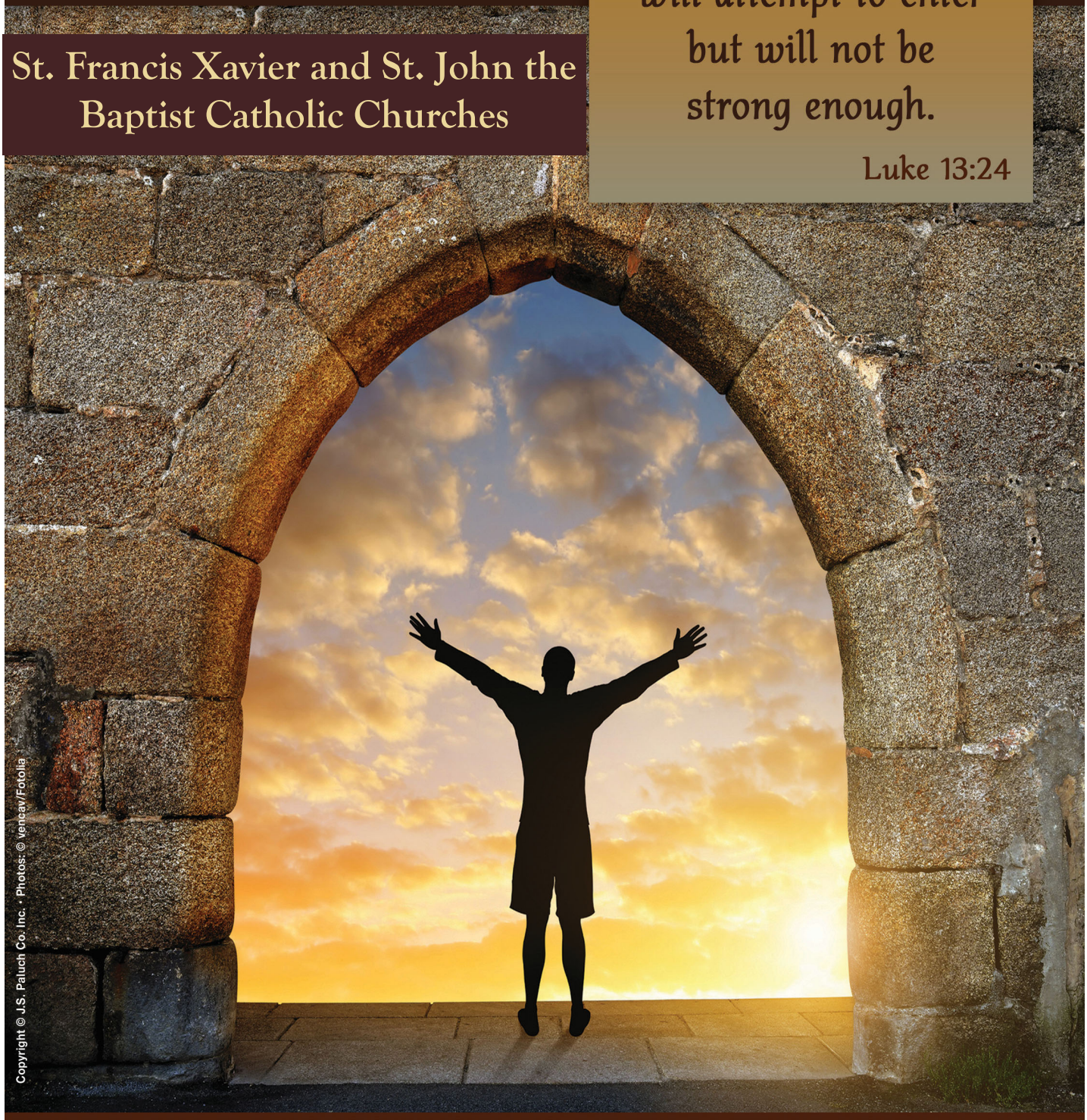
August 25, 2019

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

Strive to enter through
the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you,
will attempt to enter
but will not be
strong enough.

Luke 13:24



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Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
Financial Assistant — Laura Reiter……...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 (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 Meehean
Religious Education — Maraline Collins
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 month …..12:30 PM (SJB)

Parish Office Hours: Monday 12:30–4:00 PM
Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
(closed daily 12-12:30 for lunch)
Friday 9:00-Noon

Summer Office Hours

Low Gluten Eucharist (.01%) are available.
Please see Fr. Chris before Mass.

Parish office email: kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org
Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at Noon.

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Bell Tower Residence
715-536-5575

Come and 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: Monday @ 4:30 PM,
Tuesday 4:30 PM
Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM

St. John the Baptist Thursday Social Time:
Every Thursday following 9:00 AM Mass

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
August 26, 2019

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab, 17; Mk 6:17-29
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

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

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burns in honor of: **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.

Weekly Schedule: August 26-September 1, 2019

Monday 8/26	Tuesday 8/27	Wednesday 8/28	Thursday 8/29	Friday 8/30	Saturday 8/31	Sunday 9/1
5:00 PM SFX Mass	**OFFICE CLOSED** 4:30 PM SFX Reconciliation 5:00 PM SFX Mass	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 3:00 PM Back to School Open House	9:00 AM SJB Mass and Social 10:30 AM Pine Crest Word & Communion 6:00 PM *Catholicism* Class	8:00 AM SFX Mass	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

SFX=St. Francis Xavier
SJB= St. John the Baptist

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE
August 31-September 1, 2019

Readers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Tessa Wheat & Volunteer
7:45 AM (SFX) Pat Buckett & Kevin Rell
9:30 AM (SFX) Evelyn Lee & Stephanie Leischer

Servers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Gracey & Lillian Busterud
7:45 AM (SFX) Sarah & Isaiah Rell
9:30 AM (SFX) Ana Voermans & Volunteers

SCRIP sellers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Kelly Wheat
7:45 AM (SFX) Sue Riebe & Betty Weix
9:30 AM (SFX) Jim Bares & Mary Ann VDG

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

If you are available where "volunteer" is needed, please kindly step into this role at Mass.

Saturday ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
August 31, 2019: Sue Norenberg

———————————————

MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST at Stone Bridge
September 1, 2019: Paul Proulx

———————————————

Monday ROSARY LEADER at SFX
September 2, 2019 (Labor Day): No rosary before 9:00 AM Mass.

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Tuesday ROSARY LEADER at SFX
September 3, 2019: Denis McCarthy

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FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of August 25, 2019: Betty Weix

MASS INTENTIONS
Week of August 26, 2019

Monday
5:00 PM (Good Sam) Intention of: Jenny Maszk
By: Tom & Sharon Hofmann

Tuesday
5:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Duane Tomajcik
By: Sue Norenberg

Wednesday
9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Ken Van Der Geest
By: Joann & Michael Anderson

Thursday
9:00 AM (SJB) Intention: †Jody Mittlestaedt
By: Jim & Joyce St. Mary
10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday
8:00 AM (SFX) Intention: †Marie Malm
By: Deacon Jim & Wendy Arndt Family

Saturday
4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: †Faye "Jean" Osness
By: Eldred & Mary Kufahl

Sunday
7:45 AM (SFX) Intention of: In honor of Jack & Faye Semling's Wedding Day
By: Jack & Faye Semling Family
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: †Pat Storm
By: Skip & Barb Ott
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention of: People of the Parishes

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

Simon asked the question, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" There were differing viewpoints on this question in Jesus' day. In *The Cultural World of Jesus,* John Pilch says, "That the Palestinian Judeans of Jesus' day believed that 'all Israelites have a share in the world to come' as a result of the Mishnah, a collection of rabbinic laws applied to daily life. However, the Pharisees reflected a Judean tradition that believed that only a "remnant" would be saved." One can say the viewpoints are somewhat similar today. I remember listening to Bishop Robert Barron, in one of his reflections. Bishop was commenting on the difference between generations of people and the way in which they looked at sin and God's forgiveness. Bishop had commented on how people of an earlier generation than his, (his childhood formation was shortly after Vat. II, as was mine) this earlier generation had an understanding that it was harder to get to heaven. There was a much greater stress on mortal sin which would prevent people from entering into eternal life. This earlier generation prior to Vat. II, peoples' focus was on the sin they committed. People thought, as did Augustine and Aquinas that only a few people would make it to heaven. After Vat. II, things were much different. The formation for many people was an *over assurance* that God is Love. That it really did not matter what one does, God is all loving and we all can get to heaven. Both views are strongly found wanting. Of the two views, which is worse? Probably the second, because it has led us into a state of indifference. Which is, If God is all love, then it really does not matter what I do.

But, let us look again at the question Simon asked, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Now notice Jesus' response, He does not give a percentage! Rather, it is an individual response, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will not be strong enough…" What Simon did not notice, along with Jesus' teachings, was that He was heading to Jerusalem! Just because Simon was traveling along with Jesus and eating and drinking with him did not give him the assurance that he was going to be saved. Perhaps the question Simon should have asked is, "Lord, is the way of life I am leading, bringing me to eternal life?" Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God listened to God, and followed His way which was set before them. What about me? Am I living out the way which God has set before me? Whose voice am I listening too? Faith tells us that Jesus came to establish a community for all to be a part of, but that community also has all the means given to make it to heaven. Do I know the value of all these divine resources, and make full use of them in my life towards salvation? Of course, I am speaking of the Mass and the Sacraments awarded to us through the Church of Jesus Christ.

Shout out to any Adults and High School Juniors and Seniors! Deacon Jim is looking for adults and confirmed high school students who love teens and would be willing to be small group discussion leaders. Groups will be held 2-3 Wednesdays per month. You will NOT be asked to teach, you will just lead a small group in discussions of questions already prepared. Training will be provided for anyone interested!

Contact Dcn Jim at St Francis Parish office.

That nudge you are feeling to do this is the Holy Spirit!

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, Fritz Heller, Tommy Williams, Gerald Kamark, Diane Helm, Alice Alberg, Katy Ball, Tim Caylor Sr., Joann Anderson, and Elaine Hinke.**

Please note the parish and school offices will be closed on Tuesday, August 27th for an all day staff retreat.

Normal parish hours will resume beginning Tuesday, September 3.
Monday 12:30-4:00 pm
Tuesday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 pm
Friday 8:00-3:00 pm

And a special thank you to Judy Warren, Sally Wiley, and Nancy Drew for volunteering to work this summer while Kris was on vacation. You all are very appreciated!

Labor Day: The parish office is closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 2. There is Mass on Labor Day at 9:00 AM. There will be no Mass at 5:00 PM that day.

Christ Life: If you have ever asked the question "Is there more to life than this?" You will want to attend Deacon Jim's "Christ Life" series. This is a 7 week transformational experience that will help you personally encounter Christ. Watch the bulletin for more details of this program coming this fall.

ATTENTION: MINISTRY SCHEDULES

THE **FALL MINISTRY SCHEDULE** IS NOW COMPLETE AND HAS BEEN EMAILED OUT TO ALL FAMILIES, IF THE OFFICE HAS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. THE SCHEDULE RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 7-DECEMBER 1. THERE ARE ALSO ADDITIONAL COPIES IN THE SCHEDULE RACK ACROSS FROM THE RESTROOMS IN THE BACK OF CHURCH. IF YOU SEE "NOT FILLED" IN THE SCHEDULE THAT MEANS THAT A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO FILL THE SPOT. IF YOU CAN STEP INTO THIS ROLE AT MASS, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. AS YOU CAN SEE, WE COULD USE MORE VOLUNTEERS AT ALL THE MASSES. IF YOU CAN ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TO HELP OUT, THAT WOULD BE GREAT!

SPECIAL NOTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THESE ROLES FILLED BEFORE MASS STARTS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS ARE NOW BEING SCHEDULED. YOU SHOULD STILL TAKE A NECKLACE FROM THE SACRISTY BEFORE MASS BEGINS. IF THERE ARE NECKLACES OUT, YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ONE EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SCHEDULED. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MINISTERS FOR EVERY WEEK, SO ROUTINELY WE WILL STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS. FINALLY, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF DEACON JIM IS NOT AT A MASS, AN EXTRA VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED. THANK YOU!

SFX School News

Important school dates

Open house: Please join us on Wednesday, August 28 for our annual open house. You can visit your classrooms, meet your teacher, pay on your hot lunch account, purchase SCRIP, and catch up with your friends! Ice Cream treats and a bouncy house will also be available!

First day of school: The first day of school for all grades is Tuesday, September 3. We will celebrate the new school year with our first School Mass on Wednesday, September 4 at 9 AM. Everyone is invited to join us.

If you haven't registered your child yet please call Cindy in the school office: 715-536-6083.

Choir News
Calling All Singers– Young & Old

Family Choir rehearsals begin on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:15 p.m. in the church. As always, we welcome current members, new members and previous members. Can't make a full year's **commitment? Join us for part of the year, such as for our Confirmation Liturgy (Oct. 6), the** Advent/Christmas season, or the Lent/Easter season. Can't make all of the rehearsals? New technology may help you learn your music faster; call me if you'd like to hear more about this option.

The **Children's Choir**, grades 2 – 5, will begin rehearsals on Wed., Sept. 11, from 3:15 – 4:15 in the school music room. This choir is open to *all* St. Francis Parish students in grades 2 – 5; if you can't make it to St. Francis from your school by 3:15, just come as soon as you can. Call me for more information or pick up a registration form on the bulletin board in the back of church.

All **Middle and High School students** in grades 6 -12 (excluding St. Francis Catholic school) who are interested in singing as a group occasionally at mass, are invited to come to an informal planning meeting on Wed., Sept. 11, from 5:30 – 6:00 in the school music room.

For more info on any of these choirs, check the parish website, the brochures in back of church, or call Mary Ament at 536-2803, ext. 230.

Religious Education News

Catechists needed: Jesus said, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." One area in which we need "laborers" is as a catechist or catechist aide for Religious Education. If you are hearing Christ call you to the harvest, consider helping in this vital area. Our goal is to have an aid or second catechist in each class for grades k -8. We especially need a 7th grade catechist. Please help us achieve this goal. Contact Joe Velie at 536-2803 extension 222 if you would like to volunteer.

Registrations: Religious Education and Confirmation sessions begin in just a few weeks. Please return your registration forms soon. If you don't have forms you can contact Joe Velie at 536-2803 or print the forms from: https://www.stfrancisxaviermerrill.org/religious-ed-forms and return them to the parish office.

RCIA: Are you not Catholic and interested about learning more about Catholicism? Do you feel God leading you to become Catholic? Are you a Catholic adult who has not yet been confirmed? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for you. Please contact Joe Velie at 536-2803.

Picture Directory: We are in need of friendly volunteers to welcome people and check them in for the picture directory dates. All you need to do is verify their address and phone number and smile! The shifts are only 3 1/2 hours long, and are available during the day, evening or Saturday. Whatever fits your schedule! Here are the Shifts:

2 PM-5:30 PM, 5:30– 9 PM : Sept. 17-20 & Oct. 15-18
9 AM-12:30, 12:30– 4 PM : Sept. 21 & Oct. 19

If you are willing to help with this please call Melissa after 4:30 PM at: 715-536-3996 or 715-370-7619.

A Beginner's Guide to Eucharistic Adoration—By Sarah Zentner

Step 2: "Just Be"

Remember that you don't actually have to *do* anything. The Catholic faith recognizes that the greatest gift God gives us is himself, and Adoration is another way for us to recognize that gift outside of receiving the Eucharist at Mass. So don't overthink it. Just receive the gift.

Coming next week, Step 3: "Pray (with a little help)

URGENT NEED for adorers Monday at 1:00 PM.

If you have questions about adoration please call Phil/Mary 715-409-0165

ST. FRANCIS SCRIP ORDER FORM

NAME_____ **PHONE #**_____**DATE**_____

$_____WalMart/Sam's Club (2.5%)_____$25_____$100
$_____2510 Restaurant (7%)_____$25
$_____Ana Blair's Boutique 10%)_____$25
$_____Amazon.com (2.25%)_____$25_____$100
$_____Applebee's (8%)_____$25
$_____Arby's (8%)_____$10
$_____B P (1.5%)_____$50
$_____Barnes & Noble (8%)_____$10_____$25
$_____Bath & Body Works (13%)_____$10_____$25
$_____Best Buy (4%)_____$25
$_____Cenex (2%)_____$25
$_____Chips (10%)_____$5
$_____Club 64 (5%)_____$25
$_____County Market (5%)_____$25_____$50_____$100
$_____Cosmo (10%)_____$5_____$8
$_____Culver's (5%)_____$5_____$10
$_____Dairy Queen (20%)_____$20
$_____ Designer's Plus (5%)_____$25
$_____Eagle's Club (5%)_____$10
$_____First Street Coffee Station (5%)_____$5_____$25
$_____Fleet Farm (5%)_____$25_____$50
$_____Friendship House (20%)_____$10
$_____Golden Harvest (3%)_____$2
$_____Grand Stand (5%)_____$5
$_____Hardee's (10%)_____$5
$_____Holiday (5%)_____$20_____$50
$_____Hugo's Pizza (8%)_____$5
$_____Kohl's (4%)_____$25_____$100
$_____Krist Oil (10%)_____$25
$_____Kwik Trip (gas 5%)_____$25_____$100
$_____Ku's Wokery (10%)_____$10
$_____Los Mezcales (10%)_____$10
$_____McDonald's (5%)_____$10)
$_____Menard's (3%)_____$25
$_____Mobil (4%)_____$50
$_____Old Navy/Banana Republic/Gap (14%)_____$25 (works at all 3 stores)
$_____Olive Garden (8%)_____$25
$_____Pick – N- Save (4%)_____$25
$_____Pizza Hut (8%)_____$10
$_____R-Store (5%)_____$25
$_____Shell (10%)_____$25_____$100
$_____Studio 808 (10%)_____$5
$_____Subway (6%)_____$10
$_____Target (2.5%)_____$25
$_____Taco Bell (5%)_____$10
$_____Walgreen's (5%)_____$25

Do you have a college student heading off to school? SCRIP can help with all those necessities...organizing a dorm room, or even an apartment. We have SCRIP for any store you need to go to!

Labor Day Weekend is right around the corner! Are you trying to get in one more road trip? How about time on the lake jet skiing or boating? Make sure you purchase a gas card first…. Look how many options there are!

$_____**GRAND TOTAL** check #_____or cash seller's initials_____

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—August 11, 2019

Actual Amount of envelopes & loose:	$945.00
Amount Needed for the budget:	$984.62
Over (Under) Since 7/1/18:	($2129.09)

Who's Who:
Trustees: Jim St. Mary, Jim Feuerstein
Parish Council: Amy Brown, Bob Gerbig (Chair), Pam Wopp, Sharon Madden, Rena Reissmann

Liturgical Ministries—September 1, 2019

Readers: Volunteers Needed
Greeters/Ushers: Jim Feuerstein, Louie Leder
Servers: Volunteers

Readers were inadvertently not scheduled this week. If you can volunteer it would be appreciated!

Thank you to all who made this year's **Summer Carnival** a success! The event profited $3,052.53. Thank you to everyone who organized, bought sweepstakes and basket raffle tickets, donated prizes and attended the event. The food and fellowship were both wonderful!

Money Counters Needed

St. John the Baptist is in need of volunteers to count the collection after Mass on Sundays. At each Mass, 2-3 unrelated people are needed to count the collection. This usually takes around 15 minutes of time. Before this new counting procedure is initiated, volunteers are required by the Diocese of Superior to complete an online background check and safe environment training which does take about 2 hours. Please contact Laura Reiter in the Finance Office at 715-536-2803, lreiter@stfrancismerrill.org for more information or to volunteer. Thank you for your help!

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to "strive to enter through the narrow gate." Our call to be disciples and to follow Jesus demands that we learn to live for the sake of others.

St. Vincent de Paul

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.

SCRIP News….

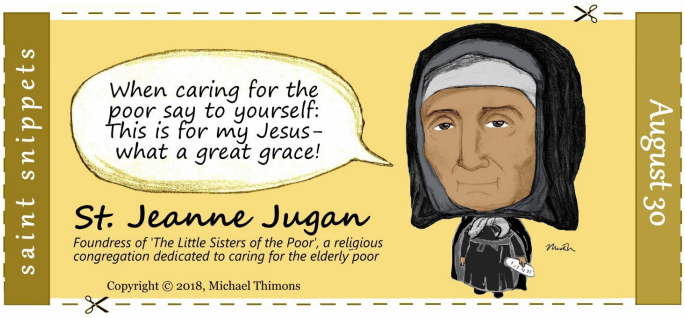
SCRIP is the best fundraiser for our school because you are buying things you really need, like groceries, medicine and gas! This week are you going to Walmart? County Market? Kwik Trip? Walgreens? First, buy a gift card to any of these stores (and dozens of others) and then go make your purchases. You don't spend any extra money, and our school makes between $2000-$3000 each month! School families can also earn credits on their tuition with each purchase. So stop by the parish or school office this week, or the SCRIP table after Mass. Every gift card purchased helps!

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

THANK YOU

For the weekend of August 10 - 11, 2019

St. Francis Xavier	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/19
Adult Envelopes	$5,896.00	$8,000.00	($13,997.48)
Loose	$314.00	$375.00	($429.96)
ACH giving	$3,055.00	$1,461.54	$1,264.23
Debt Relief	$1,212.01	$865.38	$849.79
TOTAL	**$10,477.01**	**$10,701.92**	**($12,313.42)**



A great big THANK YOU to everyon" who helped make the 2019 Lincoln County Fair Snack Shack a success this year!

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: