



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February - April 2015

Volume 1, Issue 8



WELCOME to the “winter” edition of Mass Appeal. Check out the Confirmation Retreat photos, find out who your Pastoral Council members are, try out a great “meatless” recipe, see what the RE classes are up to, get the menu for the Lenten fish fries and test out how much you know about Lent. That..... and more!

WE CELEBRATE!

Brodey John, son of Nick and Mollie McCoun, baptized December 6.

Alexandria Jo, daughter of Joe and Jude Morgan, baptized February 15.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

(All take place at St. Mary except where noted)

Stations of the Cross: This devotional prayer practice reflects on the Passion and Death of Jesus. We pray these Stations on Fridays, 6:00pm. We also gather for fellowship and a meal.

Meditative Prayer: We follow three methods of ancient prayer and a prayerful review of our life experiences. Saturdays, 8:00 to 9:00am.

Saturday Studies: What was the meaning of Jesus’ message of the Kingdom of God that he died so violently on the Cross, and was brought back so powerfully in the Resurrection and Holy Spirit? Saturdays, 9:15 to 10:15am.

Bible Timeline: Grow in understanding of our faith and how it came to be. Mondays, 7:00pm.

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study: A time to pray, study, and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. Wed., Feb. 25, Thurs., March 5, Wed., March 11, 18, & 25, 7:00 to 8:30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursdays, Feb. 19 (Holy Cross) and March 19, 7:00pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

(All events at St. Mary unless noted otherwise)

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18: 8:00am & 6:30pm Masses

Thursday, Feb. 19: 9:30am Crafts, Games & Social Time, Social Hall

Friday, Feb. 20: 6:00pm Stations of the Cross, lead by Religious Ed students; 5:00-7:00pm fish fry

Friday, Feb. 27: 6:00pm Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten meal

Friday, March 6: 8:00am First Friday Mass; 6:00pm Silhouette Stations of the Cross performed by our Youth Group; 5:00-7:00pm fish fry

Sunday, March 8: Daylight Saving Time Begins

Friday, March 13: 6:00pm Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten meal

Sunday, March 15: 2:00pm Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

Friday, March 20: 6:00pm Stations of the Cross; 5:00-7:00pm fish fry

Thursday, March 26: 7:00pm Chrism Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral

Friday, March 27: 6:00pm Stations of the Cross, followed by Lenten meal

Holy Thursday, April 2

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary Adoration following until 11:00pm

Good Friday, April 3

3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross at Holy Cross

7:00pm Passion Service, St. Mary

Holy Saturday, April 4

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass, St. Mary

Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses: 8:00am, Holy Cross
10:00am, St. Mary

Friday, April 10: 6:00pm Confirmation Mass

Saturday, April 11: Clothing Drive thru April 22

Sunday, April 26: 2:00pm First Eucharist Mass

INTRODUCING OUR RCIA CANDIDATES



Tara and Joel Huntuods joined the RCIA program last September and have been attending Mass at St. Mary's since the Spring of 2014. They have farmed between Farrar and Maxwell for 15 years. Tara is the IT director at Grassroots Action in Maxwell. Joel has worked for Van Wall Equipment for 20 years and is currently manager of the service and parts department in Colfax. Their children are soon-to-be-ten-year-old triplet boys: Luke, Blake and Jace. They are in the fourth grade at Collins-Maxwell Elementary School. The family likes to fish and is involved in sports and 4H activities. Tyler Laffey, son of parishioners DJ and Carolyn Laffey, invited Luke, Blake and Jace to his RE class and the boys liked it so well, they convinced their parents to start attending church here. The entire family will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass. Both Tara and Joel are baptized Christians and will receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Luke, Blake and Jace will be baptized and will receive their First Eucharist.

HELP FIGHT HUNGER

It's official!! And we are SUPER excited! On March 11, from 5:15-7:30pm we will package meals to send to Tanzania!!! (Think Meals from the Heartland on a smaller scale). This is the RE kids' service project for March, **but all of you are welcome and encouraged to join us...the more the merrier!!** Our goal is to package 5,000 meals, which means we must raise \$1,250. What better time than during Lent, to help our brothers and sisters across the globe fight hunger. More details to come!



Mike Renoe has been attending RCIA since last October. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Bondurant and have been parishioners for the past three years. They have three children: Sam (5), Will (3) and Luke (7 months). Mike is a mechanical engineer with Siemens, and has also been with the National Guard for 19 years. He and Brenda were married at St. Mary of Nazareth Church in Des Moines. Mike is a baptized Lutheran and has committed himself to becoming Catholic because he feels passionate about raising his boys in the Church and continuing his journey with Christ with them. He will receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass. Seven month old Luke will also be baptized at this Mass.

LENT AT HOME (Activities For Busy Families)

Ask each family member to find three to five high-quality, useful items that would be appreciated by those less fortunate. Donate the items to a favorite charity. Pray for those who needed them.

On slips of paper, write random acts of kindness, such as, give a compliment, say hi to an old friend, carry someone's heavy load. Present each family member with a slip of paper as he or she leaves in the morning and invite them to perform the kindness without seeking recognition. Afterward, talk together about what happened and pray together.

Designate one evening a week to prepare a meal together. Assign a different dish or task to each family member. Before starting, discuss how each family member is giving to the others — time, effort, and care to nourish the entire family to go out and do God's will.



LENTEN TRIVIA



Email, mail or drop your answers off at the Office or in the collection basket at Mass and you will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift card from Target. Deadline of March 15.

1. What is the original meaning of the word Lent?
2. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
3. What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent?
4. What word is never said or sung during Lent?
5. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
6. What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?
7. What Irish saint's feast day takes place during Lent?
8. What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us?
9. How do Italians celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19?
10. There are how many Stations of the Cross?
11. After the Resurrection what was the approximate number of witnesses who saw Jesus alive?
12. What did the Father call Jesus on the mountain?
13. On which day of the week is the Chrism Mass?
14. When thinking about the Liturgy, what is different about Good Friday?
15. Which three disciples went with Jesus to the mountain?
16. Which is the last Sunday of Lent?

TRY THIS RECIPE!

Seafood Linguine

- 6 oz. linguine
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. crab meat (chunks or flakes)
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup half & half
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper



Cook linguine and drain. Heat butter and garlic in skillet until lightly browned. Add half & half, crab meat and pepper. Heat about 3 minutes, or until it begins to bubble, stirring occasionally. Add cheese, stir 1 minute. Remove from heat. Toss crab sauce with linguine. Serve immediately, with additional Parmesan cheese. Yield: 4 servings.

NOTE: This is especially good if you add shrimp and/or scallops with the crabmeat.

WHY VOLUNTEER?



Some thoughts from the Pastoral Council on volunteering:

Lori: "The joy of Mass can be found any time Christ is present, but truly there is nothing like St Mary-Holy Cross. We are so blessed to have this Church and each other!"

Garrett: "Get involved. Try something, no matter how small. Don't be afraid to try something new. I want to continue to see the Parish develop and grow as a community."

Diane: "Serving on committees is a great way to get involved and get to know your fellow parishioners. There is a great spiritual satisfaction when you know that you are serving God when you give your time and efforts in your church. Our Parish is truly blessed with many devoted committee volunteers and others who are always willing to step in and help wherever there is a need. St. Mary-Holy Cross is a great parish in which to live your faith. "

Mark: "For others who may be thinking of getting involved in this or other ministries, I say don't hesitate and do it. Our Parish needs people of all talents and abilities. This is, after all, OUR parish. If you believe you could improve the way something is done or have new ideas, get involved and make a difference."

Matt: "Do it! (get involved). If it's not the right fit, you will find something that is. You won't be chastised for trying it out and changing your mind. There is great reward in this work. We are all called to serve. I think that those of us who are currently volunteering need to do a better job of inviting others to join us. People are out there, looking for a way to express their faith more fully, to be active disciples."

Sheri: "With the PC, I get a chance to explore my faith while working with others. The Council discusses the different directions that the Parish is going, what is important to our community and how to inspire others to get involved. I think that has lead me to a greater appreciation of the individual members and our Parish in whole."

KNIGHT'S KORNER

Can you believe that the Lenten Season is already upon us? Your Knights of Columbus are excited for the upcoming fish fries. Can you believe that this will be the 4th year of fish fries at our Parish?

Each year, we have added a new detail to the evening. This year, we will start serving the meal at 5:00pm to better serve those who prefer to eat earlier. This option should also shorten the line immediately following the Stations of the Cross.

Do you know someone who needs to experience God's love by being part of a large, friendly family? If you do, please bring them to the fish fry. If that person would benefit by hearing the story of the Passion, please bring them to the Stations of the Cross. The Knights also welcome anyone who would like to be part of the team who prepares, serves, and cleans up for the meal. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jon Hand (515-460-0050) or just show up! We start preparations at 12:30pm.



Meal served from 5:00 to 7:15pm on February 20, March 6, and March 20, at St. Mary - Holy Cross Social Hall.

Good will offerings pay the cost of purchased food/supplies and provide financial support to our Parish and other charities.

Menu: Hand-Battered Fried Fish, Baked Cod, Fresh-Cut French Fries and Sweet Potato Fries, Baked Potatoes, Home-Grown Sweet Corn, Fresh-Cut Coleslaw, Amazing Macaroni & Cheese, Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls, Ice Cream and Toppings

We look forward to seeing you there!

I'm giving up alcohol for Lent; God help us all!!



What are you giving up for Lent?

your eCards
someecards.com

SAINTMARYHC.ORG

If you have accessed the Parish website lately, you may have noticed that some of the information there is out of date, or (ugh) no longer relevant or (gasp) may even be inaccurate.



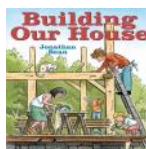
Unfortunately, the website technology is outdated, and is difficult and sometimes impossible to update or change.

But stay tuned!all that is soon to change. A



Parish committee is working on the development of a new and much more dynamic website — a website that will feature current and relevant news and information within and outside our Parish. The website will feature photos and more interactive capabilities. It will give you up to date information and provide valuable resources for you to use in growing your faith.

LOVE LIFE
LIVE  LENT
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD



PARISH RECTORY UPDATE

The Rectory Committee has been busy determining the best plan for replacing the current rectory. We have agreed on a floor plan for the new rectory which would be built west of the existing building, approximately where the garage is located. This will provide room if the church is ever to be expanded. It will be a ranch style home. Our next steps will be soliciting bids from builders and manufacturers in the coming weeks. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact a member of the committee through the Parish Office. Committee members are Bob Reid, Karen Bellis, John Roberts, Keith Muehlenthaler, Jon Hand, Ron Odgaard and Scott Turczynski.

FEATURING!



*Learn more about your Pastoral Council.
Which one of these members do you think has been at SMHC the longest?*



(from left to right)

SHERI OLSON - a member for three years. She lives in Bondurant with sons Matthew and Andrew, her cat Milo, her two dogs, Otis, and Mad Max the Killer Yorkie. (Yes, that is her dog's name!) She enjoys reading and quilting. She works for the U.S. Postal Service as a supervisor in Statistical Programs which takes her all over the state. "I can say I have never felt so welcomed by a parish. The warmth and kindness of our community encouraged me to actively participate within the Parish community."

DIANE CRONK - a 50 year member of SMHC! She and her husband, LeRoy, live near White Oak. They have three grown children and four beautiful granddaughters. Diane, retired, worked for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. She likes to garden, read, and is in the process of writing some of her memoirs for her family. "Over my 50 years I have seen our Parish grow considerably but I like the fact that it still has the atmosphere of a small parish where members know each other and care deeply for one another."

GARRETT MCCLAIN - a member of 16 years and RCIA graduate, is employed at Danfoss in Ames. He enjoys being with family, and outside work. He is a big Cyclone Fan! He graduated from ISU in 1992. Garrett lists Knights of Columbus, the RE program and the spiritual leadership from Father Dan and Deacon Terry as important strengths of our Parish.

CORY SCHOENING - a member of nine years. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Ankeny with their two young children. Cory works as an Account Manager with Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance. He is a lector, announcer, and member of the Knights of Columbus.

MATT MILLER - a member for 17 years. He and his wife, Angie, have three daughters, and a 9 month old granddaughter. Angie and Matt met on a Teens Encounter Christ retreat at Saint Thomas More Center. They live in Cambridge and Matt is an estimator at Baker Group in Des Moines. In his spare time he likes walking on the trail, Hawkeye football, Cyclone basketball, and photography. "I believe that our Parish's greatest strengths are its people. Most everyone I've met here really cares about our Parish and our communities. We want to be active disciples. It's really incredible."

MARK SCHMIDT - A member for three years, and he and his wife, Sue, live in Ankeny. They have two daughters. Leah is the band director in Chariton and Geena works in Ankeny. Mark is a member of the Knights of Columbus and is also a cantor. Our Parish is relatively small compared to some they have been members of and they find the people very friendly and family centered.

LORI MCQUISTON (*not shown in photo*) - a member for 14 years. She and her husband, Rick, live in Maxwell and Florence AZ. Son Cody and wife Dana, have one child and grandbaby #2 is due the end of February. Daughter Emily is student teaching in Arizona, and will graduate from UNI in May. Lori feels blessed to be able to work from home(s) for an insurance company located in Maryland. She is now training for marathon #25 in Phoenix in February and next will prepare for #26 in Duluth in June. The McQuiston's are spending the winter in Arizona, loving the weather and friends they have found there. BUT, Lori says she misses her church friends at SMHC.

Come join us Thursday, Feb. 19, 9:30am for a get together. We are hoping to get a social group started to work on craft projects, play games or just visit. If you can't make it but are interested, please let us know your suggestions. If you have any questions, please contact Dona Cowman, 515-383-4482/racefans@iowatelecom.net.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



James and Andrea Carver are returning St. Mary-Holy Cross members who are now living in Elkhart. James works for the Department of Transportation and Andrea is a Clinical Research Coordinator. Andrea's leisure time is spent reading, knitting, and enjoying family time, while James enjoys farming. James and Andrea have a one year old daughter, Shay.

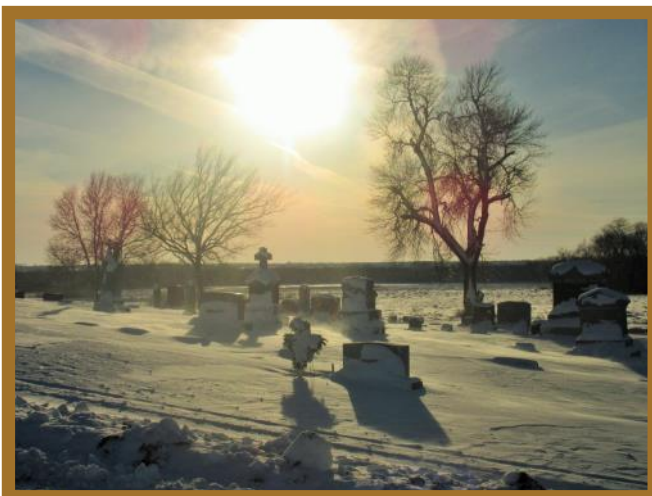


David and Amy Murch and their two children, Landon (9) and Keeley (4), make their home in Polk City. David is Safety Manager at Syngenta and Amy is a work-at-home mom. The children are in the North Polk school district. David enjoys coaching and watching sports. Amy likes to read, fish, clean, volunteer at school and play with the kids. Landon is into video games, basketball, baseball, football, fishing, 4-wheeling, and Legos. Keeley loves art, dance, and riding her bike. Returning to this area, the family already knew some of the parishioners at SMHC and wanted to become part of our community.



Joe and Judith (Jude) Morgan moved from West Des Moines to Elkhart with their five month old daughter, Alexandria. Joe is a diesel mechanic with Elder Corp and Jude is a teacher. Both like hanging out with family. In addition, Jude enjoys watching football and going to movies. They became members of our Parish because they liked the Elkhart community, and because of the good things they heard about SMHC.

SUNSET AT HOLY CROSS CEMETERY



A man is struck by a bus on a busy Portland street. Seriously injured, he gasps to on-lookers, "A priest. Somebody get me a priest!" A police officer checks the crowd--no priest, no nun, no person of the cloth of any kind. "Please, any words of the church," the injured man cries. Out of the crowd steps a shabby old man. He says he's not Catholic, but he's slept behind Sacred Heart Cathedral forty years and has heard the words of the priests so many times they are etched in his memory. Desperate, the injured man nods. The elderly homeless man kneels by him and solemnly intones, "B-4 . . I-19 . . N-38 . . G-54 . . O-72 . "

LOL

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bart and Amy Weldon live in Maxwell with their son, Brayden, and were previously SMHC members. Bart is in sales with Origination and enjoys golfing, hunting, and working with horses. Amy is a Unity Point lab manager and also likes working with horses. Both are 4-H leaders. Brayden (12) attends Collins-Maxwell schools, is in 4-H, likes reading in his spare time, and is enrolled in the SMHC Religious Education program.

Jon and Jennifer Waters reside in Collins with their twin sons, Jackson and Joel (6), and their twin daughters, Julianne and Jocelyn (3). Joel is a sales rep for Barton Solvents, likes outdoor work and playing with the kids. Jennifer is a photographer and a stay-at-home mom. She also loves playing with the kids but readily admits "any alone time is welcome". The children are in the Collins-Maxwell school district: the boys in kindergarten and the girls in preschool. The children attend the Religious Education program at SMHC. The family also likes the close proximity of their church to their home.



RELIGIOUS ED

The RE students have been busy continuing to hear and learn about stories from the Old Testament, as well as deepening their faith with our new classroom series workbooks, Alive in Christ.



We continue to help others in our community, country and world through our service projects. Our latest ones were making tie blankets for the Animal Rescue League and collecting baby items for St. Joseph's Family Shelter and for a women's crisis center. We are hosting a service night to package meals, similar to Meals for the Heartland, on Wednesday,

March 11 during RE class time. (See article on page 2.)



On February 20, many of the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade RE students will be leading the Stations of the Cross, as well as assisting the Knights of Columbus with the fish fry. Please mark your calendars to join us for this night of faith and fellowship.

Our First Eucharist candidates will be working hard in March and April to prepare to receive their next sacrament. Learning Centers, at-home lessons, as well as lessons during RE will deepen the meaning and importance of receiving this sacrament. Please keep our second graders in your prayers.



JESUS ROCKS!!!!

This year at SMHC, our 8th graders have begun the preparations to be confirmed in their sophomore year of high school. These teens, and two older teens who are new to the Parish and planning to be confirmed, took part in a retreat on January 25. This retreat is planned as part of their last year of EDGE, and serves as a kick off to their experience with Life Teen and their two year journey of Confirmation preparation. They experienced a sense of fellowship as they spent the day doing team building activities, faith sharing, and community and relationship building. Our theme was *Jesus Rocks*. We spent a day making a joyful noise, celebrating Jesus and our Catholic faith through the Psalms and other music. Music is a common language and evokes all kinds of emotions and memories. It is awesome to see the teens and retreat team come together and build a beautiful community of faith through music, prayer, fun and food. As St. Augustine said -- "He who sings prays twice."

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