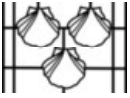


St. James the Greater

Where All Are Welcome

The Epiphany of the Lord ✝ January 2, 2022





Message from Fr. Tom

Wow, it's Epiphany already—early as it can possibly be. That's what happens when Christmas falls on a Saturday. Even though this year's Christmas season—from Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord on January 9—is short, I know it will be filled with love and faith here at St. James. Visually, we have the beautiful tree that the Mack family once again selected and set up for us, as well as the elegant decorations throughout the church. Acoustically, we have voice, piano, trumpet, bells, Dan's triumphant return to the organ, and more. Both spiritually and physically we have the Eucharist, broken and shared to draw us closer to God and to one another. We have all this as we soak up the wonderful truth that God chose to become one of us, Emmanuel, so that we can share divine life by walking with him.

I'd like to thank those who worked so hard for us to celebrate so beautifully. It was inspiring to watch how different people pitched in this year in ways different from last year. Christine couldn't be with us last Christmas, and so the rest of the staff stepped up to do her many tasks. This year, other staff couldn't be with us, and Christine shouldered the lion's share. I guess that's the way it is with any community when it's working well—giving when you are able and receiving when you need. Anyway, I'm proud of the way our staff and uber-volunteers work together. Heck, we even received the gift of Lutheran voices when several of Good Shepherd's choir members came to bolster our thin ranks at the 6:30 Christmas Eve mass—how lovely was that?

As a young person, I always especially loved the time of Christmas Break. I could see the same joy on the faces of our elementary school children back on December 23 when they were getting ready to leave for break. I hope everything they wanted came to be: time with family, the joy of opening presents, the joy of giving presents, good food, time to sleep and stay cozy inside all morning. Maybe that's more a dream than reality, but that was pretty much my experience—a time out of time, full of happiness.

As I grew into adulthood, Christmas break was no less enjoyable, but different. It was more about getting together with old friends from high school, playing cards, cross-country skiing, hitting the bars at night, and seeing all the high school buds. We were all trying to make it as adults, whether working or studying, and enjoying the time to relax, laugh, and re-connect. It's funny how we learn to appreciate old friends on a whole new level after we've lived as adults a few years. I think we get humbled by the challenges of life, understand more what is important, and are more willing to care about each other.

Quick blurb: Next book is *Prayer in the Night* by Tish Harrison, discussed 1.25.22 at 6:30 PM

Last, I'd just like to share what I read before the Christmas morning mass, an excerpt from Pope Francis's Midnight Mass homily:

Let us be amazed by this scandalous truth: *The One who embraces the universe needs to be held in another's arms. The One who created the sun needs to be warmed. Tenderness incarnate needs to be coddled. Infinite love has a miniscule heart that beats softly. The eternal Word is an "infant", a speechless child. The Bread of life needs to be nourished. The Creator of the world has no home. Today, all is turned upside down: God comes into the world in littleness. His grandeur appears in littleness.*

Let us ask ourselves: can we accept God's way of doing things? This is the challenge of Christmas: God reveals himself, but men and women fail to understand. He makes himself little in the eyes of the world, while we continue to seek grandeur in the eyes of the world, perhaps even in his name. God lowers himself and we try to become great. The Most High goes in search of shepherds, the unseen in our midst, and we look for visibility, to be seen. Jesus is born in order to serve, and we spend a lifetime pursuing success. God does not seek power and might; he asks for tender love and interior littleness.

Peace.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms

into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."



Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPi

Christmas UPDATE with Habitat for Humanity (H4H): St.

James and many others that partnered with Habitat for Humanity will finish a home and the family will move in this week. To learn more of the benefits and programs for low income families go to: <https://www.cv4h.org>
Call or contact Mary Felton-Kolstad:
kolstadmary@gmail.com



The St. Elizabeth crafters are hosting a crafting weekend on Jan. 7th from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday Jan. 8th from 9 am to 9 pm. The cost is \$5 per session, please bring your own beverages, and a dish to pass. The event is happening in Rourke Hall (downstairs), the school entrance will be open and you can use the elevator and carts for all your crafting project materials, all crafts are welcome. All ladies are welcome too, bring a friend! Contact Cindy Sarazen @ cindysarazen1@gmail.com with any questions.

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safeenvironment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.

Mission Statement:

We, the people of St. James the Greater Parish in Eau Claire, are a community of Catholic believers. We nurture our relationship with God and others through prayer, worship, Scripture, evangelization and education. We are committed to spiritual growth, service and stewardship. We embrace the diversity of gifts and needs of all people.

New Parishioners/Pastoral Visitations/Prayer Tree:

Please contact Christine if you would like to join the parish, be visited at home or at the hospital, or have a prayer request.

Elizabeth Ministry:

If you or someone you know is expecting, contact Christine to be connected with supportive volunteers.

Sacrament of Baptism:

A required Pre-Baptism class is offered frequently in the small room off the Gathering Space. Next class: *January 9, January 30, February 13*. Please let Ruth Ebert, the instructor, know if you plan to attend: ruthebert78@gmail.com or 715-225-4959

Sacrament of Marriage:

By Diocesan regulation, all couples are required to begin the preparation and instruction at least six months in advance of a desired date. Please contact Fr. Tom before setting a date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:30-4:00 PM or by appointment.

Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will be meeting on Tuesday Jan. 11. If you have any parish concerns or feedback, please contact a member of the council, who will share it with the group. A list of council members is posted on the bulletin board the left of the school entrance

St. James Elementary school in January:

Wednesday, January 12: 1:30 pm Early Release
Monday, January 17: No School Staff Development
Tuesday, January 18: Jeans for Jesus: Bob's House for Dogs
Sunday, January 30: Catholic Schools Week
Monday, January 31-Friday, February 4: Book Fair

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.	Jan. 01	4:30 PM Devin Bien
Sun.	Jan. 02	8:00 AM Bob Krumenauer 10:00 AM People of St. James
Tue.	Jan. 04	Linus Miller
Wed.	Jan. 05	Bernice and Harold Kassing
Thu.	Jan. 06	Cathy Clayton
Fri.	Jan. 07	Shirley Brindle
Sat.	Jan. 08	4:30 PM Jerry Fisher
Sun.	Jan. 09	8:00 AM People of St. James 10:00 AM Francis Boehm

St. Olaf Fish Fry

The St. Olaf Men's Club invite you back inside the Parish Center for the return of our *All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry*, beginning Jan. 7. Serving hours are the usual 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Menu includes beer-battered fried or baked Pollock, French fries or baked potato, vegetables, coleslaw, and salad bar. Cost is \$14 for all adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12, kids 4 and under are free. Carry-outs will be available for just \$12. St Olaf Catholic Church. Future dates are: Jan 21...Feb 4 & 18...Mar 4 & 18...April 1 & 22

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

December 19, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (175)	\$23,807.50
2020 same week (169)	\$16,523.50
Students	\$6.00
Plate	\$157.00
Total	\$23,970.50

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

Actual (July 1-Nov. 30)	\$284,950.57
Budgeted (July 1-Nov. 30)	\$281,983.29

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund
and *Past*Present*Future Campaign* income for Dec. 19 was \$95.00 for a total since July 1, 2021 of \$17,500.00.

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,
jlutz@regiscatholicschools.com
Shanna Donkers, Administrative Assistant,
sdonkers@regiscatholicschools.com
Linda Schultz, Commission Rep.-RCS,
linda1735@gmail.com

Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE WARMING CENTER!

Currently people experiencing homelessness in our community have nowhere downtown to go during the day: the library has moved, Sojourner closes its doors during the day, even the gas station where they could get something to drink and go to the bathroom has closed.

A group of community members and local officials have partnered to create The Warming Center to give people a place to stay during the day. The Warming Center started with Christmas and Sundays after, 8-6:30. Shifts vary.

The need for volunteers is great! In this season of giving, please consider serving your community in this important way. It is unsustainable and unacceptable that people are on the street during winter. Let's work together as a community to make daytime shelter a reality.

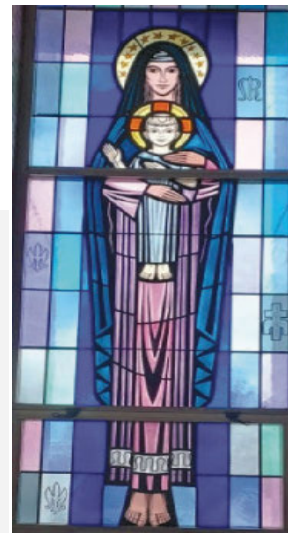
Please sign up online, we are looking for both experienced and non-experienced volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAF2EA5F9C16-warming>

If you have any questions please contact The Warming Center at: ecwarmingcenter@gmail.com or Christine

St. James Social Concerns Committee January Drive: Sleep in Heavenly Peace, shpbeds.org.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national organization that builds beds for children who do not have a bed. We would be supporting the local Eau Claire Chapter. They are in need of sheets, blankets, comforters and pillows for twin beds. They need to be new. People could also make financial donations: the cost for a complete bed including the mattress is \$250.00. They also need volunteers to help build and deliver beds. There will be a meeting on Dec. 27 at 6:30 PM at Hope Lutheran Church for anyone who is interested in learning more about the organization, or you can go to their website at: shpbeds.org. The next local build will be Jan. 22.



Recycle old Christmas lights

Have a string of lights that don't work anymore? You can recycle them at the Courthouse!

A parishioner is willing to collect them at church and bring them to the courthouse. There is a bin for collection in the Gathering Space.

Musings from the Choir Loft!

The photo is one of two stained glass windows from the choir loft. The other is of Joseph (not pictured). To me, this represents our St. James family.

St. James Choirs and musicians were thankful to share Christmas Eve with all of you from the "heavenly choir loft". I hope your hearts were opened and filled with the love, faith, and the many gifts of music during this Blessed Season.

We are always hoping that people who would like to sing and/or play an instrument, will join us! Please consider being a part of the Music Ministry at St. James. Call or contact Mary Felton-Kolstad: kolstadmary@gmail.com



Cookie decorating party!



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