

“I know them and
they follow me.”
-John 10:14

St. Francis Xavier
& St. John the
Baptist Catholic
Communities

April 17, 2016
4th Sunday of
Easter

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:

Bell Tower Residence
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Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:

Our next meeting is April 27th 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: **Sally Wiley.**

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.



Once the Easter Flowers have been removed, you may purchase flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day. Call Kris in the parish office to schedule flowers.





SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
April 18, 2016



- Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18
- Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday: Acts 12:24 -- 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
- Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
- Sunday: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Weekly Schedule: April 18-24, 2016

Monday 4/18	Tuesday 4/19	Wednesday 4/20	Thursday 4/21	Friday 4/22	Saturday 4/23	Sunday 4/24
4:00 PM Religious Ed Committee	NO MASS 6:30PM SFX Family Choir 7:00 PM Liturgy Committee	NO MASS . 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 5:00 PM MS/HS Music 6:00 PM SFX religious ed 6:45 PM SFX confirmation	9:00 AM SJB Word & Communion Social follows 10:30 AM Pine Crest Word & Communion 6:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	NO MASS	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 4:00 PM SFX Mass	7:45 AM SFX Mass 9:30 AM SFX Mass 1st Communion 11:30 AM SJB Mass
				<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> SFX= St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist </div>		

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE April 23-24, 2016

Readers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Pat Buckett, Maria Grund
 7:45 AM (SFX) Paula Soderberg, Chester Kwiesielewicz
 9:30 AM (SFX) Christopher Renzelmann, Evelyn Lee
 11:30 AM (SJB) Gayle Dobson, Angela Monti

Servers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Aidan & Austin White, Tessa Wheat
 7:45 AM (SFX) Bobby & Deb Hoff, Makyah Goetsch
 9:30 AM (SFX) M. Leischer, A. Voermans, E. Hanson, A. Renzelmann
 11:30 AM (SJB) Volunteers

Greeters/Ushers:

4:00 PM (SFX) J. Folta, D. MacSwain, Volunteers
 7:45 AM (SFX) Soderberg Family
 9:30 AM (SFX) Joel & Lori Ruprecht, C. Lee, Volunteer
 11:30 AM (SJB) Joe Zimmerman, Perry Block

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Karen Grund
 7:45 AM (SFX) Mark & Sharon Zipperer
 9:30 AM (SFX) Pam Suchocki, Karen Akey

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

MASS INTENTIONS Week of April 18, 2016

Tuesday

6:00 PM (SFX) No Mass

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) No Mass

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) Word & Communion

10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) No Mass

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Geno & Florence Bosi
 By: Family

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Special Intention of the Custy Family

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 24, 2016: Sue Norenberg

ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
 April 23, 2016: Barb Hartwig

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
 Week of April 24, 2016: Maggie Marquis

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

The Good Shepherd in today's Gospel is a famous passage which has had many paintings and images drawn from it. One of the more popular images is of Jesus carrying a sheep on his shoulders and another is of him tending a flock with his shepherd's staff in hand. Yet another image which caught my attention is that of King David. It was David who was out tending his father's flock when he was called to be anointed King by Samuel. It was a story of a father and son and a shepherd much like in today's gospel. A good shepherd does not flee in times of trouble much like King Saul was in doubt of David's abilities. David says to King Saul, "Your servant used to tend his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth" (1 Sam 17:34-35).

Being united with Jesus, means that no one or nothing will be able to snatch us from Jesus. This is because the Father is more powerful and stronger than anyone or anything else, in all the world. The thought of this should instill in us hope that is above all else, and a hope which helps us to respond to God's grace. Grace is a gift which is freely given to us and the Lord does not deny it to anyone. It is for everyone to believe and to be saved. St Thomas Aquinas taught, "I can see thanks to the light of the sun; but if I close my eyes, I cannot see: this is no fault of the sun, it is my own fault, because by closing my own eyes, I have prevented the sun from reaching me."

Jesus is the good shepherd; may we keep our eyes open to all of the graces which he wishes to bestow upon us and we will never have to worry about being at a loss of eternity.

Update your information

- Do you have a cell phone instead of a land line?
 - Have you moved?
- Have your children moved into their own home?

Please make sure your information is updated at the parish office. Many times we cannot contact parishioners because we do not have their correct information. Thank you.

Fr. Michael Gaitley is coming to Stevens Point! Immerse yourself in Divine Mercy and grow closer to Mary with bestselling author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, at the University of Wisconsin -Stevens Point for one of ten Mercy & Mary Weekend Retreats across the U.S. for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Spend a weekend in quiet prayer as you join us for a full immersion experience of Divine Mercy and Mary on August 5, 6, & 7. Enjoy new talks by Fr. Gaitley, daily Mass, Adoration, comfortable accommodations, meals with the Marian Missionaries, and much more! For more information and to register, see the flier in the back of Church.

Fr. Chris's schedule: Fr. Chris will be out of town Monday April 18-Friday April 22. There will not be weekday Mass at St. Francis Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday that week. There will be Word & Communion Services at Pine Crest (10:30 AM) and St. John the Baptist (9:00 AM) on Thursday, April 21.

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.

Sr. Kathleen Agnes Brady Trust Scholarship: The Diocese of Superior is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Sister Kathleen Agnes Brady Trust Scholarship. This perpetual trust offers partial tuition scholarships to children enrolled in kindergarten through grade eight in the Catholic schools of this diocese. Families must be active, registered, contributing members of a parish in the Diocese of Superior. All scholarship grants are awarded based on need as documented in the application process. Interested families should contact our principal Sonja Doughty for an application form and instructions. All applications must be returned by June 1, 2016.

First Communion for both parishes will take place on April 24th at 9:30 AM at St. Francis Xavier.

SFX School News

Thank you to our families, parish, students, staff, donors, advertisers and everyone who attended the St. Francis School Production of "Disney's Aristocats Kids." The production was a huge success. We couldn't do it without your support. Visit our Facebook page for pictures of the entire production.

New Staff: Miss Wells will not be returning for the 2016-2017 school year. She is moving back to her hometown. We will miss her and wish her well. Mr. Bialecki will move from 1st Grade to Middle School to teach Science and Social Studies. We will be hiring a 1st Grade teacher. If you or someone you know is a licensed teacher and is interested in teaching 1st Grade, please contact the school office.

Religious Education News

Wednesday, April 20:

Grades K-8. 6:00pm - 7:00 PM
Confirmation social time 6:00 - 6:45 PM
Confirmation Class 6:45 - 7:45 PM

First Communion this year is April 24th at 9:30 Mass at St. Francis Xavier.

RCIA: Do you have questions about Catholicism or are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Have you been baptized Catholic but have missed Confirmation or First Communion and wish to receive these sacraments? If you do, please contact Joe Velie at 536-2803 ext. 222.



Eucharistic Adoration

Pope John Paul II said that if a parish has Adoration, vocations will grow within that parish. Join us as we continue praying for vocations. Come and soak up the rays of Mercy Jesus is offering you!

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

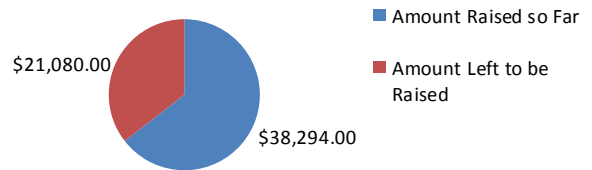
Please call Phil/Mary at 715-536-4825, Kay Slewitzke, 715-536-5986, or Audrey at 715-536-1502 with questions.



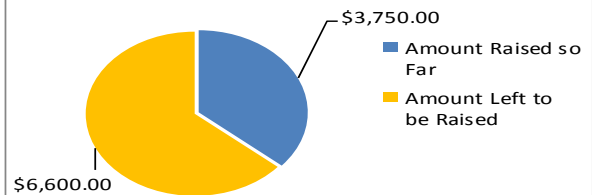
Thank you to everyone who responded to the second and third mailings for the CSA. St. Francis Xavier has raised \$38,294.00—65% of our goal—with 244 families responding. St. John the Baptist has raised \$3,750.00—36% of their goal - with 20 families responding. **Although**

this is an awesome response from the parishioners who have contributed, it represents less than 30% of the families that are members of each parish. If you are one of the 70% who has not returned an envelope, please do so. No contribution is too small, although we are asking for \$100 per family, which is about \$10/month. There are envelopes available in the back of church or in the parish office. Thank you for your consideration.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Services Appeal 2015-2016



St. John the Baptist Catholic Services Appeal 2015-2016



OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

For the weekend of April 2 - 3, 2016

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. Francis Xavier			
Adult Envelopes	\$9,805.50	\$7,827.00	(9,043.89)
Loose Collection	\$146.61	\$270.00	2,348.59
Online/ACH giving	\$1,556.00	\$1,186.54	547.46
Debt Relief	<u>\$1,074.00</u>	<u>\$788.46</u>	<u>1,497.36</u>
TOTAL	\$12,582.11	\$10,072.00	(4,650.48)

	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/15
St. John the Baptist			
Adult Env. & Loose	\$2,874.00	\$1,016.00	1,906.10

Amount needed is based on this year's budget

Thank you for your generosity!

T H A N K Y O U

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

Free Dinner to follow

Who is invited?

Anyone who has volunteered at either parish in any way over the last year. Money counters, musicians, liturgical ministers, school volunteers, fish fry workers, sportsman banquet workers, chicken dinner workers, funeral lunch committee, SCRIP volunteers, Pancake Breakfast Volunteers, Christmas Bazaar volunteers, office help, religious education teachers and aides, council or committee members.....You get the idea. If you aren't sure if you should come, you should! Please bring your family, and allow the staff of our school and parish to wait on you, and show their appreciation!

Your RSVP is needed so we can plan the meal. Please call Kris in the parish office: 536-2803, or email: kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org
By: Monday, April 25

MENU

Chicken, cheesy potatoes, pasta salad, baked beans,
dinner roll, relish tray, cake,
coffee and milk.
(Beer and wine also available)
Yes, children are welcome!



“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you” -Philippians 1:3

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



Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Thursday: St. Anselm
Friday: Earth Day; Passover begins
Saturday: St. George; St. Adalbert

The liturgy committee is continuing our project of updating our worship space. Colorful, new banners have been ordered with scripture verses such as "Be still and know that I am God." If you would like to donate to these banners, please call Laura in the finance office. Thank you.

SCRIP News....

- Don't feel like cooking? We have SCRIP cards for lots of area restaurants including Applebee's, Olive Garden, 2510, 3's Company, Los Mezcales, Club 64, Friendship House and First Street Coffee.
- Need to eat on the fly? Try using SCRIP at Pizza Hut, Subway, Culver's, McDonald's, Hardees, and CHIPS.
- Use SCRIP to get your camping and fishing gear at Fleet Farm, Gander Mountain, and Wal-Mart.
- The SCRIP profit for March was \$1858.75.
- School families were recently issued tuition credits from our SCRIP program totaling \$3,937.80. To find out how to earn credits on your child's tuition call the parish office.

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on Jesus' care and love of us.

Your financial gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear, doubt, loneliness and dread. (St. Vincent de Paul Outreach, 503 S. Center Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452)



St. John the Baptist News



Pancake Social
Sunday, May 1, 2016
Serving from 9 AM-1 PM
Potato and regular pancakes,
sausage, scrambled eggs,
applesauce, and beverage

Join us for Mass at 11:30 AM

Cost: Free Will donation

Chicken Dinner and Sweepstakes (Raffle)

Save the date, August 7th, St. John's Chicken Dinner & Sweepstakes. Contact Dorothy Gennrich, 873-4683, before April 30th, if you would like to donate Sweepstake prizes.

From the Holy Father's

General Audience: April 13, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now consider the Gospel account of the calling of Saint Matthew. Jesus not only invites a tax-collector, a public sinner, to be his disciple, but also sits at table with him, thus scandalizing the Pharisees. The Lord then explains that he has come to call not the righteous but sinners. The calling of Matthew reminds us that when Christ makes us his disciples, he does not look to our past but to the future. We need but respond to his call with a humble and sincere heart. Jesus invites us to sit with him at the table of the Eucharist, in which he purifies us by the power of his word and by the sacrament unites us ever more deeply to himself. Citing the prophet Hosea, he tells us that what God desires is "mercy, not sacrifice", true conversion of heart and not merely formal acts of religion. May all of us, acknowledging our sins, respond more generously to the Lord's invitation to sit at table with him, and with one another, with immense gratitude for his infinite mercy and saving love.



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 –St. Francis Xavier Cemetery Only

_____ Purchaser's name & phone number



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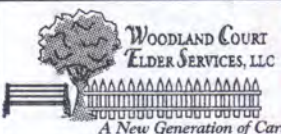
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