

February 21, 2016



Second Sunday

of

Lent

The Lord God said to Abram,
“Look up at the sky and
count the stars, if you can.
Just so shall your descendants be.”

Genesis 15:5

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 — Maraline Collins
- 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.....9:00 AM at SJB and 10:30 AM at Pine Crest
 - Friday.....8:00 AM at SFX

Reconciliation Times (and by appointment)

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

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.

Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:

Our next meeting is March 9th 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 @ 9:00 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 memory of: **Ben Yunek.**

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. May the perpetual light shine upon him.

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 22, 2016




- Monday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
- Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9
 Alternate readings (Year A):
 Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

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Weekly Schedule: February 22-28, 2016

Monday 2/22	Tuesday 2/23	Wednesday 2/24	Thursday 2/25	Friday 2/26	Saturday 2/27	Sunday 2/28
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 Stations of the Cross 3:15 PM SFX Children's Choir	9:00 AM SFX Consoling 9:00 AM Mass at SJB 10:30 AM Pine Crest -W/C 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	8:00 AM SFX Mass 4:30 PM Fish Fry 	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 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
					<div style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist </div>	



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 27-28, 2016

Readers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Alicia Weix & Maria Grund
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Mary & Katy Ball
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Mary Ann VDG & Barry Morgan
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Karen Polacek

Servers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Lillie Karpenske, M. & H. Krueger
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Brian Ball, M. Goetsch, T. Schenzel
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Ian Morgan, S., N., & S. Nelson
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) C. Heller, J. Folta, D. MacSwain,

Volunteer

- 7:45 AM (SFX) T. & S. Gessler, T. & A. Ball
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Keith & Ava Cohrs, J. & L. Ruprecht
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Joe Zimmerman & Perry Block

SCRIP sellers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Lori McAllister
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Patti Gessler & Betty Weix
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Karen Akey & Pam Suchocki

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of February 22, 2016

Tuesday

- 6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Mary Mangold
By: Skip & Barb Ott

Wednesday

- 9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Vince Mullarkey
By: Sandy Brannan

Thursday

- 9:00 AM (SJB) Intention of: Jody & Jolene St. Mary
By: Jim & Joyce St. Mary
- 10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday

- 8:00 AM (SFX) : Special Intention of the Custy Family

Saturday

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Geno & Florence Bosi
By: Family

Sunday

- 7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: †Marilyn Stiver
By: Bill & Carolyn Cohrs
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: †Edward & Frances Ott
By: Skip & Barb Ott
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: People of the parishes

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place

February 28, 2016: Dale Palecek

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest

February 27, 2016: Karen Cournaya

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER

Week of February 28, 2016: Warren & Ceil Bartelt

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

In last week's reading, Jesus had gone out into the desert and the focus was on Jesus in His humanity being tempted. In that story we were being called to see not only how Jesus in His humanity was being tempted, but to notice that our human nature is the same as His. The only difference is that ours has the stain of original sin, yet like Jesus, we will also be tempted. This week, Jesus takes a few of His disciples and goes up on a mountain to pray. As Jesus is praying, He begins to change, both His outward appearance and His clothes change. We notice that along with His face, His clothes even become dazzling white. Then we are made aware of who His new companions are, Moses and Elijah. Through this experience, Jesus is to be seen like another Moses. As Moses came down from his mountaintop experience, he was required to cover his face before the people. However, in Jesus' mountain-top experience, even His clothes change.

In this week's story, Jesus is also conversing with the prophets about the law symbolized by Moses and Elijah. It was the Lord who had revealed to these two prophets what His will was for them and the people to whom they were sent. Yet Jesus is something more than a prophet. In this week's story the disciples and us, are to peer into Jesus' divinity. "The disciples had been overcome by sleep, but became fully awake." We look and see how this experience was meant to enlighten the disciples to Jesus' divinity, yet they would have to struggle though it even after Jesus' resurrection. Notice, this week is also a story that is Spirit led like last weeks, "A cloud came over them."

In both stories, Jesus is still our model. In last week's gospel Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. In this week's gospel we have the cloud, a symbol of God's Spirit, come over the disciples and they see that only the four of them are left. It is then that they hear, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." The last time we heard this sentence was when John had baptized Jesus. Yes, Jesus was transformed in this mountain-top experience before His disciples. What we are to ask ourselves is how, during this Lenten Season, with the gift of knowing who Jesus is in his humanity and divinity, are we going to let Jesus transform us through our mountain-top experiences? How will each of us grow through what has been given us in our Baptisms? Will your mountain-top experience this lent be a life changing event?

Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday at Noon. You may email your item to: kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org

Additional Confession Times: During Lent, Fr. Chris will be hearing confessions every Saturday morning from 9-10 AM, and at 6 PM on February 25th. Come and receive the mercy of God this Lent!

Lenten Calendar Correction: In last week's bulletin, the Mass time for Wednesdays in the Lenten Calendar was published incorrectly. Mass is at 9:00 AM, not 8:45 AM on Wednesdays.

Resource Table: Please take a moment to stop by the new resource table by the handicap entrance to church

- Rice bowl information
- Lenten Activities for your family
- Information on the Jubilee year of Mercy
- Free Matthew Kelly books and Mass Journals

What is A Jubilee Year of Mercy?:

A Jubilee Year is a special tradition within the Church that has its roots in ancient Israel. In the Old Testament, a Jubilee Year was proclaimed every 50 years to be a year of the Lord's favor, and during that time slaves were released, and land and property were redeemed. Today, Jubilee Years are every 25 years, with Extraordinary years proclaimed for special events or needs.



Fish Fries: Our Fish Fries are off to a great start. We could still use more volunteers in the kitchen to serve and prepare the meals. Also, some prep jobs are done during the week, so if you are not available Friday night, we still need your help! Please call Julie Mootz (715-536-9769) if you are able to volunteer, or use the sign up sheets in the back of church.

March 4-5th: "24 hours for the Lord" Day of Mercy is coming soon. This is an entire 24 hour period of events in our area of the Diocese of Superior. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Jesus challenges us by saying "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap..."
When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts and into our lives.
-St. Vincent de Paul Store

SFX School News

2015-2016 Second Quarter Honor Roll

Highest Honors (3.75–4.00)

*Nevaeh Nelson
Madison Nyman
Gaven Reindl
*Matthew Rydeski
Ashton Voermans
*Tessa Wheat
Aaron Arndt
Kamryn Beyer
Rebecca Rell
Ava Cohrs
Makyah Goetsch
Isabella Laufenberg
Jackson Rammer

High Honors (3.50-3.749)

Cali Brown
Hailey Gerbig

Honors (3.25-3.499)

Lillie Karpenske
Russell Gerbig
Nathan Johnson
Connor Mootz

Honor Roll (3.00-3.249)

Shayla Swan
Austin White
Kyleigh Reinichen

Honorable Mention (2.75–2.99)

Jaden Dzwonkowski
Dominique Zastrow-Meehean

*denotes 4.00 GPA



St. Francis School 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!** Please help support our school!

From the Holy Father's General Audience: February 17th

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 practise 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.



Religious Education News

No Religious Education Classes this week. Classes resume on March 2

Those of you who are supporting our Confirmation candidates and First Communicants with your prayers 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.

Totally Catholic religious goods fundraiser for Totus Tuus will conclude February 28. This is a great opportunity to buy items for yourself or as gifts, especially for 1st Communion and Confirmation, while supporting an event that both groups can benefit from.

CRS Rice Bowl—Hungering to Give Back:

This week, CRS Rice Bowl takes us to Laos, where Hongkham is using her love of cooking to provide for her family—and feed an entire school. How do we use our passions and gifts for the betterment of those we meet? Visit crsricebowl.org for more. Pick up your free family pages and your rice bowl by the handi-cap entrance to church (Door #2).



Eucharistic Adoration



“Adoration will heal our Church and thus our nation and thus our world...Adoration touches everyone and everything...When we adore, we plug into infinite power. Adoration is more powerful for construction than nuclear bombs are for destruction.”

— Peter Kreeft

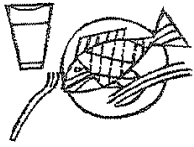
We are looking for immediate adorers on: Thursday at 11 AM, Friday at 3:00 PM, Wednesday at 11 AM, Tuesday at 3:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM, Monday at 7 AM (temporary for a snow bird), and Saturday at 11 AM.

Call Phil/Mary Ziesemer with questions: 536-4825

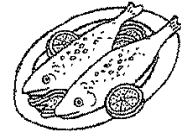
SCRIP News...

Did you know we have SCRIP for

- To Your Health Food Store
- Friendship House
- Los Mezcales, and 3's Company
- Arby's, Culver's, McDonald's, CHIPS
- Studio 808 & Cosmo Movie Theater



ST. FRANCIS FISH FRIES MENU



All Dinners include choice of Baked Potato or French Fries
and come with Coleslaw, Rye Bread & (Milk or Coffee - Dine-In Only)

Substitute Cheese Curds for Baked Potato or French Fries Add \$1.75

Dinners

1 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock	\$5.75
2 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock	\$7.50
3 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock	\$9.75
1 Pc - Baked Cod	\$6.00
2 Pc - Baked Cod	\$8.25
3 Pc - Baked Cod	\$10.75
6 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$9.00
9 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$12.00

Combinations

1 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock & 3 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$8.50
2 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock & 3 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$10.50
1 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock & 6 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$11.25
1 Pc - Baked Cod & 3 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$9.00
2 Pc - Baked Cod & 3 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$11.25
1 Pc - Baked Cod & 6 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$11.75

Sampler

1 Pc - Deep Fried Pollock & 1 Pc - Baked Cod & 3 Pc - Deep Fried Shrimp	\$11.25
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Sides

Cheese Pizza	\$3.00
Cheese Curds (Lrg)	\$6.25
Cheese Curds (Sml)	\$3.25
Baked Potato	\$1.50
French Fries	\$1.50
Coleslaw	\$0.75

Drinks

Milk - (Skim, 2%, Choc.)	\$1.00
Coffee	\$0.50
Soda - (Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Root Beer, Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist, Lemonade)	\$1.25
Beer - (Bud, Bud Light)	\$2.25
Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist, Lemonade)	

Desserts

Pie	\$2.00
Bars	\$1.00

Extra \$.25 Charge per Meal for
Take-Out & Delivery

Dine-In Serving from 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Take-Outs & Deliveries Available
Call on Friday's after 1:00 PM - Phone # 536-2803

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



- Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent
- Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle; Washington's Birthday
- Tuesday: St. Polycarp
- Friday: Abstinence from meat

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the following parishioners of both parishes who are in need of your prayers.

**Fr. Joe Jody Mittlstaedt Rick Loof Larry Tank
Duane Tomajcik Kristy (Schnabel) Witt George Lawrie
Millie Martin Bernie Ineichen Helen Marie Ziesemer
Elaine Hinke John Madden**

Bequests and Memorials

July—December, 2015

For St. Francis Xavier Church:

In Memory of Marge Heckendorf: *By Robert & Barbara Ott, Schenck SC, Alan Malm (for choir), Pattie Baacke & family (for choir), Upper Lakes Coal Company, Gerald & Joan Koch*

In Memory of Grace Wendorf: *By Lee & Wayne Thompson*

In Memory of Emil Joe Weix: *By Sally Wiley (for lectionary)*

In Memory of Kathleen Caylor: *By Duane Pfister*

In Memory of Dan "Hank" Caylor: *By Irma & Richard Stine, Rodger & Donna Thompson*

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Zimmerman: *By Barbra & David Zimmerman*

In Memory of Fr. Mike McLain: *By Delores Bonkoski, and Phil & Marge Kamke*

In Honor of Don & Marion Meyer: *By Dave & Joy Meyer*

In Memory of Floyd Lemon, Alfred Turner Jr., and Carol Stimer by Amy & Michael Stiver

For St. Francis Xavier Catholic School:

In Memory of Grace Ollhoff: *By Tyler & Kristie Kromholz, Kevin & Tammy Cohrs, Dennis & Joan Goulee, Rhonda Zick, Jeff Sandborn, Adrian Schoone, USW-Local 2-631, and the family of Grace Ollhoff*

For Veterans Memorial Cemetery:

In Memory of Eleanor Van Der Geest

In Memory of Paul A. King

In Memory of Raymond Schwartz

In Memory of Fr. Mike McLain

By LeRoy & Connie Fischer

Total of all Memorials: \$2,205.00

Thank you to everyone who has donated memorials to St. Francis Xavier in memory of their loved ones. It is a wonderful way to remember them and to help our parish and school at the same time!

St. John the Baptist News

Do you have family buried at St John the Baptist Cemetery on Town Hall Road? Are you thinking of being buried at St John the Baptist Cemetery? Whether you can help a little or a lot, we need your help. Together, we can make this a place of peace and beauty. We have a Cemetery Committee in the process of planning for improvements & parking area. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! We will be planning a time in early spring to start on the following:

- Taking down old fence & posts around cemetery area
- Cutting of small trees
- Piling brush & fallen limbs - to be burned next winter
- Assistance with a tractor & brush hog to cut around large trees.

If you can help with these needs or know of someone who might be interested in helping, please let us know:

- Sandfill or gravel pit on your property? Would you donate?
- Help in staking out parking area & new driveway through center of cemetery
- Cleaning Up & Straightening of stones
- Assisting Cemetery Sexton in finding & marking plots
- Someone to assist in writing up the plan with specific requirements in regards to topsoil stripping, sandfill needed, gravel needed with compaction requirements- to assist in obtaining comparable estimates for work that cannot be done by volunteers.
- Project Manager to coordinate volunteers & oversee the construction & project
- Gate installation upon completion of project.
- Signage designation & installation.
- Panel to write General Rules for cemetery

Please contact Kris Block 715-536-8422 or attend next cemetery committee meeting on Sunday, March 13th after pancake brunch.

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Feb. 6 - 7, 2016

T H A N K Y O U				Over (Under)
	<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Actual	Amt needed	since 7/1/15
	Adult Envelopes	\$6,571.00	\$7,827.00	(9,877.00)
	Loose Collection	\$342.81	\$270.00	2,261.52
	Online/ACH giving	\$1,556.00	\$1,186.54	(331.23)
	Debt Relief	<u>\$1,507.77</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>1,030.47</u>
	TOTAL	\$9,977.58	\$10,072.00	(6,916.24)
				Over (Under)
	<u>St. John the Baptist</u>			since 7/1/15
	Adult Env. & Loose	\$1,024.00	\$1,016.00	(1,682.75)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!



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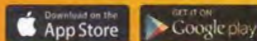
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