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Dave Drier, Maintenance Director, St. Joseph
Gwen Glaus, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Church
Vickie Hartung, Housekeeping, St. Joseph
Pete Helmueller, Maintenance Director, St. John the Baptist
Dorothy Kopp, Bookkeeper
Denise Pelzel, Secretary
Aletha Pullen, Bulletin Editor
Robyn Trannel, Director of Religions Education

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Marie Berger, Jeff Bergmann (Chair), *Todd Glaus, and Deb Radle

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Dave Anibas, Brad Bauer, Bud Bauer, David Drier (Chair), Gerald Leiffring, Linda Leiffring, Howard Martin, and Dennis Milliren

Parish Finance Council
*Jeff Brunner, *Dale Klein (Chair), and Sue Milliren

*Corporate Board Members

ORGANIZATIONS

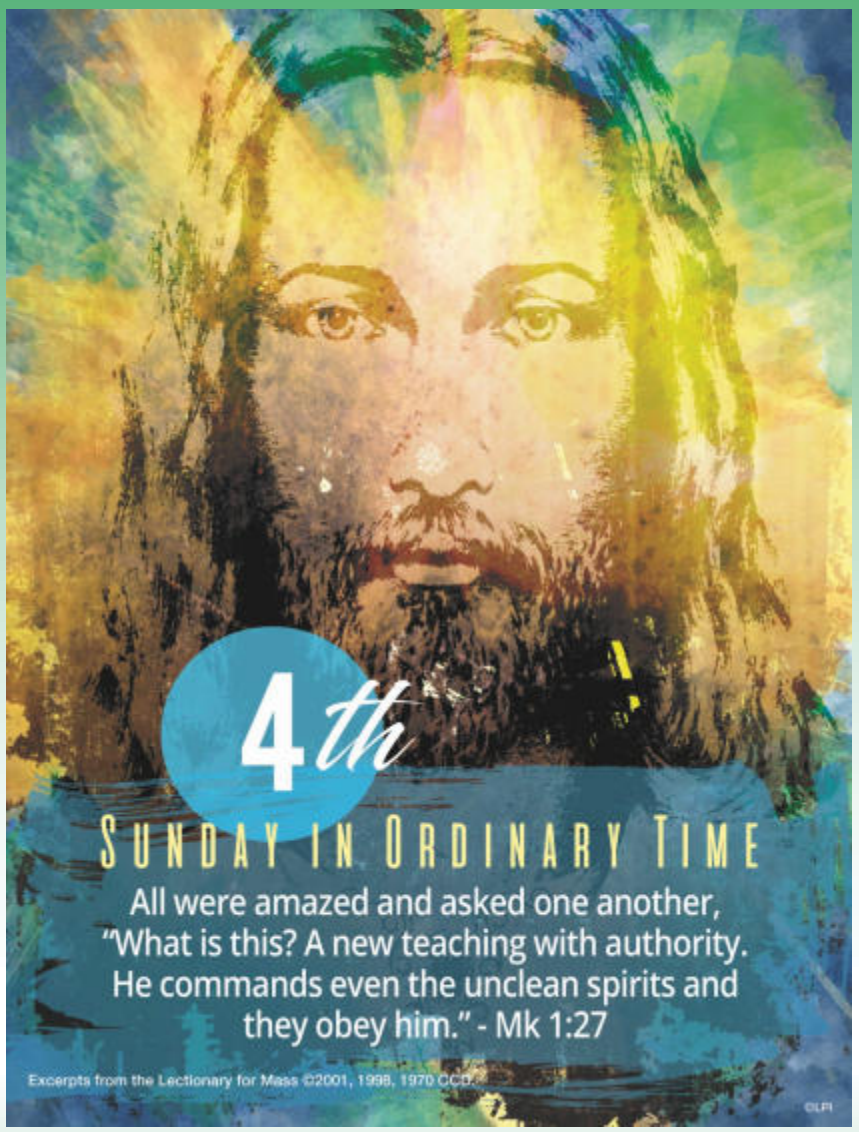
Holy Name Society
Knights of Columbus
Parish Council of Catholic Women
St. Ann's Altar Society

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Gwen Glaus' Birthday: 1/31
Darrell Hinrichs' Birthday: 2/5
Jack & Ruth Luebker's 44th Anniversary: 2/5

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

JANUARY 31, 2021



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St. Joseph Catholic Church
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saintjoseph@nelson-tel.net

Bulletin Announcements
bulletin-editor@centurylink.net
Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon

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A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE

Dear friends in Christ, all too soon, the sole week in the year which allows us to celebrate Catholic schools and for that matter, Catholic education, is here with us again. This is the time to underscore the importance of Catholic education and to bring to the fore the need for Catholics to patronize, promote and encourage Catholic education, in all its ramifications, to foster, maintain and sustain the spiritual and moral fiber of society. But for COVID-19, this Sunday would have found Catholic schools around the country organizing various activities to launch the week. In our own microcosm, the Ave Maria Academy would have launched the week playing key roles at Mass. The knights of Columbus would also have organized a fundraiser pancake breakfast some of which proceeds would have gone to support the school. This week has always been our own way for parishioners to come together to fraternize and support a good cause, As I happily salute all students, especially our own, and wish them the best in their endeavors in this pandemic season, I believe it would also be a good thought for parishioners and families who would have, in normal times, sat down to a good pancake breakfast in aid of the school to throw a little donation in the mail to support the Ave Maria Academy. Indeed, the times are difficult, but the Lord blesses those who are gracious to his little ones. We want to do so because we know the relevance of Catholic education to the formation of our future leaders.

Incidentally, this Sunday's Gospel talks about Jesus in the synagogue to teach and doing so with authority, unlike the scribes. Like her master, the church in her educational mission aims to teach, to teach something new, to teach and do so with authority.

Catholic education is first and foremost about relationships, it is about community building. Modeled on the principle of the Trinity, it aims at building a community where mutual love and respect prevail; a community where good interpersonal relationships are cut. Manners, they say make man, so the Church seeks to establish communities where discipline and good manners are imbibed. She promotes environments where each other's successes and achievements are celebrated; where griefs and failures are shared; and where people unite to challenge one another into becoming excellent versions of themselves. Catholic education thus makes for the community. It is for this reason that the micro-school community is always a community in communion with the larger parish or diocesan community, even when it is private. There is always a connection between the Church and the school which is aimed at fostering at least a peaceful coexistence and mutual support in the interest of raising God-fearing as well as responsible, morally upright, and faithful citizens for the future.

Catholic education also aims at a community of faith. Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, once saw faith as touching God's hand in the darkness of the world and thus, in silence, hear the Word, and see Love. In our dark world of sin, where reflective silence is nothing to write home about and where like is mistaken for love, Catholic education aims at lightning the world by teaching the young to learn to reach out for the finger of God in all circumstances. In life, there are successes but there are failures as well; some people make A's, others make F's. Such is the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The church thus makes the Paschal Mystery relevant in educating her youth, so that in good times they might not forget God and neither forsake Him in difficult times. She also encourages her youth to hear and meditate on God's Word and learn to love reflective silence as a means of ascent to God.

Catholic education aims at knowledge. Knowledge, they say, is power, and power enables. Catholic education is thus empowerment. It is a radical transformation of the totality of the individual as they transition from ignorance to knowledge, from illiteracy to literacy, from inexperience to maturity. It does not only lead to "knowing that" but also accomplishes "a knowing how" in the individual. In her bid to impart knowledge, not only does the Church expose students to the rich traditions of the faith, but she also exposes them to courses such as Music, Art, Literature, Drama, and Ritual. Like a lamp that is not lighted and placed under a bushel basket, knowledge acquired is not amassed for its own sake. It has an altruistic value. It informs the individual's call to charity.

Essential to the components of Catholic education is charity. Charity finds its first expression in loving God above all things for his own sake and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. The fullest expression of the love of God is found in obedience to the commandments. Christ himself said that if you keep my commandments you will abide in my love (see John 15:9-10). Thus, Catholic education aims at forming men and women who are open to God's will and are ready to obey his will. Like the Blessed Mother, the individual is enabled to pledge his will into God's will. Christ loved us and died for us while we were still sinners. He calls on us to love as he does, even our enemies. In charity, therefore, we expend ourselves to transform and make better the lives of others. In charity we strive to serve the common good, taking up responsible civic roles to heal the world and make it a better place for all.

Dear friends, it is for reasons such as these that this year's Catholic School week sets out to deliberate on the Catholic school as a community of faith, excellence, and service. Such communities do not only exist on Catholic campuses. They exist primarily in our various homes. It is in the home that community building begins, it is there that the rudiments of faith are inculcated, it is there that excellence is first acquired and it is there that selfless love is experienced. Charity begins at home, let us, therefore, strive to infuse our homes with the spirit of Catholic education. Let us establish in our homes, communities of faith. Let us instill in our youth the zeal for excellence so that they will do all they can, in all honesty, not to allow mediocrity to extract them from the excellent mark. May they be so fashioned as to embrace loving service with humility and valor. Our children and grandchildren mustn't necessarily be enrolled in Catholic schools to be brought to such virtues. Catholic education begins at home. We therefore only need to allow Jesus an entry into our homes as he was in the synagogue, to teach us anew and with authority, the kind that eye has not seen nor ear heard.

Have a pleasant week

Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: February 1
- **No Mass**
- Readings: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ✞ Clarence & Loretta Jilk
- Readings: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday: February 3 - St. Blaise & St. Ansgar
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ✞ Lyle Hofacker
- Readings: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/ Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: February 4
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ✞ Joan Bauer
- Readings: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/ Mk 6:7-13

Friday: February 5 - St. Agatha
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Bob Pecha
- Readings: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: February 6 - St. Paul Miki and Companions
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ✞ Ollie Caturia
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - ✞ Arvilla Caturia
- Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: February 7 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - ✞ Kenny Holmstadt
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/ 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

The Rosary is prayed before Mass

TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Week 10 - Do I compliment my spouse daily? Do I often praise and acknowledge them in front of others?

SACRAMENTS

Confessions (anytime by appointment)
- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansaw
- 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.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Announcements & Lector
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Dianne Lecheler
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
Linda Chilson

Extraordinary Minister
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Joyce Berger
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Music
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Bob & JoAnn Larson
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
Arleen Ebensperger & Jeff Bergmann

Rosary
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Volunteer Needed
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
Holy Name Society

Servers
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Peyton Brunner & Gary Lecheler
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
The Bergmann Family

Usher
Sun., February 7, 8:00 a.m.
Lonnie Harmon & Roger Gilles
Sun., February 7, 10:15 a.m.
Dan Weiser & Steve King

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

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 all Linda Leiffring at (715) 285-5265 or Vickie Hartung at (715) 285-5219.
- **Please arrive 15 minutes early to be seated by the ushers.**

THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, February 5th. 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 three is The Prodigal Son. 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!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Next Meeting
The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Basement. There will a light meal after the meeting. Prior to the meeting the Knights will gather in the School Basement at 6:30 p.m. to pray the rosary. All are welcome to join the Knights in praying the rosary.

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.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

Announcements & Lector
Sat., February 6, 4:00 p.m.
Jeff Brunner

Extraordinary Minister
Sat., February 6, 4:00 p.m.
Dale Klein

Music
Sat., February 6, 4:00 p.m.
Paul & Char Fetzer

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.

February 17th, 2021
8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph
10:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist
7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist

We need to follow the same protocol that we use for Sunday Mass. If you plan to attend any of these Masses please contact Linda Leiffring at 715-285-5265 or Vickie Hartung at 715-285-5219 for St. Joseph Mass. For St. John the Baptist, please contact Denise at 715-495-4883 or Peggy at 715-495-3199. Thank You!

On Thursdays during Lent, St. John the Baptist will have Adoration from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross.

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2020 Contribution statements for both Parishes are in the mail. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or concerns.

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 HAS POWER TO HEAL US

ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus loves teaching others about God the Father! Jesus' power is shown in today's Gospel when He sends away a bad spirit. Jesus has authority over all things, including us.

IN CHURCH

Listen to the Scripture readings and the Homily. Imagine Jesus is teaching them to you just like He taught in the synagogue.

FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, please help us to listen to You in all things. Amen.

Do we recognize Jesus' authority over us and His ability to teach us?

The La Crosse Diocese is planning a virtual Lenten retreat for men about looking to St. Joseph as a model for being a great husband and father. The retreat will feature speakers Fr. Sam Martin and Mr. Pat Brueggen. More information is coming soon.

Father Joe has **another** angel to serve with him on the altar! Thank you Peyton for helping during our Eucharistic Celebrations!

THE BEST VALENTINE'S GIFT FOR YOUR SPOUSE

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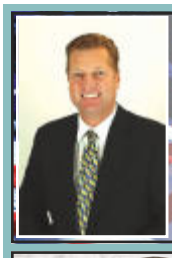
For married couples facing a difficult time in their relationship, Retrouvaille offers a path to rediscover the spouse you fell in love with. "We could not talk without arguing. Eventually, our marriage entered a second honeymoon. We are able to live in harmony thanks to the skills we learned in the Retrouvaille program." For more information or to register for the next Central Wisconsin weekend, February 12-14, 2021. visit website www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call (Confidential) 1-877-922-4673.



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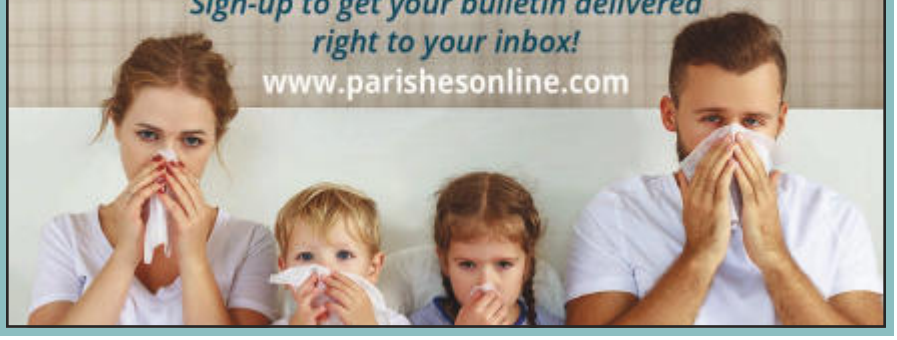

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