

## 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 Rhel, 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

Brittany Steele's Birthday: 2/22

Mary Helmueller's Birthday: 2/23

Margaret Beaver's Birthday: 2/25

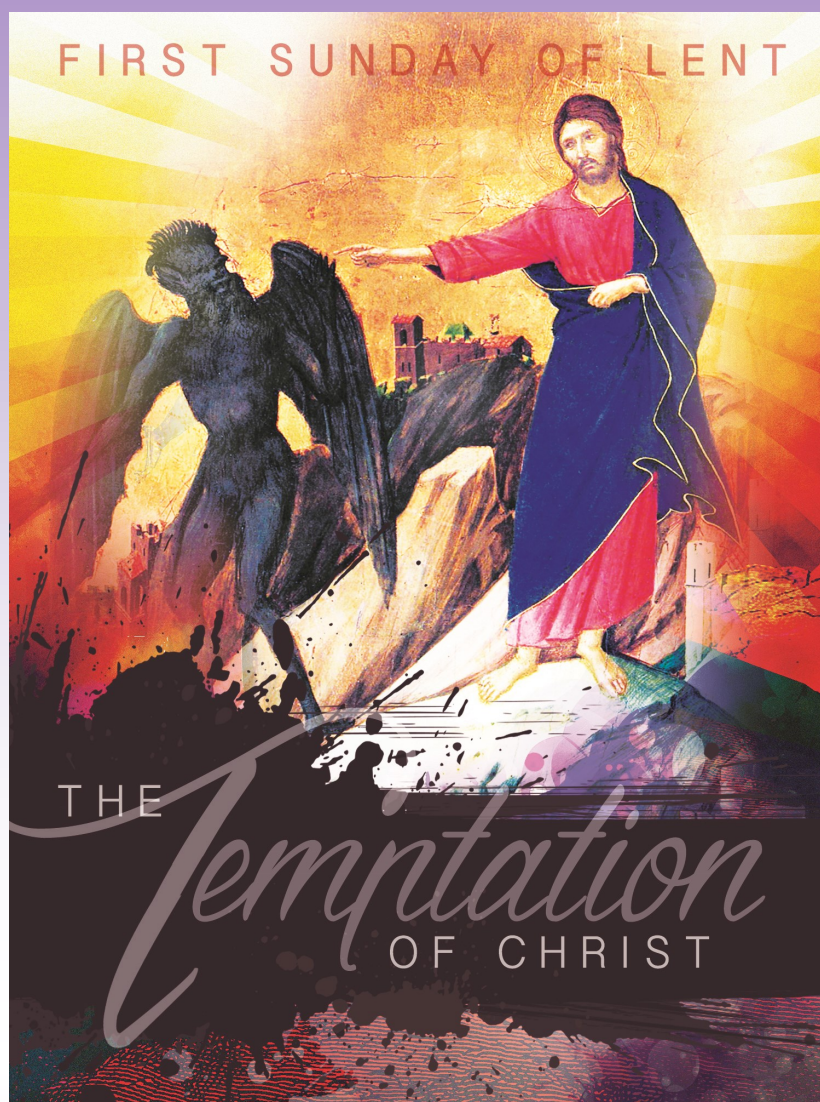
Dorothy Anibas' Birthday: 2/27



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**

**FEBRUARY 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)

## TEMPTATIONS, INEVITABLE AND REAL

Friends, the Lenten season has dawned on us a new. We are grateful to God for this season of grace which allows us to make good our defects and reinforce our goodness. We are happy to embrace that great season of grace that invites us to renew our resolve to be at rights with God, with the neighbor, and with the self. We are happy to welcome that season of grace which invites us to master the self, conquer our pride, subdue the flesh, practice kindness, increase our call on God for his mercy, and build on our prayer and spiritual lives. We gladly hold on to the time of preparation to celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church bids to us reflect on the Temptations of Jesus. In the Gospel of Mark, the details of the episode are lost to us. St. Mark, in his rough and ready style simply states, "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan."

Though St. Mark does not elaborate on the story as the other Evangelists do, we know from the chronology of events from the life of Christ that when Jesus was tempted, he had just been baptized; that he had just been led by the Spirit; that he had fasted for 40 days and was hungry and weak; that he was alone amidst the harshest desert weather conditions.

One thing is certain to me as I read the episode of Jesus' temptations. And it is this, that Temptations are like death, they are inevitable. They are bound to happen. If Jesus was not exempt from temptations, neither shall we be. Every human person of age is likely one way or the other to encounter one temptation or the other. Nevertheless, since every cloud has a silver lining, temptations can be useful. In our temptations, we become more like Jesus when we face and defeat them. They invite us to reach out to Jesus and trust him so he can strengthen our resolve and teach us holiness. Our temptations are thus occasions for learning. We learn patience when we resist the urge to throw a temper tantrum; we learn to love as we struggle to love the unlovely; we become humble when we swallow our pride. In effect, temptations are growth opportunities, not for failure.

Incidentally, Jesus' temptations came in the desert, where he was feeling hot, hungry, tired, and was alone. The desert is a place of vulnerability, where one could easily fall prey to temptation. Being in a hot situation, hungry, tired and lonely could be our own desert moments. Let us, therefore, be on guard, especially in times of grave vulnerability. The father who cannot make ends meet but still needs to cough some money to pay his mortgage to prevent any foreclosure, the single but jobless mother, who doesn't know where her family's next meal would come from, the young graduate who scouts for a job for years to no avail, the poor daughter who needs to raise a huge amount to save her ailing mother from dying. All such people are on the verge of temptations. The danger is to lower one's standards and values and fall for anything whatsoever to satisfy a genuine need. The question however remains if the end justifies the means. In our times of weakness, may the grace of God remove the scales from our eyes and enables us to sift the good from the apparent good and choose his will rather than sin to separate ourselves from him.

One temptation we face in life is to become impatient with ourselves when we fail to resist temptation. With our pride wounded, we lose our patience with the self to the extent of forgetting and appreciating the love and mercy of God. We get discouraged and fail to try again or give ourselves a fighting chance. Many a time, we give up on ourselves because we yielded to a certain temptation. Yet, St. Thomas Aquinas assures us: "Christ wished to be tempted to fill us with confidence in his mercy." His mercy is boundless and his graces abound even when we have willfully fallen to temptations' snares.

This week, therefore I will identify at least one sin to which I'm often tempted: Gossip? Inappropriate speech? Misplaced or exaggerated anger? Holding a grudge? Unforgiveness? Overindulgence in food or alcohol? Lust of the flesh? Lust of the eyes? Boastful pride? Impure thoughts? Bribery and corruption? Licentiousness?

When I find myself being tempted, I will pause and pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." Beyond all that, my firm resolve is not to yield to any temptation that comes my way, just for today and take it one day at a time.

My Jesus, I don't know when, where, and how my own temptations might come, but when they do, please be my security as you enable me to find consolation and escape in your Word.

Have a fruitful Lenten Season  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

## 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 Akesehe

Please sign up for your hour of devotion at  
the handicapped entrance of the Church.

## New Leader of Prayer Class Begins in July 2021

Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in care facilities or jails); and by leading parishioners in prayer at other times. Applicants must have completed the Lay Formation Institute and be sponsored by their pastor. For more information and to apply, visit [diolc.org/ministries](http://diolc.org/ministries) and click on "Leader of Prayer."

## 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.



## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

- **No Mass**
- Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

### Tuesday: February 23 - St. Polycarp

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Oliver & Marie Helmueller
- Readings: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday: February 24

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Doug Matzek
- Readings: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday: February 25

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Loren Glaus & Shelly Glaus Lehman
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

### Friday: February 26

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Lawrence Bechel
- Readings: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday: February 27

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Ollie Caturia
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Douglas Brunner
- Readings: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

### Sunday: February 28 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Carl, Agnes & Raymond Berger
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**The Rosary is prayed before Mass**



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

### 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 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 six is The Thirst of Christ. 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.



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

### Karnival Committee Meeting

The Karnival Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Rectory.

### Sacred Worship Committee Meeting

The next Sacred Worship Committee meeting will be on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 a.m. Mass in the back of the Church.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

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

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., February 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sun., February 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Ramona Schneider

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., February 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sun., February 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Ann Bechel

### Music

Sun., February 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger &  
Gwen Glaus  
Sun., February 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Beth Pattison & Crystal Books

### Rosary

Sun., February 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Volunteer Needed  
Sun., February 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Holy Name Society

### Servers

Sun., February 28, 8:00 a.m.  
Gary Lecheler  
Sun., February 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Bristol & Cooper Books

### Usher

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



## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (54).....	\$	3,589.00
Offertory.....	\$	105.00
Building Repair (1).....	\$	100.00
Votives.....	\$	310.51
Utilities (1).....	\$	100.00
Memorial (1).....	\$	1,000.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,204.51</b>



**LENT**

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we should:

- Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
- Fast from anger; feast on patience.
- Fast from worry; feast on Divine order.
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
- Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

## TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

**Week 13** - Have I revisited my wedding vows lately? The promises that I said I would keep until death?

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

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

### Music

Sat., February 27, 4:00 p.m.  
Paul & Char Fetzner

### Extraordinary Minister

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

Thank You. 

## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (24).....	\$	1875.00
Offertory.....	\$	76.00
Fuel (4).....	\$	145.00
Memorial (1).....	\$	75.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,171.00</b>

## 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.



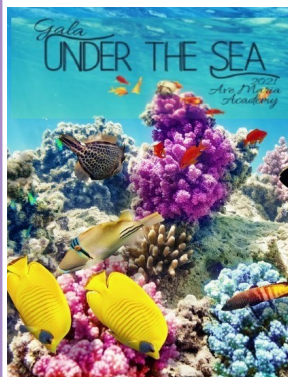
## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Sabylund Lutheran Church Women invite you to join us **virtually** for the World Day of Prayer, **Friday March 5, 2021**.

This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu call us to worship with the words "Build on a strong foundation," inspired by Matthew 7:24-27. We are invited to learn about Vanuatu's history and rich culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love.

This program will be streamed live on Sabylund's Facebook page. A Facebook account is not needed to view the program.

## Ave Maria Academy Gala Under the Sea 2021



This year, our Gala will be held virtually. We will have an online auction beginning February 25<sup>th</sup> and ending March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m..

The link to the auction is:  
[www.32auctions.com/AveMariaAcademy](http://www.32auctions.com/AveMariaAcademy), which can also be found on our website (AveMariaAcademyPC.org).

For updated information about the Gala, Ave Maria Academy News, and pictures of our students sure to make you smile, follow us on Facebook (Ave Maria Academy PC).

## WE FOLLOW JESUS IN LENT

### ABOUT THE GOSPEL

In this Gospel, we are told, "the Spirit drove (Jesus) into the desert" so He could pray, and "the angels ministered to Him." The Holy Spirit always moves us in ways that are good for us.

### IN CHURCH

Look around the Church for symbols of the Holy Spirit (dove, wind, fire).

### FAMILY PRAYER

Holy Spirit, help us to make good choices that are pleasing to God. Amen.



How does the Holy Spirit help you to live as a follower of Jesus?



We are blessed to have celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in welcoming Michael Caden Daleiden, son of Michael and Stephanie, into our Parish family.



Please join us in congratulating Catherine Gonzalez, who received First Communion on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Catherine and Mario also had their marriage convalidated last Sunday.