



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

May - July 2018



CELEBRATING FATHER DAN!

Don't miss this opportunity to congratulate Father Dan on his 40 years of priesthood and to thank him for his 10 years of serving our Parish as Pastor.

Join us Saturday, July 7 after 5:00PM Mass or Sunday, July 8 after 10:00AM Mass for a reception in the Social Hall. Father Dan's last day in the Parish is Wednesday, July 11.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Susan Hobart, a senior media buyer, lives in Huxley. She enjoys spoiling her nieces and nephews, being with family and friends, and trying out new restaurants and eating establishments with them. She grew up Catholic in Marion, Iowa but drifted away from the Church. After losing her husband two years ago, she felt the need for something meaningful in her life. Her faith drew her back to the Catholic Church and she eventually found St. Mary's. Susan likes the personal feeling of coming "back to her roots" in a small parish like SMHC.

Tim and Geneveve Loraditch recently moved from Ankeny to Elkhart in search of open spaces for their growing family to run, play, and explore. Tim is a marketing analyst for WinField United in Ames. Geneveve is a stay at home Mom who home schools their six children. The family loves following the Buffalo Bills and the Cubs and several children participate in Home School Team sports. Veronica (13) is a member of the Catholic Youth Choir; Peyton (12) enjoys sports in general; Felicity (9) loves meeting and making new friends; Justice (7) is into Star Wars; Mercedes (4) is a fan of Disney Princess Movies; and Titus (2) "loves food". Geneveve and Tim, a convert to Catholicism, are passionate about their faith and are involved on many levels within the Diocese. They like the vibrancy they feel in SMHC and look forward to being personally active within our Parish.



LOOK INSIDE!

Meet our graduating seniors. (page 4 and 5)

Find tips on Christian music and movies that your family will enjoy. (page 6)

Catch up on the many activities of *Sharing the Journey* and our St. Francis group. (page 6)

The Knights of Columbus had a great response on their fish fries. Find out how many people were served. (page 7)

Learn more about our Religious Education programs and activities. (page 2)

How about making a delicious Heath Bar Coffee Cake? The recipe is inside. (page 6)

Communication — see what college student Casey Baumberger thinks about our need for better communication. (page 7)

Get introduced to our three newest members recently baptized. (page 3)

And check out photos of our parish family throughout this newsletter.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PRE-K THOUGH 6TH:

The second half of the year flew by! The final class took place on April 18th and all classrooms had an end of year party. The children are ready for summer's warmer weather and sun. The classes have ended for the time being but hopefully the kids feel inspired to keep up their prayers and to continue to look for signs of God in their daily lives and to seek comfort and refuge in the Holy Trinity. The importance of doing so was expressed in many openings and throughout class.

Our children live in a very challenging world, at least it seems a great deal more challenging than when I was growing up. I could at least go home each day and leave whatever issues may have transpired that day behind but now children are extremely accessible via social media. I personally relied heavily and still do every day on my faith. Whenever a challenge seemed insurmountable, it became second nature for me to ask myself, "What would Jesus do?" A very simple phrase and it was worn a great deal on bracelets, shirts and the likes. There are always fads but at least to me, this seems like a phrase that should never go away. I cannot think of a time throughout the Bible that Jesus let anyone down. He was good through and through and kindness and compassion can only result in good things happening. We all "wear" our faith in unique ways. Continue to help your children throughout the summer months to cultivate their faith to see how faith brings strength, courage and light to one's life. There have been and there will be plenty of challenges and dark moments in life for all but strong faith can help a person through the tough times.

I want to extend a huge thank you to our 25 Catechists! They were tremendous with the children and gave so much of their time to plan and teach classes. All of this would not be possible without them. - Stacie Hergenreter



Register now for Fall RE Classes. Forms are in the vestibule. and on the website.

8TH GRADE RETREAT

Our annual 8th grade retreat took place on Sunday, February 25th. The theme, *God is Timeless*, had our young parishioners looking back on events throughout the decades and how God is always present. 10 adults and 12 teenagers of our Parish volunteered more than 530 hours to make it a huge success! The 8th graders enjoyed the witness talks, fellowship, games, a 1950's themed lunch and a very moving skit the most. We look forward to this every year and are very lucky to have so many volunteers to give our 8th graders an experience they won't forget!



- Nicole Cory

AN EVENING WITH FR. DAN

The McClain family recently sat down for a delicious Mexican meal with Father Dan at El Azteca, one of his favorite restaurants. We had a wonderful Q & A about Father Dan. He commented several times, "I do not like talking about myself." Here is what we learned about our semi-retiring pastor.

Dan Krettek was ordained on July 7, 1978 at his home parish of St. Albert in Council Bluffs. Growing up he described his life as "thoroughly Catholic." His parents were not socialites, so church and family were his social life. He went to the same parish that his parents grew up in and attended the same school as them. He did not have a car in high school, so it was not convenient for him to participate in extracurricular activities or sports.

When he went to away to ISU for college, he majored in Forestry. During the middle of his sophomore year, he started hanging around St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center, and it was there that he became attracted to the influence of the ministry. He still questions if priesthood is his calling, but he knew that he didn't just want a job, but a life to live through his work.

Father's most enjoyable part of his job is the individual spiritual counseling he gets to do. He loves working with people who are recovering from serious "stuff." His least enjoyable part of his job is the administrative responsibilities required. He would rather leave that to someone else.

Father Dan does not reuse his homilies. He tries to connect each reading with a message that will speak to us individually and make us want to investigate further. His first homily spoken was in response to King David as he began his work as King. That message is "Do not make your readiness the criteria for starting something," and is a message he still tries to voice today.

In semi-retirement Father Dan will continue his work at Emmaus House, serve on the board of Iowa Bow Hunters Association, volunteer at the



Beginning Experience Weekend, possibly design a retreat for the homeless, gardening, and help kids get their first deer or turkey.

We wish Father Dan all the best and hope that he will stay involved with St. Mary-Holy Cross. I mean, he is seriously going to be right down the street!

- Tammi McClain

CELEBRATE!

Jenna Jo Reiter was baptized on January 28. Jenna is the daughter of David and Danyel Reiter and sister of Brett (6) and Drew (5). Godparents are Dena Majerczyk of Clearlake and Dusten Paulus of Spencer.

Alex Joseph, son of Scott and Emily Weber, was baptized on February 18 at St. Mary's Church. Godparents are Kristi Walmsley and Matt Balvin. Alex joins brother Tyler (7). Grandparents are Bill and Joanne Balvin of Tyndall, South Dakota and Dennis and Barb Weber of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Winston James Johnson was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 1, which was also his 1st birthday. Winston is the son of Ben and Andrea Johnson. Godparents are Chehala Goodenkauf and Keegan Pace. Grandparents are Mark and Pam Johnson of Waukee and Maureen Pace of Ionia, Kansas. Great-grandmother is Eileen Johnson of Atlantic.

Madison Ann, daughter of Nick and Mollie McCoun, was baptized on April 14. Godparents are Jeff and Jen Kokke. Madison has two brothers, Conner (7) and Brodey (4). Her grandmother is Debbie Odgaard of Altoona.

- Sue White

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

The North Polk School District has a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chapter in their high school. The group meets monthly and tries to implement the model that engages coaches and athletes to grow in their faith and sport. They have had many guest athletes speak to them about how their faith in God has helped them through difficult times. Some of their time is spent collecting items for others-food, clothing, blankets, while other times are social. They begin and end their meetings with prayer and always have a life implementation goal.



- Tammi McClain



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

Carter Fricke

Parents: Marcus and Cheryl Fricke

School: Collins-Maxwell

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Simpson College and major in business management and run track

Favorite Bible Verse: I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength. -Philippians 4:13



Dana Edleman

Parent: Marty Edleman and Kristi Krafka

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: South Dakota State University, Brookings

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd.



Ben Wong

Parents: Norm and Suzie Wong

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and major in business

Favorite Memory of SMHC: I had a lot of fun going to Perfect Games in Ames with the Youth Group.



Cody Lenz

Parent: Michael and Laurie Lenz

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: planning to take a year off school and work.

Favorite Memory of SMHC: Being confirmed and meeting the Bishop.



Miranda Sturtz

Parents: Kris and Andy Sturtz

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend University of Iowa and major in Microbiology

Favorite Memory from SMHC: Playing cajon for Mass.

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 91:5-7. "You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."



Nathan Montgomery

Parents: Jeremy and Kari Montgomery

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans: Heading to DMACC in the fall with an undecided major.



Callie Haupert

Parents: Henry and Kristine Haupert

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend UNI and major in Elementary Education.

Favorite Memory from SMHC: I was attending a retreat in junior high where I got closer with GOD and lost a tooth too!



Alli McClain

Parents: Garrett and Tammi McClain

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend ISU and pursue a degree in Business

Favorite Memory of SMHC: When Thom Hamm was my catechist (he was awesome) and he made us close our eyes and visualize Jesus.



Dylan Hockey

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend DMACC for horticulture with goal of a career with the DNR.

Favorite Memory of SMHC: When I received my First Communion and I absolutely loved Father Michael and his fun sense of humor and his way of communicating God's word for kids to understand.



CLASS of 2018!



Sabrina Kerr

Parents: Lenard and Tawna Kerr

School: Ankeny Christian Academy

Post-Graduation Plans: University of Illinois at Chicago

Favorite Bible Verse: Luke 1:37



Susanne Kerr

Parents: Lenard and Tawna Kerr

School: Ankeny

Post-Graduation Plans: DMACC, eventually attending medical school to specialize in Psychiatry

Favorite Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8



Natalie Smith

Parents: Bridget and Perry Smith

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Grand View University

Favorite Memory of SMHC: The great times at NCYC. Seeing people my age so excited about our faith and meeting people from all over and trading items with them.



Caleb Barnett

Katelyn Camp

Maria McCright

Gavin Hobbs

Brandon Jones

Bradley Kiernan

Grace Leonard

Tyler Maire

Brandon Schilling

Brock Staudt

Willian Stolte

Hunter Wright

Olivia Jones

Parents: Lisa and Doug Jones

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: attend Iowa State University and major in pre-veterinarian studies

Favorite Memory from SMHC: researching different saints and selecting St. Joan of Arc for my confirmation name.



Nolan Johnson

Parents: Late Rick Johnson and Toby Johnson

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation Plans: Study computer engineering at Kansas State

Favorite Memory from SMHC: Confirmation and the preparation to get confirmed.



Matthew Hines

Parents: Bradon and Dana Hines

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation Plans: Studying engineering at Iowa State.

Favorite Memory of SMHC: Eating at the fish fries.



**GO INTO THE
WORLD AND DO
WELL. BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY, GO
INTO THE WORLD
AND DO GOOD.**

(MINOR MYERS JR.)

SUMMER S.T.O.R.M. KICKOFF



Please join us for a summer kickoff with an evening of fun and fellowship! All teens 8th - 12th grades are invited to a lock-in at St. Mary. Drop off time is 9:00PM on Friday, June 15th and pickup time is 7:30AM on Saturday, June 16th. The cost will be \$5.00 per attendee. Permission forms will be available in the vestibule at St. Mary beginning Saturday, May 26th and are due back by Sunday, June 10th. Please contact Andrea Fisher with questions, 515-240-5059 / afisher@saintmaryhc.org.



FATHER ANDREW

Fr. Andrew Windschitl is our new Pastor! He was ordained in 2015 and served as Parochial Vicar at St. Anthony and St. Francis Parishes before being assigned here. Give him your best SMHC welcome!!



FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS

During the month of April, Friends of St. Francis focused its work on the campaign *Share the Journey* – *Love Your Neighbor* in concert with Pope Francis' and Bishop Pates' initiatives on concerns about the millions of people on the move from their homes; immigrants, refugees and migrants. More than 50 parishioners participated in one or more of the *Share the Journey* activities including a book study of *Enrique's Journey*, the collection of personal care & cleaning items and diapers & wipes for use by Catholic Charities for refugee resettlement; a reflective solidarity prayer walk to increase awareness of the needs of our poor and vulnerable neighbors throughout the world; and a conversation after Masses with Sol Varisco, of Justice for Our Neighbors. For more about *Share the Journey*, visit www.sharejourney.org.

Sol Varisco, executive director of Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), spoke to parishioners after Masses at St. Mary Church April 21 & 22 about the increasing demand for the work of the organization and answered questions regarding current immigration and refugee issue and concerns. For more about JFON, visit <http://www.iowajfon.org>.



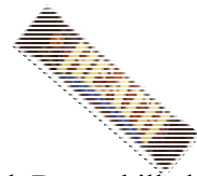
"MOURNING COFFEE"

Grief is unique. But growing through your grief can be eased when it is shared. Learning skills to cope with a heart that can feel broken, days or even years from the loss of a loved one, is the journey called bereavement. "Mourning Coffee" will resume weekly gatherings in June for our Church Family as well as anyone who may like to join. Questions? Call/text Paula Garoutte at 515-306-6633 or email paulasongbird@msn.com.

RECIPE

HEATHBAR COFFEE CAKE

2 C flour	1 tsp baking soda
1 C brown sugar	1 egg, beaten
½ C white sugar	1 tsp vanilla
1 stick butter	½ tsp salt
1 C buttermilk	4 regular size Heath Bars, chilled



Combine flour, brown sugar, white sugar, and butter and mix thoroughly with pastry blender until butter is in pea-size pieces. Reserve ¼ C of this mixture.

Add baking soda to buttermilk, then add egg, vanilla, and salt and mix well. Stir into flour mixture and mix until all dry ingredients are damp. Pour into greased 9x13 pan (or two 8" pans).

Before unwrapping Heath Bars, crush with mallet. Combine crushed Heath Bars with the ¼ cup reserved flour mixture. Sprinkle on top of batter and bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

HAPPENINGS THIS SUMMER

Vacation Bible School, June 18-21, 5:30PM – 8PM

Garage Sale (Ed Center), July 14/15, Fundraiser for Youth attending Steubenville Retreat in July

Knights Pancake breakfast after Holy Cross 8AM Mass, May 27

Confirmation Liturgy, June 10, 2:30PM, St. Mary

Missionary Visit, Weekend of August 4 & 5



CHECK THESE OUT!



from the 5:15pm 2nd Grade RE Class

My God is Powerful (Life Tree Kids) *
Trust in the Lord With All Your Heart (Slugs and Bugs)*

A Good Friend (Sovereign Grace Kids)*

Tell the Truth (Frank and Betsy Hernandez)

How Great Thou Art (Carrie Underwood)*

Just be Held (Casting Crowns)*

(*check out YouTube for related videos)



The Case for Christ. Based on best selling book by Lee Strobel of the same title.

Find it on Netflix, rent or buy on iTunes.

Same Kind of Different As Me (DVD on Amazon)

JC Superstar Live Concert (NBC)

JC Superstar (DVD on Amazon)

COMMUNICATION! WHY WE SO DESPARATELY NEED IT

When I attended orientation at Iowa State, they told the entire orientation that effective communication is the #1 skill employers and grad schools want. If that was true, then the degrees like English, Communications, and Public Relations would be highly valued and the jobs for those degrees would pay a living wage. But they don't. Colleges and employers claim they value effective communication, but the fact of the matter is: they don't. We as a society don't value communication. And we have to change that because the future depends on it. Why?

The atomic bombs were dropped on Japan because someone misinterpreted the Japanese word for "no comment"; one wrong verb in a treaty caused a war between Ethiopia and Italy; George Washington pretended to read French and started a war. On a more relatable level: your boss neglects to tell you a deadline until the day of, causing a ton of stress and poor job performance; your significant other doesn't tell you they've taken a job 1,000 miles away until the week before you move; your sister doesn't ask to borrow your favorite sweater and you find it missing. There's a pattern: the inability to effectively communicate often has negative consequences.

Take a second and reflect on your communication efforts. Do you tell your husband/wife why you're upset about something they did or do you just hint at it? Do you always wait for your boss to give you information you know they have or do you ask for it? People tend to think communication is a skill everyone has because everyone can talk, right? Yes, everyone can communicate. But not everyone can communicate *well*. And that right there is the kicker. You don't have to have perfect grammar or a vocabulary the size of a dictionary, but you do have to make a conscious effort and have awareness of whom you're communicating with.



Over the next few weeks, try to become more aware of how you communicate with others. Effective and purposeful communication is essential. It brings all of us closer emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Try to pay attention to how you interact with particular people and how they react to you. Make little adjustments to your interactions with others. For example, instead of responding to your roommate's passive aggressiveness by giving them the cold shoulder, ask them "Is there something I am doing that's upsetting you?" You'll be amazed by what you notice and the results you'll get!

- Casey Baumberger



KNIGHTS KORNER

First of all, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lenten Fish Fries earlier this year. Thank you for your financial contribution, helping serve the record attendance crowds, welcoming those visiting our Parish, or anything else. Special thanks to the ladies who helped make fresh bread and the students and adults who helped clear tables. (We think we served about 600 people for the second dinner on March 2nd but the



author of this article had trouble operating the clicker that night.) Over the three Friday nights, we served 1500 people, about 8% more than last year. Because of all the generosity those days, we will be able to pass along that generosity to many deserving groups.



Earlier this year, we distributed funds raised through the CPID drive to Candeo, On With Life, and Miracle League Des Moines.

We have also welcomed five new members to our Council since July 1st: Blake McClain, John Roberts, Andrew Jungers, Scott Fisher, and Rob Roling.

Coming up: Even though Winter continued well into April this year, we are looking forward to cooking pancakes outside at Holy Cross after Mass on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. You may even see us at the Elkhart City Festival at the end of June.

THE THINGS KIDS SAY!

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"



Check out SMHC's community garden and some of it's gardeners. Produce from the garden will be distributed to The Blessing Box clients and will also be available to parishioners at SMHC, Elkhart Christian Church and Salem United Church.



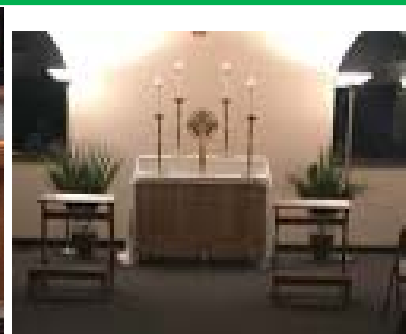
Our hardworking RE students and staff.



Baking Easter Cookies



Reading of the Easter Story at Holy Cross



Holy Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Confirmation students at the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend

