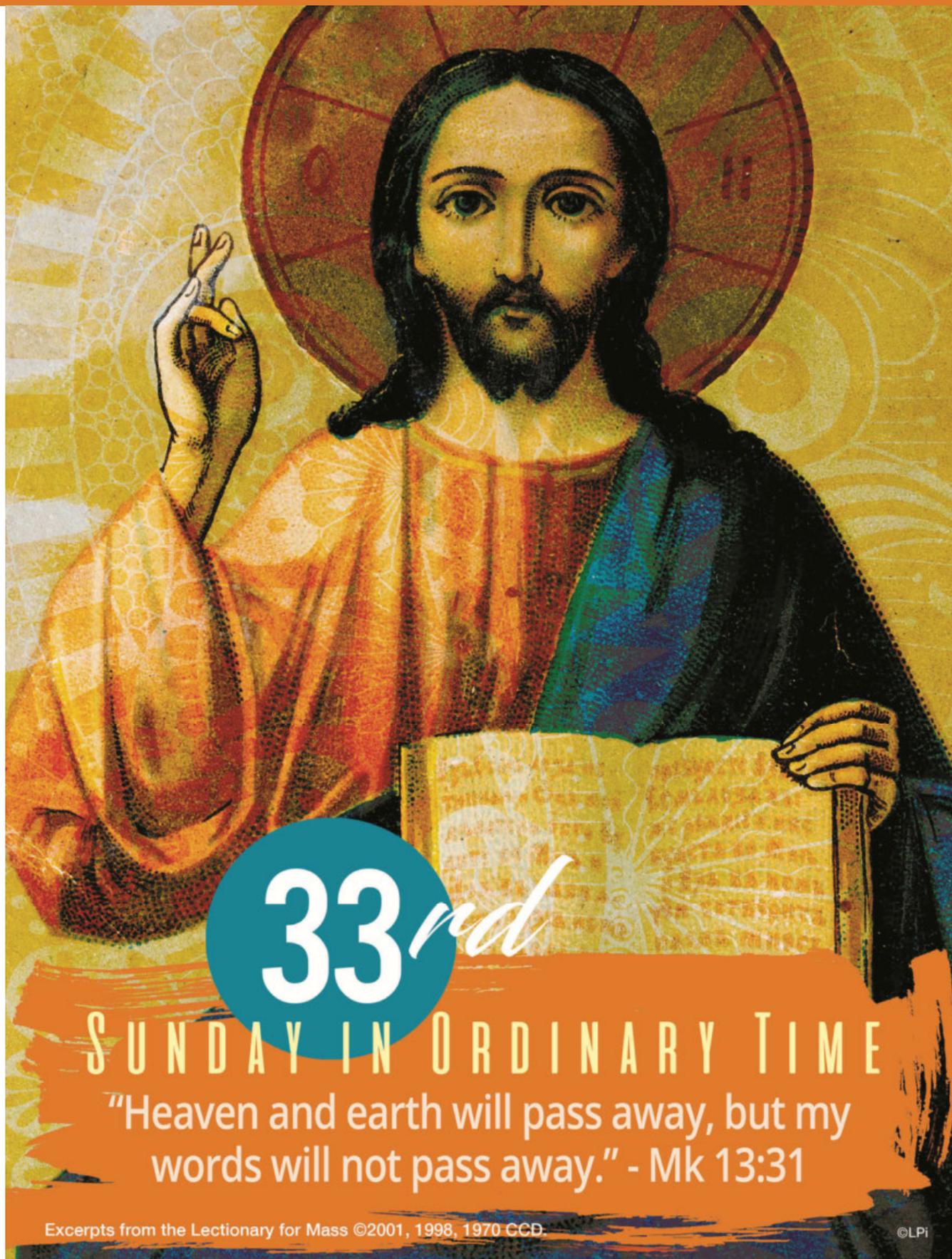


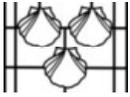
St. James the Greater
November 14, 2021



33rd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." - Mk 13:31



Message from Fr. Tom

It's still beautiful out there even in the heart of November. It seems like the oak groves have more color to them, quite brilliant for those earth tones of brown to bronze to golden with a touch of orange. I've played some golf at Princeton Valley in recent weeks and the beauty of the surroundings has been a welcome distraction from not-so-great golf shots.

There so much to pray for these days. We receive frequent requests to pray for people diagnosed with or hospitalized with Covid. But of course that doesn't mean other threats to human life don't continue on as before. And it seems like our world has lost not only a sense of the dignity of human life but also our need to work together for the good of all—our responsibility for each other. When did we stop seeing ourselves as part of a larger whole? Or did we ever see ourselves that way? Certainly the mystics knew that no one walks alone to God—mystics like Nicholas of Cusa who had that image of the spokes on wagon wheel that I shared at mass a few weeks ago. **The closer the spokes get to God, the hub, the closer to come to each other. We're the spokes, and the closer we get to each other by our love and care the closer we get to God—whether we know it or not!**

We are also invited to join the Church in praying for all those who died. I know the masses were longer last weekend because of our remembrance of all our parishioners who died in the past year—42 of them—but I heard from so many how beautiful they found this ritual. **It was touching to see how many family members showed up to light a candle in memory of their loved one.** I don't know how well you could see our mini altar of lighted votive candles, but from my close-up position I can tell you it was an inspiring sight to see, with each candle representing one of our good folks, alive in God.

The Parish Pastoral Council met last Tuesday. After praying with this weekend's Gospel passage, we spent most of the next 75 minutes talking about two things: Our strategic planning process and our parish's participation in the upcoming worldwide "Synod on Synodality," called for by Pope Francis. First, **regarding strategic planning**, you should know that our Pastoral Council chair, **Paula Winter**, has put her skills in this area to work for us. **Over the past several months, she sat with many if not all of our parish groups**, from music directors to finance council members and most groups in between, to interview them about goals and strategies for the next three years. Well, the final report is almost done. **The plan is to share the core of the results of this process with people after each of the masses on some Sunday in Advent.** Thanks Paula!

Then there's the "Synod on Synodality." What in the world is that? Well, **basically, it is a process that hopes to engage the grassroots of the Church, at a parish level, to listen to people's experience of the Church—their joys and inspirations, as well as their wounds and disappointments.** Through these listening sessions throughout the world, we hope to bolster our identity as a People of God and come to greater appreciation of how the Holy Spirit is moving among us. How can we enhance our identity as Church members called to Communion with each other? How can increase a sense of Participation of all our people in the life of the Church? What should be our mission in the wider world and how are we doing with that? The goal is to elicit parishioner input on these kinds of issues, and then send a report to Fr. Guanella in La Crosse, who will summarize all parish reports in the diocese and send them to Washington D.C. to the Bishops' Conference, who will summarize all the diocesan reports and send on what will be presumably quite a lengthy summary to Pope Francis and other at the Vatican. So, something you say at a meeting or on a survey might catch the Pope's attention! Even if not, our participation in this synod by listening and reflecting with each other will surely help us by grounding us more firmly in our purpose.

Regarding our participation in this synod, the council recommended a weekend in January when I would preach on the topic, and give people the opportunity in church to fill out a brief survey, and then have a meeting or two within a week's time to have a group discussion on what we heard in the surveys.

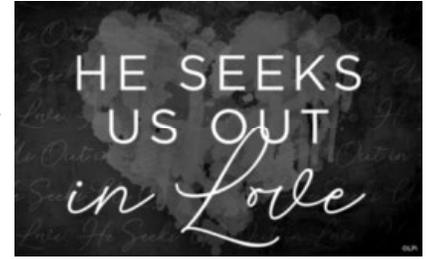
Rita Clark and Victor Spickler are getting married here next Saturday! Peace.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

©LPi

November 14, 2021, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in the clouds’ with great power and glory.” Take a moment to ponder these words from today’s Gospel. How does this image make you feel? For people to truly understand the significance of this message, something profound has to happen within. If we find ourselves reacting with a sense of dread or fear, we have to step back and ask why. Our answer will reveal a great deal about our relationship with God. It’s hard to fall in love with a God of whom we are afraid. God does not want us to be afraid. Nor does He want us to align our wills to His in order to avoid some kind of horrendous eternal consequence. That sounds like too much of a superficial power play on the part of God who continues to seek out His children in love.



In order for these words to carry any type of significant meaning for us, they have to resonate with and touch us on a deeper level. They have to be able to connect some dots and have meaning for us in order for this promise to change our lives. Sometimes we get preoccupied with the uncertainty of our deaths. Not knowing when or how we will eventually die can be unsettling. But, more so than needing an answer to the “when” of death, the “what” of death answer we provide has more significance. What happens to us when we die? Whether we die during the natural course of our lives or when Christ comes again, the experience is the same. If we believe that we are meant to live in union with God eternally and that death completes and does not diminish us, then it is worth our time and effort to wait in vigilant hope of the Lord’s coming in glory. Our journey back to God is something beautiful to be desired, not dreaded or feared.

Sadly, many folks believe that life is no more than a random occurrence without any purposeful direction or meaning. Death is simply death and nothing more. For them, the Second Coming of Christ and God’s eternal promise have no meaning. When we understand the truth about who we are, it changes things up. We then can see ourselves as works in progress who have the choice to either resist the inspirations of the Divine Artist or give into the wonderful creativity of His will. Life awaiting the fullness of Christ to come becomes an unfolding of Divine surprises and abundant joy. God is eternally merciful, forgiving, and welcoming. It is only when we directly reject this gift and turn our backs on Love itself that we have anything to fear.

Retreat Information for Women of all ages!

Dec 9-12, 2021. The Jesuit Retreat House, Oshkosh, offers a place of rest and spiritual nourishment for women at the Women's Advent Retreat, beginning the evening of Dec 9 to noon on Dec 12. Our retreat director, Fr. Jack Treloar, SJ, will help us understand the work of God and our place in His work during these turbulent times. Come and join us. Welcome to a time and place of peace and rest.

Retreat House registration www.jesuitretreathouse.org or 920-231-9060 or 1-800-962-7330. For information: Coordinators: Marcie -920.923.2446, Pam- 414.708.4253

Food Service Employees Needed

Calling all stay-at-home parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends! Are you or someone you know looking for a part-time employment opportunity within our schools? Our Regis Catholic Schools Food Service program is currently looking for kind and dependable people who are willing to work a few hours each day. We currently have 2 opportunities available. If you, or anyone you know is interested, please contact Teresa Culbert, Director of Food Service, at (715) 832-4623 or at tculbert@RegisCatholicSchools.com.

Head Cook at Immaculate Conception Elementary School: This position works 5-6 hours per day when school is in session.

Assistant/Float Cook: This position works approximately 15 hours per week. Primary responsibilities will be at Regis but you may be asked to work at other locations as needed.

Employment Opportunity

(Catholic Charities) Catholic Charities is hiring a full time Volunteer Coordinator to manage our extensive volunteer program. The coordinator is responsible for activities related to the recruitment, on-boarding, and matching of volunteers to Catholic Charities programs and projects.

Candidates for this position need to possess excellent communication skills, and ability to provide consistent organization of volunteer events & opportunities. Candidates will have proven ability to conduct outreach and form relationships with various community organizations throughout Wisconsin. Prior recruitment experience or management of volunteer or community programs is desired. Travel is required to our various offices/communities in La Crosse, Eau Claire, and Wausau areas.

Driver's license, reliable transportation, and auto insurance is required.

Pay range is \$17-\$20 per hour based on education and experience. This position is full time with benefits and can be based out of our La Crosse or Eau Claire office.

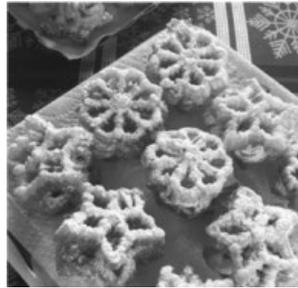
The Eau Claire Male Chorus presents its 75th Annual Christmas Concert, SING NOEL, on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 2 PM and 7 PM. Lake Street United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$12 in Advance, and \$15 at the door. Purchase tickets from chorus members, Festival Foods, and volumeone.org. Information and tickets also at 715 720-9092.



Scandinavian Bake Sale
 The PCCW is again offering Scandinavian treats for pre-order: rosettes, krumkake, sandbakkels, and pizzelles. Prices are \$11 a dozen or \$1 for individual cookies. All orders must be placed by Friday, December 3.

Pick up after all of the masses December 11-12, until 1 PM, under the canopy by the Gathering Space.

The dozen can be a mixture of the 4 choices or just one kind. Order forms are available online, at the parish office, and in the back of church. Payment should be made at the time of ordering. Make checks out to St. James PCCW. Orders can be returned to the parish office. Any questions, please call Connie Bushman, co-chair of the bake sale. 715.429.0703



Food Drive November

We are doing a special collection of items for the food pantry this month; extra bins are at the entrances.

Immaculate Conception Jubilee Fall Festival and Dinner Sunday Nov. 14

Festival 9 AM—3 PM. Raffles, wine tasting, white elephant sale, silent auction, entertainment
 Dinner 11 AM—1:30 PM: pork loin, rice pilaf, oven roasted chicken, home baked pies, and more. Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$5. All takeouts \$12.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir Concert
 “We Stand Together” Fall Concert

Nov. 18, 6:30 PM
 Concert presented via live stream—search YouTube for Stand in the Light Memory Choir Eau Claire WI. People in the early to mid-stages of memory loss, their care partners and singing volunteers come together to share their love of music!
 For more information: call 715-210-4165; email standinthelightchoir@gmail.com; website standinthelightmemorychoir.org; facebook [sitlchoir](https://www.facebook.com/sitlchoir).

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.
Wednesdays are school masses.
 Rosary and Adoration are available after the Tuesday Mass until 10:30 AM.
 Sat. Nov. 13 4:30 PM Ed and Gert Menard
 Sun. Nov. 14 8:00 AM Deceased members of the PCCW
 10:00 AM People of St. James
 NOON (Mass on the Grass) World Peace
 Tue. Nov. 16 Linus Miller
 Wed. Nov. 17 Marie Zurbuchan
 Thu. Nov. 18 George Hanson
 Fri. Nov. 19 Tom BaDour
 Sat. Nov. 20 4:30 PM Letitia Gonzalez Newman
 Sun. Nov. 21 8:00 AM People of St. James
 10:00 AM Eddie Barnett

Baby Shower

Nov. 15! Eau Claire Catholic Women's group is having a Baby Shower at St. Mary's Church Library in Altoona at 1:00 PM. Come support Catholic Charities and the young mothers of our area by bringing un-wrapped diapers, pull-ups, wipes, clothing, toys, books, blankets, soaps, lotions, and maybe even a little something for mom. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in this event. Coffee and desserts will be provided at no charge!

Ruby's Pantry

Volunteers are welcome and needed at Ruby's Pantry the first Thursday of each month between 2-6 PM. Volunteers are outside until we cannot be, so dress warm, have closed toe shoes, and join us for whatever time you can.

Sermon on the Amount	October 31, 2021
Sunday Adult Envelopes (102)	\$6,809.00
2020 same week (87)	\$6,778.00
Students	\$10.00
Plate	<u>\$231.00</u>
Total	\$7,050.00

Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through Oct. 31, 2021:
 Actual (July 1-Oct. 31) \$229,022.33
 Budgeted (July 1-Oct. 31) \$226,983.29

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund and *Past*Present*Future Campaign* income for Oct. 31 was \$50.00 for a total since July 1, 2021 of \$10,295.00.

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, linda1735@gmail.com
Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.



Feast of All Saints at St. James Elementary;
4th grade dressed up as saints



Christmas Sale in Gathering Space

Christmas Items from L'Arche and a gift shop in Bethlehem: olive oil, wool felt, ceramics, olive wood and more items. Sales support residents in Bethlehem. Items will be available for sale after weekend Masses from November 14 until sold out. Items will also be available in Parish Office during the week until sold out.



Snow Removal Team Members Needed!

This year we are trying something different—a team of (probably retired) people to handle the snow. Each team member would take a week to be responsible for cleanup. That way no one person has to be in charge, and the work gets spread out. Team members are paid positions. Must be available when it snows, whether weekday or weekend. If interested talk to Anne in the parish office.



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. James

With Good Shepherd.
Tuesday November 23, 6:30 PM. Please bring a food item for the pantry. Sojourner House will be the charity for donations. Hospitality will follow (Covid rates permitting).



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