



FOURTH SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 25, 2021

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
Director of Faith Formation —Kay Berg	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 9:00 AM (SJB)
 Friday 8:00 AM
 Saturday 4:00 PM
 Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM (SJB)

Reconciliation Schedule

Tuesday 4:30 PM
 Wednesday 8:15 AM
 Saturday 9:00 AM & 3:00 PM
 Sunday 10:40 AM (SJB)
 And by Appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 2:00-7:00 PM
 Tuesday 5:00 AM-5:00 PM
 Wednesday 6:00 AM-8:00 PM
 Thursday 1:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Friday 5:00 AM-7:00 AM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
 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
 or (for the memorial) Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or
 Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14,
 16; Mt 13:54-58
 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32;
 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM-4:00 PM
 (closed daily 12-12:30 for lunch)
Friday 8:30 AM-Noon

Low Gluten Eucharist
 (.01%) are available.
 Please see Deacon Jim before Mass.

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



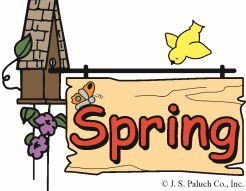

I am the good shepherd.
 A good shepherd lays down
 his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

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

Monday 4/26	Tuesday 4/27	Wednesday 4/28	Thursday 4/29	Friday 4/30	Saturday 5/1	Sunday 5/2
Fr. Maria's Day Off	4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM SFX Mass	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SJB Mass	8:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM Genesis Bible Study 3:00 PM SFX Reconciliation 4:00 PM SFX Mass	7:30 AM SFX Mass 9:00 AM SFX Mass 11:00 AM SJB Mass
						

MASS INTENTIONS-Week of Apr. 26, 2021

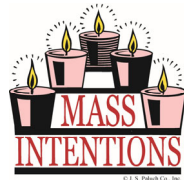
Monday-No Mass

Tuesday

5:00 PM (SFX) † Carl & Ruth Kant & Carly
By: Friends

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) † Eddie Miller
By: Betty Miller



Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) † John Case
By: Ron Case

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) † Fr. John J. Walsh SJ
By: Pat & Kaz Bucket

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) † Roy Drew
By: Family

Sunday

7:30 AM (SFX) † Patsy Luebke
By: Barb & Gary Zimmerman

9:00AM (SFX) † Robert Salutz Family
By: Family

11:00 AM (SJB) People of the parishes

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

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS.....

- † A hearing aid was found at St. John the Baptist Church. If you think it is yours please call the parish office.
- † If you donated a dessert to the fish fries and haven't taken your dish home, please do! They are stacked on a cart near the elevators. There are also a variety of lost and found items (mittens, scarves etc...) What is not taken home will be donated to St. Vinnie's.
- † Fr. Ron Serrao (St. Peter the Fisherman, Eagle River) is hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land September 20-30, 2021. For more information including a full itinerary and payment information please call the parish office.
- † **HYMNALS:** If you would like a 2021 Breaking Bread Hymnal, please let the parish office know by April 30. An order will be placed in early May. This would be your hymnal to keep and bring to Mass with you. The cost is \$6.50. In the meantime, please continue to take a worship aid as you enter church so you can participate at Mass.

The St. Francis Xavier Cemetery is looking for a part time seasonal employee to work approximately 24 hours per week doing yard work and ground maintenance. Applications may be picked up at the parish office.

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: Please contact the parish office if you know of someone who would like to receive communion at home.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-THANK YOU!

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	April 10-11, 2021	Apr 4-5, 2020
Adult Envelopes	\$8,450.00	NOT AVAILABLE
Loose	\$227.00	
ACH giving	\$400.00	
Debt Relief	<u>\$766.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$9,843.00	
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	\$475.00	

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK:

There is something unique about the times in which we live, especially in this country.

2018 was the first time in one hundred years that the life expectancy in the United States declined for a third consecutive year. The last time that happened was 1918. Two things were happening in 1918...the conclusion of World War One and the Spanish Flu. What is the cause for this decline in life expectancy now? We are not fighting a world war, and, while COVID is a genuine crisis that has caused suffering on many levels, it began after 2018.



Some experts argue that the cause of the declining life expectancy is due to what is called “deaths of despair.” There are three such “deaths” they highlight: suicide, cirrhosis of the liver in young adults, and opioid addiction.

The suicide rate has increased every year for the past 13 years. Suicide is up 30-40% since 1999. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-olds in our country, and has nearly tripled in this age range since 2007. Again...these statistics were before COVID. In one report from the CDC in the summer of 2020, 10% of Americans they surveyed had seriously considered taking their lives in the previous month. Amongst those between the ages of 18-25 that number was 25%.

The second and third “deaths of despair” are also very stunning. The number of people between the ages of 25-34 who die annually from alcohol related liver disease has nearly tripled between 1999 and 2016... with an average yearly increase of around 10%. And despite our country making up only 5% of the world’s population, we consume 80% of the world’s opioids.

The world has no hope apart Jesus. The world is bound under the powers of Sin and Death, and there is nothing we can do on our own to save the world. The cultural turmoil, upheaval and violence of 2020 only makes this more clear. Politics is very important, law is very important, policies are very important, but none of these can fix the problem. And the problem is the human heart. Read Jeremiah 17:9 and Matthew 15:18-19.

Only God can...and does...fix the human heart. And He desires to use us, Jesus’ disciples, as agents of this re-creation, healing, and transformation in the lives of those around us and the greater culture and world we live in.

SCHOOL NEWS

Our flower fundraiser was a huge success. We sold over 440 baskets of flowers. Mrs. Doughty treated the students that sold 20 or more baskets to lunch. Pictured is Mrs. Doughty serving lunch. The menu was Pizza Hut pizza, watermelon and popsicles. The menu was chosen by Liam Weckwerth who sold the most baskets. He sold 54!! Thank you to everyone that participated in the fundraiser. The students that were treated to lunch and how many baskets they sold are:

- Liam Weckwerth - 54, Gabriel Mueller—27
- Jacob, Alex & Charlie Shimel - 27
- Aubree Grund - 25
- Blair Lazarz - 25
- Ledger Breaman - 23
- Sophia Wendt - 23
- Brooklyn Clabots & Bristol Leider - 22



Mrs. Homan's second and third grade classes have been creating a prayer chain. The chain links list their specific intentions AND also what prayer they are praying to God. They have decided to hang their chain in the back of church for you to see. Please check it out!



FOLLOWING THE RISEN JESUS

CINNAMON ROLLS ARE BACK!!

We will have our first cinnamon roll sale of the year on Saturday and Sunday May 8th and 9th! After Masses

All rolls will be sold "to go"

Enjoy them freshly baked and frosted (or frosting on the side)

For a FREE WILL offering!

All proceeds will go towards Extreme Faith Camp and will be sold by the youth attending camp!



FAMILY HOME KITS will be sent home the first week of May!

Look for your family kit with activities and ideas for you as a family that will help you grow in your faith!

Haven't received a home kit yet but would like one? Email Kay Berg to be put in our database!

Catholic Corner

Do you pray the Angelus at 6AM, Noon and 6PM? It is a good catholic habit to get into and a beautiful prayer.

During the Easter Season we pray the Regina Caeli during this time.

All of the students of SFX pray this daily right after lunch.

Give it a try!

Here is the Regina Caeli:

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

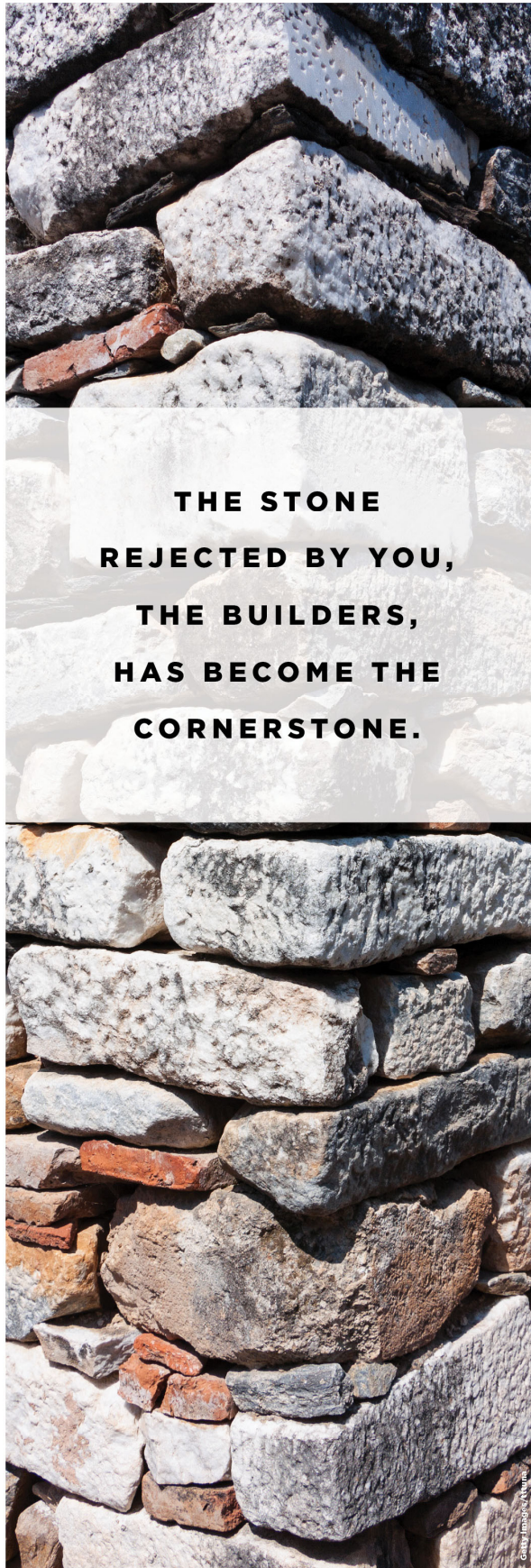
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



**THE STONE
REJECTED BY YOU,
THE BUILDERS,
HAS BECOME THE
CORNERSTONE.**

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12 | 1 Jn 3:1-2 | Jn 10:11-18

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I really feel for teenagers these days. It seems that today's kids face - if not *more* challenges than I did - at least many more *ways* those challenges can present themselves. The usual adolescent pressures present themselves in person, as always, but also now on the many forms of social media. For young people, and all of us, living as "children of God" is certainly not for the faint of heart! As our Psalm today says, we should place our trust in God - take refuge in him - rather than in what others may think of us. Why? Because living as disciples of Jesus can fly in the face of cultural norms. After all, Jesus was the stone the builders rejected - who became the cornerstone! He and the apostles challenged the status quo and faced ridicule and rejection, and even death because of it. Still, they always did the right thing. That's hard, for sure. But Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for us, and that requires a response. Discipleship calls us to serve others by doing the right thing so that God's kingdom will triumph over the kingdom of darkness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. John told his community that "the reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." The key to being a loving force for good in the world is humility, and looking to God, rather than how we are perceived on social media or the car we drive, for our identity and worth. Tackling our ego begins by taking stock of what we value and whose opinion (rightly or wrongly) matters to us. Once we have explored those troubled waters, we can absorb St. Teresa of Calcutta's advice: "Accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked. Be kind and gentle even under provocation." Our slow steady witness shines light into darkness. The consistent challenge of our Christian behavior, offered without judgment, will promote God's values in our families, schools, work, and neighborhoods. Our faithful witness allows God to work. Remember, God uses the stones that are rejected to become the cornerstone.

PRAY Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to live humbly. Then ask the Spirit to open the door for you to invite others to know the joy of living according to God's ways. In the meantime, pray the *Litany of Humility*. It will help train your ego to seek God's approval only.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!!!

Each morning of the work week, the parish staff starts its day by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. They pray for special intentions, for a different priest in the Diocese of Superior each day, and individual parish and school staff by name each day.

The parish staff is now going to start praying for FIVE parishioners each morning as well. The names of the parishioners prayed for will be listed in the bulletin each week, and a postcard will be mailed to your home letting you know we prayed for you!!

Here is a list of the people we prayed for in the past week:

Mr. Rich Ashbrenner	Catherine Baratta
Lauriel Arndeson	Mrs. Christine Bacon
Joe & Marlys Hoy	Sherri Beyer
M/M Frank Bacon Jr.	Mrs. Carol Berndt
M/M Tom Ball	MR. Gary Benzinger
Robert & Beth Behr	Jean Becker
Mary Bauman	Perry & Kris Block
M/M Dainel Barz	Joe & Deb Brzezinski
Travis & Carly Barker	Jeff & Gayle Dobson
M/M James Bares	Julie Fehr

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2021

INCOME	Feb 2021	July 20-Feb 2021
Collections	\$2,428.25	\$23,429.25
Fund Raising Income		\$0.00
Cemetery Income		\$785.00
Candles, Flowers, Gifts, etc.		\$841.55
Other Income (Fees, Interest, etc)	<u>0.03</u>	<u>\$1,275.14</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,428.28	\$26,330.94

EXPENSES		
Wages/Benefits	\$2,590.00	\$21,603.06
Office expenses	0.00	\$114.99
Utilities	141.49	\$3,771.99
Insurance	0.00	\$2,949.94
Upkeep/maintenance	67.36	\$1,604.85
Fundraising expenses	0.00	\$0.00
Ministry expenses	90.76	\$1,416.96
Cemetery Expenses	0.00	\$0.00
2019-2020 CSA	0.00	\$0.00
Other expenses	<u>180.83</u>	<u>\$1,965.80</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,070.44	\$33,427.59
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(\$642.16)</u>	<u>(\$7,096.65)</u>

INVESTMENTS	2/28/2021
Checking Account	\$2,245.79
Cemetery Funds	17,701.50
Covantage Credit Union	<u>181,514.71</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$201,462.00</u>

WISCONSIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PARISH MICRO-MEN'S RETREAT




May 15
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
sponsored by:
Council 1133



ARCHBISHOP JEROME LISTECKI **BISHOP** DAVID RICKEN **BISHOP** WILLIAM CALLAHAN **BISHOP** JAMES POWERS **BISHOP** DONALD HYING

Lunch, Video Presentations, Confession-Adoration, Mass
Our five Wisconsin Bishops discuss the power of Divine Mercy at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill.
Call 715-409-0165 to register.
Free will offerings will be accepted.

saint snippets



Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire.

St. Catherine of Siena
Dominican theologian who had great influence in the Church in the 14th century, patroness of fire prevention and of those ridiculed for their faith

April 29

Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

Eucharistic Adoration

“Christ is risen! In Him is my faith, my love; in Him I live. He sang us a love song from the moment of His birth to the moment of His death and unto His resurrection. At the moment of His ascension – He will leave us tokens of His love: first, Himself, in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the Blessed Sacrament, and in His priests. For He is so in love with us that though He went to the Father, He remained with us. Only God can do that.” – Catherine de Hueck Doherty



The Chapel has been open again for 4 months! There are numerous safety protocols in place so you can safely come adore Jesus. To sign up for a Holy Hour please call Phil or Mary at 715-409-0165.

Jesus I trust in You!

April 25, 2021

WATCH

INTO THE BREACH

As we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker this week, we encourage all men to watch Into the Breach, a groundbreaking series that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic today. Inspired by Bishop Olmsted's apostolic exhortation, Into the Breach challenges men to embrace the greatness we are all



FORMED LIVE!

Who is St. Catherine of Siena?

April 29th, 2020



FORMED NOW!

WHO IS ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA?

In light of St. Catherine of Siena's feast day, join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they celebrate this holy woman: a nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.

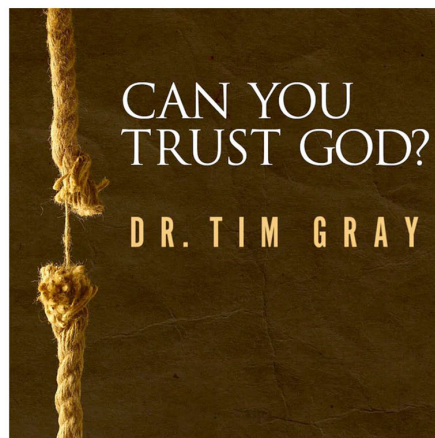
LEARN

LISTEN

CAN YOU TRUST GOD?

BY DR. TIM GRAY

To be a saint, we must trust God wholeheartedly. Since the fall of our first parents, however, humanity has been tempted to mistrust the Father's love for us. Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray takes us on a journey that addresses the pervasive misconceptions about God, showing us that there is no reason not to follow him.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

OAK PARK DENTAL
www.oakparkmerrill.com
Dr. Steven DeMille
Dr. Ed Lang
715-539-0441
2402 East Main Street, Suite 8
Merrill, WI 54452

Your ad could be in this space!

Dave's County Market
300 East First Street
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-2571
Dave's Gas-N-Go
Open 24 Hours

FINDaPARISH.com
Check It Out Today!
Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information, please call the Parish Office.

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

BRIAN HENKELMAN CONTRACTING, LLC
Residential Construction
Remodeling & Additions
"Always on the Level"

715-536-9083
Brian & Leah Henkelman, owners

Dr. Charles A. Sowieja DDS, SC
A Gentle Approach to Complete Family Dentistry

"New Patients Welcome"
201 N. Center Ave.
715-536-7104

Taylor & Stine Funeral Home, Inc.

Richard A. Stine & Leah Reis
Directors
Tammy Klade
Insurance Agent
903 East Third Street in Merrill
536-6244

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers"

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS
- MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS
- MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION PLANS

ZIPPERER FINANCIAL

115 Forest St. Ste 3
Wausau
715-845-8036

Lincoln Lanes *The most fun under one roof!*
1208 N. Center Ave. • 536-9405
www.LincolnLanesOnline.com

WAID FUNERAL HOME
301 Eagle Dr. • Merrill, WI
54452-3714
715-536-4646
www.WaidFuneral.com

ONE PARISH
Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

Download Our Free App or Visit MY.ONEPARISH.COM

WOODLAND COURT ELDER SERVICES, LLC
A New Generation of Care
Melissa Dengel, RN, Administrator
1102 South Center Ave
Merrill, WI 54452
Phone: (715) 536-3399
Fax: (715) 539-8399
Owned & Operated by Darrel & Melissa Dengel

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!
24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!
✓ Ambulance ✓ Police ✓ Fire ✓ Friends/Family
Solutions as Low as \$19.95 a month
FREE Shipping FREE Activation NO Long Term Contracts
CALL NOW! 800.809.3352
GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection Nationwide, No Land Line Needed EASY Set-up, NO Contract 24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

Protecting Seniors Nationwide
Medical Alert System
\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly
• One Free Month
• No Long-Term Contract
• Price Guarantee
• Easy Self Installation
Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

WHY ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BULLETIN?

- GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.
- GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.
- GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.
- GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin
Call us at 1-800-621-5197 Email: sales@jspaluch.com

PARK CITY REALTY
2402 EAST MAIN ST. MERRILL, WI 54452
715-536-8699
FAX 715-536-8842
www.merrillwi realestate.com
pcr1@dwave.net
Your Home Town Realtor

Brickners
Park City, Merrill
Jeep CHRYSLER DODGE RAM
See over 700 new and used at bricknerfamily.com

Reindl
Precision-Engineered Print Services™
REINDL PRINTING INC.
1300 Johnson Street
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-9537
FAX: (715) 536-8293
www.reindlprinting.com

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!
Sign up here:
www.jspaluch.com/subscribe
Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.