

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Cooks Valley Township – 4540 State Hwy. 40, Bloomer, WI

Web Site: <http://stjohns.bloomertel.net> – Mailing Address: 4540 State Hwy. 40, Bloomer, WI 54724

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. John The Baptist, Cooks Valley

Saturday, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul's, Bloomer

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

St. John The Baptist, Cooks Valley

Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m.
First Friday Mass, 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's, Bloomer

School Year:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday/Thursday–School Mass 8 a.m.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration begins immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass Thursday and ends with the 10:30 a.m. First Friday Mass.

To sign up for an hour with our Lord, contact Andy or Rita Shakal at 715-568-5243.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Please check bulletin

ROSARY

Recited every Sunday morning at 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples should contact the pastor **before** the wedding date is set. Allow eight months for preparation before the wedding date.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents must receive baptismal preparation prior to the baptism of their first child. Please contact the parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor – Fr. Victor Feltes

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Candyce Sarauer

For all sacramental or emergency needs,
please call Fr. Feltes at 715-568-3255.

e-mail: victorfeltes@gmail.com

TELEPHONE

St. John's – Cooks Valley 715-568-3778

Email..... stjohs@bloomer.net

St. Paul's – Bloomer 715-568-3255

PARISH COUNCIL

Finance

Not Yet Assigned

Liturgy

Kevin Butek 715-962-3433

Family Life/Social Justice

Jean Schindler-Family Life 715-962-3026

Christine Hall – Social Justice 715-568-4397

Buildings and Grounds

Ken Schmitt 715-568-5508

Education

Becky Paulson..... 715-568-5111

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY

President

Laurie Schmitt 715-568-5508

Vice President

Roxie Komanec 715-933-1793

Secretary

Kathy Heidtke 715-568-5083

Treasurer

Darla Lindahl 715-456-1463

MUSIC MINISTRY

Organist

James Willi.....715-864-5450

Choir Director

Christi Larson.....715-829-9269

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome all new parishioners! Please contact the parish office for registration.

BULLETIN DEADLINE is Wednesday 9:00 am. Call the parish office with bulletin information, 568-3778 or e-mail:

stjohns@bloomer.net

FREE CATHOLIC MINISTRY NATIONWIDE

1-800-627-7846 or www.masstimes.org to find out Mass times at a church near your travel destination.



Sat, July 20 Vigil: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 pm +Del Lynch
Sun, July 21 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 am +Eunice Steinmetz
Mon, July 22 St. Mary Magdalene
8:30 am +Sonny Swoboda
Thurs, July 25 St. James, Apostle
8:30 am +John and Mabel Thon
Sat, July 27 Vigil: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 pm St. John's and St. Paul's Parish Families
Sun, July 28 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 am +Bob Sobotta

Rosary is Recited Every Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m.
Easter candle is in memory of Harry Prince

Liturgy Schedule at St. John's

Saturday, July 27 - 8:00 pm

Servers: Michael, Dennis, and Tony Sonnentag
Lector: Patty Zwiefelhofer
Ushers: Junior Sonnentag and Doug Zwiefelhofer

Sunday, July 28 - 9:30 am

Servers: Gregory, Connor, and Isaac Quinn
Lector: Mary Eder-Kreye
Ushers: Brian Mitchell and Steve Eder
Rosary Leader: Andy Shakal
Collection Counters: Julie Yakesh and Kass Lofthus



Christian Giving - July 14

Adults	\$1,002.00
Offertory	151.32
Youth	0.00
Total	\$1,153.32

CCD Registration

CCD Registration letters for the 2024-25 session will be mailed out in early August. If your child is new to the CCD Program this year, please contact Becky Paulson to be added to the mailing list:
(715-829-2176) or stjohnsccd@bloomer.net

Sexton Still Needed

. Our parish seeks a sexton for our beautiful parish cemetery. Duties include locating/marketing graves/headstones, maintaining burial records, etc. Certain tasks include fees paid to sexton. Please contact our parish office, Fr. Feltes, or Ken Schmitt if interested.

Teen Week at St. John's July 28-31

Teen Week 2024 will be held at St. John's Catholic Church, July 28th - 31st (Sunday - Wednesday), 6:30 - 9 p.m. nightly. 7th Grade - Young Adults are invited (entering into 7th Grade, Fall of 2024). We will have games, campfires, and multiple speakers. Wednesday night is our final night, we will begin with Adoration (Exposition at 6:00 p.m.) & confession. Games, a pizza party, and a campfire will follow. Any questions, call Erin Borofka, [715-933-0139](tel:715-933-0139). Cost is free, no registration needed, bring your friends!

Fall Festival Meeting July 23rd

A meeting to discuss plans for our annual Fall Festival will be held this Tuesday, July 23rd, at 6:30 pm in the church basement. Activity chairs, please come to affirm you are on track and bring with you any questions you may have. Anyone else interested in helping in any way, please come and bring your ideas. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the meeting! The date of the Fall Festival this year is Sunday, September 8th.

Sojourner House

This Tuesday, July 23rd, is St. John's evening to serve at Sojourner House homeless shelter in Eau Claire. Sign-up sheets are in the entry for food items needed and for volunteers to go to the shelter that evening.

Weed Trimmer Position Open

The church and cemetery is in need of someone to trim the weeds. This is a paid position and open to anyone 18 years or older. If you think you would be interested in this seasonal position, please contact Ken Schmitt or the church office for more details.



Baptized in Christ

Sunday, July 14, 2024
Oliver Edward Gillitzer
Connor Coleman Gillitzer
Twin Boys of Brent and Heidi Gillitzer

Council Minutes Posted in Entryway

The Pastoral and Finance meeting minutes are posted in the entryway of the church for anyone who would like to read them. They can be found tacked at the bottom of the CCD bulletin board. Also there are the Altar and Rosary Society minutes. Keep in mind that the minutes are not posted until approved at the next month's meeting. Items on the agenda that are high priority are usually covered in the bulletin or during Father's homily. Feel free to keep up on happenings at St. John's and the Altar Society by taking a look at the minutes. You are encouraged to take a bulletin or read it on the website for further information that may arise.

Fall Festival Tickets Available in the Church Entryway

Thank you to the volunteers who came to the office to assemble the Fall Festival ticket packets. Each family has an envelope in the entryway with a letter from Fr. Feltes, raffle tickets, and the men's work schedule. Please stop by and pick yours up before leaving Mass. More tickets are available on the table if you want more.

A Beautiful Conversion Story

By Fr. Victor Feltes



How does a 15-year-old unbaptized Canadian girl, a practicing Wiccan with SSA, come to find a relationship with Jesus in his Catholic Church? For Elena Feick, one of next week's Teen Week speakers, her journey began when she sought to join a coven.

Elena used to meditate by herself, worshiping the five elements and a pagan goddess, but she longed for more community. One particular coven, before they would admit her, required that she research another religion besides Wicca first. Elena chose to read Christianity's Gospels thinking she would be able to easily dismiss them. However, to her surprise, "I just... believed them. I didn't want to. But when I got to Luke 11:9 ("And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you"), I realized I did believe. But I didn't like how the Christian God wasn't willing to share me with other 'gods' so I resisted for a long time." She still wanted to practice Wicca and worship a goddess yet she couldn't say she didn't believe in Christianity. So, instead of joining a coven, she joined the Unitarian Universalists (a creedless religious movement founded in 1961).

Elena's journey to God was then helped by another unlikely source: "Sex and the City." It was her favorite TV show as a teenager and her favorite character was Charlotte (played by Kristin Davis). In one episode, Charlotte converted to Judaism in hopes that her boyfriend would marry her. Elena was very disappointed in Charlotte, convinced that she had the ordering of things all wrong. "One's relationship with God should come before even romantic relationships," she thought. That's when Elena decided not to date anyone seriously until she figured out for sure what she believed. She went on to explore lots of religions. Eventually, against her will, she ended up at a Catholic Mass.

The Mass was held at her new Catholic school and she was very afraid to attend. She thought the priest might supernaturally read her soul and denounce her as a witch. But when he gave her a blessing at Communion time something happened. In a way she couldn't explain or put a finger on, she felt different and overwhelmed. "I can still sometimes feel his thumb tracing a cross on my forehead. It was the first time I really experienced the feeling of the love of God." A few weeks later she decided to ask the priest about the experience and that was her inroad to the Church. A year later, she joined the local RCIA program to become Catholic. "It took quite a few conversations before I would agree to stop practicing Wicca though! But I did, just before I started RCIA."

When her RCIA teachers instructed the class about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, Elena was skeptical. "Ok, so they're crazy," she thought. But at the encouragement of the now-trusted priest who had blessed her, Fr. Terence Runstedler of Ontario, she began going to the perpetual adoration chapel every day and recognized its graces. "[I] realized that things I had prayed over at home that made no sense made perfect sense if I prayed over them in the chapel. ...Every time I

went to Adoration, Jesus spoke to me in some way. Every time. I couldn't ignore it. ... The Eucharist is the reason I didn't completely ignore Church teaching on SSA [same-sex attraction] and find myself a girlfriend."

Elena had been in denial about her attractions growing up. After discovering Catholicism, she prayed for these feelings to go away but they wouldn't. She decided that maybe the Church was wrong and started going to LGBT support groups. Her mind changed back again at her grandmother's funeral. It was a non-Catholic service and everyone was invited to come forward and receive their communion, "but I just knew so powerfully that I couldn't because it wasn't *Him*. It was lacking the Real Presence. Which meant I still believed in the Eucharist. Which meant the Church has to be right. So I changed my whole life again even though I didn't understand the teachings on chastity."

In 2007, at the age of 19, Elena was baptized, confirmed, and received her First Communion at the Easter Vigil. "Right up to the night, I was still partially afraid that God would strike me down when the baptismal waters touched me. I wanted so much to belong to Him but half thought that maybe He didn't want me... I thought if He wanted me in the Church, why didn't He have me born in a Catholic family? But then I received Him for the first time and I just *knew*. I could hear Him (not like a voice but like thoughts that you know come from Him) saying that I always belonged to Him and always would." Elena notes that some people have deeply intellectual reasons for converting but her reasons were more relational. "[The Lord] just kept inviting me and pulling me along and putting things in my path I couldn't ignore. He kept introducing me to Himself, over and over, until I finally recognized it was Him I was longing for."

Elena is now 36 years old, lives in Scotland, and works as a personal support healthcare worker. In her spare time Elena enjoys writing songs and making rosaries and is a member of both Courage International and Eden Invitation, two groups which support those with same-sex attractions in living chaste and saintly lives. Through Catholic faith and community, she says, "I started to learn my identity as belonging to Christ and as a daughter to the Father." Elena hopes to help other LGBT-identifying persons to also discover a deeper self-identity in God. Even in the discouraging modern culture we live in, Elena's story shows us that Jesus Christ is still powerfully and lovingly calling people to himself.

St. Paul's Catholic School News

2024-2025 Registration! Registration is open for our 2024-2025 school year. Please help us spread the word that **4K tuition is free, transfer students of all faiths are welcome, and tuition support** is available for those with any financial concerns. Plus with our **New Family Referral Program** both new and referring families can receive 25% off their first child's tuition for one year. Please call the school office to arrange a tour or to request more information at 715-568-3233!

Summer Scrip Hours! Scrip will be filled on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the school lobby.

Uniform Exchange! Special thanks to Mrs. Amy Potaczek for overseeing the Uniform Exchange. Amy will be available this summer by calling or texting her at 715-559-1231 to schedule a time to meet at the convent. The Exchange will also be open during our Open House on August 22nd, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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