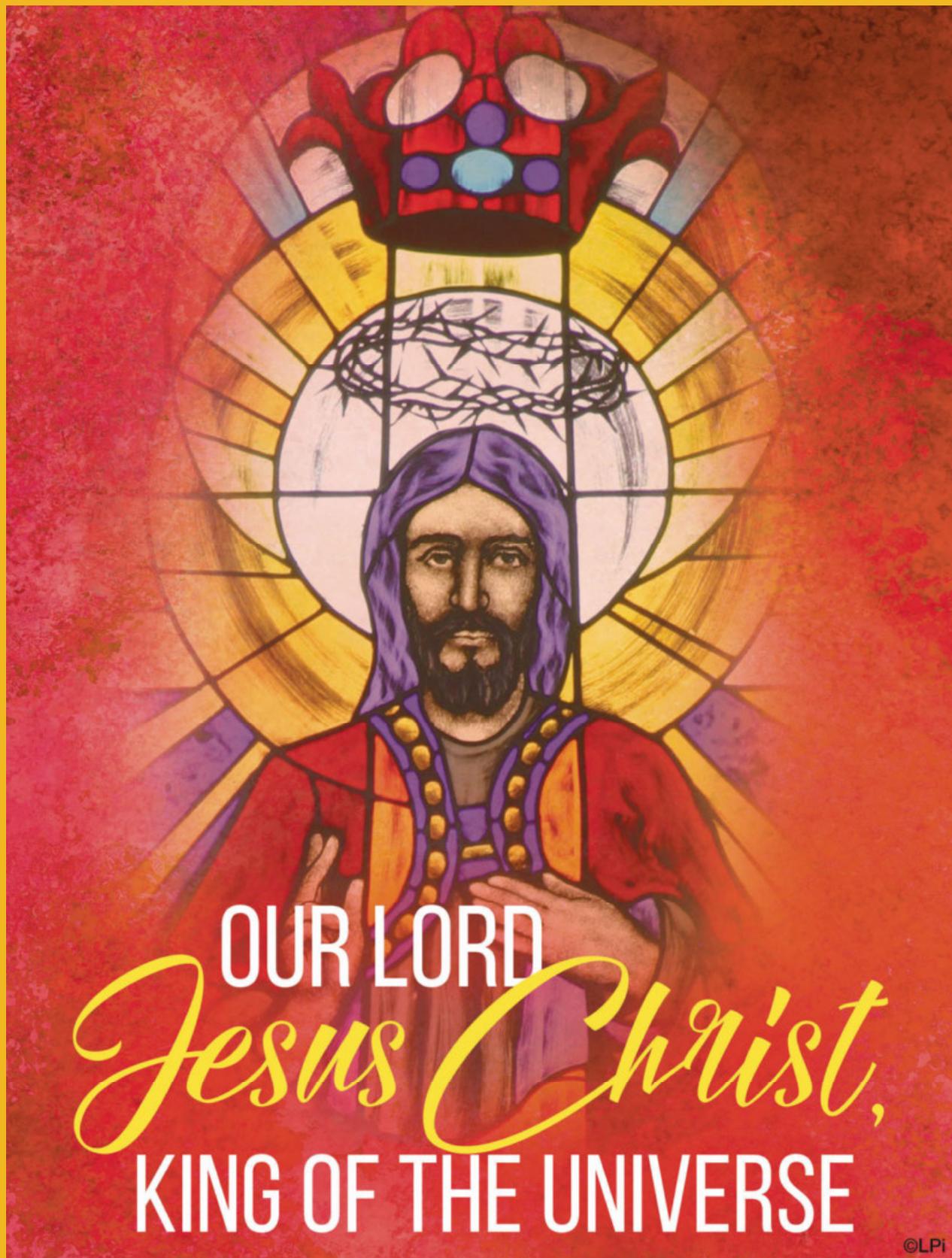


St. James the Greater ✝ Where All are Welcome
November 21, 2021





Message from Fr. Tom

One more week until Advent! It's funny to me that Advent is a season of anticipation, to get ready for Christmas, but a lot also experience a lot of anticipation for Advent itself. I think especially our Saturday afternoon masses are beautiful because of the darkness outside. It almost feels like a candlelight service. This year our **liturgy committee** came up with a beautiful way to begin and end our liturgies, with an antique-style lantern that a server will hold up in procession. Another server or I will then light the Advent wreath from the lantern, and then extinguish the lantern light. Then, at the end, we will re-light the lantern light from the wreath and walk out with it—a sign that we are taking the Light of Christ out with us into the darkness.

I saw many happy choir members this weekend! **Some of our choirs are starting up again** in preparation for Christmas. Our choirs are more than functional. They are small faith communities where faith is shared and friendships are formed. So, of course they missed being together during the past year and a half. They will take the necessary precautions of masking when they are close together. I'm sure individual cantors and small ad hoc choirs will to continue to serve us, as they have done so well since our Covid precautions began.

Of course, infections rates remain high in our area and could rise with colder weather upon us. We continue to cautious as a result. I want to give such a big shout out **THANK YOU** to not only our music ministers but our **video ministry team**—Don Byrne, Landon Cerny and Steve Dickoff—who **provided seamless quality worship experience for people at home since March 22, 2020**. And to all our ushers, ministers of hospitality, readers, Eucharistic ministers, servers, and everyone who have enabled by your prayers and presence the heartbeat of our faith community to keep beating strongly. You are my main reason for gratitude this Thanksgiving holiday.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, we will have **mass on Thanksgiving Day this year, at 9:00AM**. I invite anyone who wants to **bring any food items for your own Thanksgiving meals for a blessing**, to do so. I don't think we've done that since I've been here, anyway, and it can be a beautiful thing. After mass, my brother from Madison will rise from the south and I will blow in with the western winds to converge on Wausau and my mom's apartment. **Fr. Lindner**, my mom's pastor, is doing me the great favor of picking up three pre-made Thanksgiving dinners from The Mint Café on Wednesday that I can pick up from his rectory on Thanksgiving Day. I'll stay there until Friday night. It's a far cry from the packed houses many of you will experience, but the three of us always have a good time together. I'm looking forward to it.

Before that, we happily gather again with our Lutheran friends from Good Shepherd Church, just three blocks away from us as the crow flies. Each year, our pastoral staff always regret the fact that we don't do more together during the year, but I'm glad we at least have this. Lots of folks from St. James also volunteer at the monthly "Ruby's Pantry" event at Good Shepherd, to which many area residents come for the inexpensive food. And both of our churches also participate in JONAH, which addressed systemic poverty in our area. Some of our singers also participate in the "Walk in the Light" choir for people with dementia that Good Shepherd hosts. It sounds like we'll have to host something that the folks from Good Shepherd can come and join! Maybe they come to our blood drives—not sure if they have their own or not. **I do anticipate a night of joy and community, so come over to St. James for that on Tuesday, November 23, at 6:30PM, for our Thanksgiving prayer.** I am grateful for our good relationship.

Oh my, I see it's also Packers/Vikings weekend this weekend. May your team win, and if it doesn't, may you nonetheless find reason for joy and thanksgiving in your life. God is good, so when you are good, you're living in God. That sounds like Good News to me. Peace.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

November 21, 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

We often come to life expecting all of the pieces of the puzzle to nicely fit together. We want and expect harmony, order, and fairness, the achievement of rewards for good behavior, good health, and happiness. We can more easily accept death when it comes naturally after a good long life, but have a real difficulty comprehending the meaning of it all when it is cut short. Willing to put in a good measure of effort, we desire positive results. When things go wrong and life gets hurtful, unjust, and downright ugly, we become unsettled and can quickly fall into despair. This is especially true if we are people of faith who believe in a God who sees things on our terms and works in favor of our life agenda. What happens to our faith when we find ourselves sitting in a mess?

Does it help to know that God understands and that hardship, failure, disappointment, injustice, confusion, and all of life's ugliness do not make faith irrelevant or irrational? God is wonderfully and surprising creative! He turns the tables on not only our understanding of life, but of what it means to be a king. God sends us a king who is not exempt from life's ills but embraces them. The king that God gives to us knows what it means to be poor, suffer insults, be ridiculed, face rejection, endure suffering, be betrayed, and face a most unjust and horrific death. This is our king. Jesus is not a king of prestige or grandeur but a king who brings light to darkness, hope to despair, sinners to mercy, and new life out of death. Christ dances before us pleading with us to hold on, cling to love, avoid being negative, stop feeling cheated, and be strong in faith! There may be hardship and disappointment now but there are more surprises to come.

Once we understand this truth, we will also understand that we are on a most incredible and awesome universal journey to Christ and becoming one in Christ. We all carry within us the image of God, the image of our suffering king. The One who lives in us also lives in all of our brothers and sisters. Failing to see this universal Divine Presence in all is one of the greatest mistakes we can make, for we also fail to see God, our king, as well. There are many things that can bring hardship to life. If we keep our head about us and do not lose hope, we can persevere and strive for the greatest degree of justice possible. Even though there are ample things that can challenge our faith, we also know that our deepest joy comes from union with God and our brothers and sisters. One day, the fullness of that joy will be ours to have when we are all eternally one with Christ our King forever.

©LPi

**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.

Food Drive November

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

The Men of Spirit invite you to a Christmas

Concert to benefit the Salvation Army of the Chippewa Valley. The concert will feature local musician Warren Petryk, performing inspirational holiday music.

Join us at Spirit Lutheran Church, 1310 Main Street, Eau Claire, Thursday Dec. 2, 6:30 PM. Minimum \$ 10.00 donation with all proceeds going to the Salvation Army of the Chippewa Valley.

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

From Jacky Miller:

Thank you for all the prayers, emails, phone calls and cards of well wishes after my fall. I feel very loved and blessed! With gratitude and appreciation, Jacky

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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. 20	4:30 PM	Letitia Gonzalez Newman
Sun.	Nov. 21	8:00 AM	People of St. James
		10:00 AM	Eddie Barnett
Tue.	Nov. 23		Linus Miller
		6:30 PM	Thanksgiving service
Wed.	Nov. 24		Marie Zurbuchan
Thu.	Nov. 25		No Mass/Service
Fri.	Nov. 26		No Mass/Service
Sat.	Nov. 27	4:30 PM	Carl Robelia
Sun.	Nov. 28	8:00 AM	People of St. James
		10:00 AM	Charles Martenson

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.

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

November 7, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (169)	\$14,656.50
2020 same week (101)	\$10,740.00
Students	\$2.00
Plate	<u>\$227.00</u>
Total	\$14,885.50

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 Nov. 7 was \$325.00 for a total since July 1, 2021 of \$10,620.00.

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.

Some ideas on what to donate to the St. Francis Food Pantry for our November drive:

Food banks accept dry and canned food donations. What does that mean? Basically, any food that is “shelf-stable” or nonperishable – you can keep it in your pantry and it won’t go bad. And remember, only donate food that hasn’t reached its “sell-by” date yet. Specifically, food banks often need items like:

- Peanut butter
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta (most prefer
- whole grain)
- Rice (most prefer brown rice)
- Powdered milk
- Flour and sugar
- Salt and spices
- Oil
- Cans of tuna and crackers



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.

Baptism Classes

Classes are starting up again at regular times.

Classes are currently scheduled for:

Jan. 9, Jan. 30, Feb. 13.

Please let Ruth, the instructor, know if you plan to attend, at ruthebert78@gmail.com or 715-225-4959.



Strategic Planning

St. James the Greater began a 2022-2025 Strategic Planning process in March 2021. Information was gathered from an all parish survey, individual and group meetings with parish staff, individual meetings with Father Tom Krieg, and completing a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats) process with the Social Concerns Committee, Parish Council, Music Ministry Team, Religious Education personnel, the PCCW (Parish Council of Catholic Women), and Parish Finance Council.

To learn more about the results of the strategic plan, attend meetings after all of the masses Dec. 11/12.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. James

With The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Tuesday November 23, 6:30 PM, at St. James.

Please bring a food item for the pantry. Sojourner House will be the charity for donations.

Hospitality will follow (Covid rates permitting).



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



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