

## 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 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

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

Dan Wieser's Birthday: 2/15

Paul & Char Fetzer's Anniversary: 2/17

Chris Bechel's Birthday: 2/19

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

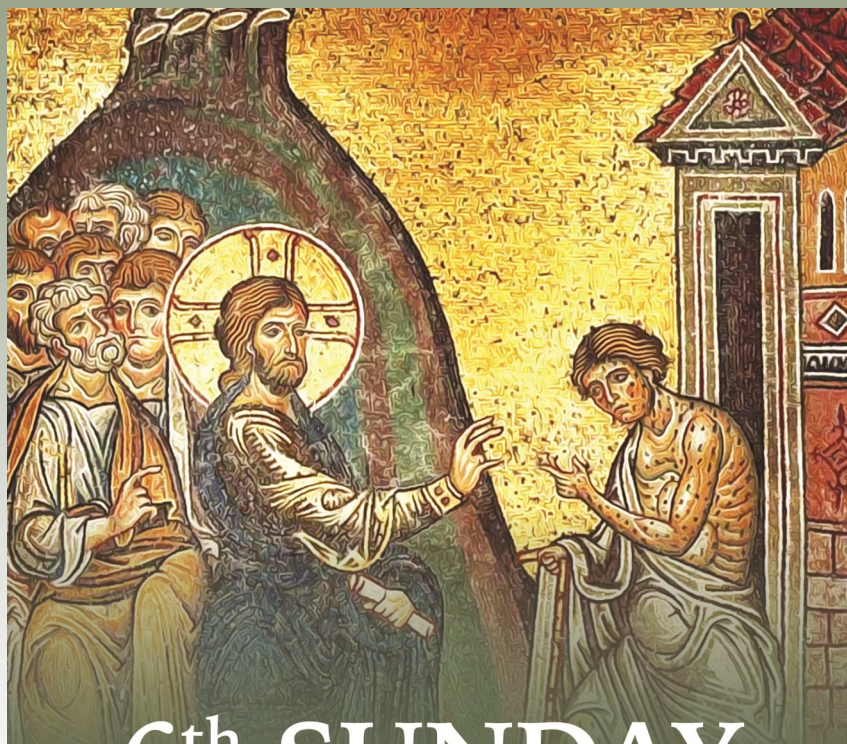
&



*Birthday*

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

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**



# 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." - Mk 1:40-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

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**Bulletin Announcements**

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**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**



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



## NO OUTCAST IN THE NEW COMMUNITY OF LIFE

Beloved in Christ, in every human circumstance, that which causes a person to be considered an outcast is that which is inimical to the entire principles of the community. What the society frowns upon, when breached, becomes the confirming grounds to assess somebody as an outcast. To issue sanctions to a person who commits such an offense usually comes with little or no pain because there are enough reasons to conclude that the person is wrong.

In the old Jewish community, which was so keen on social, religious, physical, and ritual laws, there were several grounds on which a person was considered an outcast. Once a person was so pronounced, it would be ensured that he also endured the prescribed penalties without any reserve. As part of the physical laws, a leper was automatically an outcast. And as the first reading depicts, the home of the leper is at the peripheries of society and their abode was outside of the camp until the leprosy left them.

In our advanced and technologically sophisticated human society where there seems to be a cure for almost every human ailment, leprosy may not be viewed with the same eye as was done of old. Nonetheless, the whole idea of leprosy can be viewed from a new perspective in the new age of Christ.

Firstly, leprosy was considered an unclean disease. Due to its uncleanness, the one who suffered from it was cast out. From the Old Testament, we see the Lord through Moses telling Aaron and his children; that as part of their principal duties as priests, they were responsible for examining every person who was suspected to be suffering from leprosy. The priests were supposed to make this pronouncement and the leper was to wear torn clothes, to let his hair loose, cover his upper lips, ring a bell, and cry repeatedly, "unclean, unclean." The wearing of torn clothes and the letting of his hair loose are symbolic of wretchedness and a state of unhappiness respectively.

This brings our attention to that which casts us of our community and also from God, that which makes us unclean – sin. Sin is the only thing that makes us spiritually unworthy, drawing us away from the presence of God, and making us spiritually unfit for that community called *the people of God*. It makes us wretched and unhappy in life and may cause us to think that there is nothing good we can proclaim with our lips of the Lord, except to cry "unclean, unclean."

As Lent draws near, the Church wants us to be aware of the state in which sin places us – a state of uncleanness with its attendant separation of us from God and neighbor.

The good news is that Jesus brings relief not only to the skin of the leper, but he also restores to the leper, joy, happiness, and a sense of belongingness. Jesus cleanses the lips of the "leper" that he may speak of the goodness of the Lord. No wonder the psalmist calls "blessed" he whose offense is forgiven; that is, the one whose spiritual leprosy – sin, has been cleansed. Though Jesus is capable of doing this, it demands the willingness and the courage of the spiritual leper; the sinner – you and I to dare to take the initiative. In the Gospel reading, the leper came to Jesus and said to him while kneeling: "if you will you can make me clean." He made the initial move. And Jesus, the accounts records, was moved with pity and he healed him.

The priest of the old dispensation only examined the leper and pronounced judgment on him. Jesus, the Priest of the new covenant does not only examine, but also cleanses with a single command. This same power, Christ gives to all his priests of the new covenant to cleanse every leprosy found among those he has won for the Father so that none will be cast out; none will be lost and all will be kept intact until he hands them over to the Father. This is evident in the sacrament of the sick and the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Our God is not like men – a hard-hearted creature. He is a God who does not cast out. He is a God who gathers the scattered and the outcast. If we approach his throne of grace as the leper did, and ask him to make us clean, we shall surely be cleansed and restored. As we seek to be raised up and restored in Christ, St. Paul reminds us that since our God does not cast out, we should likewise not cast out. We should therefore endeavor all the more to seek not our interest, but the interest of our fellow brothers and sisters who struggle with the leprosy of sin and bring them home to the healing gate of the Saviour.

May God from whom all good things come and who has called us to the fount that cleanses all our spiritual leprosy grant us the humility of heart to approach him without fear. May he help us also to be moved with pity for brothers and sisters who might be wallowing in a similar quagmire of confusion, and may he bring home all the lost and those that the world has declared unworthy. May He bless and keep us.

Have a good week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey



**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist

## —SAVE THE DATE—

### 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 Akesses



We need to follow the same protocol that we use for Sunday Mass. If you plan to attend any of these Masses please contact Linda Leiffing at 715-285-5265 or Vickie Hartung at 715-285-5219 for St. Joseph Mass. For St. John the Baptist, please contact Denise at 715-495-4883 or Peggy at 715-495-3199. Thank You!

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



## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: February 15

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/ Mk 8:11-13

### Tuesday: February 16

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Laverne White
- Readings: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/ Ps 29:1a & 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21

### Wednesday: February 17 - Ash Wednesday

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph - † Blanche Radle
- Mass: 10:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Clarence & Loretta Jilk
- Mass: 7:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist - Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey & Fr. John Affum

Readings: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 [cf. 3a]/ 2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday: February 18

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Michael Pittman
- Readings: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

### Friday: February 19

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Ralph & Maxine Matzek
- Readings: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

### Saturday: February 20

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Ollie Caturia
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † JoAnn Kraft
- Readings: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

### Sunday: February 21 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † James Glaus
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15

**The Rosary is prayed before Mass**

### CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

It is with joy and gratitude that we share with you an update for the Christ Our Cornerstone Cathedral restoration campaign. Presently, more than \$2.4 million has been pledged from diocesan parishes, clergy, and Cathedral parishioners to restore our magnificent Cathedral! These faithful gifts, combined with the generous match from St. Ambrose Financial Services brings the total up to more than \$5.4 million! The total \$6.1 million restoration need for our beloved Cathedral is well within our reach! We are so grateful for the outpouring of support we have seen from throughout the diocese, and especially from within this community. If you have not yet had the chance to make your pledge, now is the time to act. Please join your fellow parishioners and those from across our diocese by participating in this historic campaign.

Pledges can be made using the provided materials found within the parish or by visiting [cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone](http://cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone).

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Jeff Bergmann

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Marie Berger  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Linda Chilson

### Music

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Bob & JoAnn Larson  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Beth Pattison & Jeff Bergmann

### Rosary

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Volunteer Needed  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Connie Ahlers

### Servers

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Grace Hinrichs &  
Peyton Brynner  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Olivia & Lilly Pullen

### Usher

Sun., February 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Lonnie Harmon & Roger Gilles  
Sun., February 21, 10:15 a.m.  
Dan Wieser & Steve King

### Money Counting

Wed., February 24, 9:00 a.m.  
Pat Pittman, Terry Pelzel,  
& Teresa Fedie

Thank  
You!

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., February 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Terry Pelzel

### Extraordinary Minister

Sat., February 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Dale Klein

### Music

Sat., February 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Bob & JoAnn Larson

Thank You. 

## 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.

## 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 call Linda Leiffring at (715) 285-5265 or Vickie Hartung at (715) 285-5219.
- **Please arrive 15 minutes early to be seated by the ushers.**

## THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet from 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 five is I Have called you Friends. 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. Thanks!

**TMIY**

## TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Week 12 - Can I be more selfless in our marriage?

## EXCELLENT LENTEN RESOURCES

**33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat** In preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings to light one of the most beloved saints in modern times, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Topics include trust, the Little Way, the Offering to Merciful Love and spiritual darkness. The 33 days is a preparation for consecration to Divine Mercy. A book can be purchased at [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org).

**Consecration to St. Joseph** During this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, a six-week preparation beginning on February 15 and ending on March 19th on the Solemnity of St. Joseph would be a most-timely study during Lent. The book is arranged for the consecration with 10-15 minutes of reading per day. A book can be purchased at [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org).

**Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit** This is a 14-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, a regular host of Steubenville Youth Conferences. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, the presentations invite viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. The entire series is available for free on [wildgoose.tv](http://wildgoose.tv) or if you prefer you can purchase the DVD set as well.

## 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.

## 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 GOOD NEWS

### ABOUT THE GOSPEL



When people found out Jesus could heal, they constantly asked him to do so. He tried to find rest and quiet in the desert, but the people followed Him there too. Still, He helped many people who needed healing.

### IN CHURCH

Father Joe works long hours to help people in need in our parishes. Ask him if you can help him at Mass or if you can serve our parishes in any way.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, teach us to see when people are in need and reach out to them. Amen.



How can you find the strength  
to help people?



The La Crosse Diocese is planning a virtual Lenten retreat for men about looking to St. Joseph as a model for being a great husband and father. The retreat will feature speakers Fr. Sam Martin and Mr. Pat Brueggen. To register please visit: [diolc.org/virtual-lenten-mens-retreat/](http://diolc.org/virtual-lenten-mens-retreat/)

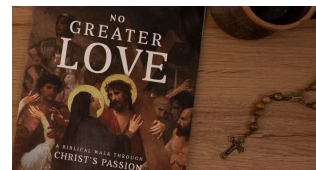
## FREE DAILY LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Sign up to receive a daily email with a short video to help you connect in a stronger way with Jesus. This begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and continues through the forty days of Lent.

- Bishop Barron daily Lenten reflections at [lentreflections.com](http://lentreflections.com)
- "Best Lent Ever" with Matthew Kelly at [dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever](http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever)

## LENTEN STUDY - Will you follow Jesus to Calvary?

This Lent, we are offering classes at St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph on "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion." We are also offering a "study at home" option to provide access to the online videos.



Filmed on location in the Holy Land, "No Greater Love" is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. We will be guided through the last hours of Christ's life, from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you - grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

If you are interested in participating this Lenten season, please contact Robyn Trannel ([rltrannel@gmail.com](mailto:rltrannel@gmail.com)) or (608) 790-2177).