



**Pastor: Reverend Junabe "Jojo" V. Villapaz**

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**

Shirley Klein's Birthday: 7/6  
 Mackenzie Wieser's Birthday: 7/6  
 Herb Tschumperlin's Birthday: 7/6  
 Pete & Jackie Unser's 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary: 7/7  
 Dominic Holmstadt's Birthday: 7/10

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

**JULY 4, 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)

## THE EMPTY VICE

A story is told of Marathon, an illustrious son of an ancient little town who was honored with a statue at the town square on account of his many feats as an athlete. All the townspeople held Marathon in high esteem. The women in town composed songs in his honor, while the children looked up to him as their model. The men discussed him at their social gatherings and all desired someday to do something equally great to lift the image of their insignificant little town. All this aroused the envy of Amicus, a very good friend of Marathon and a fellow athlete. As Marathon would dedicate his successes to Amicus, who trained and exercised daily with him, Amicus was rather unhappy that all the honors went to Marathon whom he virtually brought to success. His unhappiness graduated into bitterness and his bitterness grew by the day into a strong desire to murder his friend.

One night when it was all dark and everyone was asleep, Amicus sneaked into the town square and attempted at vandalizing Marathon's monument. He singlehandedly moved the heavy statue some few inches off its pedestal. As the statue rocked momentarily on its base, it toppled over and fell on Amicus who was crushed to his death.

Dear friends, we see in this story, a vice that worms its way into many human hearts. It is a vice as old as Adam. It is the vice that brought death into being. God did not create death, neither is he desirous of the destruction of the living. Yet by the power of this vice, death entered the world (see Wisdom 1:13-15 & 2:23-24). From the blaze of its flames, Cain killed his brother Abel. It is the same vice that brought about the trials of Job. Out of its power, Satan asked God's permission to put Job to the test. Call it envy and you will not be mistaken. This vice rears its head in this Sunday's Gospel when Jesus visits his hometown. His own folks, unhappy for the honors and praises he received on the account of his words and deeds, called him names, saying, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. They would not listen to Him, neither would they believe in him nor follow him. Consequently, Jesus could do no mighty works there.

Envy and jealousy are twins. Whiles envy refers to things others have, jealousy refers to affection and the attention others receive. Many a family and many societies have been broken down because of these vices. Many innocent people have been maligned and their reputations dented out of envy and jealousy. Sometimes we are unhappy because someone else is better looking, more popular, is richer, has a better home, and perhaps a better car. Other times we are disaffected because another person is given recognition and honor. A mere wish to have what another person has is not in itself envy. America and Europe for instance are great national communities. It will not be envious if many other developing countries spot their greatness and aspire to be like them. It turns into envy when the lack of what the world's powers have become an occasion for unhappiness, dissatisfaction, and misery in the developing world. God knew this too well when he commanded, "Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife" and "Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's property." When we covet, we want the wrong way, and wanting the wrong way is the source of strife in many societies. Wanting another person's wife or husband the wrong way has, for instance, been the root of many fractures in family life and marriages today. The bane of corruption and violent robberies in many circles is all because people are unsatisfied with their lot. They desire what others have and because they don't have it, they kill and loot. Imagine the misery and the heartbreaks that envy has brought into our world. Many a crime today is perpetrated because of envy. The poor envy the rich, the rich envy the poor, and envy presents itself as a senseless and empty vice. Msgr. Tonne once opined that the greatest evil envy ever committed was putting to death the most beloved Person of all time, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thus envy could easily lead us to put God to death in our lives. Our Gospel reading reminds us how, blinded by envy, Jesus' own people did not only fail to follow him but also insulted him and forfeited their opportunity to witness his mighty deeds. By their envy, they shot themselves in the foot.

Dear friends, envy is not far from us. It is lurking at our doors. When another has a gift, some gain, some success, some honor, it could easily trigger envy with us. However, we would do ourselves a good service if we owned their gains and be thankful to God for their sake, remembering that all the five fingers are not equal. On the other hand, if another is lacking in something, far from cultivating a sense of mockery in ourselves and looking down on them, let us see in their lack our own lack and be gracious to them, lifting a finger to support them and commending them to God. When envied, let us have the courage to imitate Jesus, who prayed for his enemies from the cross, and pray God to enable the envious to overcome their weakness.

Certainly, there is no satisfaction in envy, neither is there any fruit in jealousy. They are empty vices that rob us of our brighter opportunities to be the best we can be. They close the doors of grace into our lives and plant strife into our relationships. May we not be affected by their venom. As Christ himself suffered greatly at the hands of the envious, let us pray to Him to help us overcome this limitation in ourselves and others.

Have a happy independence day a pleasant week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey



## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: July 5 - St. Anthony Zaccaria & St. Elizabeth of Portugal

#### • No Mass

- Readings: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab [cf. 2b]/Mt 9:18-26

### Tuesday: July 6 - St. Maria Goretti

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Marcella Bechel
- Readings: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b & 15 [15a]/Mt 9:32-38

### Wednesday: July 7

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Lyle & Betty Gilles
- Readings: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 [22]/Mt 10:1-7

### Thursday: July 8

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Loren Glaus
- Readings: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 10:7-15

### Friday: July 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Living & Deceased Members of the Wayne & Dolores Hartung Family
- Readings: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Mt 10:16-23

### Saturday: July 10 - Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Jane Pittman
- Readings: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7 [cf. Ps 69:33]/Mt 10:24-33

### Sunday: July 11 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Jack & Richard Hei
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 / Mk 6:7-13

The Rosary is prayed before Mass

## POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

July: Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

Wed., July 14, 9:00 a.m.  
Pat Pittman, Teresa Fedie,  
& Verna Weiss

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Dianne Lecheler  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Ann Bechel

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Marie Berger  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Linda Chilson

### Music

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Bob & JoAnn Larson  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger &  
Jeff Bergmann

### Rosary

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Holy Name Society

### Sacristan

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Gwen Glaus  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Servers

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Grace Hinrichs  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
The Bergmann Family

### Usher

Sun., July 11, 8:00 a.m.  
Pete Helmueller & Chad Steele  
Sun., July 11, 10:15 a.m.  
Terry Pelzel & Steve King

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Basement. There will a light meal after the meeting. Prior to the meeting the Knights will gather in the School Basement at 6:30 p.m. to pray the rosary. All are welcome to join the Knights in praying the rosary.



It is time to renew advertisements for our Parish Bulletin. We would, therefore, like to thank all individuals and local businesses who patronize it.



Last year, some of the parishioners at St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph's came together to publish the Pro-Life advertisement. We would like to include this advertisement in this year's bulletin, too. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Pelzel (715-495-4883) or the Parish Office (715-647-2901). Please place your donation in a separate envelope and place in the collection basket or bring it to the Parish Office. Please make checks payable to LPI.



## BIG BOY STRAWBERRY PIE

### DIRECTIONS

- Combine water, cornstarch, and sugar in a medium sauce pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add jello and stir until dissolved.
- Add strawberries; stir to combine. Pour into pie shell and cool completely. Serve with cool whip.

With Love from the Kitchen of **Blake Sam**

*"Substitute strawberries/strawberry jello for other fruits such as raspberries, tart cherries, or peaches. You may have to add extra sugar for the cherries."*

### INGREDIENTS

- 1-10" prebaked pie shell
- 4 mounded cups sliced strawberries
- 1½ cups water
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ¾ cups sugar
- 1-3 oz. package strawberry jello

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., July 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Terry Pelzel

### Extraordinary Minister

Sat., July 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Dale Klein

### Music

Sat., July 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Beth Pattison

### Rosary

Sat., July 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Madalyn Fleishauer or  
Joyce Haigh

## MISSION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM 2021

### Thank you

Fr. Sajan Srambicckal V.C., and all the Vincentian Missionaries thank you for your prayers and generous mission offering last weekend. Your offerings will help them to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities in their missions and will help them for relief of deadly Covid 19 outbreak in India. If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering or would like to make an additional offering you may make your offering through the general parish collection in a specially marked envelope. Thank you very much for your generous support. The Vincentian Missionaries keep you and our parish in their prayers and Masses.



## DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or [intakeagent@diolc.org](mailto:intakeagent@diolc.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: [diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting](http://diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting). **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or [tbrown@diolc.org](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).

## 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).



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Mound is hosting their annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.. Serving BBQ Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Pie, Ice Cream, and beverages. Silent Auction and Grocery Raffle, too! Come, relax, and feed the family!



Ice Cream Social

## PLUM CITY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall (132 Pine Street) in Plum City. Please enter in the back. Please call or email Pat Coulson to schedule an appointment (715-647-4952 or 507-993-9218, [patcoulson@gmail.com](mailto:patcoulson@gmail.com)).



**American  
Red Cross**

## A great way for Father Joe to stay connected with us!

Father Joe has a Nixplay smart digital picture frame that you can send pictures to easily. Share events in your life with Father Joe. Simply email pictures to: [jokineq@mynixplay.com](mailto:jokineq@mynixplay.com)



## LIKE AN OCEAN

### BY REV. FR. JOSEPH OKINE-QUARTEY Coming Soon

This book is a collection of reflections meant to accompany the lectionary of the Mass. It aims at giving little insights to priests and laity as they prepare to participate actively and consciously in the celebration of the liturgy. It is a good resource material to enhance personal meditations on aspects of the Gospels. As it tries to answer the "So what?" question of scripture reading, it makes available various lines of thought to facilitate the duty of every homilist.

