

March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

At the name
of Jesus
every knee
should bend . . .
and every
tongue
confess that

**JESUS
CHRIST
IS LORD.**

Philippians 2:10, 11

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:

Dave's County Market
300 East First St
715-536-2571



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 every Friday that school is in session from

9:00-10:30 AM in the cafeteria.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Michael & Kathleen Caylor**. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. May the perpetual light shine upon them.

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: 3-21-16

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11

14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1, 15

Friday: Is 52:13 -- 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 -- 19:42

Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 -- 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10,

12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 -- 15:1;



Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 -- 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;

g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1

2, 16-17, 22-23; Lk 24:1-12

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

Weekly Schedule: March 21-27, 2016

Monday 3/21	Tuesday 3/22	Wednesday 3/23	Thursday 3/24	Friday 3/25	Saturday 3/26	Easter Sunday 3/27
<p>Fr. Chris' Day Off</p>	<p>5:30 PM SFX Reconciliation</p> <p>6:00 PM SFX Mass</p> <p>6:45 PM SFX Family Choir</p>	<p>8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation</p> <p>9:00 AM SFX Mass</p> <p>5:00 PM SFX RCIA</p> <p>6:00 PM SFX Charismatic Prayer Group</p>	<p>7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass</p>	<p>Parish office Closed</p> <p>2:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy</p> <p>4:30-7:30 PM Fish Fries</p>	<p>10:00 AM SFX Blessing Easter Food</p> <p>No 4:00 PM Mass</p> <p>8:03 PM Easter Vigil Mass</p>	<p>7:45 AM SFX Mass</p> <p>9:30 AM SFX Mass</p> <p>11:30 AM SJB Mass</p>
<p>SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist</p>						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE March 26-27, 2016 (Easter Weekend)

Readers:

8:03 PM (SFX) Volunteers
7:45 AM (SFX) Volunteers
9:30 AM (SFX) Volunteers

11:30 AM (SJB) Karen Polacek, Joe Zimmerman

Servers:

8:03 PM (SFX) Volunteers
7:45 AM (SFX) Volunteers
9:30 AM (SFX) Volunteers
11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

SFX: Please use the sign up board in the back of church to help at these liturgies.

Greeters/Ushers:

8:00 PM (SFX) Volunteers
7:45 AM (SFX) Volunteers
9:30 AM (SFX) Volunteers

11:30 AM (SJB) Louie Leder, Perry Block

SCRIP sellers:

SCRIP is not available for sale Easter Weekend. SCRIP is available at the parish office Monday -Thursday of Holy Week.

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

MASS INTENTIONS Week of March 21, 2016

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) Intention of: Jim Peterson's Family
By: Fischer-Monnot Families

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: † Geno & Florence Bosi
By: Family

Holy Thursday

7:00 PM (SFX) Intention: 74th Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Fischer By: Their Children

Good Friday

2:30 PM (SFX) Liturgy (No intention)

Saturday

8:03 PM (SFX) Intention: People of the parishes

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: † Stanley Sladek
By: Grace Batchelder

9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Matthew Ellenbecker
By: Pete Ellenbecker

11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: † Roland & Sedonia Hensen
By: Jim & Joyce St. Mary

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
March 27, 2016: Sr. Dolores

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
March 26, 2016: Mark Bares

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of March 27, 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.

PASTOR'S CORNER by: Fr. Chris

This week, the Church celebrates as we enter into the holiest of all weeks. With it comes many readings and rituals from which to reflect upon. But perhaps the best thing to do is to reflect upon the week as a whole in order to get a brief sense of what is being presented to us. The week begins with Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. In this liturgy, we begin with a Gospel reading, from Luke, and then move into a procession with palms and end our readings with a longer reading from Luke's Gospel on the Lord's Passion. It's worth noting that the reading ends with the centurion saying, "This man was innocent beyond doubt" and sets one of the tones for the remainder of the week.

On Holy Thursday, we end the season of Lent and begin the Easter Triduum. Traditionally, the Chrism Mass would be held on this day, however, for our Diocese, it was held on Tuesday of last week because of the size of our diocese. In this Liturgy, the Holy Oils are blessed by the bishop and distributed to the parishes and priests renew their vows. These Oils are then processed into the church on The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. For clustered parishes they are often brought in on Easter morning. However, on this Thursday eve, our Gospel reading comes from John and we listen, as it is the Last Supper before the Passover. Jesus is aware that Judas has already been influenced by the devil and Jesus also washes the disciples' feet. This washing of feet is repeated during our service, and it takes the place of the penitential rite and yet means so much more. We also close this service in a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and conclude with adoration. But notice, the service does not actually end. It flows into Good Friday, which does not actually have a beginning. It begins instead with the clergy laying prostrate in silence. There is no Mass being celebrated this day anywhere. It's form is a word and communion service. After we listen to our Gospel, this time it comes from John's version of the Passion, the cross is venerated, communion is received, and this service also ends in silence. For Further Adoration of the Cross.

On Holy Saturday, we begin the pinnacle of the Liturgical year with the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter. It begins not in the church, but outside by the blessing of a fire and the signing of the Easter Candle. Both, are signs of Jesus Christ, The Light coming back into the world on Easter Morning. The service continues with the passing of this Light to all of those who are present. Many scripture passages are read; of course Jesus is the Word, and the Light, who has come into the world. Water is blessed, sacraments are performed and it all comes to a climax with the celebration of the Eucharist. Throughout this week, God shows us His great mercy, and gives us the joy of seeing our salvation, which shines out through this feast. This feast is a guide for us through the very trials we meet us in our world. The question is will we take time to go and meet Him? This man was innocent, and through Him I pray that each of us may have a Holy Week.

Parish News

Blessing of Easter Food: Please join Fr. Chris on Saturday, March 26th at 10:00 AM, as he will bless your food for your Easter Meal. Items like dishes, and special decorations can also be blessed.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land: Pope Francis has asked our parish to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. Please use your "Good Friday" envelope to participate in this collection. Thank you.

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.

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.

SCRIP News: Spring is coming because Dairy Queen is open! We will be stocking up on \$20 Dairy Queen cards this week. They generously donate 20% of all sales to our school. Congratulations to **Kay Slewitzke**, the February winner of \$25 in FREE SCRIP!

The Cemetery has announced that Spring Clean Up will be starting soon. Please remove all decorations by April 15th. Anything left in the cemetery after that date will be discarded. The cemetery will again be selling flowering baskets this spring as a parish fundraiser. Watch the Easter Sunday bulletin for more information.

Save the Dates

April 3rd is Divine Mercy Sunday. Watch the Easter Sunday Bulletin for a list of special events offered in our parish. This event will begin at 3:00 PM.

April 10th is the tentative date for altar server training.

April 24th at 9:30 AM is First Communion for both parishes.

April 30th is an appreciation dinner for all volunteers of both parishes. This dinner will be held in the St. Francis Xavier Cafeteria following 4:00 PM Mass. Come and let the staff wait on you !

The parish office is closed Good Friday (3/25)

SFX School News

Thank you Holy Cross Sisters!

Pictured is Mrs. McConnell's 4th & 5th Grade class with the new Catholic Children's Bibles from St. Mary's Press that they recently received. It is the first-ever complete children's Bible that not only inspires, but empowers children to read, live, understand and love the Word of God. Purchase of these bibles was made possible by a generous donation from the Holy Cross Sisters and an anonymous donor. The children are thrilled to use these bibles and are thankful for the support of our school.



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!

Good Friday is your last chance to join us in a great Fish Fry. We will be serving from 4:30-7:30 PM. We have the best shrimp, fish, and desserts in town. This is also a great chance to visit with old and new friends in the community.

Religious Education News

No Religious Education classes until April 10th. Enjoy your Holiday!

Family Penance: It is encouraged that parents should bring their children to the sacrament of Penance and receive that sacrament as a family. Fr. Chris offers confession every Saturday morning at 9:00 AM, and also by appointment.

1st Communion practice will be held Saturday, April 16 at 9:30 am in the church. This is a mandatory meeting for the children, who must be accompanied by at least one parent.

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 .

Eucharistic Adoration



The Eucharistic Adoration chapel will be closed for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. Eucharistic exposition will end at 6:00 PM on Holy Thursday (March 24th) and begin again at 6 PM Easter Sunday (March 27th).

The closing of the Eucharistic Chapel is meant to reflect the importance of the Triduum celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil and to permit all parishioners to take full part in these Three Great Days.

Following Mass on Holy Thursday, the Blessed Sacrament will be solemnly reserved in a tabernacle on the altar of repose. Adoration will continue until Midnight for all who wish to stay.

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

Notes from the Finance Office...

Gifts included in wills and living trusts are popular because they are flexible, easy to arrange, and may be changed with your life circumstances. In addition to filling an important role in providing for the future financial security of your family and others, your will or living trust can offer a way to make thoughtful charitable gifts as part of your long-range estate and financial plans. It can be satisfying to know that a portion of your property will be put to good use in the future.

There are many ways to give through Wills or Trusts:

- Make a gift of a specific amount. A gift of a particular amount may be designated for general use or to fund a special need.
- Provide for a gift of a particular property. Real estate, stocks, and other items of value are examples of properties that can be used to fund charitable bequests.
- Designate that a percentage of your estate be given to the Church or School through your will or living trust.
- Give the remainder, or residue, of your estate—that is, what remains after all other bequests to friends and loved ones are satisfied.

Name charitable interests to receive a bequest in the event other heirs are not there to receive their legacies.

There is no limit on amounts deductible from federal gift and estate taxes for charitable gifts made by will or trust, so no tax will be due on assets given in this way. To plan a charitable bequest, inform your attorney of your wishes and ask for advice regarding the best form for your gift.

If you decide to include a gift in your estate plans, the legal names of the churches in our cluster are St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, tax ID number is 39-0812536, and St. John the Baptist Church, tax ID number 39-6058338.

**St. Francis Xavier Catholic school is proud to present a musical
for the whole family to enjoy.**

Join us at the SFX Theater Project's Production of



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

The Grand Theater—401 N 4th Street, Wausau

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

**Tickets are on sale now at the parish office, school office,
First Street Coffee, The Cosmo Theater, and Studio 808**

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)



Did you know "Liturgy" means work of the people?
 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: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 Monday: Monday of Holy Week
 Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week
 Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week; Purim begins
 Thursday: Holy Thursday; Paschal Triduum begins
 Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence
 Saturday: Holy Saturday; Vigil of Easter

The Liturgy Committee appreciates every donation to our Easter Flower collection. Our church will be a beautiful worship space thanks to your generosity.

St. John the Baptist

Thank you to everyone who pitched in at our Pancake Breakfast and bake sale. We had a great team of workers and everyone seemed to have a great time. We hope to be able to keep planning these fun social events throughout the year.

A new **paschal 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).

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.



Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust. Thank you for your support.

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, Paula Pleski**

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of Mar. 5 - 6, 2016

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<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
Adult Envelopes	\$7,909.00	\$7,827.00	(11,123.39)
Loose Collection	\$264.50	\$270.00	2,177.01
Online/ACH giving	\$1,556.00	\$1,186.54	100.62
Debt Relief	<u>\$1,154.11</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>1,180.69</u>
TOTAL	\$10,883.61	\$10,072.00	(7,665.07)
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>			Over (Under) since 7/1/15
Adult Env. & Loose	\$797.00	\$1,016.00	(1,814.90)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

Divine Mercy Novena



The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and continues through Divine Mercy Sunday (April 3rd). Each day of the Novena centers on prayers for a special group of people, that they may be immersed in the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ. The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena, especially on the nine days before the Feast of Mercy. And He Promised, "By this Novena of Chaplets I will grant every possible grace to souls." Booklets containing the prayers of the novena and prayers of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are available in the parish office, or on the table of literature by the handicapped entrance.

Hungering to Build community:

We follow Jesus this week on our Lenten journey as he enters Jerusalem, a community he knew well. CRS Rice Bowl asks us to prayerfully enter our own communities, to find those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we encounter in our daily lives?

Visit: www.crsricebowl.org for more.



*Rice bowls are collected on Holy Thursday at Mass.



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