgical Music	kolstadmary@gmail.com
Kelly Beaudrie	Dir. of Religious Ed.	beaudrie.kelly@gmail.com
Beth Cerny	Crđ. of Religious Ed	elizabethcerny@hotmail.com

St. James School Phone: 715-830-2277

Jackie Lutz Principal,	jlutz@regiscatholicschools.com
Shanna Donkers, Administrative Assistant,	sdonkers@regiscatholicschools.com
Linda Schultz, Commission Rep.-RCS,	linda1735@gmail.com
Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.	

Feed the Hungry

Thanks to the persistence of Mary Kolstad, we now know the hours at St. Francis Food Pantry, and can now resume collecting donation for the food pantry.

Bins are at the entrances.

Hunger is a big issue in Eau Claire during Covid times. Please help if you can.

Sharing wisdom from a food bank volunteer:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. But it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Bonus: CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEEK

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" - Jn 1:38a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 02091, 1996, 1975 CCD.



Additional Flower Donations...

In Memory of:

Antonio Alama
Aurelia Alama
Mary Jeanne Anderson
Edward Thompson
Daryl Rihn

From:

Sorry for the delay in publishing these names!!



Congratulations Clarks on the baptism of Annie (who was so cute while being dunked!)

Take-Out Dinner!

Order Cheese Stuffed
Manicotti Dinner Here



Pick-Up on Sunday, February 14th from 11:00-
12:00 noon

Orders max out at 200 and must be in by Feb. 9th

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Krische Law Office
Matthew J. Krische
Attorney
715-318-2737
21 S. Barstow St., Ste. 209, Eau Claire
www.eauclaireattorney.com

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