



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February - April 2017

Volume 1, Issue 16



CELEBRATE

Hudson James and Jaide Cecile, twin son and daughter of Shelby and Kasey Patterson were baptized October 29. Grandparents are Jim and Tammy Hudson and great grandparents are Joe and Jean Rumbaugh.

Aubree Josephine, daughter of Austin and Kaitlin Pottebaum of Adel, was baptized November 20. Her grandparents are Dave and Pam Pottebaum.

Rylie Ann, daughter of Brian and Beth Wilkinson, was baptized November 26. She joins sister Kelsi, 8, and brother, Tyler, 4. The family lives in the Elkhart area. Grandparents are Doug and Emilie Zehr.

Shay Ella and Kinsley Rae, daughters of James and Andrea Carver and *Connor Joseph and Claire Elizabeth*, son and daughter of Chad and Beth Soulli, were baptized November 19. Grandparents are Rita and Gary Carver of Maxwell.



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

March 26, 2017

St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish Social Hall following 10:00AM Mass until 1:30PM.

Join us as we introduce people of all ages to *On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis' letter to all people, and dialogue about how we can address care of creation issues raised in his letter.

"...how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace."



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 13

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7PM St. Mary Adoration following until 11PM, Social Hall

Good Friday, April 14

Stations and Veneration of the Cross, 3PM Holy Cross Passion Service, 7PM St. Mary

Holy Saturday, April 15

Easter Vigil Mass, 8PM St. Mary

Easter Sunday, April 16

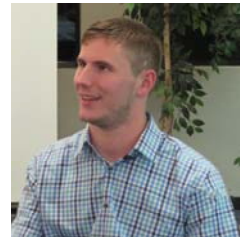
Masses: 8AM, Holy Cross
10AM, St. Mary



Please join us!

THE POWER OF FAITH

Chris Norton, a native of Bondurant, was a football player at Luther College when he took a bad hit during a game, and suffered a spinal cord injury. He instantly lost all movement in his body from his neck down. He thought it would pass – and he prayed. But after surgery he was told he had a 3% chance of regaining any movement below the neck. He chose not to accept it. With a positive attitude and an incredible amount of effort, years later, with the help of his fiancé, he walked across the stage at Luther College to receive his diploma.



Chris, now a motivational speaker and author, spoke to 250+ people at St. Mary's on February 13 about the miracles God performed during some of his most difficult times. He told us about the importance of Attitude, Effort and Purpose, and the power of FAITH. He said if he could change what happened to him on that football field, he would not. He now knows that God had a better plan for him than he had for himself.

See photos on the back page and check out his website at www.nortonmotivation.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

The R.E. students have been busy with many service projects. We continue our support of the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Des Moines. Please keep bringing your pop/aluminum can tabs as they are always in need of those. We are also collecting crayons, colored pencils and coloring books (adult and child), and puzzle books for RMH. Please consider donating any of these items and dropping them in the Ed Center.



We also packaged 14 care packages that were sent to college students from our parish. The care package items were purchased using funds from our bake sale last fall. Thank you all for your support!

As many of us look forward to warmer weather, we want to encourage families to have their students attend Catholic Youth Camp at St. Thomas Moore Center in Panora, Iowa. Many of our current students have attended the retreat in years past and they recently shared with the R.E. kids about their fun experiences at camp. Our parish will pay \$100 towards each child's fee that attends CYC. Registration fills up fast, but there are still openings. The weekly camp runs June through August.



With Lent approaching we look forward to the Stations of the Cross and the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries. The R.E. kids will once again be leading the Stations on March 3rd. We hope you will all join us that evening in faith, food and fellowship!

These kids took part in preparing a meal for St. Joseph Family Shelter.



Comments from some of our College students after they received their care package:

Madison Pottebaum: I just received my care package from the RE program! Such an awesome surprise!!!! This made my day! There are SO many goodies! I love the thoughtful cards too! Thank you so much, such a cool idea! 😊

Abbey Haupt: I just received my care package from the RE Program! I'm so very thankful and it came at a great time! Thanks so much you guys are wonderful! 😊

Kyle Muehlenthaler's mom: Kyle received his care package today and was so surprised. He thanks all the RE kids and families for all the treats and especially the kind words of encouragement!



KNIGHTS KORNER

PLEASE JOIN US! Fish Fries will be held on March 3, 17 & 31 from 5PM to 7PM, before and after the Stations of the Cross. Take out boxes are available as well.

Each year we've set a new attendance record, now at 414. We have enjoyed meeting guests from all over Central Iowa, and we welcome all to join us. A free will offering is appreciated. 60% of the proceeds go to our Parish; the remaining is divided among other Catholic organizations and in our communities.

Volunteers are welcome to join in for as little or as much time as you have – preparing, cooking, serving, cleanup – we can use help anytime on that Friday. You liked the menu last year, so we kept it:

***Fried Tilapia, Baked Cod
Baked Potatoes, Fresh-cut French Fries
Fresh-cut Sweet Potato Fries
Dinner Rolls made fresh from scratch
in our kitchen
Sweet Corn raised, cut & frozen by our Knights
Coleslaw made fresh in our kitchen
Macaroni and Cheese like Grandma made
Lemonade, Iced Tea, Water, Coffee
Ice Cream and Toppings***



Join us!



Feeding the Community

NEW FOOD PANTRY SERVING ELKHART

SMHC and neighboring churches have established a Food Pantry to serve Elkhart and other local communities. The need was determined anecdotally by these churches, who have traditionally provided meals to families during the holidays, and with input from the local schools.

The Blessing Box opened its doors January 26 at the Elkhart Christian Church, 252 S. Washington Ave. It is operated and staffed by volunteers from the following Churches: Elkhart Christian, St. Mary – Holy Cross, Cory Grove, Faith Christian Fellowship, White Oak Baptist, and Salem United Church of Christ in Alleman. It is open the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, from 6:00 – 8:00PM and by appointment.

Food donations marked “*Blessing Box*” can be left at St. Mary or Holy Cross Churches. Cash donations can be made payable to and sent to *The Blessings Box*, c/o Elkhart Christian Church, P.O. Box 97, Elkhart, Iowa 50073. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated.

Your contributions through donations at Mass (second collection) also support the Huxley Food Pantry, St. Mary Family Center, Maxwell-Collins Food Pantry, St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, and IMPACT Community Action Partnership.



NEED SOME IDEAS FOR LENT?

Go to daily Mass once per week in addition to Sunday Mass

Have dinner as a family once a week

Visit someone in person

Give up one particular type of treat

Say the Morning Offering when you wake up

Do an Examination of Conscience and say the Act of Contrition at night

Give a little extra in the collection basket each week

Attend a Lenten Reconciliation Service

Make a list of 40 different people who've touched your life and pray for one person each day

Eat at home rather than going out to a restaurant

Make use of the Rice Bowl collection

Say a family Rosary once a week

Every day go out of your way to say or do something kind to someone

Listen! Really Listen! No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response

Hug a member of your family – say something nice to them every day

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER



Pat Vonnahme never thought she would leave her home town of Manning, Iowa until the Carroll Department of Motor Vehicles office closed this past summer. Pat, a driver's license examiner, was transferred to the Ankeny branch. She likes living in a small town and found a niche in Elkhart. Her three grown children Michelle, Amber, and Matt, still call Manning home. In her spare time, Pat enjoys gardening, walking and going to visit her family including grandson, Keagan. Finding a new parish was easy with SMHC as we were just down the road from her. It is also reminiscent of her home Church.



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS

A group of parishioners came together in 2009 with the intent of practicing Catholic principles regarding care for God's creation and poor and vulnerable people locally and globally. The group became known as Friends of St. Francis. Over time they began and continue to collect and safely dispose of used alkaline batteries, electronics, CFLs, etc., in the entry of St. Mary Church; increasingly use energy efficient lights and fixtures, as well as green-certified cleaning supplies; and recycle plastic used in parish events and materials used in Religious Education classes. They organized one of the area's first community-wide appliance and electronics recovery collection days.

In 2015, Pope Francis' called all people to care for creation and poor and vulnerable people in his letter *On Care for Our Common Home*. Last July more than 40 parishioners gathered after Masses celebrating the first anniversary of the letter to address locally the concerns expressed by Pope Francis. That resulted in increased interest in Friends of St. Francis who now meet monthly to bring awareness to the community about the impacts that people have on creation and to present ideas for lessening that impact.

Friends of St. Francis are planning a pollinator garden and reflection area at the rectory, have factoids and ideas for the bulletin regarding ways to Re-Use, Recycle or Re-Purpose (RRR); an intergenerational educational event March 26; ways to highlight the RRR practices of parishioners; and related activities in parish Religious Education.

Find out more about Friends of St. Francis and *On Care for Our Common Home* at
<http://www.saintmaryhc.org/on-care-for-our-common-home>

WHAT'S COMING UP ?



"Finding God and Wonder in the Mundane Moments" gathering, 6-7PM, followed by meal prepared and served by our Confirmation Students, Social Hall

Friends of St. Francis gathering, Thursdays, February 23 & March 30, 6:30PM, Hall

Children's Liturgy of the Word, March 5 & 19, April 2, during 10AM Mass, St. Mary

Crafts, Games & Social Time: Thursdays, March 16 & April 21, 9:30am, Social Hall

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays, March 16 (HC) & April 20 (SM), 7:00PM

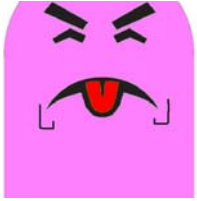
Clothing Drive: April 8 - 20

Earth Day, Saturday, April 22

First Eucharist Liturgy: Sunday, April 23, 2:00PM, St. Mary

Care, Commit, Cultivate: Plant a Tree in Unity, Tree seedling giveaway after Masses April 29/30

Confirmation Liturgy: Saturday, May 6, 10:00AM



WHAT IS THAT STUFF ON THE SANCTUARY WALLS?

Have you ever wondered what that creepy looking stuff is that seems to be growing on the walls in and near the sanctuary of St. Mary Church?

Father Dan refers to this powdery looking stuff as Leprosy, (or “lebbrosi” in Italian) and directed me to **Leviticus 14:33-57** which explains in detail how a priest should rid the house of “defiling molds”. It’s a good read!

Scott Turczynski, a member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, provided another explanation—one rooted in more science perhaps, than Father Dan’s explanation.

Scott reports that the plaster walls have been subjected to water damage, creating a chemical reaction between the Portland cement in the plaster and water, causing a process called efflorescence. It grows and leaves a crystalline, very chalky deposit on the surface. The committee had some flashing work done above the altar roof last fall to protect against water leakage and is waiting to make sure all water infiltration has been eliminated before repairing it. If it is repaired and water is still getting in it will just keep growing. Scott assures us that while not pretty, this is not dangerous.....**unless maybe you eat it.**

You’ve been warned!

- Susan Genalo

TIME & TALENT SURVEY



A new, simplified **Time and Talent Survey** will be e-mailed in February. The survey provides information about the different needs of our Parish and allows you, our parishioners, to select

activities you wish to become involved in or continue doing. The survey will take approximately 5 to 10 minutes for each adult to fill out. We will use results to match interests with ongoing needs such as committee/council members, liturgical ministers as well as periodic requests like photography or food for parish events. We look forward to hearing what gifts and talents you are able to share to serve God, our church and community.

- Stewardship Committee

MODERN DAY “JOB”



I’ve been having a hard time lately: my advisor neglected to tell me I need a particular class to graduate, the ski trip I was planning on taking over spring break with my boyfriend only had one spot left so I don’t get to go, the study abroad I was going to take turned out to be too expensive. The list goes on.

When I feel down on my luck, I always try to remind myself of things I’m grateful for: I have a car that runs well, I can walk without pain, I have a super comfy bed to crawl into at the end of the day. Sometimes remembering these things helps, but a lot of the time, I remember the good things and still think “yeah, but I don’t have /get to do (fill in the blank).” I know I shouldn’t think that, but it’s human. And we can’t constantly blame ourselves for being what we are.

Now, like I just said, I’m human so therefore I’m not perfect. I don’t read the Bible every day, or even every week. But something that does always help when I’m feeling down is simply remembering the story of Job. There is a man who did not deserve all the troubles and trials he went through. But he bore them and continued to be happy. If Job can be happy while the devil himself is attacking him, I think I can manage to find joy in the fact I have to stay in Iowa over spring break.

We are all modern-day Jobs in our own ways. We all have the moments when we think, “What did I do to deserve this?” just like Job thought. But let’s not forget, Job ended up with twice as much as he ever hoped for. Without trials, there would be no blessings. Or the more modern and more familiar saying, “No pain, no gain.”

- Casey Baumberger

my child, i never left you. those places with one set of footprints? it was then that i carried you



that long groove over there is when i dragged you for a while



APPS FOR GOD

It seems as if there are mobile apps for practically everything these days — from health and fitness to productivity to games and infinitum.

But there are also apps that can help us in our religious and spiritual lives. Here are a few that some of our parishioners mentioned that they use in their daily lives.

Susan Genalo and Sue White use the **Family Rosary**, an audible aid to use when praying the Rosary. Susan listens to it when she is walking.



Celeste Muehlenthaler has an app called **Laudate** which has the New American Bible, readings and info on it.

There's also an app called **Lent Sanity** and it reminds you not to eat meat on Fridays in Lent.



Sonya Staudt uses **Mass Readings** - an application that brings you the daily lectionaries from the liturgical calendar.

Included are unique collection of more than 2500 prayers for free.

Sonya also has the **Holy Bible**. On more than 180 million devices around the world, people are reading, listening to, watching and sharing the Bible using this app – completely free.



Deacon Terry uses an app called **iBreviary** to do the Liturgy of the Hours each morning and evening. It also has daily readings and a lot of other prayers and Liturgies.

Besides these applications on smart phones, you can also check out the **USCCB** website for daily Gospel readings and video reflections. You can easily access this from the SMHC website, or just search USCCB.com.

HOMEMADE HUMMUS

Recipe by Anita Dukeman, family friend of Katie Fredericks.

For more recipes, visit <http://anitastabletalk.com/>

This is a family favorite!

- 1-2 cloves fresh garlic, divided (more to taste)
- 1 15-oz can chickpeas or garbanzo beans (reserve liquid from can)
- 3 T olive oil
- 2 T lemon juice, fresh squeezed
- 2 T tahini (sesame seed paste found in international or health food aisle)
- 1 t cumin
- 1/4-1/3 t cayenne pepper
- salt (to taste)
- chopped green, black, and kalamata olives (optional)

In a food processor, chop garlic. Pour in chickpeas. Place olive oil, lemon juice, tahini, cumin, and cayenne pepper in food processor. Blend until creamy. Add 1/4 cup reserved liquid from chickpeas or garbanzo

bean can until well mixed. Adjust seasoning. Transfer mixture to a medium serving bowl. Add chopped olives

(approx. 1/2 cup) and mix in by hand. Sprinkle with pepper and pour olive oil over the top. Serve with pita bread or vegetables.

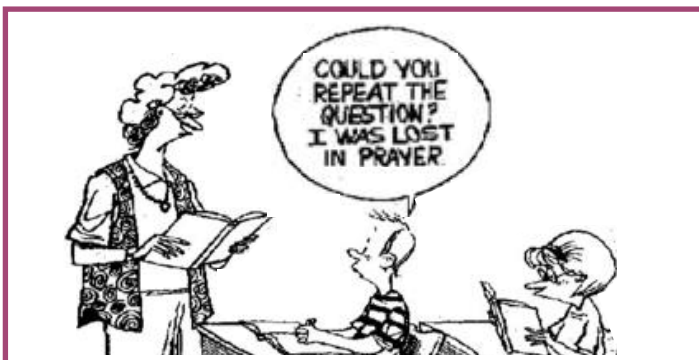


WHAT'S THAT AD ABOUT?



You may have noticed an ad for St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in local Ankeny, Bondurant and North Polk

Iowa Living publications. The ad is intended to bring awareness of our church community and provide a message of welcome with an invitation to join us for Mass. The welcome and awareness campaign was initiated by a parishioner and funded by generous donations from a couple of families, the Knights of Columbus as well as a small contribution of parish funds. The ads will be published monthly through 2017. Be on the lookout for the ads and welcome any visitors to share in our faith family!



YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY



Ash Wednesday, March 1, begins our Lenten Season. Celebrate Mass with us at 8:00AM or 6:30PM at Saint Mary. Join us over the next 40 days for prayer and reflection:

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

Weekday Mass —Wednesdays, 5:30PM (HC) and Thursdays, 8:00AM (SM). First Friday Mass is March 3 and April 7, 8:00AM (SM).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament —Thursday, March 16, 7:00pm (HC).

Sacrament of Reconciliation —Saturdays, 4:00 to 4:30PM or contact Fr. Dan for an appointment. Lenten Reconciliation Service - Sunday, April 2, 2:00PM (SM)

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

Chrism Mass — This Diocesan celebration includes consecration and blessing of sacred oils to be used in sacraments and priests renewal of their priestly commitment. Friday, March 7, 7:00PM, St. Ambrose Cathedral.

Lenten Resources —These booklets will help God's presence in you become more of a reality in your everyday life and, they may help God's light shine through you to others in need of love. Find them in the vestibule.

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study: A time to pray, study, and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5, 7 to 8:30PM (Social Hall or Conference Room).

MUSIC MINISTRY

THANK YOU — all our singers and musicians who provided the beautiful music for the Christmas Eve celebration at St. Mary. It takes a great deal of time, effort and patience from all of you to put all this together!



Easter will be here before we know it and we welcome anyone who'd like to take part in leading our musical prayer. The Easter Vigil is on Saturday, April 15. For more info, please contact me at celestemu@msn.com or 515-577-9394.

We have been "Singing from the Rafters" about once a month, up in the choir loft. We've been having lots of fun while we help lead our sung prayer from upstairs. We welcome singers of all ages! We meet up in the choir loft one hour before Mass begins. Information on when we sing upstairs is usually in the bulletin or you may contact me. Please come join us! We'd love to have you!



We welcome Maria Gorham and Mary Rooney to our awesome group of cantors! Maria sang for the first time in December and Mary will begin in February. Thanks so much to them for answering the call to share their musical talents!

There has been a call for a Funeral Choir. I have one person who has already said they would be interested. Are you available during the day? We'd like to have several people who would be available to sing at funerals. This would not be a huge time commitment and it means so much to the families. Contact me if you are interested and willing to participate.

- Celeste Muehlenthaler

All music comes from God — Johnny Cash

THANKS SO MUCH!

For sharing your music talents at our Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary:

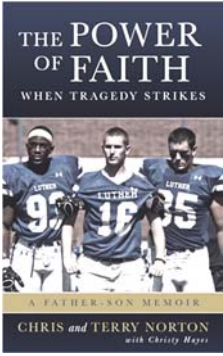
Good News Singers: Catie, Emma & Maggie Bruce, Rylie Campbell, Kaden & Drew Gilligan, Alexis Hergenreter, Kira Hockensmith, Bridget Johnson, Vivian Kahler, Luci Kucera, Jude Linderblood, Leah and Griffen Muth, Lucas Robinson, Liza Schaffer, Daniel Schoening, Peyton Shipley, and Estella Smith

In Dulci Jubilo: Jen Linderblood, Sue White, Stacie Hergenreter, Jennie Moore, Nora Aschoff, Tammi Schwaderer, Garrett McClain, Curt Schwaderer, Tommy & Michael Schwaderer

Instrumentalists: Kevin Muehlenthaler, Andrew and Michael Schwaderer, Kyle Muehlenthaler, Casey and Parker Baumberger, Miranda Sturtz, and Patrick O'Connor



Chris Norton inspires all ages at SMHC



Birthday Party for Jesus



Christmas Eve Choirs



Stations of the Nativity, Holy Cross children



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 12.