

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

Suzanne Brunner, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Rectory

Robyn Trannel, Director of Religions Education

Gwen Glaus, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Church

Vickie Hartung, Housekeeping, St. Joseph

Dorothy Kopp, Bookkeeper

Aletha Pullen, Secretary, Bulletin Editor

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 Rhiel, Audrey Ryan, Jacqui Steele, and *Dan Wieser (Chair)

Parish Finance Council

Lawrence Bechel, 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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARY'S

Darrell Hinrichs's: 2/5

Jack & Ruth Luebker's 42nd Anniversary: 2/5

*Randy Holmstadt's Birthday: 2/13

*Dan Wieser's Birthday: 2/15

*Larry & Margaret Steller's 50th Anniversary: 2/15

Paul & Char Fetzer's Anniversary: 2/17

Brittany Steele's Birthday: 2/22

Mary Helmueller's Birthday: 2/23

Margaret Beaver's Birthday: 2/25

Dorothy Anibas's Birthday: 2/27

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

February 10, 2019 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



*Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men."*

- Luke 5:10

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Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon

CALLED BY THE SEA OF GENNESARET

Dear friends in Christ, this Sunday, we encounter St. Luke's version of the call of the early disciples. In this episode, a number of things stand clear: Jesus walks along the sea of Gennesaret. The crowd presses so much around him that he mounts a boat in order to address them. He asks the fishermen whose boat he used to launch into the deep for a catch. After an initial subtle protest from Simon, who had undertaken a futile fishing venture all night, the net is cast and abundant catch is made to the amazement of all. Jesus tells them not to be afraid for they themselves would graduate from being fishermen into becoming fishers of men. They would leave everything and follow Jesus. These followed Jesus to be with him in order that they may be sent. The destination of their discipleship was therefore in their commissioning to spread the Good News and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

As I skim through this passage, I am struck by Luke's decision to use the name Gennesaret instead of Galilee. I am also struck by the fact that Jesus decided to call fishermen to be his first followers. These ordinary details go a long way to cast light first and foremost on our universal calling to share in the discipleship of the early followers of Christ and particularly on the vocation of some Christ's faithful to share in the ministerial priesthood and our call to participate in the common priesthood in Christ. The sea under consideration is variously called. It is the Sea of Galilee, Sea of Tiberias and the Sea of Gennesaret. That St. Luke chose Gennesaret over the other names may not be an accident. Gennesaret speaks loads into the nature of the calling of the apostles involved. It may also shed light on our calling to the New Evangelization.

Three Etymologies can be found for Gennesaret. Its first root word is Kinnor. Kinnor means harp. A harp is primarily a fruit. Its tree is generally as high as can reach 30 m high and 90 cm in diameter. The tree is grown mainly because it is expected to fruit. The fruits are generally sweet. Yet they can also be sour. The tree is believed to have medicinal properties. Its leaves are purported to be used as fever-lowering remedy. The stem bark is used in treating roundworm and its roots for bloating, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. It is also used in certain cultures for the reinforcement of a nursing mother's body. Like its tree, the health benefits of the harp fruit are multifarious. Harp is believed to have polyphenol substances. These are believed to prevent the risk of cancer and heart disease. They are also good at preventing premature senility (see steemit.com, accessed 2/5/19). It seems to say that just as the fruit of the harp is sweet and medicinal, the fruit of him who is called to follow by the "sea of the harp" must be sweet and medicinal. Like these early disciples, our vocation to discipleship, to the ministerial priesthood and for that matter the common priesthood is a call to bear fruit. It is also a call to sweetness. We might ourselves be going through some bitterness and discomfort, yet our goal is bring the joy of the gospel to the people we encounter. Besides, it is our vocation to heal the world and make it a better place for all. Every disciple of Christ is, to some extent, called by the "Sea of the Harp", we must learn in our diverse vocations to be fruitful and sweet. Should we be bitter, our bitterness must not spring up, foment trouble and defile others. Rather, we should be bitter because our bitterness is medicinal and a healing remedy for sin.

The harp is also a musical instrument. This instrument is also known as the harmonica. The harp is tipped for producing a sweet sounding music. It combines sounds from various strings to produce melodious tunes. Called by the sea of the harmonica, the disciple is expected to have the spirit of teamwork, the ability to work effectively in union with others; especially people with different traits, characters and capabilities. The follower of Christ is not an island, neither must he be a jack of all trades. He achieves with others and he does so in harmony and in peace.

Gennesaret also stems from the words gan and sar. Gan means a garden whereas sar means a prince. Gennesaret thus could mean a prince of gardens or a garden of princes. Christ's followers are thus either called by the "Sea of the Prince of the Garden" or by the "Sea of the Garden of Princes". The former exudes a sense of paradise. Christ's disciples received their calling from the abode where the prince himself reigns. They need to be characterized by the dignity, peace and serenity of the kingdom. On the other hand, if we are a garden of princes, our fruits must be unique if not superb. All who come into contact with us must leave us with great sense of satisfaction and awe. They must feel themselves surrounded by the prince of peace himself. They must leave us with the sense of having won gold medals. None should part the company of a prince or princess of Christ's kingdom with bitterness and disappointment because we gave them an attitude and were mean to them.

In our vocation to discipleship, we could also be considered as a garden that yields princes. People we encounter must be transformed into princes on account of the sterling services we render them. Ours is the vocation to enable people become princes in their microcosm. Ours is to empower people to render the best accounts of themselves. We should thus be instruments through which God's will in people's lives will be realized. For we are called to sow seeds of spiritual royalty in others.

The follower of Christ has also been called from among princes. He is a royal by virtue of his vocation. St. Peter himself says of us, "You are a royal priesthood, a chosen nation, a people set apart" (1Pt 2:9). A prince is a royal. Every royal has a birthright. A birthright must be preserved. Unlike Cain, who sold his birthright to his brother Abel for porridge, disciples of Christ must never sell their birthright for anything whatsoever. They must keep their dignity intact and preserve it until the day he comes. They must not be tempted by the pressures of their surroundings to throw away their lives of virtue and dignity, their sense decency and decorum; to sell their conscience. Every Christian needs to cherish their vocation as princes and princesses. They should do everything to protect it. Let us also live our individual vocations like the Prince of Peace would, not lording it over others but in humble service to God and neighbor.

Finally, Gennesaret could also stem from Gan which means garden and Asher, which means riches. Gennesaret thus could mean Garden of riches or a rich garden. By virtue of our baptism, we have all been called from the midst of riches, from the midst of plenty, and from the midst of abundance. We should never hesitate to put our boundless riches at the service of God. We are gifted with many rich experiences and talents, let our ministry be unique as we seek to glorify the Lord in our gifts. Let us utilize our gifts to enhance our vocation. When Peter and company were called, they were called from being fishermen to being fishers of men. They were expected to use their expertise as fishermen to fish for men. Jesus did not call them for nothing, he called them for a reason. He called them because He knew they had something that could make them useful in the business of fishing for men.

They had the gift of maintenance. They were mending and washing their nets. Nets are washed and mended so they will not rot and break. "A stitch in time", they say, "saves nine." As a priests, religious and lay, we have been called to be stewards of both the spiritual and material goods of the Church. It will be in God's interest and the interest of His people that his stewards have a good maintenance culture. They do not quit that easily. That they were mending their nets after a fishing failure is a sign that they were getting ready for another expedition. Like the fishermen, remember when things get tough that God called us because He knows that we will never quit. There is no reason to be despondent and abandon our God-given vocations because our great expectations are not been met. The fact remains that quitters never win and winners never quit. Fishermen are not discriminatory. They cast their nets and without discrimination, drag ashore diverse kinds of fish. Just as their nets pull together fishes from different walks of life, so should the net of the priest, religious and all Christ's faithful attract different kinds of people. Ours is to treat all people with respect and kindness. We should have no favorites and love all God's people irrespective of their color, race or tribe. Fishermen are patient. They cast their net and wait patiently for the fish to gather under the embrace of it and they gradually drag the net into their boat. In patience they are able to make a catch. The adage "Patience moves mountains" must be the watch word of all. We should never rush into doing anything. The fisherman is studious and intelligent. There is no logician greater than the fisherman. He does not thoughtlessly mount the sea to go fishing. He studies the moon, the wind, the timing, the tide and all before, during and after his business. The fisherman is skilled in his business because he learns everyday. Today, drivers have GPS and compasses to guide them as they travel. The fisherman of Peter's day used no such things and yet were able to mount the sea successfully. They did so, because they learnt to acquaint themselves with the demands of their business. The true disciple never stops learning. He stays young because he learns to learn always.

Friends, we all have a share in the discipleship of Peter and his companions. We are called to be fruitful, sweet, royals and to put our God-given gifts at the service of the Good news we bear. Let us pray for the grace to remain steadfast in our vocations and do the most we can to spread the Good News.

Have a pleasant week
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/
See Mt 4:23/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: February 12

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Harold Kannel
- Followed by Communion for the sick and homebound
- Readings: Gn 1:20-2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Ps 119:36, 29b/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: February 13

- Adoration: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m., St. Joseph
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph - Clarence & Cecelia Bechel
- Readings: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/
See Jn 17:17b, 17a/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: February 14 - Sts. Cyril & Methodius

- Adoration: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - All of the Souls in Purgatory, Especially Deceased Members of Friends of the Suffering Souls
- Mass: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center
- Readings: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Jas 1:21bc/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: February 15

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Hubie Bauer
- Followed by confessions and Holy Hour until 10:00 a.m.
- Readings: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/See Acts 16:14b/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: February 16 - Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - St. John & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mt 4:4b/Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: February 17 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Frank & Lucille Bechel and Debbie Hofmeister
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Michael Pittman
- Readings: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:23ab/Lk 6:17, 20-26

The Rosary is prayed before all Masses

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 Tuesdays & 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 Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

Sacred Worship Committee Meeting

The next Sacred Worship Committee meeting will be Sunday, February 17th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the back of the Church.

Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Finance Council meeting will be Wednesday, February 20th. The council will meet in the rectory at 6:00 p.m.. We will have a pot luck supper with the meeting to follow.

Money Counters

In the event that Plum City School District closes schools due to poor driving conditions on a Monday, we will not count the collection that day. Please call Aletha Pullen at 607-244-5280 to reschedule.



MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

Beginning Tuesday, March 5th the following Mass schedule changes will be installed.

- Tuesday Mass: 10:00 a.m., Plum City Care Center
- Thursday Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist, followed Communion for the sick and homebound

OUR WEEK: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Money Counting

Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.
Monica Krings, Suzanne Gilles,
& Steve King

Announcements

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Margaret Hartung
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Teresa Fedie

Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Deb or Rod Radle
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Peggy Gilles

Gift Bearers

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Jeff & Margaret Hartung
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Tom & Aletha Pullen Family

Lector

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Todd Glaus
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Ramona Schneider



Music

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Organist: Arleen Ebensperger
Cantor: Steve Carlson
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Organist: Annie Hansen
Cantor: Jeff Bergmann

Rosary Leader

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Bernadine Bechel
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Holy Name Society

Sacristan

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Laurie Heit
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Teresa Fedie

Servers

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Parker Bechel & Allyson Fleishauer
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
The Bergmann Family

Usher

Sunday, February 17, 8:00 a.m.
Chad Steele & Mel Pittman
Sunday, February 17, 10:15 a.m.
Terry Pelzel & Tom Pullen

FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday, February 3 rd , 2019		
Adult Envelopes (40).....	\$	2425.00
Offertory.....	\$	159.11
Total Income.....	\$	2584.11

ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

St. Ann's Altar Society Meeting - Rescheduled

The next St. Ann's Altar Society meeting will be Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church basement.

OUR WEEK: ST. JOSEPH

Money Counting

Monday, February 11, 8:30 a.m.
Dennis Milliren, Midge Steller,
& Bud Bauer

Announcements

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Annie Bauer

Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Madalyn Fleishauer

Gift Bearers

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Gerald & Kathy Drier

Lector

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Galen Radle

Music

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Musicians: Paul & Char Fetzter

Rosary

Saturday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.
Madalyn Fleishauer



FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, February 2nd, 2019

Adult Envelopes (23).....	\$	585.00
Fuel (5).....	\$	120.00
Offertory.....	\$	108.36
Total Income.....	\$	813.36

Safe Haven Sunday

Safe Haven Sunday will take place on March 10, 2019 at Mass. It is an opportunity for us as a church to directly address the harms of pornography and provide resources to support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in overcoming pornography and making their homes safe.

March 10, 2019 is the first Safe Haven Sunday initiative to occur in the Diocese of La Crosse. The diocese has not committed to Safe Haven Sunday beyond this year. If this year's event is as successful as we hope, we will consider continuing it in future years. This year's theme is **Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children.**



THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets again this Friday, February 15th from 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Building in Plum City. The topic for week three is **1st Day –The Roman Empire**. 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!

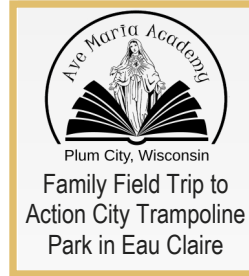
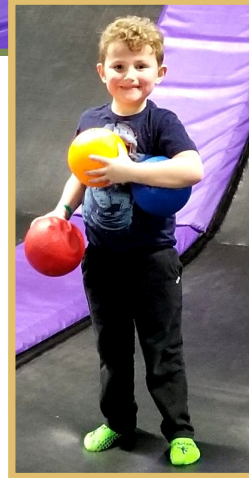


If You Love Your Spouse – Don't Buy Roses this Year...

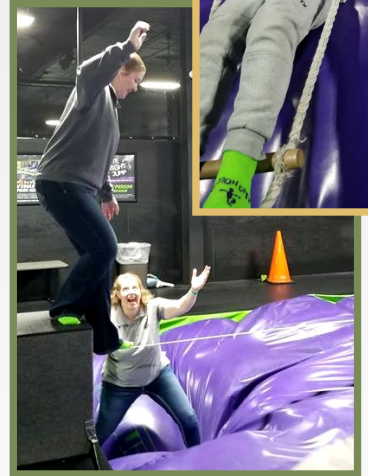
Invest in a marriage retreat instead. Register today to take part in the Domestic Church retreat on March 28-31st at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon. Attending the retreat will bring more love into your marriage than a dozen roses. Take your marriage to the next level of happiness. Register today at diolc.org/marriage/domestic-church-evangelization-retreat/ For more information, call 608-791-2673 or email familylife@diolc.org.

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

February: For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.



Family Field Trip to Action City Trampoline Park in Eau Claire



ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus speaks to the crowd from Simon Peter's boat. Then he encourages Simon to cast his net into the water. Simon questions why Jesus tells him to do this but does as he is instructed - and catches many fish! Jesus tells him to not be afraid and that from now on, he will be "catching men."

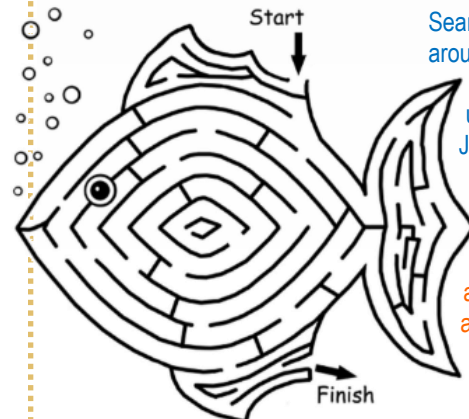


QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What did Jesus mean when he told Simon Peter and the others that they would be "catching men?"

IN CHURCH

Search for symbols of fish around Church. Share ideas about why the fish was used as an early sign of Jesus' followers.



FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, you remind us that we shouldn't be afraid and that you have a mission for us too. Help us to be open to sharing our faith with others.