

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

APRIL BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARY'S

*Pete Helmueller's Birthday: 4/1

*Sue Caturia's Birthday: 4/1

*Ruth Luebker's Birthday: 4/2

*Marie Berger's Birthday: 4/3

John Inabnit's Birthday: 4/12

Mary Therese Helmueller's Birthday: 4/12

Susan Sanders's Birthday: 4/13

Donald Brunner's Birthday: 4/18

Denise Pelzel's Birthday: 4/19

Sue Milliren's Birthday: 4/24

Pete Unser's Birthday: 4/25

Bob & Tonja Binkowski's Anniversary: 4/26

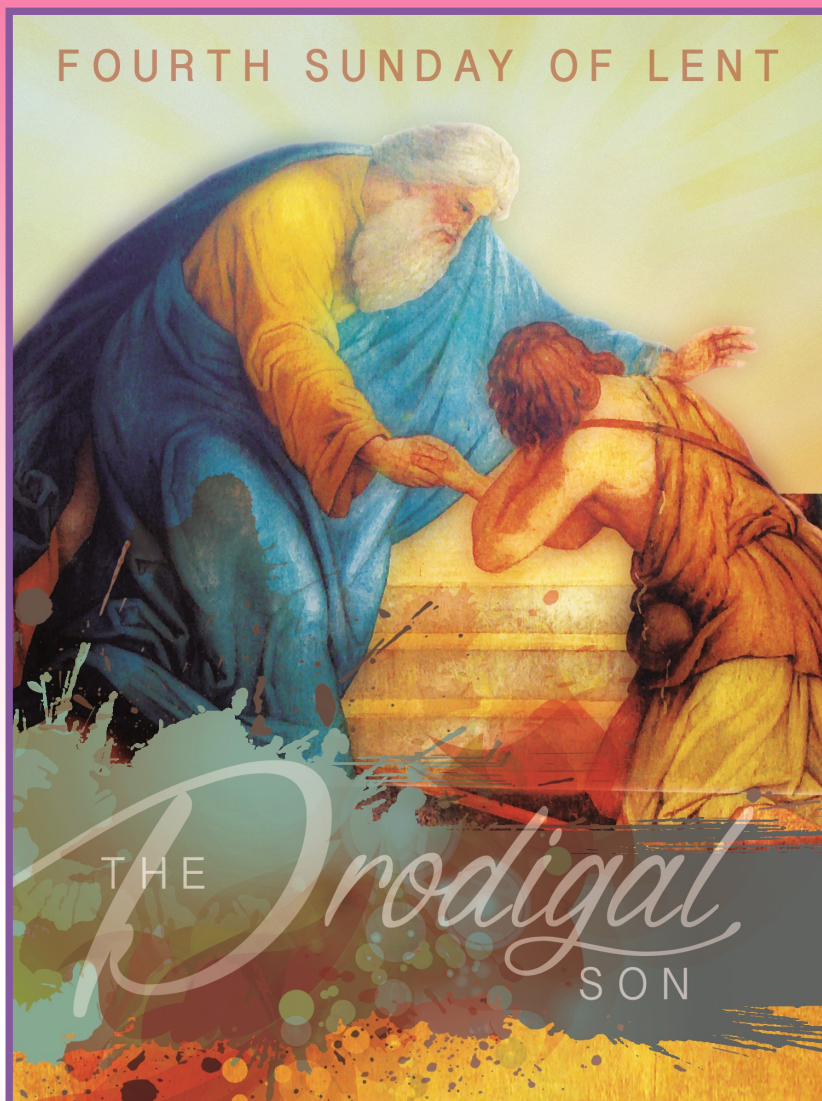
Brad Bauer's Birthday: 4/26

Darrell & Sarah Hinrichs' 24th Anniversary: 4/29

Dan & Mary Wieser's 30th Anniversary: 4/29

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

March 31, 2019



**Central Office, CCD, 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

THE PARABLE OF DIVERSE “SINNERS”

Dear friends in Christ, it is Laetare Sunday and we all rejoice that midway with Lent, our Lenten observances have been good so far. We have done our best to do the ordinary things of Lent extraordinarily well and we pray that God will make good our defects so we endure the rigors of the season to the end. As we do so, the Church bids us reflect on one of Jesus’ masterpieces, the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Permit me to call it the parable of diverse “sinners”. As the parable depicts, sin has many heads and many faces: in the sinner younger son, there is the sinner father, the sinner servant, and the sinner elder son.

The younger son’s sins are many. Not only did he wish his father dead before his time had come, he also extracted family property and squandered it. He joined himself to foreigners and if he was an Israelite, he soiled himself by living with the unclean. As if the details of his sins were not bad enough, his main sin was not so much what he had done, but where he ended up. Jesus called it “in a distant land.” This describes the son’s “spiritual condition.” The wayward son had separated himself from where he truly belonged and when he got close to home, he found a gracious father, looking and longing and running out to meet him. His rehearsed “apology” speech: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and you,” was stifled in the embrace of his waiting father (see G. Rink). Sin is that which separates us from God, that which keeps us in a distant land. It is that which pushes a wedge between us and God. Such was the situation in which the younger son found himself.

We also find the sinner of the father and for that matter the parent who graciously forgave the one son, but forgot to hug his other son whom he had “taken for granted” all those years. It was not clear when he last praised his older son. Obviously, he never told him how much he meant to him, that he was proud of him, or that he loved him and thanked God every day for him. It never happened, no. Not even once! How easy it is for a kindhearted father or mother to sin by taking the goodness of their kids for granted! In a house of formation, the superior was fond of scolding students for the wrongs they did. Quite often, in their conferences, he would refer to laws they had flouted or things left undone or things wrongly done. In one of their conferences, a student queried as to why he hardly found or appreciated any good in them. His answer? By virtue of what you are, you are good and goodness must necessarily exude from your conduct. So when you display any good conduct, you are living according to your nature and I need not comment. I worry and have cause to do so when you act contrary to your true nature. Such was the philosophy, which seemingly took for granted the many good inherent in some hardworking young men who needed a pat sometimes in doing the right. Not reinforcing the good and the strengths in others could lead to bitterness, resentment, apathy, and even a division in an otherwise well and closely knitted family. No wonder the elder son refused to show up at his brother’s homecoming party. Sin does not only separate man from God, it also breaks the bond between God’s people.

There was also the servant whom the older son accosted at his return to hear the sound of the music and the joy of the party. Listen to him again: ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ Would it have been enough for his servant to have been brief in his description? Could he have spared the older brother some of the details he spewed? Was it necessary to mention the fattened calf? Did he lead the elder son to the temptation of rage? Sometimes we sin by leading others to sin. We sin by the choice of words we make in our discourses and by being gossipy. If the party that night was ruffled by the elder brother’s mood and attitude, it was also because this servant threw the elder brother into it. He cunningly elicited his anger and succeeded in getting the elder brother to squander all the rights he had done with the sin of anger and resentment.

There was also the decent, faithful, hard working, obedient older son. His was the sin of bad attitude toward life. He was deeply hurt, bitter, and angry at his father for seemingly taking him for granted. He thought it was grossly unfair for his father to throw a big party for the son who had squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. He could not even bring himself to call his sibling “brother.” Rather, he referred to him as, “your son.” He also pitied himself and acted selfishly because he cared less if his “bad” attitude would ruffle the party, which he refused to attend. In his anger and bitterness, he multiplied his sins and fell into calumny. Nowhere in the story was it mentioned that his younger brother partied with prostitutes, yet he managed to rope that into his bitter complaint. All he wanted to achieve was to be sure everyone knew how badly he had been treated. Perhaps worst of all, he could not joyfully celebrate that something truly wonderful happened in the family, the spontaneous gift of grace his brother had received and the generous outpouring of his father’s forgiveness and that a sinner had come home and was redeemed. He refused to celebrate that his brother was dead, and had come to life again; that his brother was lost and had then been found (see G. Rink).

Friends, I believe all the characters of sin outlined sound very familiar to us. We see them in our families, in the Church, at our workplaces and social gatherings. We can even identify them in our very selves. Times are when we have separated ourselves and lived poles away from God. Other times we have been that parent or that relative who has taken the good in others for granted. Many other times we have been that servant who led another to sin and yet many more occasions, we have been that selfish unforgiving son whose bitterness blinds him from seeing and celebrating the father’s gracious forgiveness. May our Lenten observances lead us to master our sinfulness and conquer our pride. May it lead us to discover the antidote for sin in its diverse ramifications, make good our defects and get the party going when at last the Lamb is slain and his blood would wash away our sins. May we rejoice when at last the resurrection of Christ is here because we have thrown away the dough of sin from our system and have clothed ourselves in the festive robes of the returning sons and daughters of God from the exile of sin.

Have a pleasant week

Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey.

40 HOURS DEVOTION

St. John the Baptist Parish will be holding 40 Hours Devotion beginning Friday, April 5th through Sunday, April 7th. We have sign-up sheets at all entrances for you to devote an hour of adoration with the Lord during those 40 hours. We need as many people as possible in each time frame. Please sign up so we know that there will be someone here during each hour that our Lord is in exposition. God Bless.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Basement. There will be a light meal after the meeting. Prior to the meeting the Knights will gather in the Church at 6:30 p.m. to lead the rosary. Everyone from both Parishes are welcome to pray the rosary.



MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: April 1

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Am 5:14/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: April 2 - St. Francis of Paola

- Communion Service: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center
- Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Ps 51:12a, 14a/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: April 3

- **No Mass**
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 11:25a, 26/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: April 4 - St. Isidore

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Katherine Nelson
- Followed by Communion for the sick and homebound
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:45 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 3:16/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: April 5 - St. Vincent Ferrer

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Success in Schools
- Mass: 7:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Mt 4:4b/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: April 6

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/See Lk 8:15/Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: April 7 - 5th Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Cecelia & Marty Milliren
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Wilfred & Margaret Bauer
- Readings: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/Phil 3:8-14/Jl 2:12-13/Jn 8:1-11

The Rosary is prayed before all Masses

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

April: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.



SACRAMENTS

Confessions (anytime by appointment)

- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansas
- 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 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 Meeting

The next Karnival Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the St. John the Baptist School Basement.

OUR WEEK: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Money Counting

Monday, April 1, 9:30 a.m.
Denise Pelzel, Suzanne Gilles,
& Steve King

Announcements

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Peggy Gilles
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Monica Krings
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Denise Pelzel

Gift Bearers

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Larry & Linda Chilson
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Brian & Crystal Books Family

Lector

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Margaret Hartung
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Ryan Trannel



Music

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Organist: Tracy Biederman
Cantor: Gwen Glaus
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Organist: Arleen Ebensperger
Cantor: Jeff Bergmann

Rosary Leader

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Monica Krings
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Teresa Fedie

Sacristan

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Kathy Luebker
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Peggy Gilles

Servers

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Parker Bechel & Colton Coss
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
The Bergmann Family

Usher

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m.
Gary Lecheler & Roger Gilles
Sunday, April 7, 10:15 a.m.
Dan & Mackenzie Wieser

FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday, March 24th, 2019

Adult Envelopes (42).....	\$	2020.00
Capital Improvements (2).....	\$	600.00
Utility Fund (1).....	\$	50.00
Offertory.....	\$	179.05
Total Income.....	\$	2849.05

PCCW NEWS

Care Center Birthdays

Care Center Birthdays will be celebrated with cake and ice cream by St. Elizabeth's group on Tuesday, April 9th at 3:15 p.m..



ST. FRANCIS LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ellsworth will have a Lenten Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. There will be three priests present to hear confessions.

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.

OUR WEEK: ST. JOSEPH

Money Counting

Monday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.
Dennis Milliren, Elaine Brunner,
& Jerry Liefing

Announcements

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Annie Bauer

Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Dale Klein

Gift Bearers

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Nick & Vicky Hartung

Lector

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Galen Radle

Music

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Musicians: Bob & JoAnn Larson

Rosary

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.
Joyce Haigh & Betty Lauer



FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019

Adult Envelopes (27).....	\$	765.00
Building Fund (1).....	\$	20.00
Offertory.....	\$	106.00
Total Income.....	\$	891.00

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH PLUM CITY, WISCONSIN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

APRIL 5TH 7:00 PM THROUGH APRIL 7TH 3:00 PM

"THEY SPENT THAT DAY WITH HIM" - JN 1:39

Forty Hours Devotion



Come and spend time with our Eucharistic King!

Friday, April 5th

- 7:00 pm: Mass
- Solemn Eucharistic Procession
- First Friday Devotions
- Confession

Saturday, April 6th

- 8:30 am: Mass
- First Saturday Devotions
- Confession
- Rosary
- Divine Mercy Chaplet

Sunday, April 7th

- 8:00 & 10:15 am: Mass
- 7:15 - 7:45 am: Confession
- 9:30 - 10:00 am: Confession
- 3:00 pm - Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- Guest Speaker: Fr. Daniel Adjei Aboagye
- Solemn Eucharistic Procession and Benediction

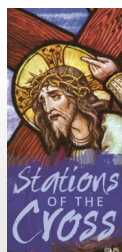
Reception to Follow in the School Basement

St. John the Baptist

Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and Benediction will be offered every Thursday at St. John the Baptist during Lent. Adoration will begin at 4:45 p.m., followed by the Stations of the Cross at 5:45 p.m., and conclude with Benediction.

St. Joseph

Stations of the Cross will be offered every Wednesday at St. Joseph's at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.



ABOUT THE GOSPEL

This Sunday is sometimes called "Joy Sunday." It is a time to remember the joy Easter brings after the time of repentance of Lent. The prodigal son is a reminder that we also stray from our Father through our sins and can return to the joy of His forgiveness.

IN CHURCH

Notice any changes that could be signs that we are getting closer to the joyful celebration of Easter.

FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others. Show us Your mercy and help us to be merciful to others.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can you find joy even when you are struggling or suffering?

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

All Confirmation students will be participating in the Rite of Enrollment ceremony on Sunday, April 7th, during the 10:15 Mass. Following the Mass, there will be a celebratory reception in the school basement. All are invited to come and show their support for the youth of our parishes.



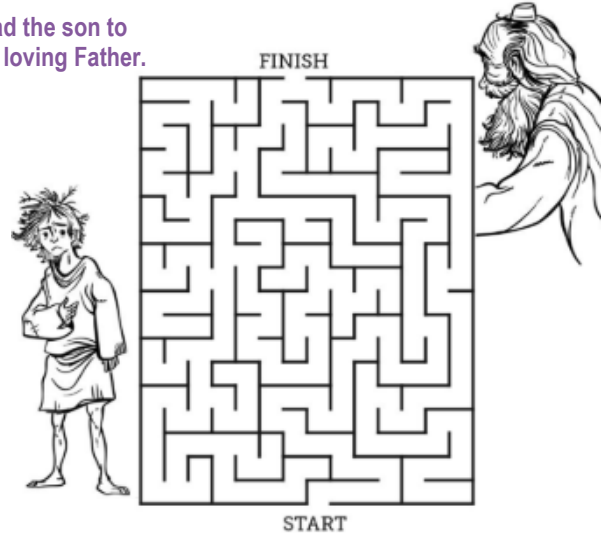
R.C.I.A.

Are you searching for a relationship with God?
Do you want to learn more about the Catholic way of life?
Are you interested in becoming a Catholic Christian?

St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph welcomes interest in our Catholic faith. RCIA classes are designed for those interested in entering into the fullness of the Catholic faith through a spiritual journey of formation that brings their conversion and faith to maturity. If you are interested in receiving your Baptism, Communion, and/or Confirmation, please call for more information.

Robyn Tranel (DRE): 608-790-2177

Lead the son to his loving Father.



THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets again this Friday, April 5th 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 nine is 7th Day – The Wedding Feast at Cana. 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!

