

## 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

Randy Holmstadt's Birthday: 2/13



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 7, 2021**



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

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

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

**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**



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(The Parishes of St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph)

## IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING

Dear friends in Christ, I am wondering this week if there is anyone under the sun who has never suffered one form of calamity or the other in life. Suffering seems to be part and parcel of human life. It looks so intrinsically part of our life that some people easily entertain the belief that mankind is born to suffer.

Our liturgy this Sunday introduces us to aspects of the suffering of the righteous man Job. As the story portrays, Job was well off. All was well with him. He had it all - wealth, a large family, and abundant blessings unimaginable. He had three daughters and seven sons. In his estate were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yokes of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and a great number of servants (Job 1:2-3). He was indeed the greatest among the people of the East, master of all he surveyed. Satan threw God a challenge to suggest that Job's righteousness was on account of God's hedge around him, his household, and all his property. Bragging about Job's blamelessness, his uprightness, and his fear of God, God permitted Satan to test Job's disinterested fidelity to God. God thereby set out to prove Job's faith in red burning hot coals.

The proof was indeed excruciating. In a twinkling of an eye, Job lost everything: his wealth and health, his daughters and sons. All his friends abandoned him. The best they could do was to suspect and accuse him of some wrongdoing. Even little children would have nothing to do with him. His pain was past physical; his pain was mental; his pain was emotional. When he felt the pinch of pain he likened his situation to that of a man consigned to hard labor, a slave yearning for sunset as the scorching sun burns him hard, a laborer looking forward to his wages. He described his days as empty and his nights as misery. His nights were long and sleepless. He counted his life as mere breath and feared he would never see good again (see Ch. 7). Despite all his pain, it is remarkable to say that Job never lost his faith in God neither was he embittered. He is famous to have said "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong (Job 1: 20-22).

A story is told of a "differently able" boy who was sent to school to join his classmates. Apart from being handsome, he was so brilliant that no one could beat him in class. Think of a student who would make almost all A's in class and there was none to match up to him. Besides, he always wore such a charming smile that he endeared himself to all. His colleagues would always look out for him and yearn to be in his company. They simply loved him and did all they could to make him comfortable. Yet, he who was an all-rounder in class, loved by all, remained in some silent pain and was perpetually in prostheses and crutches - he could hardly stand still, let alone walk or do any sports. All the while, none of his friends dared to ask what put him into that situation, until a day when his closest pal gathered the courage to ask him what went wrong. He quickly answered, "Land mine". Another friend, horrified at his response retorted, "With all the difficulties and pains, how do you keep from becoming bitter?" With a usual broad smile, he tapped his chest and replied, "The mischievous act of the enemy never touched my heart."

Dear friends, like this child with disabilities, Job suffered tremendously. His suffering should have naturally led to his bitterness. Yet far from being bitter and spewing venom, far from cursing God, he blessed Him. He never gave in to bitterness, neither did he play the blame game. He did not fall into self-pity, neither did he rebel. His pain never touched his heart.

Like Job, we sometimes suffer pain too: emotional, spiritual mental, and physical pain. Yet our pain, no matter what, must not be an occasion to curse God, neither should it be a cause for bitterness. God has a reason for allowing us some pain. We might walk on hot coals, we might land in the crucible, yet if we yield to him, we would realize that the bruises of life are meant to prove our fidelity and our worth in God; that the bruises of life are meant to polish, purge, and transform us into God's image. The prophet Isaiah once said "Lo it was for my welfare that I knew great bitterness." (38:17). Pain is never liked by anyone. No one calls it on themselves. That notwithstanding, when it arrives, we need to allow it to renew us and set our feet into the way of peace. In times of grave pain and excruciating suffering, remember that when you suffer and feel the heat of the flames, that is when God is there. He watches carefully until he can see his own image in you. God will never leave you in the flames too long (see Irma Joubert, *Girl from the Train*), neither will he keep you there for nothing.

Have a blessed week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

## 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 Akesseh



### 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2020 Contribution statements for both Parishes are in the mail.  
Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or concerns.



**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

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 Leiffring 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 8 - St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Josephine Bakhita

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56

### Tuesday: February 9

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Marcella Bechel
- Readings: Gn 1:20-2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13

### Wednesday: February 10 - St. Scholastica

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Dale Gilles
- Readings: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23

### Thursday: February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Marie T. Glaus
- Readings: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30

### Friday: February 12

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Jim Glaus
- Readings: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37

### Saturday: February 13 - Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Ollie Caturia
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Tom Drier
- Readings: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10

### Sunday: February 14 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 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 - † Bill, Scott, & Kay Van
- Readings: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**The Rosary is prayed before Mass**

## 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.

## 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

### Money Counting

Wed., February 10, 9:00 a.m.  
Denise Pelzel, Verna Weiss,  
& Steve King

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Todd Glaus  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Steve Carlson

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Denise Pelzel

### Music

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger &  
Gwen Glaus  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger &  
Steve Carlson

### Rosary

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Volunteer Needed  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Servers

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Parker Bechel  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Gavin & Carolyn Trannel

### Usher

Sun., February 14, 8:00 a.m.  
Pete Helmueller & Chad Steele  
Sun., February 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Terry Pelzel & Steve King



## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST January 14<sup>th</sup> through January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (61).....	\$	9,112.00
Offertory.....	\$	173.00
Utilities (3).....	\$	85.00
Retirement for Religious (1).....	\$	50.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,420.00</b>

## 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 12<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 four is Paternal Expectations. 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!



## TO THE MARRIED - AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE Week 11 - Is God the common denominator in our marriage?

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., February 13, 4:00 p.m.  
Terry Pelzel

### Music

Sat., February 13, 4:00 p.m.  
Beth Pattison

### Extraordinary Minister

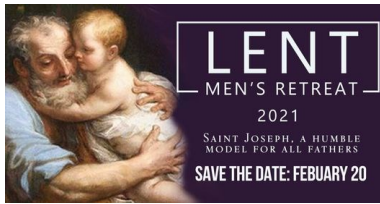
Sat., February 13, 4:00 p.m.  
Jeff Brunner

Thank You. 

## FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

January 14<sup>th</sup> through January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adult Envelopes (19).....	\$	715.00
Offertory.....	\$	94.00
Fuel (1).....	\$	10.00
Mission Co-op (1).....	\$	100.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>919.00</b>



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. More information is coming soon.

## 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).

## WISCONSIN BISHOPS ISSUE STATEMENT ON MORALITY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

There are three COVID-19 vaccines that are available (currently only for the most vulnerable populations), or likely to be available in the coming months. They are from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine, but they did use a morally compromised line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) for confirmatory testing. The AstraZeneca vaccine used that cell line in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be preferred. But the US Bishops Conference has recently stated that all three are morally permissible because of the remoteness of the material cooperation in the evil of abortion. Catholic moral theology has always made a distinction between formal and material cooperation in an act which is morally compromised. Formal cooperation with a moral evil such as abortion is always sinful. An example of this kind of cooperation might be the doctor or nurse who directly assists with, and intends, the abortion itself. Material cooperation can be different in that it does not intend the evil act and is often more distant or remote from the act itself. To read the Bishops' full assessment of the vaccines and for a document answering "Frequently Asked Questions," visit [diolc.org/respect-life](http://diolc.org/respect-life) and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines - Ethics."

## JESUS HEALS

### ABOUT THE GOSPEL



In Galilee, Jesus cured the sick and drove evil from the town. Everyone wanted to meet Jesus and see Him heal people. The Gospel also reminds us that Jesus took time to pray so He could carry out His healing ministry.

### IN CHURCH

When the Prayer of the Faithful is read, listen carefully for the names of people who are sick and pray specifically for them.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, help us to do your work of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and comforting others. Amen.



How do you feel when you see people who are sick or struggling?



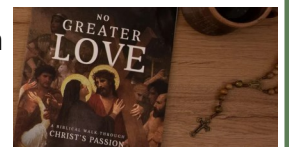
Please join us in congratulating Bella Smith, who received First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.



Virginia White was presented with a statue of the Blessed Virgin for her 75 years of membership in Catholic Financial Life.

## 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.