



# The Baptism

OF THE LORD

January 9, 2022

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

## Parish Directory

<b>Parish Office</b> .....	536-2803
<b>Deacon /Parish Life Coordinator</b> — Deacon Jim Arndt.....	536-2803 ext. 218
<b>Sacramental Minister</b> — Fr. Mariadas Vallabhaneni (“Fr. Maria”).....	536-2803 ext 215
<b>Parish Secretary</b> — Kris Leggett.....	536-2803 ext. 202
<b>Finance Clerk</b> — Tracy Creel.....	536-2803 ext. 219
<b>Director of Faith Formation</b> —Kay Berg .....	536-2803 ext. 222
<b>Music Director</b> — Mary Ament.....	536-2803 ext. 230
<b>Maintenance Supervisor</b> — Jim Wilke.....	536-2803 ext. 221
<b>Cemetery Sexton</b> — John Hanson.....	536-2803
<b>School Principal</b> — Stephanie Van Strydonk/Kate Shimel.....	536-6083
<b>School Secretary</b> — Cindy Gennrich.....	536-6083

**Parish Website:** [www.stfrancismerrill.org](http://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 12:00 PM-8:00 PM  
 Friday 5:00 AM-7:00 AM

[John said,] “I am baptizing you with water,  
 but one mightier than I is coming.  
 I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.”

Luke 3:16

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK –Jan. 10, 2022

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;  
 Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;  
 Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7;  
 Mk 2:13-17  
 Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11;  
 Jn 2:1-11

Winter Hours



### Parish Office Hours:

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


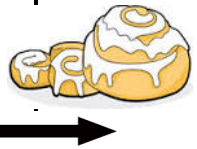
Low Gluten Eucharist (.01%) are available.  
 Please see Deacon Jim before Mass.

Parish office email:  
[kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org](mailto:kleggett@stfrancismerrill.org)  
 Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at Noon.

**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

<u>Monday</u> 1/10	<u>Tuesday</u> 1/11	<u>Wednesday</u> 1/12	<u>Thursday</u> 1/13	<u>Friday</u> 1/14	<u>Saturday</u> 1/15	<u>Sunday</u> 1/16
Fr. Maria's Day Off	NO MASS  6:15 PM SFX Choir	NO MASS  9:00 AM SFX Divine Mercy Chaplet in Church  <u>Faith Formation</u> K-5 Home Session Edge/Purpose 6:30-7:30PM	9:00 AM SJB Mass  6:30 PM SFX Handbells	8:00 AM SFX Mass	9:00 AM SFX Reconciliation  3:00 PM SFX Reconciliation  4:00 PM SFX Mass  Cinnamon Roll Sale	7:30 AM SFX Mass  9:00 AM SFX Mass  11:00 AM SJB Mass
						

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
*Week of Jan. 10, 2022*

Monday-No Mass

Tuesday-No Mass

Wednesday-No Mass

9:00 AM (SFX) Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) † Ray Gilson

By: Family

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) † Ray Blaser

By: Russell Creel Family

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) † Delore Deau

By: Chris & Denis McCarthy

Sunday

7:30 AM (SFX) † Alfred & Dorothy Plier

By: Jim & Jan Bares

9:00AM (SFX) † Jeanette Jensen

By: Family & Friends

11:00 AM (SJB) People of the parishes

Mass intentions for the weekends of 2022 are filling up very quickly. There are masses available for Thursdays at 9:00 AM at St. John the Baptist beginning in March.



**OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS.....**

- † **Candles in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** are available to honor a special loved one or in honor of a special occasion. They are \$5.00 each and burn for one week. Please call the parish office to schedule. Thank you.
- † **K of C Calendar winners for January:** Deacon Jim drew the winners for the month of January after the January 2nd 7:30 AM Mass and was very surprised to see his own name on the second stub that he picked. After recording the name of each week's winner, the coupon was reinserted into the drum and the contents were remixed so that all entrants have an equal chance of winning every week. Out of the 400 calendars that were printed, 340 were sold. The next drawing will be on February 6 after the 7:30 AM Mass in the cafeteria. The January \$25 winners are: Paul Heinzen, Deacon Jim Arndt, Steve Hass, and John Schroedel. Melissa Porath was the \$100 winner! Congratulations and thanks for your support.
- † Please note there will not be Mass on Tuesday, January 11, nor Wednesday January 12 because Fr. Maria will be out of town. Please plan on joining our school children as they sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9:00 AM on Wednesday. If you have never heard this beautiful devotion put to music you are in for a treat!
- † **Thank you** to the parishioners from St. John the Baptist who have been patiently awaiting the arrival of their

**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.

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saint snippets



4th-century theologian and bishop of Nyssa who contributed to the Nicene Creed. Along with Basil of Caesarea and Gregory of Nazianzus, he is one of the Cappadocian Fathers.

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January 10

He who gives you the day will give you also the things necessary for the day.

**St. Gregory of Nyssa**

## The Baptism of the Lord

The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. We likely have an image in our minds (based on details from the Gospels and works of art) of what that scene looked like. We might wonder, "Who else was there and who wasn't?" No disciples were present because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. They would have to wait until the Transfiguration to hear a similar message. However, the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are accounted for: the Father (the voice from heaven), the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Luke alone notes that it was after Jesus had been baptized and while he was praying that the voice was heard. All of the Gospels show Jesus praying at turning points in his ministry; this is but the first example of Jesus' need to root himself in prayer throughout his life--a model for us to follow.

### ON THE CUSP OF A NEW CREATION

It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known--so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry. One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today's Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation.

### JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a "social influencer." People paid attention to what he had to say. And what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today's Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist's ultimate goal: "One mightier than I is coming." The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the "beloved Son." John the Baptist could be considered the "patron saint" of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn't John's teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people's attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility.

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**Winter Weather:** Just a reminder that if the weather causes school to be cancelled, the school office and parish office are also closed. All parish activities will also be cancelled including Eucharistic Adoration. Even if you don't have children in school, it is therefore important to keep up to date on school closings. Mass is rarely cancelled, but we encourage everyone to use common sense before venturing out into bad weather.

## SCHOOL NEWS

For the Feast of the Epiphany Deacon Jim went to all of the classrooms and blessed them. Above each door he wrote "20+C+M+B+22" which is the year and the first letter of each of the names of the 3 Wisemen (Caspar — sometimes spelled "Kaspar"—, Melchior and Balthazar.) The chalk is a daily visual symbol for all of us, just like seeing the crucifix hanging on the wall. You can do this chalk blessing in your home too!

### Catholic School's Week

St. Francis Xavier School will be joining the entire Diocese to celebrate Catholic School's Week January 29-February 4. We would like to thank everyone who supports our school through various fundraisers, collections, and the SCRIP program throughout the year. To participate in the annual Catholic School's Collection please use your orange envelope in your packet, or use the memo line on your check and write "Catholic Schools." Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 22 the Diocese of Superior is hosting a Gathering For Life at St. Joseph Church, Rice Lake, WI. The day includes Mass with the Bishop, two talks featuring Danielle Hendricks and Deacon Tim Mika, and an Holy Hour with Rosary. Watch next week's bulletin for more details.

### OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-THANK YOU!

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Dec. 24-26, 2021	Dec 24-27, 2020
Adult Envelopes	\$17,876.00	\$7,536.00
Loose	\$951.46	\$323.00
ACH giving	\$775.00	\$400.00
Debt Relief	<u>\$1,374.60</u>	<u>\$1258.50</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,977.06</b>	<b>\$9517.50</b>
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	\$1,504.00	\$1,337.00
<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	Dec 31-Jan 2, 2022	Jan 1-3, 2021
Adult Envelopes	\$5,837.02	\$6,905.00
Loose	\$199.00	\$268.00
ACH giving	\$645.00	\$4215.00
Debt Relief	<u>\$555.25</u>	<u>\$2110.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,236.30</b>	<b>\$13,398.00</b>
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	\$706.00	\$617.00



# FOLLOWING JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS



**SAVE THE DATES**  
**TOTUS TUUS IS COMING TO**  
**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
**JULY 18—22, 2022**  
**Grades 1—6 During the day**  
**Grades 7—12 in the evening**



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Join us for a weekend of talks, praise and worship, workshops, music, fun, Mass and More! St. Paul July 29-31 will be our first Steubenville Conference – watch for more details

**Coming Events**

**Wednesday January 5th -**

- Grades K—5 Family Session 5:30PM**
- Grades 6—9 Edge 6:30PM**
- Grade 10—Purpose 6:30PM**

**Wednesday January 12th—**

- Grades K—5 Home Session**
- Grades 6—9 Edge 6:30PM**
- Grade 10—Purpose 6:30PM**



It is still the Christmas Season until the Baptism of the Lord! Are your Christmas decorations still up??



Kay Berg, Director of Faith Formation  
kberg@stfrancismerrill.org  
(715) 536-2803 ext 222  
(715) 966-0877 Cell



January 9, 2022

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | Acts 10:34-38 or  
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

“  
G O D  
A N O I N T E D  
J E S U S O F  
N A Z A R E T H  
W I T H T H E  
H O L Y S P I R I T  
A N D P O W E R .  
”

(ACTS 10: 38)

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

For cradle Catholics, baptism may be the most important step on the Christian journey that none of us actually remembers. Which is too bad! After all, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs us that baptism is “the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit.” (#1213) Yes, baptism cleanses us of original sin, but it’s much more than that! We need only look to Jesus to see that. Though without sin, Jesus’ baptism is a turning point in his life all the same. The Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out, “You are my beloved Son.” So begins the public ministry, in which Jesus would carry out his Father’s saving mission. Through our baptism, at any age, we, too, become God’s beloved sons and daughters. Through word and sacrament, Jesus invites us to share in his mission by turning our lives over to our Father as we embrace our Christian journey.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Baptism is often referred to as “the doorway to the Church” because through this sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are united to Christ and his Church. It is the door which gives access to all the other sacraments. (cf., CCC 1213) At the conclusion, the celebrant asks God to continue to pour out his blessing upon those being baptized, and send his peace to all who are gathered. As baptized Christians, we are now adopted children of God; we are disciples who are empowered, through the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good News and help build the kingdom of God on earth. Sound intimidating? It shouldn’t. Each day that we “put on Christ” and do his work, God is re-creating us and making us into something far better than we could ever be on our own. Embrace this faith you have been given and go out and share your gifts and talents with others, confident in the Spirit that guides you.

**SERVE** Think of something you have been told you are very good at by friends or coworkers – something for which you have been “anointed,” in a sense. In what way can you do something specific to lead others with care in this area, or perhaps do a very particular good yourself?



**WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!!!**

Each morning of the work week, the parish staff starts their 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.

Here is a list of the people we prayed for in the past week (watch for your postcard in the mail):

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shirley Marshall       | Grace Masin           |
| M/M Chet Marcum        | M/M Scott Maluegge    |
| Ms. Cameo Roets        | Nicole Malluegge      |
| Mr. Scott Reindl       | Erica Madden          |
| Dean & Mary Ritzmann   | Mrs. Greg Schenzel    |
| Mrs. Suzanne Rehwinkel | Mr. Tom Sazama        |
| Dr. & Mrs. Art Marquis | Mr. Chad Schmitz      |
| Ms. Diane Martens      | Mrs. Thomas Schotz    |
| M/M William Luterbach  | Mrs. Christine Schult |
| Mrs. Joyce Livingston  | Robert Zajackowski    |
| Mrs. Edward Miller     | Mrs. Erling Ravn      |
| Mr. Michael Semling    | M/M Thomas Meyer      |
| Mrs. Jennifer Schmidt  | MM Andrew Monnot      |



Join catholic parishes across the country as we join together in "9 Days For Life" which runs from January 19-27, 2022.

Together we will pray to protect all human life from the moment of conception until the time of natural death. For more information visit:

[9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)

**SCRIP: "Is this a school fundraiser?"  
"I don't have kids in our school."**

Every year St. Francis Xavier parish counts on SCRIP profit as part of the school budget. When school families purchase SCRIP, 50% of the profit earned comes off their tuition as a credit. This helps lower their tuition while still fundraising for the school. If you don't have kids attending St. Francis 100% of the profit earned goes to our school budget. The more non-school families that purchase SCRIP, the less the parish needs to give the school as a subsidy. So, even if you don't have kids attending our school we still want you to purchase SCRIP.

**Unfortunately, SCRIP profit has decreased over the last 5 years.** SCRIP is the easiest way for ALL of us to contribute to our parish. We all use groceries and gas. So if you don't know how to get started try this: This week after Mass purchase \$50 to a grocery store. Do that for a few weeks, and then try adding a gas card too. You will see how convenient SCRIP is, how easy it is to use, how it helps your family budget, AND you can help our school and parish grow! Thank you for your support!

**St. John The Baptist Christmas Flowers**  
**Thank you to these families for their generous donations!**

- Kathy Scioli
- Joe Hoy
- Mary K. Lagerbloom
- Julie & Jayme Fehr
- Jean Becker
- Pam Wopp
- Thomas & Deede Grund in loving memory of Lois Dorn
- John & Sharon Madden in loving memory of John & Sophie Madden Family and William & Lena Mosser Family
- Patty Mosser in loving memory of Mosser & Beyer Families
- Frank & Bernie Ineichen in loving memory of Walter Sr, Marie, Sonja, and Anna Ineichen, and Ned & Dolores Bibeau, and Dave & Daren Bibeau, and Barb Saiko, and Ed, Eunice, & Bob Haupt, and Bernard, Clarice and Jack Schmitz.



**Announcing a Lifeline of Hope and Healing for Struggling Marriages!**

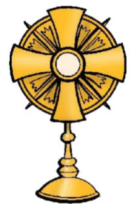
When the old ways aren't working, the Retrouvaille Program helps couples restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships. This is a three-phase program that begins with a weekend stay in the Wausau area. A series of "post sessions" provide ongoing healing and support. Presentations are given by couples who share their personal struggles in marriage and the tools they used to rediscover their love. Participants reflect and interact in privacy with their spouse. It is not group therapy. Costs are affordable and no couple is turned away because of limited finances. If you are wondering if this program is right for you or a loved one, find more information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call toll-free: 1-877-922-HOPE (4673) All calls are fully confidential. The next program begins on **February 18-20, 2022**. Space is limited. Early registration is recommended!



**Eucharistic Adoration**

Do you need a friend to talk to? Someone who will always listen? Day or night? How about a friend who will listen for an entire hour? Jesus is waiting for you in the real presence of the Eucharist.

Call Phil/Mary at 715-409-0165 with questions.



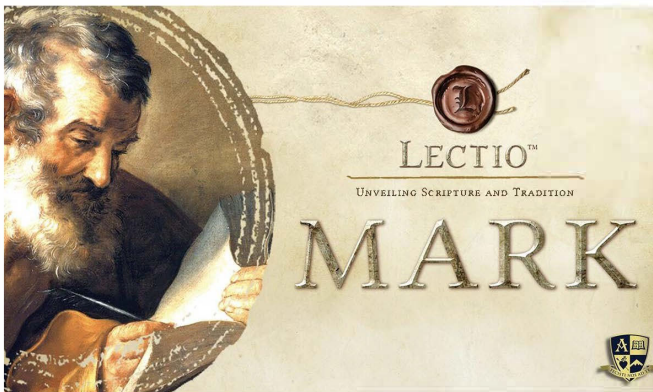
**Remember! Fish Fries start the Friday BEFORE Ash Wednesday... our first Fish Fry is February 25!**

January 9, 2022

WATCH

### REBORN - EPISODE 1: A NEW CREATION

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!



### LECTIO: MARK, EPISODE 2: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Jesus couldn't have been baptized without a baptizer. Join Dr. Tim Gray as he explains the opening verses of Mark's Gospel that depict the ministry of John the Baptist – the man who would baptize Jesus.

LEARN

LISTEN

### CHANGED FOREVER: THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM BY FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Renowned Catholic speaker and priest, Fr. Mike Schmitz, explores the beautiful gift of the Sacrament of Baptism. In this talk, Fr. Mike provides a wonderful presentation on the waters that give new life!



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