

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

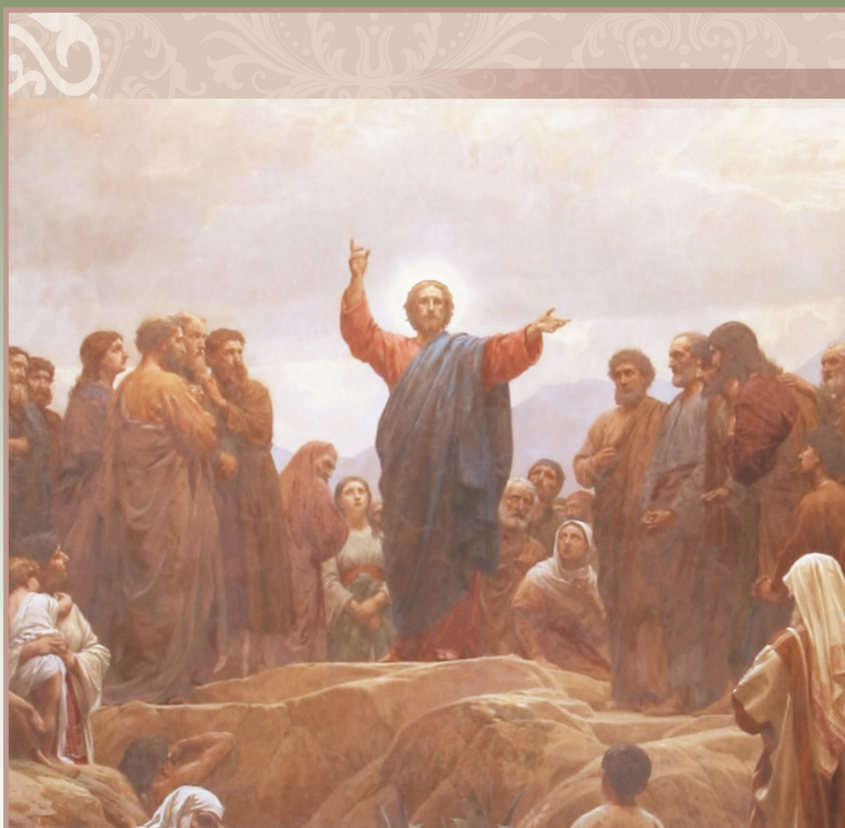
Mary Helmueller's Birthday: 2/23

*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 24, 2019 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



"But to you who hear I say, love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you."

- Luke 6:27-28

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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

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Bulletin Announcements

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Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon

LOVING THE ENEMY - A CALL TO MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

Peter Cardinal Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, once told the story of Sr. Genevive, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. With her family exterminated right in their Church, Sister was left at the end of the war with nothing but devastation, trauma, and hatred, which she harbored and nurtured until a life changing event occurred in her life. One day, as she was making one of her prison visits, she was accosted by an inmate, who fell on his knees before her and begged profusely for forgiveness. He was her family's murderer. Immediately, Sr. Genevive, who was invaded by a feeling of pity, took the prisoner by the hand and lifted him up to his feet. She warmly embraced him and with tears rolling down her cheeks said, "You are my brother and always will be." Then followed a feel of a huge weight lifted off sister's heart. Feeling a flowing inner peace and calm, she thanked the man she was embracing, perhaps for helping her deal with a lingering lasting pain which could have eaten her up to total destruction. To her amazement, the prisoner in turn said, "Justice can do its work and condemn me to death, for now I am free." (see "Joy does not take away from solemnity of forgiveness").

John Crowley also tells the story of an Armenian nurse who was captured with her brother by the Turks. Before her very eyes, a Turkish soldier shot and killed her brother. Eventually she managed an escape and later got employed in a military hospital as a nurse. One day a badly wounded captive was brought to her unit for medical attention. Unbelievably, he was the same soldier who had shot her brother dead. Immediately, a voice within her thundered, "Vengeance!" However, a stronger voice silently but, yet strongly called on her to let love conquer hate. When she nursed the soldier back to health, the soldier asked her why she did not let him die. Her answer? "I follow Him who said, 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you'" (Luke 6:27). Impressed, the soldier told her that he had never heard such words before and that if she told him more, he would embrace her kind of religion.

Dear friends, stories such as these abound; and I believe many of us have either made similar encounters in life or can relate to such stories. The philosophy of reciprocity is rife in our world today. In some cultural communities, it is so prominent that in the event certain ills against a neighbor the entire community would stand behind the offended and ensure that similar evil is meted out to the perpetrator. If for instance a neighbor took an action which damaged my eye, the community could arrest the offender and ask the offended to pluck his eye, too. It is not uncommon to hear the cry of retribution yelled from various quarters of society. The mass media and the social media have all become instruments for clamoring equalization in the face of some wrong doing. The *lex talionis*, which calls for eye for eye and tooth for tooth rears its head in various fashions in society. It manifests itself in mob justice, capital punishment, tribal conflicts, political witch-hunting, and sibling rivalries. We normally treat others the way they treat us. It is the order of the day to try to get even with those who have done us some wrong or harm. On the other hand, if they are in a position to benefit us, we do the utmost to curry their favor. Thus, the principle of loving one's enemies and treating them and one's benefactors equally well is counterintuitive.

The truth, however, is that social relationships always leave us with people who have sinned, those who have been sinned against, those who are struggling to forgive and those who have forgiven. God allows these varieties of people in society for a reason. The presence of offenders and the offended, the wicked and the good on the social plane is not just to breed, foster, and promote enmity. Rather it is a coexistence destined for good. St. Augustine strikes the chord when he asks us never to think that the wicked are in this world for nothing. Neither should we think that God does nothing with them. The wicked, Augustine believes, lives either to amend his own life or to to exercise the good person in virtue. Thus, though the wicked continue to persecute us, they need not be hated. They should rather be loved and their wickedness be returned with charity. For we do not know whether they will persevere in their wickedness to the end (Augustine's commentary on Psalm 54). Showering love on the wicked could transform them from their wicked ways and live. Many a time, we end up hating a brother or a sister when we seriously indulge in hatred for an enemy. Much as the wicked may afford the good the opportunity to practice virtue, amass merit and deepen their relationship with God, the good, on their part, by their example of patience and kindness may afford the wicked the occasion for conversion.

The way to go in the face of conflicts and hurts therefore, is not to pay back hurt with hurt, but to return good for evil. Much as it may cost us, ours is to strive to pray for the conversion of our enemies rather than wish them ill. Ours is to seize the God-given opportunities that come our way to respond to their needs by doing something positively to alleviate their need. Our patient endurance of their faults and weaknesses could contribute to the peace of the environment in which we live and work. It could also revive our drooping spirits and well up peace within us. As much as we can, let us flee from holding and nurturing grudges. Rather, let us seek to be reconciled as soon as differences arise. May the sun never set on our anger. Let us pray for the love of the God, whose mercy covers both the good and the wicked equally, to fill us constantly and enable to transcend love as the world knows it, to embrace the brother and the sister in those who prove themselves enemies to us. God has shown us the way. He pardons all our iniquities, heals all our ills. He redeems our life from destruction, crowns us with kindness and compassion (Psalm 103). We are called to follow in his steps. It is not an easy path to tread. However, it is not impossible to accomplish. We can choose to love our enemies. May God be our help.

Have a pleasant week
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets again this Friday, March 1st 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 2nd Day – Religious Turmoil. 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!



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

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

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



MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: February 25

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/See 2 Tm 1:10/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: February 26

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - For Fallen Away Family Members
- Followed by Communion for the sick and homebound
- Readings: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Gal 6:14/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: February 27

- Adoration: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m., St. Joseph
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph - † Timothy Helmueller
- Readings: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Jn 14:6/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: February 28

- Adoration: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Lucille & Ray Budewitz
- Mass: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center
- Readings: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/See 1 Thes 2:13/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: March 1

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Carl, Agnes, & Raymond Bereger
- Followed by confessions and Holy Hour until 10:00 a.m.
- Readings: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/See Jn 17:17b, 17a/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: March 2 - Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Doug Brunner
- Readings: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/See Mt 11:25/Mk 10:13-16

Sunday: March 3 - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Souls in Purgatory
- Readings: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16/1 Cor 15:54-58/Phil 2:15d, 16a/Lk 6:39-45

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

Carnival Committee Meeting

The next Carnival Committee meeting will be Monday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School basement.

Pastoral Council Meeting - Rescheduled

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 26th. The council will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory. We will have a potluck supper with the meeting to follow.

On-line Giving

In the coming weeks the Finance Council will be exploring the concept of online giving and automated tithing options for our parishioners. We welcome any thoughts, opinions, and comments on this technology. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

OUR WEEK: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Money Counting

Monday, February 25, 9:30 a.m.
Pat Pittman, Verna Weiss,
& Teresa Fedie

Announcements

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Dianne Lecheler
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Todd Glaus
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Denise Pelzel

Gift Bearers

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Betsy Fetzer, Marie Berger,
& Joyce Berger
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Brian & Crystal Books Family

Lector

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Monica Krings
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Ryan Trannel

Music

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Musicians: Bob & JoAnn Larson
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Organist: Arleen Ebensperger
Cantor: Jeff Bergmann

Rosary Leader

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Peggy Gilles
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Connie Ahlers

Sacristan

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Gwen Glaus
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Aletha Pullen

Servers

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Colton Coss
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
The Bergmann Family

Usher

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.
Pete Helmueller & John Krings
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.
Ethan Holmstadt & Steve King

FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday, February 17th, 2019

Adult Envelopes (35).....	\$	3330.00
Capital Improvements (1).....	\$	50.00
Offertory.....	\$	292.00
Total Income.....	\$	3672.00

HURLBURT HEATING & PLUMBING GIVE-BACK PROGRAM



St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph Parishes are enrolled in Hurlburt Heating and Plumbing's Give-Back Program. Hurlburt will donate 3% of the service/install to the Parish, if the work is performed at residential, owner-occupied, or Church properties. Parishioners must mention this program when the service/install appointment is scheduled.

OUR WEEK: ST. JOSEPH

Money Counting

Monday, February 25, 8:30 a.m.
Betty Lauer, Dawn Lauer,
& Madalyn Fleishauer

Announcements

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Carol Konsela

Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Howard Martin

Gift Bearers

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Madalyn Fleishauer & Dawn Lauer

Lector

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Terry Pelzel

Music

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Organ: Annie Hansen
Cantor: Sara Hansen

Rosary

Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m.
Joyce & Betty Lauer



FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, February 16th, 2019

Adult Envelopes (26).....	\$	555.00
Fuel Fund (1).....	\$	10.00
Offertory.....	\$	133.25
Total Income.....	\$	698.25

Safe Haven Sunday Prayer

Loving Father, Thank you for the gift of marriage and family life. We entrust to you our home, where our marriage and family lives and grows. We ask you to make it a safe haven for all who live and enter these walls. May our home truly be a holy place for both young and old to be formed in the truth regarding life, love, sex, and marriage. May each of our members be protected from and guided in seeking to avoid pornography, while embracing the freedom and purity of life in Christ.

If there are past wounds that have occurred due to the availability of pornography on our family's devices, lack of awareness of parents, or because of indifference, we ask you to send forth your Spirit to heal, bless, renew, and consecrate this home as a safe haven with your son Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, today, tomorrow, and always.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Saints Joachim and Anne, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.



SPECIAL EVENTS

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is March 1, 2019 at 1:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA, 1032 Prissel Street, Durand. Slovenia, one of the smallest and newest countries in Europe will be featured. The theme based on Jesus' parable is "Come-Everything is Ready".

Plum City Lion's Club Chicken Dinner

Plum City's Lions Club will be hosting a Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Thursday March 7th at the Rod & Gun Club in Durand from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and are available through JM Watkins, LLC (715-647-2554) and Plum City Hardware (715-647-2713). Takeouts are available. A portion of the proceeds will benefit scholarships for graduating Plum City High School Seniors.



Plum City Community Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive at the American Legion Hall in Plum City on Monday, March 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call Verna at 715-285-5884 or Pat at 715-647-4952 to schedule an appointment.

ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus wants us to understand that we must turn from bad things and practice doing good things. Our deeds are our fruit! God is the gardener who gives us more time to turn back to Him and increase our good deeds of

IN CHURCH

Notice the wine brought forward during the Presentation of the Gifts. Consider the good fruit that went into making it. Ask God to help your actions also reflect His goodness.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can you bear good fruit with your life?

FAMILY PRAYER

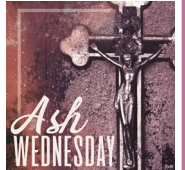
Lord, increase your love in us so that we may increase the fruits of your love.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

On Wednesday, March 6th, Mass will be celebrated at the following times and locations:

- 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Arkansas
- 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center
- 7:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Plum City



The Mad Hatter's Gala 2019 Tea
Ave Maria Academy

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Social 5 p.m. - Buffet Dinner 6 p.m.
Silent & Live Auction

MOLLY'S on MAIN
Plum City, WI
Wine Tasting, Appetizers,
Salad & Rolls,
Buffet Dinner, and
Scrumptious Desserts!

\$30 per person
For Tickets Contact
Ave Maria Academy
715-647-4630

AVE MARIA ACADEMY NEWS

Grandparents Day - Rescheduled

Grandparents Day at the Ave Maria Academy will be on Tuesday, February 26th. We will celebrate the Mass and have a short program after Mass. All Grandparents are welcome to join us.



CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

We are blessed to have celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in February. Chesnee Jale Peskar, daughter of Bryan and Gabrielle, was Baptized on February 17th, 2019. Please join us in welcoming Chesnee into our Parish family.

