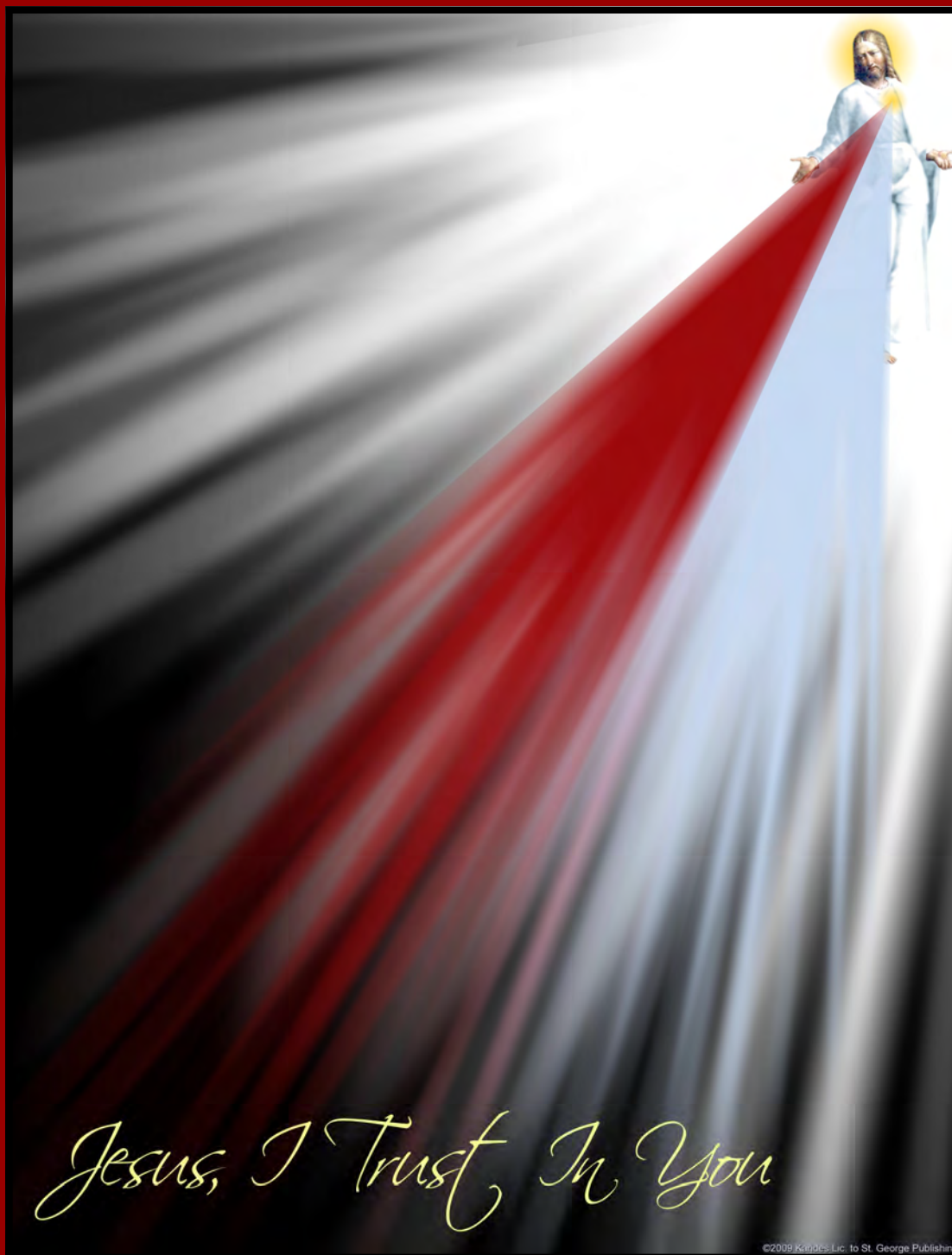


The Catholic Communities of  
St. Francis Xavier & St. John the Baptist  
Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2016



**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 Doughty.....536-6083
- School Secretary — Cindy Gennrich.....536-6083
- Knights of Columbus — Bill Hanson, Grand Knight.....536-8471

Parish Website: [www.stfrancismerrill.org](http://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  
 (2nd & 4th Thursdays at Pine Crest are Word & Communion)
  - 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) Thursday.....9:45 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](mailto:kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org)

Bulletin deadline Tuesday at Noon.

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Come and Join Us

**Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:**

Our next meeting is April 13th 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-11 AM

**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



**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.

**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**



**April 4, 2016**



- Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
- Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21
- Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 [1-14]

Would you like to get daily readings right to your smart phone? Just do an internet search for "Laudate app". This free Catholic app has the daily readings and saint of the day, Liturgy of the hours, rosary and chaplet prayers, Stations of the Cross and more!

## Weekly Schedule: April 4-10, 2016

Monday 4/4	Tuesday 4/5	Wednesday 4/6 No School	Thursday 4/7	Friday 4/8	Saturday 4/9	Sunday 4/10
6:00 PM SFX Base Training	10:00 AM <b>Aristocats Play</b>  2:00 PM SFX Mass  6:00 PM <b>Aristocats Play</b>	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation  9:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SJB Mass Social follows  10:30 AM Mass at Pine Crest  4:00 PM Snack Shack Meeting  6:00 PM SFX RCIA  6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	8:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM Reconciliation  12:30 PM 55+ Potluck  4:00 PM SFX Mass	7:45 AM SFX Mass  9:30 AM SFX Mass  10:30 AM SFX altar server training  11:30 AM SJB Mass
					<b>SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist</b>	

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

*April 9-10, 2016*

**Readers:**

4:00 PM (SFX) Elizabeth & Emily Weix  
7:45 AM (SFX) Tom Huftel, Kevin Rell  
9:30 AM (SFX) Mary Ann VDG, Evelyn Lee  
11:30 AM (SJB) Angela Monti, Karen Polacek

**Servers:**

4:00 PM (SFX) Mason & Clayton Evans, L. Karpenske  
7:45 AM (SFX) M & M Weix, Isabell Wendt  
9:30 AM (SFX) I. Morgan, B. Orzech, E. Arneson, A. Arndt

11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteer

**Greeters/Ushers:**

4:00 PM (SFX) Ian & Kevin Cohrs, Volunteers  
7:45 AM (SFX) G. Huftel, G. Pleski, R. Presl, K. Adams  
9:30 AM (SFX) S & N Nelson, C. Lee, J. Reindl  
11:30 AM (SJB) Perry Block, Paul Polacek

**SCRIP sellers:**

4:00 PM (SFX) Alicia Weix  
7:45 AM (SFX) Audrey Huftel, Barb E. Adams  
9:30 AM (SFX) Gayle Maluegge, Barb A. Adams

Ministry Schedules and sub lists for both parishes are on our website: [www.stfrancismerrill.org](http://www.stfrancismerrill.org)

### MASS INTENTIONS

*Week of April 4, 2016*

Tuesday

2:00 PM (SFX) Intention of: Special Intention of the Custy Family

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: † Bob Hoffman  
By: Marv & Mary Anderson

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) Intention: † Mary Mangold  
By: Family  
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: † Ava Doering  
By: Barb Doering

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: † Melvin Ellenbecker  
By: Doris  
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Wilma Zastrow  
By: Bill & Mary  
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: People of the parishes

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place**

April 10, 2016: Sr. Dolores Lilla

**ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest**

April 9, 2016: Sue Norenberg

**FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER**

Week of April 10, 2016: Ginny Drew

### 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**

On this second Sunday of Easter, otherwise known as Divine Mercy Sunday, we are given this wonderful reading from John's Gospel. Again this week, it is a gospel passage rich in meaning. Scripture scholars also think this was the original ending to John's Gospel, the chapter which follows this is believed to be a later addition. And by looking at the last few lines from today's reading we can see why this is most likely the original ending. *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name."* However, without getting caught up, just in the ending, let us also notice what else has taken place.

To start with there is Thomas, a person to whom many of us can find ourselves relating to in one way or another. However, before we go there, notice it is the evening of the first day of the week. This is meant for us to recognize that it is a new beginning; to recall a new creation. Where are the disciples? They are all locked up in the upper room; a meaning which is to be seen as a sign of sin. They have closed themselves off to the rest of the world, and they are afraid! What does Jesus do but come into the midst of them and say, *"Peace be with you..."* and breathed on them and said, *"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain they are retained."* Once again, beautiful rich words, but, how have we allowed them and their meaning to really sink in fully? This is the end of the Gospel and a climax passage. How are we hearing these words?

Jesus has given His Church the power to forgive and retain sins. And this is the primary way and means by which sins are forgiven. It is Jesus Christ himself who forgives sins. God's forgiveness is made available in Jesus Christ and it is the place where we experience the fullness of God's Mercy. And it is not meant to be kept locked up either. With Jesus, the Church has a mission. This mission is to bring the message of God's Mercy out to whole world, and to bring the whole world together into the divine love of the Father. May we not find ourselves "doubting" the richness of this Mercy which has been won for us.

**Altar Server** training is be offered for those boys and girls in 3rd grade and up. Deacon Jim will be holding the training on Sunday, April 10th following the 9:30 AM Mass. The training will last about 60-90 minutes. This training is for children who do not attend St. Francis Xavier School.

Thank you to **Wayne and Polly Polak** who donated this year's Paschal Candle. Their name was incorrect when originally published.

**The Snack Shack is Back!** Thanks to a great group of committed volunteers, our Snack Shack will again be open at the Lincoln County Fair. If you would like to help in anyway, please attend our planning meeting on Thursday, April 7th at 4 PM in the conference room. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to be involved please call or email Kris in the parish office. This year's fair is July 20-24th.

**Tuesday Mass:** 6:00 PM Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, April 5th due to the St. Francis Xavier School presentation of the Aristocats.

**Sick List:** 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, Kathy Colclasure, Julieanne Opichka.

**55+ Potluck:** Our next gathering will take place on Saturday, April 9th at 12:30 PM in the cafeteria. Please bring a dish to pass, and a friend! We will be playing bingo and cards and enjoying a great meal.

**St. Francis Xavier & St. John the Baptist  
Volunteer Appreciation Night  
Saturday, April 30, 2016  
Mass 4:00 PM  
Free Dinner to follow**



Please save April 30th on your family calendar! As the parish and school staff will be hosting an appreciation dinner for EVERYONE who volunteers in our churches, or school, in ANYWAY! The evening will start with Mass at 4 PM and a very special dinner and social will follow, where the staff will wait on you! Please plan on joining us. Watch for the flier in next week's bulletin which will include important RSVP information. Yes, children are welcome!

(This evening is for both St. John the Baptist and St. Francis Xavier Volunteers.)



## SFX School News

Continuing in our school's tradition, the St. Francis Xavier Middle School performed the Living Stations of the Cross on March 18th. Pictured below: Dominique Zastrow-Meehean, Russell Gerbig, Matthew Rydeski, and Austin White as the Roman guards and Makyah Goetsch as Jesus. The bottom picture is Cali Brown as Mary Magdalene.



In the gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

*During Mass we turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" As you support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.*



## Religious Education News



At the Easter Vigil, **Brenda Dupuis** was Confirmed. She is pictured here with Joe Velie (DRE), Fr. Chris, Lori Ruprecht (sponsor), and Deacon Jim Arndt. We warmly welcome Brenda to our parish!

### Religious Education classes resume on Wednesday, April 13th.

**10th graders:** On April 13th your class will run from 6-7 PM at St. Francis Church (NOT at the bowling alley). You will be working with your 2nd grade partners preparing them for their First Communion.

**2nd Grade Parents:** We ask that you attend class on April 13th to assist in the project your students are working on.

### Eucharistic Adoration



You are personally invited to join me in an intimate hour of uninterrupted sharing. Admission is always free. I have your reserved seat waiting. I miss you and cannot wait to see you! Come and soak up the rays of my Mercy. Love always, Jesus.

P.S. Come as you are.

**\*\*Open Hours: Thursday at 11 AM, Friday at 11 AM and 3 PM\*\*** Many other hours need prayer partners.

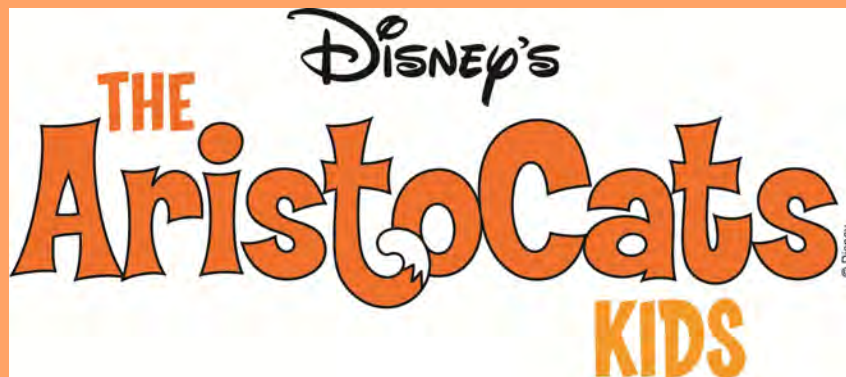
Please call Phil/Mary at 715-536-4825, Kay 536-5986, or Audrey 536-1502 with questions.

Thank you! Our parishes changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say Thank you! If you have not returned your rice bowl, please do so this week.



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

### Second Annual Cemetery Flower Fundraiser

St. Francis Xavier Cemetery will be raising funds for the parish by selling 12 inch mixed flowering baskets to be placed at our cemetery in time for Memorial Day. The flowers are locally grown. The baskets will be placed by your loved one's grave, and sit on a tile, to make it level. Additionally, you may pay for our watering service. We will water your basket for 12 weeks (June-August) for a fee. If you would like to purchase a planter for your home, you may do that as well, just mark your form "Not For Cemetery".

Please submit the form below with your payment (checks made out to St. Francis Xavier Church) by Monday, April 25th. Thank you!

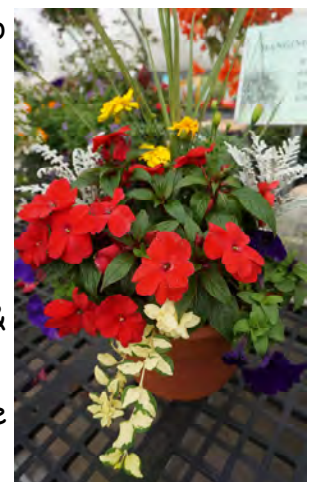
\_\_\_\_\_ 12" mixed flowering planter \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ optional watering service \$30.00 (for one planter)

\_\_\_\_\_ Grave name

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchaser's name & phone number

(Basket shown is not actual dimensions. Plant styles may vary) Please note: We will only place baskets in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.



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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 Easter (or of Divine Mercy)
- Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord
- Tuesday: St. Vincent Ferrer
- Thursday: St. John Baptist de la Salle

The Liturgy Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make our Easter Triduum a special celebration: Music Ministers, Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Fr. Chris, and Deacon Jim, those countless people behind the scenes, and YOU, the prayerful assembly that came, worshiped and participated in these celebrations. **THANK YOU!**

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**OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD**

For the weekend of Mar. 19 - 20, 2016

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
Adult Envelopes	\$6,852.00	\$7,827.00	(12,450.39)
Loose Collection	\$222.62	\$270.00	2,168.13
Online/ACH giving	\$3,057.00	\$1,186.54	1,074.54
Debt Relief	<u>\$1,168.00</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>1,332.47</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,299.62</b>	<b>\$10,072.00</b>	<b>(7,875.25)</b>
			Over (Under) since 7/1/15
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$2,556.00	\$1,016.00	(282.90)

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

**SCRIP News....**

- SCRIP was not available for sale Easter weekend, but will continue to be available before and after weekend Masses this spring and summer. SCRIP is also available at the parish office.
- Congratulations to **Kay Slewitzke**, the February winner of \$25 in SCRIP.
- The snow has come and gone and that means yard work. We have SCRIP for Fleet Farm, Menard's, Wal-Mart, Shopko, and Target. We can also special order Home Depot. Your yard will be looking great and at the same time you will be helping your school raise money.
- Did you know? You can open a SCRIP account for your child regardless of their age? If you start accumulating SCRIP credits before they begin school, your tuition bill can be cut in half, or even more! Call the parish office for details.

**The February profit for SCRIP was \$1706.20.**

**St. John the Baptist News**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2015**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Feb 2016</b>	<b>July '15-Feb '16</b>
Collections	\$4,871.85	\$34,225.10
Fund Raising Income	146.36	2,366.66
Faith in Our Future Funds	605.63	1,456.64
Cemetery Income	0.00	225.00
Other Income	<u>721.75</u>	<u>2,362.22</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,345.59</b>	<b>\$40,635.62</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Wages/Benefits	\$2,328.15	\$20,793.63
Office expenses	49.00	271.99
Utilities	318.92	5,158.02
Insurance	1,541.86	1,541.86
Upkeep/maintenance	209.88	2,025.42
Fundraising expenses		234.64
Ministry expenses	400.07	3,481.52
Cemetery Expenses		45.18
2014-2015 CSA	-25.00	6,181.00
Other expenses		<u>1,600.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,822.88</b>	<b>\$41,333.26</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b><u>\$1,522.71</u></b>	<b><u>(\$697.64)</u></b>

<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>02/29/2016</b>
Checking Account	\$3,383.21
Cemetery Funds	14,924.18
Covantage Credit Union	<u>214,466.64</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$232,774.03</u></b>

**Parish Council:** Our next meeting is Thursday, April 14th at 6:00 PM in the parish hall.

**Thank you from the Family of Larry Tank:** The family of Larry Tank would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support following their loss. A special thanks to all those who helped with the funeral lunch. God Bless you all.



**From the Holy Father's  
General Audience: 3/30/16**

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today, "Let us consider Psalm 51, the Miserere. This Psalm is traditionally seen as King David's prayer for forgiveness following his sin with Bathsheba. Its opening words: "Have mercy on me, O God in your kindness", are a moving confession of sin, repentance and confident hope in God's merciful pardon. Together with a heartfelt plea to be cleansed and purified of his sin, the Psalmist sings the praise of God's infinite justice and holiness. He asks for the forgiveness of his great sin but also for the gift of a pure heart and a steadfast spirit, so that, thus renewed, he may draw other sinners back to the way of righteousness. God's forgiveness is the greatest sign of his infinite mercy."





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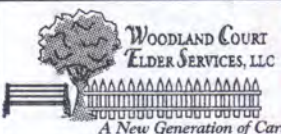
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