



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

May - July 2016

Volume 1, Issue 13



FIRST EUCHARIST CLASS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Memorial Day, May 29: 10AM Mass at Holy Cross; Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Knights of Columbus prior to Mass from 8AM to 9AM

Blood Drives: Thursdays, June 4 and August 27, 3PM to 7PM, St. Mary

Vacation Bible School: Monday, June 20 through Thursday, June 23, 5:30PM to 8PM, St. Mary

Missionary Visit: Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ Nigeria, will be speaking at our Masses June 4 & 5

Movie Night! Full of Grace: June 7, 6:30PM, Hall

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Saturday, August 15 (non obligatory)

CONFIRMATION CLASS



WE CELEBRATE!

Congratulations and best wishes to
Meri Parent and Ray Olejniczak
who were united in the
Sacrament of Matrimony
on Sunday, May 8th!



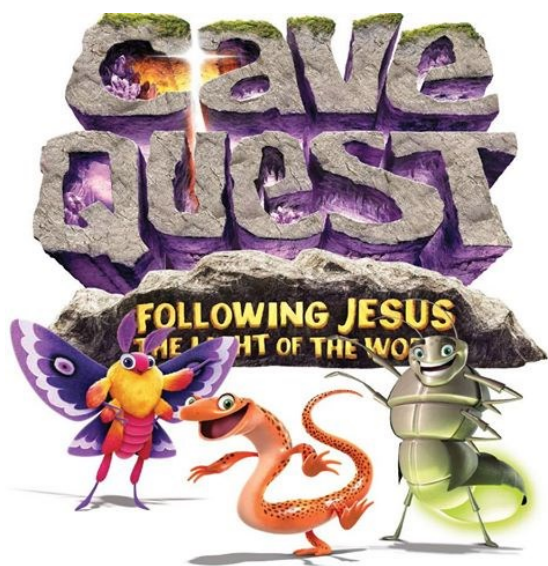
Pentecost



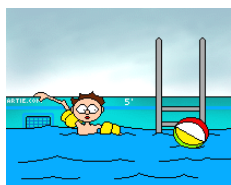
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

It's hard to believe another year of Religious Education has come and gone! We had a great year growing in our faith and closer to our Lord. We also worked on following the Pope's lead by becoming merciful like our Father. We helped the Burmese refugees with clothing, school supplies, transportation costs and even provided supplies for a special scrapbook project for the high school refugees.



As we look toward summer, we are busy planning for Vacation Bible School for our kindergartners through 4th graders. Our theme this year is *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*. This is also such a fun week for the kids (and adults)! We hope your family will join us. Registration forms were sent home with the R.E. kids at the beginning of April, or you may register through the Parish website. Of course, VBS can't happen without our great volunteers. If you would like to help, we have a spot for you: supper prep, supper clean up, one of the learning stations, registration/check-in. Youth in grades 5-12 are encouraged to volunteer too!



Stay tuned this summer for a couple of family friendly events we will be hosting. We are planning a pool outing at one of the area swimming pools, as well as a movie night at St. Mary. Watch the bulletin and Facebook for more information.

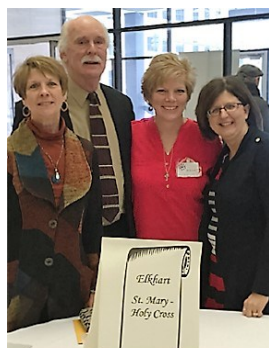


CONGRATULATIONS!



Beth Hart, confirmed at Easter Vigil Mass, joined SMHC last June when she and her husband Matt moved to Maxwell from Ankeny. Beth originally started attending Wednesday night Mass at Holy Cross, where she found the parishioners to be very welcoming. After an in-depth conversation with Fr. Dan, she felt confident that starting RCIA was the right choice; "Fr. Dan was the reason". He was welcoming, accommodating, and answered all of her questions. She enjoyed the video series offered by Deacon Terry throughout the RCIA program and found it as an opportunity to meet other parishioners. Beth also participated in the choir at Christmas!

Beth and Matt have two grown children, Jena and Charlie, and have recently become grandparents to baby Conrad. Beth taught ice skating for 25 years and now is working at ICS Advanced Technologies in Ames. Matt also works in Ames at Mary Greeley Hospital.



MISSIONARY VISIT



Meet the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mother of Christ Nigeria, who will be speaking at our Masses on June 4 & 5.

The Sisters serve in Africa, Europe, Canada and here in the USA. They serve the sick, hungry and desperate mothers and their children at their clinics. The sisters encourage single mothers to start self-help projects, and they provide support to widows so they can care for themselves. They have a compassionate home for teens with unplanned pregnancies, and they care for AIDs/HIV patients and their families. *Your support of their work is needed and much appreciated.*

PARISH SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

Many thanks to the 131 who responded to the SMHC Parish survey! Here is some of what we learned from your responses:



82% of those who took the survey are satisfied/extremely satisfied that SMHC meets their spiritual needs. 15% were neutral in their response.

Many mentioned their appreciation of Father Dan and Deacon Terry. To better meet their spiritual needs survey takers would like to see more Bible Study/Faith Sharing opportunities.

Almost 90% felt communication was good. Most popular resources for keeping informed are the bulletin, announcements before Mass, emails, the newsletter and website.

When asked what activities they participate in, attending Mass got the top response at (89%). Care to guess what followed Mass? The clothing drive!!

85% said they were satisfied/extremely satisfied with Mass. They especially like the announcements and greetings before Mass, the homily, reflection time after Communion, the music, and the friendly atmosphere.

Top suggestions for improving the Mass experience included livelier, more contemporary music, and greater use of the cry room for the little ones. And while most like the greetings before Mass, some of you don't!

90% feel welcomed/extremely welcomed at SMHC and 9% were neutral in their response to our question.

The top four social activities that people participate in were coffee and donuts (87%), wine and cheese (62%), Knights of Columbus events (53%), and Parish Picnic (50%).

48% of the survey takers said they have not participated in faith development opportunities. 33% who have participated said they are satisfied/extremely satisfied with what has been offered.

Stay tuned for more discussion on the survey. Complete results will be available on our website.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Doug and Bonnie Altenhofen moved from Chariton, where they farmed, to Ankeny and recently settled in Polk City. Bonnie works at Mercy Hospital in the pediatric ER and loves to read in her spare time. Doug is a retired farmer/car dealer whose hobby is carpentry and woodworking. He enjoys making things for their 4 grown children and their grandchildren. They came to St Mary-Holy Cross Parish through their daughter, Kara and Chuck Donley and family, who were new members last fall. Like their daughter, Doug and Bonnie found that a smaller, close-knit parish suits them well.

James and Valentyna Pollard, with daughters Alona, Sofiya, and Maria, just moved into the new home they built on their acreage just northeast of Elkhart. Dr. Pollard, a dentist with an established practice in Ames, has opened a second practice in NW Ankeny (Pollard Dental). Valentyna, a stay at home Mom, is from Ukraine and a member of the Greek Orthodox religion. She loves to knit and the girls were excited to show hats she had made for them. Daughter Alona is 15 and a sophomore at North Polk while Sofiya, an 8 year old second grader, and Maria, a 5 year old kindergartener, go to St. Luke's Catholic School. They all enjoy their home and family time with a horse, chickens, and their dogs, Misha and Thea. They like SMHC because it is closer to their home.

Dennis Schmidt, an assistant agricultural warehouse manager, has lived in Ankeny all of his life. He has a stepdaughter, Ashley, living in Hampton. He enjoys football, college basketball, movies, and trying to garden. Dennis grew up attending St. Mary, where he was baptized, made his First Communion, and was Confirmed. In early adulthood, he fell away from the Church but not his faith, and it was his faith that brought him back to our Parish Community this past year. Dennis was active in *Catholics Come Home* during Lent and recently became an usher/greeter in his "home" Parish of St. Mary-Holy Cross.

"Community Connections" Bulletin Board

Check out the new "Community Connections" bulletin board in the Social Hall. This is your bulletin board to use to share your needs and interests and to help "connect" and build relationships with fellow members of the Parish. Use the board to post information and announcements about informal get-togethers and activities. Do you want to get a group together for coffee or a meal after Mass? Do you need a ride or want to share a ride? Do you want to join a book club, start a bible study or a support group? Are you wanting to sell that piano that never gets used? Use the new bulletin board! We will keep an eye on what is posted so things don't get too crazy, cluttered, or old, but all are invited to prepare and post your own notes and notices.



TAKE JESUS WITH YOU THIS SUMMER!

Without a doubt, Jesus will not be taking a summer vacation away from us, so let's make sure we set aside some time for Him; pack Him in your luggage or beach bag, download Him on your apps, and invite some of the saints, and especially His mother, along with Him. Even for just 10 minutes a day.

Here are a few books for the summer suggested by the Archdiocese of Texas. All mentioned below can be found on Amazon.com.

- *Walking in Joy with Pope Francis, 30 Days With the Joy of the Gospel*: This booklet offers a challenge from Pope Francis to live the Gospel with joy and faith and to share the love of Jesus Christ, especially to the poor.



- *Catholic Mom's Café, Five-Minute Retreats for Every Day*: Moms, take a few minutes out of your daily hectic schedule with some spiritual "daily vitamins" that will energize them and help them find faith, hope and love.



- *Fun Faith Activities for Summer*: A great resource for children! With puzzles, games and activities, it's bursting with fun facts, Bible verses, prayers and more.



****And there is always the #1 bestseller ever... The Bible!** This summer, why not make it a goal to read one of the four Gospels?

Movie Night!

The RCIA team is hosting a Movie Night on Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30PM, and YOU are invited. *Full of Grace*, is about the life of Mary and the Apostles in the post-resurrection timeframe. This movie is a wonderful presentation of the early Church after the death of Jesus. It reveals the truth that we know today; at the foot of the cross Mary's motherhood was extended to all believers, and so we call upon her as our mother.

Suitable for all ages. Come early and bring treats to share. Popcorn will be served courtesy of RCIA.



KNIGHT'S KORNER



Join the Knights for these fun activities!!

May 30th (Memorial Day): Come join us for a pancake breakfast at Holy Cross, 8AM to 9AM.

June 25th: Look for us at the Elkhart City Festival at the car show and food stand. Come see if there are funnel cakes!



CHICKEN POT PIE

Angela Bruce, a nine year member of SMHC, provided this recipe. She likes it because it's quick and easy for busy nights when her four daughters have a lot of activities. The Bruce family lives around the corner from Holy Cross. Angela's husband Mark, works at Fisher Controls while she works from home.

- 4 to 5 chicken breasts; cooked and cubed
- 1 bag frozen vegetables, any kind (Angela's family likes peas and carrots.)
- 2 cups frozen hash browns, cubed, not shredded
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
- 1 can cream of chicken soup, or cream of potato soup; whatever you have on hand
- 1 cup milk or half & half
- 2 cups cheddar cheese
- 2 cups Bisquick
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- Salt and pepper to taste



Mix first 6 ingredients in a 9x13 pan, spread out. Whisk Bisquick, milk and egg in a separate bowl. Pour over the top of the mixture in the pan, bake in 400 degree preheated oven for 30 minutes.

ENJOY!



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

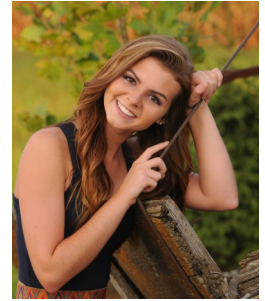
Jacquelyn Staudt

Parents: Phil & Sonya Staudt
High School: Collins-Maxwell
College Plans: I'm planning on attending DMACC for two years and the transferring to a University. I want to do something involving business/marketing or criminal justice.



Aryan Calvert

Parents: Sara Cockerham & Brent Calvert
High School: Ballard
Post-Graduate Plans: Iowa State University
Favorite Memory from SMHC: Sleepy Hollow
Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13



Alex Sturtz

Parents: Kris & Andy Sturtz
High School: North Polk
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending University of Iowa; majoring in microbiology with a writing certificate
Favorite Bible Verse: "As for me I will always have hope."
 Psalm 71:14



Erin & Jonathan Handley

Parents: Terry & Nancy Handley



Elizabeth Johnson

Parents: Eric and Rebekah Johnson

Isaac Boyd

Parents: Mike Boyd & Pam Sufka-Boyd



Morgan Bodensteiner

Parents: Bill Bodensteiner & Sheri Moser

Kenny Bishop



Parents: Larry & Mary Bishop
High School: North Polk
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending DMACC
Favorite Memory from SMHC: Helping with the Retreat and the Youth Group babysitting days.

Jake Thomas Grim

Parents: Mark & Dana Schmieding
High School: North Polk
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending DMACC Ames campus this fall to finish general education requirements while living on the ISU campus, planning to graduate from ISU, class of 2020.



Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Anna Fogarty



Parents: Dan & Sheri Fogarty
High School: Bondurant
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending DMACC to study sales management.
Favorite memory from SMHC: My Holy Cross family and the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis last November.

Samuel Gorham

Parent: Angelia McCright



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!



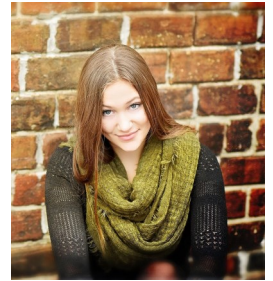
Jacob Jeffery Cory

Parents: Jeff & Mary Cory
High School: North Polk
Post-Graduate Plans: Joined the Iowa National Guard and will be going to basic training this summer.



Olivia Hrubetz

Parents: Kristi & Tom Walmsley
High School: Johnston
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending Iowa State University



Nick Fopma

Parents: Keith & Pam Fopma
High School: Ballard
Post-Graduate Plans: DMACC/ UNI
Favorite Bible Verse:
 1 Corinthians 16:13 – Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.



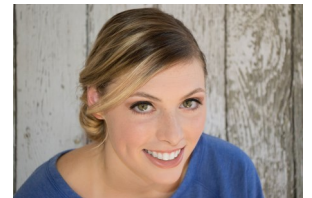
Lauren Rieck

Parents: Bill & Bobbi Rieck



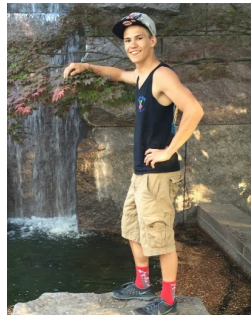
Savana Johnson

Parents: Toby Johnson and the late Rick Johnson
High School: Ankeny Centennial
Post-Graduate Plans: Attending USD to study kinesiology
Favorite Memory from SMHC: Attending activities with youth group and being a counselor at Catholic Youth Camp.



Austin Smith

Parents: Perry & Bridget Smith
High School: North Polk
Post-Graduate Plans: Either the Airforce or National Guard
Favorite Memory from SMHC: The funny thing that happen in Youth Group, but what happens in Youth Group stays in Youth Group.

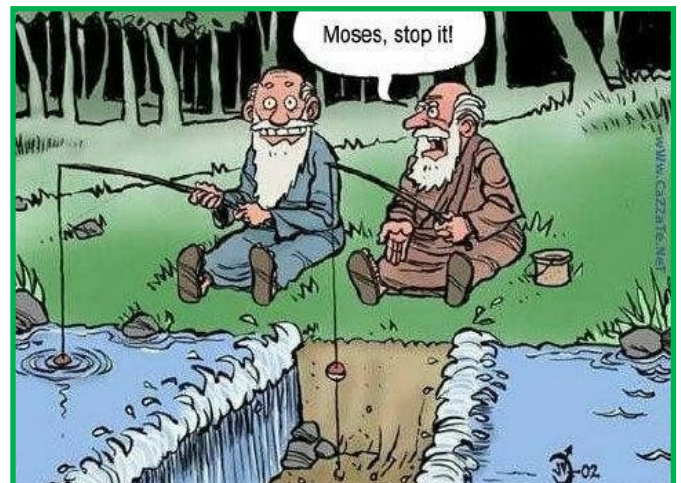


Class of 2016

*Pursue
 your dreams
 and make
 a difference!*

THIS OLD HOUSE!

The utilities have been capped and the old rectory is ready for demolition. A date has not yet been set but check the bulletin and website for updates.



THANKS A MILLION!

For all of you who contributed to Lent and Holy Week; to those who provided inspirational music and decorations, to the lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, greeters, those who led us in prayer, those who served food and drink, those who cleaned or organized — **THANKS!**



St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish
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