



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February - April 2018



FAREWELL FATHER DAN

This coming July will mark Father Dan's 40th anniversary of ordination as a priest and 10th year as Pastor here at St. Mary - Holy Cross Parish, fully one fourth of all his years as a priest.

It will also be when he completes his assignment here, while continuing his work of spiritual direction at the Emmaus House.

It will likely be sometime in April when a new Pastor is assigned, and Father Dan will let us know who as soon as he knows.

The good news! Father Dan is planning to remain in Elkhart near the many friends he has made over the last ten years. Keep an eye on the bulletin for plans to celebrate both his time as our pastor and his 40 years of ministry as a priest.

MARK YOU CALENDAR



Lenten Book Study, Enrique's Journey, Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30PM, other dates TBD, Social Hall

Crafts, Games & Social Time: Thursdays, Feb. 15, March 15 & April 19, 9:30AM, Social Hall

Friends of St. Francis mtg., Thursday, Feb. 15, Hall

Fish Fry: Fridays, Feb. 16, March 2 & 16, 5-7PM, Social Hall

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Feb. 18, March 4, 18 and April 15, during 10AM Mass, St. Mary

Let's Chat, Tuesdays, Feb. 20, March 20, Ed Center & April 17, Social Hall

Mourning Coffee, begins again in March

Clothing Drive, April 7 - 19

Share the Journey" Immigration and Refugee presentation by Sol Varisco, after Masses April 21/22

First Eucharist Liturgy, Sunday, April 15, 2PM

Senior Citizen Breakfast, Friday, May 4 after Mass

Blessing of motorcycles & riders: Saturday, May 5

NCYC

In November, 14 young women along with 5 adults from our Parish joined 25,000 others at the National Catholic Youth Conference. The energy of the faith shared at this conference every two years has no rival. A few of their favorite things were the keynote and breakout speakers, trading local items with other kids and getting to meet so many others from every walk of life. It's hard to leave NCYC and not be on fire in your faith. It doesn't matter how old you are, it is something you'll never forget. Thank you to our parish for your prayers and financial support to make this trip happen! Our youth and ministers are forever grateful!

~ Nicole Cory



PreK – 6 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education has been going great this year and I am feeling so blessed and excited to be working with great volunteers and a group of fantastic children. We did a many things over the past few months and the pictures highlight some of the fun times had by all.

The children greatly enjoyed making a Thanksgiving Turkey and a total of 108 feathers of thankfulness were placed on our Turkey Tom. The children all had a lot to be thankful for and were proud to put their feathers on. The clothing drive that was done alongside the Knights of Columbus was a success and a great deal of clothing was gathered along with many generous donations to The Blessing Box.

A group of children carried out the *Stations of the Nativity* at Holy Cross and it was absolutely beautiful. I highly recommend to those that have not been able to be there in the past, to do so in the future. The children did a super job!

Jesus' Birthday Party was full of singing, crafting and all children tied blankets for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter (formerly known as St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter). Parents came early and the children sang them a few Christmas songs. A number of toys were also donated to Toys for Tots and graciously delivered by Garret McClain.

Deacon Terry and Tom Ausman conducted Altar Server training for approximately 10 students. We were glad to see so many interested. Many third graders were sad they couldn't serve yet so lets hope they carry their interest into next year! Thank you Deacon Terry and Tom for guiding the children in a very important role that they hold in the Church.

God Bless and looking forward to the second half of the year!

~ Stacie Hergenreter



PARENTS OF RE AND EDGE STUDENTS! JOIN US!

On Wednesday, March 28, while your children are in class, you are invited to come to the Parish kitchen and join us for a sugar cookie making and decorating activity. It's a great way to promote fellowship among the parents.

Please RSVP to Tammi at tammimcclain71@gmail.com, so we know how much sugar cookie dough to provide. All materials will be provided. Please bring a plate or container to take your cookies home in time for Easter. Hope you can join us!



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



After retirement, Tom and Nancy Hora moved to Polk City to be near their 3 children and 7 grandchildren. While in Cedar Rapids, Tom was in IT at Rockwell-Collins Inc. and Nancy was a recreational therapist at Mercy Medical Center. They met at the University of Iowa and have remained avid Hawkeye fans. In addition to family time, Tom enjoys fishing while Nancy likes to read, travel, and decorate their home. They came to SMHC parish after attending churches in Ankeny and Granger. Tom and Nancy both like the homey feel of St. Mary's Church.

Robert and Aletha Tehmeh, with sons Tehris and Terry, found themselves in Iowa by way of a route unfamiliar to most of us. Born in Liberia in West Africa, their journey began when they won US visas through a lottery. After being with family in Georgia for a while, friends in Ankeny convinced them Iowa was a good place to raise children, find jobs, and attend school. Tehris and Terry are enrolled at Rock Creek School. Aletha is in the nursing program at DMACC. Robert is a fulltime student at Iowa State studying geology with an emphasis on petroleum, and works weekends at TPI in Newton building wind blades. With limited free time, they treasure their family life. Aletha would like to become more involved in Church activities, as she was in Liberia. Ten-year-old Tehris likes to read, sing, and play soccer. Seven-year-old Terry loves all sports, especially soccer and basketball. The Tehmeh's like how close St. Mary's Church is to their home in Ankeny.



Tyler and Katie Wells grew up around the Storm Lake/Sioux City areas, but moved from West Des Moines to Bondurant to be closer to Tyler's work. He is employed by Ziegler's in Altoona. Katie works for JB Hunt & Co. Both like spending time with their new dog, Harper, and cheering for Iowa State. They came to St. Mary's Church because of the close-knit feel of a smaller parish. Katie feels closer to her faith because of a special role model within her own family. Fr. Stanley Rother (her grandmother's cousin) was martyred in Guatemala in 1981 and beatified in September 2017. His canonization is presently under consideration by Pope Francis. Blessed Stanley Rother could become the first American-born man to be canonized a saint.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

During Mass on January 6, Ashley Young and Paula Garoutte entered into full communion with the Catholic Church and our St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish Community. Previously, Ashley had been baptized and confirmed in the Russian Orthodox Church and Paula had been baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. On January 6, both women made a public Profession of Faith and received the Eucharist at that Mass, and are now full members of the Roman Catholic Church. As with all of us, they will continue to learn and grow in the faith. Please welcome Ashley and Paula to our Church Family, and keep them in your prayers.

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES!



Used batteries are still collected in the vestibule storage container. Please tape the ends of the batteries with either duct or masking tape prior to donation.

CHURCH BILLBOARD

Honk if you
love Jesus.

Text if
you want to
meet him.

52 YEARS OF COLLECTING NATIVITIES

The word *nativity* (to be born) has a special meaning to Bill, Sharon, and Kelly Dunbar. To see every room in their house decorated in nativity scenes is simply amazing. Each nativity has a story to them, from where it came from, to who gave it to them, to how long they have had it, or the special artist that made it. Their first nativity has been on display for 52 Christmas seasons. That year, they had to decide between it and a Christmas tree and the nativity was chosen.

Bill's job then took them out of the state and when they returned to Iowa from New Jersey in 1980, they decided that they would buy one nativity each year after Christmas when they were on sale. And so the tradition began. Sharon joked and said, "This has become something that has gotten out of hand," as friends and family members scout out the perfect set to give them as gifts each year. A new addition was brought back from Andrew Cory's family, Sharon's nephew, when they went to Kentucky on a mission trip this past summer. The set is made out of coal.

Sharon pointed out several of Bill's favorites, the scenes in which Joseph is actively engaged with baby Jesus. She laughed as she said, "Bill is the one with the problem." He has even contacted several artists inquiring about discontinued pieces or prints.

One special nativity set is left up all year long. It is a Precious Moments set in which they added to it piece by piece over the years.

Kelly has the Charlie Brown Christmas nativity on her nightstand beside her bed. Kris Sturtz, Sharon and Bill's daughter, hand crafted several of her own, one particular one dating back to when she was 11 years old. The oldest nativity that they have is from 1940 and is made of paper. I asked if she had a favorite and Sharon's answer was no. They each are special and mean something different to them.

If you ever get a chance to see them, you will not be disappointed. There may even be cookies and hot apple-cranberry cider!

~ Tammi McClain



MEATBALLS AND SAUCE



Meatballs

- 2 lbs. ground beef (85%)
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tbsp. basil

Mix all ingredients together. Form meat into balls. Add 1 tbsp. oil to pot. Brown meatballs. Once browned, drain excess oil from pot and remove meatballs from pot.

Sauce

- 2 cans tomato paste (large)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 tomato paste cans of water plus 3 additional cups

Put all ingredients into the pot you browned the meatballs in. Once all ingredients have been combined, put meatballs back in. Simmer for several hours on low, stirring occasionally.

Make any kind of pasta that you prefer. Serve and enjoy!

~ Dawn Reynolds

Music 
is a prayer the heart sings

Have you heard any of these songs? Consider downloading one, two, or all and adding them to your playlist!

- *You are Mine* by David Haas
- *Beloved* by Jordan Feliz
- *Cry Out to Jesus* by Third Day
- *He's Alive* by Don Francisco
- *Move* by Toby Mac
- *He Knows My Name* by Francesca Battistelli
- *Alive Again* by Matt Maher

Or... tune into *The Message* on satellite radio or **107.1** on FM Radio for uplifting Christian music.

MINIMALIZING?



The other day I was perusing Netflix and I came across a documentary about minimalism. Now normally, I'm not a huge fan of documentaries nor the idea of minimalism. Who wants to get rid of all their things and live out of a bag? Not me, that's for sure. But for some reason, I was very curious, so I watched all one hour and twenty-eight minutes of it.

I loved it. It's called "Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things". Before watching this little gem, my idea of minimalism was that you had to sell all of your belongs, save for a few items of clothing and maybe one keepsake. I could not have been more wrong.

Minimalism is all about living with purpose and surrounding yourself with things that represent your purpose. It doesn't matter if you have a house with five kids or are a bachelorette living out of your backpack and traveling the world for a living, both people can be minimalists.

In today's society, we are inundated with advertisements and we're constantly told, "you need the newest, latest and greatest thing"! According to an article by CBS News in 2006, we see as many as 5,000 ads a day. For some reason, we've bought into the idea that having lots of money and being able to buy lots of things will make us happy and bring us fulfillment. But deep down, we know that's not true. It never has been and it never will be true. We find happiness and fulfillment in experiences, meaningful relationships, and following our beliefs. Honestly, the philosophy of minimalism lines up with Catholic/Christian faith. Our faith tells us to live truthfully, to live with a purpose and that's exactly what minimalism is. It's so easy to get lost in the clutter (5,000 ads is A LOT to process) and often times we surround ourselves with the clutter in our homes.

So I have a challenge for you. Pick a room in your house/apartment (or a section of your dorm room) and go through the things that are there. Get rid of anything you don't use. Once you've done that, go back through it again, pick up each item and ask yourself "Does this serve/further my purpose?" If yes, keep it. If not, chuck it. I know, I know, it sounds kooky and weird, but I swear it works. Give it a try and if you see me around church sometime, let me know how it worked for you.

~ Casey Baumberger

MUSIC LITURGY

In August we sang a “Gospel-Style” Mass, and heard many kind comments. We will do that again soon!

Our “Singing from the Rafters” took a little break, but will be back if people would like to sing from upstairs in the choir loft. People of all ages are welcome to come! Watch the bulletin for reminders or let me know that you would like to sing. I will also send music out to you ahead of time.

Our largest undertaking was music for Christmas. We began rehearsing in November and worked on it until Christmas Eve. We had an amazing group of singers and instrumentalists (20 children, 16 adults and 7 instrumentalists). We also had an original arrangement of “Let There Be Peace on Earth” by Kevin Muehlenthaler. I’m very proud of the dedicated musicians we have helping us at SMHC. The musicians worked very hard and we hope you enjoyed it. Thank them if you get the chance!



On another note, when we’re all in the choir loft it gets pretty crowded! The folding chairs take up a lot of extra room! Does anyone know where we might find long benches (or old, simple pews)?

We would like to improve the music experience at St. Mary in the Social Hall and the Cry Room, where the music can't be heard like it is in the church. The sounds system needs some enhancements, starting with additional microphones and replacement of old ones. The piano also needs a microphone. One solution is to hang permanent microphones in the choir loft, and wireless microphones or permanent ones in the front of the church. This, however, would require a significant expense. We would welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

Our music program continues to evolve and we love your comments and suggestions! We welcome everyone who’d like to join us!

~ Celeste Muehlenthaler
celestemu@msn.com

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Ash Wednesday — February 14, Masses at 8:00AM and 6:30PM (SM)

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation — Saturdays, 4:00 to 4:30PM (SM) or contact Fr. Dan for an appointment. Our Lenten Reconciliation Service is Sunday, March 18, 2:00PM (SM)

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, March 2, 8:00AM (SM).

Sunday Scripture Prayer and Study — A time to pray, study, and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 7:00 to 8:30PM (Conference Room)

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — Thursdays, February 15 (HC) and March 15 (SM), 7:00PM.

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 23, 7:00PM, St. Ambrose Cathedral.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, March 29

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

Good Friday, March 30

3:00PM Stations and Veneration of the Cross,
Holy Cross
7:00PM Passion Service, St. Mary

Holy Saturday, March 31

8:00PM Easter Vigil Mass, St. Mary

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:00AM Mass, Holy Cross
10:00AM Mass, St. Mary



FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS

Pope Francis' two-year initiative *Share the Journey, Love Your Neighbor* encourages governments and individuals to welcome migrants and refugees fleeing poverty and conflict in search of a better life for their families. We will offer activities and informational gatherings during Lent and the Easter season.



Join us for a book study on Monday, February 12, 6:30PM in the Social Hall. The book is *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario and we will discuss the first 50 pages. You can obtain a copy of this book from a library or from Amazon. Contact Robin Olberding, 515-291-4473, if you have questions or if you would like to join us.

Sol Varisco, executive director of *Justice for Our Neighbors*, will join us after all Masses April 21 and 22 to speak to us and respond to questions about immigration and refugee issues.

Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, February 15, 6:30PM in the Social Hall.



KNIGHTS KORNER

The Knights of Columbus Council in our parish kept busy in November and December. Activities included:

- Partnering with RE for a clothing drive for St. Vincent de Paul, which resulted in a pickup truck loaded in the bed and all but the driver's seat and a car loaded similarly.
- We held a "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest among the Elementary RE students.
- We helped a larger central Iowa group raise funds for Dorothy's House through raffle ticket sales to support victims of sex trafficking.
- A few guys went to Des Moines to help distribute beds from Slumberland to those who needed them.

This year's Fish Frys are scheduled for Feb. 16, March 2 and 16 from 5:00-7:00PM in our Social Hall. We anticipate serving over 500 people each night! We enjoy serving our parish and surrounding community who join us. It is fun to get so many together. It is also our largest fundraiser of the year, which allows us to financially support so many things.

A HEALTH UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE DOCTORS!

During this flu season, we thought it may be a good time to invite you to check in on the financial wellness of the parish. These things may not seem related at first – but please read on. It is easy to see that when there are specific financial requests of this parish, the response is **OUTSTANDING!** Examples of this are the Social Hall, the new Rectory, and memorial flags for the cemetery. Some say there is no other parish that responds as quickly and as generously as the parishioners of SMHC. Our wellness score is significantly above average. Where we need the booster shot is the week to week, month to month, less than exciting financial needs of the parish paid through the regular practice of tithing. You may want to stop reading – but hang in a little longer. Another way to think of tithing is to consider it your way of making an ongoing investment in the wellbeing and future of the parish. Without this regular injection the parish finances become sick. And then, no one wants to talk about it...we just keep looking at it...praying it will get better...but it does not.

So, during this flu season, we ask for your help. Our tithing levels are trending down and have been lumpy which will lead to some constrictions, increased pressures, and an overall reduced wellbeing of the parish. Given that we believe each of us wants a vibrant, fit and strong parish, we would like you and your family to take two easy steps that will help improve the health of the SMHC finances.

1. Share with us your thoughts and ideas for increasing the levels of financial wellness through weekly tithing. We are hopeful that you will step into your creative side and send even the craziest of ideas to the Chair of the Finance Council, Shaun Magill at shaunkrismagill@gmail.com. All ideas are welcome. We believe this will be an activity for the whole family to have fun with. There are no bad ideas!
2. Increase your current tithing by \$5.00 weekly. If each SMHC parish family did this it would be an almost immediate cure! There are many worthy investments of our hard-earned money. We are hoping that helping to ensure the health of your parish now and in the future will be one of those worthy investments. Increases can be accomplished easily by contacting Parish bookkeeper, Peter Relyea, at prelyea@saintmaryhc.org if you are using electronic payment, or by putting a little extra in your weekly tithing envelope!

Thank you for allowing us a moment to take your pulse. With your help the results we share from the financial checkup next month will be one of **GOOD HEALTH!** Let's all take care of our body and soul during this flu season!

~Finance Council



Good News Singers Children's Choir



Stations of the Nativity at Holy Cross



St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish
460 NW Washington Ave.
PO Box 110
Elkhart, IA 50073



*Loaded truck from RE & Knights of Columbus
Clothing Drive*



Youth Christmas party



NCYC



Making apple crisp

