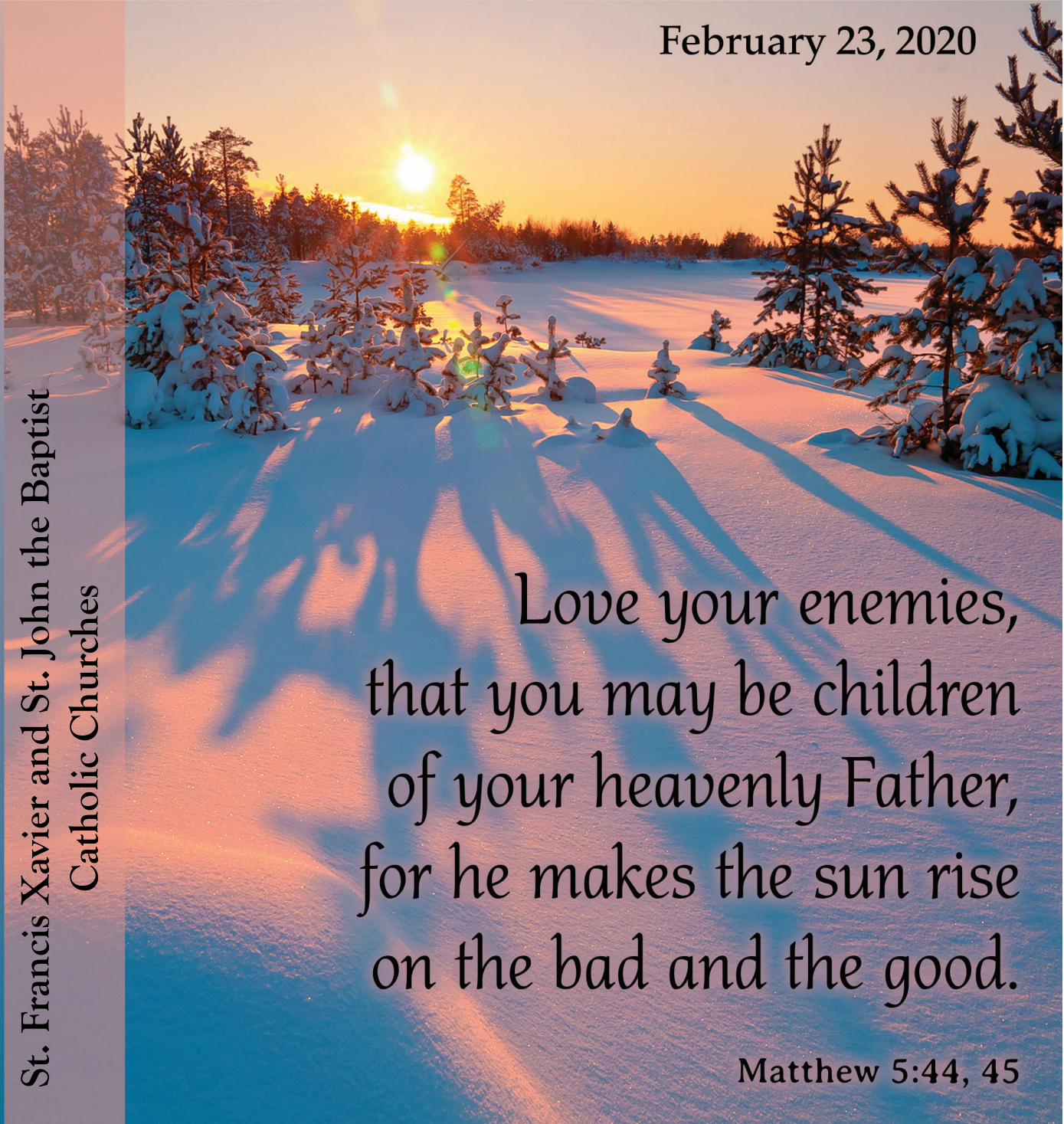


Seventh Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23, 2020



Love your enemies,
that you may be children
of your heavenly Father,
for he makes the sun rise
on the bad and the good.

Matthew 5:44, 45

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
Deacon — Jim Arndt.....536-2803 ext. 215
Parish Secretary — Kris Leggett.....536-2803 ext. 202
Finance Clerk — Linda Rautiola536-2803 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 Doughty536-6083
School Secretary — Cindy Gennrich.....536-6083

Parish Website: www.stfrancismerrill.org

Staff email addresses are listed on the parish website

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

Monday.....5:00 PM at SFX

Tuesday.....5:00 PM at SFX

Wednesday.....9:00 AM at SFX

Thursday.....9:00 AM at SJB and 10:30 AM at Pine Crest

Friday.....8:00 AM at SFX

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

Parish Council Chair— Russell Creel

Trustees St. Francis Xavier — Chester Kwiesielewicz (Pastoral)

Jim Brickner (Finance)

School Committee — Kate Shimel, Tracy Creel, Mike Giese, Rick Meehan,

Paul Heinzen, Willie Bialecki

Religious Education —

Knights of Columbus — Pete Mueller, Grand Knight.....715-536-5647

Reconciliation Times (and by appointment)

Saturday....9:00 AM & 3:00 PM (SFX)

Tuesday....4:30 PM (SFX) Wednesday....8:15 AM (SFX)

1st Sunday of the month12:30 PM (SJB)

Parish Office Hours: Monday 12:30–4:00 PM

Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Friday 8:30 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 is Tuesday at Noon.

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.

Come and Join Us

Moms in Prayer:

Meetings vary. Call Irene at 536-9430.

Eucharistic Adoration:



In "The Little Flower Chapel" Sunday 5AM-7:45AM and 6PM-10PM; Monday 5AM-11PM; Tuesday 5AM-12AM; Wednesday 6AM-11PM; Thursday 5AM-12 AM; Friday 5AM-10PM, Saturday 7AM-11AM

Rosary:

St. Francis: Monday @ 4:30 PM,

Tuesday 4:30 PM

Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

February 24, 2020

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;

2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17;

Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

DOWNLOAD THE "LAUDATE" APP AND RECEIVE THE DAILY READINGS ON YOUR SMART PHONE

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burns for: **Fr. Chris Kemp.**

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.

St. Francis Xavier Mission Statement: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church has been a beacon of faith, hope and love, living the gospel of Jesus since 1885 in Merrill, WI. Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the mission of our multi-generational parish is to grow and learn in the traditions of the Catholic Church through sacraments, liturgy, youth ministry, our Catholic school, and Eucharistic Adoration.

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Ballyhoo's
715-536-7600

Weekly Schedule: February 24-March 1, 2020

Monday 2/24	Tuesday 2/25	Wednesday 2/26	Thursday 2/27	Friday 2/28	Saturday 2/29	Sunday 3/1
5:00 PM Mass Good Sam	4:30 PM SFX Reconciliation 5:00 PM SFX Mass 6:15 PM SFX Family Choir	ASH WEDNESDAY 8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 12:00 PM SJB Liturgy with Ashes 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 6:00 PM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SJB Mass and Social 10:30 AM Pine Crest Word & Communion 6:00 PM Following Christ 6:00 PM SFX RCIA 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	8:00 AM SFX Mass SFX Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 PM 	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 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 12:30 PM SJB Confessions
SFX=St. Francis Xavier SJB= St. John the Baptist						

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 29-March 1, 2020

Readers:

ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM (SFX) School Students
ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM (SFX) Religious Ed Students
4:00 PM (SFX) Susan Ryman, Lisa Hass
7:45 AM (SFX) Arlys Bourdage, Chester Kwiesielewicz
9:30 AM (SFX) Barb McConnell, Evelyn Lee

Servers:

ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM (SFX) School Students
ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM (SFX) Religious Ed Students
4:00 PM (SFX) Gracey & Lillian Busterud
7:45 AM (SFX) Zach Schmeltzer & Volunteer
9:30 AM (SFX) J Shimel, M Thomas, Ana Voermans

Extraordinary Ministers:

ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM (SFX) Teachers
ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM (SFX) Wendy Arndt, Jane Jahnke, William Osterbrink, Sandy Swan
4:00 PM (SFX) Maria Brickner, Phil & Mary Ziesemer
7:45 AM (SFX) Barb Buehler, Richard Johnson, Mike Konkol, Sandy Swan
9:30 AM (SFX) Barbara A. Adams, Tom Lutzke, William Osterbrink, John Schroedel

SCRIP sellers:

4:00 PM (SFX) Lori McAllister
7:45 AM (SFX) Patti Gessler, Sue Riebe
9:30 AM (SFX) Wendy Arndt, Gayle Maluegge

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

Saturday ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
February 29, 2020: Sally Wiley

MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST at Stone Bridge
March 1, 2020: Paul Proulx

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of March 1, 2020: Shirley Gajewski

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of February 24, 2020

Monday

5:00 PM (Good Sam): Intention of: Gerald Koch
By: Tom & Mary Jo Sazama

Tuesday

5:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Deceased Members of Duane Tomajcik Family By: Tracy Kalenske Family

Wednesday-ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Deceased Members of Alan Malm Family
By: Duane Tomajcik
12:00 PM (SJB) Liturgy with Ashes
6:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Tim Caylor
By: Tom Krembs

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) Intention: †Ted Buckett
By: Pat & Kaz Buckett
10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday

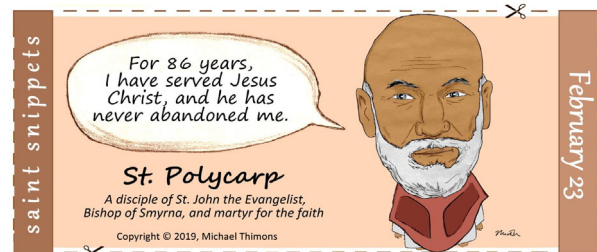
8:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Jessie Knott
By: Giese Family

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Joe Schneider
By: Dennis & Linda Schneider

Sunday

7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: †Ervin Brandl
By: Family
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: †Barten Family
By: Jenny Maszk
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention of: People of the Parishes



PASTOR'S CORNER by: Fr. Chris

This week Matthew continues giving Jesus' presentation on the commandments. It is good to keep in mind also that these commandments follow the Beatitudes. Are Jesus' commandments easy to live out? No. But can we live them out? Yes! This is because as our faith teaches us and by what we experience, we see His Grace at work in our lives. For all of us it is a process we continue to learn throughout our lives. Some may think that it was different in Jesus' time. But just as in Jesus' time, Jesus was not out of touch with the real world; just as he is not out of touch with the world today. In Jesus' time, one belonged to a family, a village, and/or a faction. Outside of this community, a person does not have any honor and is considered nothing. To have been insulted by someone, would have been viewed by the community, and it was always very important to have a good rapport with the community. For someone to show no resistance when someone strikes you and to offer the other cheek would have been extremely difficult. The amount of insult from such a strike would depend on which hand you were struck with. It was a larger insult if the left hand was used. This is because the left hand was always used for unsanitary purposes. To be pressed into service for a mile was also a humiliation for a person. It would normally have been a military person, who would force a citizen to carry his gear, but he could only force him to do it for one mile. However, now add that this military person happened to be a fellow Israelite who had joined the occupying forces; it would deepen the humiliation on the person carrying his gear. However, with most insults occurring in the public arena, there would usually be next of kin who would intervene and halt the insult process. This would help the two parties to be reconciled at a later date after tempers had cooled. A Middle Easterner in Jesus' time was very much group orientated.

Now as we look at what Jesus is teaching His group, one thing He is teaching is, that there is to be no in-group and out group. All are welcomed. We are to see how the same rain comes down upon everyone. That is, how we allow the love of God to come down upon everyone. How often do we offer the other cheek, and then go and to walk the extra mile for an outsider? Allow an interruption to be a moment of grace for the person? To be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect seems impossibly difficult. Yet, as we know that no matter how difficult this seems and how far we may be from perfect, the process can be long. But, this depends totally on how much a person opens their heart to the Graces God gives. Only He can make a person holy. On this journey, we are not asked to walk it alone, Jesus is with us and He hears us and does answer all of our prayers. But the difficult part is we have to be willing to listen to Him and respond to Him by our actions in our lives.

CRS Rice Bowls—We Are Called: Join our faith community-and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States-in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl in the back of the church or in the parish office. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family. visit www.crsricebowl.com for more information.

Parish News

Please pray for the following parishioners of both parishes who are in need of your prayers. Also remember the residents in our nursing homes and hospitals. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks. Call Kris at the parish office to put someone on this list.
Joyce & Jim St. Mary, Tom & Mary Jo Sazama, George & Ginger Lawrie, Joseph A. Breaman, Tommy Williams, Gerald Kamark, Diane Helm, Alice Alberg, Joann Anderson, Elaine Hinke, Betty Weix, John & Gladys Case, Everett Rogers and Phyllis Shelbert.

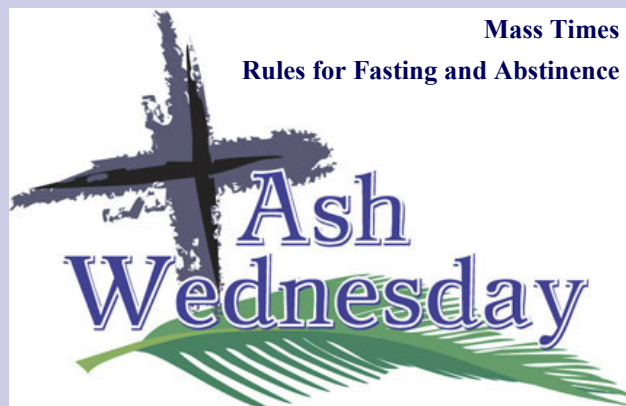
Spring Ministry Schedules for March 7-May 31 will be emailed to everyone next week, as well as posted on line, and available in the schedule rack in the back of church. Please note the many areas "NOT FILLED". If you can volunteer in this role please step forward and do so.

Save the Date! The next youth cinnamon roll sale is scheduled for the weekend of March 7-8 after all four Masses. All proceeds will benefit our youth attending Extreme Faith Camp this June. Your free will offering is appreciated!



Mass Times

Rules for Fasting and Abstinence



Wednesday, February 26, 2020

SFX: 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM

SJB: 12:00 PM Word & Communion with Ashes

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 on up. (Source: USCCB)

SFX School News

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year has begun. Please contact the school office for information and the registration paperwork. Forms can also be found on our website:

stfrancismerrill.org



Cash raffle tickets are now available at the parish and school offices, as well as our Friday Fish Fries. Please support your school by purchasing tickets. The grand prize winner will be awarded \$1000!

Save the Date!

Our next Theater project is "Encyclopedia Brown An Old Fashion Radio Show" and will have two showings at 10 AM and 6:00 PM on May 5th. Watch the bulletin for details on ticket sales coming soon.



The school staff pitches in to prepare the sauces and condiments for our Lenten fish fries every week. Pictured are Mrs. Shimel, Mrs. Gennrich, Miss Strassman, Mrs. Van Strydonk, and Mrs. Gessler.

www.Formed.org

Our parish has given a free subscription to "FORMED" to every family. This website is Catholic content on demand....Movies, books, bible studies, faith formation, audio and more! They provide content for kids, teens, and adults of all ages!

For Kids: "The Jesus Stories" Created to help children apply the lessons found in the parables of Jesus, each 10 minute episode includes a story situation that children today can relate to, a parable, and a thought-provoking way to apply it. 6 episodes are available. Enjoy!

Religious Education News

Religious Education Schedule

Wednesday, February 26 is Ash Wednesday

All religious education students and Confirmation students will meet at the church for Mass at 6:00 PM. There will be check-in tables in the back of church.

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

- It is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Holy Eucharist.
- People come to worship continually throughout an extended period of time in this consistent place before His Presence for prayer, peace, and quiet.



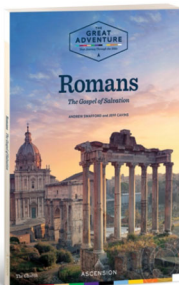
Why is it important?

- Adoration gives to God what belongs to Him alone. It is a supreme form of reverence, glory, and honor.
- Adoration is creation's attempt to reach out, with the help of God's invitation and grace, to become holy in the presence of God.
- Scheduling an hour of adoration each week, or month, helps you commit to your prayer life.

Lent is a perfect time to commit to Adoration
Call Phil/Mary with questions at 715-409-0165



Bible Study Opportunity with Jeff Cavins During Lent



We will be using "Romans: the Gospel of Salvation" this Lent. The videos include Dr. Edward Sri, Jeff Cavins, and others. In this 8-session study, presenters Dr. Andrew Swofford and Jeff Cavins provide an authentically Catholic, comprehensive, and

simple way to understand the overarching theme of Romans—salvation.

This Bible Study will run for eight weeks. You will have a choice to attend in the evening on Mondays at 6:00 PM and Tuesdays at 10:00 AM beginning March 9th & 10th and ending May 4th & 5th. There will be no Bible Study during Holy Week. It will cost each participant \$27 for the book that accompanies the videos. Please fill out the form below and return it with payment. For more information contact Joe Velie at 715-536-2803 ext. 222.

Name _____

Phone _____

Session: ____ Mondays 6–7 pm ____ Tuesdays 10–11 am

Mass Schedule

5:00 p.m. – Monday @ St. Francis Xavier
5:00 p.m. – Tuesday @ St. Francis Xavier
9:00 a.m. Wednesday @ St. Francis Xavier
9:00 a.m. – Thursday @ St. John's
10:30 a.m. – Thursday @ Pine Crest
(2nd/4th Thursday are Word & Communion)
8:00 a.m. – Friday @ St. Francis Xavier
4:00 p.m. – Saturday @ St. Francis Xavier
7:45 & 9:00 a.m. – Sunday @ St. Francis
11:30 a.m. – Sunday @ St. John the Baptist

Ash Wednesday **February 26, 2020**

9:00 AM Mass @ St. Francis Xavier
12:00 PM @ St. John the Baptist
(Word & Communion with Ashes)
6:00 PM Mass @ St. Francis Xavier

Mass of Chrism

Tuesday, March 31 - Noon @ Cathedral
Of Christ the King, Superior, WI

Stations of the Cross

St. Francis Xavier
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Beginning March 4
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Beginning March 4
With our school children
Living Stations: April 8 @ 2:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Stations
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament In the Little Flower Chapel

Monday: 5:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 5:00 a.m. Midnight
Wednesday 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Thursday closes 5:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Friday – 5:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Saturday – 7:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 5 a.m.-7:30 (closed for Mass)
Re-opens 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Lenten Bible Study

"Romans the Gospel of Salvation" with Jeff Cavins

This 8 week Bible Study provides an authentically Catholic, comprehensive, and simple way to understand the overarching theme of Romans—salvation.

Mondays at 6:00 PM

March 9-May 4

OR

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

March 10-May 5

(We will not meet during Holy Week)

Call Joe Velie to register
715-536-2803 extension 222

*There is a \$27 fee for the materials that
accompany the videos.*

Lenten Schedule **2020**



St. Francis Xavier
St. John the Baptist

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Also by appointment)

Individual Confessions:

9:00 a.m. – Saturday @ St. Francis Xavier
3:00 p.m. – Saturday @ St. Francis Xavier
5:30 p.m. – Tuesday @ St. Francis Xavier
8:15 a.m. – Wednesday @ St. Francis Xavier
12:30 p.m. – Sunday, April 5 @ St. John the Baptist

Lenten Penance Service:

(followed by individual confession and
absolution with multiple priests available)
6:00 p.m. – Wed. March 11th @ St. Francis
Xavier

Holy Week/Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 9th
(No Mass at St. John's or Pine Crest)
7:00 p.m. @ St. Francis
Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until midnight

Good Friday Services, April 10:
2:30 p.m. @ St. Francis Xavier
6:00 p.m. @ St. John the Baptist

Holy Saturday, April 11:
8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil @ St. Francis Xavier

Easter Sunday Masses, April 12

7:45 a.m. @ St. Francis Xavier
9:30 a.m. @ St. Francis Xavier
11:30 a.m. @ St. John the Baptist

Lenten Fish Fries
Serving Friday
Beginning February 21-April 3rd
4:30-7:30 PM
Dine In-Take out- Delivery
(Call Kris in the office to volunteer)

St. John the Baptist—Bloomville, WI

Mission Statement: St. John the Baptist Parish is a rural Catholic community of caring, loving people trying to live the way Jesus taught us.

Parish Support—February 9, 2020

Actual Amount of envelopes & loose: \$440.00
 Amount Needed for the budget: \$984.62
 Over (Under) Since 7/1/18: (\$7540.55)

Who's Who:

Trustees: Karla Dickey and Pam Wopp
 Parish Council: Amy Brown, Bob Gerbig (Chair), Pam Wopp, Sharon Madden, Rena Reissmann

Liturgical Ministries—March 1, 2020

Readers: Karen Polacek, Gayle Dobson
 Greeters/Ushers: Paul Polacek, Sharon Madden
 Servers: Volunteers

Eucharistic Ministers may volunteer by taking a necklace before Mass begins.



Ash Wednesday: We need 2 lectors and 2 ushers for the Ash Wednesday Liturgy on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Please volunteer if you can.

Stations of the Cross: Please join us as we pray the stations of the cross every Thursday at 8:30 AM. Stay for Mass at 9:00 AM and a great social with treats afterwards!

Advent Materials: Rice Bowls as well as "Little Black Books for Lent" and "The Word Among Us" are available in the back of church. Please help yourself.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying: "You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."



Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul proclaims the gospel of the kingdom and brings healing in to the broken hearts of those who live in poverty.

Welcome Child of God

Congratulations to **MaKenna Blank**, daughter of Christopher and Lindsay (Bienfang) Blank who was baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on Sunday, February 23, 2020



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.

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

THANK YOU

For the weekend of Feb 8-9,

St. Francis

<u>Xavier</u>	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/19
Adult Enve-	\$6,253.00	\$8,000.00	(\$40,852.70)
Loose	\$327.25	\$375.00	\$1,892.19
ACH giving	\$360.00	\$1,461.54	(\$3,345.77)
Debt Relief	<u>\$819.00</u>	<u>\$865.38</u>	<u>(\$1,469.14)</u>
TOTAL	\$7,759.25	\$10,701.92	(\$43,775.42)

Free Resources available: Please take a moment to check out our resource table located as you enter church. This is the place to find *Living Faith* booklets, "Little Black Books for Lent", Rice Bowls, "Little Purple Books for Lent" (The children's edition), "Word Among Us" for lent, and so much more! These resources are free for you to enjoy. We would like to thank the anonymous donors who provide these resources for our parish.

Fish Fry Update

We have our first fish fry under our belts, with 6 more to go. We are always looking for **wait staff, delivery drivers, bussers and clean up help. We also need donations of pies and bars every week.** If you've never worked at a fish fry, you are missing out on not only working with a fun group of people, but meeting new people, and raising funds for the programs that make our parish special.

If you can't work at a fish fry, please come join us for the best fish/shrimp in town! We serve from 4:30-7:30 every Friday during lent, but not on Good Friday. Call Kris in the parish office for any more information.

Information Page

Church Name: St. Francis Xavier

Bulletin: 233800

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

No. of Pages: 7

Transmission: Wednesday 2:00 PM

Software: Publisher 2003, Adobe 10, microsoft XP

Special Instructions: