



The Epiphany of our lord

January 3, 2016

St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist

They
prostrated
themselves
and did him
homage

The Parish Communities of : St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church ~ St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Physical & mailing address: 1708 East Tenth Street, Merrill, WI 54452

Physical address: N4887 Hwy 17, Bloomville

Parish Directory

- Parish Office.....536-2803
- Pastor — Father Chris Kemp.....536-2803 ext. 218
- Retired Clergy — Father Joseph Kleinheinz.....536-2803
- Deacon — Jim Arndt.....536-2803 ext. 215
- Parish Secretary — Kris Leggett.....536-2803 ext. 202
- Financial Assistant — Laura Reiter.....536-2803 ext. 219
- Parish Outreach/Evangelization — Sr. Dolores Lilla.....536-7487
- DRE — Joe Velie.....536-2803 ext. 222
- Music Director — Mary Ament.....536-2803 ext. 230
- Building Maintenance Supervisor — John Hanson.....536-2803 ext. 221
- Custodian — Wolfgang Lenk.....536-2803 ext. 221
- Cemetery Sexton — John Hanson
- Parish Council Chairs — Lisa Hass (SFX), Anne Schoone (SJB)
- Trustees St. Francis Xavier — Pat Buckett (Pastoral) Jim Brickner (Finance)
- Trustees St. John the Baptist — Jim St. Mary, Leona Vander Sanden
- Liturgy Committee — Pete McConnell (SFX), Angela Frick (SJB)
- School Committee — Kate Shimel, Tracy Creel, Michelle Evans, Scott Nelson, Rick Meehean
- Religious Education — Maria Brickner
- School Principal — Sonja Doughty.....536-6083
- School Secretary — Cindy Gennrich.....536-6083
- Knights of Columbus — Bill Hanson, Grand Knight.....536-8471

Parish Website: www.stfrancismerrill.org
 Staff email addresses are listed on the parish website

- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.....539-1131
- St. Vincent de Paul Outreach.....539-2666
- St. Vincent Free Clinic.....539-9566
- Merrill Community Food Pantry.....536-4505

Mass Schedule (SJB-St. John Baptist SFX-St. Francis Xavier)

- Weekend Mass**
- Saturday.....4:00 PM at SFX
- Sunday.....7:45 AM & 9:30 AM SFX
- Sunday.....11:30 AM at SJB
- Weekday Mass**
- Tuesday.....6:00 PM at SFX
- Wednesday.....9:00 AM at SFX
- Thursday.....9:30 AM at SJB and 10:15 AM at Pine Crest
- Friday.....8:00 AM at SFX

Reconciliation Times (and by appointment)

- Saturday.....3:00 PM (SFX) Tuesday.....5:30 PM (SFX)
- Wednesday.....8:15 AM (SFX) Thursday.....9:15 AM (SJB)

Parish Office Hours: Monday 12:30-4:00 PM
Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
(closed daily 12-12:30 for lunch)

Low Gluten Eucharist (.01%) are available.
 Please see Fr. Chris before Mass.

Parish office email: kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org
 Bulletin deadline Tuesday at Noon.

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home
903 E. Third St
715-536-6244



Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:
 Our next meeting will be later this month. Please watch the bulletin for our next meeting date.

Moms in Prayer:

Meetings vary. Call Irene at 536-9430

Eucharistic Adoration:

In "The Little Flower Chapel" Sun-Thur, 5AM-12AM
 Friday 5AM-10PM, Saturday 5AM-1PM

Evening Prayer:

Wednesday at 5:45 PM in "The Little Flower Chapel"

Rosary:

St. Francis: Tuesday @ 5:30 PM & Friday @ 7:30 AM
 St. John's :Thursdays @ 9:00 AM
 and Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM

St. John the Baptist Thursday Social Time:

Every Thursday following 9:30 AM Mass

Little Knights Playgroup:

We meet every Friday that school is in session from 9:00-10:30 AM



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Jessica Hartwig**

PRAYER CHAIN: Please call Kris at the Parish Office with your prayer chain requests. You may leave a message if necessary. The messages are checked daily even on weekends. Thank you.



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
January 4, 2016



- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 -- 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 -- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Weekly Schedule: January 4-10, 2016

Monday 1/4	Tuesday 1/5	Wednesday 1/6	Thursday 1/7	Friday 1/8	Saturday 1/9	Sunday 1/10
	No Mass 6:00 PM SFX Base Training 6:45 PM SFX Family Choir	No Mass 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 5:00 PM SFX MS/HS choir 6:00 PM SFX religious ed 6:45 PM SFX confirmation	No Mass 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	No Mass	12:30 PM SFX 55+ Potluck 3:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 4:00 PM SFX Mass	7:45 AM SFX Mass 9:30 AM SFX Mass 11:30 AM SJB Mass
				SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist		

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE January 9-10, 2014

Readers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Susan Ryman, Lisa Hass
 7:45 AM (SFX) Mary Ball, Katy Ball
 9:30 AM (SFX) Evelyn Lee & Christopher Renzelmann
 11:30 AM (SJB) Joe Zimmerman, Angela Monti

Servers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Lauren Cohrs, Mason & Clayton Evans
 7:45 AM (SFX) Brian Ball, Bobby & Deb Hoff
 9:30 AM (SFX) A. Renzelmann, M & C Drew, G. Reindl
 11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Ian & Kevin Cohrs, Volunteers
 7:45 AM (SFX) Tom & Aidan Ball, B. Swan, K. Adams
 9:30 AM (SFX) C. Lee, A. Bacon, J & L Ruprecht
 11:30 AM (SJB) Louie Leder, Perry Block

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Michelle Evans
 7:45 AM (SFX) Mark & Sharon Zipperer
 9:30 AM (SFX) Gayle Maluegge, Hilde Hantke

Ministry Schedules and sub lists for both parishes are on our website: www.stfrancismerrill.org

MASS INTENTIONS Week of January 4, 2016

Tuesday No Mass
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday No Mass
Friday No Mass

If you purchased one of the Masses above you may call the parish office to find out when it has been rescheduled.

Saturday
 4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Roy Drew
 By: Family

Sunday
 7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: † Lucille Duginski
 By: Andrew Duginski
 9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: People of the parishes

11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: † Kathleen Caylor
 By: Family

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
 January 10, 2016: Paul Proulx

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
 January 9, 2016: Sally Wiley

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
 Week of January 17, 2016: Maggie Marquis

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism. You must be a registered and contributing member of the parish to have your child receive this sacrament.

Anointing of the sick: This sacrament is available upon request by calling the parish office. Please do not wait until it becomes an emergency because a priest will not always be immediately available.

Parish News



PASTOR'S CORNER by: Fr. Chris

Today, The Solemnity of Epiphany, we read how people from afar come bearing gifts of gold and frankincense. The difference between the two readings for today is that in the first reading from Isaiah, the author is speaking about them coming to Jerusalem and in the gospel the foreigners come first to Jerusalem and then move on to Bethlehem searching for the true king. And what is it that these travelers from afar expect to find in their searching for this king?

One of the first things we know from our text is that we are not really sure how many of these travelers there are, the gospel does not say. It is only because of tradition that we say that the number is three; this has to do with the number of gifts which were brought. Some of the early manuscripts, about the account of the Magi, have the number of them as few as two and others have them as high as twelve. What we do know about the travelers in today's gospel is that they were educated men. Most likely they had been educated in mathematics and geometry, astronomy, and philosophy. They were the scientists of their time, studying the stars and planets. Yet, they must not have known much if anything about the Jewish faith, there was no need for them to know. Even Herod had to call the chief priests and scribes to ascertain where this new king was to be born.

Yet, Herod had said something worth noting. He said, "Go and search diligently for the child." Here these travelers are coming from afar and find themselves in Herod's own country and he, the priests, and scribes are not aware of what is happening? Here are these outsiders of the faith and they are being drawn to God who is making him-self known through their hard work of searching for Him. The more important question is where does that leave us, in our encounters of Him in the Holy Scriptures, the Church, sacraments, creation, and through our interactions with one another?

-Fr.Chris

K of C ice fishing tournament: The annual Knights of Columbus ice fishing tournament will be held on February 6, 2016. They are currently looking for donations of door prizes or raffle items. They can use anything sports related, or hand crafted.

Sick List: Please keep the following people in your prayers: Fr. Joe, Bryan Rammer, Jody Mittlestaedt, Rick Loof, Duane Tomajcik, Kristy (Schnabel) Witt, Dan Vignali, George Lawrie, and Bernie Ineichen.

Ministering to the Homebound: Our parish currently ministers to several parishioners by bringing them Eucharist, since they are homebound. We are looking for someone to volunteer in this very rewarding ministry. These visits take about 2-3 hours every other week. The schedule is very flexible. If you are interested please call the parish office.

Notes from the Finance Office... Those parishioners who choose to use the church's ACH program for making their contributions to St. Francis Xavier church may have noticed that they have received a packet of envelopes in the mail. These envelopes are not for the weekly collections, but for all the "special" collections like the Catholic Herald, Catholic Schools Week, the Diocesan sponsored missions, St. Vincent's, and Holy Days. Parishioners have voiced concerns to me that they don't have envelopes for these "special" collections, so now a program is in place to receive these envelopes. If you are a parishioner that uses the ACH program and did not receive a packet of these envelopes, please call Laura Reiter at 715-536-2803, ext. 119.

Family Rosary: Our next family rosary will be held next Sunday, January 10th at 6:00 PM in the church.

55+ Potluck: Our next potluck will be held Saturday, January 9th. Please bring a dish to pass, a prize for bingo and a friend. We also will be playing cards for those who do not care for Bingo.

No Mass: There is no Mass this week on Tuesday 1/5, Wednesday 1/6, Thursday 1/7, or Friday 1/8, while Fr. Chris is taking a few days off.

Fr. Joe would like to thank everyone for their prayers and gifts for his birthday and Christmas.

www.stfrancismerrill.org: Check out our website for bulletins, ministry schedules, religious education dates, school lunch menu, adoration chapel hours, staff email addresses and more!

SFX School News

Our Christmas decorations for our Christmas Concert were our elves (staff) in a sleigh with Santa (Father Chris). The sleigh was pulled by all of our wonderful reindeer (students). This is the time of year for us to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year. Thank you for your support of our school!



St. John the Baptist News

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2015

INCOME	Nov 2015	July-Nov 2015
Collections	\$4,307.00	\$19,850.75
Fund Raising Income	1,420.00	2,220.30
Faith in Our Future Funds	303.64	851.01
Cemetery Income	0.00	225.00
Other Income	<u>300.35</u>	<u>987.32</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,330.99	\$24,134.38
EXPENSES		
Wages/Benefits	\$2,360.44	\$12,958.43
Office expenses	190.00	190.00
Utilities	57.93	4,157.57
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Upkeep/maintenance	77.21	1,420.54
Fundraising expenses	189.74	234.64
Ministry expenses	105.54	2,040.54
Cemetery Expenses	0.00	45.18
2014-2015 CSA	-85.00	6,266.00
Other expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,895.86	\$28,912.90
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,435.13	(\$4,778.52)
INVESTMENTS	11/30/2015	
Checking Account	\$1,993.29	
Cemetery Funds	14,763.37	
Investment CD's	<u>213,797.21</u>	
TOTAL	\$230,553.87	

Religious Education News

Wednesday, January 6:

6:00pm - 7:00 PM, Grades K-8.

6:00 - 6:45 PM Confirmation Social Time

6:45 - 7:45 PM Confirmation Session

BASE training, the training for those who need to safe environment training, is scheduled for January 5 at 6 pm. If you need this training please RSVP Joe Velie at 536-2803 ext. 222 by January 4. If no one RSVP's by January 4, there will be no BASE training session January 5.

1st Communion Parent Meeting is on January 27 at 6:00 pm. This is a mandatory meeting for parents because material and schedules will be distributed. If the session is cancelled due to weather, a makeup session will be scheduled.

SCRIP ...It isn't just for Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who purchased SCRIP this Christmas! Many people only buy SCRIP at Christmas time. Here are some other times that you should buy SCRIP:

- ◇ Grocery shopping
- ◇ Gas for your car, snowmobile, snow blower
- ◇ Filling prescriptions
- ◇ Household supplies/materials for repairs
- ◇ Coffee breaks
- ◇ Fast food/fine dining

Just to name a few! SCRIP is sold before and after Mass and at the Parish Office.



Eucharistic Adoration

The wise men identified a special star and were led by it. The star stands for the Holy Spirit, guiding us and leading us on our journey of faith. There are hurdles, hostilities, painful and discouraging experiences a plenty on our journey. But if we constantly look for Him and follow His guidance, we shall encounter Christ in every situation.

After encountering the Savior, the wise men "departed for their country by another way." They were changed and transformed. When we encounter Christ, we too, like the wise men, are so transformed, changed and renewed that we walk a different path, a new path of joy, peace and total love of God and his people.

If you have any questions you may contact:
Phil/Mary 536-4825, Audrey, 536-1502, Kay 536-5986.

JOIN US FOR A

Consoling the Heart of Jesus

Small-Group Retreat

Join us for a 10 week small-group retreat that delves into the simplicity and grandeur of Consoling spirituality. This retreat is based on the popular book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*.

Gain new insights into how you can console Jesus; learn the keys to the great sanctity of the saints and blesseds like Therese of Lisieux, Faustina Kowalska, and Mother Teresa; and have all the tools you'll need to "become a saint, a great saint, and quickly."

"There has been a deep spiritual awakening for the people in our group. . . .

It changes your life."

— Jackie K.

Easy As 1-2-3!

1. Read
Read the select readings in the retreat book.
2. Answer
Answer the questions in your *Retreat Companion*.
3. Meet
Meet regularly with your group.

Two sessions are being offered:
Mondays at 6 PM OR Thursdays at 9 AM
To Register fill out the form on
the next page. Payment must
accompany registration. →

The Consoling the Heart of Jesus Retreat is brought to you by Hearts Afire:
Parish-based Programs from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (HAPP®).



De-Stress your life! Do you ever forget your contribution envelopes? Do you get frustrated with one more thing to remember on Sunday before church? An easy solution is to have your regular and/or debt relief contributions taken out of your checking or savings account automatically. You can contribute weekly, monthly or semi-monthly and it doesn't matter which bank you use. If you sign up for the ACH (automated clearing house) program, you will only receive the "special" envelopes in the mail. Please complete the registration form below if you would like to start the ACH program and return to the parish office. If you have any questions, please call Laura at 715-536-2803, ext. 219.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ACH OFFERING AUTHORIZATION FORM

I (we) hereby authorize St. Francis Xavier Church to initiate debit entries to my checking or savings accounts at the financial institution listed below, and if necessary, initiate adjustments for any transactions credited/debited in error. This authority will remain in effect until St. Francis Xavier Parish is notified by me (us) in writing to cancel it.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Envelope #: _____

Name of Financial Institution: _____ Address of Institution: _____

Financial Institution Routing number: _____ Account number: _____

This is a (please circle one): Savings Account Checking Account **(please attach a voided check)**

I would like my contribution paid (please check all that apply):

Regular Collection Amount: _____ **Debt Relief Amount:** _____
 Weekly on Wednesday _____
 Semi-Monthly on the 1st & 15th _____ Semi-Monthly on the 1st & 15th _____
 Monthly on the 1st _____ Monthly on the 1st _____
 Monthly on the 15th _____ Monthly on the 15th _____

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The **Liturgy Committee** would like to teach us about the Saints of the day and special feast days:



Sunday: Epiphany of the Lord;
 Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 Tuesday: St. John Neumann
 Wednesday: St. André Bessette
 Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort;

Thank you to the parishioners who helped decorate our worship space for Christmas. We had a great group of volunteers who stayed enjoyed some fellowship afterwards. Also we would like to thank those who donated so generously to our Christmas flowers and decorations.

Our next Liturgy Meeting is January 19th at 7:00 PM.

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Dec. 19-20, 2015

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. Francis Xavier			
Adult Envelopes	\$9,062.00	\$7,827.00	(17,419.00)
Loose Collection	\$391.97	\$270.00	1,085.64
Online/ACH giving	\$290.00	\$1,186.54	660.54
Fuel Collection	\$106.00	\$1,500.00	(979.00)
Debt Relief	<u>\$568.26</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>659.74</u>
TOTAL	\$10,418.23	\$11,572.00	(15,992.08)
St. John the Baptist			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$814.00	\$1,016.00	(2,650.25)
Fuel Collection	\$81.00	\$310.00	(104.00)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

Consoling the Heart of Jesus—Registration Form



Name: _____ Phone# _____

Your retreat choice: _____ Monday at 6 PM (We meet every Monday from January 18-March 21, 2016)

_____ Thursday at 9 AM (We meet every Thursday from January 21-March 24, 2016)

The cost for the retreat and materials is \$20.00. Make your check payable to St. Francis Xavier Church. Deadline to register is January 6th.



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