



**Whoever receives one child such as this
in my name, receives me;
and whoever receives me, receives not me
but the One who sent me.**

Mark 9:37

September 19, 2021

Twenty-fifth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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 — Tracy Creel.....	536-2803 ext. 219
Director of Faith Formation —Kay Berg	536-2803 ext. 222
Music Director — Mary Ament.....	536-2803 ext. 230
Maintenance Supervisor — Jim Wilke.....	536-2803 ext. 221
Cemetery Sexton — John Hanson.....	536-2803
School Principal — Stephanie Van Strydonk/Kate Shimel.....	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 12:00 PM-8:00 PM
 Friday 5:00 AM-7:00 AM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK - Sept. 20 , 2021

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8;
 Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13;
 Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14;
 Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



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.

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> <u>9/20</u>	<u>Tuesday 9/21</u>	<u>Wednesday 9/22</u>	<u>Thursday 9/23</u>	<u>Friday 9/24</u>	<u>Saturday 9/25</u>	<u>Sunday 9/26</u>
Fr. Maria's Day Off	4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM SFX Mass 6:00 PM SFX Parish Council 6:15 PM Family Choir	8:15 AM SFX Reconciliation 9:00 AM SFX Mass <u>FAITH FORMATION</u> 5:30 PM K-5 6:30 PM 6-10 (Edge/Purpose) 7:30 PM 10th Grade Parent Meeting	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	7:30 AM SFX Mass 9:00 AM SFX Mass 2nd grade parent meeting follows 11:00 AM SJB Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of Sept. 20, 2021

Monday-No Mass

Tuesday

5:00 PM (SFX) † LeRoy Krueger
By: Pat & Kaz Buckett

Wednesday

9:00 AM (SFX) For the Special Intention of the 100th
Birthday of Jenny Maszk
By: Her Children

Thursday

9:00 AM (SJB) † John Slewitzke
By: Family

Friday

8:00 AM (SFX) † Koss Family
By: Family

Saturday

4:00 PM (SFX) For the Special intention of the 40th
Wedding Anniversary of Nancy & Chester Kwiesielewicz

Sunday

7:30 AM (SFX) † David Fischer
By: Family

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

11:00 AM (SJB) People of the parishes



OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS.....

- † The Candles in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel burn in loving memory of **Bettie Swan and in thanksgiving for a friend..**
- † **WISH LIST:** We are in need of a NEW, large chest style freezer to be used mainly for fish fries. Monetary donations towards a new freezer are also appreciated. Please call Kris in the parish office if you are interested.
- † **Lector Workbooks:** If you would like to purchase a Lector Workbook please let the office know by Oct 1, 2021. Your cost is \$6.50 (the parish will pay the other half of the cost). Checks should be made payable to SFX or SJB accordingly. Thank you.
- † **Banns II:** Mary Catherine Polesnak and Paul Heinzen announce their intention to be married on October 2, 2021. They ask for your prayers.
- † **Banns I:** Shannon Yonke and Jason Duginski announce their intention to be married on October 9, 2021. They ask for your prayers.
- † All cemetery decorations should be removed by October 15 to allow the cemetery to be prepared for winter. All decorations that remain will be removed by the sexton. Please share this notice with your friends who do not read the bulletin. Thank you.
- † **Fr. Maria's birthday is Monday, September 27!!!!**

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.

SCRIP News....

How much do you spend each month on groceries, gasoline, clothing and medicine? What would happen if a percentage of what you spend every month at stores like Walmart, Walgreen's, Kwik Trip, and County Market went to support St. Francis Xavier? This is how SCRIP works! Every week you have the opportunity to purchase SCRIP in the form of prepaid gift cards from your favorite retailers. Between 2% and 15% of your purchases are donated to St. Francis, depending on the retailer. It is that easy!

SCRIP is sold at the parish office and before and after all weekend Masses

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's first two readings present a striking contrast between two pathways in life. In Wisdom and the letter from James we are told of the path of the wicked, which leads to oppression and violence. We also hear of the path of the faithful, which leads to peace and human flourishing. Then our Gospel reading from Mark takes our reflection farther. The choice is shown to be not so simple or obvious. The path of faithfulness means following Jesus' lead, to expand our circle of care toward everyone, especially the most vulnerable. This path also includes opening ourselves to suffering and trials, as we face resistance from within and from outside us. The two paths essentially diverge over whether we refuse or accept God's love. Each day we face such choices as God invites us into the divine circle of care and enlists us to extend our own circle to those around us.

WHO IS HONORED

Today's Gospel passage has two parts: Jesus' announcement again of his coming suffering and death, and a scene with the disciples arguing about who is the "greatest." Mark places these scenes next to each other to emphasize the disciples' failure to understand. Their petty argument was the opposite of what Jesus had described as the way to follow him. The disciples were following the common understanding of group status: to honor the influential and those who seem to contribute the most. Jesus points to the opposite: he honors the vulnerable, the "least" in the community; in this case, a child. And he honors those who welcome the child.

Mark was addressing his own community in the early Church, who were seeking to learn how to live their faith. His questions may be important for us too. Who is honored in our faith community, and why? How do we honor those whom we set as examples? Who benefits from this different kind of "greatness"?

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS

Twice in today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are reduced to silence. First when Jesus describes his future suffering and death, and again when caught in their argument about who is the greatest. Perhaps they were afraid to really understand his teachings because of what it might cost them. Maybe they were afraid of being seen as ignorant by Jesus and especially by each other. What if they had dared to admit their confusion and ignorance and asked Jesus hard questions? Would Jesus have welcomed them?

Jesus presents a child who is to be welcomed and embraced. The child sets an example: it is the child who knows that he or she doesn't know. The child is free to ask "childlike" questions, and is open to answers. What if, in the intimacy of our prayer, we asked Jesus our own hard, embarrassing questions: about life, about ourselves and our relationships, about God? How might our relationship with God then change?

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SCHOOL NEWS

Mrs. Seubert's 2nd/3rd grade class created beautiful fall artwork for our school hallway.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."



Eucharistic Adoration Experiencing the Eucharist as a Community

The Eucharist draws each of us closer to Christ as individuals, but also as a community. As Catholics, we never really worship alone. At the Eucharistic Liturgy, we gather with the young and old, the rich and poor, as well as millions around the world and the saints in heaven, to celebrate Christ's sacrifice. This powerful reality reminds us, in the words of John Paul II: "A Truly Eucharistic community cannot be closed in upon itself;" rather the Eucharist challenges us to recognize our place within a community and the human family.-USCCB




St. John the Baptist Christmas Bazaar SAVE THE DATE-Sunday, November 28, 2021

Please save the date and make plans to join us for our chili lunch and Christmas Bazaar. We will have some great raffle prizes including basket raffles, as well as a great lunch, and fellowship. It will all start with Mass at 11:00 AM! So save the date, and watch the bulletin for more details coming soon.



saint snippets



Pray, hope,
and don't worry.

St. Pio of Pietrilecina
20th-century Capuchin friar, priest and mystic who bore the stigmata. Countless healings and miracles have been attributed to his intercession.

September 23

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FOLLOWING JESUS

Wednesday September 22nd—

5:30PM—Grade K—5 student session

6:30PM—EDGE Grade 6—9

6:30PM—PURPOSE Grade 10

Wednesday September 29th—

Grade K—5 At Home Session

EDGE & PURPOSE OFF

Wednesday October 6th—

5:30PM Grade K—5 Family Session

6:30PM—EDGE Grade 6—9

6:30PM—PURPOSE Grade 10

ABIDING TOGETHER PODCAST

Looking for a meaningful, funny, CATHOLIC, prayerful and information podcast meant especially for Catholic Women? Hosted by Sister Miriam, Michelle Benzinger, and Heather Khym, Abiding Together provides a place of connection, rest and encouragement for people who are on the journey of living out their passion and purpose in Jesus Christ.

It is one of my favorite podcasts!



REMINDER: 2nd grade parents! Our Mass of Enrollment will take place on Sunday September 26th at the 9:00AM Mass. We will have a parent meeting following Mass to discuss each Sacrament, important dates, etc. PLEASE JOIN US! Contact Kay Berg with questions!

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

For the 10th Grade Class

Will take place on Wednesday September 22nd after our Purpose session at 7:30PM in the Cafeteria. PARENTS AND STUDENTS should attend this meeting together. All your questions about Confirmation will be addressed at this meeting! Paperwork will also be handed out!



Marian Feast Days happen often! It is important to remember our Heavenly Mother and all she does for us to get our prayers to her son Jesus! October is the Month of the Rosary. A special way to pray to Mary for the month of October! Pray a family rosary!!



Sept. 19, 2021

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20 | Jas 3:16-4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I have a competitive nature. As an older runner, I strive to place high in my age group (maybe even pick off runners older than I one at a time as we near the finish of a race – of course, I can neither confirm nor deny that). Oh, to be first! There is nothing inherently wrong with healthy competition. However, constantly striving to be the “best” or the “first” in other areas of life – career, parenting, even holiness – can quickly lead to frustration and burnout. As the disciples jostled for “first place,” Jesus gently but directly corrected them: “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Like the Apostles, we tend to focus on our achievements as a measure of our worth, forgetting why we are here: to serve others. We can ask Jesus to help us gain the “wisdom from above” and the characteristics so beautifully described by Saint James: pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading today’s Gospel from Mark, I am struck by the image of Jesus embracing a child: “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.” Most of us picture our own children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, or nephews. Of course we would embrace them! However, Scripture scholars point out that for Jesus, the child symbolized the *anawim*, a Hebrew word for the poor, the lowly, the vulnerable, the oppressed. Picture, then, not just children but those we might be less eager to immediately embrace: ragged men on the corner, immigrants at the border, the neighbor’s son with schizophrenia, prisoners or ex-convicts. Jesus challenges us not to avert our eyes but to “embrace” them – whether that means offering a cup of coffee, becoming a pen pal, stopping to chat, or finding another way to accompany them. Scholars tell us that the *anawim* share a total dependence upon God, something we all have in common regardless of our life’s circumstances.

ACTIONS Seek “wisdom from above” at the beginning of each day. In the evening, reflect on the ways God has held you in his loving embrace through the kindness of others, moments in nature, simple pleasures. Say thank you.

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):

Michael Ravn	M/M Ed Strasser
M/M Michael Roets	Mrs. Janet Stockman
Catherine Robinson	Marlene Sufheimer
Tyler & Jessica Richard	M/M Martin Swan
Mrs. Kay Rice	Mrs. Kathleen Swope
M/M Stan Podgorski	M/M Christopher Resch
M/M Gregory Pleski	Mrs. Diane Samborski
Mrs. Melissa Porath	M/M John Rydeski
M/M Andrew Proulx	Mrs. Mary Ruprecht
Mrs. Marion Perkins	James Ruprecht
Christopher Renzelmann	Mark Raymer
M/M James Rell	Mrs. Michele Rathke
Mrs. Lisa Reindl	

Thank you to the Sportsmen Banquet Committee!

We want to thank the Sportsmen Banquet committee for their hard work organizing a great event of fellowship last Saturday. Not only did they raise funds for our parish, they also collected 1628 pounds of food for the Community Food Pantry of Merrill (picture on the left). Our heartfelt thanks go out to the committee members: Tom Huftel, Nancy & Chester Kwiesielewicz, Gene Pfantz, Dick Duginski, Mark Jahnke, Tim Fischer, Denise Latzig, Tom Leischer, Paul Wagner and Darrell Barker. Thank you also to the volunteers and Corporate Sponsors!



“I believe that life is valuable, even when it is unwanted, even when it is physically imperfect. I believe our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and the weak. And I believe our nation should set a goal that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law.”
-George W. Bush, June 7, 1999.



St. Francis Xavier Fall Festival

Saturday, October 16

Kids activities 1:00-3:30 PM

Mass 4:00 PM with special music

K of C Famous Grilled Chicken Dinner 5:00-until all are served.

Volunteers needed

1-3:30 PM

- Monitoring the kids area
- Setting up for dinner

5-7:30 PM

- Serving dinner/ clean up
- Email or call the parish office
To help.

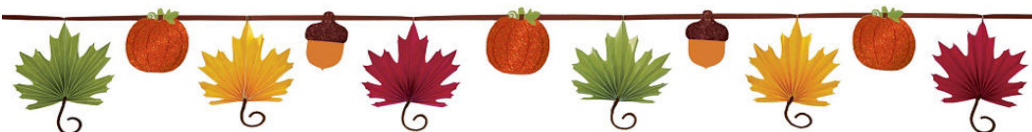
- Or Sign up to make a salad or dessert.

**PURCHASE YOUR
CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS**

\$8.00 each

\$15.00 Immediate Family

Please purchase your chicken dinner tickets ahead so we can properly plan for the dinner. Tickets are sold at the parish office, and also the SCRIP table at Mass.



Sept 19, 2021

WATCH

PADRE PIO BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Filmed on location in Italy, starring Michele Placido in a moving performance, this film tells the whole story of the beloved monk from San Giovanni Rotondo, a place where millions of pilgrims now annually visit Padre Pio's grave.



LEARN

FORMED FOR MISSION EPISODE 20: AN APOSTOLIC SPIRITUALITY

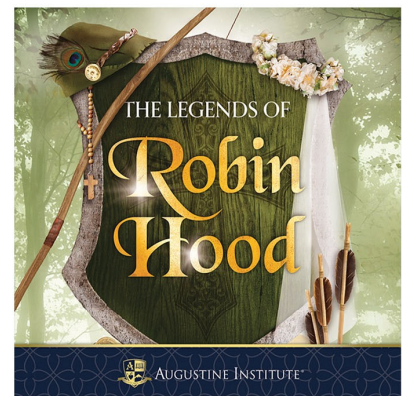


Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down for a weekly show on evangelization and mission. “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize” (EN, 14). We pray that these discussions may help all the faithful be further conformed to Christ and become powerful evangelists in the world today.

LISTEN

THE LEGENDS OF ROBIN HOOD AUDIO DRAMA

The child of a reputable family and a faithful son of the Church, Robert of Locksley had no intention of becoming an outlaw. But the relentless cruelty and tyranny by the elite nobility of England demanded that someone rise up to give answer. And so Robert of Locksley became Robin Hood – a man thrown into a fierce struggle to balance his deep faith with a call to action in a violent age.



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