

St. James the Greater

Where All are Welcome



13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." - Mk 5:39



Message from Fr. Tom

I had a couple requests for a second “**Family Softball Night**,” which was good to hear. So, if you’re interested, come on over to the St. James Ball Diamond on the SW corner of our property on Wednesday, **June 30**, and we’ll try to “**Play Ball!**” at 6:30. All skill levels welcome. And this Sunday, **June 27** we will have another **Parish Bike Ride**, starting at the 11th St. front parking lot at high noon.

I’m writing this column Sunday night because I’m heading north Monday morning to hike and eat donuts, hopefully a lot more hiking than eating. Then I’ll be back for just a few hours before having to head south to La Crosse for diocesan priest events. **On Thursday morning, I’ll be in the Cathedral celebrating the Chrism Mass**, during which priests renew their vows and new Holy Oil is blessed and distributed. **Who will be the first to be anointed with our new Chrism oil?** I’m still waiting to confirm this, but I believe **Dan and Mi Sullivan** are presenting their child **Marcieta** (aka “Mari” or “Moon Moon”) for baptism on Saturday, July 3. They were delaying until some of Mi’s family could come from Vietnam, but Covid infections are still high there and travel impossible.

After Chrism mass the priests go to a series of lectures, with this year’s theme “The Priest as Teacher,” so hopefully I’ll learn something that will help my ministry here at St. James. The highlight of my time down there tends to be a dinner out with friends, so I’m looking forward to that. I’ll see **Fr. Bob Cook** and **Fr. John Parr** at that dinner, two priests remembered fondly by so many people here in Eau Claire. Fr. Cook was pastor at Newman in the 70’s and Fr. Parr, while living at Newman also taught for many years at Regis High School. As I mentioned last week, there will also be an ordination mass in La Crosse on Saturday morning. Staying for all this might be difficult. In any event, I’ll be accessible via email the whole time.

In last week’s bulletin, I summarized a bit of our **Finance Council meeting**, including a plea for any last minute donations to our Diocesan Annual Appeal, which ends June 30. Other items of interest include the observation that **more people are donating to our charity account**, and this led the council to recommend **increasing our monthly gift to CareLink**, which is a direct charity organization run by the Salvation Army, who people are better equipped to screen scams and to pinpoint the best resources. Also, we decided to **give more regularly and generously to the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry**, whose workers accompany our homeless population with love and material sustenance. It’s been a problem this year with another gas station closing downtown to find places to buy water during hot days—one of the many needs Street Ministry meets.

The Council also continued its **conversation about whether to bring back taking a collection during mass**. While I sure don’t want to hurt the parish financially, I like the ease of not taking a collection as it erases the need for money collectors and bankers, and I think for most folks makes it a more pleasant worship experience. Mostly, though, I think encourages people to be more intentional with their financial gifts, in line with how we talk about stewardship and our “Commitment to Parish Life” program. **On the other hand**, I think taking a collection during mass, if people make this theological connection, allows us to give something to the altar that represents our lives—the fruit of our labor offered to God. It also shows children that financial offering is part of being a church member. So, the discussion goes on, but for now we won’t be taking collections at the indoor masses (though maybe at the outdoor masses since there’s nowhere for people to put an offering outside and two people gave me cash 20’s after the last mass—which I deposited in our collections boxes the next morning, of course! Parents can always walk their children to these deposit boxes and deposit an offering before or after mass. I’m happy to hear feedback about this.

Last week I said I would describe more about my walking pilgrimage from June 6-9, but again I’m out of room! I will say that I enjoyed an **Oostburger** at a roadside ice cream and burger joint. If you’re from eastern Wisconsin, you probably know what an Oostberger is, but just in case you’re in the dark, I’ll tell you. It’s a burger with two pieces of meat inside the bun: a regular beef patty and a split bratwurst. Yum. I have talked with our Director of Religious Education, **Kelly Beaudrie**, about this pilgrimage, and we are both thinking it **could be a good thing to offer our youth next year**. More still to come! Peace

20 June 2021

Fr Tom's Homily

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

I like to bicycle a lot on the country roads, and I've found that I have a love/hate relationship with hills, especially the steep ones. I love 'em because I noticed they are what improve my physical condition, but hate because they're hard to get up. Actually, the hate of the hills goes deeper than that. It has to do with fear. When a steep hill approaches, I fear feeling weak. I fear that I'll have to surrender to age—now too old to climb hills that I could in my 40's. I fear, in short, failing.

So, I reacted with great joy and excited heart when I hear a motivational fitness instruction say something the other day. She was encouraging her class to work harder and to try a level of difficulty they were unsure they could accomplish. Typically, at this point, I hear instructors say, "You can do it!" But she did not. She said, **"If you reach for something difficult and you hit failure, you're a success here."**

At first that sounded contradictory, but it is spot on. The way I heard it, she was telling us that you have two options: Try something predictable that you know you can accomplish, or try something that might stretch you beyond what you can do. If you try something you know you might not be able to do, that's not reason for embarrassment or shame—it's reason for applause! You looked fear in the face, and proceeded. Would you rather try something hard and fail or never try anything hard? That's going to make me fear hills less, and maybe even make me fear life situations less.

In the story of the Storm at Sea, Jesus can tell that his disciples' faith is weak because they are terrified. It confirms to me again that through Jesus eyes faith is about trust more than it is about belief. I remember talking to a dying man once about his faith. I asked him if he felt his faith was strong, and he said "Yes, I hardly have any fear." That can be true regarding fear of dying, but it can also be true with life in general, with a 30-year old young mother or father saying the same, "I hardly have any fear."

It seems that there are **two kinds of fear**: Fear of getting hurt or fear of some threat, like the disciples. Here I remind myself that if I have my faith and my friends, I can get through anything. There is no threat to make me terrified. But there's also a fear maybe more central to the life of a follower of Jesus, which is a fear of, as St. Paul calls it, "living for God."

The second reading from Second Corinthians is short, but it's a whole catechism, a recipe for living a life of faith without fear. It begins with, "The love of Christ urges us forth." Know that Jesus loves you and let his love impel you in life. If you have trouble claiming or feeling the love of Jesus consider that he died and rose for you to convince you of his love and to show you that not even death is something to fear. And if you are freed from the fear of death, then you are freed to live a generous and adventurous life, not focused on your own security but focused on living for God. And living for God, one thing it means, is no longer seeing the world and other people and yourself through the "eyes of the flesh" that measure by superficial realities like financial worth, physical beauty, and how I can be important in the eyes of the world. The love of Christ frees us from all that so that we regard one another instead through the eyes of the Spirit. We've died and risen with Christ and part of that is knowing that not only did Jesus die and rise for me but he died and rose for you and you and you...for everyone. And that should make us want to love one another with God's own love. If Jesus died and rose for you, who am I to think you're a loser? ...or something I don't like or see as a threat or want to be without?

And so when we stand in front of a steep hill... when we are afraid to try something that might not work out how we want... when we are afraid of losing someone or something important to us ...when we see our boat filling up with water and are unsure that the storm will end before we sink... When all these things happen, remember who made you, who died and rose for you and for me, and that can still the storm inside you, and **LIVE FOR THAT ONE. LIVE FOR GOD. NO MATTER IF YOU SHOULD STUMBLE AND FALL, NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOSE, WHEN YOU ARE LIVING FOR GOD EVEN WHEN YOU FAIL YOU SUCCEED.**

Fierce Freedom Justice Run

Wednesday July 21, Carson Park or Virtual, 6 PM.
Run, Walk or volunteer to fight human trafficking
Join the fight against domestic human trafficking by being involved in the 14th annual fierce freedom justice run. This years event will have 2 options: in person run/walk at Carson park, or a virtual run/walk on your own.
Register at cvjusticerun.org by July 1 to get a t-shirt!

Health Department COVID-19 Call Center Closing

On Friday, June 18 at 4:30 PM, the Health Department will close their COVID-19 Call Center (715-831-7425). The Call Center opened in partnership with UWEC on March 25, 2020, to respond to the community need for knowledge on a variety of COVID-19 related questions. From March 25, 2020-June 17, 2021, staff responded to 10,718 calls. People with COVID-19 related questions can call the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718 or visit covid19eauclaire.org. The State of Wisconsin also has a call center to help Wisconsinites find vaccine locations, answer medical questions related to the COVID-19 vaccine, and assist with registration for the Health Department COVID-19 clinic. Wisconsinites can call 1-844-684-1064 (toll-free) for personal assistance with their vaccine-related questions.

Social distancing in church

You may have noticed that we are gradually removing the ropes on every other pew.
Unvaccinated people are still encouraged to keep social distance and to wear masks.
We will leave the center back section and the front right section with every other pew roped off for those who can't or won't be vaccinated and others who prefer to socially distance.
This way people who prefer to sit in the front have a choice of social distanced or not, and people who sit in the back also have a choice.
We will continue to monitor attendance, but hopefully these changes will suffice for the time being.

Next Dates for Mass on the Grass:

July 3 (Fourth of July- next weekend!), July 24 (eve of Feast of St. James), Aug. 14 (Summer Fest)

Growing Through Grief Group –

Our next group for Growing Through Grief starts on July 9 at 1:15 PM in the gathering space

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	Crd. of Liturgical Music	kolstadmary@gmail.com
Kelly Beaudrie	Dir. of Religious Ed.	beaudrie.kelly@gmail.com
Beth Cerny	Crd. of Religious Ed	elizabethcerny@hotmail.com

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.

Sat.	June 26	4:30 PM Deceased members of Albert and Mary Bauer family
Sun.	June 27	8:00 AM 10:00 AM People of St. James
Tue.	June 29	William and Helen Biesterveld
Wed.	June 30	Charles Martenson
Thu.	July 01	William Keegan
Fri.	July 02	Lorraine Ashbaugh
Sat.	July 03	4:30 PM George Hanson 6:30 World Peace
Sun.	July 04	8:00 AM People of St. James 10:00 AM Eddie Barnett

CPL forms

Thank you to all who have returned their Commitment to Parish Life forms! What a great response. FYI—there have been too many to respond to each one. When most are in, the leaders of each group will be in touch with all new and existing members. If you have questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to ask Christine!!

Ice Cream Social at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Mound on Wed., July 14 from 4-8 PM. Serving BBQ Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Pie, Ice Cream, and beverages. Silent Auction and Grocery Raffle, too! Come, relax, and feed the family!

Underwear drive What a generous parish! Christine took nearly a full car of packages of new underwear to the school district. Thank you all who contributed!

Sermon on the Amount

June 6, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (144)	\$11,050.50
2020 same week (128)	\$17,025.50
Students	\$2.00
Plate	<u>\$101.00</u>
Total	\$11,153.50

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

Actual (July 1-May 31)	\$607,947.64
Budgeted (July 1-May 31)	\$572,310.00

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund and Past*Present*Future Campaign income for June 6 was \$260.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$63,452.20.

St. James School Phone: 715-830-2277

Jackie Lutz Principal,
jlutz@regiscatholicschools.com
Sandy Makuck, Administrative Assistant,
smakuck@regiscatholicschools.com
Linda Schultz, Commission Rep.-RCS,
linda1735@gmail.com

Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.

Grace on the Grass

July 7 at 7:00

Sacrament of Reconciliation available outside, location still TBD but potentially on the corner of 11th and Marshall. At least six confessors will be present. More details to come. Weather date: July 21.

Calling all able-bodied worker bees! On Saturday, July 10, starting at 9 AM, we're going to finish the mulching project, both in front of school, and at Fr. Tom's house, and the new butterfly garden on the Marshall St. side of church. We can use all kinds of help, not to mention equipment! Mulch forks, wheelbarrows, and if someone has a motorized go-cart, that makes spreading the mulch so much easier! If you have any questions, please give me a call (715-831-3352), or send me an email (whitelroach@gmail.com). Thanks, St. James! You always step up! Hoping to see a small army! - Louise Roach

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Drive for School Supplies in July

sponsored by We Care Eau Claire, churches in Eau Claire

Walk-up event at Phoenix Park on Monday, August 16 from 4:30-7:30 PM. Rain Date is Tuesday, August 17.

Each student gets a backpack filled with the appropriate grade level school supplies. These backpacks will be packed ahead of time. *Volunteers will be needed to do the packing,*

- St. James will be doing a school supply drive in July!
- Supply lists by grade will be available soon.
- All items can be donated or given in bulk. These items need to be in by July 15 so that we can order the rest in bulk. Donations can be brought to St. James or directly to Bethesda Lutheran.



Family Softball Night!

Wednesday, June 30, 6:30 PM.

All ages and skill levels welcome.

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