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\*Corporate Board Members

## ORGANIZATIONS

Holy Name Society      Parish Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus      St. Ann's Altar Society

## BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

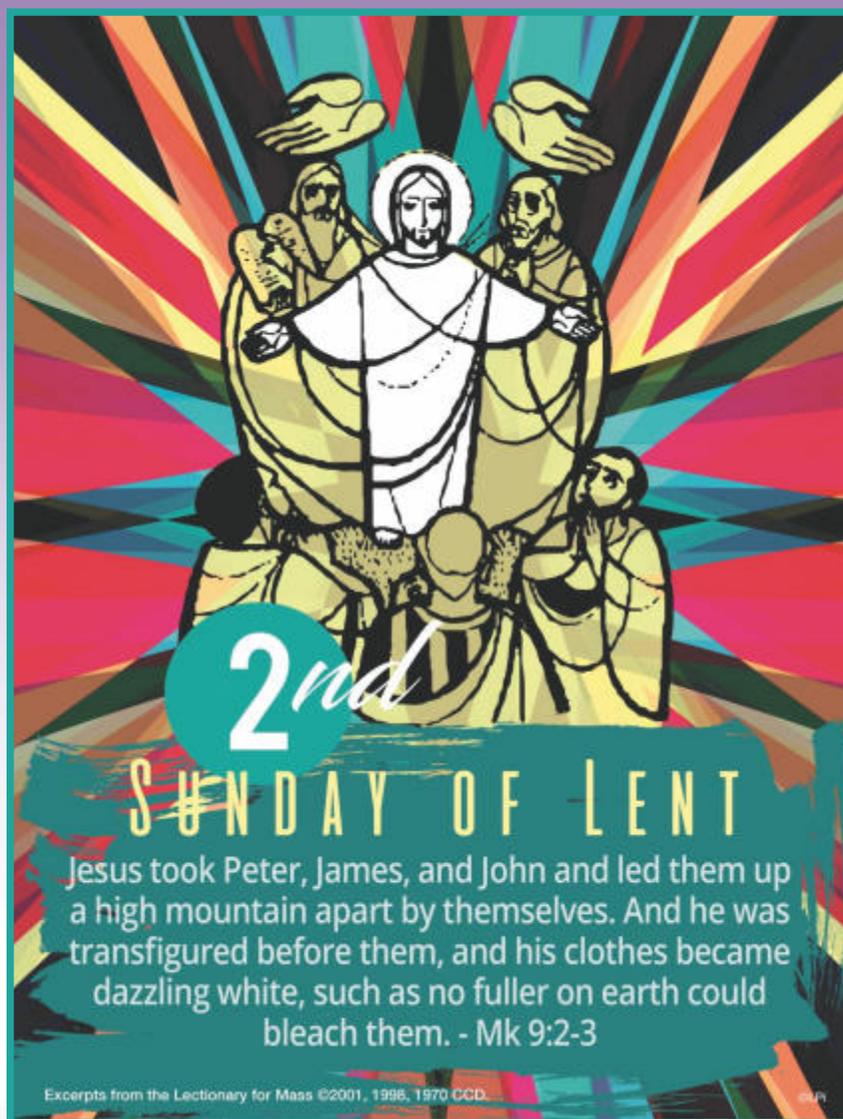
Mary E Wieser's Birthday: 3/3

Don Kane's Birthday: 3/6



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

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**



**Central Office, Rectory, and**  
**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

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**Bulletin Announcements**

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**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**



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(The Parishes of St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph)

## **WEAVING THE PILLARS OF LENT INTO THE TRANSFIGURATION**

Dear friends in Christ, this weekend, we celebrate the second Sunday of Lent. It is in the Church's traditions to have us reflect on aspects of Abraham's faith journey and a version of Jesus' transfiguration. As the Cycle B of the liturgical calendar would have it, we reflect on St. Mark's version of the transfiguration. In the transfiguration is imbedded the pillars of the Lenten season. This season, as we all know, calls us to fast, pray, and give alms. A critical look at the transfiguration story reveals these ingredients of Lent in a very subtle way, making it appropriate for the season.

According to the story, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John up a high mountain apart by themselves and there he was transfigured. In this experience, we identify three moments: the ascent, the mountaintop and the descent. While the moment of ascent ties in with the discipline of fasting, the mountaintop experience relates to the pillar of prayer and the descent experience brings to focus the pillar of charity.

Literally, in fasting we deny ourselves some food and other nutriments so we can hunger for God. Besides food, we deny ourselves some pleasures of life for God's sake. We undergo some self-discipline, putting our lower urgings under control, thereby subduing the flesh and allowing the souls to make an ascent to God. We put by material pleasures and treasures in order to embrace the spiritual. Fasting therefore is an asceticism, an exercise of self-discipline, of self-mastery which frees the soul to fly to unite with God. Climbing up the high mountain was an asceticism for Jesus and his disciples. No high mountain is an easy climb and he who accomplishes this must have gone through great endurance and pain and self-discipline. Climbing up, they left behind the benefits of the "Fertile Crescent" at the foot of the mountain. They relinquished the hustle and bustle of the life beneath the mountain and embraced a different kind of life. They denied themselves of the normal day to day routines and joys of their lives to embrace a life of solitude. They did so to enjoy the presence of God.

In the Bible, we encounter a number of times when people climbed up the mountain. When Yahweh revealed himself to Moses, he was on the mountain, Elijah had to run to make an encounter with God on the mountain and before this time, Solomon had been to a high place in Gibeon to ask for wisdom at the inception of his reign. Jesus made a number of trips to the mountain to be by himself to pray and he sometimes did so all night. The mountaintop experience is thus one of encounter with God. A prayer scene. It is an experience of communion with God. No wonder, St. Luke would specifically mention Jesus at prayer in his version of the transfiguration story. Thus, climbing up the mountain was an opportunity for prayer. Prayer is not only about talking to God, it is also about letting God speak to you. In this event, God indeed spoke to them in the theophany which declared Jesus as the beloved son in whom the father was well pleased. In this prayerful experience, the disciples peered into Jesus' identity; they understood better his divine mission; and were strengthened to gain the necessary perspective, vision and strength required for their call to discipleship. Their prayer time with Christ and Moses and Elijah gave them a foretaste of the glory of Christ. It revealed Christ to them as the answer to the mysteries of life. It was an experience which naturally welled up joy in their souls. Thus, Peter would rightly say, "Lord, it is good to be here"; and would even want to prolong the experience by building three booths. If Peter was thinking like a Jew at the time, then even though he seemed not to know what to say at the time, all he was asking for was an opportunity to enjoy the privilege to the full. In the feast of the booths, the Jews were required to stay in the makeshift tents for seven days. If Peter was thinking about reenacting the joy of the feast of the booths, their dwelling in the booths would have lasted seven days. Since seven is a perfect number, they would have in effect enjoyed the mystery of Christ's glory perfectly and to the full.

However, the foretaste of the Christ's glory was not meant to be selfishly consumed atop the mountain. Beneath the mountain was a people waiting. At the foot of the mountain was a boy to be healed. In the plains afoot the mountain were the other disciples needing to profit from their experience so as to be strengthened for the challenges ahead. Thus, having gone through the discipline of the ascent, having communed with God and having had a foretaste of Christ's glory, which brought them great joy, charity demanded that they went down the mountain to share their lives with others. Charity demanded that they brought their transformation and renewed understanding of their mission to the service of Christ's ministry. The descent from the mountain was therefore an occasion for charity. It was an opportunity to spread the joy of Christ, which Peter desired to prolong and perpetuate atop the mountain. The joy they tasted had to be shared. As they were gladdened, they were to come down the mountain to gladden all who met them and fill their hearts with courage to endure the passion. Their mandate was to make God known and loved and so they would not be crippled in the joys on the mountain.

Dear friends, our Christian lives could be woven around the transfiguration story. Every day each one of us needs to go up a high mountain and spend time alone with the Lord and in charity come down the mountain. We need to carve out of our busy schedules some quiet time to nourish our souls.

Even though this takes self-sacrifice and self-discipline, just like climbing up a high mountain, it's worth it. Peter, James, and John knew Jesus better after this trip, and that helped them continue with their life-mission. The same thing will happen to us if we consistently make time to be alone with the Lord. This is the reason why, in this season, we have voted some forty solid hours for all our parishioners to spend some time alone with Jesus. The journeys of life are difficult and we need Jesus to stay with us individually as we keep watch with him. Let us therefore embrace the discipline of climbing the mountain, spending an hour with Jesus to savor the sweetness of his face and invite his peace into our lives. In the silence of our hearts let us commune with him. Let us listen to him. This is what the Father longs for us to do. Jesus renews his commitment to us always in the Eucharist, and as he does, let's renew our own commitment to him by spending quality time with him this week and every single day. May our communion with him send us forth to live in charity with others.

Have a fruitful week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

### **POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION**

February: Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: March 1

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 & 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38

### Tuesday: March 2

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Gilles & Lecheler Families
- Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12

### Wednesday: March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Eugene & Irma Helmueller
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28

### Thursday: March 4 - St. Casimir

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Robert Fetzer
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31

### Friday: March 5

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Living & Deceased Members of the Bechel & Berger Families
- Readings: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

### Saturday: March 6

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Beatrice Crentsil
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Bernard & Darlene Milliren
- Readings: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Sunday: March 7 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Marjory Sagstetter
- Readings: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

### The Rosary is prayed before Mass



On Wednesdays during Lent, St. Joseph's Parish will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m..

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

### 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.**

### TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

**Week 14** - Do I truly understand the meaning of a covenantal marriage?

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

### Sacred Worship Committee Meeting

The next Sacred Worship Committee meeting will be on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 a.m. Mass in the back of the Church.

### Karnival Committee News

Karnival Raffle Tickets will be for sale starting the weekend of March 14<sup>th</sup>.



## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Announcements & Lector

- Sun., March 7, 8:00 a.m.  
Marie Berger
- Sun., March 7, 10:15 a.m.  
Ryan Trannel

### Extraordinary Minister

- Sun., March 7, 8:00 a.m.  
Todd Glaus
- Sun., March 7, 10:15 a.m.  
Ramona Schneider

### Music

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

### Rosary

- Sun., March 7, 8:00 a.m.  
Volunteer Needed
- Sun., March 7, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Servers

- Sun., March 7, 8:00 a.m.  
Parker Bechel & Peyton Brunner
- Sun., March 7, 10:15 a.m.  
The Bergmann Family

### Usher

- Sun., March 7, 8:00 a.m.  
Lonnie Harmon & Roger Gilles
- Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Dan Wieser & Steve King

### Money Counting

- Wed., March 10, 9:00 a.m.  
Denise Pelzel, Verna Weiss, & Carol Bechel



## 40 HOURS OF DEVOTION

"Stay Here and Keep Watch with Me" - Mt 26:38b



March 12<sup>th</sup> - March 14<sup>th</sup>

at St. John the Baptist,  
with guest speaker Father Ebenezer Akesseh

Please sign up for your hour of devotion at the  
handicapped entrance of the Church.

## THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 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 seven is Learning the Secrets of God. 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.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., March 6, 4:00 p.m.  
Terry Pelzel

### Music

Sat., March 6, 4:00 p.m.  
Paul & Char Fetzter

### Extraordinary Minister

Sat., March 6, 4:00 p.m.  
Don Peterson

*Thank You. ❤️*

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we should:

- Fast from discontent, feast on gratitude
- Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal Truth.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

### Our Marriage Prayer

The Knights of Columbus believes the foundation of the family is the marriage bond between the mother, father, and God. If you have a strong marriage, it will produce a strong family that can endure the challenges they will face throughout their lives.

To help keep your marriage strong, the Knights of Columbus would like to share with you the **Our Marriage Prayer**.

Gentlemen, take your bride's hands, place them together and wrap your own hands around them. Pray these words together.

Lord, help us to remember when we first met  
and the strong love that grew between us.

To work that love into practical things  
so that nothing can divide us.

We ask for words both kind and loving  
and hearts always ready to ask for forgiveness  
as well as to forgive.

Dear Lord, we put our marriage into Your hands. Amen.

Including this prayer into your nightly family prayers allows your children to see that you place your marriage into God's hands. As they begin to memorize it, hopefully they will one day incorporate it into their own marriages as well and pass it down through the generations. Please share this prayer with other married couples.

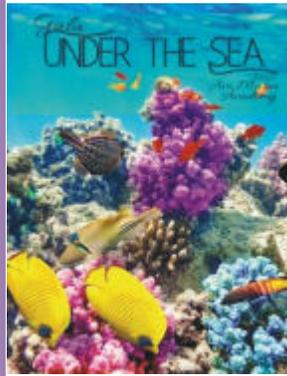
## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Sabylund Lutheran Church Women invite you to join us **virtually** for the World Day of Prayer, **Friday March 5, 2021**.

This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu call us to worship with the words "Build on a strong foundation," inspired by Matthew 7:24-27. We are invited to learn about Vanuatu's history and rich culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love.

This program will be streamed live on Sabylund's Facebook page. A Facebook account is not needed to view the program.

## Ave Maria Academy Gala Under the Sea 2021



This year, our Gala will be held virtually. We will have an online auction beginning February 25<sup>th</sup> and ending March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m..

The link to the auction is: [www.32auctions.com/AveMariaAcademy](http://www.32auctions.com/AveMariaAcademy), which can also be found on our website (AveMariaAcademyPC.org).

For updated information about the Gala, Ave Maria Academy News, and pictures of our students sure to make you smile, follow us on Facebook (Ave Maria Academy PC).

## JESUS IS BOTH HUMAN AND DIVINE

### ABOUT THE GOSPEL



Today we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus takes three of His friends up a mountain where He changes in appearance and His clothes become dazzling white. They hear God say, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." They wonder what all of this means.

### IN CHURCH

Think of yourself as a disciple, especially when the priest consecrates the host and elevates it as the Body of Christ. The Apostles probably felt the same way when they saw Jesus shining on the mountain.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, help us to remember we also are God's beloved children. Amen.



How will you change and grow during Lent?



## New Leader of Prayer Class Begins in July 2021

Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in care facilities or jails); and by leading parishioners in prayer at other times. Applicants must have completed the Lay Formation Institute and be sponsored by their pastor. For more information and to apply, visit [diolc.org/ministries](http://diolc.org/ministries) and click on "Leader of Prayer."

## Choir Practice for Easter Masses

There will be Choir Practice for Easter Masses in between Masses on Sundays and after morning Mass on Tuesday at St. John the Baptist. Please join us!



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