



FEBRUARY 28, 2021
*Jesus was transfigured
 before them, and his clothes
 became dazzling white.*
Mark 9:2-3

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: March 1, 2021

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23;
 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16;
 Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21;
 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;
 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11;
 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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.

LENTEN
SECOND SUNDAY OF

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 March 1, 2021

Monday-No Mass

Tuesday

5:00 PM (SFX) † Bob Nelson
By: Clyde & Wendy Nelson



Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) : The special intention of the Custy Family
By: Family

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB): The special intentions of Patty Mosser
By: Pat & Kaz Buckett

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) † Patrick Mihalski
By: Russell & Tracy Creel

The 4:00 PM Saturday Mass is live streamed on our Face Book Page.

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) † Roy Drew
By: Family

Sunday

7:30 AM (SFX): Special Intentions of Kathy Knaack
By: Family
9:00AM (SFX) † Deceased members of the Walters Family
By: June Bonke
11:00 AM (SJB) People of the parishes

We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin:

Brian Henkelman Contracting, LLC
715-536-9083

saint snippets

Press forward and fear nothing.

St. Katharine Drexel
She gave up an inheritance of \$7 million to enter religious life and then created a system of Catholic schools for African-Americans

Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

March 3

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.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS.....

- † Are you an experienced painter that enjoys painting? We will be soon painting the two side walls between the sacristy and the choir area and would appreciate some volunteers. Please send an email to: mament@stfrancismerrill.org, or call the parish office.
- † The **Lights in the Little Adoration Chapel** last week were in loving memory of **Jo Hout** by Mike & Jan Perry. This week the lights burn in loving memory of **Dorothy and Marvin Kanitz**, by their family.
- † **CASH RAFFLE:** Coming during lent is our school's annual cash raffle. You can win \$1000, \$500, \$200, \$100 or \$50! Tickets will be available in the church and parish offices, as well as the To-Go Fish Fry register. All proceeds will support our school. Thank you.
- † Fr. Maria will be celebrating a Lenten penance service on **Wednesday, March 3 at 5:30 PM**. Like during Advent, there will be general absolution given rather than individual confessions. However, if you would rather attend individual confession, here is a list of times:

Saturday 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Tuesday 4:30 PM

Wednesday 8:15 AM

Sunday 10:40 AM at SJB

Or make an appointment by calling the parish office.

- † SJB parish is looking for money counters to count the Sunday collection after 11:00 AM Mass on a rotating basis. If you can stay after mass for 15 minutes to count the collection, please call Linda in the parish office.
- † Did you know last week went through 218 pieces of pie and 72 pieces of bars? Thank you to our very talented bakers who are supplying us with delicious pies, tortes, cheesecakes and bars. If you are missing your dessert pan, check out the table by door #3 at the parish office entrance. We have them saved there for you!



OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-THANK YOU!

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Feb. 13-14, 2021	Feb. 15-16, 2020
Adult Envelopes	\$6,480.00	\$5,741.00
Loose	\$201.00	\$322.00
ACH giving	\$400.00	\$360.00
Debt Relief	\$1,799.11	\$346.00
TOTAL	\$8,880.11	\$6769.00
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	\$250.00	\$522.00

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK:



St. Francis of Assisi tried three times to go and evangelize the Holy Land at the time of the Crusades. He went...out of a desire for martyrdom and out of burning love for God.

In his first attempt, his ship was blown off course and landed on the coast of modern-day Croatia.

His second attempt was overland. He got as far as Spain when "God withstood him to his face, striking him with illness, and called him back from the journey which he had begun."

His third attempt in 1219, he made it as far as Egypt, where he met the Sultan of the Saracens. He went to the sultan's battle camp, and the sultan was so impressed with him that he offered him various gifts. But Francis showed no interest in wealth.

Francis didn't receive martyrdom, and didn't manage to evangelize the Muslim's either. But, due to the respect the sultan had for him and his respectful way of dealing with the Muslims, the Pope in 1342 established and confirmed the Franciscans mission in the Holy Land.

Currently, close to 300 friar's work at about 50 sanctuaries in the Holy Land. It is because of the Franciscans that we are able to pilgrimage to the Holy Land and see the wonderful sites that we are all familiar with in the Bible. Including the Church of the Transfiguration located at the very spot where the Transfiguration took place.

It's not easy getting to a mountaintop. In our Gospel today...Jesus took his disciples up a high mountain. Prayer is one of the three pillars of Lenten observance. The battle for quality prayer is often a battle for silence. Everyone acknowledges the utility of "quiet time," but, for prayer, this is just the first step. Exterior silence must foster interior silence. We have to quiet down on the inside too.

Find a quiet place this week, like the Adoration Chapel, a monastery, a convent, or a shrine, and set aside some real quiet time so that Our Lord can reveal himself to you more profoundly. Consider doing a retreat or a daily meditation for Lent.

Stations of the Cross

Please join us weekly as we gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. You have two options this year:

- 8:45 AM Friday with the school children
- 6:00 PM Fridays... Order your fish fry first, pray stations... and it will be ready for you to take home after!

Have your family prioritize this traditional devotion during Lent.



SCHOOL NEWS

Our school children participated in service projects during Catholic School's Week. Pictured below is Mrs. Homan's 2/3 grade class, with all of their donations for the Humane Society. Other organizations that the children supported included the Merrill Community Food Pantry, Haven, and Parish Family in Need.



Online giving now available!

Parishioners and friends of St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Baptist can now make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our parish website. Stop worrying about weekly envelopes or mailing in special donations or ministry program fees. Instead, give a gift at any time (from any device that connects to the internet) using a current email and checking account/credit card. It's simple and secure. You can even turn your tithe into an automatic gift that gives when and how often you'd like with your own online donor account. Visit www.stfrancismerrill.org/online-giving or www.stfrancismerrill.org/st-john-the-baptist to see how easy it is!

CRS RICE BOWL: Better Meals in Madagascar

In Madagascar, half of all the children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food? Visit: www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

You may pick up your RICE BOWL at the parish office, or the table in the back of church near the elevators. Children...watch for your RICE BOWL to be mailed to you in our HOME PACKET!



SECOND SUNDAY
in
LENT

FOLLOWING JESUS THIS LENT

"In prayer, more is accomplished by listening than by talking." ~St. Francis de Sales

PRAYER—we are supposed to focus on prayer more during Lent. But, maybe you think you are pretty good at praying and you are praying more now because it is lent. That is GOOD! But, another part of prayer (and this is where I lack) is **LISTENING**. Do you spend time when you are in prayer to just listen? In silence! This type of prayer, especially in front of the Blessed Sacrament is vital to your conversation with God. It is known as Contemplative prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this about contemplative prayer, *"It is a gift, a grace; ...in it the Father strengthens our inner being with the power through his Spirit."* (ccc 2713, 2714) Spend more time in silence this Lent!



"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." ~ St. Mother Teresa

Faith Formation Families:

You should receive a packet in the mail of Lenten activities for your family. These are suggested activities that you can do to create an environment in your home that focusses on how you can grow in your relationship with Jesus this Lent. Please give us feedback! Did you do any of the activities? Which ones did you like the best? Would you prefer the packet be emailed? Our plan is to send home these types of packets on a monthly basis to help you build up the domestic church—which is your home! Comments can be emailed to Kay Berg at kberg@stfrancismerrill.org.



Operation Rice Bowls are in the back of church. Pick one up to use to give back to Catholic Relief Services. There are recipes and stories at www.csricebowl.org about how Catholic Relief Services helps the poor! Check it out!

In this year of St. Joseph, the pope has asked us each to pray this prayer to increase our devotion to St. Joseph:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and
courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE MONTH ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

INCOME	Jan 2021	July 20-Jan 2021
Collections	\$1,818.00	\$21,001.00
Fund Raising Income	0.00	\$0.00
Cemetery Income	535.00	\$785.00
Candles, Flowers, Gifts, etc.	618.00	\$841.55
Other Income (Fees, Interest, etc)	<u>204.75</u>	<u>\$1,275.11</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,175.75	\$23,902.66

EXPENSES

Wages/Benefits	\$753.50	\$19,013.06
Office expenses		\$114.99
Utilities	1,201.36	\$3,630.50
Insurance	0.00	\$2,949.94
Upkeep/maintenance	664.46	\$1,537.49
Fundraising expenses	0.00	\$0.00
Ministry expenses	45.76	\$1,326.20
Cemetery Expenses		\$0.00
2019-2020 CSA		\$0.00
Other expenses	<u>362.96</u>	<u>\$1,784.97</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,028.04	\$30,357.15
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$147.71</u>	<u>(\$6,454.49)</u>

INVESTMENTS

	1/31/2021
Checking Account	\$3,508.44
Cemetery Funds	17,701.45
Covantage Credit Union	<u>181,514.71</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$202,724.60</u>

SCRIP NEWS.... ARE YOU NEW TO SCRIP?

Have you never used SCRIP? Would you like to use SCRIP but you don't know how to start? Using SCRIP is easy! You purchase gift cards or gift certificates to restaurants, stores and gas stations that you go to every week. And those places give us a discount (which varies between 2.5-12%). The money we make comes from them and not YOU! Here is one example:

You need \$100 to Kwik Trip.... You purchase a \$100 gift card to Kwik Trip in the back of church after mass... you pay \$100 and use the card next time you fill up... the remaining balance stays on the card until you purchase gas again.... But here's the great part! Kwik Trip gives us \$5.00 for that one card. It's so easy. Please call the parish office with any SCRIP questions.

FISH FRIES HAVE BEGUN!!!!

664 meals were served on Friday Feb. 12!

722 meals were served on Friday Feb. 19!



NEW THIS YEAR:

- Our phone lines open at 10:00 AM Friday. Call 715-536-2803 from 10:00 AM—7:00 PM. If you need an early meal (4:30-5:30) you will want to call early!
- You can email your order to: fishfry@stfrancismerrill.org anytime Friday until 7:00 PM. If you use this option please include your potato choice, pick up time you would like, or your address if you would like delivery.
- OR! You can fill out an order form on our website!
- Take-Out orders are picked up at doors 6 & 7 (school entrance). Please check in with one of our friendly hostesses.
- If you have a menu from this year it includes the 50 cent take out charge. This fee is to cover the cost of packaging for take outs. Delivery is free!

How can you help?

For the next several weeks we will need:

Delivery drivers (Friday nights 4:15-7:30 PM)

People to answer the phones (Friday 10:00-1:00 PM or 1:00-4:00 PM)

Bakers (Pies, cheesecakes and bars!)

To help out, or with any questions, please call the parish office.

Hostess: To greet people as they arrive for pick up. We need someone on March 19.

Dessert Hostess: You have the best job! You help our customers pick out their dessert to take home. This is only needed on March. 5 from 4:00-7:30 PM.

Scooping Coleslaw: We need 2 people to dish out the cole slaw into cups on Friday March 12 from 7:30 – 9:00 AM.

FISH FRY STUMPER: How many 2 pc Pollock meals with French fries did we sell on 2/19? Watch next week's bulletin for the answer.....

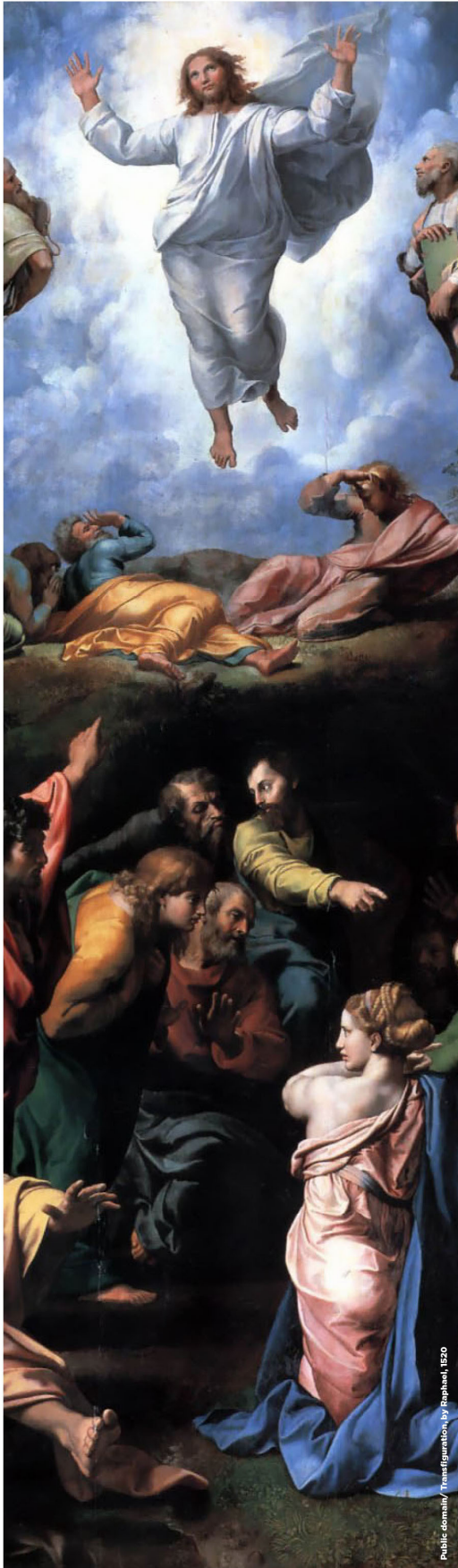
Eucharistic Adoration— A Retreat from the World

“Consider trying to Make a Lenten Holy Hour this year. But Holy Hours aren't just for Lent. If it's something you don't usually find the time for, it's a great way to draw near to Jesus during these forty days. Take the extra time this year to make a Lenten Holy Hour. Our lives are so very busy that it's sometimes difficult to slow down and find time for prayer. This is precisely the reason many people love Adoration. Its nice to just be in His presence and be still; it's a retreat from the world”.—Harrington Harmonies



Please Call Phil/Mary with questions: 715-409-0165

We are in need of subs for our snow birds!



February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Oh, the gloom! The view out my window on a typical Michigan winter day can be described as “grayscale monochrome,” a technical term for black-and-white photographs. Fortunately, the sun peeks out on occasion, providing a lovely sunrise or sunset that can lift my mood and remind me that spring will come. If such an ordinary thing can provide hope, imagine what the Transfiguration provided for the disciples who witnessed it? “His clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.” And even though they were so terrified, the voice of God came from a cloud, conveying comfort and truth: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” The disciples did not know what lay ahead, but this vision of Jesus and the Father’s presence in their midst would give them hope and foretell Jesus’ glorious resurrection. As we continue on our Lenten journey, we can turn to God, who will one day transfigure us in the same way Christ was, to strengthen us through the gray days ahead. And St. Paul’s powerful words that “God is for us” add solace and encouragement.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Catholics, we are likely very familiar with the four Gospels, but I have to say I can’t get enough of Paul’s letters. Like a good coach, Paul encourages us to dig deep and trust God. In today’s reading, he reminds the Romans that God loves us so much that he did not spare his own Son. I’m struck by his assurance that Jesus not only died and was raised for us, but “indeed intercedes for us.” Lent is an ideal time to turn to Jesus in prayer, asking that he give us the grace to grow in faith and turn away from sin. At the same time, we can offer intercessory prayer for *others*, just as we do at every Mass. Perhaps as we continue our Lenten journey, we can make an extra effort to pray for the needs of other people: Those we know personally, such as friends and family members; and those whom we do not know, such as government leaders or Christians experiencing persecution in other countries.

PRAY I find that I often make prayer all about me! Yet, as the

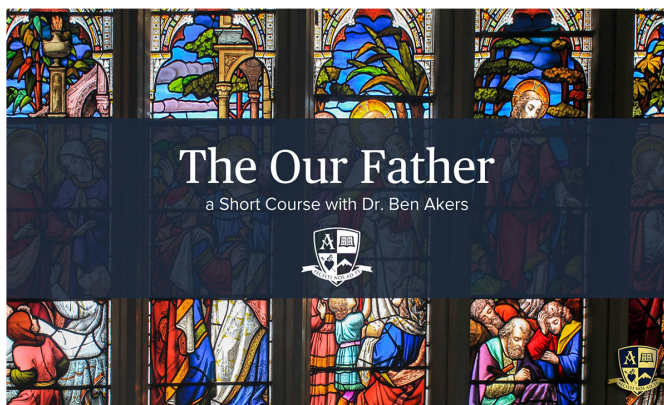
Church teaches, “in intercession, those who pray look ‘not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others,’ even to the point of praying for those who do them harm.” (CCC 2635) One way to practice intercessory prayer is to make a list and pray for the people and intentions on it once a day. For those of us who regularly pray the rosary, another practice might be to dedicate each decade to an individual in need of prayer.

February 28, 2021

WATCH

FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY: AN AMERICAN BLESSED

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Michael McGivney, paving the way for his beatification. This new documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization, and empowerment of the laity.



JESUS: THE MODEL AND MASTER OF PRAYER

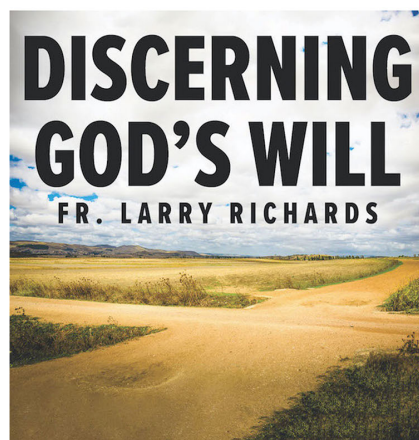
In this episode of his course on the Our Father, Dr. Ben Akers teaches us what we can learn from the perfect model and master of prayer: Jesus himself.

LEARN

LISTEN

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

Discovering the will of God can be an intimidating challenge in the spiritual life. Join Fr. Larry Richards as he guides us in this task through practical advice and personal stories!



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

Information Page

Church Name: St. Francis Xavier

Bulletin: 233800

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

No. of Pages: 8

Transmission: Wednesday 2:00 PM

Software: Publisher 2003, Adobe 10, microsoft XP

Special Instructions: Only print 400 copies
(Limited mass attendance)