



# MASS APPEAL

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August - October 2014

Volume 1, Issue 7



### A TIME TO REJOICE!



Celebrate with us in welcoming into the Faith these little ones who have been baptized:

**Cameron Michael**, son of Chris and Sara Cornelius

**Kate Margaret**, daughter of Nick and Jill Swanson

**Jax Steven**, son of Jeff and Mary Lile

**Breegan Ann**, daughter of Brad and Ashley Mathis

**Jack William**, son of Brian and Jessica Pottebaum

**Ava Violet**, daughter of Alexandria Miller and Seth Robinett

Share in the joy of these couples as they begin their new life together:



**Nick Leonard and Lisa Pritchard**  
married at Holy Cross Church on June 21

**Austin Wiser and Jordyn Heiter**  
married at St. Mary Church on June 21

**Austin Pottebaum and Kaitlin Tucker**  
married in Pleasant Hill on July 12

**Jeremiah Long and Jessica Stillmunkes**  
married at Walnut Creek Church  
in Des Moines on July 26

**Adam Liske and Whitney Radil**  
married at St. John Nepomuk Church  
in Lowry, MN on July 26

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Assumption of Mary into Heaven*, Holy Day of

Obligation: Friday, August 15, 6:30pm Mass, St. Mary

*Blood Drives*: Aug. 21 and Oct. 23, 3 - 7pm, Social Hall

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*: Thursdays,

August 21 (Holy Cross), September 18 (St. Mary) and

October 16 (Holy Cross), 7 - 8pm

*All Parish meeting*, Sunday, Sept. 7, 11am, Social Hall

*Clothing Drive*: Sept. 13-23, St. Mary

*Saturday Studies*: begins Sept. 13, 9:15am, St. Mary

*Breakfast after 8am Mass*, Sunday, Sept. 14, Holy

Cross, hosted by Knights of Columbus

*The Bible Timeline*: begins Sept. 22, 7pm, St. Mary

*Holy Land Olive Art sales*: September 27/28, St. Mary

*Parish Picnic*: Sunday, Sept. 28 after 10am Mass, SM

*Feast of Saint Francis: Blessing of pets*, Saturday,

October 4, 9am, St. Mary parking lot

*Praying the Rosary*: Weekends in October, 20 minutes  
before each Mass

*Parish Work day*: in October, date to be decided

*Saints Party for R.E. families*: Saturday, November 1,

6-7:30pm, St. Mary

*New Member Brunch*: Sunday, November 2, 11am,  
Social Hall

### BLESSING GOD'S WORK

The parish came together for Pentecost dressed in red to celebrate the birthday of the Church.



## PARENTING TIPS



**WORDS OF AFFECTION** - Tell them you love them everyday. You will find they start telling you back just as liberally. The words can also heal wounds created because of discipline issues during the day. My wife and I make sure the kids get a special cuddle before they sleep. They each get mommy and daddy time to make sure they know they are loved.

**CREATE FAMILY TRADITIONS** – Actively create opportunities for the family to engage in activities that over time will become rituals. Over time these become markers of identity and purpose in the family. It can be playing card and board games together, going for walks together at set times, having a “midnight feast” (special treats and “movie” night before bed in a darkened room), going for drives, playing sports together or having impromptu quizzes.

Adapted from: Renato Bonasera  
(<http://alegacyofgrace.blogspot.com/>)



## The Bible Timeline

On Monday, September 22 at 7:00pm, we begin the video series "The Bible Timeline; The Story of Salvation". Each evening there will be a video that lasts about 45 minutes. After the video, there will be a discussion of what was seen (revealed)! The length of discussion is up to those participating.

This series shows the unlikely players throughout history who have brought our faith to what it is. Be aware there are some pretty unsavory characters in the cast of Christianity. If you enjoy history you will enjoy this historic story of our faith. There is a study package available from Ascension Press, the originator of the series, for \$40. However, you will gain tremendous knowledge from attending these sessions even without the study package.

We as a group will decide which, if any, evenings present a conflict with holidays and which deserve a "skip" night. It is not mandatory to attend every session although doing so would add connection to the big story. Come when you can! Any questions or suggestions, contact Deacon Terry, 515-669-6158 or [tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tschleisman@saintmaryhc.org).



## FEATURED RECIPES

### “Got Zucchini?”

#### Zucchini Bars (Delila Roberts)

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup nuts (optional)



Beat eggs until fluffy; add oil, sugar, zucchini, and vanilla. Mix lightly. Mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Combine both mixtures and nuts. Bake in greased jelly roll pan at 350 degrees, approximately 25 minutes.

(Delila's zucchini bread recipe is the same recipe except use 1 teaspoon baking soda and bake in 2 greased loaf pans for 1 hour at 325 degrees.)

#### Zucchini Casserole (Diane Cronk)

- 5 cups zucchini
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 6 Tablespoons butter
- 2 1/2 cups Stove Top Dressing (1 6-oz. box)
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup dairy sour cream

Slice zucchini in one-half inch thick cubes. If skin is tender, do not peel. Cook in salted water until barely tender. Sauté onion in 3 tablespoons butter until tender. To drained zucchini, add onions, 1 1/2 cups stuffing cubes, soup and sour cream. Mix well. Turn into buttered 8 x 8 inch greased glass dish. Melt remaining 3 tablespoons butter, and brown remaining 1 cup stuffing mix. Place on casserole as topping. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30-40 minutes. If the topping begins to brown too much, cover with aluminum foil for the remaining time.

## BULLETIN BLOOPERS!



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.....Bring your husbands.

## MUSIC NOTES



**Music Coordinator**  
Celeste Muehlenthaler  
515-577-9394 or celestemu@msn.com



Thanks to Bill Dunbar, Ray Olejniczak, Garrett McClain, Austin Longnecker, Lee Longnecker and pianist Kristi Meyer (left) and Nora Aschoff and Jennie Moore (right) for sharing their gifts of music.

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music  
is the greatest treasure in the world."  
--Martin Luther*

## SATURDAY STUDIES

Beginning Sept. 13, Fr. Dan will be hosting a 12 session series on *"Saving Jesus: An exploration of Jesus Christ for the Third Millennium."*

This series focuses on the relevance of Jesus in today's world. One of the contributors to the series comments: "We are having a culture war and Jesus happens to be one of the weapons tossed about by both sides." — Amy-Jill Levine.

This program is produced by the "Living the Questions" organization, a resource for exploring the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

*Sessions are held in the Social Hall from 9:15 to 10:15am.*

## A NEW CATHOLIC IN OUR MIDST

Sunday, July 13 was a very special day for Scott and Lisa Warner. At the 10:00am Mass, Scott, who began the RCIA process in April, 2013, made a profession of faith, was confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time as a Catholic. Lisa, already a Catholic, was confirmed with Scott. Making the day especially memorable was the renewal of their marriage vows.

Scott and Lisa, pictured below with Father Dan and sponsors Susan Genalo and Melanie Stoner, are happy to be part of the St. Mary – Holy Cross Church family.

Scott works for the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and Lisa works for Principal Financial Group in Media Development. They make their home in Ankeny.



## CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

*Dear God:* I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying.

*Dear God:* I bet it is very hard for you to love everybody. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it.

*Dear God:* Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

*Dear God:* Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.



*Dear God:* I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool!





OR



Many of us pay monthly bills using automatic withdrawal from our bank accounts. Did you know that your church tithing can also be included in those automatic debits?

There are many advantages of Auto-Debit Tithing for you and for the parish:

- ♦ *You have fewer checks to write, reducing your costs.*
- ♦ *Auto-debit tithing reduces parish bank fees and costs of tithing envelopes.*
- ♦ *The parish benefits from having a consistent stream of operating funds available.*
- ♦ *No worry about lost checks.*
- ♦ *It decreases the amount of work and time for our volunteer money counters.*
- ♦ *It is safe and secure. Each ACH transaction from parish to bank is entered into bank's secure transmission system; only one person handles the transactions, all tithing records are kept in locked files and all computer files are password protected.*

An alternative to ACH, if you have concerns about the security of your bank account, is to set up a regular payment, similar to automatic payment of other household bills, from your account to the parish.

Sonya Staudt, RE coordinator for the parish, comments: "Our family also paid our tithes with checks, but were inconsistent with our giving, because if we were out of town, there was no offering going into the plate. When we first switched to auto-debit tithing, it was difficult to just "pass the plate" and not put anything into it. But, after a few months, it became easier, and we knew we were giving consistently."

If you have any questions or would like to set up ACH, please contact Peter Relyea, bookkeeper for the parish.

## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

### **Angelia McCright**

recently moved to Elkhart with her four children: Nick (18), Sam (16), Maria (14), and Kara Gorham (12).

Angelia (pronounced "Angela") works for Mercer Insurance in Urbandale and spends her leisure time at her kids' soccer and swimming events, reading, and enjoying outdoor activities. Her children are scattered in different schools: Central College, North Polk, and Valley. Nick plays soccer, Sam is in swimming and likes antiques. Maria is into reading and writing while Kara loves animals. They became members of SMHC parish when they moved into the area.



### **Scott Turczynski**

lives in the Elkhart area and is a Vice President at Heartland Finishes. He likes scouting, camping, and is an ISU fan. He has three children who attend North Polk schools. Luke, 14, also enjoys scouting and video games. Max, 9, plays soccer and video games. Ruth, 7, loves to draw.



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## BACK TO TIPS

### Do as much as possible the night before school.

Have kids put homework in their backpack, pick out their outfits and assemble their lunches every night before school. When we do some prep work the night before, mornings are less chaotic.

### Get to bed early on school nights.

The most important yet hardest thing to do for your kids is get them to bed early on school nights – Sunday through Thursday nights. According to WebMD, generally 5 and 6 year-olds need 10 to 12 hours of sleep per night, 7 to 12 year-olds need 10 to 11 hours, and 12 to 18 year-olds need 8 to 9 hours.

### Let your kids take responsibility for morning tasks.

Kids in kindergarten or above? Have them create a morning checklist to manage their morning routine. Have them dress themselves, brush their teeth, wash their face, clear their breakfast dishes, and put lunches in their backpack.

### After school snacks to brighten the mood.

Bring a healthy snack along to school pick up or have one ready for them when they arrive home to provide a much-needed energy boost after a busy day in the classroom.

### Schedule playtime before homework time.

You've likely heard differently, but kids may be better off having some play time to get their energy out and get brains active. It's also an opportunity for you to play with your kids, talk about their day and show that you're involved. When play time is over, introduce the homework by having parent and child "work time" – a time for parents to prepare evening meals while kids tend to homework and ready themselves for the next day.

### Take a break from the schedule on weekends.

Keeping a regular schedule during the week is tough and tiring – and allows for little fun. It's OK to let them stay up until 9:00pm on Friday night and sleep in on Saturday morning – as long as you're back on schedule Sunday night.

Sources:

WebMD

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/family-health-12/back-to-school-prep?page=1>

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/guide/sleep-children>

PBSParents

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/starting-school/full-day/>

School Family

<http://www.schoolfamily.com/school-family-articles/article/10852-10-ways-to-help-your-child-successfully-return-to-school>

Redbook

<http://www.redbookmag.com/kids-family/advice/back-to-school-ideas-clone-1374779530-18#slide-20>

## STAFF QUIZ!

Can you match the interesting facts below to one of our staff members?

- Was on stage with Mr. Green Jeans from the Captain Kangaroo Show
- Is a leap year baby born on February 29. On those years without that date – this person celebrates on both the 28th and March 1st
- Worked as salad girl and waitress at Crown Family Restaurant while in high school -- made "homemade" strawberry pies and cheese Frenchies
- Played "6 on 6" basketball in high school
- Was a trained and certified zumba teacher
- Grandma was second cousin to Abraham Lincoln
- Has seen a nuclear weapon up close & personal
- Has two daughters who became nuns this year (They were in the play *Sound of Music*!)
- Loves and respects Chinese Medicine and used acupuncture and moxibustion during pregnancy to turn a breech baby
- Survived two airplane crashes

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- Father Dan Krettek
- Deacon Terry Schleisman
- Barb Liske
- Tammi McClain
- Sonya Staudt
- Celeste Muehlenthaler
- Melissa Kahler
- Susan Meenan
- Peter Relyea
- Karen Stafford



**Check the parish website, facebook or bulletin board for the answers.**

## PARISH PICNIC!!

**September 28, 11am  
at St. Mary**

Come and have FUN, GOOD FOOD and SOCIAL TIME with your Parish Family! There will be all kinds of games and activities for all ages!! The Parish will provide grilled meats, drinks and table service. Parishioners with last names beginning *A through H* are asked to bring a dessert and those with last names beginning *Ho through Z* are asked to bring a side dish. Sign up for food count will be weekends of September 13/14 and 20/21.



## SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday, September 7, after 10:00am Mass, in the Social Hall! Please plan on attending our "All Parish Meeting" This gathering is to talk about several topics of importance for the Parish. We will talk about different possibilities for a new rectory, other possible construction or renovation projects in the Parish, and preliminary ideas about how we might mark the 100<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the St. Mary's Church building. We'll have coffee and donuts after Mass that day, and maybe more for those who come to the meeting!

## KNIGHTS KORNER



Knights of Columbus Council 15347, in conjunction with three other KC Councils, will be sponsoring the "Raffle for Life" during the months of September and October. \$50 Raffle tickets will be on sale after Mass or can be obtained from any Knight.

Proceeds from the Raffle will be donated to the Gabriel Project, a parish based crisis pregnancy assistance program which has operated in the Des Moines Diocese since January 2005. In the past year the Gabriel Project has assisted 46 expectant mothers. Thirty babies have been born and the remaining 16 are "on the way".

The Gabriel Project helps these young women in many ways including counseling, assistance obtaining pre-natal care, emergency housing, and maternity clothes. The Gabriel Project provides new baby needs such as formula, diapers, beds, car seats and referrals for well baby checkups.

The Gabriel Project is an entirely volunteer organization with no paid staff and no expenses for office or storage space.

Prizes for this year's Raffle include \$600 cash, a \$500 Apple Store gift card, Stephens Auditorium tickets, tickets to the Big Four Classic Basketball games at Wells Fargo, and gift cards from HyVee, Casey's and several restaurants. Support the Gabriel Project. See a Knight and buy a Raffle for Life Ticket.



## CYC CAMP

We had 26 youth attend Catholic Youth Camp (CYC) at Panora this summer. Here are some of their reflections on their week.



*Avery, 4th grader, first year at CYC:* "My favorite parts of camp were playing gaga ball, going zip-lining, and singing the songs during Mass. My favorite memory of CYC was meeting new friends."

*Jaxson F., 3rd grader, first year at CYC:* "I loved playing all the games there. I learned a new game called gaga ball--it is awesome! I also liked how they made church interesting and fun. I could understand what the message from God was and it made me think about a lot of things. I can't wait til next year!"

*Avery F., 5th grader, second year at CYC:* "I always make new friends and have a lot of fun. My favorite thing to do was zip-lining and swimming. Each day during Mass, I loved singing all the songs and do all the actions to the songs. Church was very engaging because I understood what Father was saying and I was able to participate by serving at one Mass. I am already excited for next year!"

*Addie, first year at CYC:* Her favorite activity was horseback riding. She hopes to attend CYC again next year!

*Dawson, first year at CYC:* His favorite thing about camp was zip-lining. He hopes he can go to CYC again, too!

*Nicky B., Senior, fifth year at CYC:* I have both camped and counseled at CYC. I love counseling at CYC because where else can you get the opportunity to interact with a group of kids and help them find or deepen their faith for an entire week? All while having tons of fun! I was able to help lead a large group lesson in prayer with the other counselors and I also dressed up as a pirate to have a "space pirate adventure" themed confidence building obstacle course! Counseling has brought me closer to God through experiencing the stories of all the kids I have counseled and I have made so many friends in the process.

*Grace J., 4th grader, second year at CYC:* She LOVED it!! Her favorite part was game time. She enjoyed carpet ball, gaga ball and horse back riding too.

*Bridget J., 3rd grader, first year at CYC:* She will definitely go back again! Her favorite was horse back riding. She enjoyed meeting new friends, arts & crafts, zip-lining, carpet ball, and gaga ball.





## RELIGIOUS ED PreK-6th

### Co-Catechetical Leaders

Tammi McClain, [tmcclain@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tmcclain@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-3904

Sonya Staudt, [ssstaudt@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:ssstaudt@saintmaryhc.org), 515-710-4583

As a beautiful summer draws to an end, we are excited for the new beginnings of fall and another blessed year of religious education!

Our upcoming RE year is going to be the best year yet!! We have purchased new classroom materials titled *Alive in Christ*. We are anxious to help children know, love, and live out our Catholic Faith! **Classes start on Wednesday, September 10, sessions at 5:15pm and 6:30pm.**

Our first service project will continue our VBS crusade to raise funds for two wells in India. Everyone deserves something as simple and crucial for life as clean, safe water. Imagine the people that we could help!! Women and girls especially bear the burden of walking miles at a time to gather water from streams and ponds - full of water-borne disease that is making them and their families sick. Please join us in raising not only money, but also awareness of this issue!

## RELIGIOUS ED 7th-12th

### Melissa Kahler, Youth Coordinator

[mkahler@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:mkahler@saintmaryhc.org), 515-290-2830

Ever wonder what **S.T.O.R.M.**, **EDGE**, **LIFE TEEN**, **C1** & **C2** are and what they are about? Allow me to clear up any confusion and crack the code of teen ministry here in our Parish! Five years ago, after many debates and votes, the youth group decided their official name would be **S.T.O.R.M.**, which stands for **Spiritual Teen Outreach Ministry**. You could think of **S.T.O.R.M.** as an umbrella that covers all of teen ministry.

Next is our 2-year Confirmation preparation program. **C1** is for all high schoolers in their first year of Confirmation prep and **C2** is for those in their second year of prep. Teens are confirmed after completing both **C1** & **C2**.

**LIFE TEEN** & **EDGE** are international Catholic movements that provide resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. **EDGE** includes teens in grades 7th & 8th, and meets two Wednesdays a month. **Life Teen** includes 9th-12th grades and meets most Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30pm.

We welcome questions and requests from you; please text or call Melissa. Of course we could always use extra help in our ministry from prayer warriors to prayer leaders! On the job training! 😊 All are welcome! Watch the bulletin for parent/student meetings and program start dates.



## VBS—A HUGE SUCCESS!

What a fabulous week we had at Weird Animals VBS! Over 70 kids and 25 volunteers from three different churches came together to learn that God's love is one-of-a-kind and that even if we are different, Jesus loves us!

Each night began with a weird animal themed supper (big thanks to Lisa Kautza and her crew) to get the kids fueled up for a fun night of activities. Crews were divided up into multi-age groups and rotated through stations where they heard gospel stories during awesome Bible Adventures, played crazy Untamed Games, watched documentary clips from kids who had life challenges in KidVid Cinema, experimented with cool science gizmos in Imagination Station and moved, grooved and crooned during Sing and Play Stampede.

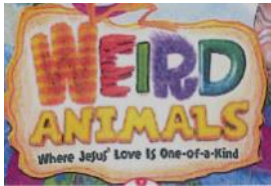
On Wednesday we had some special visitors. Jessica, from the Blank Park Zoo, brought four weird animals. We got to learn, see and touch an African Millipede, Betty the Rat, Nala the Ball Python and Darwin the Marine Toad.

All week long we raised money for two water wells for families in India. We will continue our mission fundraiser into the fall. Our goal is \$250! Thus far we are only about \$50 away! Thank you ALL for your support.

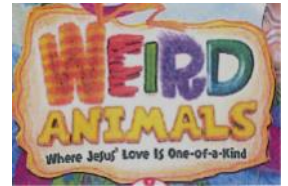
This was the first year we held an evangelical VBS and we were so happy with the outcome. Elkhart Disciples of Christ, Salem Church of Christ and our own parish came together to put on a successful and fun-filled week that we hope to continue in years to come.







## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014



St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish  
460 NW Washington Ave.  
Elkhart, IA 50073

