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Gwen Glaus, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Church
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Pete Helmueller, Maintenance Director, St. John the Baptist
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Denise Pelzel, Secretary
Aletha Pullen, Bulletin Editor
Robyn Trannel, Director of Religions Education

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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

John Inabnit's Birthday: 4/12

Mary Therese Helmueller's Birthday: 4/12

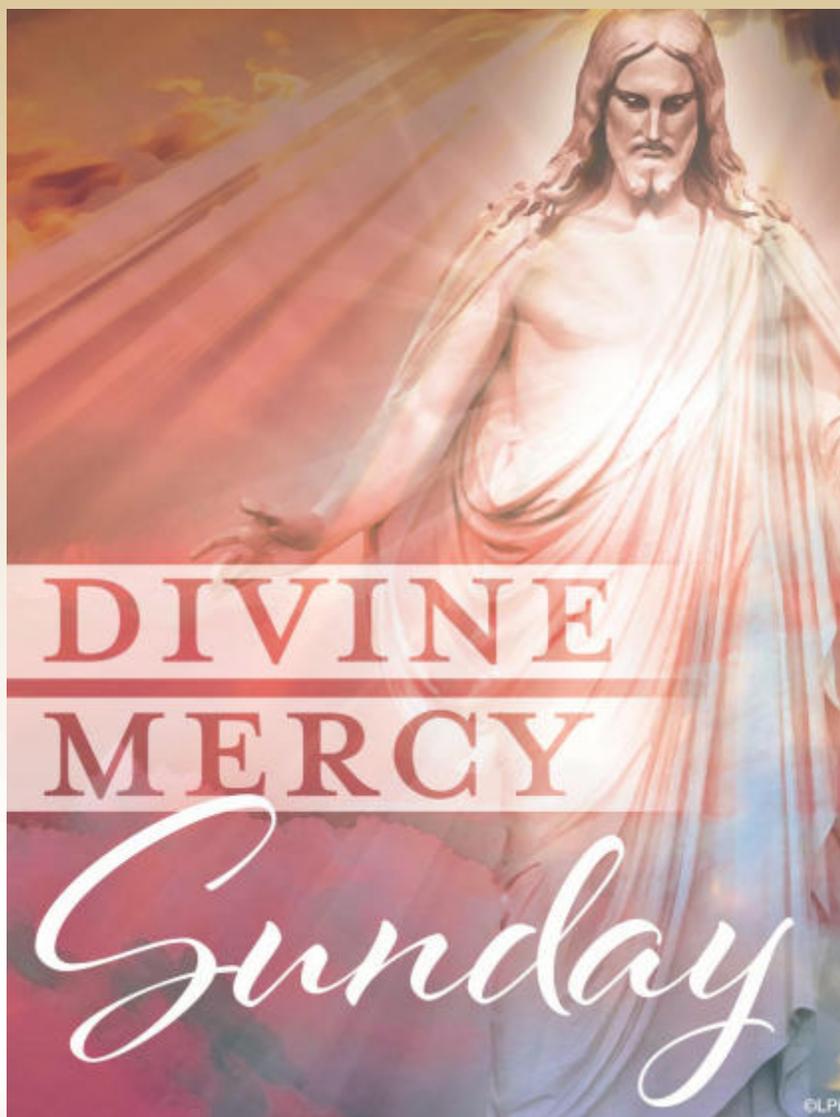
Susan Sanders's Birthday: 4/13

Cooper Books' Birthday: 4/17



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

APRIL 11, 2021



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

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Bulletin Announcements

bulletin-editor@centurylink.net

Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon



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

INDIFFERENCE IN THE SIGHT OF DIFFERENCES

Dear friends in Christ, this Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. I would therefore like us to take a look at our call to be merciful. Mercy ordinarily means rescued from judgment, harm, danger, or trouble. Mercy is where we do not really get what we truly deserve. It is lexically defined as compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender...showing leniency. Thus, God's mercy means His refusal to have us receive the full measure of His wrath while we were still sinners. His mercy is his refusal to be indifferent when our ill choices have distanced us from his graces and estranged us from his love. God is a merciful Father and Jesus is the face of the Father's Mercy. He made us in his image and likeness and so just as he is Mercy, we are called to be mercy, too.

Pope Francis once pointed out that two words which militate against our call to be merciful are difference and indifference. When we realize our differences, we can either sit aloof or lift a finger to help. Most of the time our differences make us indifferent. This is something that is not in the nature of God. His love does not allow Him to be indifferent to us. Out of love for us, He sent his Son. So, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. God saw the difference between his holiness and our sinfulness but did not stay indifferent to our plight. Unfortunately, in our selfishness we realize our differences and remain indifferent. Many a time those who are suffering from life's difficulties and injustices are forgotten - something God the Father never does. As Pope Francis would put it, this selfishness has assumed such great proportions that today we can talk about a globalization of indifference.

One of our biggest temptations, therefore, is to be indifferent. Indifference rears its head in us in different dimensions. It could be personal, interpersonal, socio-cultural, and metaphysical. On the personal level, unmet aspirations and disappointments can make us indifferent and therefore unmerciful to ourselves; caring less about how we carry ourselves and our health. Consider the gross overindulgence in alcohol, uncontrolled eating without any physical exercises, the craze for solace at the wrong places, and the rampant incidents of self-neglect. It doesn't take much for one to sight self-indifference in many people around us. Other times, human accomplishments and the bid realize our dreams and aspirations could also make us indifferent. Times are when in our accomplishments we forget the self, where we have come from, where we are and where we shall be. It is not uncommon that in our bid to realize our dreams, we show little leniency to the self. We turn into workaholics without taking time to rest, without having the courage to take a break. However, mercy demands that we take care of the self. It urges us not to give up on the self and invites us to rescue the self from judgment, harm, and danger.

On the interpersonal plane, we realize that when life is good for us we tend to be indifferent to others and their plight. Very often we enjoy our comforts while caring less about a brother or sister in crisis. Come to think of it, where is the parishioner in crisis? Where is the priest in trouble? Where is the nun or the Religious in crisis? Have we judged, condemned, and written them off? Have we given up on a neighbor who is struggling to be good? Mercy demands that we do not throw away anybody who needs our help and encouragement. As beneficiaries of Divine Mercy, ours is to be mercy to that less fortunate brother or sister in a world of differences and indifference. That another person doesn't hold my values or meet my moral or social standards should not make me indifferent to their plight.

Cultural indifference comes up in lack of awareness of values and lack of judgment on values. People today make free choices and there is very little or no assessment between good and evil. In society's move to unify values, people lack the courage to point out what is evil in an apparent value. The end-result is the fallen standards in values today. Sad to say that those of us who are supposed to be the conscience of society have become indifferent. We don't want to be bothered. We have adopted the see nothing, hear nothing and say nothing philosophy. And our lips are sealed when good is exchanged for evil. Social indifference comes to the fore when societies sit unconcerned as others suffer. We are a communion of saints. When one member suffers, all suffer. We, therefore, need to open our eyes to the plight of other communities. Social injustices are perpetrated in many societies today; poverty and deprivation continue to be the bane of many, and it is not right for us to close our eyes, cork our ears, set a seal on our lips, and sit aloof. We could at least raise our voices in prayer through the saints for the needs of these many struggling communities. To our benefit, God makes us stewards of His graces so that through us he can reach out to the poor, the needy, and the less fortunate communities. May we be characterized by his mercy so that we shall grow a little more sensitive to the precarious situations of others.

Metaphysical indifference is that which we entertain towards God as we pretend to be self-sufficient. We are the present-day deists. God has created us but he is not interested in our affairs so we have either shelved him or killed him. We are in charge and at the helm of affairs, acting like the supermen of Nietzsche. We have taken our will and destiny into our own hands and God means either very little or nothing to us. We have of God an idea and relate to him accordingly. In such indifference, we lose the sense of sin. We rationalize sin rather than repent of it and seek God's mercy.

Such was King David after he sinned. Sin for him was a problem needing a solution. He, therefore, acted in his authority, putting God aside. Eventually, he became a murderer. He advised Uriah to sin. He commanded Joab to sin. He profited from Joab's sin. All he ended up doing was to plant himself into further sins. When the sense of God is lost, sin multiplies and wretchedness of the soul is the price. In the episode of the bad thief and the Good thief, the former having lost the sense of sin, saw Jesus merely as a possible solution to his problem: save yourself and save us. However, the latter having a sense of sin, acknowledged his own sinfulness and Jesus' innocence. Realizing the difference between Jesus and them never made him indifferent. He rather took interest in Jesus and begged to be remembered in Paradise and was promised an immediate inheritance. Metaphysical indifference thus makes us forfeit the kingdom. It is the mother of all indifference. When one is indifferent to the body of Christ, one would be indifferent to the poor. Mother Teresa once intimated that after she received Holy communion and had Eucharistic Adoration, she saw Christ in the poor. My own experience as a priest tells me that indifference to the sacrament of the Eucharist, to the quality of our homilies, to the needs of the flock, and to holy objects – all stem from metaphysical indifference. When we stay connected to God, he infects us with his love and mercy. He thereby makes us instruments of mercy in an indifferent environment.

Trusting in Jesus, who is the face of the Father's Mercy, let us strive to fight and overcome indifference in all its ramifications and cultivate merciful hearts. Pope Benedict XVI once said that a merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart that lets itself be pierced by the Spirit to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

Have a pleasant week
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: April 12

• No Mass

Readings: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: April 13 - St. Martin I

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Mike Pittman
- Readings: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: April 14

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Oliver & Marie Helmueller
- Readings: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: April 15

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Carole Ingli
- Readings: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 & 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: April 16

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Bernard & Marie DeMuth
- Readings: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: April 17

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - A Special Intention
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Pat Sabelko
- Readings: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: April 18 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Sandra Milliren
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

The Rosary is prayed before Mass

THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, April 16th 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 twelve is The Question of Identity. 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.



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). Thank you!!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

To grasp the lay faithful in the Church's ongoing ministry, consider the image of the vine and the branches. Jesus says, "I am the vine and you are the branches" (Jn 15:6). Often, the people of God are likened to the laborers in the vineyard. For this example, however, the lay faithful are not merely laborers in the vineyard, but rather part of the vineyard. It is through their efforts that the lay faithful can effectively pass on the faith.

Would you like to be part of the vineyard? We are always looking for **Rosary Leaders, Sacristans, Lectors, Announcers, Ushers, Extra Ordinary Ministers, Servers, Musicians and Gift Bearers**. If you would like to fill any of these roles, please contact the Parish Office at 715-647-2901.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Announcements & Lector

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Todd Glaus

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Jeff Bergmann

Extraordinary Minister

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Joyce Berger

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Linda Chilson

Music

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Paul & Char Fetzer

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Arleen Ebensperger & Jeff Bergmann

Servers

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Allyson Fleishauer

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Olivia & Lilly Pullen

Usher

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Pete Helmueller & Chad Steele

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Terry Pelzel & Steve King

Money Counting

Wed., April 21, 9:00 a.m.

Pat Pittman, Teresa Fedie, & Verna Weiss



Rosary

Sun., April 18, 8:00 a.m.

Volunteer Needed

Sun., April 18, 10:15 a.m.

Holy Name Society

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

April: Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL VIRTUAL GALA - APRIL 13-17

You are invited to St. Francis School's 15th annual Gala - "Readin', 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic!" From April 13-17, we will showcase guest speakers, student videos, and school pictures on our website at stfrancisellsworth.org/gala and Facebook page [@stfrancisellsworth](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisellsworth). Don't miss out on the opportunity to bid on the silent auction, 'live' auction, and classroom projects or make a donation on our website. On April 17th, we encourage you to gather in small groups to enjoy a meal package catered by The Ridgetop and watch our Grand Finale at 7:00 pm on our Facebook page. Meal packages can be purchased on our website until April 12th. All proceeds benefit St. Francis School. We look forward to celebrating virtually with you!!

ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

Diocesan Annual Appeal Update

As we begin to celebrate the Easter season, we wanted to provide an update on the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Thus far, we have had donations from 47 donors and have approximately \$1000 yet to reach our goal. Thank you donors! If you would like to make a donation yet, please either drop your envelope in the collection basket and it will be forwarded to the Diocesan office or mail your donation in the provided envelope directly. Thank you again for your continued support and generosity!

St. Joseph Parish Rectory Sale

The rectory at St. Joseph has many household items that are ready for a new home. The rectory will be open to purchase items on Saturday, April 10th and 17th, for two hours prior to 4 p.m. Mass and an hour afterward. Viewing is also available by appointment with Dave Drier (285-5818) or Linda Lieffring (285-5265).

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

Announcements & Lector

Sat., April 17, 4:00 p.m.
Jeff Brunner

Extraordinary Minister

Sat., April 17, 4:00 p.m.
Dale Klein

Music

Sat., April 17, 4:00 p.m.
Beth Pattison

Rosary

Sat., April 17, 4:00 p.m.
Madalyn Fleishauer or
Joyce Haigh

RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?

Have you been away from the Church....and have now returned, but want to know more?

Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation)?

Have you joined us from a different faith background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

Do you know of anyone who has lapsed from the practice of their faith and would respond to an initiation to return to the Father's House?

If any of the above questions apply to you, we would love to help you on your journey of faith! Or if you know of anyone who could answer **YES** to any of the above questions, we invite you to extend an invitation for them to join us at an informational meeting on Sunday, May 2nd at 11:30 am or 7:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Parish.

If you need more information, please contact:
Father Joe at 715-647-2301
Robyn Trannel at 608-790-2177

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.



Congratulations Sean & Catherine!!

St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishes congratulate Sean Stoudt and Catherine Gonzalez who were Confirmed on Sunday, April 4th by Father Joseph Okine-Quartey.

Sean and Catherine, as you are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may you share in His peace and goodness and may the Holy Spirit guide you and bring you great joy in all that you do. Congratulations on your Confirmation!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST KARNIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS Now on Sale!!

The biggest part of our Karnival proceeds is the Main Raffle. All of the proceeds will be going towards the renovation of St. John the Baptist's heating system. The drawing will be at a date to be determined.



We only have 350 tickets at \$50.00 each. You can purchase tickets from:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ann Bechel 715-279-1237 | Joyce Berger 715-647-3150 |
| Paul & Char Fetzer 715-495-3315 | Sarah Hinrichs 715-495-3123 |
| Gary Lecheler 715-279-4444 | Jeff & Margaret Hartung 715-495-8901 |
| Pete & Jackie Unser 715-495-6291 | Suzie Brunner 715-495-2699 |
| Linda & Larry Chilson 715-647-4733 | Peggy Gilles 715-495-3199 |
| Nadine Kannel 715-495-9161 | Pete & Irene Helmueller 715-781-4466 |

We will also be selling them after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Masses on Sundays. The prizes are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 st Place \$1000.00 | 8 th - 11 th Place \$200.00 |
| 2 nd Place \$800.00 | 12 th - 13 th Place \$150.00 |
| 3 rd - 5 th Place \$500.00 | 14 th & 15 th Place \$100.00 |
| 6 th - 7 th Place \$250.00 | |

Please support this renovation project with the purchase of one or two Karnival Raffle Tickets.

Thank you, St. John the Baptist's Karnival Committee



Save the Date
 St. John's Karnival Drive thru Barbecue
 Chicken Dinner
 June 6th, 2021, 11:30 a.m. until gone
 American Legion Park



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