

HOLY FAMILY Catholic Parish

506 N. BEAUMONT ROAD & 710 S. WACOUTA AVENUE, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN 53821

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Website: www.prairiecatholic.org

Rev. James C. Weighner, Pastor

Email: pastor@prairiecatholic.org

St. John Nepomuc

710 S. Wacouta Ave.

Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

Phone: 326-6511

Rectory Office Hours

8:00am to 4:00pm (Tuesday - Friday)

St. Gabriel Archangel

506 N. Beaumont Rd.

Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

Phone: 326-2404

Rectory Office Hours

8:00am to 4:00pm (Monday - Friday)

Holy Days

Mass times to be announced.

Baptism

Please call St. John's Rectory office.

Marriage

Please contact the parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding date.

Principal

Wade Marlow; Ph (608) 326-8624

Office Managers

Lana Gratace

Email: lgratace@prairiecatholic.org

Sandy Halverson

Email: sgb@prairiecatholic.org

Dir. of Grade School Religious Ed.

Pat Prochaska: ppccd@prairiecatholic.org

Parish Nursing Program

Rose Bauer, Shirley Cipra (326-8553)

April 24, 2016 - 5th Sunday of Easter

REV. JAMES C. WEIGHNER, PASTOR



5th Sunday of Easter

Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another." *Jn 13:33a, 34a*



St. Gabriel Archangel

HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR MAY 1

LeAnn Craig, Theresa Heal

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Laura Meyer, Kathy Schneider, & Don Cipra

Sunday 8:00 am Jeri Kluesner, Eileen Hermsen, Donna Steiner

SERVERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 4:00 pm John Titlbach & Gina Sebastian
Elizabeth Tesar & Katy Welsch

Sunday 8:00 am Chase & Madilyn Fisher
Allison Lindner & Scout Hall

LECTORS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Virginia Konichek

Sunday 8:00 am J. J. Jackson

USHERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Richard Steiner, Cliff Stram, Bob Ziel
& Volunteer

Sunday 8:00 am Jerry Matousek, Don Osterhaus, Dick Tesar & Butch Boland

SCRIP WORKERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Barb Welsch

Sunday 8:00 am Kevin & Jenni Campbell



St. John Nepomuc

HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR MAY 1

Chris Ingham, Mary Steiner, Donna Steiner

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Diane Steger

Sunday 10:00 am Doris Krogman, Karen Hertrampf,
Patty Schauf-Yager

SERVERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Sadie Koresh & Kierstyn Rogers
Kylie Kramer & Makayla Steger

Sunday 10:00 am Nicole Rickleff, Jon Nicholson, Brady Luster, & Matthias Gerhards

LECTORS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Rita Krahn

Sunday 10:00 am JWalkers

USHERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Don Roh, Bernie Mayer, Alex Schaefer, & Mark Forsythe

Sunday 10:00 am Cory Check, Christopher Check, Josh Lenzendorf & Mark Welter

SCRIP WORKERS-APRIL 30/MAY 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Andy & Melissa Banasik

Sunday 10:00 am Jeff & Jill Mara

WEEKEND MASSES: MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY REQUESTING THE MASS ARE ASKED TO BRING THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE TO THE ALTAR. PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES KNOWN TO THE USHERS AND SIT NEAR THE GIFTS. THANK YOU!



Tuesday, April 26	8:15 am	St. Gabriel's Church	† Harris & Leone St. Jacque
Wednesday, April 27	8:15 am	St. John's Church	† Al Duve
Thursday, April 28	8:15 am	St. Gabriel's Church	† Clem Stram
Friday, April 29	8:15 am	St. John's Church	† Connie Esser
Saturday, April 30	4:00 pm	St. Gabriel's Church	† Richard Cherrier
			60th Wedding Anniversary of John & Norma Gillitzer
	7:00 pm	St. John's Church	† Josh Warpinski
Sunday, May 1	8:00 am	St. Gabriel's Church	† Caroline Schmidt
	10:00 am	St. John's Church	For All Those Entrusted to Our Pastor

Practice makes (almost) Perfect!

I had heard that Sunday Mass is the highest form of prayer. Frankly, years ago that statement did not mean a lot to me as week after week I found myself distracted during Mass with various things. Without recognizing that I was becoming more and more preoccupied, one Sunday, as I was leaving at the end of Mass, I realized that I had not heard one word.

How is it possible to be completely distracted for a full hour? During that Sunday Mass, in which I was present physically but not mentally, I played an entire tennis match in my mind! However, what happened next is the interesting part. As I was walking up the aisle to leave Church, in midstep, I realized what had just happened. To become aware of the situation was a grace from God because who knows how long it had been going on. The good news was that I was truly convicted that I had to do something about it.

Thankfully, as I drove home and thought about it, I knew that I would not be able to pay attention during the whole Mass. As I had learned in my tennis training, I needed to start with a short amount of time in order to develop a habit. If I tried to commit to too much in the beginning, I would fail and then just give up. I also decided to choose a specific part of the Mass that I would work really hard in which to give my full attention. I probably didn't even know the different parts of the Mass at that time, but it occurred to me to listen to the priest's explanation of Jesus' words in the Bible readings.

One week later, I showed up for Mass a few minutes early so that I could ask God to help me listen attentively to the homily. It took effort but it worked, and after Mass, I was even able to remember what the priest said. It was a good start.

After a couple of months of repeating this each week, I decided to add a few more minutes to my goal of listening at Mass. The time was expanded to include the third reading, when the congregation stood up. As I got better at paying attention each Sunday to the description of the life and words of Jesus, I felt like I was coming to know Him. As time went on, hearing the readings and the explanation in the homily helped prepare me to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. And this led to talking with Him, person to Person, after I went back to my pew. Anything possible would still distract me, such as noticing a person's outfit or deciding that I liked the color of someone's tennis shoes. The only way to stay focused in this precious time after Holy Communion was to close my eyes and to practice thinking of nothing else but Jesus, speaking directly with Him as well as listening to Him. (continued on next column)

(cont. from previous column)

After several years, I expanded the time of listening to the opening and closing prayers that the priest prayed. I figured if the priest was praying this on behalf of me to God, I wanted to know what he was saying. What a treasure - these prayers are always beautiful and powerful and I want to receive their fruits.

Is everything smooth sailing now? No, but I have learned ways to avoid distractions, such as not "chasing" them. When I realize that I am distracted, I don't beat myself up for my weakness, nor do I continue with the distraction, but simply return my focus to the Lord in prayer. Practice, along with the help of God, makes perfect. This effort to listen and participate actively at Mass is so important because now I have a much fuller understanding that Holy Mass is the highest form of prayer.

-Ann Lankford

(Ann Lankford is the Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of LaCrosse)

PRAYER CORNER

God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities and those who have requested our prayers.

Please pray for: Eileen Sutton, Mary Ann Heisz, Jerry Matousek, LaVern Sutton, Janet Dickman, Peg Stoeffler, John Felder, Ann Fulcher, Nancy Patzner, Janelle Becwar, Michael Hinrich, William Blake, John & Cheyenne Messling, Earl Nye, Ethel Sebastian, Tara Pellock, Margaret Konichek, Geraldine Barr, Marguerite Begnoche, Bill McCoy, Edith Ritchie, Scott LaBonne, Debbie Eden, Ken Fleshner, Carrie Breuer, Graham Shedivy, Mary Gillitzer, Mark Janz, Lorna Porvaznik, John Rink, Dale LaBonne, Dallas Valley, Mary T. Shedivy, Lavon David, Diane Fernette, Joe Ludvik, Stacey Johnson, Bernie O'Connell, Frank Tiller, Carl Shedivy, Rosanna Mayer, Marilyn Rybarczyk, Pam Waller, Jackie Cherrier, Jennifer Gilman, Sara Breuer, Rose Miller, Annabelle Stubbe, Karen Carroll, Richard Ginsterblum, Letty Oehler, Howard Gillitzer, Art & Celine Boxrucker, Nora Vickerman, Dave Bohnenkamp, Ed Rocksvold, Cecil Olson, Mary Kann, Herb Schneider, Eugene Gillitzer, Barbara Schwant, Tyler Gillitzer, Anita Steger, Lynette Reichmann, Janet Beinborn, Scott Plondke, Richard Gillitzer, Gerald Stram, Joe Barrette, Sally Ann White, Scott Sklenar, Shirley Ambrose, Don McFarland, Vickie Samples, James Thompson, Nancy Aschom, Phyllis Waller, Jack Dahl, Joan Sheckler, Sandi Herreid.

If you have a special intention or loved one who is in need of prayers; please let us know as we can include them.

4a **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

SENIORS RECOGNITION MASS: SUNDAY MAY 1 10:00 AM MASS

SAINTS GOLF OUTING: MAY 7th: A great opportunity for fun and fellowship for all, from the almost professional to the novice. Our annual golf outing has something for everyone with various events. There will be a 4 person team best shot event along with a family / fun event for those that would like to come out and enjoy a beautiful day with family and friends. The best shot event will be 18 holes, while the family event will be 9 holes. See the flyers that will be up soon in the churches and on our web site for details, and make plans to come out and join us for a great day outdoors.

CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 6:00 PM Bishop Callahan will be here to confirm 22 of our young men and women.

BOHEMIAN DINNER MAY 15: Make plans to join Holy Family Parish for our annual Bohemian dinner at St. John's Church. This event will take place at the new parish fellowship hall following the 10:00 am Mass, and is a much anticipated annual event for many.

Reminder....Our Scrip Gift Cards make great gifts for any occasion. Birthdays, weddings and soon graduations will be upon us. Why not purchase a Scrip Gift Card? Give the gift that will not be returned.

IN SYMPATHY

Please remember **Dale L. Konichek, Edward J. Prew and William L. Rice** in your prayers. Dale's funeral was held on Wednesday, April 13th; Edward's funeral was held on Monday, April 18th and William's funeral was held on Tuesday, April 19th. May God grant them eternal life and comfort to their families.

CONFESSIONS

St. Gabriel's 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm on Saturday
 St. John's 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on Saturday

No scheduled confessions on days with weddings or funerals.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

4b

Sunday, April 24

Monday, April 25

Tuesday, April 26

3:30 pm Mass at Prairie Maison

Wednesday, April 27

6:45 pm CCD classes at St. John's School

Thursday, April 28

Adoration after the 8:15 am Mass St. Gabriel's
 Benediction at 1:00 pm

Friday, April 29

Saturday, April 30

Sunday, May 1

9:00 am Coffee & Rolls after the 8:00 am Mass in St. Gabriel's School Hall; plus drawing for the Sweepstake Calendars & Holy Name Raffle

10:00 am Seniors Recognition Mass at St. John's Church

Please join us in observing First Saturday Devotions as Our Lady requested at Fatima in order to obtain peace for the world. On Saturday,

May 7, 2016, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Father Jacinto M. Chapin, F.I., will give a presentation on one of the mysteries of the Rosary. His talk will begin at 11:15 am in the Shrine Church, followed by the Holy rosary at 11:45 am and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:15 pm. Confession will be available from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm and also following the 12:15 pm Mass.

PARISH SUPPORT

	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes for April 17th	\$5,393.00	\$6,262.00
Plate for April 17th	705.25	713.20
Total	\$6,098.25	\$6,975.20

The second collection came to \$730.00 and will be used for Prairie Catholic School and our Religious Education Program expenses.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SCHOOL NEWS

....The annual Diocesan Religious Testing results have arrived and the results are very positive. The tests are administered to the 4th and 8th graders. The 4th grade excelled in the sub-categories of "God" and "Christian Life." The 8th grade excelled in many of the sub-categories but highs were in "Sacraments" and "Scripture." The 4th grade scores were very comparable to the diocesan averages and the 8th grade scores were well above diocesan averages.