

March 13, 2016 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said,
**LET THE ONE AMONG YOU
WITHOUT SIN,**

be the first to throw a stone at her.

~ John 8:11

**St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist
Catholic Communities**

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:

Collins Insurance Agency
1001 E. Main Street
715-722-0722



Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:

Our next meeting is March 23rd 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 Thursdays during lent from
 9-10:30 AM in the school cafeteria.



THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Roxie 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. Thank you.




SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

March 14, 2016



- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20 (or Jn 8:1-11 if Year A readings were used on Sunday)
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Sunday: Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 -- 23:56 [23:1-49]

Weekly Schedule: March 14-20, 2016

Monday 3/14	Tuesday 3/15	Wednesday 3/16	Thursday 3/17	Friday 3/18	Saturday 3/19	Sunday 3/20
Fr. Chris' Day off 6:00 PM SFX Consoling the Heart of Jesus	No Mass 7:00 PM Liturgy Committee	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 5:00 PM SFX MS/HS music 6:00 PM SFX religious ed and Confirmation	9:00 AM Mass & Social-SJB 9:00 AM SFX Consoling the Heart of Jesus 10:30 AM Mass at Pine Crest 5:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir-Church 6:30 PM Family Choir-Music Rm	8:00 AM SFX Mass 10:00 AM SFX Living Stations	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: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist </div>						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE March 19-20, 2016

Readers:

4:00 PM (SFX) S. Ryman, L. Hass, P. Bucket
7:45 AM (SFX) C. Kwiesielewicz, T. Fischer, K. Rell
9:30 AM (SFX) B. Morgan, B. McConnell, E. Lee
11:30 AM (SJB) G. Dobson, A. Monti, K. Polacek

Servers:

4:00 PM (SFX) L. Karpenske, M & H Krueger
7:45 AM (SFX) Rebecca & Isaiah Rell, Makyah Goetsch
9:30 AM (SFX) Molly, Anna, and Matthew Rydeski
11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

4:00 PM (SFX) D. MacSwain, J. Folta, C. Heller, Volunteer
7:45 AM (SFX) A. Goetsch, B. Swan, B & J Tabor
9:30 AM (SFX) C. Lee, W. Osterbrink, S & N Nelson
11:30 AM (SJB) P. Polacek, J. Feuerstein

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Phil & Mary Ziesemer
7:45 AM (SFX) Sharon & Mark Zipperer
9:30 AM (SFX) Pam Suchocki & Mary Ann VDG

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

MASS INTENTIONS Week of March 14, 2016

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) No Mass

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention of : Mark & Betty Weix
By: Tom & Mary Jo Sazama

Thursday

9:30 AM (SJB) Intention: † Leona Doering
By: Patty Mosser
10:15 AM (at Pine Crest) Intention of : Isabell
By: Al & Mary Jirele

Friday

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

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Linda Harris
By: Mom & Barb

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: For those who suffer from depression
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Lee Deates
By: The Luterbach Family
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: The People of the parishes

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
March 20, 2016: Deb Koepke

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
March 19, 2016: Sally Wiley

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of March 20, 2016: Clark Ambrose

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 draw ever closer to the gifts the Lord has won for us at Easter, we have readings which attempt to deepen our understanding of these gifts. For instance, in our first reading from Isaiah, the author is expressing how God has delivered the people of Israel from their Babylonian captivity. In this reading, it expresses the peoples' deliverance from Babylon and compares their deliverance from Babylon as one which eclipses their exodus from Egypt. Even when God led them through the Red Sea and destroyed Pharaoh's army.

In the Gospel, Jesus has returned to the temple area. And along with the people gathering around him, the scribes and Pharisees have come to him with "other" intentions. The scribes and Pharisees present this woman to Jesus in order to trap him. What I have become aware of, is how Jesus responds to the scribes and Pharisees. They wish to entrap Jesus through this woman's sins and have not thought about their own. They must have been watching this woman and known her activity. I wonder what Jesus was thinking each time he bent down to draw on the ground. Here He is, the creator of the world, stirring the ground from which he made man, and they are before Him trying to entrap Him.

I cannot help but think of Jesus' mercy even in this trying event. Jesus, being patient, is trying to reach out even to his accusers? "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." They did not respond to Jesus' examination of their own guilt, and they walked away defeated. How do we perceive God who is so rich in mercy? Are we defeated? Or are we confident that God can save us from wherever we find ourselves. It is He who saves us from ourselves and destroys our enemies before us. This woman was terrified for her life and to her He says, "Where are your accusers, Go and sin no more."

-Fr. Chris

Save the Dates: First Communion for St. Francis Xavier is at 9:30 AM on April 24th.

Altar Serving Training is tentatively scheduled for April 10th.

A Volunteer appreciation dinner will be held on Saturday, April 30th. If you help out at either parish in anyway, please save this date!

Notes from the Finance Office: The parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church donated a total of \$1,310 to the National Black and Indian Mission Collection this year. St. John the Baptist donated \$165.00. The offerings that were collected will be used to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among African Americans, Native Americans, and Alaska Native people of God. Thank you for your support of this year's appeal.

Thank you to Wayne & Polly Polacek who generously donated this year's Paschal Candle. The candle will be lit for the Octave of Easter, as well as Baptisms and funerals.

Bell Tower Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner (featuring green beer!) is being held on March 17th at 4:30-7:00 PM. Bell Tower is located at 1500 O'Day Street in Merrill. For more information please call 715-536-5575.

Fr. Michael Gaitley coming to Stevens Point: There is an opportunity for a weekend retreat at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point August 5-7, 2016. There are 5 sessions with Fr. Gaitley (author of the 33 Days to Morning Glory Series), along with daily mass, confession, adoration, and more. See the flier by the main church entrance for details.

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.

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, Sally Wiley, Ed Truckenbrodt.**

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.

SFX School News

Grandparents Day

We recently celebrated grandparents day with Mass, Stations of the Cross, Bingo, a game room, lunch and the book fair. It was an amazing day!! Pictured is the game room. Students and guests played cards, spoons and other fun games. Thank you to all our grandparents and special guests for sharing the day with us. We are so lucky and blessed to have your support .



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.

Consider trying to Make a Lenten Holy Hour this year. If it's something you don't usually find the time for, it's a great way to draw near to Jesus during these forty days. Take the extra time this year to make a Lenten Holy Hour. Our lives are so very busy that it's sometimes difficult to slow down and find time for prayer. It's nice to just be in His presence and be still; it's a retreat from the world.

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us. ~ St. Alphonsus Ligouri. Open Hours in the chapel: 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 Snow Bird), and Saturday at 11 AM. Call Phil/Mary with any questions: 715-536-4825.



Religious Education News

Wednesday, March 16:

6:00pm – 7:00 pm, Grades K-8

6:00-7:00 PM Confirmation will be held in the cafeteria at St. Francis Xavier. There will be no social time this week, or pizza. Snacks will be provided.

Confirmation Retreat was held March 5 at St. Francis Xavier. A Spiritus retreat team, from Mount Tabor Retreat Center, led the retreat. The picture below is of the 10th grade Confirmation candidates and the Spiritus retreat team.



FISH FRY UPDATE

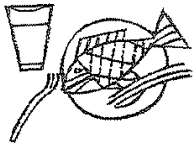
We could still use monetary donations to cover the costs of the ingredients that our bakers use every week for our desserts for the fish fry. If interested, please sign up on the form in the back of church "pie donations" which is \$12. Thanks for your consideration!



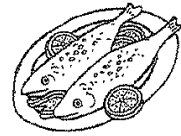
Cash raffle tickets are available at the SCRIP tables as well as the school & parish office. Drawing will be on Good Friday at 7:30 PM. Take a chance at the \$1000 grand prize! Thanks for supporting this school fundraiser!

Total Meals Served

Week #1.....	621	Week #3...807
Week #2....	.761	Week #4...730



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

Holy Week Schedule
 Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 PM
 Good Friday Liturgy 2:30 PM
 Easter Vigil 8:03 PM
 Easter Sunday 7:45 AM, 9:30 AM and
 11:30 AM (St. John The Baptist)



Please sign up to assist at these liturgies using the sign up board in the back of Church. Thank you.

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



Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins
 Thursday: St. Patrick
 Friday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem; Abstinence
 Saturday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Spring begins

Just a reminder that abstaining from meat on Fridays of lent is to be observed by all those in good health age 14 and older. You are never "too old" to abstain from meat.

CRS Rice Bowl—Hungering to grow a new tomorrow



This week's CRS Rice Bowl country is the island nation of Madagascar, where we're reminded of the important role farmers play in caring for God's creation. As we prepare our meals throughout the week, let us reflect on where our food comes from—and what role we can play in caring for our environment. Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

*Rice Bowls will be collected at Mass on Holy Thursday.

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Feb. 27 - 28, 2016

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. Francis Xavier			
Adult Envelopes	\$8,660.00	\$7,827.00	(11,205.39)
Loose Collection	\$236.00	\$270.00	2,182.51
Online/ACH giving	\$290.00	\$1,186.54	(268.85)
Debt Relief	<u>\$460.38</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>815.05</u>
TOTAL	\$9,646.38	\$10,072.00	(8,476.68)

			Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. John the Baptist			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$938.35	\$1,016.00	(1,595.90)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

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St. John the Baptist News

The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated on March 15th, at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior. If any parishioners from St. John's plan on attending, and would like to receive the Holy Oils for our parish, please contact Kris Leggett in the parish office on Monday (715-536-2803).

A new **pascal candle** was recently purchased for St. John the Baptist. If you would like to make a donation towards the candle, or purchase it in memory of a loved one, please call Laura in the finance office (715-536-2803).

Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale: Next Sunday, March 13th is our pancake breakfast and bake sale. We will be serving from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. A free will donation is the cost of the meal.

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 at 715-536-8422 if you have any questions. Thank you!

SCRIP News...

1. Have you been on the fence wondering whether or not to try SCRIP?
2. Unfamiliar with SCRIP?
3. Do you think buying SCRIP costs you extra money?

Here's how it works! SCRIP is a gift card or gift certificate that spends just like cash. It does not cost you anything extra. Retailers and local merchants sell SCRIP to Saint Francis Xavier at a discount. Then we sell the SCRIP to you at face value. You pay no more to use SCRIP than you would cash. Saint Francis earns the difference between the face value of the SCRIP and the discounted price. Businesses donate 2.5% - 20% of the cost of each card back to our school!!! Please stop by the SCRIP table at the back of church today, or call the parish office for more information.

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.*



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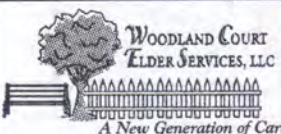
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