

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. 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

Aletha Pullen, Secretary, 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

Lawrence Bechel, 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

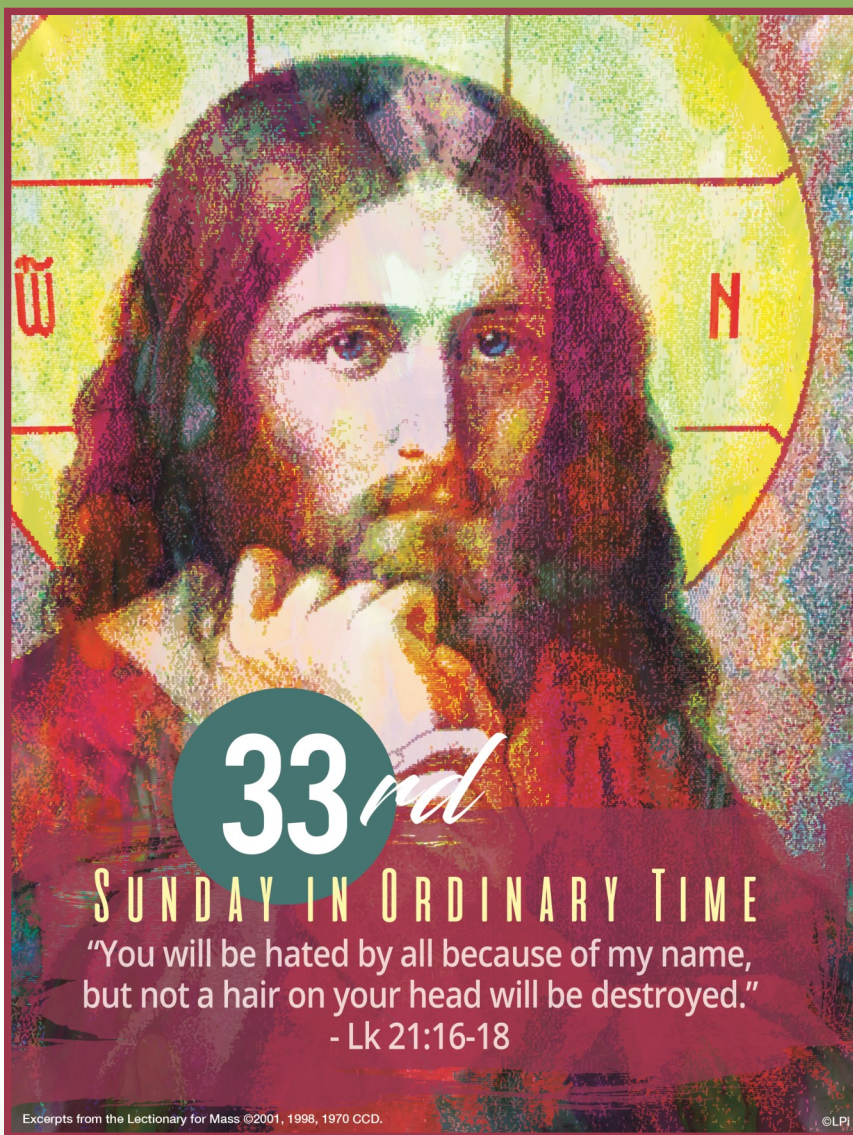
BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Steve Carlson's Birthday: 11/18



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

NOVEMBER 17, 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 DESTRUCTION OF THE BODILY TEMPLE

All too soon, the liturgical year is coming to a close. Come next Sunday, we shall celebrate the solemnity of Christ our universal King. In moments like this, the Church bids us reflect on the last things. Scripture has it that it is appointed to each person to die and after death comes judgment. The Christian belief is that judgment leads to heaven or hell. Thus, in the eyes of the Church, the four last things are death, judgment, heaven and hell. Last week, we had the opportunity to reflect on the resurrection. It was consoling to hear Jesus tell the Sadducees that at the resurrection, we shall be different and be like angels as well as the Children of God. This week, we have the opportunity to reflect on that which brings us to the reality Jesus described to the Sadducees - death.

The book of Wisdom purports that God formed man to be imperishable. He made us in the image his own nature. However, through the envy of the devil, death entered the world and they who are in the devil's possession experience death. The sin in us, which we inherited from our progenitors, makes us susceptible to death. Death is thus a necessary end that comes to us every day. The irony is that, much as everyone wants to go to heaven and be like angels and become the children of God, none of us wants to die. Many a time, when the reality of death slaps us in the face, we play the ostrich and deny that reality. We get angry and frustrated at ourselves. We blame God and displace our anger on other people. As it dawns on us that there isn't much we could do, we begin to bargain and make concessions with God and neighbors. As some begin to pray more, be more charitable and try to right their wrongs, others get even more frustrated and angrier still. Many others end up in depressed situations. Yet there are some who, having gone through the various moments of grief regarding the eminence of the necessary end, begin to accept reality and embrace it with stoic calmness and charm. They do so, knowing that our time on earth is just a passage, that all the beauty we see, He has given to us to enjoy while it lasts, but that we have a home to go to and death is the only means to achieving that.

Last week, the world was greeted with the terrible news of about 75,000 people who took to the streets in Santiago as part of some ongoing anti-government protests in Chile. Unfortunately, that which was meant to be mostly a peaceful demonstration turned violent and disastrous. In the news, hooded protesters could be seen looting a Catholic Church near the main site of the demonstration. They reportedly dragged statues of Jesus and furniture out onto the street and burned them. As the protesters gathered in their thousands and chanted and held banners, smoke billowed from the campus of a nearby university, where protesters started a fire. The police did what they could to set up barricades to limit the damages but not much could be done to save the house of God. The only good thing was that the building itself was not razed to the ground. That beautiful Church building, which stands in the neighborhood of Plaza Italia Square and attracted both tourists and worshippers was vandalized, brutalized and robbed of its past beauty and the glories it used to enjoy.

In this Sunday's gospel, some people were speaking about the temple and how it was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings. To them, Jesus said, "All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." History has it that in 70 AD, this Jerusalem temple, unlike that of Santiago, was not only sacked, it was completely destroyed and in the end, there was indeed no stone left on the other as predicted. It is even purported that when one of the most despised emperors, Julian, in his apostasy tried to undo this Jesus' prophecy by ordering the rebuilding of this sacred structure, it was only at the foundation level that fearful balls of fire burst forth from the earth and scorched the workmen and made it impossible to get near the place (see Msgr. A. Tonne). A structure, as beautiful and as well adorned as the Jerusalem Temple came tumbling down and no attempt at restoring it was possible.

Whenever we think of temples, we remember our very selves. For, St. Paul refers to us as temples of the Holy Spirit. As he once queried, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God?" Our bodies are therefore temples akin to the Santiago Church and the Jerusalem Temple. A time comes when we are either sacked or vandalized. A time comes when we are brutalized and completely destroyed, and that which leaves us desolate is death. It robs us of our mortal bodies and deprives us of the material beauty which was once admired by all and sundry. It burns our energies into ashes the way no life support can restore. It lays its icy hands on us and gives us no room for further warmth. It strikes and our admirers are left broken to weep and mourn. Yet, one may ask, is that the end of life? Is there anything more to expect beyond the grave? What goes on in heaven?

A story is told of a man who was told he had some few hours to live. He tried to figure out how best he could use the time at his disposal. Try as he would, nothing meaningful came to mind. He took counsel with a bosom friend who suggested he went for confession. He called the rectory and arranged with the priest for a good confession. They both entered the confessional. Whiles there, he asked the priest what goes on in heaven. When the priest told him he did not know, the gentleman got mad at him and yelled, "You're a priest and you do not know what goes on in heaven?" The priest still declined to tell him what goes on in heaven. Though the gentleman was very displeased, the priest still gave him absolution and dismissed him. Just as they opened the door to the confessional, the priest's little dog who had followed the duo into Church, hopped in and started wailing its tail and jumping happily at the sight of the priest. This was when the priest turned to the gentleman and said, "Have you seen this dog of mine, it has never been into this confessional before, neither does it know what goes on here. All it knows is that his father is in here and so he enters here with joy and cheer. In the same vein, I have never been to heaven before, neither do I know what goes on there. However, I am certain that my Father is there and that alone makes my going home to heaven a thing of beauty, and a thing of beauty is a joy forever. At my death, I am certain, that if I did well to live justly, cooperating with God's grace, my soul will be in His hand and no torment shall touch me. St. Paul was right when he said that when our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Friends, as we begin another week, let's pray Jesus to grant us to stay ever in his heart and abide in his wounded side. Should death come to us some day, may Jesus not cast us from him. In dying, may he let us still abide in his heart and wounded side and may the joy of the Father's house be our portion and cup.

Have a beautiful week
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

November: Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

Monday: November 18 - The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

No Mass

- Readings: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/
Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 155, 158/Jn 8:12/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: November 19

- Mass: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center, † Michael Pittman
- Readings: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/1 Jn 4:10b/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: November 20

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, † JoAnn Kraft
- Readings: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/See Jn 15:16/
Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: November 21 - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Earl Ahlers
- Adoration: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Communion for the sick and homebound
- Readings: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Ps 95:8/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: November 22 - St. Cecilia

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Cecelia & Clarence Bechel
- Readings: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chm 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/
Jn 10:27/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: November 23 - St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro, & Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Larry Steller
- Mass: 8:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist - For the Protection & Safety of All of Our Hunters
- Readings: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/See 2 Tm 1:10/
Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: November 24 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Florence Jakes
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5/Col 1:12-20/Mk 11:9, 10/
Lk 23:35-43

The Rosary is prayed before all Masses

SACRAMENTS

Confessions (anytime by appointment)

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

Parish Pictorial Book

Lifetouch will be at St. John The Baptist taking Pictures for our Parish Pictorial Book. **Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the Church until Sunday, November 24th.** We need you to sign up as soon as possible. Please sign up for a time slot during one of sessions listed below.

- January 2nd from 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- January 3rd from Noon - 7:00 p.m.
- January 4th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Pictures will be taken at the American Legion Hall in Plum City.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Calling all students

Come join together with other kids singing, playing instruments, and performing with the Youth Worship Group. Meeting between Masses on November 17th, December 8th, & December 15th at 9:15-10:00 a.m. All kids are welcome, even if they cannot meet every time. There is no performance obligation.

Mark your calendars

Wednesday, December 18th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. there will be a Faith Formation Christmas social in the school basement. Everyone enrolled in Faith Formation at all levels is invited to attend.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Money Counting

Monday, November 18, 9:30 a.m.
Betsy Fetzer, Steve King, & Wilma Brunner

Announcements

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Margaret Hartung
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Theresa Kane
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Ann Bechel

Gift Bearers

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Scott & Suzie Brunner Family
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Dorothy Kopp & Family

Lector

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Monica Krings
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Linda Chilson



Music

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Tracy Biederman & Gwen Glaus
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Arleen Ebensperger & Crystal Books

Rosary Leader

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Irene Helmueller
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Holy Name Society

Sacristan

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Kathy Luebker
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Denise Pelzel

Servers

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Grace Hinrichs & Allyson Fleishauer
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Gavin & Carolyn Trannel and Bristol Books

Usher

Sunday, November 24, 8:00 a.m.
Chad Steele & Mel Pittman
Sunday, November 24, 10:15 a.m.
Tom Pullen & Ethan Holmstadt

FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Sunday, November 10th, 2019

Adult Envelopes (38).....	\$	1715.00
Capital Improvements (3).....	\$	600.00
Utility Fund (1).....	\$	5.00
Offertory.....	\$	246.10
Total Income.....	\$	2566.10

ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

Parish Pictorial Book

Lifetouch will be at St. Joseph's Parish taking Pictures for our Parish Pictorial Book. Someone will be in back of the Church on Saturdays before and after Mass starting November 23rd with sign-up sheets. We need you to sign up as soon as possible. Portraits will be taken in the Church basement on Tuesday, January 21st from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Liefing at (715) 285-5265.

Lifetouch®

Parish Christmas Party



St. Joseph's Parishioners are having a family Christmas party on Saturday, December 7th in the Church basement after Mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Bingo will follow (all are welcome to play Bingo). If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Drier at (715) 285-5818.

LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

Money Counting

Monday, November 18, 8:30 a.m.
Midge Steller, Denny Hutter, &
Mary Martin

Announcements

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Annie Bauer

Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Don Peterson

Gift Bearers

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Madalyn Fleishauer & Elaine Brunner

Lector

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Don Peterson

Music

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Beth Pattison & Sara Hansen

Rosary

Saturday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
Dave & Dorothy Anibas



FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH Sunday, November 9th 2019

Adult Envelopes (25).....	\$	760.00
Offertory.....	\$	118.00
Hot Dish Supper.....	\$	423.00
Total Income.....	\$	1301.00

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Sentiments for Seminarians

During the month of November the Plum City/Arkansas Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations of gift cards and cash for the 23 Seminarians in the Diocese of La Crosse. Collection boxes will be located in the back of each Church during this time where you can place your donation. Any donation will help with their basic needs such as gas, groceries, and toiletries. Thank you!



THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets on Friday, November 22nd from 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on the first floor of the St. John the Baptist School Building in Plum City. The topic for week eleven is The Book of Signs. All men are welcomed to join. If you have any questions please contact Dan Wieser at (715) 279-2152 or Tom Pullen at (607) 244-3010. Thanks!



St. Hubert's Mass - November 23rd

In honor of St. Hubert, we will celebrate Mass on Saturday, November 23rd at 8:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish in Plum City. Parishioners are invited to bring a piece of hunting gear to be blessed for the hunting season (no guns, please). We will not celebrate Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist on this Saturday.



Students at the Ave Maria Academy had the best server at lunch last week. Father Joe is the greatest! Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the wonderful "Breakfast for Lunch"!



Sponsored by
Ave Maria Academy
and
Little Lamb Pre-School
of Plum City, WI

Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, November 22, 2019

4:00 - 7:00pm

All you can eat spaghetti, salad, bread,

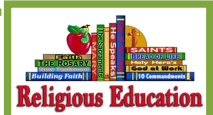
Free Will Donation & home-made desserts **TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE**
Plum City American Legion

COMMUNITY EVENT—EVERYONE WELCOME

Co-Sponsored by Catholic Financial W133
Plum City, Arkansas, River Falls

ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Jesus warns of the challenges that Christians will experience between His Death and Second Coming. Our perseverance in faith during these difficult times ensure that God will always be with us.



FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, we ask You for Your help when things get difficult. Help us to be there for one another. Amen.

IN CHURCH

During the Lord's Prayer, consider that as we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we are asking God to give us all we need for the day.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can Jesus help you with your worries?



RCIA FOCUS: WELCOMING CHRIST

GOSPEL REFLECTION

One of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit is fortitude, courage in the face of difficulties. Sunday's Gospel talks about frightening things that can happen in the world and in our lives. Yet Jesus tells us to persevere because He will give us the words and strength we need to live our lives in testimony to our faith. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to live our lives as Christians and spread the Good News of Jesus to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How can the Holy Spirit help you overcome difficulties?

