

St. James the Greater

Where All are Welcome

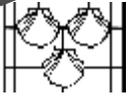
Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time ✚ July 11, 2021



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. - Mk 6:7, 13



Message from Fr. Tom

Here we are in the heart of summer. I hope people found some time for joy and gratitude over the Fourth of July. I did a quick trip back and fourth, I mean forth, to Wausau for a visit with mom and my brother from Madison. We were able to find a restaurant open and I had something really delicious called “smothered chicken.” I’ve also developed a taste for N/A, non-alcoholic, beer, and they had my favorite brand. I’ve always liked the taste of beer but not liked the dizziness that follows. In any event, it was a nice but brief visit, with no fireworks for mom, but plenty along Highway 29 as I drove back.

We received a nice thank-you card from **Dani Claesges**, who serves homeless families whose children go to public schools in Eau Claire. **You might recall that we put out a plea for parishioners to bring in underwear for these families.** You responded very well, so Dani wrote to us, *“Dear St. James Congregation, Thank you so much for the amazing donation of underwear to the Eau Claire Area School District Homeless Program!”*

This Sunday night in the **Season 2 finale of “The Chosen.”** You might recall me mentioning this dramatization of the life of Jesus and his disciples earlier. Initially, it didn’t sound like anything that compelling, so Season 1 came and went without my paying any attention to it. Then, someone I know recommended Season 2 which was released on Easter and featured St. James the Greater and his brother, John. That episode was lovely and so I went back and caught up with all the previous episodes. (I have to say that Season 1 Episode 1 was probably my least favorite episode and so might not hook a lot of people. Anyway, **this weekend’s season finale will feature my favorite part of the Gospel accounts: The Sermon on the Mount.** So, I’m looking forward to this. How can you watch this? I’m afraid you’ll need internet access. You can watch this episode and all previous ones using a free “The Chosen” app, but just this upcoming episode will also be available on YouTube—it’s Season 2, episode 8.

Our summer Bible school program for children, **Bible Buddies, will wrap up for this this Wednesday, July 14.** **Newcomers are welcome** since each session is whole on its own—just show up in the Gathering Space by 10:00. Thanks to Beth and Kelly for putting this together and all supportive volunteers and parents.

The olive oil from Bethlehem has arrived! Well, **SOME** of it arrived. Apparently, four of the five boxes are still in Cincinnati, go figure. I think the Brewers play in Cincinnati soon, so maybe they can load the boxes onto their charter flight home to Wisconsin. What I’ve received so far are 10 1-liter bottles. I might have been better off ordering just the 1-liter bottles, as it looks like a good size to me and were available in the lighter plastic bottles. When I price all the olive oil bottles, it will have to take into account the international shipping cost, which is substantial, as you can imagine. So, I’ll let you know more as soon as I receive the total cost from the people at L’Arche Bethlehem. **The people of L’Arche Bethlehem, which provides work and community for people with intellectual disabilities, are struggling to keep their heads above water financially, so this is a good cause.** Each bottle comes in a decorative sleeve made from Bethlehem sheep! See the picture here.

Connie Bushman, Randi McVinnie and Christine had another Summer Fest high-level meeting this week. Some highlights: **Volunteer sign-ups will be going out soon but not yet!** Very soon you can register for the **2-person Cornhole (bean bag) Tournament for \$40—I’m in but need a partner!**—and a **silent auction will begin soon** with donated items—new things—accepted throughout. That’s just the tip of the iceberg. Happy Feasts of St. Benedict (Sunday), St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Wednesday), and St. Bonaventure (Thursday). Peace.

4 July 2021

Fr. Tom's Homily

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

It's a different image of Jesus than maybe we're used to seeing. Mark actually says he is "unable" to perform a mighty deed in Nazareth, his hometown, because the people there dismissed his authority. He was a local boy and so could not be anything extraordinary like a prophet. And yet I see in Jesus great strength. He does not fold or question his communion with his Father in heaven or doubt his mission. His rejection sort of makes sense to him as he quotes the Hebrew scripture about prophets not being accepted in the own towns. In Luke's version of this story, they dismiss Jesus' authority AND they try to toss him over a cliff, and Luke writes that he simply walks through the midst of them and moves on. Strength. Assurance from within. Knowing God is with him allows him to withstand the rejection of people—**this is a trait he will rely on heavily when he enters his passion.** That's the kind of strength, I believe, we all crave. Call it "Holy Strength."

Sometimes, though, this "Holy Strength" gets confused with what I'd call "Ego Strength." Ego strength is what we feel when our team wins, when we get a lot of pats on the back from others, many "Likes" on our social media pages. It's not evil, but it's not the kind of strength Jesus shows us or the kind that we need for a joyful life. It's not Holy Strength. St. Paul talks about Holy Strength very eloquently in today's passage from his second letter to the Corinthians, which concludes with him saying that it is when he is weak that he is strong.

At first blush, this passage from Paul can seem disturbing, like God doesn't want Paul to shine. He says that it was so he wouldn't get too "elated" about all his revelations and spiritual experiences that God allowed a "thorn" to pierce his ego. **It's not that God doesn't want us to be strong, but God wants us to be strong in Him. We don't know what that thorn was, but we know it was something that deeply humbled Paul.** It was something about himself that he did not like. It was something that made him feel weak, imperfect. **He wanted that ego strength so bad that he begged God three times to take the thorn away, but God would not.** Why? To teach Paul something, and he tells us what God taught him through all this. In God's voice: **My Grace is sufficient for you,** and power is made perfect in weakness.

It's still not so easy to understand, but I think it's so vital. I had a good friend who, as a young adult, used the rose with a thorn as the symbol of her spirit, and she said it was because of this passage from Paul. I remember not understanding. Then I had an experience at a wedding reception for a very dear friend.

I hate dancing. Probably because I'm no good at it and because it makes me feel exposed and embarrassed. So, I assumed at my friend's wedding I would just hang back at dance time and milk a beer for an hour and go home. But when the DJ starting playing the music, I noticed it was a pretty shy crowd and no one was going out on the floor. I felt God's nudge that if I could put to words said, "This party isn't about you, it's about your friend and you should make it as joyful as possible. You need to go out there, ask someone to dance and get the party started." And so I decided to take courage from God and let God dance through me.

And so I did it! I learned a couple things. This God who danced through me isn't such a good dancer, either, or at least not that night. And more importantly, **I slept really well that night because I knew that even though I wasn't a good dancer, I was a good man because I let God work through me.**

And I called my friend who has the rose thorn as her symbol and I said, "I think I understand about the thorn and being made perfect in weakness. Is it that when I'm weak I rely on the strength of God more and that I can never be stronger than when I seek God's strength?" "Yep, you got it," she said.

Those are good days, when we are putty in God's hands, more able to see what God wants and more willing to take a chance and do it. We can confidently say that God's love and grace are enough for us. I'd like to close with this song to drive home that point. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ngqSGORMWM&list=RD-ngqSGORMWM&start_radio=1



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Commitment to Parish Life

FYI—if you set up your Online Giving account yourself, we cannot make changes to it from the parish office; you have to make the changes yourself. If we set it up for you then we can make changes.

If you have any questions call Anne at the parish office 715-835-5887.

Sermon on the Amount

June 27, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (113)	\$14,917.00
2020 same week (107)	\$9,710.00
Students	\$0.00
Plate	\$155.00
Total	\$15,072.00

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 27 was
\$35.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$66,230.12.

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.

Sat.	July 10	4:30 PM Tom Bye
Sun.	July 11	8:00 AM People of St. James 10:00 AM James Connolly
Tue.	July 13	Mark Brantner
Wed.	July 14	Gretchen Seidling
Thu.	July 15	Charles Martenson
Fri.	July 16	Deceased members of Edmond Merkel family
Sat.	July 17	4:30 PM Steve Alf
Sun.	July 18	8:00 AM People of St. James 10:00 AM Letitia Gonzalez Newman

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!

Sacred Music Director Wanted

St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Chippewa Falls is seeking a director of sacred music. The church has a three-manual Rodgers digital/pipe organ installed in 2004. The parish has an adult choir and a funeral choir. The director is responsible for music for all liturgical celebrations, including three weekend Masses, one weekly primary-school Mass, and Masses on solemnities and feasts occurring during the week; the scheduling and preparation of cantors, musicians and choir members; coordinating music, creating programs, and serving as accompanist for funerals and weddings; and performing any other duties as directed by the pastor. Qualifications include proficiency in organ, piano, conducting/directing; experience with liturgical music in a parish setting; a positive attitude and effective interpersonal skills. *To apply please submit a cover letter and résumé to <pastor@stcharles-cf.com> or mail to 810 Pearl Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.*

Raffle Tickets!

Sell or buy your raffle tickets already? Come get some more! There are extra raffle tickets at the school entrance, in the Gathering Space, and in the parish office. Thanks for participating in this great parish fundraiser!

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

St. James School

Phone: 715-830-2277

Jackie Lutz	Principal,	jlutuz@regiscatholicschools.com
Shanna Donkers,	Administrative Assistant,	sdonkers@regiscatholicschools.com
Linda Schultz,	Commission Rep.-RCS,	linda1735@gmail.com

Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.

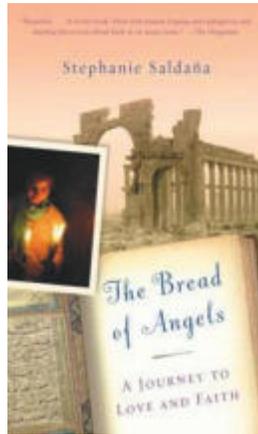
Summer Book Club:

Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith, a memoir by Stephanie Saldana.

Raised in San Antonio, Texas and now living in Jerusalem, the author has a keen sensitivity to the spiritual life and is skilled at expressing it in words.

Fr. Tom met Stephanie during his sabbatical, and knows she is the "Real Deal." Her articles appear regularly in America Magazine. You can anticipate an experience of reading that is thoroughly enjoyable and heightens your own sensitivity to both the challenges and the beauty of love and faith.

Discussion will be **Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30PM.**



Thanks guys for your work on a HUGE project! Lots of dedicated and hardworking men replaced the Plexiglas on the church windows; the old ones were yellowed, so now we'll get lots of

natural light in church. Many many more helped than pictured, but unfortunately your bulletin editor is a terrible photographer...

Next Dates for Mass on the Grass:

July 24, 6:30 PM (eve of Feast of St. James) - root beer floats will be offered after all four masses to celebrate the feast of our patron saint! 4:30 mass will be celebrated inside as usual

Aug. 14, 4:30 PM (Summer Fest).

Dates for the fall may be added.

Mental Health & Substance Use

Peer Recovery Support Group;

Thursday Evenings 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Questions - lpwinter32@gmail.com;

Zoom: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74216726600?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74216726600?pwd=UVZ4bEltVkJJeHVjSlQwcVE3VmZWZzO9)

[pwd=UVZ4bEltVkJJeHVjSlQwcVE3VmZWZzO9](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74216726600?pwd=UVZ4bEltVkJJeHVjSlQwcVE3VmZWZzO9)

Meeting ID: 742 1672 6600, Password: 8ENfez

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**Drive for School Supplies in July**

sponsored by We Care Eau Claire, churches in Eau Claire and the St. James Social Concerns Committee

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.*

- Supply lists are available in the Gathering Space, as well as a separate bin for school supplies for St. James school.

-All items can be donated or given in bulk. These items need to be in by July 15 so that We Care Eau Claire can order the rest in bulk.

Thrift Sale

8 AM—5 PM, Thursday-Friday, July 15-16

3007 Otis Street

Proceeds go to JONAH, a local interfaith justice/advocacy organization. Sponsored by the St. James Social Concerns Committee.

Sale will include household items and some furniture. No clothing.

Come by and shop for a good cause! You never know what treasures you'll find.

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