

We are a Eucharistic Community called together to celebrate our Catholic faith. As a welcoming community of God, our mission is to provide an environment that enriches our spiritual, personal and social growth through prayer, education, outreach and fellowship.

- Joint Parish Mission Statement



WITH PASTORAL CARE OF:

Saint Boniface

105 CHURCH STREET LIME RIDGE, WISCONSIN Saint Patrick Loreto

S8280 COUNTY ROAD G PLAIN, WISCONSIN Saint John the Baptist Mill Creek

6494 COUNTY HIGHWAY H ARENA, WISCONSIN

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are almost at the six month mark of *Into* the *Deep*, our Diocesan-wide strategic planning initiative to move our parishes from maintenance to mission. Fr. Kumud and I

have been very blessed by your receptive response of this initiative. I'm sure there are lingering doubts and questions--I would hope that there would be! So please don't hesitate to bring those to my attention. Beginning on December 21st I will begin meeting with the Pastorate Transition Team on a monthly basis. This team is replacing our pastoral councils and will help guide me through the next six months of transition. Our finance councils and all other councils and committees will continue to meet as usual.

The first level of merger will happen on the "canonical" level--this means St. Luke's Parish, St. John's Parish and parts of Holy Angels (Loreto and Lime Ridge) and Holy Cross (Mill Creek) will officially merge into a new parish. This new parish will have a new name which our transition team will begin to discuss on December 21st. After coming up with a list of names and explanations of why the names are fitting, we will send out a survey to the parish. After consulting the survey and the transition team, I will submit three names to the Bishop on February 15th. The Bishop will then choose a name for our new parish. We can expect to know our new name sometime next spring. Civilly and financially our parishes will still function as they are now. Eventually a civil and financial merger will take place, most likely 12-18 months from now. Regarding the schools, the names will still remain St. Luke's School and St. John's School. We will have one parish and two schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

May God bless you this Advent season with Hope in the Coming of the Lord.

in prayer, Fr. Luke

Pastorate Six Transition Team Members:

Tonya Anderson, Adam Schloesser, Dave Mack, Sheley Scallon, Howard Marklein, Terrie Feigl, Eric Ruhland, and Tommy Brennan

I include below a few FAQ's which I think you will find most helpful:

Will my Church close?

Nothing has been decided about particular churches or other buildings yet, and when decisions about these are made they must be made at the local level, per Vatican directives. Following the implementation of pastorates in July of 2023, parishes within each pastorate will work together so that by the summer of 2024 they are merged into a single new canonical parish. After these mergers and the formation of these new canonical parishes, each parish will then have to prayerfully and prudently discern at the local level which of their church buildings and/or other facilities are needed and/or helpful in their proclaiming and living out the Gospel and the mission of the Church. And they will also have to work together to unify their various programs, activities, leadership groups, etc., with the goal of building a stronger Catholic community together than if they were to have remained apart.

If it is determined by a particular parish (that is, by the Pastor/ Administrator in consultation with parish leadership groups), after considering other available options that one or more of their buildings would be a grave burden and should no longer be used (without causing harm to the good of souls), then they will seek the Bishop's permission (after due consultation) and receive guidance about how to properly close/repurpose/sell the respective building(s). Following church law, any money that is received from the sale of a building will remain locally with the parish to be used at their discretion for overall parish needs, such as in the service of evangelization, discipleship, and mission. Despite what people often think, the diocese does not receive this money.

What will happen to my parishes money?

Starting in July of 2023, parishes within each pastorate will start to work together and make plans to merge into a new single canonical parish by the summer of 2024. Once these mergers are complete, all assets and liabilities from the individual parishes will merge and belong to the new canonical parish that is formed (as directed by canon law). Funds legitimately restricted by donor intent will remain restricted for that donor's purpose. The new parish will then have one budget and one Finance Council to serve the entire community. Also note, church law prohibits the diocese or anyone else from taking any of these assets. Instead, they are to remain with the new parish to be used at their discretion and for the good of their local community.

We are profoundly grateful for the sacrificial gifts and generous financial support that you and/or your family have provided to your parish over the years. This generosity mirrors the generosity of God the Father and is a mark of true Christian faith and discipleship.

THE LIGHTS THIS WEEK BURN FOR ...

St. John's Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Marlene Palan



St. Luke's Sanctuary Lamp

> In Memory of Elmer Soeldner

> > &

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard 30 minutes before each Weekend Mass St. Luke ~ 3:30 PM Saturday & 9:30 AM Sunday St. John ~ 5:00 PM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday St. Patrick ~ 7:00 AM Sunday St. Boniface ~ 8:30 AM First Saturday of the Month



PRAY FOR THE SICK SUFFERING

Dale Mueller (husband of Diane Mueller), Shelly Alt, Tom Rieder, Michael Whitcomb, Mickey Snyder, Tony Anday, Doug Schmitz, Dave Schoenmann,

Serene Zwettler, Lexi Norton, Kelly Feiner, Roger & Mary Pascavis, John Johnson, Miles Bishop, and Cyndi Anliker.

For those who have died: Bill Gruber, Randy Prem and Monica Radel.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR PASTORATE 6

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 ~ St. Damasus I, Pope 8:30 AM Mass at St. Luke for Wayne "Buzzy" Bindl †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:30 AM Mass at St. John for Duane A. Meixelsperger † 5:15 PM Mass at St. Luke for Charlie & Sally Ruhland †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 ~ St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:30 AM Mass at St. John for Tim Schoenmann †

10:45 AM Mass at St. Luke for Clem & LaVerne Thering †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 ~ St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Mass at St. Luke for Kenny Volk †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

8:30 AM Mass at St. John for Athleen Haas †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

4:00 PM Mass at St. Luke for the People of Pastorate 6 5:30 PM Mass at St. John for Harlan & Florence Sprecher †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick for Pete Hess †

8:30 AM Mass at St. John for Norm & Louise Kraemer †

10:00 AM Mass at St. Luke for John and Michael Hill and Bill and Gary Weiss †

WEEKLY CALENDAR PASTORATE 6

Sun: Fr. Luke Class on Holy Eucharist at St. Luke

~ 5:00 PM Holy Hour ~ 6:00 PM Class

Wed: Adoration at St. John, 7:00 AM (note day change)

Prink the Word at St. John, 9:15AM

1st Reconciliation Retreat, St. John Church, 6:00 PM

Thurs: Adoration at St. Luke, 7:00 AM

KC Meeting at St. John, 7:00 PM

Fri: Schloesser/Anzo Wedding Rehearsal at

St. Luke, 5:00 PM

Sat: Confessions at St. Luke, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Luisa Schloesser & Felix Anzo Wedding at

St. Luke, 12:00 PM

Bake Sale at St. John, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Sun: Bake Sale at St. John, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

DIOCESE OF MADISON

Sacred Music at the Oratory 2023-2024 Season

Sunday, December 17, 2023

A Service of Lessons and Carols

featuring music of Handel, Carter, Nestor, Vaughan Williams, and Victoria (Diocesan Choir and Chamber Orchestra)

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Solemn Choral Vespers for Palm Sunday

featuring "Ad Manus" from Buxtehude's "Membra Jesu Nostri" (Diocesan Schola and Consort)

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Solemn Choral Vespers and Concert

(Diocesan Choir)

All events are at 4:00 PM in Holy Name Oratory, Madison.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SAT., DEC 16	4:00 PM ST. LUKE	5:30 PM ST. JOHN
Sacristan	Gwen Kraemer	Alice Bindl
Lector	Rebecca Johnson	Jeanine Radel
Ushers	Gary Mueller Donna Ochsner Carly Kraemer Zach Thomas	Pat Slaney Robert Baird
Servers	OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN

SUN., DEC 17	7:30 AM ST. PATRICK	8:30 AM ST. JOHN	10:00 AM ST. LUKE
Sacristan	Sheila Drea	Mary Lynn Johnson	Marty Gates
Lector	Lenny Schaub	Jan Joyce	Ann Nelson
Greeter			Doug Schmitz
Ushers	Doug Faber Brian Faber	Allen DeSchepper Jeff Johnson	Chuck Fenske Vicki Fenske Bev Eberle OPEN
Servers	Braysen Boland Hewsten Boland	Isaac Limmex Eli Limmex	Isaac Faber Bransyn Eberle



Bless Our Priests Collection Envelopes

Make sure to remember the retired priests of our diocese by making a gift to the Bless Our Priests collection. This collection directly supports all retired priests of the Diocese of Madison welfare including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Please return your gift in the envelopes that are attached to this bulletin or were included in your bulletin last weekend. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!

LUCKY LUKE CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS:

November 27 - December 3: David M. Ederer, Buzz Jewell, Beau Kraemer, Karen Wittmann, Ryder Kanable, Pat & Kathy Nachreiner, and Kate Bruckner-Streber. All are \$50 Winners!

Ruhland and crew, Hal and Logan Ruhland, for taking down the trees near St. Luke's front parking lot that were in need of removal. Also to Jeff and Jed Scallon for hauling the wood away!!

ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 19: Christmas Program, 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM **DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 2:** Christmas Vacation



JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND "LIGHT

FUTURE" TREE ~ St. John's School is having "Light of the Future" tree to benefit the greeting area and will be lit on Christmas Eve. Lack Christmas Eve. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ~ St. Luke School's

20. Please find forms on the table in back of church to list names There will be an afternoon performance at 1:30 There will be an afternoon performance at 1:30 collection basket at church. Please mark the envelope "St. John's 11PM and an evening performance at 6:30 PM. School - Light of the Future Tree."

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ~ The students and Mrs. Voegeli i told by St. Luke School students. have been working hard on this year's Christmas Program. It will be performed this year in the church with performances at 1:30 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT DAYS ~ St. Luke students will be PM and 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 19th. Please keep in 11 mind that the afternoon program will probably offer better seating in Christmas vacation by dressing up for Christmas: with fewer people in attendance.

HOME & SCHOOL BAKE SALE ~ There will be a Home & School Bake Sale before and after both performances of this! year's Christmas Program on December 19th. Donations would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at church that! morning.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ St. John's students will be participating in reenacting the Christmas Story at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. John's.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

See for yourself all the great things happening at St. John's School by visiting our website at www.stjohns-springgreen.org or by liking our Facebook page - St. John the Evangelist School Spring Green, WI.



On December 16th and 17th St. John's will host a bake sale. Those with last names beginning with L-Z are asked to make baked goods or monetary donations. We look forward to many wonderful treats!



Is your marriage prepared to be blessed by the Lord? We invite you to prepare to have the best marriage ever encounter by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Jan 26-28 in Brookfield, WI; Feb. 9-11,

2024 in Geneva IL; March 9-10 in Wisconsin or April 27-28, 2024 in Mundelein, IL. For more info go to: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

ST. LUKE SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 13: School Mass

DECEMBER 18: Christmas Program, 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM **DECEMBER 20:** School Mass: last day before break



BRIGHT LIGHTS ~ Reserve a light for yourself or a special person, living or deceased, to shine bright on the

school's Endowment Fund. Lights for the tree Christmas trees surrounding the Nativity scene in front of St. Luke may be purchased for \$2.00 each in Church during the Christmas season. Each light purchased is \$2.00 remembrance of family and friends, living and land will go toward the St. Luke School Endowment. Turn in your deceased. The tree will be set up in the church i forms by December 20. Thank you for your continuous support!

> Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy some wonderful music and hear the Christmas story as



showing their holiday spirit the last couple of weeks before

- *Monday, December 11: "Ugly Sweater Day" wear your ugliest Christmas sweater.
- *Tuesday, December 12: "Christmas Hat Day" wear your favorite Santa/reindeer/Christmas hat.
- *Wednesday, December 13: School Mass wear Mass attire; eat lunch with your school family.
- *Thursday, December 14: "Christmas Color Day" Wear Christmas colors...red, green, white
- *Friday, December 15: "Pajama Day" Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas.
- *Monday, December 18: Christmas Program
- *Tuesday, December 19: Caroling
- *Wednesday, December 20: School Mass; Classroom Christmas parties.

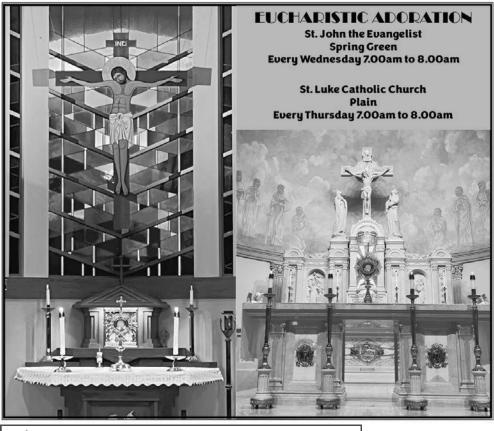
DOYOURCHRISTMASSHOPPINGTHROUGHTHESCHOOLSTORE~ You can support St. Luke School while shopping. Simply go to Schoolstore.com, enter our school name, St. Lukes Catholic School, and click the tab under the blue SchoolStore banner that says "Merchants". Choose the merchants that you would ! like to shop with either by category or alphabetically with the drop down bar on the left. Once you click the merchant, you will be redirected to that merchant's actual website. A portion of the money you spend will automatically be sent to St. Luke School. You need to go through the Schoolstore.com portal for St. Luke's to get credit. Happy Shopping!

ST. LUKE CLOTHING SALE ~ St. Luke's Home & School Association is sponsoring an online clothing sale of St. Luke apparel and Little Luke apparel. Items may be ordered online and will be delivered to St. Luke's in time for Christmas. Orders are due by this ! Monday, December 11. If you have any questions please call the school office. To place an order use the following link: https://stlukeplain.itemorder.com/

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST SCHOOL HAPPENINGS AND "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK! Visit our Facebook page at St. Luke's Catholic School, Plain, WI. Check out our website at www.stlukes-plain.org.

ST. LUKE FISH FRY NEWS

Circles 1, 2, 8 & 12 are scheduled to work for the February 2, 2024 visit https://www.signupgenius.com/ fry. Please go/10C0A49A4AC2BA5F94-46672945-february#/





ST. VINCENT DePAUL River Valley Conference Recruitment Weekend

On the weekend of December 9-10, after each Mass at St. John and St. Luke, SVPD Vincentian Leaders, Joan and Rick Zahalka, will share information about the service provided for neighbors in need in the River Valley area this past year. Through your generosity and support, we were able to help many individuals and families.

Volunteerism is at the heart of the Society of SVDP and our Catholic faith. Vincentians will be in the back of church with signup sheets for various projects and to answer your questions. Any assistance you can offer in the coming year would be appreciated. The Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness, and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Contact Joan (651-324-3068) or Rich Zahalka (715-415-1593) with any questions.



Deepen Your Faith with the Catholic Herald Issue for December 14, 2023

This week's issue of the *Catholic Herald* includes a special Senior-Retirement section filled with content geared specifically toward older adults.

Learn more about your Catholic faith by reading the *Catholic Herald*. If you do not subscribe but wish to receive the *Catholic Herald* print or e-edition in your home, contact your parish office.



"Parish Rosary Program"
(All parishes of Pastorate 6)

Combined Weekly Total: 173
Running Grand Total: 8,416

We would like to ask parishioners of ALL five churches to put your rosary counts into the collection baskets at the weekend Masses!



Anyone who would like to sing with the adult choir on Christmas is welcome to join us for our Tuesday evening rehearsals from 6-7:30PM at St. John. We will be singing at the 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Luke, and the 10am Mass at St. John on Christmas Day. If you would like to sing with us, but cannot attend the Tuesday rehearsals,

please contact the church office and our director will find a way to get the music to you, along with some means of learning your part at home.



St. John's will be decorating for Christmas after the 8:30 AM Mass on December 17th, 2023. **St. Luke's** will decorate for Christmas on December 22nd, at 1:00 PM. Please join us in preparing the church for this most blessed time of year! Thank you.





As we come to the end of the calendar year, December 31, THANK YOU for your contributions and your support of St. John, St. Luke

and St. Patrick churches, schools and ministries! A reminder that if a donor (parishioner) wishes to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes, then the donor must relinquish control of the funds before it is technically a contribution. If you wish to have your donations counted in 2023, please make sure they reach the parish offices or put in the collection basket by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31. God bless you!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

St. John's (Week 23)		Church		Maint.
Weekly Envelope Goal	\$	7,925.00	\$	577.00
Dec 2/3 Actual	\$	5,189.00	\$	300.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$	2,496.00	\$	45.00
Difference:	-\$	240.00	-\$	232.00
Envelope Goal YTD	\$	182,275.00	\$	13,271.00
YTD Total to Dec 3	\$	135,066.00	\$	5,102.00
Difference	-\$	47,209.00	-\$	8,169.00

Give Your "First Fruits"

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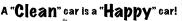
Would you prayerfully consider treating St. Luke/St. John Parish as one of your children in your will/estate planning?

Call Parish Office for details.

St. Luke's (Week 23)		
Total Weekly Goal	\$	7,405.00
Dec 2/3 Actual	\$	3,624.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$	2,500.00
Difference:	- \$	1,281.00
Total Goal YTD	\$	170,315.00
YTD Actual to Dec 3	ψ Ψ	131,370.00
	<u> </u>	20.045.00
Difference	- \$	38,945.00

*This now includes weekly envelopes and weekly offertory basket collection!!

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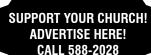


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ST. JOHN MASS: Saturday 5:30pm & Sunday 8:30am

ST. JOHN OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Office	588-2028
Parish Fax	588-2648
Parish Email	barb.ferguson@pastorate6.org
Website	www.stjohnspringgreen.com
Parish Center/Kitchen	588-2229
Pastoral Council Preside	ent: Dave Mack459-0680
St. Vincent de Paul Rive	er Valley Conference 546-2482

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

School Office	588-2021
School Websitehtt	p://stjohns-springgreen.org
School Principal: Allison Stroud	588-2021

ST. JOHN CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Ro.	ger Kolan	588-2103
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ST. LUKE MASS: Saturday 4:00pm & Sunday 10:00am

ST. LUKE OFFICES

Rectory/Parish Off	ice546-2482
Parish Fax	546-2616
Parish Email	heather.faber@pastorate6.org
Website	. www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com
Church Kitchen	546-2800
Pastoral Council Pr	esident: Bruce Culver544-5813
St. Vincent de Paul	River Valley Conference 546-2482
Little Luke Daycare	546-2963, ext. 316

ST. LUKE SCHOOL

School	546-2963
School Website	http://stlukes-plain.org
School Principal: Dia	ne Mueller546-2963

ST. LUKE CEMETERY

Cemetery Sexton: Bob Schweiss....... Cell: 608-963-8163

Saint

105 Church Street Lime Ridge, WI 53942

Saint Patrick Loreto

S8280 County Road G Plain, WI 53577

Saint John the

6494 County Highway H Arena, WI 53503

MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am

MASS: Sunday 7:30am

MASS: First Saturday Mass 9:00am

St. Patrick's and Our Lady of the Fields Shrine Cemetery Sexton: Doug Faber

(May-October)

JOINT STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

PASTOR: Fr. Luke Syse 546-2482 / 588-2028 / Cell: 636-4337

fr.luke.syse@pastorate6.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Kumud Chandra Nayak 546-2482 / 588-2028

fr.kumud.nayak@pastorate6.org

1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577 1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577 michaeldavidson84@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Michael Davidson 588-2028 / 546-2482

SCHEDULING EVENTS

All parish activities or meetings need to be scheduled on the parish calendar. Please call the parish office.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Wednesday - Noon

MINISTERIO HISPANO / HISPANIC MINISTRY

Padre Luke Syse se habla espanol Puedes llamarlo a 608-636-4337

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish family. Please stop by or call the parish office for information about registering as parish members.

SACRAMENTS

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is offered 30 minutes before every scheduled mass.

MARRIAGE

To schedule a wedding date, call the parish office. The common policy of the Diocese of Madison requires a 6-month minimum notice. We strongly recommend at least one year in advance.

BAPTISM

Baptism dates are arranged through the parish offices. First time parents are required to attend a baptism preparation program before the baptism of their child. Please call the parish office for more information.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

We are happy to bring Holy Communion to those confined to their homes. Please notify the parish office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Individual celebrations can be arranged by calling the parish office.

OCIA (FORMERLY RCIA)

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. Please contact Marie Lins at 608-469-3982 or marie.lins@madisondiocese.org.