



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

November 2013 - January 2014

Volume 1, Issue 4



Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. It is a way of thanking God for His gifts, cherishing and tending them in a responsible and accountable manner, sharing them in justice and love for others, and returning them with increase to the Lord. Throughout this newsletter you will find opportunities for practicing stewardship. As we enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, please consider making a commitment of time, talent or treasure to your parish community.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE!

BAPTISMS

Jessica Lynn and Daniel Jacob, children of Cory and Lisa Schoening, were baptized on August 24.



Emma Rosemary, daughter of Bill and Melissa Hollister, was baptized on August 25.

Courtney Elizabeth, daughter of Jace and Cassie Novinger, was baptized on September 8.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thanksgiving Mass: Wednesday, November 27, 6:30PM at St. Mary.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sundays, December 1 and 15, January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16.

Women's Christmas Party: Wednesday, December 4, Mass at 6:00PM followed by party.

Work of Our Hands Festival: Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 at St. Mary.

Christmas Masses: Tuesday, December 24, 5:00PM at St. Mary, and 7:00PM at Holy Cross; Wednesday, December 25, 9:00AM at St. Mary.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation Masses: Tuesday, December 31, 5:00PM at St. Mary; Wednesday, January 1, 9:00AM at Holy Cross.

Mardi Gras Celebration: Saturday, March 1 after 5:00PM Mass.

Ash Wednesday: March 5.

***What is everyone looking at? Is it a bird?
Is it a plane? No... it's Deacon Terry
making a surprise landing at the Parish picnic.***



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our inaugural Saints Party was held Saturday, November 2nd. Leading up to the party, the 3rd and 4th grade Religious Education classes had chosen a saint to research and then presented their reports to the rest of the R.E. students during our Gathering Time. Be sure to check out their fabulous posters down in the Ed. Center. Our Saint learning culminated with a fun and festive party complete with a game of Saints Bingo, creating our own large-sized saint medallion, having Saint inspired snacks (i.e. candy pumpkins representing St. Isidore, goldfish crackers representing St. Peter). Kids were encouraged to come in costume dressed as their favorite saint. They did a great job as you can see in the photo. Special thanks to Deacon Terry and Di Schleisman for judging our costume contest.





TUSCAN ZUPPA SOUP

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 55 minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb Italian Sausage such as Graziano's
- 2 large potatoes, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 large onion, diced
- 6 slices of bacon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 cups kale or spinach - washed, dried, and shredded
- 2 cans chicken broth
- 1 quart water
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cook sausage in same pot you will use for soup. Drain off grease and set sausage aside.
2. Place onions and bacon in a large saucepan and cook over medium heat until onions are almost clear.
3. Remove just bacon and crumble. Set aside.
4. Add garlic to the onions and cook an additional minute.
5. Add chicken broth, water, and potatoes, simmer 15 minutes or until potatoes are cooked.
6. Add crumbled bacon, sausage, kale/spinach, and cream.
7. Simmer 4 minutes and serve.

CONGRATS NICOLE!



Nicole Bishop was named Senior of the Month by the Kiwanis Club of Polk City. Nicole is a Senior at North Polk High School and is the daughter of Larry and

Mary Bishop. Her favorite subjects are English, art, and music. She is involved in marching, jazz, concert, show choir, pit and pep bands, and in large group and individual speech. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and various honor bands. Nicole is an active member of our parish. She is a counselor at Catholic Youth Camp, a teaching assistant for confirmation class and EDGE program and a member of S.T.O.R.M. Youth Group. After graduation she plans to study nursing.

BIBLE TRIVIA

The word "God" appears in every book of the Bible except Esther and Song of Solomon.



KIDS MEET KANZI

On November 10, about 30 parishioners visited the Iowa Primate Learning Sanctuary. This Sanctuary is a non-invasive, interdisciplinary and interspecies scientific research facility in Des Moines, dedicated to understanding the origins and future of culture and the impact culture has on the beings we become. Special focus is directed to areas of language, the creation and implementation of tools, musical and artistic creativity, and intelligence, all of which help answer the foundational question, "What makes us human?"

We had the opportunity to tour the facility, see the six Bonobos and ask the scientists questions. We saw paintings the Bonobos had created and took a trunk full of cleaning supply donations that the R.E. students collected. The highlight of our visit was seeing Kanzi, a 33 year old male Bonobo, use the lexigram board to communicate words. He also wanted a couple of the children to play a game of "chase," which clearly brought him much delight. It was a great learning experience for all! If you are interested in having a tour, IPLS is open every Sunday and Monday from 2:00 -3:30PM. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.iowaprimateteaching.org>.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Jack and Jennifer Theulen live in Alleman. They were past members of our parish before moving away from the area. Jennifer works for Unity Point and Jack works for Mid-American. They have two children who attend North Polk schools. Amy is 12 years old and Megan is 10 years old. Jack's interests include cars and motorcycles, and Jennifer keeps busy raising her two girls. Amy loves dancing, singing, reading, and piano - all music. Megan also enjoys dancing, band, piano and sax.

Kameron and Staci Shugar moved here from Mason City, and now reside in Huxley. They came to St Mary – Holy Cross because they had heard from others that we were a family oriented parish. Kam works for the Iowa State Patrol in vehicle enforcement and Staci teaches at DMACC, Grandview and Kaplan University. They have four children who attend Ballard schools. Elizabeth is 11, Martin is 9, Anastasia (Anna) is 8 and Austin is 3. Besides work and kids, the family enjoys motorcycle riding. Elizabeth and Ann are involved in cheerleading and Martin is into karate and Boy Scouts.



Jeremy and Jenny Stephenson live in Ankeny. Jeremy is employed with Sammon's Retirement Solutions as a business analyst and Jenny works for the Iowa Chiropractic Society as Director of Communications and Membership. They moved to Ankeny in June, and joined our parish because they wanted a smaller parish similar to their childhood experience. They have two children. Abigail is 8 and Madeline is 12 and they attend Ankeny SE and Parkview schools. Besides enjoying ISU sports, Jeremy enjoys hiking and Jennifer enjoys running, reading and home improvement projects. Abby is a dancer, plays soccer and is involved in Girl Scouts. Maddie also dances, and enjoys making hair bows.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Scott and Lisa Warner live in Ankeny. Scott is employed with the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and Lisa works for Principal Financial Group in Digital Media. They have one daughter, Heather, who is 27, and lives in Des Moines. They chose our parish because of the positive experience they had when they brought Lisa's parents to the parish when they were visiting. Scott is also an RCIA candidate. Scott's interests include animal welfare, reading, wine collecting, and cooking. Lisa likes cooking, knitting and "The Walking Dead".

Kathy Gass joined our parish after moving to Elkhart. She has two sons and her three grandchildren attend Religious Education classes at St. Mary - Holy Cross. Kathy is a manager for Hy-Vee and is involved with Kids Club. She likes to cook and work with kids.



PIE ANYONE?

Members of the parish enjoyed pie and ice cream and an opportunity to socialize with friends after the 5:00PM Mass in October. Thanks to the pie makers



and to the Knights of Columbus who provided the ice cream.

Most especially a big thanks to all who attended.



LOL



Late one night, a burglar broke into a house he thought was empty. He tiptoed through the living room but suddenly he froze in his tracks when he heard a loud voice say: "Jesus is watching you!"

Silence returned to the house, so the burglar crept forward again. "Jesus is watching you," the voice boomed again. The burglar stopped dead again. He was frightened. Frantically, he looked all around. In a dark corner, he spotted a bird cage and in the cage was a parrot. He asked the parrot:

"Was that you who said Jesus is watching me?"
"Yes," said the parrot. The burglar breathed a sigh of relief and asked the parrot: "What's your name?"
"Clarence," said the bird.

"That's a dumb name for a parrot," sneered the burglar. "What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot said, "The same idiot who named the Doberman, Jesus."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are just a few ways you might lend your talents and skills to our parish.

SING! PLAY! If you have a talent for singing or playing an instrument then join the music experience at our parish. The Christmas season is an especially great time to join. Contact Celeste Muehlenthaler at cmuehlenthaler@saintmaryhc.org or 515-577-9394.



The Stewardship Committee is seeking new members. If you are interested in learning more about this committee, please contact one of the members listed in the bulletin. There are many ways that you can become involved in our parish through this committee, and have fun in the process.

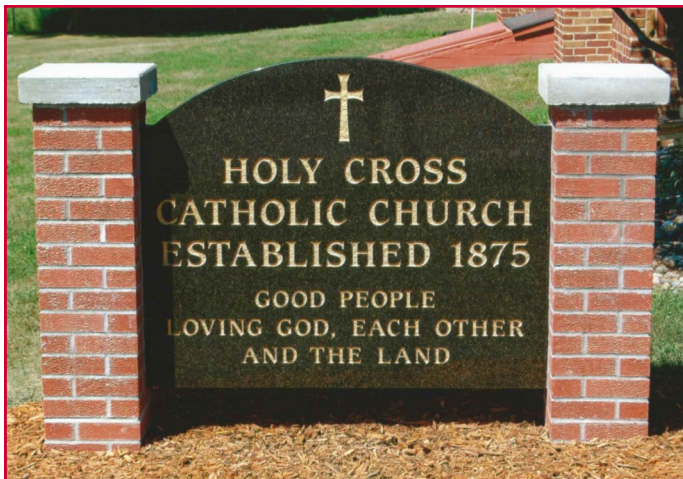


Participate in our prayer chain, offering prayers for the needs of our parish family and friends. Contact Barb Liske at 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org. If an illness or a crisis impacts your family or friends, please contact the parish office so members of our parish may offer prayers for your needs.

Assist in counting weekend Mass collections after 10:00AM Mass on Sunday. It will take just an hour or so of your time. Contact Barb Liske at 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org.



Members of our faith community provide one meal for guests at St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter on the second Sunday of each month. One or more families can volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal. Volunteers can pay for the meal themselves or be reimbursed by the parish. To volunteer or to find out more, please contact Lisa or Tim Kautza, kautza@netins.net or 515-964-7687.



A new sign was installed this summer at Holy Cross Church. A memorial contribution was made by the Lois Ridgeway family in her name, and the brickwork labor was donated by Brad and Scott Bailey. The balance of the cost of this project was paid from the Parish Building Fund. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

SHOP LOCAL



As the early Church shared their talents and gifts with one another, we at St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish also share with each other. **Work of Our Hands** gives parishioners a way to build community, introduces artisans, service-providers, hobbyists, and others in our parish who provide their services or goods, and gives those who would provide such services and goods a way of letting others know about it.

Please stop in the Social Hall before or after Mass on December 7 and after 10:00AM Mass on December 8 to view the goods and services displayed by members of our parish. It's a great time to purchase Christmas presents, decorations and more. A directory is also available which lists parishioners who provide services or goods.

For more information, please contact Phil Staudt at phamous_phil@hotmail.com or 515-210-5602.

MEET Jim and Suzy Aschoff

The Aschoff's have been members of St. Mary-Holy Cross for two years. Jim and Suzy have been married for 17 years and have two wonderful kids, Nora and Matthew. They moved to Alleman from Ankeny in



2001. Both children attend North Polk schools. Nora attends the Middle School and Matthew attends Central Elementary.

Suzy moved to the United States in 1996 after visiting in 1995. She is of Hungarian decent and grew up under communist rule in the Transylvanian region of Romania. Practicing her religion was forbidden, but they did it anyway when they could and where they could.

The minority population of Hungarians (2 million) was predominately Roman Catholic and not even acknowledged by the Romanian Dictator at the end of communism.

The Aschoff family travels to Romania at least once a year and both Nora and Matthew have spoken fluent Hungarian since they were toddlers. Suzy wants them to know about their Hungarian heritage just as they know about their American heritage. She believes understanding their Hungarian heritage is important for them to appreciate their American heritage and feel at home both here and in Transylvania. She misses her family and friends, but the kindness of the many people she has met through the years has made her feel at home.

KNIGHTS KORNER



Our Knights of Columbus Council is keeping active. In September, October, and November we collected funds for People with Intellectual Disabilities, distributed pocket rosaries at Mass, and held a Tailgate social after the 5:00PM Mass, and recruited new members. (In case you missed the tailgate, it may have been the best food served by our council yet.) There are even more activities coming up in the next few months.

December

Wednesday the 11th: Slumberland Bed Delivery in Des Moines area

Sunday the 8th and Wednesday the 11th: Kick-off for *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest among Religious Ed students

January

Weekend of the 4th & 5th: Hosting Wine & Cheese after 5:00PM Mass and Coffee & Donuts after 10:00AM Mass

Sunday the 26th: Hosting Coffee & Donuts after 8:00AM Mass



KID TALK

What is your favorite song?

The Summons — Tyler and Olivia Naragon

Lift High the Cross — Nicole Bishop

Sing to the Mountains — Valeria Beukema

Gloria — Mary Staudt

Table of Plenty — Bridget Johnson, Andrew Ausman, and Justin Anderson

How Great Thou Art — Jacquelyn Staudt

Only a Shadow — Arlene Anderson

Here I am Lord — Tammi McClain

On Eagle's Wings — Sonya Staudt



Has your email address or phone number changed? If so, please make certain that you notify the Parish Office, 515-367-2685 or bliske@saintmaryhc.org.



REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

RESIDENTS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

"I was in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:36

Shirley Koeppel, mother of Tammi McClain of our parish, is a volunteer at the Residents Encounter Christ ministry at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women located in Mitchellville, Iowa.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Residents Encounter Christ ministry (REC). This ministry is devoted to the residents of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women located in Mitchellville. The REC community is made up of



both men and women from a variety of faith traditions. It was formed on the foundation of TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)

which many of you may be familiar with. The backbone of REC consists of a three day retreat featuring a die day, a rise day and a leave day which mirrors the Paschal Mystery. Two retreats are held during the year. Upon completion of a REC, residents are invited to return as a team member and to attend a Renewal Day held twice a year. In addition, a meeting is held on the last Sunday of each month called Reunion Sunday, as a time of prayer and friendship.

This is such a brief summary of the REC program but if you are even slightly interested I would invite you to e-mail Sr. Sandy Rodemyer for more information at sandybvm@gmail.com.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Matthew 25:35

Your donations to the second collection at weekend Masses help feed and shelter those in our community in need. Here are a few examples:

Huxley Food Pantry is an ecumenical effort by the churches in Huxley. It helps supply food for those in need in the Huxley area, and receives private donations of food and money. Two programs the Food Pantry supports are *The Angel Tree* where donations of clothing and toys are distributed at Christmas to needy families, and *The Angel Tree School Supplies* where monetary donations are used to purchase school items for the less fortunate attending Ballard Schools.

St. Mary Family Center gives out more than 8,500 food boxes each year to more than 600 families each month. It also offers perishable food items, clothing and infant items, serving an average of 300-400 families each day.



Maxwell-Collins Food Pantry is an ecumenical effort by the churches in Maxwell and Collins that offers food items for those in need who reside in those communities.

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter: Catholic Charities' St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter is the only emergency shelter in Polk County where the entire family can stay together. St. Joseph's provides safe, clean housing for homeless families for a limited stay. Their mission is to honor the humanity of each person by acknowledging the emotional and financial crisis involved when a family finds itself without housing or funds.

LOL

A Catholic boy and a Jewish boy were talking and the Catholic boy said, "My priest knows more than your rabbi." The Jewish boy said, "Of course he does, you tell him everything."

