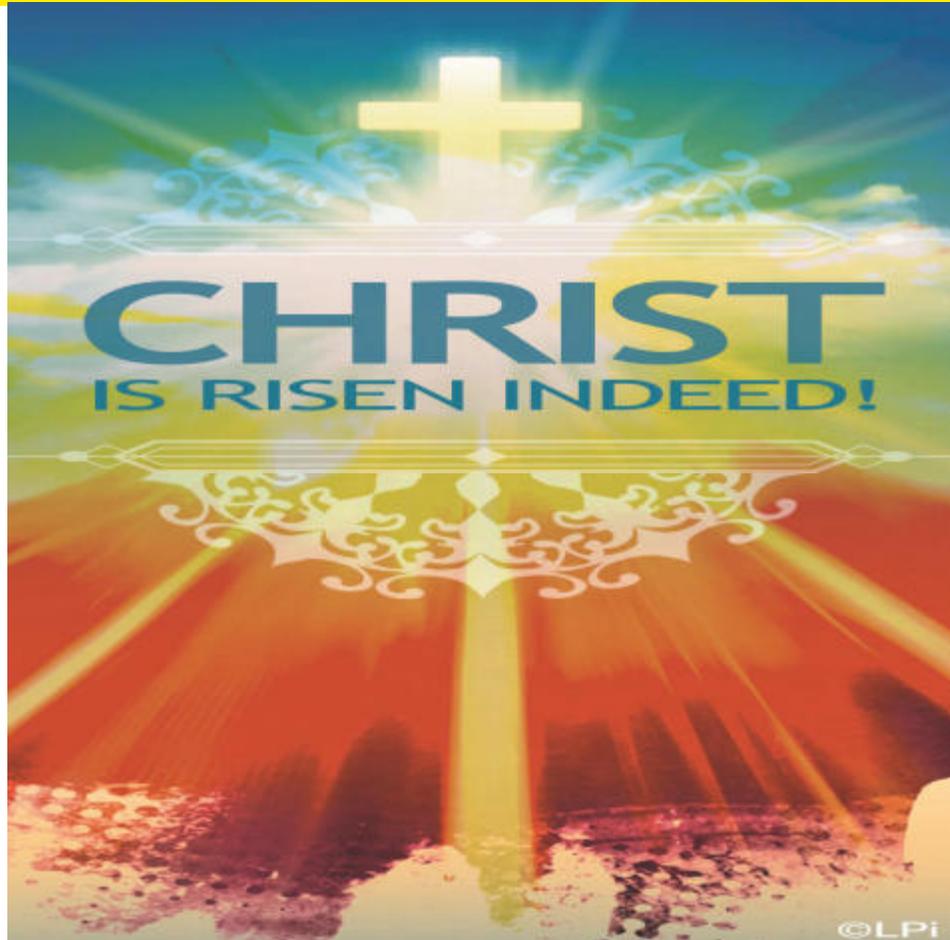


Sixth Sunday of Easter ✚ May 9, 2021

St. James the Greater



**It's Back....**  
**Mass on the Grass!**

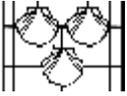
ST. JAMES THE GREATER  
OUTDOOR SATURDAY MASSES @ 6:30

✚

MAY 22 (PENTECOST)  
JUNE 12  
JULY 3 (4TH OF JULY)  
JULY 24 (EVE OF FEAST OF ST. JAMES)  
AUGUST 14 (SUMMER FEST)

BRING A CHAIR/BLANKET

CANCELED IF RAINING



## Message from Fr. Tom

**Happy Mother's Day!** I'm planning on having a very happy Mother's Day after a super full week and with my brother and I converging on my mom's apartment in Wausau. He's bringing the food and I'm preparing it. I'm flattered that he trusts me to do that! I think both he and I know that these Mother's Days with Mom still with us won't go on forever, and so each time we are able to celebrate with her it is special. Maybe you remember the Bear Bryant ATT commercial from the 70's? He was a celebrated University of Alabama football coach and was part of the "Reach out and touch someone" commercials for that telephone company. It ended with him saying something like "It's Mother's Day, so call your mom. I wish I could call mine." It was really very touching. Assuredly you could find it on YouTube if you're interested.

It is also **Confirmation Weekend** here at **St. James!** We have 28 of our youth, 26 sophomores and 2 juniors, who are planning to step forward to receiving the anointing with Chrism and the "sealing" of the Holy Spirit. It's an interesting phrase that the minister of Confirmation says during the anointing: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The word "sealed" is a strange choice. In a tangible way, I imagine that at Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and at Confirmation it is sealed in so none of the Spirit can leak out! I'm sure it means something else. Also, "gift" is in the singular, so it is not referring to the seven "gifts" of the Holy Spirit—Wisdom, courage, Awe/Fear of the Lord, Counsel, Knowledge, Piety, and Understanding (Isaiah 11:2-4)—that we believe are bestowed on us at Confirmation. Perhaps it means that the Holy Spirit itself is the Gift we receive. It is true that God is always giving God to us—the one thing we can ask for that God will always give us himself.

I spent much of this week reading through our Confirmation students' letters to me. (BTW, because of Covid, **Bishop Callahan** delegated to pastors the responsibility of Confirming this year's Confirmation class, so he **will not be joining** us.) I thought this was a beautiful reflection: "There are many influencers today that try to tell us that if other people aren't like them, that they are not right for this world and sadly many people believe them, especially younger people. They don't realize how beautiful they actually are because they are a work of God. God made us to be different and to spread out individuality around the world. We aren't supposed to be the same, otherwise God would have made us the same, and I don't think many people see this. I know I struggle all the time with seeing how beautiful and unique I am and I think that is the case for many people my age."

Thanks to **Ed Gonstead** for lending his electrical expertise to us last week in our school kitchen. Some wiring was not up to code and we were lucky enough to have Ed take care of these things—it really is a great service to us! This came to our awareness, by the way, because we are upgrading the status of our kitchen so that we can have more fundraiser take-out (or one-day hopefully sit-down) meals, and so that our favorite farmer's market food purveyor's Mi and Dan Sullivan can have a place to prepare some of their food for market—it's a win-win situation.

**Lawrence Thompson** came up to me after mass last weekend to correct the record. Some months ago I alluded to his service in the Army in Vietnam. He pointed to his cap that clearly said United States **Marines** on it. He cut me some slack by saying that a lot of people assume the soldiers in Vietnam were Army. Still, I am glad to make this correction. Also, not to correct the record so much as to fill one out, **Jerry Vinck** mentioned to me the other day that **his wife Barbara, who died last year**, converted to the Catholic faith when they married and invested wholeheartedly in this Catholic parish and school all her days, especially logging many hours volunteering at St. James School. He thought it would be nice to see that service recognized once—so here it is—thank you, Barbara, and may you be shining with all the saints in heaven and praying for us to be good and holy people ourselves.

I hope you can enjoy this beautiful month of May. It is Mary's month. If anyone would like to read the book our parish book club is reading, it is "**Reed of God**" by **Caryll Houselander**, a book about **Mary**. We are planning a discussion for **May 25**. Peace.

2 May 2021

Fr. Tom's Homily

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-21; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

One thing I bet we all have in common as we gather as church is that the idea of “Being alive in God” sounds like a good thing. We want to be alive in God. Yes? I guess I should never assume what other people want, but I'm guessing it's so. I remember in my senior year in high school, in religious class we read a book called “Fully Human, Fully Alive.” I can't recall a thing about it other than the title, but I remember thinking I was part of a healthy religion if my religion wanted me to be fully human and fully alive. Later I learned that one of the great saints in early church history, St. Irenaeus of Lyon, said that “The glory of God is the human person fully alive.” Again, I thought that was just great. It made me realize when I was searching for God's will as a young man that God wanted whatever made me most fully alive.

Of course, that begs the question of what makes us feel most alive. We live and breathe in a culture that tries to convince us that we are most alive when we are satisfying our appetites, when we get what, on a superficial level, we want. We could convince ourselves that since I'm really happy when I just bought a car or another shiny trinket or when I'm choking down large amounts of Cheetos, that must be God's will. But we know that just satisfying our cravings isn't a ticket to deep joy, or being a live in God. It usually just whets the appetite for more and more, or we can end up like myself a couple nights ago. Great friends from out of town sent me a belated birthday gift: a large bag of gourmet cheese and caramel corn. I ate it not wisely in small portions but nearly all of it in one sitting, satisfying my craving until I sat in my chair bloated like Mr. Plumpy on the Candyland board...well, filling ourselves with what we think we want isn't always what makes us feel most alive.

Odd as it might seem to us in our consumerist culture, our faith teaches us that what makes us most alive in God is surrendering to God. It's Jesus' prayer in the Garden, “Father, I want this cup of suffering to pass, but instead of my will let yours be done.” And I think it's the core meaning of the beautiful image Jesus gives us in the Gospel reading today. The vine and the branches is an image of surrender. Jesus is the vine we are the branches. All good comes from him; without him we can do nothing. Those words might shock us a bit. Nothing? We might ask. Without him I can do nothing? You can debate that idea in your head, but where we really need to wrestle with that idea is right here in our heart. **Do you want to enter a relationship of total dependence on Jesus? Something in us tends to recoil** at the thought—the part of us that wants to be strong, independent, and in control. **Something in us also knows that this is the path to being fully alive.**

Bishop Barron from Chicago but now in Los Angeles, has a strong media presence, so you might have heard of him. In one of his essays, he said this: *The more I surrender to Christ Jesus, who is himself the greatest possible good...the freer I am to be who I am supposed to be. The more Christ becomes the master of my life, the more I internalized his moral demands, the freer I am to be a child of God, the respond promptly to the call of the Father. Human beings are not hungry to choose; they are hungry to choose the good. They don't want the freedom of the libertine; they want the freedom of the saint.*

A prayer: *Lord, you are the vine and we are the branches. You want us to be fully alive, and you give us what we need to be fully alive. There are many things we want to do. Some of those things you also want us to do. Help us to do those things and not the others, so that we can bear fruit for you. Help us see this fruit and recognize it, and rejoice in it always. You are the vine and we the branches; keep us fully alive in you.*

**ST. JAMES SUMMER FEST 2021**

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## Save the Date

Tuesday, August 17, 2021  
**\*New Venue\***

River Prairie Center in Altoona

18th Annual



**REGISTRATION: 5:00PM**  
**HIKE: 6:00PM**

Register @ [www.familypromisecv.org](http://www.familypromisecv.org)

The HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS is sponsored by Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley with proceeds benefiting the Beacon House and related programs of Family Promise.

**St. Olaf Fun Fest Grilled Chicken Dinner**  
The St Olaf Men's Club is hosting a "drive-through pick-up" Grilled Chicken Dinner for our annual Fun Fest on Sunday, May 23 from 11 AM to 2 PM. You will not have to

leave your car to enjoy this delicious chicken dinner. \$10.00 per dinner for all ages. We will be serving a quarter chicken (white or dark meat), baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert. Save this date and join us on May 23.

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sermon on the Amount</b>  | April 25, 2021    |
| Sunday Adult Envelopes (100) | \$7,252.00        |
| 2020 same week (84)          | \$6,824.00        |
| Students                     | \$2.00            |
| Plate                        | \$64.00           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$7,318.00</b> |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through Mar. 31, 2021: |              |
| Actual (July 1-Mar. 31)                                   | \$497,464.64 |
| Budgeted (July 1-Mar. 31)                                 | \$465,010.00 |

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund and Past\*Present\*Future Campaign income for Apr. 25 was \$5,120.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$58,914.28.

### Hearing Loop

We've added blue stickers to the pews indicating which pew is hearing loop enabled. Please let those who need the loop have priority over those pews.

**Mass Intentions & Schedule**

Weekday masses are at 9:00 AM Tuesday-Friday.  
Rosary and Adoration are available after the Tuesday Mass until 10:30 AM. The school Mass this week is Wednesday as usual, with limited seating. Friday is open to the public. Masks & social distancing are required.

|      |        |   |
|------|--------|---|
| Sat. | May 8  | 10:00 AM Confirmation<br>4:30 PM Jim and LaVonne Kelley         |
| Sun. | May 9  | 8:00 AM People of St. James<br>10:00 AM Leticia Gonzalez Newman |
| Tue. | May 11 | Francis Koller  |
| Wed. | May 12 | Allen Noll (School Mass)  |
| Thu. | May 13 | Tom BaDour  |
| Fri. | May 14 | Barb Vinck  |
| Sat. | May 15 | 4:30 PM Adeline MaGuire   |
| Sun. | May 16 | 8:00 AM Pat Johnson<br>10:00 AM People of St. James             |

### 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       | Coord. of Liturgical Music | mkolstad@charter.net           |
| 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,  
lindal735@gmail.com

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



An active parish! Parish bike ride top left. Parish grounds clean up right. Last day of Religious Education, left and bottom right.

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