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ORGANIZATIONS

Holy Name Society Parish Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus St. Ann's Altar Society

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Blake Sam's Birthday: 1/25

Madelyn Kopp's Birthday: 1/29

Dave Drier's Birthday: 1/30



St. John the Baptist Parish, Plum City, WI
St. Joseph Parish, Arkansaw, WI

JANUARY 24, 2021



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

GLP

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Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon



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AT THE SEASHORE

One of my favorite songs is *Lord You Have Come*. I believe you love this song, too. Its very first verse says, "Lord, you have come to the seashore, neither searching for the rich nor the wise..."

In this Sunday's liturgy, we encounter Jesus at the seashore where he calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow. These abandoned their profession, property, and family to follow Jesus. Seeing the vocation of these fishermen through the lens of Mark's Gospel, one is inclined to think that theirs was blind obedience to a carpenter whose leisure walk on the shore became an occasion to invite some strange fishermen to follow him. However, from the Gospel of John, we realize that these had been introduced to the Lamb of God by John the Baptist, they had said yes to Jesus' invitation to come and see his dwelling place, they had spent some time of the day with him and the experience was so important to them that one of them had kept the exact time of their first encounter with Jesus. Their call from the shore was thus not an abrupt invitation to leave from being fishermen to becoming fishers of men, but a follow up from having had an experiential encounter with Jesus. It is a fallout from a prior relationship with him who was worthy of their trust. They left everything to follow Jesus because they knew he was the Lamb of God, he was the Messiah. They might not have known him through and through, yet they had had a foretaste of him, good enough to enable them to forfeit their businesses and families on his account. They heard his call because they knew him.

Dear friends, as we reflect on their calling, one of the things that strikes me is that Jesus called these fishermen. They did not seem to be the wisest as the song above suggests, neither did they seem very rich, yet they were the ones he called. What did he see in them?

Perhaps he saw in them the virtue of busy hands. The idle hands could be the devil's working tools, so Jesus calls not the idle but the busy. Take a look into the histories of vocation and you will realize how many of the people God calls into ministry received their vocation on the line of duty. Moses was tending the sheep of his father-in-law; Amos was dressing sycamore and shepherding; Nathaniel was under the fig tree; Paul was en route to Damascus, and these were busy about their fishing affairs, they were casting their nets when they were called.

Perhaps he saw in them the culture of maintenance. They were mending their nets. He who has the spirit of maintenance maintains not only broken things, he also can fix broken relationships. They were called to be fishers of men and they couldn't fish for men if they didn't have what it takes to keep them in healthy relationships with God and other people. In a culture where broken pieces of stuff are easily tossed into the garbage, Jesus still calls and he calls the hand that will not only attract but also mend all that needs to be fixed in him.

Perhaps he saw in them the absence of discrimination. The fisherman is not discriminatory. He casts his nets and without discrimination, drags ashore diverse kinds of fish. Just as his nets pull together fishes from different walks of life, so should the net of him who is called to follow Jesus attract different kinds of people irrespective of their racial, tribal, ethnic, or familial background. Today, Jesus continues to call and he calls us out of the temptation to discriminate, out of the bigotry, the prejudice, and the stereotyping that cast slurs on others, to attract and treat all people with dignity, respect, and kindness. He calls us to have no favorites but to love all God's people irrespective of their color or race or tribe.

Perhaps he saw in them the spirit of patience. The fisherman is patient. He casts his net and waits patiently for the fish to gather under its embrace and gradually drags the net into the boat. In patience, he is able to make a catch. Jesus continues to call and he calls those who believe in the adage "Patience moves mountains" as their watchword. He calls into his mission they who never rush into doing anything. They have so mustered themselves as to be slow to anger, slow to judge, slow to condemn but rich in mercy and kindness.

Dear friends, Jesus walks on the shores of our lives every day. He calls us more than once. He looks into our eyes and invites us to follow him more closely, just as he did with the Apostles. As we show him gratitude for coming into our lives and are sorry for our rampant infidelities, let us pray him to call us anew this week, so that we can show him our love and loyalty by leaving behind everything that is not his will. He called these Apostles because he wanted to give them a mission in life, something so worthwhile that he did not hesitate to invite them to leave their careers and their families. He has a mission for each one of us, too. Let pray for the courage to embrace it and ask for direction and meaning. May he count us worthy to be fishers of men for his Kingdom.

Have a blessed week

Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

January: Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Traditionally, the Church celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18th - 25th. The theme for 2021 is "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit." Due to the pandemic situation, not much could be done to mark the week. I, therefore, wish to invite every family to pray for the universal family of Christ that we may all be united in championing the cause of Christ and his truth throughout the world. Irrespective of our various denominations, may Christians abide in Christ and let His light shine to scatter the darkness of the world.

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

No Mass

- Readings: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/ Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday: January 26 - Sts. Timothy and Titus

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ☩ Pat Pelzel - Peterson
- Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/ Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: January 27 - St. Angela Merici

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Lincoln Jame Raethke
- Readings: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: January 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ☩ Wilfred & Margaret Bauer
- Readings: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: January 29

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ☩ Mary Yingst
- Readings: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/ Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: January 30 - Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ☩ Gerald Nelson
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - Lucian Bauer
- Readings: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [cf. 68]/ Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: January 31 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ☩ James & Mary Glaus
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/ Mk 1:21-28

The Rosary is prayed before Mass

SACRAMENTS

Confessions (anytime by appointment)

- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansasaw
- Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 10:00 a.m.: St. John the Baptist, Plum City
- Sunday at 7:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.: St. John the Baptist, Plum City

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office when needed.

Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like this special blessing.

Baptism

Please call the Parish Office for an appointment at least one month in advance.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office for arrangements at least six months prior to the intended date.

Hospitalized / Homebound

Holy Communion to the sick and homebound is on Thursdays & Saturday evenings and Sundays after Masses. Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements to be made.

Funerals

Please contact the Parish Office before making arrangements.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

Pictorial Directories Have Arrived!

If you had your picture taken last January during our Parish Directory campaign, you are included in the directory. We have a copy of the directory for you in the back of Church. Please stop by after Mass and pick up your copy.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Announcements & Lector

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Blair Bechel
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Extraordinary Minister

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Todd Glaus
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Ramona Schneider

Music

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Bob & JoAnn Larson
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Beth Pattison & Jeff Bergmann

Rosary

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Volunteer Needed
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Connie Ahlers

Servers

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Parker Bechel
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Gavin & Carolyn Tranel

Usher

- Sun., January 31, 8:00 a.m.
Pete Helmueller & Chad Steele
- Sun., January 31, 10:15 a.m.
Terry Pelzel & Steve King

Money Counting

- Wed., February 10, 9:00 a.m.
Denise Pelzel, Verna Weiss,
& Steve King



FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST January 1st through January 13th, 2021

Adult Envelopes (62).....	\$	5,382.00
Offertory.....	\$	256.00
Building Repair (4).....	\$	357.00
Christmas (3).....	\$	850.00
Votives.....	\$	256.65
Total Income.....	\$	7,101.65

TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Week 9 - Do I pray and fast for my spouse?

THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" Spring Session begins this Friday, January 29th. We will meet from 6:00 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. on the first floor of St. John the Baptist's School Building. The topic for week two is Beloved Sons of The Father. Please wear a mask. All men are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Wieser at (715) 279-2152 or Tom Pullen at (607) 244-3010. Thanks!

TMIY

PRAYER WARRIORS

If you would like to offer prayers for those who are in need or are aware of someone who needs prayers please contact the Parish Office or send an email to prayer.warrior.st.john@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

Announcements & Lector

Sat., January 30, 4:00 p.m.
Terry Pelzel

Extraordinary Minister

Sat., January 30, 4:00 p.m.
Mary Berger

Music

Sat., January 30, 4:00 p.m.
Beth Pattison

Thank You. ❤️

FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

January 1st through January 13th, 2021

Adult Envelopes (31).....	\$	2,590.00
Offertory.....	\$	546.00
Fuel (5).....	\$	200.00
Votives.....	\$	53.00
Christmas (2).....	\$	300.00
Total Income.....	\$	3,689.00

GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING MASS

- If you are experiencing a fever or flu-like symptoms, please stay at home and use television/social media to participate.
- We will have the sign up for Mass process each week until we can open up fully. For St. John the Baptist, please call Denise at 715-495-4883 or Peggy at 715-495-3199. For St. Joseph, please call Linda Leiffring at (715) 285-5265 or Vickie Hartung at (715) 285-5219.
- **Please arrive 15 minutes early to be seated by the ushers.**

WISCONSIN BISHOPS ISSUE STATEMENT ON MORALITY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

There are three COVID-19 vaccines that are available (currently only for the most vulnerable populations), or likely to be available in the coming months. They are from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine, but they did use a morally compromised line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) for confirmatory testing. The AstraZeneca vaccine used that cell line in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be preferred. But the US Bishops Conference has recently stated that all three are morally permissible because of the remoteness of the material cooperation in the evil of abortion. Catholic moral theology has always made a distinction between formal and material cooperation in an act which is morally compromised. Formal cooperation with a moral evil such as abortion is always sinful. An example of this kind of cooperation might be the doctor or nurse who directly assists with, and intends, the abortion itself. Material cooperation can be different in that it does not intend the evil act and is often more distant or remote from the act itself. To read the Bishops' full assessment of the vaccines and for a document answering "Frequently Asked Questions," visit diolc.org/respect-life and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines - Ethics."

JESUS GATHERS FOLLOWERS

ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus calls Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John to leave their jobs as fishermen and to follow Him. When God calls, we must be ready to drop everything and follow.



FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, help us to follow you because You know what will make us truly happy. Amen.



What would you have to leave behind to follow Jesus?



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We regret to inform parishioners of the passing of Blanche Radle, which sad event occurred on Sunday, January 17th. We pray for the repose of her soul and the consolation of the bereaved family. May her soul rest in peace.

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