

Congratulations Bishop James Powers
February 28, 2016– 3rd Sunday of Lent
St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist Parishes



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— 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
 (2nd & 4th Thursdays at Pine Crest are Word & Communion)
- 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:

Waid Funeral Home
301 Eagle Drive
715.536.4646



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 @ 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 Thursday.



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel can be purchased for \$5/each to burn in honor of a special intention or a deceased loved one for one week. Call the parish office to reserve.

PRAYER CHAIN: Please call Kris at the Parish Office with your prayer chain requests. You may leave a message if necessary. Thank you.





SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

February 29, 2016



- Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
 - Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 - Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 - Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 - Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
 - Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
 - Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Alternate readings (Year A):
 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;
 Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Weekly Schedule: February 29—March 6, 2016

Monday 2/29	Tuesday 3/1	Wednesday 3/2	Thursday 3/3	Friday 3/4	Saturday 3/5	Sunday 3/6
Fr. Chris' Day Off 6:00 PM SFX Consoling the Heart of Jesus 	5:30 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:00 PM SFX Mass 6:45 PM SFX Family Choir 7:00 PM SFX Parish Council	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 10:00 AM Stations of the Cross 3:15 PM SFX Children's Choir 5:00 PM MS/HS Choir 6:00 PM SFX religious ed 6:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:45 PM SFX Confirmation	9:00 AM Consoling the Heart 9:00 AM Mass at SJB Social follows 10:30 AM Mass at Pine Crest 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	8:00 AM SFX Mass 4:30 PM SFX Fish Fry 	3:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 4:00 PM SFX Mass <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist </div>	7:45 AM SFX Mass 9:30 AM SFX Mass 11:30 AM SJB Mass 6:00 PM SFX Family Rosary

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE March 5-6, 2016

Readers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Faith & Gwen Wheat
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Paula Soderberg & Tom Huftel
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Michaela Raleigh & Barry Morgan
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Angela Monti & Karen Polacek

Servers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Tessa Wheat, Clayton & Mason Evans
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Isabell Wendt, T. Schenzel, Cassie Fowler
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Brant Raleigh, Aaron Arndt, Ian Morgan
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Joe Folta, Don MacSwain, Volunteers
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Griffin, Will, Kennedy & Kurt Soderberg
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Chris Lee, N. Raleigh, Keith & Ava Cohrs
- 11:30 AM (SJB) Jim Feuerstein & Joe Zimmerman

SCRIP sellers:

- 4:00 PM (SFX) Michelle Evans
- 7:45 AM (SFX) Audrey Huftel & Hannah Hanson
- 9:30 AM (SFX) Wendy Arndt & Jim Bares

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

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
 March 6, 2016: Sue Norenberg

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
 March 5, 2016: Barb Hartwig

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
 Week of March 6, 2016: Carol Emon

MASS INTENTIONS Week of February 29, 2016

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Ervin Brandl
 By: Sandy Brannan

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Kathleen Caylor
 By: Marv & Mary Anderson

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) Intention: †Hank Caylor
 By: Jane Cramton & Edie Gardner

 10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Intention of: 100th Birthday
 Eleanor Marvin

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Eugene & Carol Koss
 By: Family & Friends

Saturday

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

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: †Mary & Jim Talbot
 By: James & Jamie Finucan

 9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: †Wilma Zastrow
 By: Steve & Cindy

 11:30 AM (SJB) Intention of: People of the parishes

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 the readings of the past couple of weeks, we have glanced at Jesus' humanity and His divinity, however, in today's reading we look at God and His relationship to us. As we look at our first reading, Moses is tending the flock of his father-in-law and it is "on a mountain." Right away, our reading tells us that there is going to be a mountain top encounter with God. Yet, how is this encounter with God different as compared to other encounters with other gods. We must ask how is it that these other gods make themselves known? Well, if we look at ancient gods, they come in power, strength, might, and in conflict with creation; overpowering it, including us. Now look at this encounter with Moses, he comes upon this bush looking as though it is on fire, but it is not being consumed. And Moses is drawn to this remarkable sight. Moses eventually asks this God, who it is that is sending him out to others? And Moses gets the mystifying answer, note that it is not a name but, I AM.

In the gospel for today, the people are "talking up" the news about how Pilate mingled some peoples' blood with that of sacrificed animals and the story of how a tower had fallen on some other people. The people themselves are caught up in what type or how big of sinners they must have been for these things to have happened to them. But Jesus attempts to draw them closer to what is truly important through a parable about a fig tree. There is no fruit to be found on this tree and the owner wishes to have it cut down. The gardener, wishes to have mercy on this tree in the hope that it will bear fruit in one last attempt. The parable asks us if we have taken notice of God's mercy. God gives us the opportunity to take advantage of the way in which he chooses to nurture us. Lent gives us the chance to change and to become fully alive and bear fruit. During the season of Lent we can ask ourselves, have our leaves, like this tree become dried up? How is it that we are like this tree, lifeless and without fruit?

-Fr. Chris

Have you checked out our parish and school website:

www.stfrancismerrill.org

Bulletins, ministry schedules, religious ed and school calendars, fish fry menu, mass and reconciliation times and so much more!

Fish Fries: Our Fish Fries are off to a great start. We served 621 fish fries the first week, and 761 fish fries the second week. There are still many needs to be filled on the sign up sheets in the back of church. Some of the immediate needs are: delivery drivers, adults to work with kids clearing and resetting tables, meal servers, dessert cart, dish room, and many people for clean up. Also, we sell about 250-300 pieces of pie each week. Please fill up the slots so we can keep our customers happy with a great variety of pie, tortes, and cheesecake! Remember, we only serve homemade dessert! So, we cannot serve pies purchased from a store. Thank you for considering to volunteer. Our fish fries running smoothly because of our great volunteers.

Local Mercy Retreat: The Holy Cross Sisters present The Mercy Retreat by Father Dan Crosby, OFM Cap, April 13-16 in Holy Cross Chapel at Bell Tower Residence. The cost for this commuter retreat is \$65. Lunch and light supper available at extra cost. Pre-registration required as space is limited. Deadline for registration is March 25th. Call 715-539-1460 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for more information.

Ministry Schedules: The next ministry schedule is now available in the back of church on the parish communication bulletin board and also online for both St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist.

World Concern Collection: Next week we will be joining the Diocese of Superior with our World Concern Collection. Please see the letter from Bishop James Powers inserted into this bulletin for details regarding this important collection.

Discarding old palms: Palms are blessed articles and should not be thrown away, but should be burned. Please use the basket under the pew in the back of Church to discard your old palms. The palms collected will then be burned.

Raffle Tickets: Our cash raffle, which benefits our school, is now taking place. Tickets are available at the school and parish offices, and our fish fries. First place prize is \$1000! Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20. Thank you for your support.

SFX School News

Catholic Schools Week Food Drive

During Catholic Schools Week 3K-8th grade held a food drive. Following is the letter the school received from the Community Food Pantry of Merrill:

*Dear Kids from St. Francis,
As a member of St. Francis Parish myself, I am so proud of the good works and values instilled on the young parish members who generously collected food items for the poor. Do you know that 10% of Merrill residents meet federal poverty guideline levels? This fact underscores the need for us to reach out to the needy as proclaimed in St. Matthew's Gospel to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. We are called to serve one another and your efforts proclaim the Gospel. Your donation weighed in at 536 pounds. What a great donation!! The Community Food Pantry of Merrill, WI thanks you wholeheartedly.*

With grateful heart, Allan Crevier-Manager



Every morning our school meets in the cafeteria for morning prayer. Prior to the beginning of prayer, students of all ages spend time together, visiting, playing etc. The older students willingly interact with the younger children and enjoy their time together. Pictured is a group of students playing "Duck, Duck, Goose" Ages range from Kindergarten to 8th grade. This type of activity reinforces to everyone that we are all God's children and we are all special.

Registration has begun for the 2016-2017 school year. Please contact the school office for more information and a registration packet.

Jesus is quite clear in his message: "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Thank you for your support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Religious Education News

Classes resume on Wednesday, March 2:

6:00pm – 7:00 pm, Grades K-8.

Confirmation social time 6:00 – 6:45pm

the session runs 6:45 – 7:45.

Confirmation: The Confirmation retreat for the 10th grade Confirmation students is Saturday March 5 at St. Francis Xavier. The 10th grade Confirmation candidates need to be present in the cafeteria at 9:00 am. Lunch and snacks will be provided. The retreat will conclude with 4 pm Mass. The cost of the retreat is \$35 per student. A Confirmation retreat is required for everyone who is being confirmed.

Please pray for all those involved in this retreat that they may grow in their faith and in their knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Partners: 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.



From the Holy Father's General Audience: Feb 24, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Continuing our weekly catecheses inspired by this Holy Year of Divine Mercy, we now consider the Bible's teaching on the right use of wealth and power. The Scriptures show that these serve the common good if used in accordance with the demands of justice, charity and mercy. Used selfishly and arrogantly, they become a source of corruption and death, as we see in the story of Naboth, unjustly put to death so that King Ahab might take possession of his property. Jesus tells us that we show our greatness not by domineering but by humbly serving one another. Just as the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to call Ahab to repentance, he sent his Son to show the power of his mercy which triumphs over sin and injustice. Jesus is the true King, whose saving power is shown in the cross. During this Holy Year let us ask him to draw near to sinners, to show us his mercy, and to redeem the many situations of injustice in our world by the power of his grace and forgiveness.

SAVE FOR
REFERENCE



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UPDATES

Lenten Calendar

Weekly Mass/service Schedule

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

Wednesday March 2, 6:00 PM SFX
Tuesday March 8, 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
11:30 AM SJB

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.



BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the following parishioners of both parishes who are in need of your prayers. Also remember the residents in our nursing homes and hospitals. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks. Call Kris at the parish office to put someone on this list.

**Fr. Joe Jody Mittlestaedt Rick Loof John Madden
Duane Tomajcik Kristy (Schnabel) Witt Millie Martin
Helen Marie Ziesemer Elaine Hinke**

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



Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent
Thursday: St. Katharine Drexel
Friday: St. Casimir; World Day of Prayer;
First Friday; Abstinence
Saturday: First Saturday

Volunteers will be needed to read, usher, and altar serve for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Please use the sign up sheets posted in the back of Church, or email or call Kris in the parish office:

kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Feb. 13 - 14, 2016

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<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
Adult Envelopes	\$8,669.44	\$7,827.00	(9,034.56)
Loose Collection	\$158.06	\$270.00	2,149.58
Online/ACH giving	\$290.00	\$1,186.54	(1,227.77)
Debt Relief	<u>\$735.57</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>977.58</u>
TOTAL	\$9,853.07	\$10,072.00	(7,135.17)

<u>St. John the Baptist</u>			Over (Under) since 7/1/15
Adult Env. & Loose	\$1,059.50	\$1,016.00	(1,639.25)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

CRS Rice Bowl—Hungering for a Healthy Start:

The next stop on our CRS Rice Bowl journey is the African nation of Rwanda, where we're reminded to care for the unborn. This week we pray for pregnant mothers, that they may have the medical and nutritional support they need to raise healthy, thriving children. Visit crs-ricebowl.org for more. [Pick up your free family pages and your rice bowl by the handicap entrance to church \(Door #2\).](#)



St. John the Baptist News

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED JANUARY 31, 2015

INCOME	Jan 2016	July '15-Jan '16
Collections	\$3,265.50	\$29,353.25
Fund Raising Income	0.00	2,220.30
Faith in Our Future Funds	0.00	851.01
Cemetery Income	0.00	225.00
Other Income	<u>346.24</u>	<u>1,640.47</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,611.74	\$34,290.03
EXPENSES		
Wages/Benefits	\$3,340.38	\$18,465.48
Office expenses	32.99	222.99
Utilities	327.71	4,839.10
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Upkeep/maintenance	109.00	1,815.54
Fundraising expenses	0.00	234.64
Ministry expenses	749.18	3,081.45
Cemetery Expenses	0.00	45.18
2014-2015 CSA	-35.00	6,206.00
Other expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,524.26	\$36,510.38
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$912.52)	(\$2,220.35)

INVESTMENTS	01/31/2016
Checking Account	\$3,523.13
Cemetery Funds	14,888.68
Investment CD's	<u>214,055.86</u>
TOTAL	\$232,467.67



Pancake Breakfast: Please join us for our next social, a pancake breakfast, to be held on Sunday, March 13th begin at 9:00 AM.

There are sign up sheets in the back of church for those willing to donate food or work at this event. Thank you for your help!

SCRIP News... "My SCRIP Wallet"

Do you love your smart phone? Do you love on-line banking? Then you will love "My SCRIP Wallet"! You can now get SCRIP sent right to your smart phone. You simply scan your phone at the check out and you're done! You don't have to be bothered with getting money to the parish office to purchase your SCRIP, because the money comes directly from your bank account. SECURE, FAST, AND EASY! "My SCRIP Wallet" might be just for you! Call the parish office, or visit: www.shopwithscrip.com today! (Not all stores are available with "My SCRIP Wallet")



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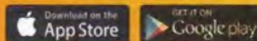
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