

February 14, 2016



First Sunday
of

Jesus was led by the Spirit
into the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1-2

Lent

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 Office536-2803
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 — Maraline Collins
School Principal — Sonja Doughty536-6083
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
 Thursday9:00 AM at SJB and 10:30 AM at Pine Crest
 (1st & 3rd Thursdays are Mass at Pine Crest, 2nd & 4th are Word & Communion Services)
 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.

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Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:

Our next meeting is 3/9/16 at 6:00 PM.
 Everyone is welcome to join us.

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 @ 8:30 AM
 and Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM

St. John the Baptist Thursday Social Time:

Every Thursday following 9:00 AM Mass

Little Knights Playgroup:

We meet every Friday that school is in session from 9:00-10:30 AM in the Cafeteria. During Lent we meet on Thursdays instead.



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Roxanne Sladek**. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord. May the perpetual light shine upon her.

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.




SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
February 15, 2016



Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
 Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 -- 4:1 [3:20 -- 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

Weekly Schedule: February 15-21, 2016

Monday 2/15	Tuesday 2/16	Wednesday 2/17	Thursday 2/18	Friday 2/19	Saturday 2/20	Sunday 2/21
Fr. Chris's Day Off 6:00 PM SFX Consoling the Heart	5:30 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:00 PM SFX Mass 6:45 PM SFX Family Choir	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 10:00 AM SFX Stations of the cross 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 5:00 PM SFX MS/HS Choir 6:00 PM SFX religious ed Confirmation	9:00 AM SFX Consoling The Heart SJB—No Mass 10:30 AM Liturgy at Pine Crest 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	2:00 PM SFX Mass (Note time) 4:30 PM Fish Fry 	Totally Catholic Fundraiser	Totally Catholic Fundraiser
<p>SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist</p>						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE February 20-21, 2016

Readers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Olivia Wheat, Faith Wheat
7:45 AM (SFX) Tim Fischer, Tom Huftel
9:30 AM (SFX) Chris Renzelmann, Barb McConnell
11:30 AM (SJB) Angela Monti, Joe Zimmerman

Servers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Lauren Cohrs, Tessa & Gwen Wheat
7:45 AM (SFX) Macey Jo & Matthew Weix, Isabell Wendt
9:30 AM (SFX) A. Renzelmann, C. Fowler, A. Voermans, A. Arndt
11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

4:00 PM (SFX) I. Cohrs, K. Cohrs, Volunteers
7:45 AM (SFX) G. Huftel, B. Swan, Ben & Joan Tabor
9:30 AM (SFX) J & B Rammer, W. Osterbrink, C. Lee
11:30 AM (SJB) Jim Fuerstein, Louie Leder

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Kelly Wheat
7:45 AM (SFX) Hannah Hanson, Audrey Huftel
9:30 AM (SFX) Wendy Arndt, Jim Bares

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

MASS INTENTIONS Week of February 15, 2016

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Cecilia Michalski
By: Bob & Candy

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention of: Barb McConnell
By: Darcy Seubert

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) NO Mass
10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion Service

Friday

2:00 PM (SFX) Intention of: Mark & Betty Weix
By: Tom & Mary Jo Szama

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Stanley Sladek
By: Grace Batchelder

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: † William Johnston
By: Laurie & Family
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Lester Bares
By: Family
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: People of the parishes

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
February 21, 2016: Sr. Dolores Lilla

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
February 20, 2016: Mark Bares

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of February 21, 2016:
Shirley Gajewski

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

As we begin this season of Lent, we read in the gospel how Jesus is tempted by the devil, just as he is about to start his missionary work. And yet if we stop to think about this whole episode it is quite strange and mysterious. God is allowing Himself to be tempted, and is submitting to letting the evil one have his way. However, as we know, Jesus is true God and true man, and as man, is made like us in everything but sin. As a man, He has allowed himself to be tempted in every way—that is being tempted in the flesh, in the desire for glory, and in the desire for power.

Fr. John Corbett O.P. in his reflection on this passage said that Jesus had to be able to recognize whose voice it was and the difference which this makes. When Jesus first heard how he was being commanded to turn the stone into bread he knew it was not the Father speaking to him but the evil one. Jesus knew that it was the Father who had rained down bread from heaven and that the Father had provided for the people who had wandered through the desert, He had to trust in Him. Satan was suggesting that Jesus should not rely on His Father. In the second temptation, Jesus knew in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And what was being offered was a comprehensive human mastery of the human being. What Jesus was being offered, was already His by rite. The devil presented himself as worthy of worship, yet Jesus knows there is only one who is worthy of his worship, His Father. Lastly, the devil wanted to provoke Jesus into placing His Father on trial in two ways. First, provoking Jesus into throwing himself off of the temple, Satan was testing Jesus to see if He doubted his Father's power and goodness. Second, to test and see if the Father would do his bidding, rather than the other way around. If Jesus would have acted on either way, Satan would have proven that he was not God's Son.

In this passage from Sacred Scripture, Jesus reveals to us His Son-ship, in relation to His Father. But we are also to see in this passage our own son-ship in relation to the Father. Of course, Jesus is the perfect example, yet it is also Jesus who shows us the way!

St. Francis sShool Raffle: Tickets are now on sale for our annual cash raffle, which benefits our school. Tickets are available at our fish fries, as well as the school and parish offices. Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 5 tickets for \$20.00. Grand prize is \$1000!

Sick List: Please keep the following people in your prayers: Fr. Joe, Jody Mittlestaedt, Rick Loof, Duane Tomajcik, Kristy (Schnabel) Witt, George Lawrie, Millie Martin, Bernie Ineichen, Helen Marie Ziesemer, Elaine Hinke, John Madden, and Larry Tank.

Saturday Morning Confession: During Lent, Fr. Chris will be hearing confessions every Saturday morning from 9-10 AM.

Weekday Mass Schedule: Fr. Chris will be attending the Ordination of Bishop Elect James Powers in Superior this week. Please note the following changes in the Mass schedule:

2/18 Thursday-No Mass at St. John the Baptist
Thursday 10:30 AM-Word & Communion at Pine Crest
2/19 Friday-Mass at 2:00 PM (No 8:00 AM Mass)

Help Needed: Our parish is looking for someone to take a turn once a month to launder the linens used during Mass. Instructions are provided. Please call the parish office for more information.

Eucharist Ministers Needed: Good Samaritan Hospital is looking for a Eucharistic Minister to bring Communion to patients one day a week. If you are interested please call the parish office.

Free Resources available: Please take a moment to find our new resource table located past the rest rooms by the courtyard doors. This is the place to find *Living Faith* booklets, 2016 calendars, Matthew Kelley's books: *Rediscovering Catholicism*, and *Rediscovering Jesus*, Mass Journals, materials for the Year of Mercy, and Rice Bowl information. There are also family pages for Lent. Please check back throughout lent, and watch the bulletin as we update these resources for you.

National Black & Indian Mission Collection: This weekend the Diocese of Superior will participate in this special collection. Since 1885 the Catholic Church has provided assistance for hundreds of priests, sisters and brothers working with the people of Black and American Indian Communities. Your gifts are important to the evangelization efforts of the Church. If you were not prepared to participate today, you may make your donation next weekend as well. Thank you for your generosity.

SFX School News

Students in grades 5 thru 8 represented St. Francis at the district spelling bee. It was a great learning experience. The students are from bottom: Isaiah Rell - 5th Grade, Matthew Rydeski - 6th Grade, Rebecca Rell - 7th Grade and Isabella Laufenberg - 8th Grade. Isabella placed 2nd in the district and moved on to the regional bee.



From the Holy Father's General Audience February 10th

Dear Brothers and Sisters: We learn from Scripture that the Jubilee Year is an ancient institution: a heightened moment of religious and social life for the people of Israel, who are instructed by God in the Book of Leviticus, for the jubilee year, to cancel debts and release slaves. A jubilee is a year of "general pardon", for all people to return to their original state: the freedom proper to the holy people of God. We should practice this pardon to combat poverty and inequality, by promoting an equitable distribution of the earth's goods for all. The earth belongs to God, and has been entrusted to us, who are but "strangers and sojourners" on the road to eternity. As stewards of the Lord, we are called to render habitable and human the world we have received. In this jubilee year, we are also challenged by the ancient prescription of tithing, offering God the first fruits of our work. This wisdom calls us to be generous with those in need, to help eliminate poverty, and contribute to a society based on solidarity, fraternity and justice.

****For more information visit: www.news.va****

Religious Education News

Wednesday, February 17

6:00pm – 7:00 pm, Grades K-8

6:00-7:00 PM Confirmation

Confirmation: For all those not attending the Youth Rally in Medford, class will start at 6:00 pm and end at 7 pm at St. Francis Xavier in the cafeteria.

Prayer partners: Those of you who are supporting our Confirmation candidates and First Communicants with your prayers, you may send them notes of encouragement by dropping them in the parish communication box. Please put the name of the person you are supporting on the note or card.

Save the Date: We will have Totus Tuus this summer from July 31-August 5. Totus Tuus is a fun filled week of spiritual nourishment and growth for grades 1-12. It is led by a team of young adults. For more information please call Joe Velie at 536-2803, ext. 222.

Ordination of James P. Powers 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Superior

Ordination Liturgies

†Solemn Vespers will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, with a reception to follow in Kress Hall.

†Bishop Powers will be ordained at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday February 18, 2016, in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, with a reception following at the Cathedral School Gym.

Events Open to the Public

Both liturgies and receptions will be open to the public. We are asking that parishioners notify their parish office if they plan to attend.

Live Broadcasting of Events

The ordination liturgy will be televised on EWTN at 2:00 PM and live-streamed at wdio.com.



Eucharistic Adoration



We are looking for immediate adorers on: Thursday at 11 AM, Friday at 3:00 PM, Wednesday at 11 AM, Tuesday at 2:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM, Monday at 7 AM (temporary for a snow bird), and Saturday at 11 AM.

We are looking to provide extra Adoration Hours during the "24 hours for the Lord" Day of Mercy which takes place for 24 hours beginning at 3:00 PM on March 4th.

Call Phil/Mary with questions at 715-536-4825

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UPDATES

Lenten Calendar

Weekly Mass/service Schedule

Tuesday—6:00 PM SFX
Wednesday—8:45 AM SFX
Thursday—9:00 AM SJB
1 & 3rd Thursday (mass)—10:30 AM
Pine Crest Nursing Home
2 & 4th Thursday (service) —10:30 AM
Pine Crest Nursing Home
Friday—8:00 AM SFX
Saturday—4:00 PM
Sunday—7:45 AM, 9:30 AM SFX
11:30 AM SJB

Reconciliation

Individual Confessions:

Every Saturday: 9:00-10:00 AM,
1st & 2nd Saturdays: 3:00-3:30 PM
Tuesday: 5:30-5:45 PM
Wednesday: 8:15-8:45 AM

Additional Times for Lent:

Sunday February 14, 11:30 AM SJB
Thursday February 25, 6:00 PM SFX
Wednesday March 2, 6:00 PM SFX

Opportunities for Service

St. Francis Xavier Fish Fries: Serving every Friday during lent at 4:30 PM. To volunteer please sign up in the back of Church.

CRS Rice Bowl: Pick up your rice bowl, and family resources by the handicapped entrance to church.

Triduum

Holy Thursday, March 24: 7:00 PM Mass SFX
Good Friday, March 25: 2:30 PM Service SFX
Easter Food Blessing March 26 10:00 AM SFX
Easter Vigil, March 26: 8:03 PM Mass SFX
(Start time is 45 minutes after sunset)
Easter Sunday, March 27: 7:45, 9:30 AM SFX

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays during Lent at 10:00 AM in the Church
(led by the school children 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9)
Living Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 18, 10:00 AM
(presented by St. Francis Xavier School Children)

Mass of Chrism

Tuesday, March 15th - 12:00 PM at Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior.

Family Rosary

Sunday, March 6—6:00 PM
Sunday, April 3 (Divine Mercy Sunday)— 3:00 PM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday-Thursday, from 5AM-1AM
Friday 5 AM-10 PM
Saturday 5 AM-1 PM

Day of Mercy “24 hours for the Lord” (Hosted by the Eastern Deanery)

March 4 at 3:00 PM—March 5 at 3:00 PM
24 hours of continual events taking place in the Eastern Half of the Diocese of Superior—Rhinelander, Merrill, Tomahawk, Eagle River and Medford.
More information coming soon.

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



L Sunday: First Sunday of Lent; Valentine's Day;
I World Marriage Day
T Monday: Presidents' Day
U Friday: Abstinence from meat

G Don't give up chocolate this lent. Do something life changing. Visit www.dynamiccatholic.com, and sign up for your best lent ever. You will receive daily devotions to your email or phone. "There are 77 million Catholics in America. If we all stepped it up a notch something incredible would happen."

"40 Days for Life" : You are invited to join others for the Spring "40 Days for Life" prayer vigil, 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are invited and encouraged to also join us to peacefully pray during the 40-day vigil in front of Family Planning Health Services, 719 N 3rd Avenue, Wausau, WI from 6am -6pm Monday through Saturday. For more information and to volunteer to pray publicly contact: Kimberly Connolly at 715-551-7518 or Mary Litschauer at 715-539-3800. Prayer is a powerful weapon against the evils of abortion.

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Jan. 30 - Jan. 31, 2016

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. Francis Xavier			
Adult Envelopes	\$7,799.00	\$7,827.00	(8,621.00)
Loose Collection	\$242.25	\$270.00	2,188.71
Online/ACH giving	\$290.00	\$1,186.54	(700.69)
Fuel Collection	\$50.00	\$1,500.00	(233.00)
Debt Relief	<u>\$532.35</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>311.16</u>
TOTAL	\$8,913.60	\$11,572.00	(7,054.82)
St. John the Baptist			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$713.00	\$1,016.00	(1,690.75)
Fuel Collection	\$0.00	\$310.00	21.00

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

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Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. *-The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wants to thank you for your gift of prayer and support for the work they do.*



St. John the Baptist News

Thank you to all who helped make last week's "Fat Sunday" at St. John the Baptist a success. Palms were burned without incident, and we had a great turn out of parishioners for the pot luck that followed. This event was possible because many people came together: those who helped set up the dining room, those who made dishes for the meal, those who kept the kitchen organized, and those who helped clean up. Thank you! Because all who participated seemed to enjoy themselves, look for similar events in the not too distant future.

A **pancake breakfast** is in the planning stages for Sunday March 13. There is a signup sheet in the back of church for workers. Please signup ASAP so that we know if we have workers to make this happen.



SCRIP News...

Turn Everyday shopping into fundraising

The great thing about fundraising for our school using SCRIP is that you are spending money on items that you buy every week anyway. When you purchase groceries or gas using SCRIP you spend no extra money, but you are still fundraising for our school. The stores that participate in the SCRIP program, give donations back to our school ranging from 2 %-20%.

Thank you to Friendship House, who gives a very generous 20% of sales to our school. They ask that you kindly only use one gift certificate per visit please.

Amazon.com.....they have everything! And we have their SCRIP at the parish office.

CRS Rice Bowl-Hungering for opportunity: Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Colombia, where coffee beans are changing lives!



What actions can we take this Lent to change lives-at home and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information. Pick up your free family pages and your rice bowl by the handicap entrance to Church (Door #2).



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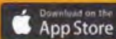
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