

### PARISH STAFF

**Pastor: Very Reverend Joseph Okine-Quartey**

Suzanne Brunner, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Rectory  
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 Tranel, Director of Religions Education

### PARISH COUNCILS

#### St. John the Baptist

Parish Pastoral Council

Connie Ahlers, Kevin Coulson, Peggy Gilles, Gwen Glaus, Sarah Hinrichs, Steve King, Dianne Lecheler, Terry Pelzel, Mike Rhie, Audrey Ryan, Jacqui Steele, and \*Dan Wieser (Chair)

Parish Finance Council

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

#### St. Joseph

Parish Pastoral Council

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

### BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Ken Lien's Birthday: 3/25

Connie Ahlers' Birthday: 3/25

Gail Smith's Birthday: 3/27



If you would like have your birthday or anniversary included in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office or send an email to our Bulletin Editor. Thank you!

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

**MARCH 21, 2021**



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

212 Church Road, Plum City, 54761

11stjohn@centurylink.net

Office: 715-647-2901 | Rectory: 715-647-2301

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**

W7805 County Road Z, Arkansaw, WI, 54721

saintjoseph@nelson-tel.net

**Bulletin Announcements**

bulletin-editor@centurylink.net

**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**



Follow us on Facebook for Live Stream Masses, Bulletins, and More!  
(The Parishes of St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph)

## TO LIVE IS TO DIE

It was a stormy night. A man and his wife drove into a small hotel, trying to get out of the rain. The couple approached the front desk hoping to get some shelter for the night. "Could you possibly give us a room here?" the husband asked. The manager, a friendly man with a winning smile, looked at the couple and explained that it was a holiday weekend and all the rooms had been booked. Thinking to himself, the manager wondered how he would put such a beautiful couple into the rain on such a stormy night. He, therefore, thought of making them an offer. He went after the couple who at the time were already in their car ready to take off and asked: "Please if I offered you my room, would you be willing to take it? It might not be the best, but in the circumstances, it might be better than being left at the mercy of this stormy weather." The couple refused his offer, but the manager insisted. He assured them he would be fine sleeping on the couch in the lobby. Upon further insistence, the couple accepted his offer. They took shelter in the manager's room. Early the next morning, the couple tried to pay for the room and leave but the manager refused. He told them, "My room was not meant to be rented out. I only offered it to assist a stranded couple." The couple showed appreciation and left. As they drove away, the couple kept talking about this kind manager. They both agreed that he was exceptional, friendly, and helpful, such as one could hardly find.

Years later, when the manager had long forgotten the incident, a letter came in the mail. It was an invitation to a meeting in a five-star hotel in the city. Thinking it was one of the many meetings managers used to attend, the manager set out on the due date to attend the said meeting. At the five-star hotel were the couple he had helped at their point of need. The couple recounted their experience from the stormy night; how he had been as kind as to vacate his room to secure them a shelter from the rains; and how much they had desired ever since to do something deserving of his generosity and splendid managerial skills. The husband then pointed to a magnificent edifice there, a palace of reddish stone, with turrets and watchtowers thrusting up to the sky and said "This hotel you see, we have just put up for your management." Tears in his eyes, the manager asked if the couple were kidding him. Assuring him that they were not, the husband handed him the keys and did the paperwork for him to begin work in the city soon after."

Dear friends, in this story, lies a striking proof of what Jesus tells us in this Sunday's gospel. He says, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." In the middle of a cold stormy night, the manager had a choice between hanging on to his comfort and convenience as against giving up his room freely for a strange couple in need of a momentary shelter. In choosing the latter, he decided to plant the seed of his life, which yielded much more returns. In choosing to offer his room, he spent himself, burying his own comfort and convenience. He thereby made a sacrifice that sprouted and brought forth the reward of becoming the manager of a rather outstanding hotel. The image of the seed Jesus employs tells an eternal truth. No glory is attained without any suffering. No fruit is borne in life without death and no victory is attained without surrender. He himself had to die on the cross. While on the cross, he commended his life and yielded it for our sake. It is in that death that we are all born to eternal life. The seed of his life was planted and we were all born to a new life in him. Like seeds, let us put our lives in God's hands and allow ourselves to be planted. The earth could be cold and dark, warm and dry, yet the only way we can bear fruits is to allow ourselves to be planted. When planted, we die to selfishness and sin, we die to the self in order to live for God. When planted, we lose our lives and our all, but we are made wealthy in God. These last days of Lent should thus remind us that we can only bear fruit if we follow Jesus in his passion, death, and resurrection. In Christ Jesus, to live is to die and death is gain. Let us all die to sin and let the righteousness of our lives be sown as fruits for the eternal harvest.

Have a blessed week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

### Umbraculum (n):

A big umbrella. Historically, it is part of the papal regalia. Used to provide shade for the Pope. Came to symbolize papal authority. Would normally sit on the right side of the altar in basilicas and were opened when the Pope visited. Also came to be used in cathedrals as a symbol of the Bishop's authority. It is also held above the priest carrying the monstrance in procession. The umbraculum is a symbol of royalty. Used in Eucharistic procession points to Christ as the universal King.



### COVID FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a free food distribution from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the East entrance of the Pierce County Fairgrounds (364 N Maple St, Ellsworth, WI). Each household will receive 1 large box of assorted food items. Please feel free to participate in this Covid Food Assistance Program. This will also take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, March 26<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 ten is Persecution in the World. 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.



It was indeed good for us to be here with Jesus in the 40 Hours of Devotion. We are thus grateful to all who made the occasion successful. We are particularly grateful to the planners and all who filled the hours to stay and keep watch with Jesus. We also thank Father Ebenezer Akesseh for gracing it with his presence and his thought-provoking reflections. May every little time we spent with Jesus be a sown as seeds for the eternal harvest. God bless us all.



## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: March 22

#### • No Mass

Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/  
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

### Tuesday: March 23 - St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Michael Pittman
- Readings: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30

### Wednesday: March 24

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Marie T. Glaus
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/  
Jn 8:31-42

### Thursday: March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Dale Gilles
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/  
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

### Friday: March 26

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Oliver & Marie Helmueller
- Readings: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

### Saturday: March 27

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Beatrice Crentsil
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Raymond Dieringer
- Readings: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12a-d, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

### Sunday: March 28 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Blanche Radle
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners

Readings: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/  
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47

**The Rosary is prayed before Mass**

## PCCW NEWS

### Annual Dues

At the PCCW meeting in January 2020, our council decided to discontinue our Mother's Day Bake Sale due to concerns over poor profitability. Other fundraising options were discussed, however in March the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all activities. At this time, the only source of our income is dues. We would greatly appreciate it, if all ladies of the Parish could pay their 2021 dues of \$15. Thank you and God Bless.

### Officers Needed

The PCCW is looking for a new president and vice president. Our current president, Suzie Brunner, has been president for 4 years and is ready to step down. If you are interested in volunteering for these positions, please contact Suzie Brunner (715-495-2699, [suzie\\_brunner@hotmail.com](mailto:suzie_brunner@hotmail.com)). Thank you!!

## POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

March: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

### Karnival Committee News

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



### Diocesan Annual Appeal Update

As we continue through the Lenten season we wanted to provide an update on the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We are more than half way through the annual appeal and are pleased to report that we have had over 35 donors make donations or pledges thus far this year. This is approximately two thirds of the total donors from last year, so we are well on our way to meeting or beating last year's donations. Thank you to all who have made donations. If you would like to donate to the annual appeal, please visit: <https://diolc.org/donate-online/>, use the envelope provided in the mailing from the Diocese, or drop your donation in the collection basket. Thank you again for your continued support and generosity.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

Wed., March 24, 9:00 a.m.  
Pat Pittman, Steve King,  
& Terry Pelzel

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Dianne Lecheler  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Steve Carlson

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Marie Berger  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Ramona Schneider

### Music

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Bob & JoAnn Larson  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger &  
Steve Carlson

### Rosary

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Volunteer Needed  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Servers

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Gary Lecheler &  
Juan Sanchez  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Olivia & Lilly Pullen

### Usher

Sun., March 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Pete Helmueller & Chad Steele  
Sun., March 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Terry Pelzel & Steve King



## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (77).....	\$	7,123.90
Offertory.....	\$	396.00
Building Repair (4).....	\$	345.00
Votives.....	\$	286.00
Utilities (2).....	\$	210.00
Mission Coop (1).....	\$	300.00
Tabernacle Refinishing (1).....	\$	500.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,160.90</b>

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., March 27, 4:00 p.m.  
Jeff & Rose Brunner

### Music

Sat., March 27, 4:00 p.m.  
Paul & Char Fetzer

### Extraordinary Minister

Sat., March 27, 4:00 p.m.  
Jeff Brunner

*Thank You. ♡*

## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (28).....	\$	2,075.00
Offertory.....	\$	183.00
Fuel (2).....	\$	220.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,478.00</b>



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

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

### Franciscan CORE Youth Theology Institute

There will be Franciscan CORE 2021 will be June 13th - 18th in a hybrid format offering virtual gatherings and a one-day on-campus immersion into Catholic Social Teaching and the life of St. Francis of Assisi as a model of service we can offer in our own communities. Franciscan CORE invites rising 10th, 11th, and 12th students to discern their call to leadership and service for the church and the world. Investment for this amazing experience is only \$50. Registration is open! Visit their website: [viterbo.edu/franciscan-core](http://viterbo.edu/franciscan-core) for more information and to register.



VITERBO UNIVERSITY

### NEW LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE (LFI) CLASS

#### Classes Begin This Fall – Registration is Underway!

Registration is open for the next two-year Lay Formation cycle that begins in fall of 2021. Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! See complete information, schedule and application form at [diolc.org/layformation](http://diolc.org/layformation). Discuss with your pastor and contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at [inistries@diolc.org](mailto:inistries@diolc.org) or call (608) 791-0161.

### 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!



-CHOIR PRACTICE-

### 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](mailto:prayer.warrior.st.john@gmail.com).

## JESUS IS LIKE A GRAIN OF WHEAT



### ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus explains how God will bring glory from everything that is done according to His Will - even Jesus' upcoming Death. Christ compares His Death to a plant that dies, leaving seeds to grow. He wants us to love God, follow His Will, and grow seeds of faith.

### IN CHURCH

Look at the crucifix and notice that Jesus' arms are spread wide as a sign of how very much He loves us.

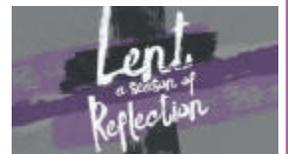
### FAMILY PRAYER

Help us to put You first, Lord--to seek Your Will and help others grow in faith. Amen.



How can you be like a seed and help grow faith?

As we are nearing the end of our Lenten journey, our readings today remind us of the goodness that our God has to offer us.



In today's Gospel, Jesus announces that the "hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." All that He came to do on this earth was soon to be fulfilled. When we reflect on what Jesus says in this passage, He tells us a great deal about how we should be living as disciples of Christ. He clearly states, "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

We are called to detach from our own desires and entrust our lives to all that God has in store for us. Without self-denial, we might miss occasions God has given us to produce good fruit. We have been practicing this throughout our Lenten season through fasting. One way to continue this effort after Lent is by taking advantage of the countless opportunities God presents to us to sacrifice our desires for something much greater - whether waking earlier to spend time in prayer, fasting from a favorite comfort on a weekly basis or taking the time to check in on a friend or family member instead of turning on the TV, just to name a few. It is important that we continue to make room for God and the good things He wants to produce in us all year long.

As our Lenten journey soon concludes, may we consider the ways in which we might continue the practice of self-denial by offering small, daily sacrifices to the Lord.

### Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m., Mass is followed by adoration until midnight, St. John the Baptist

### Good Friday:

11:45 a.m., Chaplet of Divine Mercy with Service to follow, St. John the Baptist

### Easter Vigil:

8:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist

### Easter Sunday:

8:00 a.m., St. Joseph

10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist





**RE/MAX Results**  
**Lonnie Larson**  
 Licensed in MN & WI  
 Cell: (651) 208-1439  
 Lonnie@LonnieLarson.com  
 www.LonnieLarson.com

MLS REALTOR Each office Independently Owned and Operated

**GLAUS BROS.**  
 CONTRACTING, INC. DURAND, WI

Custom Homes, Post Frame Buildings,  
 Ag Buildings, Light Commercial

**(715) 672-8496**  
 glausbrothers.com

**STOCKHOLM TOWN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**  
 SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1873

PO Box 632 Stockholm, WI 715-442-4364

**OUR RATES ARE GREAT. CALL US FOR A QUOTE.**

SOREN SVEDVIK 715-448-3174  
 LEE SKOG 715-273-4261

SERVING PIECE PEPPIN DUNN ST CROIX BUFFALO EAU CLAIRE



**AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

JOANNE HINES AGENCY, INC.

**Joanne M Hines, Agent**  
 450 E Wall St Ellsworth, WI 54011  
**715.273.5212**



**J.M. WATKINS, LLC.**  
 Quality & Values

130 Pine Ave, Plum City, WI 54761  
 715-647-2554 | jmwatkinsmeats.com

**Ave Maria Academy & Little Lamb Preschool**

208 Church Rd, Plum City, WI  
 3 year old preschool - 8th grade  
**(715) 647-4630**  
 avemariaacademy@centurytel.net  
 www.avemariaacademypc.org

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**

**\$29.95/MO** PLUS SPECIAL OFFER  
 BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772  
 WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

**AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

JOANNE HINES AGENCY, INC.

**Joanne M Hines, Agent**  
 450 E Wall St Ellsworth, WI 54011  
**715.273.5212**

**4LPi WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES**

- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT: [careers@4LPi.com](mailto:careers@4LPi.com)  
[www.4LPi.com/careers](http://www.4LPi.com/careers)

**AREN'T YOU GLAD YOUR MOTHER WAS PRO-LIFE?**

**PREGNANT? ALWAYS FREE & CONFIDENTIAL**

[optionsforwomenrf@outlook.com](mailto:optionsforwomenrf@outlook.com) • 715-425-8539

Sponsored by St. John and St Joseph Parishioners

**PRECISE CONCRETE WALLS, INC.**  
 Serving the Area Since 1978  
**RON LONGSDORF**  
 (715) 647-4083  
 Plum City  
[preciseconcrete@centurytel.net](mailto:preciseconcrete@centurytel.net)

**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**

**Bauer Built**

**Tires & Services**  
 Gasoline - Diesel Fuel - Heating Oil - Oils & Greases

[bauerbuilt.com](http://bauerbuilt.com) 715.672.4295

**Milliren Custom Crop Service**

**Tom & Sue**  
 W7966 County Road Z  
 Arkansaw, WI 54721  
**715-495-6597**  
[tstsmil@nelson-tel.net](mailto:tstsmil@nelson-tel.net)

**HOLMSTADT COLLISION & RESTORATION**

**Tim Holmstadt**  
 N2477 50th Street  
 Plum City  
**715-308-8633**  
[holmstadhcr@yahoo.com](mailto:holmstadhcr@yahoo.com)

**HEIKE PHARMACY**  
 Complete Prescription Service  
 Free Mailing  
**Phone 715-672-5202**  
**Toll Free 888-672-5202**  
 Fast, Friendly, Reliable Service

**Do it Best**

**Plum City Hardware, Inc.**  
**715-647-2713**  
 Serving Plum City area since 1948

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Jennifer Pelletier** to place an ad today!  
[jpelletier@4LPi.com](mailto:jpelletier@4LPi.com) or (800) 950-9952 x5891

**Rhief Funeral Home & Cremation Services**  
 • Offering dignified services since 1817 •

**Durand**  
**(715) 672-5691**  
[www.rhiefuneralhome.com](http://www.rhiefuneralhome.com)

**AdventHealth**  
 feel whole.

1220 Third Ave. W., Durand, WI  
 (715) 672-4211  
[www.adventhealth.com](http://www.adventhealth.com)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**BECOME A KNIGHT**  
 Contact Pete Helmueller, Grand Knight  
 Plum City/Arkansaw  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**715 781-4580**

**Too Sick for Mass?**

**SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!**

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!  
[www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



**Bauer Plumbing & Septic Service, Inc.**  
 Building a New Home or Remodeling!  
 Need a Perk or Septic System?  
 Perk Test • New Plumbing  
 In-Floor Heating  
 Sewer Camera Service  
 Septic Repair & Installation  
 MP #220684  
**Call Chris Bauer • 715-672-8224**

**WIESER CONCRETE**  
 Innovation, Quality and Service  
 Since 1965

**Precast Concrete Specialists**

[www.wieserconcrete.com](http://www.wieserconcrete.com) **800-325-8456**