



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

November 2017 - January 2018



CELEBRATE!



Brinley Grace, daughter of Erin and Michael Peterson, was baptized at St. Mary on October 15. Godparents are Matt Finch and Andrea Ayoubi. Brinley's grandparents are Bob and the late Barbara Finch and Alan and Diana Peterson.

TRUNK OR TREAT!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Clothing Drive, Month of November, sponsored by RE students and Knights of Columbus, St. Mary

Children's Choir practice, Wednesdays, Nov. 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 6-6:45PM, SM

Adult Choir practice, Sundays, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 20, 11AM-12:30PM, St. Mary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Thursdays, Nov. 16 (SM), Dec. 21 (HC) & Jan. 18 (SM), 7PM

First Reconciliation for 2nd Graders, Saturday, Nov. 18, 10AM, St. Mary

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 17, Jan. 7 & 21, during 10AM Mass, St. Mary

Widows and Widowers group, "Mourning Coffee", Mondays, 10-11AM, Conference Room

Thanksgiving Mass, Wed. Nov. 22, 6:30PM, SM

Friends of St. Francis meeting, Thursday, Nov. 30, 6:30PM, Social Hall

Senior Citizen Breakfast, Friday, Dec. 1 following 8AM Mass, Social Hall

Ladies Christmas Party, Wednesday, Dec. 6 following 6PM Mass, St. Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Holy Day, Friday, Dec. 8, 6:30PM Mass, St. Mary

Blessing of Mothers-to-Be, at Masses Dec. 9 & 10

Advent Reconciliation Service, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2PM, St. Mary

Mass Schedule for Dec. 23/24 weekend, Saturday, 5PM & Sunday 9AM at St. Mary -- no Mass at HC

Celebrate Christmas by joining us for Mass

Christmas Eve: 5PM, SM & 7PM, HC

Christmas Day: 9AM, SM

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day, Masses Sun., Dec. 31, 5PM, SM & Mon., Jan. 1, 9AM, HC

NCYC Appreciation Brunch for parishioners, Sunday, Jan. 14, following 10AM Mass

Blood Drive, Thursday, Feb. 1, 3-7PM, Social Hall

Feast of St. Blaise, Saturday, Feb. 3, Blessing of throats at weekend Masses

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 8AM & 6:30PM Mass, SM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fall 2017 - God in Action

This year's PreK-6th RE program has started off with tons of energy and fun! First and foremost, a huge thank you to the awesome catechists that have volunteered their time. They show so much energy in sharing their faith and love for all of the students. This program would not be possible without them.

Each session starts off as one big group and then splits off to separate classrooms. Opening prayer is part of our large group opening and our prayer wall is filling up! One week we prayed a condensed version of the Rosary and prior to doing so the children were asked to share examples of them doing acts of kindness and we then prayed for continued acts of kindness not only at St. Mary's but around the world. We also cover the upcoming weekend's Gospel teaching. The goal is to share the Gospel in a way that the kids can understand and relate to.

The students have done a number of service projects: collected cash donations for hurricane victims (\$218!), collected donations for the Animal Rescue League (compassion for all of God's creatures), November's focus is on collecting food donations for The Blessing Box and a clothing drive with the Knight's of Columbus. December will be Toys for Tots and Spirit of St. Nicholas, which is a great initiative being led by Catholic Charities.

Pictures are worth a 1000 words, the love of God in action throughout the Parish!



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Paula Garoutte, a retired realtor from Palm Springs CA, moved to Nevada with her husband Bill, in 2016 to be near her daughter, Beth (Matt) Hart. She has two grown grandchildren, Jena and Charlie, and one great grandchild, Conrad. Paula enjoys singing/live theatre, reading, politics, traveling and recently exploring the Catholic faith. Paula is an Episcopalian and is following in her daughter Beth's footsteps. Like Beth, she is involved in RCIA and plans to be received into the Catholic Church. Besides her daughter being at SMHC, the primary attractions were the friendly welcoming 'family', Fr. Dan's homilies, and the comfort she received from Deacon Terry and Di when Bill was in hospice before his death. Paula is on the Stewardship Committee, enjoys the monthly *Let's Chat*, crafts and games sessions, the Wednesday evening Scripture Studies, and joining RCIA. And you have probably heard her co-cantor at Mass. Paula looks forward to being active in whatever ways she can help our parish.

(see more new members next page)

MORE NEW MEMBERS!



Ben and Andrea Johnson live in Pleasant Hill with their 7 month old son, Winston. Ben is a sales account manager for a construction supply firm and Andrea is the Middle School and High School art teacher in the Pleasantville School District. Both belong to a kickball league in Ankeny and are avid Hawkeye fans. Andrea grew up in a parish in which Fr. Dan was the residing priest. Knowing he was at SMHC and a smaller Church, led them to register in our faith community. Fr. Dan says Andrea's mother was the person who got him interested in baking years ago.

Andrew and Sarah Jungers live south of Maxwell. Andrew works for Ag Leader Technology in Ames, and Sarah works at ISU veterinary medicine. They usually attend Holy Cross. He enjoys sports — baseball, softball, outdoor activities and farming. Sarah also enjoys sports, kayaking, reading and doing crafts. They came to Holy Cross because since moving from Kelly it's a good fit and convenient for them to attend.



Jean Miller is a retired dental hygienist living in Ankeny. She has four grown children, and her youngest, Tracey, an occupational therapist in Indianola, currently lives with her. Jean enjoys "computering" and going to the casino once in a while. Since Jean moved from Clutier in Tama County three years ago, she has attended Mass in Ankeny but doesn't like the bigger churches. After hearing about our smaller parish from members Lisa and Tim Kautza during water aerobics class and Diane Reid who lives in her complex, Jean found St. Mary-Holy Cross fits her perfectly.

Erin and Mike Peterson reside in Slater which gives them equal distance access to their jobs. Erin is a dermatology nurse at McFarland Clinic in Ames and Mike is a strength coach and personal fitness trainer at Crossfit Ankeny. They have a 5 month old daughter, Brinley Grace. In her spare time, Erin likes cooking and fitness training. Mike enjoys sports and crossfit competitions. Both treasure their family time with Brinley. Erin and Mike, who is Lutheran, had been coming to Mass at St. Mary off and on for some time. They like the small personal closeness of our faith community. Knowing members Robin and Merle Olberding, and meeting several others through their places of work, has made them feel at home at SMHC.



Nadezhda Galecki Witzke grew up in the Nevada area and recently moved back to Nevada with her two year old daughter, Genevieve. Since joining our parish in September, Nadezhda has married Chase Witzke. She is a stay at home Mom who enjoys reading and being outdoors. Chase also enjoys the outdoors as well as drawing and building car models. Nadezhda likes the 'smaller home atmosphere' of Holy Cross Church.

"MOURNING COFFEE"

"Mourning is Love With No Place to Go"

... Please come and share a morning cup with your fellow grievers ... This is a time to informally connect with others who are also mourning the loss of a loved partner.



10:00 - 11:00AM on Mondays (except holidays)
St. Mary's Church - Conference Room

PUMPKIN PIE BARS



- 1-1/3 cups flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup cold butter or margarine, cut up
- 1 cup old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats, uncooked
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 3 eggs
- 1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin
- 1 tbsp. pumpkin pie spice

Heat oven to 350°F. Line 13x9-inch pan with aluminum foil, with ends of foil extending over sides; spray with cooking spray.

Mix flour, 1/4 cup granulated sugar and brown sugar in medium bowl until blended; cut in butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in oats and nuts.

Reserve 1 cup oat mixture; press remaining onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake 15 min.

Beat cream cheese and remaining granulated sugar. Add eggs, pumpkin and spice with mixer until blended; pour over crust. Sprinkle with reserved oat mixture.

Bake 25 min. (may need to add 5-10 min. to baking time if looks unset or not golden brown on top); cool 10 min. Use foil to transfer dessert from pan to wire rack; cool completely. (Serves 24)

- by Kelly Muth

HOW A 48 HOUR SOCIAL MEDIA HIATUS SET ME BACK ON TRACK

For the past few weeks I've been feeling overwhelmed, scatter-brained, and exhausted. And nothing was fixing it. So I decided to take a 48-hour hiatus from all social media. That's right: no Facebook, Snapchat, texting, etc.

"But Casey! We live in the 21st century, social media is a necessary part of life!" So what? It's not always a good thing we're constantly in communication with each other. I'm always running errands, doing chores, texting someone back, keeping up snap streaks, checking Facebook and responding to things I've been tagged in. My attention is always divided and it's exhausting.

I had no lofty agenda for this social media break: I wasn't planning to find myself, make my 5-year plan, or even reflect on my life. The only goal was to center myself and in the wise words of Aaron Rodgers: R-E-L-A-X.

The 30 minutes leading up to my break from social media was an interesting emotional ride. I was *choosing* not to use social media for 48 hours. There wasn't much going on: I knew I wouldn't be missing out on anything. Yet I was terribly anxious. I was scared to tell my boyfriend and friends I wouldn't be replying for 48 hours. I was afraid they'd call me crazy and that they wouldn't understand or respect my need to do this. Luckily, everyone understood. I did catch a little bit of flack, but no one was seriously questioning my sanity. So from noon on Friday to noon on Sunday, I refrained from all forms of 21st-century communication.

The first 3-4 hours were the hardest, mainly because I didn't have anything to distract myself from picking up my phone and scrolling my Newsfeed. But every hour after that got easier and I found by Sunday, I was wishing I could stay in my own little world. Overall, it was a simple, good weekend. I went to my sister's homecoming game, watched her marching competition on Saturday (and relive my drum line days!), and wrote uninterrupted for hours on end.

I didn't have any big revelations about life or myself in general, but I did figure out a few things, mainly that it's okay to take a break. I felt more focused than I'd felt in months, I slept better, I was able to do the things I wanted to do without feeling guilty about it, and I realized who I really missed talking to.



I am since back to my normal social media habits and I am more grateful than ever for them. If it ever feels like life is dragging you down by the ankles, shut out the world for a bit. It doesn't have to be 48-hours, even just 6 hours can be helpful. These next few weeks, take some time to silence your social media and let yourself rest. You may be surprised by what God guides you to discover/learn.

- by Casey Baumberger

FOOD PANTRY AND YOUTH GROUPS PLAN HOLIDAY BOXES

The Blessing Box Food Pantry in Elkhart plans to provide local families-in-need with holiday meal boxes including turkey or ham and all the fixings.

Last year, in collaboration with parish youth groups, they distributed over 30 meal boxes to families-in-need for Thanksgiving and Christmas using food and funds donated by local businesses, organizations, schools, and churches.

You can support The Blessing Box by contributing to parish youth groups or with a tax-deductible check payable to The Blessing Box, c/o Elkhart Christian Church, P.O. Box 97, Elkhart, IA 50073. Or, notify The Blessing Box President Deanne Sandbulte at deelight77@gmail.com of families that would enjoy a holiday meal box.

The Blessing Box provides nutritional food to more than 30 families each month and is open from 9:30–10:30AM on the first Saturday of each month and from 6-7PM on the second and fourth Thursdays.



FOOD PANTRY

On-going food needs are canned meats, breakfast cereals, low sodium canned vegetables and soups, and low sugar canned fruits. Food donations can be delivered to the Pantry when open or placed in The Blessing Box collection box near our parish office.

Please spread the word about the Food Pantry to those in need and to those who may be interested in providing support. First time clients are asked to provide a form of ID and birth dates of family members in order to be eligible for USDA surplus foods.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Kaitlyn Cuvelier and Steven Baldwin were married September 15 at St Mary's Church. Parents of the bride are Jeff and Tammy Cuvelier of Collins. Parents of the groom are Cheryl Lee of Ames and John and Lori Baldwin of Mingo. The couple live in

Cedar Falls where Kaitlyn is an art director at Mudd Advertising and Steven is an application engineer at Viking Pump.

BEING A DEACON'S WIFE

Diana (Di) Schleisman, who many refer to as Deacon Terry's better half, (including Terry himself), filled us in on what life is like as a deacon's wife:



What has been the impact of diaconate ordination on your own family? We have become much more aware that "we are our brothers'/sisters' keeper." We spend more of our daily lives trying to be present and support others through their life's struggles.

What is required of the wife of a deacon throughout the formation process? The wives are required to do basically everything that the men do. It is a 4-year program which involves one weekend a month at Conception Abbey in Missouri, being taught by the same priests and monks that teach the seminarians; one Saturday every month in classes in Des Moines/Council Bluffs; a 3-day retreat once a year; and a week of "summer school" every August at Conception Abbey. The women must participate in all of this, including all book reading and assignments. When Terry first told me that he felt called by God to become a deacon, I was very much against it as I did not understand why the women needed to do everything that the men did when we were not the ones being ordained (not that I wanted to be!). Years later I spoke with the wife of a deacon who explained to me that if the women did not participate in the process, the couple would not grow (both spiritually and in knowledge) together and this could cause problems in their marriage. She also explained that it is important for the wife to understand what is involved, and the commitment required, in being a deacon. Her answer made sense. At that point I was totally on board. Having gone through the process, our Diocese supports the women in this way by paying for their room and board, etc., just like they do the men.

Does our Diocese offer any type of support group for the wives of deacons? If yes, what? The simple answer is no. Nor do they offer support groups for the deacons themselves. It is up to us individually to form our own groups. And the way this is handled makes sense to me. I think in order for a support group to be most effective, you need to be in the presence of others that you feel totally comfortable sharing with. I have a spiritual director and a couple of very close friends that I talk to when I feel the need.

For people wanting more information about the diaconate program, where should they go?

They should contact the Diocese to express their interest so they can be notified of the informational meetings. New formation classes begin on a 4-year rotation. The next informational meetings and application process is in Winter/Spring of 2018.

RED BIRD, KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP



This past July Andrew and Lori Cory went to Kentucky on a mission trip. Here's their story:

The Farrar-Mingo United Methodist Churches are similar to SMHC — two small

rural churches, one pastor, serving the people in their community. The opportunity came to Lori and me to accompany them on a mission to Redbird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. Over 30 people, with a variety of skills and talents gave a week of their time, vacation, and financial support to be a part of something bigger than their everyday routine.

We began fundraising in the fall of 2015. We served breakfast at a Colfax horse show, held a soup supper at the Mingo Church, a pancake breakfast at St. Mary's Church, and we made and sold wooden cross lawn ornaments. Our biggest fund raising effort came from cleaning up Principal Park after the baseball games. This job proved to be the messiest, smelliest, most eye opening fundraiser we participated in. Our coordinator, Jacob Nielson, negotiated a deal that if we signed up to clean the park 15 times, there would be an additional cash incentive for the group. This meant cleaning the park even AFTER we returned from the mission. That's dedication to the cause.

The money raised paid for gas, food, lodging, and materials for jobs assigned to the group. So for a roofing project, we funded the cost of sheeting, shingles, and all materials necessary to complete the work. With all the hard work and generosity of the community, we raised a nice amount to apply to the mission trip.

On June 24, 15 youth and 15 adults travelled in a caravan of two passenger vans, two personal vehicles, a pickup packed with tools, (driven by our fearless leader whose wife was at home, 8 months pregnant with their first child), and one pickup with a fifth wheel camper. The group ranged in age from 11 to....well let's just say over 50!

Our route took us past Lori's sister's home near Normal, IL and the Calvary United Methodist Church there hosted a lunch and rest stop for us. It was a good stop after a 5 hour drive. We continued to Camp Riverdale church camp in Mitchell, IL for an overnight stay.

On June 25, we continued traveling and arrived at Redbird Mission. The day included orientation, supper, group devotions and free time.



Monday began our work day at two work sites - the Redbird Mission School. The team worked in the school and on the grounds to paint rooms and refresh the paint on rails, benches, etc.



At another work site, the team replaced a roof and exterior door on a man's home, who is a veteran and disabled mine worker. Confined to a wheelchair, and complicated by the fact that the terrain of his yard was very steep, he had no means to do any repairs.

Nestled in "a holler" in the Appalachian Mountains, the best time to work was before the sun came up over the mountain and the heat and humidity set in. This proved to have its challenges: to be on a roof with a heavy dew in the morning and later to be working in very humid, hot conditions for the rest of the day.

His roof had leaked and damaged the living room and bedroom ceilings, which added to our task and the sense of urgency to complete the job in 4 work days.

continued...



RED BIRD, KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP continued.....

Before the trip, each youth was given \$10 by the Pastor's wife, which she asked they give to someone in need. While repairing the roof, we noticed that the owner's dog and only companion was very ill. One member of our group was a veterinarian, and said that the dog had the worst case of mange she has seen. The dog would need medication, which the owner had no means to purchase. Many of the youth stepped up and gave their cash donation to the care of the owner's dog.

Aside from kitchen duty and cleaning details, we also helped in the local food pantry. The youth assisted in distributing food to residents. Lori and I worked a few hours in the food pantry store where donations are sorted and shelved for distribution. Our group brought food and clothing donations from Iowa to assist the community. This was another opportunity for the youth to give their \$10 to someone in need. The driver of one car told us that her mother was in the hospital. All work stopped, the group surrounded the car and prayed for her.

Another need we observed was the lack of materials for unexpected projects. We plan to provide sheeting typically used for roofing, building walls, etc. for shortages on projects.

On our day off, some of the group went to Cumberland Falls to sight see while others went zip lining in Levi Jackson State Park. At the end of the day, we gathered to swim, eat, and celebrate one member's 12th birthday. It was a great break!



At the end of the trip, we thought about the lives we touched and about those who supported our mission: the individuals we helped, The Calvary UMC in Normal, the parishioners and youth of Farrar-Mingo who volunteered, and those who came to the food events and donated to the mission. And to the many people who came to the Iowa Cubs games creating a mess so we could get paid to clean it up.

There are many people right in our community who need our help on a daily basis. There are many ways to volunteer here at home, in our community, and within our zone of familiarity. That's our routine.

RED BIRD, KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP continued.....

I would encourage everyone at some point in their life to go on a mission trip outside the state and out of your comfort zone. You will feel the presence.... It is powerful!



Headed home!



-by Andrew Cory



KNIGHTS KORNER

In September, God provided a perfect morning for pancakes, sausage, and eggs outside at Holy Cross. In October, after Saturday Mass, we assisted the Confirmation Class with a pasta dinner to pay for a new exciting curriculum. In November and December, we will assist RE students with a coat and clothing drive to support Catholic Charities in Des Moines. We will hold a Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest with PreK-6 RE students between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Watch for news on a guest speaker and raffle fundraiser for Dorothy's House.

There will be an opportunity for more Catholic men to join the Knights at our meeting Sunday, November 19, 6:30PM in the Social Hall.

We provided the following financial support because of your donations to our fundraisers this past year:

- At our parish, we contributed \$543 in food to support the Chris Norton speaking event, \$600 towards the Parish Awareness Ad Campaign to local communities, \$2,500 to RE, Youth Ministry, and Confirmation Class, \$400 to offset the costs of using the Social Hall.
- To the Catholic Church outside our Parish, we provided \$500 support for a seminarian, \$500 for St. Luke's School in Ankeny, and \$250 for Holy Family School in Des Moines.
- In our community, we contributed \$125 to The Blessing Box Food Pantry, and \$125 to the John Paul II Medical Research Foundation in Iowa City.

Thank you again, as all of this is possible because of your generosity!



More "Trunk or Treat" at St. Mary!



The Blessing of Pets

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

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SMHC youth were well represented at the fair this summer.



Grace Johnson, Sadie Kuehn, and Valerie Beukema.....all members of SMHC, had so much fun hanging out together all week.

Estella Smith received a blue ribbon in the Market Lamb division for "Beans" her ewe lamb and a blue ribbon in the Market Heifer and Polk County Produced divisions for her cow "Pearl".



Jackson McClain showed three Pekin Ducks that he raised through North Polk's FFA. His ducks won Best of Class in the Waterfowl category.



Brett and Valerie Beukema showed lambs at the Polk County Fair. Valerie's crocheted baby blanket and Brett's spider photograph went to State Fair.



Pictures of Sophie, Lucy, Liza and Gus Schaffer showing pigs at the Polk County Fair.

Ethan Smith received a blue ribbon in the Breeding Heifer division for his cow "Pippi".



The Johnson's participate at the Polk County Fair yearly. They showed sheep, goats and pigs this year and won lots of ribbons and trophies. The family photo has all of the winnings. Lydia with the sheep, Grace with the goat, and Bridget with the pig. And first annual goat costume contest.