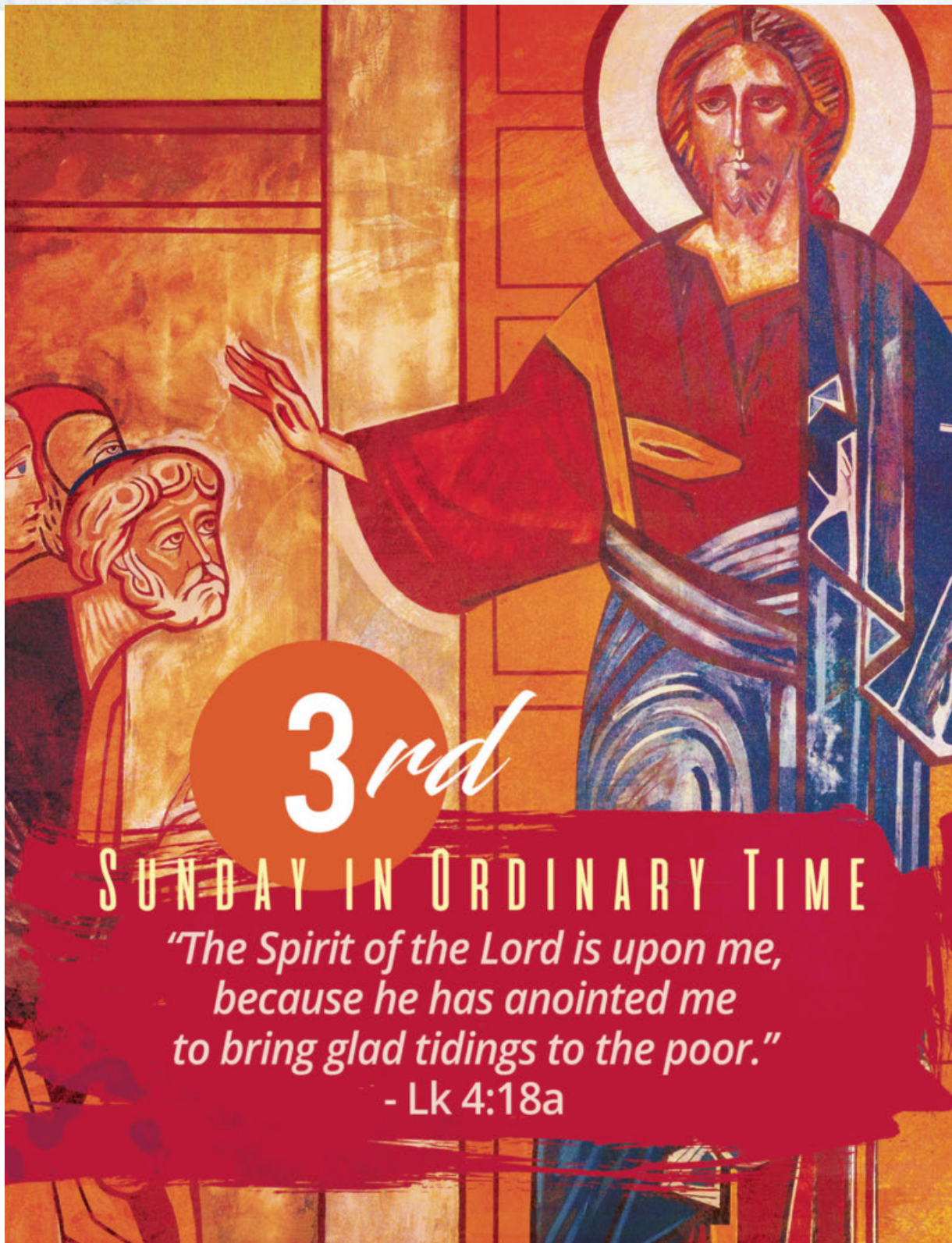


# ST JAMES THE GREATER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 23, 2022 | WELCOME! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE



3<sup>rd</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor."*

- Lk 4:18a

**ADDRESS**

2502 11th Street  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703  
Ph: 715-835-5887

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Connect!** | [www.stjameseauclaire.org](http://www.stjameseauclaire.org)

Facebook: StJamesEauClaire |

Contact Christine if you want to join the parish, have a prayer request, or need a pastoral visit. [christine@stjameseauclaire.org](mailto:christine@stjameseauclaire.org)  
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 classes: January 30, February 13.* Please let Ruth Ebert, the instructor, know if you plan to attend: [ruthebert78@gmail.com](mailto: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 p.m. or by appointment.

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.



*Witness the Difference!*  
Faith. Values. Academic Excellence.

**Enrollment Opens January 24!**

*Preschool Open House*

<b>St. James Elementary School</b> Tuesday, February 8   4 to 6 p.m.	<b>St. Mary's Elementary School</b> Thursday, February 10   4 to 6 p.m.
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*Kindergarten Preview*

<b>St. James Elementary School</b> Tuesday, February 8   6 p.m. Friday, February 11   1 p.m.	<b>St. Mary's Elementary School</b> Thursday, February 10   6 p.m. Friday, February 11   10:30 a.m.
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**Immaculate Conception Elementary School**  
Tuesday, February 15 | 6 p.m.

RSVP online to save your spot!  
[www.RegisCatholicSchools.com/RSVP](http://www.RegisCatholicSchools.com/RSVP)

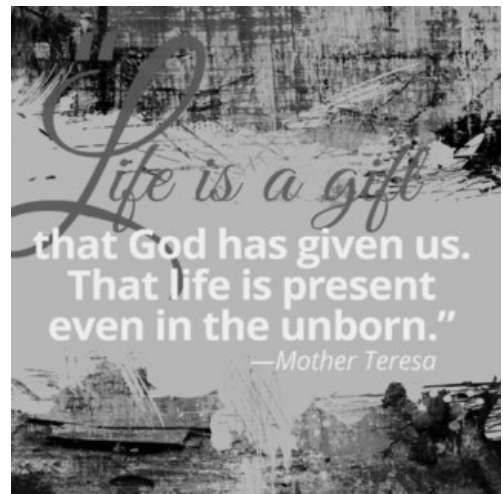
Curious about our other grade levels? We invite you to schedule a private tour to learn more about what we can offer your child.  
(715) 830-2273, ext. 1400  
[www.RegisCatholicSchools.com](http://www.RegisCatholicSchools.com)


**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, Jan. 22	4:30 p.m.	† Carl Robelia
Sunday, Jan. 23	8:00 a.m.	People of St. James
	10:00 a.m.	† Eddie Barnett
Tuesday, Jan. 25	9:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word
Wednesday, Jan. 26	9:00 a.m.	† Larry Hagens
Thursday, Jan. 27	9:00 a.m.	† Harry and Mary Bechel family
Friday, Jan. 28	9:00 a.m.	† Joseph Vig
Saturday, Jan. 29	4:30 p.m.	† Souls of Aborted Babies
Sunday, Jan. 30	8:00 a.m.	People of St. James
	10:00 a.m.	† Grace and McKenna Stewart

**LIFESAVER WEEKEND – THIS WEEKEND!**

January 22 marks the 49th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortions in the United States. Since 1973, over 63,000,000 innocent unborn children have lost their lives through abortions. The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a fundraising event at all Masses on January 22nd and 23rd. Knights will be at the doors of Church handing out individually wrapped lifesaver candy and would be happy to accept your donation enabling us to further a Culture of Life within our community. This year again you will have the opportunity to support this effort through online giving! Please go to [gofundme.com/knights-of-columbus-fundraiser-campaign](http://gofundme.com/knights-of-columbus-fundraiser-campaign) then follow the prompts to make your donation. Thank you for your support of this campaign which is needed now more than ever before.

**SERMON ON THE AMOUNT**

January 9, 2022

Sunday Adult Envelopes (167) \$19,006.50  
2021 same week (164) \$16,672.50  
Students \$0.00  
Plate \$155.00  
Total \$19,161.50



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 for Jan. 9 was \$180.00 for a total since July 1, 2021 of \$19,42.00

## MESSAGE FROM FR. TOM

Walking over to the office tonight (Tuesday), the temperature was still mild, 37 degrees, but I noticed a stately pine tree across the street swaying mightily back and forth. I stopped to look, and with no more sound from my footsteps, I could hear the wind blowing through that tree. What is it that I heard, the wind or the tree? Both, I suppose. Earlier in the day, I heard the forecast that tomorrow's high temperature would be not 37 but 7 degrees. That explained the wind. And it dawned on me that as the hard wind in the tree announced a change to come, so some of the biggest changes in our lives follow something upsetting. Someone we love leaves us. We have to move from our familiar home. We get sick, very sick. The wind blows; our life is going to change. Whether it's for the good or bad depends on how we respond.



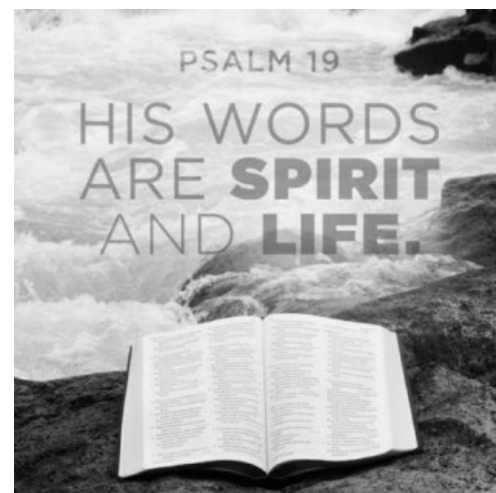
The book for our next online discussion on January 25 addresses the role of sickness in the life of a Christian. The author quotes Scott Cairns, "Paradise is filled with men and women whose cancer saved their lives." Odd, right? She went on to comment that "If we let it, our physical vulnerability can show us who we are and teach us to cry out to God. We find then that God meets us precisely when we have nothing to offer." The implication is that when we feel loved even when we have nothing to offer, then we know we are truly loved, and this changes us. She further quotes Cairns, saying that, through cancer, his father grew from a man "prone to impatience" with a "considerable temper" to someone who was "remarkably calm, loving, and profoundly quiet—a genuine man of prayer." She concluded, "His father died of cancer, but cancer saved his life." Of course, no one wishes cancer or other terrible suffering on anyone, and yet such hardship does have the potential to open our hearts to a saving love. The power of Christianity is that our savior chose to walk this way of suffering, a way none of us would choose or wish on anyone, so he could be in true loving solidarity with those who suffer so much.

I was praying with the group that assembles for rosary and adoration after Tuesday mass, and noticed once again that the closing prayer, the "Hail Holy Queen," assumes our lives are full of suffering, perhaps more suffering than truly reflects most of our lives here. Part of the prayer, as you may know, goes like this: "To thee [Mary] do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears." I'm never sure what to make of that. I like to think that we are an "Easter People" with resurrection faith bringing joy to our lives, and so this prayer seems like a downer. On the other hand, it points out that many people do experience this life in misery. There are millions of people who do not live more than a month because they starve. Others feel trapped in abusive relationships, addictions, or mental illness—some experience all of the above at once. Jesus and Mary know their pain and care for them. Even if many of us do not experience this life as a "valley of tears," it is important to know that God has special love for those who do. This is, on one hand, a nice sentimental thought, while on the other hand is a clear directive to God's people to have this same special love for people who are distraught and support them with our time, energy and resources.

First Reconciliation ("Confession") is now all done, having celebrated the last two Wednesday evenings with our second graders. Thanks go to Beth Cerny, Jaimee Rosene, Stacey Dayton and Diane King for all their work on this. Jumping forward a few years, I've enjoyed my recent visits with our Confirmation candidates—high school sophomores. It really is a joy to sit down for fifteen to thirty minutes and hear their thoughts about faith, God, and the challenges of life. For the most part, I mainly see them in church and our longest conversations have lasted ten seconds, so it's great to get a better sense of who they are and how mature they are. I love our elementary school children, but golly there's a big difference in a conversation you can have with a ten-year-old versus a sixteen-year-old. I'm proud of the way they have grown up and the way they and their families have stayed connected to their Church and parish.

Last, we welcome the Knight of Columbus this weekend for their Lifesaver candy giveaway and fundraiser to promote awareness of the dignity of unborn human life. As always, in our prayers and in how we interact with the world we try to show our appreciation of how precious is the gift of life "from womb to tomb."

Peace.



**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainty of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away. ©LPi

**PARISH COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (PCCW)**

St. James PCCW is meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 3 by zoom; contact Sharon Bussard for the link. We will have a speaker, Karen Welch, who will be talking about Spiritual Journaling. There is still time to join the PCCW for 2022!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

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

Update: We're about done with the Eddy St house, the primary thing we are waiting on there is the kitchen appliance.

Our "Home Fixers" Committee is officially up and running now! They are currently searching for volunteer contacts that would like to help with home repairs (furnace replacement, window repair/replacement, porch repair, etc). If anyone would be interested in being a contact for home repairs, they're more than welcome to submit a volunteer sign up and you will be connected to the committee!

**CUSTODIAL ASSISTANT**

St. Joseph's in Menomonie is looking for a full-time Custodial Assistant. The position is currently full-time with benefits, but the job can be split into two part-time positions depending on applicant availability. For more details and how to apply, please visit St. Joseph's website at <http://www.menomonicatholic.org> and click on the "Custodial Assistant Job Posting" link.

**RALLY FOR LIFE**

The Eau Claire County Chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life will hold its annual Rally for Life on Sunday, Feb. 6 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. Brian Gibson, the Executive Director of Pro-Life Action Ministries in St. Paul, will speak about the organization and its mission and also about the Supreme Court Dobbs case which could result in overturning Roe v. Wade.

**EAU CLAIRE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ANNUAL VALENTINE CARD PARTY**

Eau Claire Catholic Women's Annual Valentine Card Party will be held Monday, Feb. 7 at Pine Meadows Golf Club. Menu is: Soup, salad, dessert, water and coffee. Cost is \$10.00. Please send check for your reservation to: Judy St. Arnault at 3718 Gables Court, Eau Claire, WI, 54701 on or before Feb. 1. Please wear Red and bring a Valentine card in an envelope signed; Eau Claire Catholic Women to be delivered to someone maybe lonely or forgotten. Social hour at noon, luncheon at 12:30, followed by cards, games and door prizes. Bring a friend and enjoy!

**RECYCLED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Thanks to all contributors. You have saved a tiny bit of landfill space and the lights will have another life in the recycling chain. Spickler Recycling weighed them in at 61 pounds and donated \$25 to St James.

**CONTACT US!****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@regiscatholicsschools.com  
Shanna Donkers, Administrative Assistant,  
sdonkers@regiscatholicsschools.com  
Linda Schultz, Commission Rep.-RCS,  
linda1735@gmail.com  
Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.



Scenes from our wonderful music ministry: the Men's choir rehearsing, and some of our talented instrumentalists.

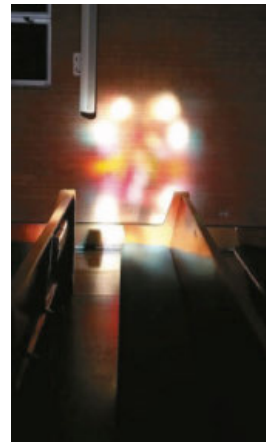


Photo taken from the choir loft as the sunlight reflects from our windows and shines. Take time to notice the light and how it works through us especially in our moments of darkness!

**MUSINGS FROM THE CHOIR LOFT**

With one voice, we'll pass the Word along:  
 with one voice, bring justice to the world.... (closing song this weekend)  
 Shine the light of Christ for all to see!  
 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 (715-577-6678)



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