

## 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 Rhie, 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



Dean & Sherry Gilles' 55th Anniversary: 11/7

Sue Klein's Birthday: 11/8

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

**NOVEMBER 3, 2019**

**31<sup>st</sup>**

**SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. - Lk 19:5-6

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

**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**



## ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR

One of the Bible stories I learned early in life was the story of the conversion of Zacchaeus. It was such a famous story that every child my age at the time could narrate it with cheer and win public admiration and applause easily.

This is a story about a man who was a publican. As a tax collector, he had hired himself out to the enemies of his compatriots and had turned a bedfellow and a collaborator with the Roman occupational forces in Palestine. He was deemed a thief and a scavenger, as his job made him an extortioner who enriched himself at the expense of his own people. That he was a chief tax collector made his situation worse. He raked in his wealth not only from his own people but also from the excesses of other subordinate tax-gatherers. More so, he was a chief tax-gatherer in no other place but Jericho, a very wealthy region in Palestine. Being a linkway with Jerusalem and a point of departure across the Jordan, Jericho was a fertile ground for any shrewd tax-gatherer to enrich himself and make it big in life. Thus, a chief tax collector in Jericho was nothing but a wealthy man. Zacchaeus was filthy rich.

Money, they say, can't buy happiness. So, rich though he was, Zacchaeus was lacking in happiness. There was an insatiable thirst and in incessant hunger in him which the wealth he had rapaciously gathered could not quench. He sought for a change and convinced himself that Jesus, who had been friends with tax collectors and sinners could be the answer. He thereby sought to see Jesus and took drastic steps to encounter him. In spite of himself and without regard to the crowd who would treat him with spite and pour scorn on him, he ran ahead of the way Jesus would go and climbed a sycamore tree, just so his stature would not hinder his bid to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he passed. It was while he was still perching up the sycamore tree that Jesus stopped, bade him descend and invited himself to Zacchaeus' home. Though the crowd murmured against Jesus' choice to be the guest of a sinner, yet Zacchaeus still acknowledged his past and showed sincere contrition as he promised to give half his property to the poor and do fourfold restitution to anyone he had defrauded. In the sight of his perfect contrition, Jesus responded and said, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Friends, this story speaks loads to us all. As I skim through it, what immediately strikes me is that no individual is too bad to be saved and no one is beyond the power of Christ's grace. If a public sinner like Zacchaeus could win God's favor in spite of himself, then there is an opportunity for salvation for anyone who seeks God with a sincere heart.

It is also clear from the storyline that little and insignificant are things on which our salvation often turns. Zacchaeus did not need to do extraordinary things to be visited by the Lord who saves. He only had to acknowledge his need for Christ and run up a sycamore tree to be found by Jesus. They were the simple and little steps that made him host Jesus in his house, an act that drew salvation right into his house. May we never despise the day of small things as they can lead to our own salvation as well (see Zech. 4:10 ).

From the story, we gather that those whom Christ calls must humble themselves and come down. Though it seemed uncomfortable for Zacchaeus to stay on top of the tree, he was in his comfort zone. There, he was safe from the troubles of the crowd. He was also positioned to overcome the obstacles that his stature brought between him and his encounter with Jesus. Nevertheless, at the call of Jesus, he had to forget his stature and the possible harsh treatment from the crowd and come down from the tree. His descent was therefore reminiscent of thinking of himself less and possibly swallowing his pride so as to lower himself to the level of all who stood in need of a Savior.

He also gave vent to the change his encounter with Jesus effected in him. As every genuinely converted sinner would do, he gave evidence to his conversion. He proved by his act of generosity to the poor and his extravagant restitution that conversion is not merely a lip service to pay but a call to positive action. From him, therefore, we learn that conversion is meaningless if it is not backed by genuine action.

Touched by the grace of God, we cannot help but be generous. By his fourfold restitution, Zacchaeus went beyond the confines of the law. He was making a voluntary confession at a time when he had not violently robbed anyone. So the expected legal restitution would have been to return an equal amount extorted or its equivalent value to their rightful owners. However, having been touched by the grace and mercy of God, Zacchaeus went all out to be generous to the poor as well as gracious to his victims. Grace had snatched him from the domain of the law and planted a seed of countless charity in his heart. No wonder as he gave half of his property and acted generously toward his unsuspecting victims Jesus surprised him with more - Salvation.

Even though it was Zacchaeus who did the running and the climbing, it was Jesus who caught glimpse of him and took the initiative to invite himself to be his guest. Jesus took the first step in reaching out to Zacchaeus. He cut through the exclusivity of the Jews and approached this public sinner, an outcast. Very often, the first step in making a friend is quite difficult yet if we take the initiative we can get the best out of others.

Finally, it pays to avoid prejudgments on the basis of appearance or social status. Jesus never prejudged Zacchaeus according to the nature of his job, neither did he view him through the social lens. He gazed on the tree and saw a man who had to be brought down from the tree of weakness and be planted in the oasis of salvation. In the end, he made a son of Abraham out of a publican. Rather than prejudging Zacchaeus, Jesus offered him friendship, he spent time with him, listened to his story and shared himself with Zacchaeus.

This week, if we all would learn of our chances for salvation, if we would seize our little opportunities, and allow God's graces to spur us on to lives of charity, humbly acknowledging the dignity of all, if we would graciously offer genuine friendship to all we meet and spend time with people as we share in their dreams and aspirations, we will help build a better world and create a safe haven for many people. May God be our help.

Have a good week  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

### THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 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 nine is Is Seeing Believing. 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!



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

The Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus would like to extend a thank you to all that attended and helped with the Pancake Breakfast last Sunday and generously supported our free-will donation.



### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Plum City/Arkansaw Knights of Columbus Council is this Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at about 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 pray the rosary, all are welcome.

## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: November 4 - St. Charles Borromeo

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Jn 8:31b-32/Lk 14:12-14

### Tuesday: November 5

- Mass: 10:30 a.m., Plum City Care Center, † Lyle Hofacker
- Readings: Rom 12:5-16ab/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Mt 11:28/Lk 14:15-24

### Wednesday: November 6

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, † Arvilla Caturia
- Readings: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/1 Pt 4:14/Lk 14:25-33

### Thursday: November 7

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Michael Pittman
- Adoration: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Communion for the sick and homebound
- Readings: Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14/Mt 11:28/Lk 15:1-10

### Friday: November 8

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Clarence Jilk
- Readings: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/1 Jn 2:5/Lk 16:1-8

### Saturday: November 9 - The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - Father Ambrose Blenker
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - Anton & Lucian Bauer Family
- Readings: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/2 Chr 7:16/Jn 2:13-22

### Sunday: November 10 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Carl, Agnes, & Raymond Berger
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15/2 Thes 2:16-3:5/Rv 1:5a, 6b/Lk 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

**The Rosary is prayed before all Masses**

## 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.

## 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

### Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

### Parish Pictorial Book

Lifetouch will be at St. John The Baptist taking Pictures for our Parish Pictorial Book. Someone will be in back of the Church on Sundays starting November 3<sup>rd</sup> with sign-up sheets. We need you to sign up as soon as possible. Please sign up for a time slot during one of sessions listed below.

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

### St John the Baptist Capital Funds Projects

- **Stained Glass Windows:** ~\$9,500/window, large round window: ~\$7,500
- **Steeple:** \$41,000
- **Painting Church Interior:** estimated cost: \$150,000.
- **Church Heating System:** estimated cost: \$2,500
- **Church Organ Repair:** estimated cost \$25,000.
- **Miscellaneous items:** estimated cost: \$4,000 (landscaping, new church sign, new roof for BBQ pit)
- **The total cost for all projects is \$350,000.**

May God bless you for all you do to keep our Parish vibrant; especially as we move towards our 150-year anniversary and beyond.

Sincerely, Father Joseph, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Parish Finance Council, and Parish Pastoral Council

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

Monday, November 4, 9:30 a.m.  
Denise Pelzel, Carol Bechel, & Suzanne Gilles

### Announcements

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Marie Berger  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Ramona Schneider

### Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Dianne Lecheler  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Ramona Schneider

### Gift Bearers

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Betsy Fetzer, Marie & Joyce Berger  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Brian & Crystal Books Family

### Lector

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Todd Glaus  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Dorothy Kopp

### Music

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Bob & JoAnn Larson  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Arleen Ebensperger & Steve Carlson

### Rosary Leader

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Sacristan

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Gwen Glaus  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Aletha Pullen

### Servers

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Grace Hinrichs & Broden Coss  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Olivia & Lilly Pullen

### Usher

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.  
Fred Bechel & John Krings  
Sunday, November 10, 10:15 a.m.  
Terry Pelzel & Steve King

## FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Adult Envelopes (35).....	\$	1305.00
Building Repair (1).....	\$	100.00
Offertory.....	\$	261.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$	2327.35
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3993.35</b>

## ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

### St. Ann's Altar Society Meeting

The next St. Ann's Altar Society Meeting will be Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Church basement.

## LITURGICAL ROLES: ST. JOSEPH

### Money Counting

Monday, November 4, 8:30 a.m.

Jerry Lieftring, Madalyn  
Fleishauer, & Dennis Milliren

### Announcements

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Rose Brunner

### Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Brunner

### Gift Bearers

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Dave & Brenda Drier

### Lector

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Brunner

### Music

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Sara & Elizabeth Hansen

### Rosary

Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Howard & Mary Martin



## FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

### Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

Adult Envelopes (25).....	\$	775.00
Offertory.....	\$	160.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$	458.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1393.00</b>

## HOT DISH & SALAD SUPPER

Please join us for a Hot Dish and Salad Supper at St. Joseph's Parish in Arkansaw on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Good-will offering. Everyone is welcome to attend!



## PCCW NEWS

Please return your baby bottle. The Parish Council of Catholic Women appreciates your support during pro-life month. Contributions will benefit Options for Women. May God Bless You All!



## PLUM CITY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive at the American Legion Hall in Plum City on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call Verna at 715-285-5884 or Pat at 715-647-4952 to schedule an appointment.

## Part-time Secretary Wanted for St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph's Parishes

St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph's Parishes are currently accepting applications to fill the role of Secretary in our central office. The successful candidate will perform skilled clerical work and provide general secretarial support. The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining sacramental & parishioner records, ordering Church & office supplies, scheduling liturgical roles, and facilitating communication within our Parishes. Candidates must have strong office, computer, and communication skills. An understanding of the Catholic Church and its mission is important. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

If you are interested, please, email (11stjohn@centurylink.net) or send your resume to the central office (St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishes, 212 Church Road, Plum City, WI, 54761).

## Congratulations Ethan

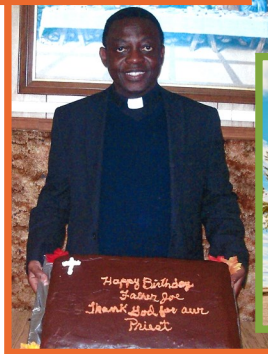
St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishes congratulate Ethan Holmstadt who was Confirmed on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> by Bishop William Callahan.

Ethan, as you are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may you share in His peace and goodness and may the Holy Spirit guide you and bring you great joy in all that you do. Congratulations on your Confirmation!



Remembering Father Blenker.  
May his soul rest in peace.

Celebrating Father Joe's  
Birthday and Priesthood  
Sunday at St. Joseph's.



## ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Zacchaeus, a tax collector, climbs into a sycamore tree for a better view of Jesus.

Jesus honors Zacchaeus by staying at his house. The crowd is angry that Jesus would stay with a sinner but Jesus wants everyone to come to Him.

## FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, help us to be good role models for one another. Amen.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When has a friend been a good example for you?

## IN CHURCH

Choose seats in or near the front row at Mass for the best possible view of Jesus. Pray that you always remember that Jesus is close by.



## RCIA FOCUS: WELCOMING CHRIST

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday's Gospel isn't just about a sinful man being chosen to host Jesus at his home. It is the story of all of us! Jesus recognizes our need to be seen, loved, and saved. Jesus invites Himself into all our homes and hopes that we, like Zacchaeus, will turn away from sin. Learning about Jesus is an important step in welcoming Him into our lives.

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

Imagine being received with joy by Jesus. What would that feel like?

