St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist Catholic Churches
Feast of the Holy Family-December 30, 2018

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…….…....6:00 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 Chairs — Pat Buckett
Trustees St. Francis Xavier — Pat Buckett (Pastoral) Jim Brickner (Finance)
School Committee — Kate Shimel, Tracy Creel, Mike Giese, Scott Nelson, Rick Meehean
Religious Education — Maraline Collins
Knights of Columbus — Kevin Cohrs, Grand Knight……..218-1791

Reconciliation Times (and by appointment)
Saturday…..…..9:00 AM & 3:00 PM (SFX)
Tuesday……...5:30 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 8:00 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 is Tuesday at Noon.

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Bell Tower Residence
715-536-5575

Come and Join Us

Friends of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group:
Our next meeting is 1/9 at 5:30 PM.

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 5:30 PM
Friday @ 7:30 AM
St. John's :Thursdays @ 8:30 AM
Pine Crest on Saturdays @ 9:30AM

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

Little Knights Playgroup:
We will meet every Friday from 9-10:30 AM when school is in session.
Use door 7 for entry.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK
December 31, 2018

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS at SFX in "The Little Flower" Chapel burn in honor of: **Bill Borchardt**
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon them.

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: December 31-January 6, 2019

Monday 12/31	Tuesday 1/1	Wednesday 1/2	Thursday 1/3	Friday 1/4	Saturday 1/5	Sunday 1/6
4:00 PM SFX Mass Vigil Solemnity of Mary	Solemnity of Mary 8:30 AM SFX Mass 10:30 AM SJB Mass	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass 3:15 PM SFX children's choir 6:00 PM SFX religious ed 6:45 PM SFX confirmation	9:00 AM SJB Word & Communion & Social 10:30 AM Pine Crest Word & Communion 6:30 PM SFX Bell Choir	**No 8:00 AM Mass** 6:30 PM Deacon Jim Intro to Christ Life Part 1	10:30 AM Deacon Jim Why Christ Life works & Sign Up 4:00 PM SFX Mass	7:45 AM SFX Mass 9:30 AM SFX Mass 11:30 AM SJB Mass 6:00 PM Family Rosary

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE
January 5-6, 2019

Readers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Pat Buckett, Tessa Wheat
7:45 AM (SFX) Kevin Rell, Chester Kwiesielewicz
9:30 AM (SFX) Chris Renzelmann, Barb McConnell

Servers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Gracey Busterud, Hannah Hayes
7:45 AM (SFX) Sarah &Isaiah Rell
9:30 AM (SFX) Elliott Hanson, Allie Renzelmann, Ana Voermans

Greeters/Ushers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Chris Heller, Donald MacSwain, Volunteers
7:45 AM (SFX) D. Barker, T. Gessler, G. Pleski, M. Zipperer
9:30 AM (SFX) Zach & Amanda Bacon, J. Rammer, Volunteer

SCRIP sellers:
4:00 PM (SFX) Phil & Mary Ziesemer
7:45 AM (SFX) Patti Gessler, Sharon Zipperer
9:30 AM (SFX) Jim Bares, Gayle Maluegge

Saturday ROSARY LEADER at Pine Crest
January 5, 2019: Sally Wiley

MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST at Park Place
January 6, 2019: Dale Palecek

Monday ROSARY LEADER at SFX
January 7, 2019: Mary Litschauer

Tuesday ROSARY LEADER at SFX
January 8, 2019: Mark Kovar

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER
Week of January 6, 2019: Maggie Marquis

MASS INTENTIONS
Week of December 31, 2018

Monday Vigil Solemnity of Mary
4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: † Laura Duginski
By: Lawrence & Mary Duginski

Tuesday-Solemnity of Mary
8:30 AM (SFX) Intention: Anniversary of the death of Alan Malm By: Family
10:30 AM (SJB) Intention: People of the parishes

Wednesday
9:00 AM (SFX) Intention: 50th Anniversary of Bill & Kathy Wulf

Thursday
9:00 AM (SJB) Word & Communion
10:30 AM (at Pine Crest) Word & Communion

Friday-No Mass

Saturday
4:00 PM (SFX) Intention: People of the parishes

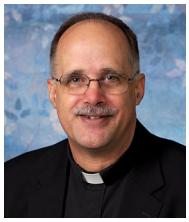
Sunday
7:45 AM (SFX) Intention: In celebration of the ordination of Fr. Rich Rhinehart
By: The Rell Family
9:30 AM (SFX) Intention: † Plier Family
By: Jim & Jan Bares
11:30 AM (SJB) Intention: † Carol Pluta
By: Mary Lagerbloom

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

With a bit of reflection and study, there is much to benefit from today's Gospel from Luke. As one author stated, "Luke is an artist in the way he presents his Gospel, it is as if he paints pictures with his words. This is perhaps why there are so many pieces of art composed from Luke's Gospel." Fr. Richard Smith says, "One of the things which this passage offers to us is a small window into the life of what Jesus' childhood was like. So Saint Luke recounts for us the yearly custom of Jesus' parents bringing him to the Passover in Jerusalem. By doing this, they were not only witnessing to their faith in the one true God, but at the same time they were also shaping Jesus' religious imagination and identity as a Jew. It also shows the diligence of Mary and Joseph in Jesus' religious upbringing." Parents do play a powerful role in shaping the religious imagination and identity of their children.

Also in this story, we hear how Jesus was lost, and how Jesus' parents search for him in and amongst his relatives in the caravan. The women and men within a caravan would travel in separate groups. Each of the parents most likely thought that Jesus was with the other one, especially now with Jesus fulfilling all that the law requires and entering into adulthood. Joseph probably gave a sigh and thought that Jesus had gone to "hang on the apron strings of his mother" and Mary probably thought just the opposite, she may have proudly but with a yearning, concluded Jesus was at last with the men. A difficult time for his parents; yet one can only imagine the panic and terror which developed within them as they learned that Jesus was not in the caravan. He was lost.

Fr. Richard will also say that being lost and found is one of the themes within Luke's Gospel. Later in the Gospel we will hear Jesus give several parables of things being lost and found and the greatest of the stories is the story of The Prodigal Son. But in today's story, there is an interesting twist, it is not Jesus who is lost, it is Joseph and Mary who have lost sight of Jesus and are lost. Upon seeing Jesus in the Temple, they show their concern, however, Jesus says, "did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" One might even say, that like Joseph and Mary, when we see Jesus in the Temple it is then that we are also found, and peace returns.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL:
Dec 31 4 PM at SFX
SOLEMNITY OF MARY:
Jan 1 8:30 AM at SFX
10:30 AM at SJB
The Solemnity of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The parish office is closed:
December 31 and January 1.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Please pray for the following parishioners of both parishes who are in need of your prayers. Call Kris at the parish office to put someone on this list. **Duane Tomajcik, Joyce & Jim St. Mary, Mary Jo Sazama, Marie Malm, Stella Johnston, Tina Scott, Pat Bushar, and Vern Warren.**

2019 Catholic Extension Calendars are now available in the back of church, and the parish office. Please help yourself. Thank you to Taylor Stine and Waid Funeral Homes for sponsoring our calendars.

Grief Support Group: "GriefShare", a special help seminar and support group for people experiencing loss, will be held on Monday afternoons at Trinity Church, 107 N State St, Merrill beginning January 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM. We meet for 13 sessions. Seminar sessions, come when you can. Please visit: www.griefshare.org or call Jeanne 715-536-8695.

Pie Sale Success: Thank you to the Anderson Family and Friends for donating their apples and time to make their delicious Apple, Pecan and Lemon Pies! The proceeds of the sale of these pies totaled $1,472 and will be used for new DVD's for the Church library as well as towards the cost of a new amplifier for the Church.

Praying for the Bishops: The Holy Cross Sisters invite you to join them in prayer in The Holy Cross Chapel at Bell Tower Residence at 4 PM January 2-8. They will be praying for the bishops as they gather in Chicago, for all victims of abuse and for all situations where accountability has been lacking. It is time for reconciliation and healing in our church and the world. If you cannot attend in person, please pray in your home.

A heartfelt thanks to Herman Meyer for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree for our worship space.

ON the cover…… The SFX Christmas Program was a big success with both an afternoon and evening performance. Pictured on the cover from the top left corner: The children's Choir takes the stage; Owen Meehean, Bobby Hoffman, and Raphael Gerbig pose as shepherds; The Middle school choir entertains the crowd, and the 3 and 4 year olds try to steal the show. For more pictures from the program visit:
https://photos.app.goo.gl/e5BQ68iHdXfBCq977

Our Confirmation Program (pictured on the bottom) celebrated Christmas with a fun night at Les & Jim's on December 19. Merry Christmas to all the students of our parishes!.

SFX School News

When you are 3 years old, sometimes you just have to take time out to play. Pictured are Blair Lazarz and Charlie Shimel playing in the office. They are making playdoh cake while Mary and Joseph look on. They also have the nativity ducks in the wagon and Noah's ark to complete the whole picture. What fun!!

Eucharistic Adoration

Bethlehem! The city where Jesus was born in fulfilment of the Scriptures, in Hebrew means "house of bread." It was there that the Messiah was to be born, the One who would say of himself: "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35, 48). In Bethlehem, was born the One who, under the sign of broken bread, would leave us the memorial of his Pasch. On the Holy Night, adoration of the Child Jesus becomes Eucharistic adoration. We adore you, Lord, truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar, the living Bread which gives life to humanity. We acknowledge you as our one God, a little Child lying helpless in the manager! - St. John Paul II.

A reminder that the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open for New Year's Day and New Years Eve, except when Mass is being celebrated.
Call Phil/Mary with questions: 715-409-0165

Severe Weather Notice

Just a reminder that if school is closed because of inclement weather, the school and parish offices are also closed. All parish events, including Eucharistic Adoration will also be cancelled. Mass is rarely cancelled but we urge common sense before anyone travels. Even if you don't have children in our school, please watch the news station for school closings. Thank you.

Religious Education News

Religious Education schedule: Wednesday, Jan 2
6:00 PM– 7:00 PM Grades K-8.
6:00 – 6:45 PM Confirmation Social Time
6:45 – 7:45 PM Confirmation Class

First Communion: 1st Communion Parent Meeting is on January 23rd at 6:00 PM. This is a mandatory meeting for parents because material and schedules will be distributed. If the session is cancelled due to weather, a makeup session will be scheduled.

Confirmation: The coming few months have a number of things which need to be accomplished in regard to Confirmation:

Confirmation Retreat. The 10th grade Confirmation candidates will be attending a Confirmation retreat on April 6th. The retreat begins at 9 AM and concludes with the conclusion of the 4 o'clock Mass. This is a mandatory retreat. Watch your email and the bulletin for more details.

Letter to the Bishop. Each 10th grade Confirmation Candidate is required to write a letter to the bishop prior to Confirmation. A sample letter will be provided.

ChristLife: Discovering Christ with Deacon Jim Arndt
RECLAIMING OUR CONFIRMATION

Everyone is invited to attend an informational series on the **ChristLife: Discovering Christ** program. The first informational program will be held on Friday January 4th at 6:30pm in the St Francis Xavier Church. Deacon Jim Arndt will explain the need for evangelization and how we can reclaim our Confirmation. The second talk will take place on Saturday January 5th at 10:30am in the St Francis Xavier Church. At this presentation Dcn Jim Arndt will explain what the ChristLife: Discovering Christ program is and give people a chance to sign up for the program. Program details are listed on page 6.

Merrill Community Homeless Center is looking for reliable individuals with excellent communication skills. The Team Lead position is to support the needs of the Center's clients by ensuring safety for all within the shelter through supervision. Computer proficiency required. Shifts are 6:30p.m.-12:30 and 12:30- 8a.m. We are also looking for volunteers to cover those same shifts. Please contact us at: merrillcommunityhomelesscenter@gmail.com or call 715-921-4706. Thank you.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE MEANING OF YOUR LIFE?

Seek answers at Discovering Christ.

A great (free) dinner

An engaging Bible-inspired message

Discussion and conversation about the message

Join Dcn Jim Arndt at

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

January 17th – February 28th

6:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Also, mark your calendars for a special retreat day on Saturday, February 16th.

Learn more and register:

www.stfrancisxaviermerrill.org/discovering-christ

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—December 16, 2018

Actual Amount of envelopes & loose:	$721.00
Amount Needed for the budget:	$1028.85
Over (Under) Since 7/1/18:	($896.81)

Liturgical Ministries—January 6, 2019
Readers: Karen Polacek, Joe Zimmerman
Greeters/Ushers: Paul Polacek, Jim Feuerstein
Servers: Volunteers

While Fr. Chris is on vacation January 3-10, 2019 there will not be Mass on Thursday. There will be Word & Communion services both days. Thank you to Pat Buckett for leading these for us.

Volunteers are still needed for the Holy Day Mass for the Solemnity of Mary which is scheduled for January 1, 2019 at 10:30 AM at St. John the Baptist. Please call the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

Retrouvaille Marriage Help - Blended Family Blessed by Experience. *"This program helped us with communication and in dealing with the problem of my children accepting my new husband. What a blessing it has been to us as a family."* Visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org to read full testimonial, for more information or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on February 8-10, 2019 in Marathon, WI, or **Call (Confidential) 1-877-922-HOPE(4673)**. If you missed the flier in last week's bulletin, it is posted on our website, or available in the parish office. Thank you.

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other. ***At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our "brothers and sisters" who live in our community and surrounding areas.***

SCRIP News….

Thank you to the parishioners who purchased SCRIP this Christmas Season. But did you know you could buy SCRIP not just for gifts but for every day things like groceries and gas? Try buying a gas card this week and see how easy it can be.

Christmas Leftovers: The parish office has these SCRIP cards leftover from Christmas: Buffalo Wild Wings, Red Robin, Pet Smart, Starbucks, Texas Roadhouse, TGIF, Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Welcome **Dedicated Motors** to our SCRIP Program! They are giving a very generous 10% to our school for each purchase. Dedicated Motors is a full service automotive shop located at 424 E 1st Street in Merrill. Their mission is to provide quality work at a fair price. They proudly offer military and senior citizen discounts. Simply tell them your payment is a SCRIP purchase, and they send the 10% donation directly to the school. Find them on Facebook or call 715-680-1159.

THANK YOU

OUR GIFTS TO OUR LORD

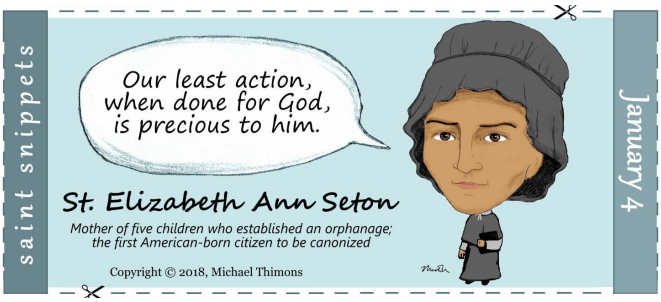
For the weekend of Dec. 15-16, 2018

St. Francis Xavier	Actual	Amt needed	Over (Under) since 7/1/18
Adult Envelopes	$12,269.00	$8,486.54	($31,312.27)
Loose	$280.76	$307.70	$2,108.13
ACH giving	$3,495.00	$1,432.69	$1,722.75
Debt Relief	$1,616.00	$801.92	$2,219.30
TOTAL	**$17,660.76**	**$11,028.85**	**($25,262.09)**

Worship Schedule January 3-10, 2019

Fr. Chris will be on vacation January 3-10, 2019. There will not be weekday Masses during that time. There will be Word & Communion Liturgies on Thursday, Jan 3 and Jan 10 at Pine Crest Nursing Home., and St. John the Baptist at their normal times.

We welcome Fr. William O'Brien from Cross Catholic Outreach as our celebrant for all four weekend Masses during that period. Fr. William will be speaking on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas. Please welcome Fr. William to our parishes.



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: