

We appreciate the businesses below for advertising in our bulletin, please patronize these businesses. And when you do, mention that you saw their ad in our bulletin!

J BROTHERS TRANS INC
Alma Center, WI
Your Flatbed Specialist
715-670-1023
jbrother84@gmail.com

ESSER INSURANCE
APEX Insurance Group
Alma Center, WI
715-964-6311

ASAP
Septic Pumping LLC
715-963-ASAP (2727)
"your local septic pumper"

Sponsors:
†Martin & Dorothy Kalina

In Loving Memory of the
†Ray & Lorraine Laufenberg Family

James Forsting Families

Dennis and Jan Elfering

In Memory of Those We Have Loved

The Esser Family

Janke's Never Rest Farms

Health Mart. PHARMACY
BLACK RIVER FALLS CLINIC PHARMACY
610 W ADAMS STREET
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615
PHONE: 715-284-4089
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 - 5:30
SATURDAYS 9:30 - 12:00

ANONYMOUS DONORS
FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCE NEED DUE TO ILLNESS, ACCIDENT, OR ACTS OF NATURE
Contacts: Jeffrey Smith 715-334-3983 or Marcel Kujak 715-964-5301

*Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home
Torgerson's Funeral Service
Buswell Funeral Home*
CELEBRATING LIFE and HONORING MEMORIES
715-284-4321
funeralhome4321@gmail.com

RIPP DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.
"Your Water Source"
Black River Falls, WI 54615
PH: 715-284-9866
email: info@rippdistco.com
www.rippdistco.com
Home & Office Bottled Water Service
Water filtration dispensers


VFW Post 8494
Bob Danke Post Cmdr
715-984-2478
Hall rental available
(Ad donated in memory of Bernard & Dorothy Laufenberg)

In Memory of
John Selz
Selz-Pralle Dairy Family

Carlos
AUTO BODY & CUSTOM PAINTING
715-379-0748
Merrill, WI

Central WI AG Services, LLC
P.O. Box 87
Alma Center, WI 54611
715-896-2569
www.cwagservices.com

Picture your ad here!



Black Creek Lodge, LLC
S13231 County Road H
Fairchild WI 54741
715-313-0906
blackcreeklodge@hotmail.com

Bertrang Roofing
Scott Bertrang
715-210-4422

 **Thank you St Jude**

We still have room for more ads!
If you would like to place an ad or be a sponsor, please contact Dawn Kaufman

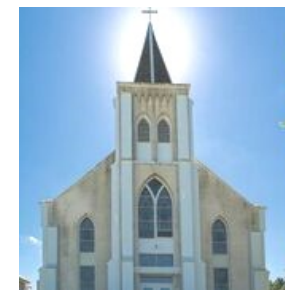
It is time to renew ads and sponsorships! If you already have an ad or have sponsored our bulletin in the past, you will be getting a reminder. If you don't have an add, know someone who might want to purchase an ad, or if you want to become a sponsor, please contact Dawn Kaufman

The Tradition of the "Nativity Scene"

Families are encouraged to set up the Christmas crib at home together so that children learn the facts of the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. The Nativity Scene can help us understand the true meaning of Christmas because it expresses the humility and merciful goodness of Jesus Christ, who though He was rich He made Himself poor for us (2 Corinthians 8:9). Christmas brings joy, peace and hope to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 10-12) This is still the true meaning of Christmas. We need a Savior; the Son of God came to us as a tiny infant in the poorest of circumstances. Jesus is the Savior because in Him and through Him is the grace necessary for us to overcome all of the dysfunction, sinfulness, shame and guild which separates us from God and from one another. In Him is the grace to overcome all obstacles to friendship with God. In Bethlehem "a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."



TRI-PARISH BULLETIN Dec. 15, 2019



Immaculate Conception Parish
341 W Main St PO Box 188
Alma Center WI 54611-0188
715-964-5201



St. Joseph Parish-Fairview
N13740 Fairview Rd
Fairchild WI 54741-8514
715-964-5201



St. John Cantius Parish
306 2nd St.
Fairchild WI 54741-8514
715-964-5201

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, St Joseph, and St John Cantius!

The encounter with Jesus in Word and Sacrament defeats the malice of the Devil. I would argue that one of the biggest reasons our churches are empty is that people in general don't fear the reality of evil. If we did, we would fill the churches, since it is only here where we have that which gives victory. The Word of God and the Eucharist.

In our day and age, we have the temptation to become overly humanitarian in our approach to the faith. We care for the poor and the sick, but we don't fear the malevolence of the Devil. We provide a friendly and caring atmosphere, but we don't feel the Devil is a threat. We look at church as a social gathering, and not a place of spiritual combat of Good over Evil.

God has made us for union. It is in Church where we experience Union with God. It is here that we hear His word and consume his Body. Prayer and frequent visits to the church are thus necessary so as to stay in constant Union with God.

We desire union so badly, that we will consume something or someone if we don't find union in God. Think about this in a sin you struggle with. Why do you have such a strong desire for your sin? What are you yearning for? What union are you desiring? What desire are you trying to fulfill?

God has an answer for this. God allows us to consume Him in both Word and Sacrament. If we don't give ourselves entirely to God, we will then seek union in someone or something else. We will then desire to consume a thing or a person. We will try to find happiness in a union outside of God. This explains why a person addicted to drugs or to a sexual sin, repeatedly falls for their vice. But if they were to seek union with God, they would find peace, because here in this Church God gives himself to us in Word and Sacrament. We physically consume the Body of Christ, because God knows that we need union. We are built for union. We crave union so badly, that if God did not give himself to us, we would never have hope in overcoming sin.

The Holy Mass is the location where we are united to God. Please encourage your family and friends to attend Mass every Sunday. Untold graces are present at each and every Holy Mass. Thank you for the beautiful blessing of shepherding your parishes! I am definitely keeping you all in prayer!

Fr Dan Thelen

<p>PARISH SECRETARY, BOOKKEEPER Dawn Kaufman 715-334-3931 or 715-533-8344</p> <p>DIR. OF SACRED MUSIC Jolene Janke 715-964-6334</p> <p>TRI-PARISH FACEBOOK Immaculate Joseph John</p>	<p>PASTOR Fr. Daniel Thelen 715-964-5201 or 715-218-8391</p> <p>OFFICE PHONE 715-964-5201</p> <p>TRI-PARISH EMAIL ID icjosephjohn@hotmail.com</p> <p>TRI-PARISH WEBSITE www.catholic-parishes-of-almacenter-fairchild.org</p>	<p>REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun 8:30 am SSJJ 10:15 am IC</p> <p>Tue 5:30 pm IC Spanish</p> <p>Wed 9:00 am IC</p> <p>Thu 9:00 am IC</p> <p>Fri 9:00 am IC</p> <p>Sat 4:30 pm IC Spanish</p> <p>CONFESSION</p> <p>Sat 4:00-4:30 pm at IC</p> <p>Sun 8:00-8:30 am at SSJJ</p>
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Saturday December 14
4:30 PM Mass Immaculate Conception - Hispanic
 †Members of All Three Parishes

Sunday December 15 Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Mass St Joseph
 †Betty Kohn (L Kohn)

10:15 AM Mass Immaculate Conception
 Jane Anderson, for a successful surgery
CCD Christmas Program after Mass

Monday December 16
No Mass

Tuesday December 17
5:30 PM Mass Immaculate Conception
 †Lawrence Simonis

6:30 PM SSJJ Parish Council Meeting St Joseph

Wednesday December 18
9:00 AM Mass Immaculate Conception
 †Deceased members of the Kaufman Family

9:30-11:00 AM Confessions Immaculate Conception
6:30 PM CCD Immaculate Conception
6:30-8:00 PM Confessions Immaculate Conception

Thursday December 19
9:00 AM Mass Immaculate Conception
 †Deceased Members of the Thompson Family

Friday December 20
9:00 AM Mass Immaculate Conception
 †Dec. Members of the Anton & Mary Kujak Family (M&J Kujak)

Saturday December 21
4:30 PM Mass Immaculate Conception - Hispanic
 †Members of All Three Parishes

Sunday December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Mass St Joseph
 †Henry & Evelyn Kohn (L Kohn)

10:15 AM Mass Immaculate Conception
 †Barbara Anibas (L Anibas)

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Please visit our Facebook page—**Immaculate Joseph John**
<https://www.facebook.com/immaculate.conception.7796420>
 Like our page, request to be a friend. You will get notices from other friends in the parishes, get news about local church events, things happening in the Diocese, etc.

We also have a website:
www.catholic-parishes-of-almacenter-fairchild.org

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Contact Jolene Janke at 715-964-6334 or stevnmj@centurytel.net to ask for prayers. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain and pray for others, contact Jolene. The Power of Prayer is Amazing!

Please pray for all on the Prayer Chain, as well as our Active Military: GERALYN JANKE, JOSEPH JANKE, KATIE KOTSCHINELSON, FRANK UEKER, DEREK LAUFENBERG, LOGAN MEACHAM, MADELEINE SEARLES, MICHELLE THOMPSON, LUKE HANSEN, BRANDON RIPP, ALEX RIPP, ANDREW ELFERING and HOLDEN MITCHELL.

Remember your parish when you write your will!

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE—PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE
 Occasionally there are changes to the schedule—watch the bulletin for the latest and correct schedule

Sun. Dec. 15, 8:30 am, St Jos R: Jan Elfering S: Sierra Mayer, Elise Theiler U: D Kaufman, B Connelly EM: A Baumann, J Scheffer G: G&C Eisberner MC: J&D Elfering, T Baumann	Sun. Dec. 15, 10:15 am, IC R: Leanna Cernohous S: Ariana & Annika C., Jaida Clarke U: B Leis, L Boehnen, M Esser, C Trautlein EM: John Esser, Kathy Laudon, Mary Seichter G: Matt & Stephanie Esser MC: John Hayden, M&J Esser
Sun. Dec. 22, 8:30 am, St Jos R: C Eisberner S: D Scheffer, R Dimmitt U: Tim Mayer, Tom Baumann EM: C&G Eisberner G: D Boullion & R Traczek MC: C Eisberner, J Smith, P Connelly	Sun. Dec. 22, 10:15 am, IC R: Kathy Esser S: J&J Rowekamp, E Esser U: J Hayden, C Cray, M Schroeder, C Shramek EM: J Kujak, B Meacham, K Laudon G: Chris & Carrie Trautlein MC: J Esser, C Hagedorn, D LaCost
Tue. Dec. 24, 8:00 pm, St Jos R: Bonnie Firkus S: V Firkus, G Eisberner U: Rick Dimmitt, Tom Baumann EM: B Firkus, D Elfering, (A Baumann) G: Tom & Anna Baumann MC: J Scheffer, R&P Dimmitt	Tue. Dec. 24, 4:00 pm, IC R: Eugenia Cray S: J&J Rowekamp, Andin C. U: volunteers EM: K Esser, P Gower, B Meacham G: Chris & Stacy Shramek MC: E&J Olson, P Gower
If you cannot serve as posted, please find a substitute. I don't know everyone's Christmas plans, so please swap with someone if you need to.	Wed. Dec. 25, 9:00 am, IC R: Kathy Laudon S: E Esser, C Pineda, J Clarke U: volunteers EM: John Esser, K Laudon, J Kujak G: Carlos & Jennifer Pineda MC: B Meacham, K&J Kujak

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Immaculate Conception and St Joseph Parishes will be decorating the church for Christmas on Dec. 22nd after their Masses. Please volunteer to help carry decorations, set up trees, string lights, etc. if you are able to assist.

SSJJ PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
 Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 PM at St Joseph's

WEEKLY TITHING					
	12/7&8	IC SAT	IC SUN	ST. JOS	ST. JOHN
ADULT		150.00	890.00	1252.00	150.00
PLATE		110.00	166.01	67.00	360.00
FLOWERS			95.00	195.00	
FUEL				100.00	
TOTAL		1411.01		1614.00	510.00
BUDGET		1531.00		998.00	332.00
DIFFERENCE		(119.99)		616.00	148.00
BUDG DIFF YTD		4029.71		(241.09)	(206.00)

Sunday Fund Day Winner!!
 Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 \$50 winner is Theresa Ripp

Angel Tree at St Joseph's

We will be putting up an Angel Tree this year with our Christmas decorations at St Joseph's. We started this last year, but it was a little late to get many angels. If you have an angel for the tree, one you really like, or reminds you of a loved one, or in memory of a loved one (your personal angel), please bring it for the Angel Tree. They will be put on the tree on the day we decorate, so please bring them by the Fourth Sunday of Advent, if you can. After Christmas, you can leave it with the decorations for next year, or take it home as a keepsake. Be sure to put your name on it if you are taking it back, so you are sure to get the correct one.



We sincerely thank **Cinco de Mayo of Black River Falls** for providing the meal after the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Mass. It was nice to have so many participate and enjoy the meal together.

CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AFTER MASS AT IC TODAY

The CCD students will present their Christmas program after Mass at Immaculate Conception today. Please come watch them, they worked hard to get the presentation ready for us to enjoy. And thank you to Marci Baugher and the CCD teachers for helping them prepare the program for us!

TICKETS FOR CALENDAR RAFFLE STILL AVAILABLE!!

I would like to thank everyone who sold tickets for the Sunday Fund Day raffle. This has been a wonderful fund raiser to help with the cost of the needed maintenance for our church. We have some books left. Let's see if we can sell them all. Please have your tickets returned by Christmas this year for next years drawing that begins the first Sunday in January.

Joan Esser

Religious give thanks. "Thank you' hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection. Our combined contributions equaled \$\$890!

ANONYMOUS DONORS

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCE NEED DUE TO ILLNESS, ACCIDENT, OR ACTS OF NATURE

Contacts: Jeffrey Smith 715-334-3983 or Marcel Kujak 715-964-5301

Advertiser Of The Week

We thank this week's Advertiser of the Week, **Anonymous Donors** for their continuing support of our church bulletin. If you find yourself in financial difficulty, contact Anonymous Donors. They are here to help you out in your time of need. And let them know we appreciate their continued support!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Parish—Bible Study
 Every Thursday Evening - 6pm-7pm
 *Check bulletin for cancellations
 *Currently studying St Matthew in the New Testament
 *Meet at the Alma Center Rectory

FALL AND WINTER 2019

Dec. 15, Sunday-CCD Christmas Play
10:15 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Dec. 18, Wednesday-Confessions
9:30-11:00 AM Immaculate Conception
6:30-8:00 PM Immaculate Conception

Dec. 24, Tuesday-Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Mass at Immaculate Conception
8:00 PM Mass at St Joseph
Dec. 25, Wednesday-Christmas Day
9:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Jan. 1, Wednesday-Solemnity of Mary-Holy Day of Obligation
9:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception
6:00 PM Mass at St Joseph

DON'T FORGET THOSE ADDRESSES AND OLD PHOTOS FOR ST JOSEPH'S 150TH!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There are envelopes available at the back of church or in the vestibule if you would like to donate toward the purchase of Christmas flowers and decorations in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please fill out the info on the envelope and drop it in the collection.

WORKING TOGETHER
JOY
 SHARING
 STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH

St John's is almost there!! Please make your pledge now, and save me some phone calls!

	Imm. Con. Goal - \$7495
	Pledged - \$7555
	St. Joseph Goal- \$6640
	Pledged - \$7085
	St. John Goal - \$1840
	Pledged - \$1700