

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Fr. 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

Aletha Pullen, Secretary, Bulletin Editor

Robyn Trannel, 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

Lawrence Bechel, 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

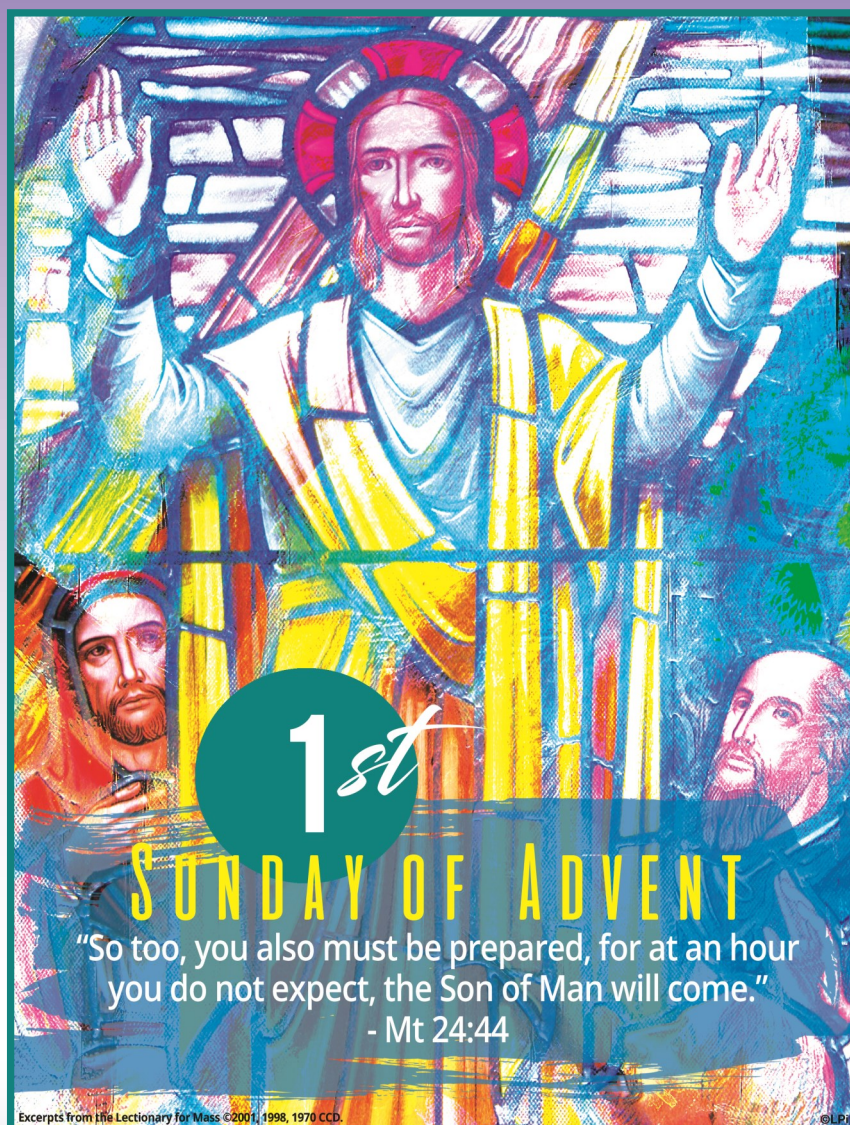
Bill Bechel's Birthday: 12/1

Betty Lauer's Birthday: 12/7



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

**DECEMBER 1, 2019**



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

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**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**



## **MARANATHA - COME LORD JESUS**

Dear friends in Christ, since the first Sunday of Advent is the first day of the liturgical year, it is the Church's new year day, so to speak. It is thus with great pleasure that I say Happy New Year to you all. From this day forward, we open a fresh page on our liturgical calendar. Our Sunday liturgical cycle has transitioned from Year C to Year A; and the Gospel of St. Matthew shall be our preferred choice in our Sunday liturgies. The weekday cycle has also transitioned from cycle one to cycle two.

The word *Advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which literally means coming. In this season therefore, we traditionally reflect on the comings of Jesus. Our prayer is Maranatha, come Lord Jesus. Jesus came in history. He will come again to judge the living and the dead; and he comes to us today and always in Word, in sacrament and in one another.

Advent therefore brings to sharp focus the coming of Christ in history. It's a time to reflect on the love of God which so moved him to give His only Son, who was born in Bethlehem as the Savior of the world. We prepare to celebrate that moment which has so impacted the world as has become the fulcrum around which all times turn. Christ came in history and the moment of his incarnation became the point of departure for calling times before and times after. Advent, thus, invites us to reflect on the Incalculable effect of Christ, the Christ event and Christianity on all times, people and cultures.

Christ will also come in glory at the end of time. This is His return to the earth on the last day. Advent thus calls us to reflect on these events and look for ways to have them direct and impact our daily lives and actions. In Advent then, we prepare ourselves to encounter the Lord and welcome the day when his justice, compassion, and joy will reign in all its fullness on earth. We await in silence, we await in hope, we await in prayer for the full blossoming of his grace. We watch and pray that the day of the "LORD our justice" will not dawn on us unprepared.

In between the first and the second coming of Christ, He comes again in the sacraments and the life of the Church. Thus, through the living action of Christ today in the life of the Church, in the life of Christians, in the Eucharist, in the other sacraments, in the Christian life; in the vocations we receive through our baptism; in the magnificent charity of Christian individuals and communities; in the living traditions of the Church, and in the power of Christianity in our times, Christ stages a coming into the many facets of human life.

Of significant importance to me is the coming Christ stages in other people's lives through you and me; the hope of glory in Christ which our simple acts of love and charity instill in others, making them want to hang on him in spite of all odds.

Once upon a time, a teacher was detailed by her Principal to visit a young student who had been hospitalized. Not knowing the cause of the student's hospitalization, the teacher walked into the hospital. To her dismay she found the student badly burnt all over from a gas explosion. The student's condition elicited nothing but compassion and a confused state of mind in the teacher. Not knowing what to say to the little boy, the teacher said, "The principal sent me to come help you with algebra and surds." She then opened her bag, brought out sheets of paper and pieces of pencils and started slowly to work some samples with him. Though in pain, the student followed the teacher with keen interest and rapt attention. When the teacher left, all in the hospital wondered what she did to have changed the boy's life so significantly. He who had nearly given up in hope had all of a sudden developed an interest in life. He no longer talked of wanting to die. His appetite returned, he cooperated with caregivers, he looked enthusiastic and above all, he cultivated a special interest in prayer and begged his mother to read the word of God to him every night as she used to do when he was a kid. One day, seeing the tremendous transformation in him, one of the nurses dared to ask what his secret was. His answer? "If they sent a teacher to teach a dying boy algebra, then they had hope that I would live. So, I chose to live for the glory of God." Though he eventually died, he died in hopes to live for the glory of God.

Friends, Christ constantly comes into people's lives through us. The hope which Advent brings can come to many through the simple and the ordinary little acts of care and kindness we show. Our prayer lives, our dedication to our vocations, the special presence we make in people's lives, the cost-less smiles we give, our humble service, the heart with which we render service, our positive optimistic outlook on life, our kind words, the candles we light in the darkness of people's lives, all these could constitute Christ's coming into other people's lives. In our own simple lives of holiness and kindness, we either bring Christ into the hearts and lives of others or we set the stage for Christ to stage a day-to-day coming into their lives.


Friends, in this Advent season, let us shout the Gospel with our lives as we say with say with Charles de Foucauld that we would be so sufficiently good that people would say, "If such is the servant, what must the Master be like?" If we would for instance be as careful as would not allow our hearts to be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, but would rather watch and pray and live lives of selfless charity, our conduct as Christians might ginger others to desirously say Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus and Christ would make a glorious presence in their lives.

Have a fruitful Advent Season  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

### **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).

### **THAT MAN IS YOU**

"That Man Is You" program resumes this Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on the  first floor of the St. John the Baptist School Building. The topic for week twelve is The Book of Glory. All men are welcomed to join. If you have any questions please contact Dan Wieser at (715) 279-2152 or Tom Pullen at (607) 244-3010. Thanks!

## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: December 2

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/See Ps 80:4/Mt 8:5-11

### Tuesday: December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

- Mass: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center, † Marie T. Glaus
- Readings: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

### Wednesday: December 4 - St. John Damascene

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, † Arvilla Caturia
- Readings: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

### Thursday: December 5

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Michael Pittman
- Adoration: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Communion for the sick and homebound
- Readings: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a/Is 55:6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday: December 6 - St. Nicholas

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Jason Bates
- Readings: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

### Saturday: December 7 - St. Ambrose

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Theresia Schwärzler
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Russel Haigh
- Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Is 33:22/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Sunday: December 8 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

- 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 - † Oliva Pelzel
- Readings: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

The Rosary is prayed before all Masses

## POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

### December: The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

## SACRAMENTS

### Confessions *(anytime by appointment)*

- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansasaw
- Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 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

### Finance Council Meeting

The next Finance Council meeting will be Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Rectory.

### Hospitality Sunday

Please join us! The PCCW will be serving cookies & hot cocoa following both Masses on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> in the rectory. Thank you!

### Church Decorating & Pot Luck

St. John the Baptist will be decorating the Church for Christmas after the 10:15 a.m. Mass on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please come and help. A pot luck lunch will be served.

### Parish Christmas Tree

We will be having a Parish Christmas tree again this year. If you would like to purchase an ornament for the tree, please do so and place it in the baskets at each entrance of the Church. Thank you!

### Online Giving Now Available!

Online giving forms are located at all entrances at the Parish Office.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Calling all students

Come join together with other kids singing, playing instruments, and performing with the Youth Worship Group. Meeting between Masses on December 8<sup>th</sup> & December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:15-10:00 a.m. All kids are welcome, even if they cannot meet every time. There is no performance obligation.

### Mark your calendars

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 p.m. there will be a Faith Formation Christmas social in the school basement. Everyone enrolled in Faith Formation at all levels is invited to attend.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

Monday, December 2, 9:30 a.m.  
Denise Pelzel, Carol Bechel, & Suzanne Gilles

### Announcements

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Todd Glaus  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles

### Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Todd Glaus  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Linda Chilson

### Gift Bearers

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Irene & Pete Helmueller  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles & Ann Bechel

### Lector

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Terry Pelzel

### Music

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Tracy Biederman, Gwen Glaus, & Chris Bechel  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Paul & Char Fetzter

### Rosary Leader

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Irene Helmueller  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Connie Ahlers

### Sacristan

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles

### Servers

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Allyson Fleishauer & Parker Bechel  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Olivia & Lilly Pullen

### Usher

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.  
Gary Lecheler & Roger Gilles  
Sunday, December 8, 10:15 a.m.  
Dan Wieser & Steve King

## ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

St. Mary's, Durand - Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
St. John the Baptist, Plum City - Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
St. Joseph, Menomonie - Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
St. Francis, Ellsworth - Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

### Parish Pictorial Book

Lifetouch will be at St. Joseph's Parish taking Pictures for our Parish Pictorial Book. Someone will be in back of the Church on Saturdays before and after Mass starting November 23<sup>rd</sup> with sign-up sheets. We need you to sign up as soon as possible. Portraits will be taken in the Church basement on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Lieftring at (715) 285-5265.

*Lifetouch®*

### Parish Christmas Party



St. Joseph's Parishioners are having a family Christmas party on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> in the Church basement after Mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Bingo will follow (all are welcome to play Bingo). If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Drier at (715) 285-5818.

### Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting

The Pastoral & Finance Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Church basement.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Money Counting

Monday, December 2, 8:30 a.m.  
Jerry Lieftring, Midge Steller, &  
Madalyn Fleishauer

### Announcements

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Sue Caturia

### Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Mary Berger

### Gift Bearers

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Gerald & Kathy Drier

### Lector

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Sue Caturia

### Music

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Beth Pattison

### Rosary

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Madalyn Fleishauer



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

### Sentiments for Seminarians

During the month of November the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations of gift cards and cash for the 23 Seminarians in the Diocese of La Crosse. Collection boxes will be located in the back of each Church during this time where you can place your donation. Any donation will help with their basic needs such as gas, groceries, and toiletries. Thank you!



### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at about 7:00 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Basement. There will be a light meal after the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the Knights will gather in the Church at 6:30 p.m. to pray the rosary, all are welcome.

## AVE MARIA ACADEMY'S

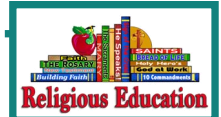
### Christmas Program & Bake Sale 10 am - 1 pm



Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at Molly's on Main  
Piano prelude begins at 11 a.m. with the program to follow  
Join us for a luncheon after the program!

## ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus tells His disciples that He will surprise everyone when He returns. Since we expect Jesus' return but do not know when it will be, we must be ready to welcome Him at any time.



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can you do to get ready to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas?



## FAMILY PRAYER

God, help us to make room in our home and our hearts to welcome Jesus. Amen.

## IN CHURCH

Watch as the 1st candle on the Advent wreath is lit. Notice how the Church is preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas!



## ADVENT

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Advent begins on the Sunday after the Solemnity of Christ the King and continues for four weeks until Christmas Vigil Mass.

## RCIA FOCUS: THE SECOND COMING

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday's Gospel is where many Christian Churches get their ideas about the "rapture." The correct understanding of this reading is that Jesus is the Just Judge; He will come again, and our bodies and souls will be reunited after the Last Judgement. Many who look to these "rapture" predictions ignore that Christ explicitly states that "you do not know on which day your Lord will come" (24:42). Catholic teaching cautions against any type of behavior that would detract from trusting God with our future (horoscopes, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.). It is far more important to work daily on our own journey with Christ and trust God to take care of how and when that future plays out.

## DISCUSSION QUESTION

What attraction do "predictors" of the future have for you? How can you show that you trust God with your future?

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

## Plum City Lions' Club Senior Citizens Holiday Supper

All single or widowed senior citizens, 60 years or older, are invited to attend.

- **Place:** Molly's on Main
- **Date:** Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Time:** 4:45 p.m. Social Hour, 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- **Menu:** Turkey and dressing with all the trimmings



Please contact Karee Schladweiler at the Plum City Care Center at 715-647-2401 for reservations by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

This is a **free** meal - Compliments of the Plum City Lions Club!

We're also happy to provide **transportation** - just let us know when you make your reservation. Thank you!