



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 Rhiel, 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

Mary Berger's Birthday: 3/8

Jennifer Berger's Birthday: 3/10

Jim Klein's Birthday: 3/10

Gary Ingli's Birthday: 3/12



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

MARCH 7, 2021



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

"He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area." -Jn 2:14-15a

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

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Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon



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

CLEANSE ME, JESUS!

A story is told of a man who was on a pilgrimage to a holy place. He carried all his victuals and necessities in a rucksack. As he walked through the woods leading to the shrine, he was waylaid by armed men who robbed him of everything he had except his clothing. Before the robbers made away with their booty, they asked, "Is there anything else we can take away from you?" He replied and said, "No, you have already taken all I have." The robbers set him free. Not long after they had left, he realized he still had some gold coins hemmed into the fringes of his cloak for eventualities. Far from wanting to lie, he followed after the robbers and chased them up until he could catch up with them. Upon finding them, he apologized for his failure to tell them the whole truth and that he still had some gold coins that they could have. Shocked and shamed by this extraordinary sincerity, the robbers could do no other than refuse to accept the gold coins. They also returned to him all they had taken from him and even escorted him safely through the woods to his destination.

Dear friends, on this third Sunday of Lent, we read the story of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. This is one of the few moments in scripture that Jesus is presented as getting angry. One would wonder what drove him to anger. As the passage depicts, the Temple was meant to be a house of prayer and worship. Buying, selling, and money changing went on in the Temple area. This was intended to facilitate worship in the Temple, especially for pilgrims. As was the practice, victims had to be brought to the priests, who would sacrifice them to Yahweh on their behalf. Strict rules governed the qualifications of such victims because not just any animal would do. There was thus the need to make provision to ensure that animals for sacrifices were easily available. Besides, pilgrims coming to the Temple from different parts of the world brought in the money of various mintages which had to be weighed, valued, and exchanged to be used for purchasing the sacrificial victims. All these generated some kind of marketing in the Temple area. Unfortunately, what was meant to be religious assistance to facilitate Temple worship turned into something else. Selfishness and greed infiltrated these sacred services to the extent that as moneychangers extorted from pilgrims, vendors overcharged them, and those who certified victims for sacrifice were as scrupulous as to ensure that pilgrims would procure animals solely from the Temple precincts. Perhaps they did so to maximize their own gains. Consequently, what was meant to be a heartfelt service to God became a path to worldly success. The Temple officials were by all appearances exemplarily religious. They presented themselves as ensuring the sanctity and the orthodoxy of the Temple worship. On the contrary, they were actually greedy merchants, infused with an ardent tacit desire for self-enrichment and self-aggrandizement. They were inauthentic self-seeking liars, whose outward religiosity contradicted their hidden intentions. As their appearances contradicted reality, they exemplified nothing but hypocrisy- hypocrisy because they twisted the realities of the day to suit their selfish ends. Thus, when Jesus cleansed the Temple, he set out to rid his father's house of greed and lies, inauthenticity and selfishness, scrupulousness and hypocrisy. He was ridding his Father's house of the heavy burdens which the leaders of the day kept laying on the shoulders of unsuspecting pilgrims.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul, referring to our bodies as the temples of God said, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own." Indeed, just as the Temple of Jerusalem belonged to Jesus' Father, our own bodily temples are not our own. They belong to God. God dwells in us just as he dwelt in the temple of old. Like the stewards of the ancient temple, we have the responsibility of caring for the temple of God which is our body. Incidentally, it is very easy for us to fall prey to the vices that angered Jesus when he entered his Father's house. Many a time we are gripped with greed. Other times we are taken over by insensitive self-centeredness and malicious selfishness. Times are when we find ourselves lying blatantly without any qualms. Many of us are experts at finding ways to project ourselves as exemplary Catholics, while on the inside we still seek the kingdom of "me" rather than the Kingdom of Christ. What we profess to be, we actually are not. Hypocrisy has become part and parcel of our human identity. Quite often, we fall to the temptation of twisting realities to suit our needs. We manipulate our self-projection in order to claim higher standards and deeper faith than is actually the case. In our own small ways, we sometimes make the practice of the faith a burden to be endured rather than a joy to embrace, as we place undue stress on the accidents of the faith and fail to spot its essence. We, therefore, desecrate our temples by our very acts of commissions and omissions. The image of Jesus' cleansing of the temple thus rings a bell in the Lenten season. We are pilgrims here on earth who need to make truth and candor our companions on our journey. We are the stewards of God's temple which is our own body and ours is the vocation to care for the temple selflessly. We are called to live authentically, without any smack of greed, covetousness, and hypocrisy. Unfortunately, we have all sinned and lawlessly departed from God. We are all guilty of being hypocritical sometimes. We have tainted the temples of God which we are. We, therefore, need to call on him to have mercy and cleanse us from our sins. Let us source his help from the sacrament of reconciliation and be renewed. Let us allow him to wash us with his blood as he gives us his flesh and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Let us ask him to shine through the darkness of our lives and straighten the crookedness of our ways. He cleansed the temple of old, may his abounding mercy free us from all hypocrisy, selfishness, and sin.

Have a blessed week
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

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.

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: March 8 - St. John of God

- **No Mass**
- Readings: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: March 9 - St. Frances of Rome

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Kenny Holmstadt
- Readings: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: March 10

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Joe Lecheler, Jr.
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: March 11

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Clarence & Loretta Jilk
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: March 12

- Mass: 6:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist - Raymond Werert
- Readings: Hos 14:2-10/
Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17 [cf. 11 & 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: March 13

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Beatrice Crentsil
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Tammy Sam
- Readings: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: March 14 - 4th Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Lawrence Bechel
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

The Rosary is prayed before Mass

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.



Sunday, March 14th



BEEF & SAUERKRAUT SKILLET

DIRECTIONS

- In a large skillet, brown ground beef and onion. Stir in remaining ingredients along with two "soup cans" of water. The rice will adsorb the liquid as it cooks. Bring the mixture to a boil.
- Reduce temperature and simmer for 30 minutes. Stir frequently to prevent the rice from sticking.

With Love from the Kitchen of Verna Weiss

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2/3 cup uncooked white rice (not instant)
- 1 14-oz can sauerkraut
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 can diced tomatoes, preferably with onions, peppers, & celery

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

Karnival Committee News

Karnival Raffle Tickets will be for sale starting the weekend of March 14th.



LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Money Counting

Wed., March 10, 9:00 a.m.
Denise Pelzel, Verna Weiss,
& Carol Bechel

Announcements & Lector

Sun., March 14, 8:00 a.m.
Nadine Kannel
Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Extraordinary Minister

Sun., March 14, 8:00 a.m.
Joyce Berger
Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.
Linda Chilson

Music

Sun., March 14, 8:00 a.m.
Arleen Ebensperger & Gwen
Glaus
Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.
Beth Pattison & Crystal Books

Rosary

Sun., March 14, 8:00 a.m.
Volunteer Needed
Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.
Connie Ahlers

Servers

Sun., March 14, 8:00 a.m.
Allyson Fleishauer &
Juan Sanchez
Sun., March 14, 10:15 a.m.
Bristol & Cooper Books

Usher

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



FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

February 11th through February 24th, 2021

Adult Envelopes (54).....	\$	3,667.00
Offertory.....	\$	91.00
Total Income.....	\$	3,758.00

THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets this Friday, March 12th 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 eight is The Wounding of the Heart. 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 13, 4:00 p.m.
Jeff Brunner

Music

Sat., March 13, 4:00 p.m.
Bob & JoAnn Larson

Extraordinary Minister

Sat., March 13, 4:00 p.m.
Mary Berger

Thank You. 

FRUITS OF OUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

February 11th through February 24th, 2021

Adult Envelopes (16).....	\$	760.00
Offertory.....	\$	111.00
Bequest (1).....	\$	2,500.00
Total Income.....	\$	3,371.00



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.

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we should:

- Fast from facts that depress, feast on truths from Sacred Scripture that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on God's promises that inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.



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!



-CHOIR PRACTICE-

JESUS CLEANSES THE TEMPLE

ABOUT THE GOSPEL



Jesus does not like injustice or bad actions. In today's Gospel, He is not happy with the people who are using the Temple for profit rather than for love of God. He says the Temple will be destroyed and built again in three days, but He is talking about Himself!

IN CHURCH

Put some money in the Sunday collection to help people in need.

FAMILY PRAYER

Holy Spirit, show us how to let go of things we do not need. Amen.



What things in your life do you need to get rid of so you can focus more on God?



LTABE

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4

Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers in the _____.

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6

40 HOURS OF DEVOTION

"Stay Here and Keep Watch With Me" - Mt 26:38b



Friday, March 12th

- 6:00 pm: Mass
- Solemn Eucharistic Procession
- First Friday Devotions
- Confession

Saturday, March 13th

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

Sunday, March 14th

- 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. Ebenezzer Akeseh
- Solemn Eucharistic Procession and Benediction



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