

The kingdom of heaven

is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells
all he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist Catholic Churches

Parish Directory

Parish Office	536-2803
Deacon /Parish Life Coordinator — Deacon Jim Arndt.....	536-2803 ext. 218
Sacramental Minister — Fr. Mariadas Vallabhaneni (“Fr. Maria”).....	536-2803 ext 215
Parish Secretary — Kris Leggett.....	536-2803 ext. 202
Finance Clerk — Linda Rautiola	536-2803 ext. 219
DRE — Joe Velie.....	536-2803 ext. 222
Music Director — Mary Ament.....	536-2803 ext. 230
Maintenance Supervisor/Cemetery — John Hanson.....	536-2803 ext. 221
School Principal — Sonja Doughty	536-6083
School Secretary — Cindy Gennrich.....	536-6083

Parish Website: www.stfrancismerrill.org

Staff email addresses are listed on the parish website

Mass Schedule

Monday No Mass
Tuesday 5:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM
Thursday No Mass
Friday 8:00 AM
Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 7:45 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (SJB)

Reconciliation Schedule

Tuesday 4:30 PM
Wednesday 8:15 AM
Saturday 3:00 PM
Sunday 11:10 AM (SJB)
And by Appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 3:00-7:00 PM
Tuesday 2:00-5:00 PM
Wednesday 3:00-7:00 PM
Thursday 3:00-7:00 PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 13:1-11; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13;
Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 34:2-11; Jn 11:19-27
or Lk 10:38-42
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34;
Mt 14:1-12
Sunday: Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-18;
Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

(closed daily 12-12:30 for lunch)

Low Gluten Eucharist

(.01%) are available.

Please see Deacon Jim before Mass.

Parish office email:

kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org

Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at Noon.

July 26, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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

MASS INTENTIONS-Week of July 27, 2020

Monday-No Mass

Tuesday

5:00 PM (SFX) Intention of: Don Delorme

By: Mel & Genie Springer

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) † Roy Drew

By: Family

Thursday No Mass

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) † Koss Family

By: Family

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) † Roy Drew

By: Family

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) † Anne Germain

By: Barb Hartwig Family

9:30 AM (SFX) † Dolly Ellenbecker

By: Pete Ellenbecker

11:30 AM (SJB) People of the parishes



The 4:00 PM Saturday Mass will be lived streamed on our Facebook Page.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS.....

- ✦ **Save the date! August 19!** Our School and Religious Ed programs will kick off their new academic year, and we will also be welcoming Fr. Maria! Watch for more information coming soon.
- ✦ **Cash Raffle update:** The Cash Raffle that had to be placed on hold during our Fish Fries has been rescheduled for August 19! Tickets are available in the back of church, as well as the parish office. The grand prize is \$1,000.00!!
- ✦ Things are continually changing.... Please visit our website: www.stfrancismerrill.org, or our Face Book page, or you may also call the parish office at 715-536-2803 for updates. We encourage you to provide the office with your email address. Deacon Jim sends out frequent emails with important information. This is an easy and inexpensive way to communicate with everyone.
- ✦ If you would like to purchase a weekly missal to help you follow along with the readings at Mass they are available for \$3.00 at the parish office. Breaking Bread hymnals are also available for FREE. These hymnals include the Sunday readings. Please help yourself to an uncovered hymnal by the elevators. These hymnals/missals would be your personal copy, please do not leave them in the church. This will help keep the church sanitized. There are also free apps to download on your smart phone. Try Word Among Us, or the Laudate App.

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

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715-536-3399

saint snippets



"Martha, Martha, you are worried and anxious about many things; there is need of only one thing."
-Luke 10:41-42

St. Martha
The sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany. She witnessed Jesus raising her brother from the dead.

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July 29
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Retrouvaille Marriage Weekend (Marathon, WI)

Retrouvaille Marriage Help Weekend August 7-9, 2020 "Our Retrouvaille experience helped us so much to better deal with the problems we were facing." Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel disillusionment, coldness or conflict in their marriage. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org for this couple's story and online inquiries. For information or to register for the next program in Central Wisconsin, see website or Call (Confidential) 1-877-922-HOPE(4673).

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-THANK YOU!

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	July 11-12, 2020	July 13-14, 2019
Adult Envelopes	\$4,768.00	\$7,105.00
Loose	\$269.80	\$245.00
ACH giving	\$360.00	\$3,045.00
Debt Relief	<u>\$450.00</u>	<u>\$1,065.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5847.80	\$11,460.00
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	\$817.00	\$891.00

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.

Communion to the homebound: At this time communion can only be brought by a priest or Deacon Jim. Please arrange this by calling the parish office.

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK:

Today Jesus is showing us not only what his Kingdom is like...but what it means for us personally.

He gives the example of two men whose lives are suddenly changed. First, a farmer...who is plowing a field. He is a hired laborer, a farmhand, someone who probably spends his days worrying about making ends meet. As he plows... he uncovers a buried treasure. Suddenly, he can live life to the full.

Second, a businessman spends his career working long hours...travelling...looking for the deal that will give him security. Finally...he finds the pearl of great price. He too can now enjoy the peace of stable prosperity...free from the worry of living paycheck to paycheck.

This is what happens to us when we enter fully into Christ's Kingdom. When we decide to follow Jesus...to make his friendship our highest priority...we put ourselves under his protection and guidance and become full citizens of his Kingdom. And when we do that...our lives take on a whole new purpose. We are free from the frustration that comes from living only for the pleasures and successes of this life...because we have found something infinitely more valuable...a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

That is our treasure and pearl.

In a sense, each one of us has already found the treasure of friendship with Christ and the benefits it brings. And yet...here He is...telling us this parable again. Why?

Jesus has more He wants to give us...to show us...to teach us. Getting to know Christ and experiencing his grace is a lifelong journey. And so, in these parables He reminds us about the two ways we can continue to that.

First, we can stumble upon a new treasure of grace by coincidence. This is what happened to the farmer. Coincidences are the hidden workings of God. And we need to stay alert so that we can benefit from them. If that farmer hadn't been alert...he could have completely missed that buried treasure.

Second, we find the treasures of Christ's grace by looking hard for them. The merchant spent his life working long hours so he could make his fortune...and then...finally... he found the pearl.

Jesus doesn't want us to give up or get discouraged...another pearl of great price is waiting for us, if only we keep walking and working with Jesus.

-Deacon Jim



Congratulations Fr. Joe Stafancin!

Many of you will remember Deacon Joe, who was with our parishes last spring and summer, as he was preparing to finish his final year at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. Fr. Joe was ordained to the priesthood on July 19 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior. Fr. Joe will now be serving at St. Bridget's Parish, River Falls, WI. You may write to Fr. Joe at: PO BOX 86, River Falls, WI 54022, Or email him at: frjoe@stbparish.com The video of Fr. Joe's ordination can be watched on the Diocese of Superior Face Book page.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education registrations will be sent out soon. It will be different than in past years. We will attach the registration forms to an email. There will be no hard copies sent by mail. However, there will be hard copies in the parish office, and also on our website. If you do not receive an email from Joe Velie, please call him at the number below so we have your information. We are using email rather than the US Mail to save money. Thank you.

Are you not Catholic and are interested to learn more about the Catholic Church or have already decided you'd like to join? Are you Catholic but have not yet been confirmed? If you answered yes to either question and would like more information contact Joe Velie at 715-536-2803, ext. 222.

SCHOOL NEWS

At this time SFX is preparing to open to students as scheduled on September 1 with face-to-face instruction. The principal, teachers, staff and custodians are working together to provide an environment that will be conducive to learning with safety measures in place. Changes to the school day will include staggered recess times, social distancing seating in the classrooms, church and lunchroom. Water fountains have been turned off and water bottle fill stations will continue to be available. Hand sanitizer stations have been added through-out the school and church. The dishwasher will continue to be used to sanitize manipulatives multiple times a day. Touchless faucet sinks will be added to all classrooms. Grants have been applied for to purchase personal protection equipment for students and staff. To help us with planning, if you have not registered your children please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Contribution Envelopes

Thank you to our parishioners who even during COVID-19 have continued to faithfully tithe. If you are not comfortable coming to Mass you may mail your contribution, or drop it off at the parish office (Door #3). Just a note that if you missed a week or two, and are "catching up" you really only need to use one envelope for your check. This helps the money counters in their job. Please call Linda in the finance office with any questions.

SCRIP NEWS

- ◇ For the time being, we still are not able to sell SCRIP in the back of church. You may purchase SCRIP at the parish office during office hours. You may call your order in (536-2803) and it will be ready for you to pick up.
- ◇ Summer means cook-outs! If you are having a gathering with your family or friends, make sure you use SCRIP first for your grocery shopping. We have Wal-Mart, Dave's County Market, and Pick N Save.
- ◇ Summer also means ice cream! Dairy Queen, Culver's and the Grand Stand all support our SCRIP program.
- ◇ Are you shopping on line more? Did you know we have AMAZON SCRIP? These cards come in \$25 and \$100, and the school receives 2.5% of all sales. Thank you for supporting our school
- ◇ The SCRIP profit for the month of June was \$1214.69. Thank you to everyone for purchasing SCRIP.

Information Page

Church Name: St. Francis Xavier

Bulletin: 233800

Contact: Kris Leggett 715-536-2803 kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org

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(Limited mass attendance)