

# St. James the Greater

Second Sunday of Lent + February 28, 2021



*Assorted Quotes of  
Blessed Julian of Norwich*  
c.1342-1416

“All shall be well,  
and all shall be well,  
and all manner of  
things shall be well.”

“The greatest honor  
we can give Almighty God  
is to live gladly because of  
the knowledge of his love.”

“God loved us  
before he made us;  
and his love has never  
diminished and never shall.”

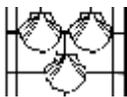
“...the goodness of God is  
the highest object of prayer  
and it reaches down  
to our lowest need.”

*—Assorted Quotes of Julian of Norwich*

## All Shall Be Well

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**Bulletin deadlines:** end of day Mondays.



## Message from Fr. Tom

Happy Lent to all, as we turn to our good God with our whole heart. I hope you are finding enough through St. James or other places for your spiritual enrichment. Many are enjoying “Lent in a Box,” any of several videos on our YouTube channel, and we also had a strong showing for our first “Rosary with an Hour Adoration,” which will be every Tuesday of Lent at 9:30 (after 9:00 Mass). Also, I know many of you love to hear Fr. John Heagle talk—and guess what?—he gave a talk Thursday night to the people of St. Anne Parish in Wausau, and you can get that link through our website and our Facebook page!

I really enjoyed watching the 4-hour public television series, “The Black Church,” last week. Everyone has their own story and every Church has their own story. It was interesting how in the days of slavery many Black churches required a White person to be in attendance, so that the preaching would encourage a very docile spirit of slaves toward their masters. It reminded me of the film *Harriet* about Harriet Tubman (excellent film btw) in which the Black slave preacher preached very slavery-friendly sermons, but after hours he sheltered fugitive slaves on their journeys to freedom. He had to make some compromises while preaching in order to serve a greater good.

On some level, the slave owners knew that the Bible and the Good News of Jesus would not support the continuation of slavery, so they tried to control the message. But in the end there was no controlling the Gospel. Actually, even more than Jesus’ words, the movement to free the slaves drew more upon the story of Moses leading the slaves to freedom. Of course! Some times our self-interest blinds us to what is obvious in the Word of God; I’m afraid that was true of slave owners.

Another interesting theme in the series was a **division** in Black churches in the 20<sup>th</sup> century between **those who promoted patient suffering** and looking to the next life for hope, and **those that focused on the need to make people’s lives more dignified here on earth**. I see that difference even among our own people—an other-worldly or this-worldly focus. Both are important.

I also watched a good film on Fr. John Parr’s recommendation, *Writing on Bathroom Walls*, about a high school student living with schizophrenia. It’s a lot like the 2001 film, *A Beautiful Mind*, which is one of my very favorites. Added appeal for this new film is the presence of a Catholic priest as a positive part of the story. While discussing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, he says to the student, “Telling somebody our sins gives us the opportunity to admit that we are flawed. (You don’t think people know they’re flawed? The student asks.) Everyone’s flawed, but admitting our flaws gives us the opportunity and the strength to face them. And that’s why we confess.”

This COVID Lent, access to the sacrament is more limited but you can make an appointment with me, or see me at the Last Supper Sculpture every Saturday at 3:30, and on March 18 at 7:00 there will be a communal night of reflection and proclamation of mercy. I will be the only priest at it, and so when it is over, I can BRIEFLY hear people’s main sins and offer absolution. My hope is that participating in this service even without the individual confession will afford the experience of humble awareness of sin and grateful awareness of God’s mercy as we head into Holy Week. In these days of limited contact, a person can always make a perfect act of contrition, resolving to make a good confession when circumstances allow.

After mass on Tuesday, I counted 22 little lambs on the banner in front of church. That means we had 22 of our second graders experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last Saturday. Thanks to their parents for helping them learn our faith and lay the groundwork for a future Church. Thanks also to Beth Cerny, Ruth Ebert and Jamie Rosene for putting it all together and making it beautiful.

My mom sent me a news article last week about a man who returned to his habit of prayer after a ten-year gap. With the encouragement of a friend, he found some sacred space, sat, and prayed. Here is his reflection on how that felt: “It was like returning to the seat of honor at a fireside feast where, despite my long absence, the food somehow has remained warm. For a moment, I am home.” I can’t guarantee everyone will have that lovely experience when they turn to God with renewed effort in prayer, but I bet they won’t regret it. Peace.

## 21 February 2021, Fr. Tom's Homily

### First Sunday of Lent

Mark 1:12:25

"Repent and believe in the gospel." It's a call to conversion, fitting for beginning Lent together. I don't know about you, but **when I hear "Repent"** I think of something that's important and good, sure, but basically really **hard and unpleasant**.

And it can be hard, depending on how attached you are to patterns of behavior that are not of God. Repenting literally means "turning around." On Ash Wednesday the first reading from Joel urged us to "Turn to God with your whole heart." Depending on how much of your heart is already turned toward God it will be easier or harder to repent. But either way, **turning God should give you joy even with the pain. That's the ministry of angels in the midst of the wild beasts.** In fact, the more the sins the deeper the joy of turning away from them.

Pope Francis is such a good preacher. He talks about the joy of Lent. He says that **Lent is a time of repentance but not sorrow, a time of penance but not sadness**, and he says that **when Jesus calls us to conversion, he does not set himself as a judge, but he calls from a position of closeness.** He always invites conversion with love.

There's a church song from my younger days that you might recognize—I'll just sing refrain, one verse refrain—then I'll preach some more so be prepared! To me it really expresses the tenderness of our Lenten call to conversion. (Lyrics by John Foley, SJ: "*Turn to me, o turn and be saved, says the Lord, for I am God. There is no other, none beside me. I call your name. verse 1: I am God who comforts you. Who are you to be afraid—of flesh that fades, is made like the grass of the field, soon to wither.*" [Full song](#).)

That song really helps me feel the love in Jesus' call to conversion. Like the love he felt in the wilderness from the ministry of angels.

I really like the **abbreviated temptation story in Mark's gospel account.** He doesn't tell of Satan tempting Jesus three times, but says only that he was in the desert for 40 days, Satan tempted him, and he was with the wild beasts and angels ministered to him. I've always been touched by that last line—it seems to capture the spiritual life in one sentence. **We too are with the "wild beasts" of difficulties and temptations. We too receive the "ministry of angels" when we experience the love of God, or the love of others, or a growing love for the gospel that Jesus preached.**

Jesus being with the wild beasts reminded me of a night I spent with a couple high school buddies when we were still young adults camping at Pigeon Creek Campground in Black River State Forest. Well, we had a good time swimming under a full moon, sitting around a campfire, and one of the others had bought a case of bottled beer. I like a beer but I've never been able to drink too much without getting sick, so they had most of it. I don't remember who was in which tent, but I remember that very quickly those two fell asleep and were snoring like crazy.

So, they did not hear the arrival of the Wild Beasts. I'd be slightly more courageous now, but I've never liked the sounds of the night while I'm in a tent. I was quite frightened when whatever critters those were—probably raccoons—found all those beer bottles and made a big racket. Those guys slept right through it, despite me saying "Hey guys, guys...guys!!" I remember wishing I had drunk more so I could be sleeping through this! **Eventually, and finally, like after really quite a long time with me stiff in my sleeping bag, the wild beasts stopped, my heart slowed and I drifted off into sweet sleep.**

But in the morning I remembered the terror of the night. I was the last one to drive away that morning, and I noticed that a family was just setting up camp next to our site. I'd like to think that what I did next I would have done anyway, but I really don't think I would have except for the wild beasts. I noticed that we had a good deal of firewood left at our site. I put it all in my arms and walked it over to the family. We exchanged some happy words, and they were modestly grateful. But, honestly, I was doing it for myself because **I had learned something in the night. I learned that in this world with wild beasts that scare us, we need the ministry of angels. And we can be those angels.**

**Fish Fries**

- Mar. 5 - St Olaf
- St Raymond
- Mar. 12 - St Raymond
- Mar. 19 - St Olaf
- St Raymond
- Mar. 26 - Immaculate Conception
- St Raymond
- Apr. 9 - St Olaf
- Apr. 23 - St Olaf

**Empty Bowls Week**

Help fight local hunger with us! This year's Empty Bowls fundraiser will be a week-long opportunity (Mar. 1-6) to come to Feed My People and pick up a one-of-a-kind gift bag without ever leaving your vehicle. All proceeds go towards hunger-relief in west central Wisconsin.



Each gift bag includes a handcrafted bowl, local recipes, and coupons to restaurants who typically supply the meal for Empty Bowls. Additionally, you will gain access to an online silent auction, which will be open Feb. 25 – March 6. A traditional Gift Bag is \$20 and contains a randomly selected handcrafted bowl made by a local artist or student. Signature Gift Bags are \$25 and feature a special bowl designed by Scheelhouse Pottery. Supporters also have the option of purchasing a Bowl with a Bow for \$10 that will go directly to someone in need as a gift.

Purchase tickets today at [give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek](http://give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek). Pickup times will be emailed with your ticket receipt. Thank you for helping feed your neighbors in need.

**The Passion Narrative in the Gospel of Mark (via Zoom), offered by the Franciscan Spirituality Center.**

Mar. 9, 16, 23 (Tuesday, 7-8 PM), Presenter: John McHugh, \$10 per session. Attend just one or all sessions Register at [www.FSCenter.org](http://www.FSCenter.org) or 608-791-5295.

All four New Testament Gospels tell the story of Jesus' passion and death. However, each Gospel writer adds their own style and content. Those subtle differences carry important messages for the reader, even 2,000 years later. Biblical scholar and local leadership executive John McHugh will present a series of virtual talks on these events as related in the Gospel of Mark for the Franciscan Spirituality Center.

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:**

John McHugh has earned degrees from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. John serves on the boards of Trust Point, National Mutual Benefit Society, Viterbo University and Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse.

**Mass Intentions & Schedule**

Weekday masses are at 9:00 AM Tuesday-Friday. Wednesday and Friday have limited seating when school is in session. Saturday 4:30 PM, Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 AM.

Masks & social distancing are required.

Sat.	Feb. 27	4:30 Bob Krumenauer
Sun	Feb. 28	8:00 People of St. James
		10:00 Daryl Rihn and Aurelia Alama
Tue.	Mar. 02	Shirley Brindle
Wed.	Mar. 03	Harry Bechel
Thu.	Mar. 04	John T. Miller
Fri.	Mar. 05	Liturgy of the Word w/ Communion
Sat.	Mar. 06	4:30 Lyle and Arlee Berg
Sun	Mar. 07	8:00 People of St. James
		10:00 James Connolly

The **Parish office** will be open 9:30-2:45 on Tuesday March 2. Anne will be out.

**Parish Outreach** Please contact Christine if you would like to join the parish, be visited at home or at the hospital, have a prayer request, or if you or someone you know is expecting and would like to be supported by volunteers.

**March at St. James Elementary School:**

- Mar. 8 & 25 - Battle of the Books
- Mar. 26 - No School, Diocesan In-Service
- Mar. 29-Apr. 5 - No School, Spring Break

**Virtual Guided Kindergarten Tours**

Curious about kindergarten or know someone who is? Our St. James Elementary Schools is hosting guided virtual tours for interested families! **Tuesday, Feb. 23 | 7 PM.**

**Virtual Guided Preschool Tours**

Thinking about preschool for your little one or know someone who is? St. James Elementary School is hosting guided virtual tours for interested preschool families! **Tuesday, February 23 | 6 PM.**

**Sermon on the Amount**

February 14, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (137)	\$13,760.00
2020 same week (229)	\$15,507.75
Students	\$2.00
Plate	<u>\$77.00</u>
Total	\$13,839.00

Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through Jan. 31, 2021:

Actual (July 1-Jan. 31)	\$389,670.14
Budgeted (July 1-Jan. 31)	\$369,630.00

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund and *Past\*Present\*Future Campaign* income for Feb. 14 was \$2,487.92 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$46,943.44.



**Witness the Difference!**  
Enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is now open.



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### Stations of the Cross

We are doing virtual Stations of the Cross; the link is on our website and released on our YouTube channel for every Friday in March for Lent. Each week will be a different Stations of the Cross.

We will have:

- a Children's Stations, which include children from Religious Education and children from St James reading stations,
- a Music Reflection Stations, which will include singers from St James coordinated by Mary Kolstad,
- a Shadow Stations, which will include Stations written by Fr Tom, and lastly,
- a walk with Jesus stations, which will include Stations read by Jacky Miller.

Please join us in March every Friday at 6 PM.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Try this Lenten Practice: Adoration.

Adoration will be offered after the Tuesday Mass during Lent. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar until 10:30, followed by Benediction.

The Rosary will be recited at the side altar after Mass, and will be completed before 10 AM, allowing a half hour for quiet adoration.

### Music Ministry

Just as conversations in a room can trip over one another and sound chaotic at

times, *MUSIC brings Harmony!* During this Lenten Season, let us bring HARMONY to our lives. This harmony can be in the way of love, patience, forgiveness and all those pieces that interrupt our feeling of HARMONY! Listen to the words that music has given us, and "TURN to ME" says the Lord. Let us all Turn to him as we journey through Lent.

May the GONG that rings & echoes as we gather and close our time together, bring us closer to Him. Barbara Wimunc-Pearson, our beloved pianist, has graced us with this work of art to CALL us to the Journey! Thank you Barbara!



### Tired of Covid isolation?

#### Want to connect with others?

Join the St. James Zoom Social!

Consider it a table at hospitality, only over zoom—a chance to chat with fellow parishioners, get together for coffee, but safely in your own living room. Contact Christine at [christine@stjameseauclaire.org](mailto:christine@stjameseauclaire.org) if you are interested.

### Ways to Pray

Fr. Tom is demonstrating different ways to pray on Thursdays during Lent such as Lectio Divina, except on the Thursday of the Reconciliation Service.

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

March 22, NOON to 6, in the . Gathering Space. Sign up on the Red Cross website, or through the parish office.

### Communal Reconciliation Service

A prayer service to examine our consciences and seek forgiveness. Thursday, Mar. 18, 7:00 PM in church. With Covid restrictions, we will not be hosting other priests to come in and hear confessions. Instead, to help us enter the spirit of repentance and forgiveness, at this service we will ponder sin in our lives and our world, and proclaim God's forgiveness. For those wanting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Fr. Tom will be available afterward to hear very brief confessions and offer absolution. Other opportunities for the sacrament are at 3:30 PM on Saturdays at the Last Supper sculpture, and by appointment.



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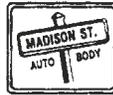
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