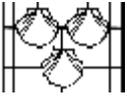


St. James the Greater

Where All are Welcome

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity ☩ May 30, 2021





Message from Fr. Tom

Pentecost over, we now embark on our longest season of green, **Ordinary Time**. I have to say that whoever invented the cycle of seasons in our Church Year was a genius. Actually, it was not a single person, but generations of faithful people, leaders and followers, who prayed together by reading Scriptures and breaking bread, remembering with special intensity anniversaries of critical events like Jesus' birth and his Death and Resurrection, and using the bulk of the years' remainder to stay grounded in Jesus' teaching and healing power. This year during our Ordinary Time we will be hearing mostly from Mark's Gospel account, but since Mark is the shortest Gospel account there is not enough of him to go around and we will hear from John chapter 6 from July 25 through August 22—the "Bread of Life Discourse." This Sunday and next, however, we will not be wearing green because there are two feast days we celebrate every year on the Sundays after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday and the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. So, if you're hungry for green, you'll have to come to a daily mass or wait until June 12/13.

Pentecost was sure well-celebrated in the parish. I'd like to **thank Jacky especially for organizing** the multi-lingual parishioners who offered intercessory prayers, and the teams of altar dressers who processed with the large red altar cloth and expertly lifted and lowered it three times onto the altar with the fluttering grace of the Holy Spirit. Beth took a great photo of this which is now our Facebook Cover Photo. And we had the Stipetich Baptism and high school graduate blessings to boot! **Thanks to Kelly** for organizing our seniors and gifting them with lovely pocket crosses from the Holy Land. Next year Pentecost is on June 5, probably after schools let out, so it will be hard to fill the church, but we'll give it our best.

Lou and Joann Hein moved! That's really sad. They arrived at St. James from Thorp about two years ago and are now in Nebraska, where they grew up. You might remember our 50th wedding anniversary blessing for them at mass last year when they announced that that were married in Wahoo, Nebraska. I guess that's north of Lincoln a ways. Mostly, though, they were really great examples of new parishioners who really dug into parish life right away, literally dug in in Lou's case as he worked feverishly with his new pal **Roy Ashbeck** improving our parish grounds by cutting trees and digging up pesky brush. They were like adults playing in a giant sandbox, really. I'm sorry we weren't able to send them off with a blessing as last weekend was their last time with us. **If you are moving or know of people who will be moving, please let me know so we can arrange a blessing on them before they take off**—it's one of those things that I think is really important but that we rarely do.

Another departure involves **Bob Hollern**—thankfully he is NOT leaving St. James, but he is stepping down from being our sacristan for morning weekday masses. Because I try to sleep as late as I possibly can, I have always relied on good morning sacristans to open the church and get things ready for mass, and so I am very grateful for Bob who has been doing this the whole time I have been pastor here and for 7 or 8 years prior as well. Besides being good at sacristan work, Bob is also very well versed in current events and the lives of the saints, and so was a good conversationalist after masses. Who is taking his place? Six people! **Barb Pearson, Karen Welch, Steve Kassing, and Shirley Rossano** are each taking a day, and then **Sharon Bussard and Christine** will serve as back-ups. I am grateful!

We are generating a **summer newsletter that you should receive at the beginning of June**. In case you don't get it before June 2, I'm going to try hosting a **Family Softball Night on Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00** at our ball diamond at the corner of our playground. We had some good times with that in former years, but then interest waned. So, I've put the work out to school and RE families in an effort to attract newcomers. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Many of you, I'm sure have heard about **Bishop Callahan's request for the resignation of a La Crosse pastor** who has been sowing seeds of division for about a year now. This pastor has become a social media phenomenon with hateful rhetoric toward Catholics who support Democrats and, most recently, Catholic leaders who encourage Covid vaccinations. He has said that people in both groups are going to hell. In the previous months, he has been unresponsive to the bishop's efforts at fraternal correction, thus forcing the bishop's arm. I support the bishop and fear the further fracturing in the Church. Oh, and some have confused this pastor with me because he's pastor of St. James, but St. James the Less (not the Greater like here) in La Crosse. So, I've had a couple interesting phone calls.

Well, I hope you all feel the love and inspiration of Pentecost, and will do beautiful things for God this week. Peace.

23 May 2021, Fr. Tom's Homily, Pentecost

Acts 2:2-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 21: 19-23

As I think we know, the inspired writers of the New Testament knew the Old Testament very well. And so the author of Luke-Acts who tells us the story of Pentecost was surely familiar with a short story from the Book of Genesis that we know as the "Tower of Babel," when, after the time of Noah the people out of pride wanted to make a name for themselves by building tower high in the sky. In an effort to keep them humble, God confused their language so they couldn't communicate with one another, making the building project impossible. Pentecost is basically the reversal of that. Out of many languages comes one. Instead of confusion there is clarity. Instead of scattering there is uniting. From all over the known world, each person heard the Apostles speaking in their own language the Good News of Jesus, including forgiveness and eternal life.

That experience is reflected on every coin or bill in our pocket, E Pluribus Unum: out of many, one. It's no secret that we are struggling to be unified these days, in our country and often in our Church as well. Since last year's Pentecost, however, we've just gotten more divided. Responses to racism, who to vote for, wearing masks or not wearing masks, Vaccinations, and a social media driving industry that makes a lot of money for a lot of people who thrive on our division. And in the midst of it, the Holy Spirit, trying to get us to unite.

On Facebook I asked people what they think helps bring unity where there is division. A lot of wisdom was shared. Most of the responses had to do with really listening to others, trying to understand thinking that is different from our own, and trying to put our feet in the shoes of others, and see what the world looks like from their eyes. Sharing time and forming relationships with people who are different from us. Sounds good, but it's really not so easy. It's a Pentecost challenge! It's what the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish among us.

And yet, we all yearn for it, and we know that God wants that for us. This week's daily mass readings featured Jesus' prayer to the Father after the last supper and his repeated plea that "They all might be one." Our Eucharist is a ritual of unity—though many parts we are one body. As Paul wrote in today's second reading, "We all drink of the same Spirit." Though different in many ways, we are grounded in a deeper reality than we can even fully realize, the life of God in us, the Holy Spirit. I like to think that with all our differences in personality and convictions that during our Communion time at mass we can relax into this mystical unity and find refreshment, and maybe even be so convinced of our communion that we can better withstand all the potential hard feelings and conflicts that can arise when ideas clash. We can live the truth that St. Paul knew: We have a deeper unity beneath our many differences because we all drink of the same Spirit.

Here's a "last resort" strategy based on an experience I had as a young priest in Onalaska. Jeannie was a daily mass go-er and she died. I found out from her family after she died that she didn't like me much as a priest, always preferring Fr. Bill, and disappointed if I was the one coming out of the sacristy to begin mass. For her funeral, though, Fr. Bill was in Colorado that week so I had her funeral. I remember walking up to her open casket and saying, "Hi Jeannie, so I guess I'm not the one you wanted for your funeral mass. I trust that from heaven you know that it's kind of funny and anything that kept us apart down here doesn't matter so much up there." I had a firm sense that from heaven she liked me just fine. So, that's another strategy, maybe a last resort, when we're having trouble letting the love flow and experiencing unity with others. Imagine that they'll be dead in a week, awful as that sounds.

On a less morbid note...

I'd like to close with a song I just heard in the closing credits of a movie a couple weeks ago. It's called "Nothing More."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIuyl9IdHk>

Lyrics

To be humble, to be kind
It is a giving of the peace in your mind
To a stranger, to a friend
To give in such a way that has no end
We are love, we are one
We are how we treat each other when the day is done
We are peace, we are war
We are how we treat each other and nothing more
And to be bold, to be brave
It is the thinking that the heart can still be saved
And the darkness can come quick
The danger's in the anger and in the hanging on to it

We are love, we are one
We are how we treat each other when the day is done
We are peace, we are war
We are how we treat each other and nothing more
And tell me what it is that you see
A world that's full of endless possibilities
And heroes don't look like they used to
They look like you do
We are love, we are one
We are how we treat each other when the day is done
We are peace, we are war
We are how we treat each other and nothing more
We are how we treat each other and nothing more
We are how we treat each other

Miss Cindy Send-Off Parade

Thursday, June 3 | 9 to 11 AM

St. James Elementary School

Miss Cindy Sarazen, our preschool teacher at St. James Elementary School, is retiring.

We invite all families who know Miss Cindy from through the years to participate in a drive-by send-off parade in front of the school.

Families will have a chance to say goodbye and wish Miss Cindy well in her retirement

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.

Social distancing is still required.

The school Mass this week is at 1 PM on Wednesday for the 5th grade promotion, with limited seating.

Sun.	May 30	8:00 AM Deceased of Albert and Mary Bauer family
		10:00 AM People of St. James
Tue.	June 1	Rita Frank
Wed.	June 2	1:00 PM Eddie Barnett (School Mass)
Thu.	June 3	Joe Reigel
Fri.	June 4	Barb Vinck
Sat.	June 5	4:30 PM Larry Hagens
Sun.	June 6	8:00 AM Weinfurter/Gleisner families
		10:00 AM People of St. James

It's Back!**Saturday, June 19**

Lake Hallie Golf Course

MORE INFORMATION

[www.RegisCatholicSchools.com/
events/scrambler-golf-outing/](http://www.RegisCatholicSchools.com/events/scrambler-golf-outing/)

Hurry! Space is limited!
The registration deadline is Friday, June 11.

Help Wanted

St. James Elementary is looking for part-time paraprofessionals for the 2021-22 school year. If you know someone who loves working with children and would be interested in joining our school family, please contact Jackie Lutz at 715-830-2277 or jlutz@regiscatholicschools.com for more information.

Blood Drive

St. James, Monday, June 14 from Noon -6:00 PM.

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org or call Anne at the Parish Office to schedule an appointment. Special offer from our partners at Amazon to thank you coming to give June 14-30; we'll send you a \$5 Amazon gift card by email. Restrictions, terms and conditions apply.

Thrift Sale

All Saints Parish Broadcasting is having their annual Thrift Sale to support Spirit 96.5 and the All Saints Capital Improvement Fund. The Sale will be held in Holy Family Hall, 136 Third Ave, Stanley, June 17-19. Thursday from 8-6, Friday 8-5, and Saturday 8-noon.

Scouting honor:

The following Scouts from our parish have earned their religious Emblems for the 2020-2021 year: Elliot Munsinger, Isaac Pischer. Congratulations!

Thank you!

The scrap metal drive brought in \$565!! And the ongoing aluminum can collection has brought in nearly \$24,000 since 2004. Keep bringing those cans in! (can drive bin is by the parish center garage, close to Marshall street in the school parking lot.

Parish Staff

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Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.**Sermon on the Amount**

May 16, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (154)	\$13,629.50
2020 same week (175)	\$18,496.50
Students	\$2.00
Plate	<u>\$104.00</u>
Total	\$13,735.50

Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through April 30, 2021:

Actual (July 1-Apr. 30) \$549,616.64

Budgeted (July 1-Apr. 30) \$512,700.00

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund
and *Past*Present*Future Campaign* income for May 16 was
\$1,130.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$61,874.28.



Baccalaureate mass— Fr. Tom greeting the graduates, parishioners blessing them, graduates at the altar. Congratulations to our graduates! Blessings on your journey ahead.



Growing Through Grief –
God doesn't give us what we can handle, God helps us handle what we are given. "All Are Welcome" as we create an environment of hope, support, respect, coping skills, care plans and mutual trust for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. This is a place to share positive discussions on a topic that is emotional, physical, sensitive and private. What is said in this group, stays in the group. For more information or to join a group contact Pat Hanson at 715-835-9811, or St. James Parish office 715-835-5887.

Passing the Torch: After 14 years as daily mass sacristan, Bob is stepping down and it is taking a whole team to replace him. Sharon, Steve, Shirley and Karen (Barb not pictured). Thanks to all!!

Parish Bike Ride Dates 12:00-2:00 or 2:30: June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 1, 22.

Baptism of Grayson James Stipetich



Pentecost altar setting



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