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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
In the Gospel passage from St. Matthew, St. John the Baptist declares, among other things, “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.” Isn’t that a sign to us of what Advent means to us? Are you familiar with roads in the world that are filled with curves and hills? Depending on your age, you may be familiar with efforts to straighten those roads, perhaps even to build tunnels through those hills, so the journey is less treacherous and threatening.

That is part of our goal during Advent. With the coming of Christ imminent we want to work to rid our lives of the hills, valleys, curves, and twists in our lives. The readings on this Second Sunday of Advent speak of endurance and persistence to accomplish that.

The imagery found in the First Reading from Isaiah is rich and vivid and with much meaning. It opens with “On that day, a short shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” This is, of course, as Isaiah is wont to do, a reference to the Messiah, to the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is an interesting word picture. There is a bare and withered tree stump. It would seem that the stump will never again bear fruit, never again blossom in any way. Suddenly from the stump appears a small shoot which will grow and flourish.

Jesse was the father of King David, but the reading does not emphasize David. When Christ was born, as we all know, there was nothing royal about the birth or about the legacy it would produce and leave. Christ came from humble beginnings and that is part of this message.

Our Second Reading is drawn from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans. Within that reading Paul speaks of glory and praise and by implication from those — joy. Those are words we associate with this time of year, are they not? Next weekend, the Third Sunday of Advent, is a time when we emphasize that joy we should be feeling and anticipating. However, as part of our Advent journeys we need to seek that sense of gladness now.

The way to do that is by emulating Christ, by reaching out to one another, by welcoming one another, just as Christ reaches out to us and welcomes us. How carefully do we really consider this sense of gladness at this time of year? It is more than anticipation. It is the hope of Christ’s promises and what His Coming truly means to us.

An entire reflection might be written on any one of several sentences and phrases from today’s Gospel Reading from St. Matthew. Consider these examples: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” or “…a voice of one crying out in the desert” or “I am baptizing you with water…but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It all comes down to the fact that John the Baptist is a witness for Christ. He is the kind of disciple we need to be. Witnessing is an important part of stewardship, and it is something we all need to practice and be willing to do. St. John the Baptist was more than an effective witness, however; you might say that John was a living witness because of how he lived; the way he lived made people pay attention to him. He is incredibly real—the way he dresses, what he eats, the way he lives.

In the same way we are called to witness as John did, with our very lives. What people perceive us to be as Catholics and Christians is the most important stewardship witness we can offer. This Advent season is the time for us to make that commitment, that conversion. Like John we need to do more than preach the message; we need to be the message. Our beliefs, our faith, and our actions must always reflect that.

---

Preserve OUR PAST, Build OUR FUTURE Capital Campaign Pledges as of 12/4/2019

St. John’s - $555,035  St. Luke’s - $1,189,695

Bless Our Priests Collection for Diocesan Retired Priests - Make sure to remember the retired priests of our diocese by making a gift to the Bless Our Priests Collection. This collection is used to directly support all retired priests’ welfare, including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Please return your gift in the envelope attached to this bulletin. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese! Thank You.

Welcome to our new members in 2019: St. Luke’s: Robert & Gail Potts
MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR
ST. LUKE/ST. JOHN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019
   No Mass at either Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019
   8:30 AM—Mass at St. Luke’s for Ernest Floerke

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
   8:30 AM—Mass at St. John’s for Delores Craton
   9:30 AM—Mass at The Meadows for Cletus & Elsie Haas
   10:00 AM—Word & Communion at Greenway Manor (Rita Brey)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
   8:30 AM—Mass at St. Luke’s for Louis Wankerl

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
   8:30 AM—Mass at St. John’s for John Litviak, Sr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019
   4:00 PM—Mass at St. Luke’s for George Liegel
   5:30 PM—Mass at St. John’s for Ruth Stoddard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019
   8:30 AM—Mass at St. John’s for Richard, Imelda & Michael Compty

CONFESSIONS

Next Reconciliation will be December 14 at St. Luke’s, 3:30 PM and December 15 at St. John’s, 8:00 AM. Please call either parish office to schedule an appointment.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SAT., DEC. 14  4:00 PM  ST. LUKE  5:30 PM  ST. JOHN
Sacristan        Lucille Herbrand        Jean Bindl
Leader of Prayer  Melissa Liegel        Sandy Paulsen
Lector           Mary Ann Liegel        Diane Baryenbruch
Euch. Min.  (Body of Christ)  Donna Ochsner  Mary Ann Liegel  John Dischler

USHERS
Rita Brey  Bill Bergman  Dan Bindl  Donna Ochsner
Steve Alt  Micah Kraemer  Rick Kraemer  Walt Liegel

GREETERS
Ushers        Steve & Trena Alt Family

CANTORS/MUSIC
Linda Paulus  Lisa Montelbano  Luci Ramthun  Michael Davidson

SERVERS
Ryan Wittman  Stephanie Limmex  Adriane Limmex

SUN., DEC. 15  8:30 AM  ST. JOHN  10:00 AM  ST. LUKE
SACRISTAN       Mary Lynn Johnson       Marty Gates
LEADER OF PRAYER Jan Joyce              Ray Ring
LECTOR          Andy Sgrignoli          Jim Moody
EUCH. MIN. (BODY OF CHRIST)  Dan Joyce  Jacqui Cavagnetto  Ray Ring  Patty Knoll

USHERS
Jeff Johnson  Brett Baryenbruch  Ralph Liegel  Matt Limmex  Chuck Fenske  Vicki Fenske  Norm Ruhland  Douglas Schmitz

GREETERS
Howard Murphy  Darlene Murphy
Ushers

CANTORS/MUSIC
Adult Choir  Michael Davidson  Meg Aspinwall  Michael Davidson

SERVERS
Preslee Montry  Marlianne Hagman  Daniel Yanke  Christine Yanke

ST. JOHN’S/ST. LUKE’S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun: Sanctus Meeting at St. Luke’s, 6:30 PM
   Communal Reconciliation Service at St. Luke’s, 7:00 PM
Tues: Adult Choir Rehearsal at St. John’s, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
   KC Meeting at St. John’s Parish Center, 7:00 - 10:00 PM
Wed: Religious Ed Classes at St. Luke’s, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Thurs: Christmas Program at St. Luke’s School, 1:30 & 6:30 PM
Sun: Sanctus Meeting at St. Luke’s, 6:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

♦ St. John’s School Christmas Program, Tuesday, Dec. 17th
♦ St. Luke’s Children’s Christmas Mass, Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 PM
♦ St. John’s Children’s Christmas Mass, Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6:00 PM
♦ St. Luke’s Christmas Eve Mass, Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 10:00 PM
♦ St. John’s Christmas Day Mass, Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 9:00 AM
♦ St. John’s Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Elmer Soeldner
♦ St. Luke’s Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Roberta Silva

OUR FEATURED BULLETIN SPONSOR THIS WEEK IS:
Willow Creek Flooring

Correction to Advent Information in last weekend’s bulletin. Christmas Eve Masses are on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Christmas Day Mass is on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Reading for the Third Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
These readings can be found in the back of the Gather book, #997
ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

Friday, December 13: 8:30 AM Mass planned by Grades K & 4
Monday, December 16: Making Gingerbread Houses at 2:15 PM
Tuesday, December 17: Christmas Program at 1:30 and 6:30 PM
Friday, December 20: 8:30 AM Mass planned by Grades 1 & 3
Tuesday, December 24: 5:45 PM Children reenact the Christmas Story: 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Children’s Mass

“Beneath a Shining Star” - This year’s Christmas program, “Beneath a Shining Star”, will be performed in the church on Tuesday, December 17th at 1:30 & 6:30 PM.

“Light of the Future” Tree - St. John’s School is again having a “Light of the Future” tree to benefit the school’s Endowment Fund. Lights for the tree may be purchased for $2.00 each. The tree will be set up in the church greeting area and will be lit on Christmas Eve. The deadline for submitting names is Thursday, December 20. You may pick up a form at the Scrip table or the school office. A sheet of “gift cards” that you may enclose in greeting cards is also available. You may also print a copy from our school website, www.stjohnsspringgreen.org. Please put your completed form along with $2.00 per name in the collection basket or deliver it to the school office. Please mark the envelope “St. John’s - Light of the Future Tree.”

“B” the Light - In memory and celebration of life for their precious Baby B, the Harris family has started a 50/50 raffle in support of St. John’s Elementary, St. Luke’s Elementary, and River Valley Elementary Schools. The money raised will be used to enhance safety measures in each school. There will be one winner for this raffle with a $1,000 minimum payout. The other half of the money will be divided equally between the elementary schools. Tickets can be purchased directly from the Harris family and are also available in the school office and from area businesses. The raffle drawing will take place on December 20th.

Do Your Christmas Shopping with SCRIP! - Gift cards make great Christmas gifts, & purchasing them through SCRIP will help our school! Gift cards for Target, Kohl’s, Walmart, Amazon.com, and area restaurants are usually in stock. We can order cards from many other stores and restaurants as well. You can now order all your SCRIP cards online at shopwithscrip.com. If you’re shopping in a store or online, SCRIP can be used to pay for your purchases, too. SCRIP is available at the pharmacy or at school during the week and after Mass on the weekends. For questions, please call the school at 588-2021.

Buy Your Christmas Tree with SCRIP! - We’re excited to announce a new local SCRIP retailer – Peck’s Farm Market East located at 6444 US Highway 14 between Spring Green & Arena. Gift certificates are now available in $25, $50, and $75 amounts and can be used on anything offered at the market. Apples, potatoes, onions, squash, & Christmas trees are now in season! St. John’s School will earn 5% profit through this program. THANK YOU to the Peck family!

Christmas Eve Mass - On Christmas Eve, a 6:00 PM Children’s Mass will be celebrated at St. John’s Church. Children from the parish may participate in the Mass and in the reading of the Christmas Story at 5:45 PM, just before Mass begins. We will have a practice at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 21 for those participating in the Christmas Story.

Thank You – to everyone who helped with the school booth at the craft fair during Christkindlmarkt.

GET YOUR TICKETS! – Tickets for the ’69 Chevelle are on sale at the School and Parish Offices. Tickets are also available at Ring’s Bar. Visit the school website, www.stlukesplain.org to see pictures of the car. There is 1 in 1000 chance to win!

ST. JOHN SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK...

Keller Stoddard – Grade 2

Congratulations to Keller Stoddard, this week’s ‘Star Student’! “I like learning cursive, math, and reading with Superkids. I like jumping rope in gym and painting in art. I also like typing in computer class.”

ST. LUKE’S SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK...

Liveah Thao – Grade 5

“I like St. Luke School. I like math class, eating lunch, and playing around on the playground. Friends are good here. Sometimes I forget the music teacher’s name but I like music class.”
**RELIgIOUS EDUCATION**

*Next Religious Ed Class*
Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 PM
at St. Luke’s for all 1st-8th Grades

Sanctus High School Ministry Open House
Sunday, December 8th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM
at St. Luke’s School Youth Room

**St. Vincent de Paul - River Valley Conference**

- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-River Valley Conference would like to THANK ALL parishioners who participated in our NOVEMBER donation drive! We delivered 3 truck loads to the Reedsburg SVDP. Since the response was so positive, we are offering PICK UPS on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of each month starting Dec. 18th between 10-2:00. Please call Denny Olson 608-588-2294 (24 hours in advance) to coordinate the pick up. Furniture, clothing and household goods are appreciated!
- Beginning December 5th we will be delivering groceries for shut-ins and/or Senior Citizens, purchased in advance from Hometown Supermarket on THURSDAYS. Order must be called in Thursday morning to the store (608-588-2155); Then contact Sharon May at 608-403-8067 and she will coordinate the delivery on Thursday afternoon. Payment can be by credit card to the store over the phone or EXACT cash/check upon delivery. Please have your order complete, as we cannot do revisions once the order is placed.
- On the weekend of December 15th our SVDP vincentians, will be in the back of church to answer questions about our SVDP parish ministry, invite new participants and also accept any end of year charitable donations. All resources are used directly in the River Valley community to assist our neighbors needing emergency food, clothing, rent & utility assistance. Please stop in the back of church and learn more about what we have accomplished in our first year!

“Let us love God, but let it be with the work of our hands and the sweat of our brows”. St. Vincent de Paul.

Contact Joan (651-324-3068) or Rick Zahalka (715-415-1593) for questions.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**LUCKY LUKE CALENDAR**

**RAFFLE WINNERS:**
Nov. 25 – Dec. 1: Lois Gruber, Gerald Liegel, Marlene Hess, Diane Brent, Mrs. Donald Thering, Lucille Herbrand, Helen Soeldner. All $50 Winners!

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA????**

*Spring Green Chamber’s Country Christmas* will be held Friday, December 6 - Sunday, December 15. On Saturday, December 7, enjoy Holiday shopping at local business, a Holiday Craft Sale at the High School, a Cookie Walk & Craft Show at the Spring Green Community Church, Breakfast with Santa at the Fire Station and more with Fireworks at 6:00 PM. Exciting events continue on Sunday and into the following weekend. Check out the Chamber’s website, www.springgreen.com for more info.

*St. Aloysius Home & School* is sponsoring Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 8 from 8:00AM to Noon at St. Aloysius School Gym, Sauk City. Cash Raffles and more.

*St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Loganville* - along with the Farmer Angel Network will be hosting #Farm Neighbors Care, on Wednesday, Dec.11 from 12:00 noon - 2:00 PM. Farmers, ag business people, and anyone interested in supporting the farming community are invited to join them for a light-hearted program featuring Ben Bromley. Soup & Sandwich lunch will be served.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

Donations are being accepted to offset the cost of Christmas flowers and decorations. You may donate in your name or in memory of a loved one. A specially marked envelope is in your box of yearly support envelopes. Please return your donations to the parish offices by December 20.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS ~**

- Purchase a Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one in 2020. Call either parish office to schedule. Cost is $20 for one week.

**Deepen Your Faith with the Catholic Herald - Dec. 12th**

Each week the Catholic Herald includes TV programs of note and movie reviews from the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Every week in her editorial, Catholic Herald editor Mary C. Uhler comments on local, national & international issues.

Thank you for the cards and best wishes on our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Special thanks to Fr. John for the blessing on our special day. ~ Ralph & Irene Frank

Sincere “thanks” to all who donated to and worked for the very successfully Cookie & Candy Walk last weekend at the Christkindlmarkt event in Plain. Part of the proceeds will benefit CCW charities. ~ St. Luke CCW

**St. John’s (Week 22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Envelope Goal</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Cap. Imp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,480.00</td>
<td>$538.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**St. Luke’s (Week 22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Envelope Goal</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Cap. Imp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,480.00</td>
<td>$538.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Give Your “First Fruits” Back to God!**

To Parish ……..5-8%
To Diocese………..1%
To Charities………..1-4%

**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.**

**Difference:**

St. John’s: $21,278.00
St. Luke’s: $2,944.00

**Envelope Goal YTD:**

| St. John’s | $120,560.00 |
| St. Luke’s | $143,286.00 |

**YTD Total to Dec. 1:**

| St. John’s | $113,995.00 |
| St. Luke’s | $122,008.00 |

**Difference:**

St. John’s: $6,585.00
St. Luke’s: $12,004.00

**ACH Weekly Average:**

| St. John’s | $1,926.00 |
| St. Luke’s | $1,203.00 |

**Difference:**

St. John’s: $723.00
St. Luke’s: $723.00
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

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

ST. JOHN OFFICES
Rectory/Parish Office ........................................ 588-2028
Parish Fax ...................................................... 588-2648
Parish Email ................................................. stjohnsprtnggreen@gmail.com
Website ......................................................... www.stjohnsprtnggreen.com
Parish Center/Kitchen ....................................... 588-2229
Pastoral Council President: Phil Limmex ............ 588-2820
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference ....... 546-2482

ST. JOHN SCHOOL
School Office .................................................. 588-2021
School Website .............................................. http://stjohnsprtnggreen.org
School Principal: Terrie Feigl .......................... 588-2021

ST. JOHN CEMETERY
Cemetery Sexton: Roger Kolan ......................... 588-2103

ST. LUKE MASS: Saturday 4:00pm & Sunday 10:00am

ST. LUKE OFFICES
Rectory/Parish Office ........................................ 546-2482
Parish Fax ...................................................... 546-2616
Parish Email ................................................. stlukesplain@charter.net
Website ......................................................... www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com
Church Kitchen ............................................... 546-2800
Pastoral Council President: Bruce Culver ............ 544-5813
St. Vincent de Paul River Valley Conference ....... 546-2482

ST. LUKE SCHOOL
School .......................................................... 546-2963
School Website .............................................. http://stlukesplain.org
School Principal: Diane Mueller ....................... 546-2963

ST. LUKE CEMETERY
Cemetery Sexton: Bob Schweiss ........................ 544-2603
Cell: 608-963-8163

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE
Wednesday - Noon

MINISTERZO HISPANO / HISPANIC MINISTRY
Padre Osvaldo Briones
obriones@slsonline.org  Phone: 608-643-2449 ext.234

PASTOR
Fr. John A. Silva
546-2482 / 588-2028
1270 Nachreiner Avenue, Plain, WI 53577

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Davidson
588-2028 / 546-2482
michaeldavidson84@gmail.com

COORD. OF REL. ED.
Ann Yanke
546-2963, ext. 317
ann.yanke@stlukespanplain.org

ST. LUKE SCHOOL
School .......................................................... 546-2963
School Website .............................................. http://stlukesplain.org
School Principal: Diane Mueller ....................... 546-2963

ST. LUKE CEMETERY
Cemetery Sexton: Bob Schweiss ........................ 544-2603
Cell: 608-963-8163

SACRAMENTS

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION
Private Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays at 3:30 PM before Mass at St. Luke’s and Sundays at 8:00 AM before Mass at St. John’s. Communal celebrations are scheduled during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Individual celebrations can be arranged by calling the parish office.

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

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