



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February - April 2021



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW



You may recall that before COVID-19 struck, the gifts were brought up to the altar during Mass. This action is meant to symbolize humanity offering to God what is described by the priest in preparation as "work of human hands." These gifts of bread and wine are then consecrated and as a result become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, also known as the Eucharist. This is the sacrament that unites us to him and to each other.

Some people have recognized that there is not only a lot of division in our society and culture, unfortunately there is also division within God's Church. Looking back into history, it seems that there has always been division. Nonetheless, our Lord exhorts us to strive for unity: "So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). Like many other of Jesus' teachings, this sounds good, but sometimes it is very hard to practice. Perhaps if we receive the grace of God to reconcile over the little disputes at first and do just that, then it will be easier to reconcile over the large disputes.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 8:00am and 6:30pm at St. Mary
Lenten reflection booklets for children and adults are available in the vestibule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesdays, 5:15-5:45pm
Saturdays 11:00am-Noon & 4:00-4:30pm
After 9:00am First Friday Mass on March 5
or by appointment with Fr. Andrew

Weekday Mass and Adoration

Tuesdays, 6:00pm, St. Mary, followed by Adoration
Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Holy Cross
Thursdays, 8:00am, St. Mary
First Friday, March 5, 9:00am, St. Mary
followed by Adoration and Reconciliation

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm at St. Mary

Lenten Scripture Studies

Gather with us to pray over and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. We meet on Wednesdays (except Ash Wednesday) in the office area at 6:30pm for about an hour.

Please bring a Bible.

This may be offered online; please check the bulletin for updates.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Drive-through only

February 19
March 5
March 19
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Free Will Offering

Menu

Choice between: Fried Tilapia -or- Baked Cod
Each meal includes:
Baked Potato, Sweet Corn, Coleslaw,
Macaroni and Cheese, Dinner Roll

Provide your own: beverages, table service, napkins, and sweet treats.



ACTION VIA INACTION

I've recently started my new career as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). I've only been on the job 6 weeks and I'm pretty sure I've learned more than I have in any of my other jobs. I've learned to take manual blood pressures, that orange juice is dangerous for someone with kidney problems, and what a calcified artery sounds like. But there's one thing in particular that really stands out: the power of active inaction.

Patients can get very cranky, and rightly so. They don't feel good, the doctor promised them they'd get discharged by 9am and they're still there at 6pm, the food is dreadful, etc. On my first day, I wasn't sure how to react when my patients started yelling about how long the doctor was taking or how the blood draw team kept missing their veins, so I decided to keep quiet and listen intently. If I say anything, it's "Yeah, sounds like that really stinks." And then I ask, "Is there anything I can do to make it better?" 9 times out of 10, the patient says, "No, thank you for listening though," and they relax a little and we continue our pleasant patient-caregiver relationship.

On the flip side, I've seen fellow CNAs engage with patients when they get into their angry modes and the results aren't pretty. When CNAs get upset with the patient for being upset, it becomes a battle of who can get more irate and the patient-caregiver relationship is ruined. CNAs walk out of the room and say how difficult the patient is when really, they were being just as difficult.

Now don't get me wrong. There have been plenty of times I want to loudly tell a patient that the reason he doesn't feel well isn't because the doctors don't know what they're doing, but because he's diabetic and keeps chugging chocolate milk like it's the last liquid on Earth. I've wanted to remind a patient to have a little empathy for the nurse who is trying to do 5 discharge orders at once. But doing that wouldn't help anyone, and my job is to be helpful both in the hospital and out in the world.

Be Still
with God

So I actively choose inaction. By actively choosing to do or say nothing, I get myself out of the way and allow God space to guide me. And because of this pausing, this simple act of listening, I haven't had one "bad" patient. Now I find myself on my days off looking for opportunities to choose inaction. Where can I be still, ask God for guidance, and then move on? Some days, I just act without a thought and those days have the most turmoil. But when I can manage to be still and give God room to work through my inactions, I have the most beautiful of days.

- Casey Baumberger

CONGRATULATIONS SUE SCHMIDT!



Retirement – it's what the working person dreams of, plans for and anxiously awaits that magical day. Like a lot of you I have worked outside my home all my adult life – for almost 40 years to be exact.

After graduating from the American Institute of Business in 1981 with a Business Accounting Associate degree, I have worn many hats working in the business world. I've tried my hand as a purchasing agent, computer operator, data center manager, staffing recruiter, executive secretary, administrative assistant and most recently music coordinator at St. Mary/Holy Cross parish.

With every job I held, I learned new skills and new software. The mechanics of office work came easily and you'd think I was on my way. But, it took me many years to really understand what makes a person successful in any occupation – it's not your title or how much money you make, it's how we treat our co-workers and superiors. I was very fortunate to work under some special managers who showed me how to lift people up in the work world. During my last 10 years of work I developed some very special working relationships and made some great friends. As an Administrative Tax Specialist, I supported 36 Tax Accountants at a large utility company. We worked hard and through our daily struggles got to know each other, shared our joys, frustrations – our lives. It was not uncommon for us to pray for each other – yes at work! While I may not miss the hectic work life, you can bet I'm missing the people.

Starting out as an insecure and inexperienced worker, I didn't have a clue. Today I marvel at the poised professional young workers I see entering the work force. The future is their oyster as long as they don't forget to love, respect and lift each other up.

I'm starting a new chapter of my life now and am adjusting to having lots of free time. I've started to learn to sew, hope to start piano lessons soon and am baking more. What a blessing it is now to be available for my elderly parent's needs. I'm praying for God's guidance on what the next chapter will be and know I'm much better prepared for whatever that may be.

*Blessings to you all,
Newly retired, Sue Schmidt*





CHRISTMAS MEMORIES FROM OUR WISE AND WONDERFUL MEMBERS (Part 1)



Kay Ross ~ My favorite memories of Christmas included Mass at midnight, taking kids in their pj's, and singing in the choir. My favorite treats were divinity and Bill's fudge. Going to St. Mary's for Mass or social events was a huge part of my life. I truly considered them as part of my family and still do!

Shirley Robertson ~ How has Christmas changed? Now at age 85, I no longer purchase Christmas gifts for the children. I like to go to midnight Mass. I do not mind spending Christmas Eve at home alone. We did not have many sweets back then. Sugar was on short supply. We each always got an apple, an orange, and some nuts. Childhood memories: We always set a plate around the dining room table. The dining room door was closed and we all gathered in the kitchen for the evening meal. Mom always seemed to not be feeling good on Christmas Eve and would go and lay down. While she was gone, we kids had to do the dishes. Mom was not laying down; she was putting out our Christmas gifts. Eventually, she would come back to the kitchen and would be feeling better. Before we could check our plates, we had to pray a rosary. I am sure we were not praying devoutly, we were anticipating what we would find near our plates.

Mary Ann Cory ~ My memories of St. Mary's Church at Elkhart go back to the mid 40's. I joined the church on August 14, 1944 and had my 1st Communion on August 15, 1944, a Holy Day. My fondest memories were the Christmas Eve Midnight Masses. Church was always so pretty with red flowers, real trees and the crib scene with Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men, and the Shepherds. The lights were not real bright, so it gave a warm cozy feeling. Many a years it had started to snow while at Mass. The flakes were sparkling and floating under the outside lights above the door. Such a beautiful sight and everyone greeted each other so fondly. When leaving for Mass, Ira would take kids out to the car and I would put gifts under the tree. They were there when we returned, and the kids would be thrilled!

When I was 10 years old, I asked for one thing. A baby doll with real hair and eye lashes. The eyes opened and closed. I did get it and I still have her. I made decorations of paper chains, strings of popcorn, and ornaments of milk-weed pods. We also decorated pinecones with ribbon and glued Christmas flowers to them. My parents usually had duck or goose for Christmas dinner. Sometimes it was chicken. They raised all of these.

I do not shop anymore. It is too much. Things are so different from a few years back.

Paula Garoutte Huett ~ My beloved childhood memories about Christmas Church services include from age 10 to 15, singing for the Midnight Mass in the children's robed choir, soloing "O Holy Night" in what was said to be the voice of a little angel in a church where the majesty (and incense!) were awesome each and every year.

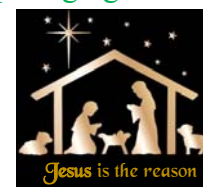
The most memorable Christmas gift I received was a 16" walking doll when I was in the third grade for which my mother had sewn an entire wardrobe from lingerie, pajamas, several dresses and even a beautiful black lace over chartreuse silk evening gown, complete with shoes, gorgeous hat with feathers, and purse. She was a true artist whom I miss very much – especially since she died on a Christmas Day!

Christmas trees were always different each year in my growing years; even had a "mod" aluminum tree one year with a color wheel that changed the colors. Rarely did we decorate with any sentimental ornaments; rather most years we'd use different themes – brightly feathered birds amid colored lighting, jeweled ornaments in different shapes with all blue lighting, white doves and angels with white lighting and always my Lionel train set would circle the tree (usually live) around the little village set up with such care.

Fudge (with and without the walnuts) and my Great Aunt Marie's beautifully decorated anise cookies which always arrived exactly one week before Christmas to be dunked in hot tea were all-time treats.

Christmas meals have almost always been ham since turkey was the Thanksgiving feast, and pork & sauerkraut will always be my "superstitious" New Year's Day repast due to my Grams' German Catholic upbringing.

Shopping has definitely changed over the decades. Once everyone, adult and child in my family, sent a detailed Santa's List so that wishes could be fulfilled; then when miles separated us, cash was given for specific purchases as desired; now online shopping has become the norm which I find sad as it decreases the 'thrill of the find' as well as hurting small businesses, and gifts now seem to take precedence over the true 'reason for the season.'





HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING CATHOLIC YOUTH CAMP?



I'm Sophie, a senior in high school. I've been attending Catholic Youth Camp since I started fifth grade, and I have gone back every year since! Catholic Youth Camp lasts for a week, and is located in Panora, Iowa. It is an amazing place to be, especially during the summertime. It's a great way to get involved with your faith, make new friends, and create memories that will stick with you for years to come. One of my favorite things at CYC is Mass. Mass at Catholic Youth Camp is engaging and full of music played by the volunteers and staff. It also caters more towards the age groups in attendance, so you won't be confused or lose interest while celebrating and better understanding your faith. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to look into attending CYC one day!

Sophia Hoffmeier

CELEBRATE!

Blaise René, son of Timothy and Geneveve Loraditch was baptized on December 3, 2020. His godparents are Fr. Andrew Windschitl and Bethany DeVries.



Hannah Nehring and Brendan Jones celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage on August 22 at St. Mary's Church. Maid of Honor was Danielle Water and Best Man was Nathan Jones. Hannah's parents are Mike and Brenda Nehring of Ankeny. Brendan's parents are Vann and Robbin Jones of Hattiesburg, MS. Hannah and Brendan are Army Medical Service Corps Officers stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas, and living in nearby Manhattan. They will soon be moving to San Antonio, Texas.

St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish
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RECIPE CORNER: COUNTRY CLUB HOT DISH

- 1-1/2 lb. hamburger
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 8 oz. noodles, cooked
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 can mixed vegetables (do not drain)



Brown meat and drain, then stir in onion soup mix. Add cooked noodles to meat mixture. In a separate bowl mix remaining ingredients, do not drain vegetables. Add to meat and noodle mixture. Bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees in casserole dish. Serves 10.

- Kathy Petersen

SNOW REMOVAL

If you would like to help with this at St. Mary, please contact Bill Schmidt, 515-291-8005. Thank you!



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

This is our schedule unless changed by Diocese due to Covid.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper, April 1: 7:00pm Mass, St. Mary with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass until 10:00pm, Social Hall

Friday of the Lord's Passion, April 2: 3:00pm Stations and Veneration of the Cross, Holy Cross; 7:00pm Service, St. Mary

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, April 3: 8:00pm Mass, St. Mary

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 4: 8:00am Mass, Holy Cross; 10:00am Mass, St. Mary