

March 6, 2016



Fourth Sunday
of

Lent

Whoever is in Christ
is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

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:

Oak Park Dental
2402 East Main St. Suite 8
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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 Thursdays instead.



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Lee Deates.**

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

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. Thank you.



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

March 7, 2016



Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:1-30


Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11;

Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Monday 3/7	Tuesday 3/8	Wednesday 3/9	Thursday 3/10	Friday 3/11	Saturday 3/12	Sunday 3/13
Fr. Chris' Day Off 6:00 PM 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 Reconciliation	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass and stations of the cross 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 5:00 PM SFX MS/HS Music 6:00 PM SFX religious ed 6:00 PM SFX Charismatic group 6:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 6:45 PM SFX confirmation	9:00 AM Consoling the Heart of Jesus 9:00 AM Mass at SJB Social follows 10:30 AM W/C Pine Crest 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir 7:00 PM SFX K of C Meeting	8:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 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 SJB Pancake Breakfast 9:00-1:00 PM 1:00 PM SJB Cemetery Meeting
<p>SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist</p>						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE *March 12-13, 2016*

Readers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Emily & Elizabeth Weix
7:45 AM (SFX) Zach & Chaz Mootz
9:30 AM (SFX) Mary Ann VDG, Evelyn Lee
11:30 AM (SJB) Joe Zimmerman, Marsha Bloechl

Servers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Aidan & Austin White, Lauren Cohrs
7:45 AM (SFX) Troy Mootz, Macey Jo & Matthew Weix
9:30 AM (SFX) Scott, Nevaeh, Sam Nelson, E. Hanson
11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

4:00 PM (SFX) K & I Cohrs, C. Heller, L. McAllister
7:45 AM (SFX) D, D, A Duginski, J. Mootz
9:30 AM (SFX) J & L Ruprecht, J & B Rammer
11:30 AM (SJB) Louie Leder, Perry Block

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Alicia Weix
7:45 AM (SFX) Julie Mootz, Betty Weix
9:30 AM (SFX) Gayle Maluegge, Karen Akey

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

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
March 13, 2016: Paul Proulx

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
March 12, 2016: Sue Norenberg

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of March 13, 2016: Jan Bares

MASS INTENTIONS: 3/7/16

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: Special intention of Custy Family

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: † Sylvester Tomajcik
By: Marv & Mary Anderson

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) Intention: † Hank Caylor
By: Jane Cramton & Edie Gardner
10:15 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) Intention: † Fr. Ed Powell
By: Vern & Judy Warren

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Elmer Hinke
By: Carol Kobe

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: † Florence Brandl
By: Sandy Brannan
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Pat Storm & Mary Plamann
By: Skip & Barb Ott
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: 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

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent and is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday, a word which is taken from Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10-11. The word Laetare means to rejoice; it sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery. But how do we tie this joyful anticipation into today's readings, when we are in the heart of the Lenten Season? Well in our first reading, we hear how the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal. If we know the story, the Israelites have been traveling for forty years and have now crossed over the Jordan River and are celebrating the Passover. At Gilgal Joshua had been instructed, by God, to have twelve men pick up out of the riverbed of the Jordan River, twelve stones before they and the Ark had crossed. They were to erect the stones as a memorial of their crossing. These stones also represented the Twelve Tribes of Israel. God is not only leading them back to the land promised to their ancestors, like their fore fathers who crossed through the sea, they will also have to pass through water, dry shod before they can possess it.

In today's gospel, we have what is recognized as one of the greatest stories ever told. It is addressed to Pharisees and scribes but also the tax collectors and sinners had also gathered and were listening. A father and his two sons... the first son did not wish to wait around for his inheritance of the estate. In essence, he was telling his father, I wish you were dead, I can't wait any longer. The other son, well he stayed back at home with his father to help run things. However, by this son's initial response to his brother's return, we can surmise that he has probably written his brother off as never coming back or even dead. The story does not let us know if this brother ever has a change of heart, only that the first brother has been found. He has come back to life!

The story of what is commonly called The Prodigal Son, is also one of the greatest spiritual stories of mediation we have. But how are we to look at these stories so that we will be rejoicing in anticipation? Our first story has us look at the gift of new life, they die as they pass through the water and come out on the other side and possess a land that has been given to their fore fathers. Likewise, in today's Gospel, a son has also come back to life. And lastly, Isaiah and the people have made it home from exile. They rejoice at the blessings God is providing and at the blessings which are flowing out from the Temple and out through Jerusalem. And now, each of us is to see ourselves as that second son. How is it that we are going to respond?

Funeral Lunches: After many years of heading up our funeral lunches, Val Slewitzke has retired. We are looking for someone to take the lead so that this service to grieving families of our parish can continue. We already have a great group of experienced volunteers that you will be working with. If you are interested please call the parish office.

A **Koinonia Retreat** is an invitation for adults to encounter Jesus while continuing life's journey. Koinonia is a faith experience that takes you through meditation, reflection, prayer, liturgical celebration, witnesses and more! Koinonia #46 will take place at St. Mary's in Tomahawk on Friday April 22nd - Sunday April 24th. We will begin Friday at 4:30pm and end at approximately 4:30 on Sunday. All meals are provided and you go to your own home each night. The registration fee is \$40. For more information or for an application, contact Kay Berg at 715-453-2878 or dreyouth@smctomahawk.com.

World Concern Collection: This weekend we join the Diocese of Superior in our support of The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, The Collection for the Holy Father (Peters Pence), The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRS), The Church in Latin America and The Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. For more information on these organizations please see the flier in last weekend's bulletin.

CRS Rice Bowl: Hungering to Learn. We journey with CRS Rice Bowl to the Central American country of Honduras where we meet students who are learning that it's better to help your neighbor learn and grow than to leave him or her behind. To whom are we called to extend a hand this week? Visit csrtricebowl.org

55+ Potluck: Our March potluck will take place on Saturday, March 12th at 12:30 PM in the cafeteria. Bring a dish to pass, and a friend. We will play bingo, and cards, and enjoy a great meal together.

March 15th Tuesday Mass: Fr. Chris will be attending the Chrism Mass in Superior on Tuesday, March 15th so there will not be 6:00 PM Mass that evening.

SFX School News

Mrs. Donner's Kindergarten class had a special visitor recently. Ben Hanson brought in a lamb to share with the class for show and tell. The lamb made the rounds of the school and everyone got to pet her. She was the hit of the day!!! Pictured admiring the cute visitor are from left: Brooklyn Clabots, Ben Hanson, Tye Giese and Anthony Galella.



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



From the Holy Father's General Audience: 3/2/16

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In these weekly catecheses inspired by the present Holy Year of Divine Mercy, we have often reflected on God's fatherly love and forgiveness. The Prophets present this love also as involving correction, a summons to conversion and the renewal of the Covenant. Every parent knows the challenge of helping children to grow in freedom and responsibility. In the Scriptures, God expresses his dismay at the rejection of his love, as seen in the disobedience and sin of his children. If he chastizes his people, it is to move them to repentance and conversion. In his mercy, he asks them to turn back to him with all their hearts and to receive a righteousness that is itself his gift. God is pleased, Isaiah tells us, not by ritual sacrifice but by rejecting evil and practicing justice. Though our sins be like scarlet, he will make them white as snow. May all of us be open, during this year of grace, to our heavenly Father's merciful invitation to come back to him and to experience this miracle of his love and forgiveness.

Notes from the Finance Office...

St. Francis Xavier Church and School gratefully received the following donations:

- SFX Church received \$59.40 for the donation of items for recycling.
 - SFX Church received \$16.66 from the AmazonSmile Foundation.
 - SFX School received \$421.99 from Target as part of their Take Charge of Education program.
- Thank you to all who recycled or shopped using Amazon.com or at Target stores and designated St. Francis Xavier as the beneficiary of their programs. Please contact Laura Reiter at 536-2803 or lreiter@stfrancismerrill.org for more information on how you can get more out of your shopping!

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and School recently received their ninth check from the **Faith in Our Future: Our Legacy, Our Mission Campaign**. The church and the school each received a check for \$5,434.65 for a total of \$10,839.30 received! This money will be used here at our parish to pay off the debt of the new roof. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made a pledge to this campaign. Thank you also for your continued support and payments on your pledges.

St. John the Baptist Church recently received their ninth check from the **Faith in Our Future: Our Legacy, Our Mission Campaign**. The church received a check for \$605.63. This money was used to purchase the new sound system at St. John's. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made a pledge to this campaign. Thank you also for your continued support and payments on your pledges.

Religious Education News

Wednesday, March 9:

Grades K-8 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Confirmation social time 6:00 – 6:45 PM

Confirmation session runs 6:45 – 7:45 PM

Confirmation: 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.

Reconciliation: It is encouraged that parents should bring their children to the sacrament of Penance and receive that sacrament as a family. During Lent there are ample opportunities to go to Confession. The times are:

3/8/16-7:00 PM, 3/9/16-6:00 PM, 3/12/16-9 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The students and staff at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School are Proud to present a musical for the whole family to enjoy.

Join us at the SFX Theater Project's Production of

Disney's THE Aristocats KIDS

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Based on the 1970 Disney film "The Aristocats"

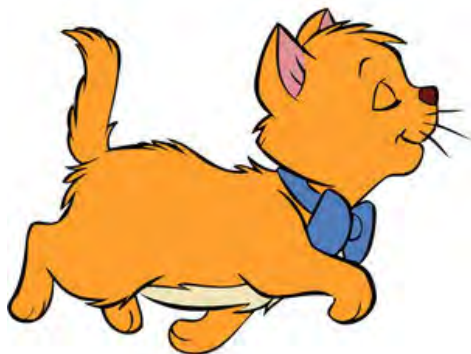
April 5, 2016 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM

The Grand Theater

401 N 4th Street, Wausau

Reserved seating only: \$10 Adults, \$5 for Students and Seniors

Tickets on sale now at the parish and school offices.



For more information contact
Michael Klapperich 715-536-2803
or email:
mklapperich@stfrancismerrill.org

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



Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Girl Scout Sunday
 Monday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity
 Tuesday: St. John of God
 Wednesday: St. Frances of Rome
 Friday: Abstinence

Volunteers will be needed to read, usher, and altar serve for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, 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

St. Francis Xavier Parish Annual Asbestos Notification 2015-2016

Official Notice to all employees, students, parents and the public:

This notice has been written to comply with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations requiring yearly notification of asbestos activities within the St. Francis Xavier School.

An Asbestos Management Plan was developed in 1988 and was recently updated. The Management Plan is available to anyone for viewing by visiting the Maintenance office during normal office hours.

Abatement of asbestos containing building materials is performed when necessary by accredited person prior to disturbance during scheduled renovation or construction projects.

Any future asbestos activities will again be published along with the annual written notice. If you have any questions regarding this matter, contact John Hanson, maintenance supervisor 715-536-2803

**“Bow the Knee”
 A Dramatic Easter Musical**

St. Paul's' United Church
 426 Washington Street—Wausau
 Saturday, March 12—7:00 PM
 Sunday, March 13—2:30 PM

AND

Zion Lutheran Church
 E7195 Star Rd—Aniwa
 Saturday, March 19-7:00 PM
 Sunday, March 20—7:00 PM

Free Admission!

Please pray for the following parishioners who are in need of our prayers: **Fr. Joe, Jody Mittlestaedt, Rick Loof, John Madden, Duane Tomajcik, Kristy (Schnabel) Witt, Millie Martin, Helen Marie Ziesemer, Elaine Hinke, and Sally Wiley.**

St. John the Baptist News



Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
 Sunday, March 13th
 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
 Pancakes (Regular & Potato)
 Scrambled eggs, sausage, beverage
 Cost: Free will donation

If you can help with the breakfast please use the sign up sheet in the back of church.

Cemetery Planning Meeting

There will be a cemetery parking lot planning meeting immediately following the Pancake Breakfast around 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 13th. Please join us if you can and bring your great ideas with you. All are welcome to attend. Call Kris Block 715-536-8422 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Bequests and Memorials Correction

The Bequests and Memorials for July-Dec 2015 wrongly stated that the Memorial for Mr. & Mrs. Victor Zimmerman by Barbara and David Zimmerman was for St. Francis Xavier Church. This loving memorial was intended for St. John the Baptist Church. Sincerest apologies from the Finance Office.

Additional Reconciliation Times this Lent:

Come and experience God's Mercy
 Tuesday, March 8 7:00 PM
 Wednesday, March 9 6:00 PM
 Saturday, March 12 9:00 AM & 3:00 PM



OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Feb. 20 - 21, 2016

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. Francis Xavier			
Adult Envelopes	\$4,823.17	\$7,827.00	(12,038.39)
Loose Collection	\$336.93	\$270.00	2,216.51
Online/ACH giving	\$3,042.00	\$1,186.54	627.69
Debt Relief	<u>\$954.01</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>1,143.13</u>
TOTAL	\$9,156.11	\$10,072.00	(8,051.06)

			Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. John the Baptist			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$1,137.00	\$1,016.00	(1,518.25)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of his love so we can respond in faith and trust.

In the past year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help 226 families with rent and utilities to avoid evictions in the Merrill area.



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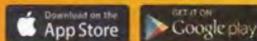
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