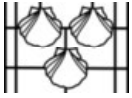


St. James the Greater ✝ Where All are Welcome

The Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022





Message from Fr. Tom

Happy Feast of the Baptism of the Lord! May I confess that it is my favorite feast of the year? And of all the religious icons I have, my favorite is one that I spied in a German Benedictine gift shop in Jerusalem the first time I was there in 1994. I was only two years a priest and the story of Jesus' baptism was foundational to my choice to be ordained, and so I was drawn to this icon. Its unique feature is a very peaceful but happy God the Father looking down on Jesus in the Jordan River. How often do you see a happy God the Father in art?

This joyful God the Father attracted me because, on a pre-ordination retreat, Fr. John Heagle asked me to focus on all the Gospel stories of Jesus' baptism, with special attention to the attitude of God the Father whose voice spoke from heaven: You are my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased. That's how it's usually translated. Fr. Heagle, who knows Greek, said a better translation would be "Behold my son who is overflowing with my love and in whom I take great delight." Whether it's a better translation or not, I cannot say, but I know I like it a lot better! Hearing those words helped me go forward in my vocation. I hope everyone can hear those words knowing they are meant for you, too.

I assume that, like last year, you are all invited to abscond with poinsettia's after the 10:00 Mass this weekend. I was noticing last week how fresh and beautiful they still look. Overall wouldn't you agree that the church was more than beautiful. I'd say "elegant and inviting." It's great to have such dedicated folks seeing to the beauty of the place. Bev Dorr, Connie Kopaczewski, Sharon Bussard, Ginny Bartch, Patrice Taft, Alane and Don Wick, Jacky Miller, Ellen Erickson, Rachel McMahon, Louise Roach, Heather Mecicalski with children Ephraim and Cece, and Mary Kolstad's grandson Gabe. And of course the Mack family took care of the tree—they would love to collaborate with another family or persons going forward, so please keep that in mind as a possible project. It would be a great service to our parish and to all who come to us from the wider community for Christmas inspiration.

One sad bit of news. My planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land for February has been canceled. I'm 99% sure it will be rescheduled for early February 2023. There are worse things that happen, but I was so looking forward to it.

Many of you know Fr. George Szews, who served as associated pastor with Fr. Heagle at St. Patrick's in Eau Claire from 1978-1984 and then as pastor of the Newman Parish from 1984-2013. Perhaps not as many of you know that he retired last week. Since 2012 Fr. Szews, or "George" as most of you who knew him called him, has been pastor in Prescott, WI, where he will live in his retirement.

I'm happy to have lived and served with him at the Newman Parish for seven of his years there. He taught me a lot about preaching and liturgy and how to use writing as a ministry. John Guettinger told me last week that he had written a farewell piece in his bulletin. Here is part of it:

Thank you to all the good people of St. Joe's for making me feel welcome these past 8 years. I know I wasn't all I was supposed to be for some of you. I really have no skill set for small children. And, I know for some of you I was too much. A few of you left the parish because of me—and I'm sorry about that. But for the most part you accepted me, made me feel welcome and useful.

I guess that was always my hope as a priest—that I be useful. For Jesus and the Church, I was useful—not the greatest, not the worst, but useful. Thank you. GRS.

I know that many of you would object, along with me, that he was much more than useful. I'm happy to say that I have George booked to celebrate weekend liturgies with us in September when I must be away for my niece's wedding. Prayers for George and all those going through transitions in life.

Peace.

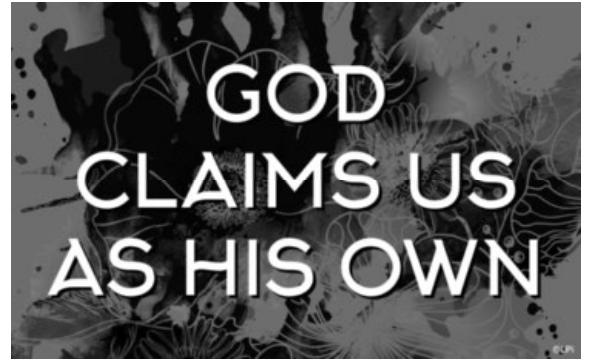
January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.



It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

Women's Retreat - Christ Is Our Hope and Our Peace: Ladies you are invited to renew and deepen your faith on **Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022** at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1222 Main Street, Bloomer from **9:00 AM until NOON**. Come listen to a presentation by Gina Bauer, a dynamic and entertaining speaker. Gina captivates and engages her audiences with lively stories and humor. She is able to convey Catholic teachings in a compassionate, down-to-earth style that reaches the hearts of listeners. Join us for this inspiring speaker, music, refreshments and fellowship. Please invite a friend. Call or email Diane Kuba (715-568-2388 kuba@bloomer.net) or Kathy Zwiefelhofer (715-568-3942 zeefmly@bloomer.net) to reserve seats. Cost of the retreat is \$10 per person.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir

"Where words fail,, music speaks"

People in the early to mid-stages of memory loss, their care partners and singing volunteers come together to share their love of music! No experience necessary. Spring 2022 "I Will Sing" choir rehearsals: Thursdays 10-11 AM, Jan. 6-Apr. 21. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Proof of vaccination and masks required; zoom option available. For more information call 715-210-4165 or email standinthelightchoir@gmail.com

Music Musings:

Music has been a part of St. James since the beginning. It has been said that Fr. Rorke would walk through the halls and sacristy always singing. The tone was set a long time ago. for voices, joy and prayer
THANK YOU St. James for making the music come alive at every mass!!! Especially this JOYOUS season of Christ's birth!!

Please consider being a part of the music liturgy @ St. James. The following are upcoming rehearsal *dates/times* for the various groups in the choir loft.

Adult Choir: Tuesday Jan. 11 @ 6:30

A.C.E. (Women's Adult Contemporary Ensemble) Tuesdays Jan.18 @ 5:30

Occasional Men's Choir: Thursdays Jan. 20 @ 6:30

Bells of St. James: TBD@ 4:30 in the church

Funeral Choir: Notification via email with details. Rehearse 45 minutes prior to the funeral.

Cantors: sing within a group of 2, 3 or 4. All voices welcome!

Youth Choir: Maybe? Wednesdays? If you are interested in singing, please let me know!!

Want to become a part of this ministry? Mary Kolstad, 715 -577-6678, kolstadmary@gmail.com

OR check the St. James Web Calendar for dates & times of rehearsals

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@ymail.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.

A Time to Heal: Grief Retreats at St. Anthony's
Mar. 25-27. one weekend, two options.

Where There is Despair, Hope: a retreat for people who have experienced the suicide of someone they know. The retreat addresses the grief and healing process through spiritual, theological, and psychological dimensions, and allows for both quiet reflection and a chance to connect with others left behind.

Moving through Grief to Gratitude: Grief is the heart's response to loss. This retreat is designed to help us make space for our feelings and recover our bearings after the loss of a partner, so as to be able to rejoice in the life we shared and to honor that life with gratitude. \$70

Both retreats: Friday 5:45 PM to Sunday noon, \$210.

Moving through Grief to Gratitude has a Saturday only option for \$70.

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.	Jan. 08	4:30 PM	Jerry Fisher
Sun.	Jan. 09	8:00 AM	People of St. James
		10:00 AM	Francis Boehm
Tue.	Jan. 11		Cathy Clayton
Wed.	Jan. 12		Mary Lou Nowak
Thu.	Jan. 13		Lyle and Arlee Berg
Fri.	Jan. 14		Earl Keller
Sat.	Jan. 15	4:30 PM	Ron Hunter
Sun.	Jan. 16	8:00 AM	People of St. James
		10:00 AM	Chuck Zabrowski

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*. Jan 21...Feb 4 & 18...Mar 4 & 18...April 1 & 22. Serving hours are 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.

St. James Elementary school in January:

Wednesday, Jan. 12: 1:30 PM Early Release

Monday, Jan. 17: No School Staff Development

Tuesday, Jan. 18: Jeans for Jesus: Bob's House for Dogs

Sunday, Jan. 30: Catholic Schools Week

Monday, Jan. 31-Friday, Feb. 4: Book Fair

Sermon on the Amount

December 26, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (117) \$12,493.73

2020 same week (126) \$15,351.00

Students \$0.00

Plate \$170.00

Total \$12,663.73

Christmas Envelopes \$10,774.00

Christmas Plate 3,047.85

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

Actual (July 1-Dec. 31) \$347,720.63

Budgeted (July 1-Dec. 31) \$338,483.29

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund
and *Past*Present*Future Campaign* income for Dec. 26 was
\$1,625.00 for a total since July 1, 2021 of \$19,125.00.

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.



Volunteers are needed for the Warming Center!

The Warming Center successfully opened for Christmas and New Year's. volunteers reported a safe and enjoyable experience. The Warming Center will be open on Sundays during the day, 7:45 AM -6:30 PM, with shifts varying in time and duration. No experience necessary, just a desire to help the homeless stay out of the cold.

Please sign up online: <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. Volunteers need to call or text Les Munnik at 715-533-8273 if they are going to help with the build. The build will be at a warehouse owned by Market & Johnson on Galloway Street starting at 8:30 AM on Saturday, Jan. 22. Volunteers need to fill out paperwork the day of the build. They provide masks, following COVID safety measures, and provide a box lunch.

THE CAN MAN REPORT 2021

We started collecting aluminum cans in May 2004 to make money for Summer Fest and the building of the gathering addition. Ed Hofacker had donated a dog kennel for the Summer Fest silent auction. The junky that I am, I decided it would be the perfect cage for collecting cans. Thanks Ed! After 17 years, 195 trips to Spickler Recycling, 41,109 pounds that is 20.56 tons of cans as of December 30, 2021. St James Parish and I would like to thank all the parishioners that have contributed to this can project which has netted \$25,051.20.

The money has helped with Catholic School tuition, Summer Fest, replacing the plexi glass on the church windows, completing the hearing loop, and more to come.

THE CAN MAN

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





Witness the Difference!

Faith. Values. Academic Excellence.

Enrollment Opens January 24!

Preschool Open House

St. James Elementary School
Tuesday, February 8 | 4 to 6 p.m.

St. Mary's Elementary School
Thursday, February 10 | 4 to 6 p.m.

Kindergarten Preview

St. James Elementary School
Tuesday, February 8 | 6 p.m.
Friday, February 11 | 1 p.m.

St. Mary's Elementary School
Thursday, February 10 | 6 p.m.
Friday, February 11 | 10:30 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Elementary School
Tuesday, February 15 | 6 p.m.

RSVP online to save your spot!
www.RegisCatholicSchools.com/RSVP

Curious about our other grade levels? We invite you to schedule a private tour to learn more about what we can offer your child.
(715) 830-2273, ext. 1400
www.RegisCatholicSchools.com





St. James elementary school kids caroling in the neighborhood

Lenmark-Gomsrud-Linn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
www.lenmarkfh.com
814 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-832-8301
1405 N. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI
715-834-4456

B & P BOHL & PROULX
PLUMBING WATER SYSTEMS
715-832-4795 • 715-723-9655
MP# 682390

SUBARU
Chilson Subaru
Hwy 93 • Eau Claire
www.chilsonsubaru.com

DANIEL DONNELLAN
REALTOR GRI, CRS, ABR
LICENSED REALTOR SINCE 1987
DanD@ecDRE.com
Residential,
Investment Property,
Commercial Real Estate
715.579.1418 *Call or Text

What you call Crap we call Scrap!
Spicklers Recycling
1329 Western Ave., Eau Claire WI
Victor Spickler/Vickey Kleist
715 835 0490

SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS!
LPI

Blank advertisement space.

A.F.T
Real Estate, Inc
715.839.1234
Commercial & Industrial
Sales • Lease • Site Selection • Development
AL TAFT St James Parishioner
www.aftrealestate.com

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!
Contact **Tim Browne** to place an ad today!
tbrowne@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2518

**NORTHSIDE
PET HOSPITAL**
835-0761
1727 Western Ave.

**ATS COMPLETE
AUTO REPAIR**
1233 W. Clairemont • Eau Claire
(715) 830-7444
www.atsservicecenter.com

Amy's Angels
Private In-Home Nursing Care
Amy Nystrom, RN
651.295.2483
amysangelswi@gmail.com

**PAULSRUD
CHIROPRACTIC**
www.paulsrudchiropractic.com
Bradley Paulsrud, D.C.
Teresa Paulsrud, D.C.
715.552.3232 • 2627 N. Clairemont Ave.

ROTO-ROOTER
SEWER-DRAIN
SERVICE
Eau Claire & Chippewa Falls
Dan Hellend
835-9113 • 723-9494

Krische Law Office
Matthew J. Krische
Attorney
715-318-2737
21 S. Barstow St., Ste. 209, Eau Claire
www.eauclaireattorney.com

The Quigley Group
401 Pinnacle Way, Suite 152
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 858-7788
A division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC. 21-NO-03204 (12/21)

RBC Wealth Management

MADISON ST. AUTO BODY
• Auto Body Repair
• Mechanical Service
• Unibody Repair
Rental Cars Available
All Insurance Estimates Given
MARK EISOLD - Proprietor
430 E. Madison St. • Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715) 834-8431

PREVEA360
Medicare Advantage
from Dean Health Plan
NEW FOR 2022
Medicare Plans that
Share Your Mission
LEARN MORE: 920-430-0299

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 1-855-225-4251

Piltz Glass & Mirror
* Fogged/Broken GLASS REPLACEMENTS
* Glass tabletops * Mirrors cut to size
* Storm window and screen repair
* Custom Tub/Shower Enclosures
* Aluminum Storefronts
1011 Vernon St., Altoona • 715-835-3144
2 blocks off Clairemont Ave. & Hastings

MULDOON'S
MEN'S WEAR INC.
SINCE 1950
1506 S. Hastings Way
832-3502 | 1-800-942-0783
www.muldoons.com

OAK PARK DENTAL
Eau Claire's Smile Leader
4605 Royal Drive • Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 855-9220
Dr. Emily Hehli Benyaich

**Gonstead, Stangl, & Arkowski
CHIROPRACTIC, LLCs**
TogetherForYou.com
715-832-2223
Parish Members
Dr. Jennifer Gonstead & Family

Roadside
Ice Cream & Diner
Best Food on the Road!
www.roadsideec.com
1160 Menomonie (715) 834-9323

INDEPENDENT FLOORING Classics
Carpet • Wood Furniture
Tile • Vinyl Window Treatments
Tod Torgerson
833-2432 • 835-4500
2506 South Hastings Way
www.ifcec.com

We've Missed You!
Welcome Back to Mass

Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com