

## 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 Leiffing, Linda Leiffing, 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

Todd Glaus's Birthday: 3/14

Mary Matzek's Birthday: 3/15

Catherine Steele's Birthday: 3/16

Cora Hinrichs's Birthday: 3/17

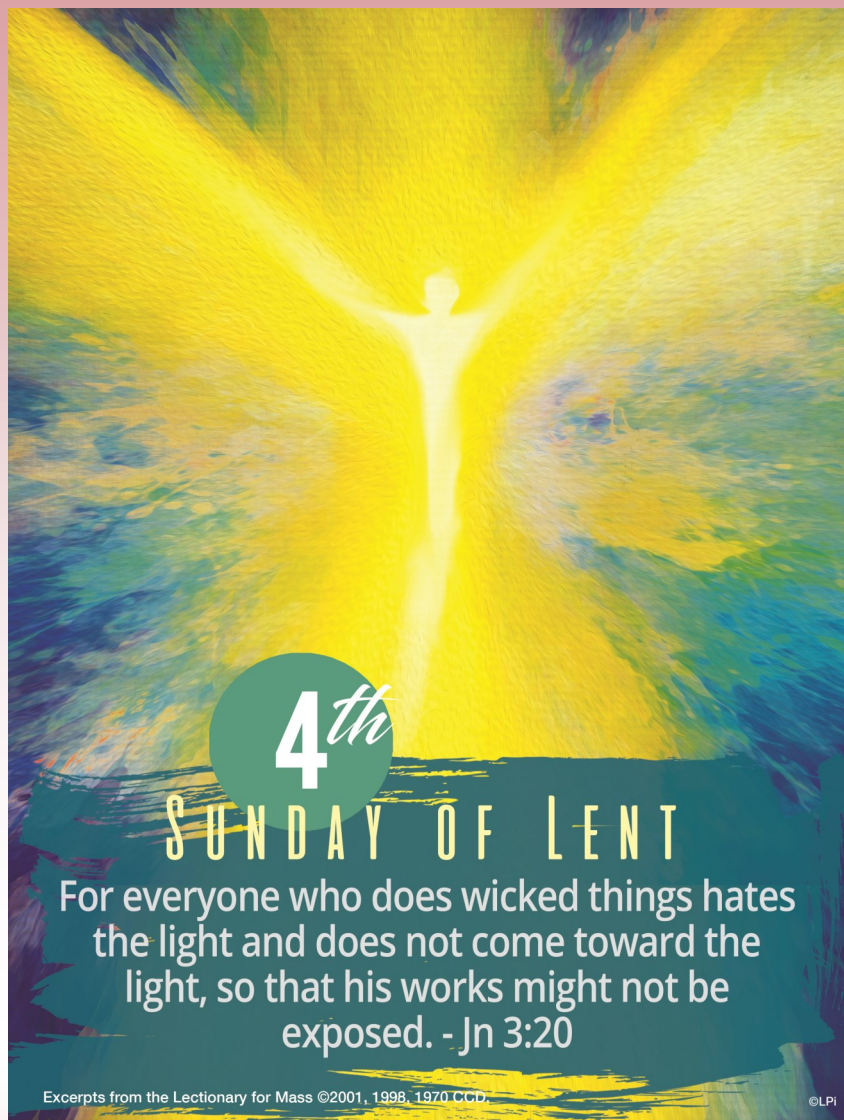
John Ryan's Birthday: 3/19

Connor Hinrichs's Birthday: 3/20



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

**MARCH 14, 2021**



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

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**St. Joseph Catholic Church**

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**Bulletin Announcements**

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**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**



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

## SAINTS AND SINNERS

Beloved in Christ, this is the fourth Sunday of Lent. At this time, we all are glad to see the Lenten season diving into its second phase. Those of us who have not been up to it are reminded that it's not too late to fall into the rhythm of the season and those who have been doing well already are encouraged to keep up the rhythm, intensify their spiritual exercises and grow in grace. Our joy at the turn of the season is depicted in the traditional name given to this Sunday. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Lætare Sunday*. *Laetare* in Latin means rejoice. It is obtained from the first words of today's liturgy. As we did on *Gaudete Sunday* in Advent, we replace the violet vestments with rose-colored ones. We also keep flowers on the altar to point to our joyful anticipation of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

The central theme of today's readings is that through our sins, we are separated and exiled from God. Yet through God's gratuitous mercy, which abounds in Christ Jesus, we are saved and returned to the freedom which can be found in God alone. The readings underline man's separateness from God on account of sin as against God's mercy and compassion, his great love, kindness, and grace which He extends to us in Christ.

This week, I would like us to look at that which separates us from God - sin. As Christians, we distinguish between sins that are venial and those that are mortal. St. John in his first epistle says that If anyone sees his brother committing which is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. He continues to say that there is sin which is mortal and that though all wrongdoing is sin, there is sin that is not mortal. With this distinction in sin, there is the tendency for Christians to sin and sweep it under the carpet. Perhaps we are all familiar with sayings such as "One venial sin more or less, what difference does it make!" Or "That was only a small lie." Or "Just a little impatience and nothing more." Or "I haven't committed any mortal sin, just the little, little sins." Nevertheless, the Bible makes it clear that he who contemns small things shall fall little by little (Sirach 19:1). Such was the situation of the People of Judah of old. They trivialized their sins and were unfaithful in little matters. Their little infidelities developed into grievous sins which sent the prophets their way. All their princes, their priests, and the people practiced infidelity upon infidelity. They gradually practiced all the abominations of the nations and polluted the LORD's consecrated temple in Jerusalem. Having graduated in their little infidelities and having eventually grown used to sin, they mocked, without qualms, the messengers God in his mercy sent their way. They despised the warnings of the prophets and scoffed at them. Multiplying their sins, they drew a wedge between God and themselves, a wedge which made them aliens in Babylon where they sat by the rivers and wept. They wept because their exile took them away from the abode of Yahweh; they wept because they forfeited the peace of Jerusalem; they wept because sin took away their freedom in God's kingdom and made them slaves in alien soil. The joy of it was that much as their sins separated them from God, so much more did God's mercy seek them. So, at the appointed time, God raised a foreign king to secure their return to Jerusalem and the restoration of the temple. Later in the history of salvation, God sent us his only son, so that all who believed in him would not perish but have eternal life. God is indeed love. He is so kind and so merciful that when we take shelter under the wings of our venial and mortal sins, he pursues us and unites us to himself. He raises his Son on the cross to work out our salvation.

A young man felt that God was sitting on his freedom and decided to live all by himself without God's patronage. While in college, he lived a libertine life and he who originally desired to become a priest, lived as if there was no God and no judgment. Since freedom for him meant doing whatever one wanted, he chose to do drugs and grew addicted to opium, which nearly took a toll on his mind and body. Needing money to cater for himself and his bad habits, he fell out of school, fled into the slums to do menial jobs to make ends meet. What he did not fail to do in all these was writing. He had a flair for writing and he kept to it. One day he sent a poem to an editor for publication. The editor saw the genius behind the poem and so went down the slumps to locate him. He fixed him an accommodation; introduced him to great poets and helped him find his way to God and realize God's love. He tried to run away from God, see how God sought him and found him out; see how God made his Divine love catch up with him.

Blaise Pascal once opined that only two kinds of people exist: saints who know they are sinners and sinners who think they are saints. God made us all very good, and because of that, we tend to live according to our nature as saints. However, after the fall from the garden of Eden, we have inherited the tendency to be sinners. Ontological by, then, we are saints. However, morally, we are weak. Therefore, saints though we are, we are also sinners who need to humbly acknowledge our weaknesses and make amends. We do so trusting that despite our sins, God pursues our souls to the ends of the earth. We do so, acknowledging that despite our failures, He sent us his Son. This demands our faithfulness in little things, our resolve to live up to that love that lifts us up from the dungeons of sin and situates us in the land of peace. Our God is Good. He wonderfully made us by transforming dust into his own image and gave it a share in his own nature. He is yet more wonderful in pardoning the man who has wallowed in the dust and so has rebelled against him. May God grant that where sin abounds, grace may more abound, so that we can become holier through forgiveness and live grateful lives. May he make of us saints who are conscious of our sins and not sinners who think themselves saints.

Have a joyful week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey





## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: March 15

- No Mass
- Readings: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

### Tuesday: March 16

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Peggy Plummer
- Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

### Wednesday: March 17 - St. Patrick

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Marcella Bechel
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

### Thursday: March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Living & Deceased Members of the Sally Baecker Family
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

### Friday: March 19 - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Tom Drier
- Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

### Saturday: March 20

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Beatrice Crentsil
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - Gerald Nelson
- Readings: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

### Sunday: March 21 - 5<sup>th</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: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

**The Rosary is prayed before Mass**

## SACRAMENTS

### Confessions (anytime by appointment)

- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansaw
- Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 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 Thursdays & 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

### Karnival Committee News

Karnival Raffle Tickets will be for sale starting the weekend of March 14<sup>th</sup>.



### Sacred Worship Committee

Next Sacred Worship Committee Meeting will be Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Announcements & Lector

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Theresa Kane

Sun., March 21, 10:15 a.m.

Linda Chilson

### Extraordinary Minister

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Peggy Gilles

Sun., March 21, 10:15 a.m.

Denise Pelzel

### Music

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Arleen Ebensperger & Gwen

Glaus

Sun., March 21, 10:15 a.m.

Beth Pattison & Jeff Bergman

### Rosary

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Volunteer Needed

Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.

Holy Name Society

### Servers

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Peyton Brunner &

Grace Hinrichs

Sun., March 21, 10:15 a.m.

Gavin & Carolyn Trannel

### Usher

Sun., March 21, 8:00 a.m.

Lonnie Harmon & Roger Gilles

Sun., March 21, 10:15 a.m.

Dan Wieser & Steve King

### Money Counting

Wed., March 24, 9:00 a.m.

Pat Pittman, Steve King,

& Terry Pelzel



## 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).

## POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

March: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

## COVID FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a free food distribution from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the East entrance of the Pierce County Fairgrounds (364 N Maple St, Ellsworth, WI). Each household will receive 1 large box of assorted food items. Please feel free to participate in this Covid Food Assistance Program. This will also take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, March 19<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 nine is Fruitfulness in 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.



## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Announcements & Lector

Sat., March 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Don Peterson

### Extraordinary Minister

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

### Music

Sat., March 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Beth Pattison

Thank You. 



On Wednesdays during Lent, St. Joseph's Parish will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm.

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

## WORKSHOP: CELEBRATING THE EASTER MYSTERY

The Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary has just published a series of classes on Celebrating the Easter Mystery, presented by Christopher Carstens, Director of the Office for Sacred Worship. These five, one hour classes uncover the spiritual treasures of Lent, Holy Week, and the Easter Season by focusing on the liturgy's prayers, readings, and ceremonies. This workshop can be viewed for **FREE** by clergy and laity in the Diocese of La Crosse. If interested, key in [Easter.liturgy.online](http://Easter.liturgy.online). Offer ends on Easter Sunday.

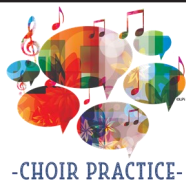
## HOLY SOULS GARAGE & BAKE SALE

The *Holy Souls Garage & Bake Sale* has operated out of Chippewa Falls for the past five years. It's primary mission is to help the Poor Souls attain Heaven. This accomplished by raising donations which are sent to the LaCrosse Diocese Missions Office in the form of Mass stipends. These stipends are then distributed to the missions around the world and celebrated by the mission priests. The money is used for the needs of the poor in those areas.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, our garage & bake sale cannot take place. The Holy Souls Garage Sale team is requesting donations. Please consider a gift to this most unique charity. Checks may be made payable to St. John the Baptist or St. Joseph's Parish with "Holy Souls Spiritual Garage Sale" written in the memo line. Thank you and God Bless!

## Choir Practice for Easter Masses

There will be Choir Practice for Easter Masses in between Masses on Sundays and after morning Mass on Tuesday at St. John the Baptist. Please join us!



## NEW LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE (LFI) CLASS

### Classes Begin This Fall – Registration is Underway!

Registration is open for the next two-year Lay Formation cycle that begins in fall of 2021. Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! See complete information, schedule and application form at [diolc.org/layformation](http://diolc.org/layformation). Discuss with your pastor and contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at [inistries@diolc.org](mailto:inistries@diolc.org) or call (608) 791-0161.

## JESUS GIVES US LIGHT

### ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus tells us He is the light and He comes to save us. This is a passage of hope and salvation.



### IN CHURCH

Find the sanctuary lamp (lit red candle). It is a reminder that Christ is present in the tabernacle. Genuflect or bow to show Jesus your love and respect.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, Keep us close to the light of Christ and help us avoid the darkness of sin. Amen.



How can you reflect the light of Christ to others?



Please join us in congratulating Sean Stoudt, who received First Communion on Saturday, March 6th. Sean and Katie also had their marriage convalidated and Baptized their three Children. Welcome to our Parish Family!!

**If God knows my sins, why do I have to confess them?**  
God doesn't need it. We need it. Confessing helps us to own up to the fact that we are sinners in need of redemption. Confessing strengthens us to stop comparing, making excuses and assigning blame.

The Light is  
ON for You.



*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*