



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August - October 2016

Volume 1, Issue 14



CELEBRATE!

We welcoming into the Faith:

Cora Lee, daughter of Nick and Jill Swanson,
baptized May 22

Bridger Lee, son of Derrick and Kristi Meyer,
baptized June 26



Jessica Campbell and Patrick Parks were married on June 20 at St. Mary's Church. They currently live in Norwalk but are hoping to resettle in Winterset soon. Jessica is a school psychologist for Heartland AEA and Patrick is a plant manager at BSM Enterprises LLC. Their parents are Steve and Jeanene Campbell of Bondurant and Tina and Forrest Parks of Colfax.

- by Sue White

WELCOME TO...

Jeff & Julie Carstens from Bondurant
Glen & Tara Meier and their children
Alexandra & Ben, who live in Ankeny

Scott & Emily Weber and their son Tyler, from
Bondurant

Heidi Dittmer, from Kelly and her fiancé Jacob
Ackerman, from Huxley



**If you are not where you once were with God.....
guess who moved?**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays,
August 18 (Holy Cross), September 15 (St. Mary)
& October 20 (Holy Cross), 7-8PM

**Confirmation 1 & 2 Mandatory Parent & Student
meeting:** Sunday, August 21, 11:15AM, Social Hall

Blood Drive: Thursdays, August 25 & November 10,
3-7PM, Social Hall

First Session for Confirmation 1 & 2 (gr. 9 & 10):
Sunday, September 11, 5:30-7PM, Social Hall

First Class for RE PreK-6th Grade: Wednesday,
September 14, 5:15 & 6:30PM, Ed Center

**First Session for EDGE (gr. 7 & 8), Parent
attendance mandatory:** Wednesday, September 14,
6-7:30PM, Social Hall;

First Session for Life Teen (gr. 9-12): Wednesday,
September 14, 7:45-9PM, Youth Area

Parish Picnic: Sunday, September 25

Olive Wood Art sales: Weekend of September 24 &
25 before and after Masses

Clothing Drive: September 10-22, St. Mary

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast: Sunday, September
11, after 8AM Mass, Holy Cross

Trip to the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend:
Saturday, October 1

**Feast of Saint Francis, Patron Saint of Ecology and
Animals:** October 1 & 2 weekend Masses to
emphasize this feast; Blessing of pets, Sunday,
October 2, 1PM, Holy Cross

Praying the Rosary: 20 minutes before each weekend
Mass in October

Parish Work Day: Saturday, October 29, 9AM -
Noon; St. Mary and Holy Cross

Daylight Savings Time ends: Sunday, November 6

Feast of All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation:
Tuesday, November 1, 6:30PM Mass, St. Mary

Feast of All Souls: Wednesday, November 2

**Knights of Columbus Clothing Drive for Catholic
Charities:** November 16, ends at Christmas break

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

Over 50 kids from three different churches had a “batty” great time at Cave Quest VBS! They learned that Jesus is the light of the world and if we follow him, he will give us hope, courage, direction and love! Our evenings got off to a great start with supper and then it was time for some fun! From Epic Bible Adventures, to games, to KidVid Cinema to Imagination Station—each night was jam packed with excitement! And who can forget the music? We hope the kids are still singing those catchy tunes! We even had a special guest from Blank Park Zoo come one evening to teach us all about bats! Many thanks to our volunteers that week! They make it all happen!

Elkhart Days found us representing SMHC in the parade (did you see our nice, new banner?) And we had a fundraiser for the RE program during Elkhart Days. Our Water Fun Zone was a big hit for cooling off on such a hot day!

It's time to start gearing up for another RE year. We are excited to see the kids continue to grow in their faith and love of Jesus. Our classes will resume September 14! Hope to see all you there!

- by Sonya Staudt



Vacation Bible School





CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

On July 9 & 10 our Parish recognized the first anniversary of Pope Francis' second encyclical entitled *On Care for Our Common Home*. This teaching letter to us and the world addresses our responsibility and need to do a better job as stewards of the Earth and each other.

Masses were celebrated with music praising God's creativity and creation and God's desire for all to live in justice and harmony with all creation. The bread we offered to God in the celebration of the Eucharist was made by a Parish family. This helped us realize that it is God's gift of creation, nurtured and shaped by human hands and sanctified by God's grace, that becomes for us the body and blood of Christ at every Mass. Fr. Dan's messages reminded us of the creation story in the Book of Genesis and how we are created in God's own image and likeness and of the privilege and responsibility God shares with us as cooperators in the work of creation.

More than 40 parishioners gathered after the Masses to briefly dialogue about what they and our Parish can do to respond to the Pope's letter. Many agreed to meet again August 2 to further develop the more than 20 ideas generated at these meetings.

At the gathering of parishioners August 2, it was decided that the next steps to care for our common home will be to develop for distribution to parishioners, information about how they can reduce their own solid waste. Also, all liturgies celebrated October 1 & 2 will emphasize the October 4 Feast of St. Francis, patron of ecology and animals, and his importance to Pope Francis and this encyclical.

It is expected that parishioners will continue to meet to develop additional ways to address concerns raised by Pope Francis.



-by Tim Kautza

CELEBRATING OUR COMMON HOME WITH MUSIC

We were pleased to have special music at our Masses on July 9 & 10 for the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical about care for our common home. Terri Hamm provided us with lovely music on Saturday, and a special Quartet — Jen Linderblood, Garrett McClain, Tim Kautza and Meri Parent, delighted us with their musical harmonies on Sunday. The quartet is pictured; we are sorry we didn't get a photo of Terri on Saturday night. Thanks to all of them for their dedication and for delivering such beautiful musical prayer.



-by Celeste Muehlenthaler



**GOING!
GOING!
GONE!**



TWITTER



Follow us: @smhccparish

Thank you to one of our students for setting up this account for us!

ANY MOM FEEL THIS WAY?

When Moms were asked to explain in five words or less how they feel about their children heading back to school in a few weeks—here's what they said!

"Anxious, exciting, fearful, trusting, and emotional!"



"I am more than ready!"

"Looking forward to a routine!"

"Holding on, yet letting go." (Her son is headed to junior high.)

"Anxious, nervous emotional, excited, and slightly terrified!" (Her first child is headed to kindergarten.)

"Where did summer go?"

"Back on a schedule!"

"School supplies. 'nuf said."

"School? You mean that thing that disrupts our summer?!"

This is five words; really? 😊



HONORING OUR VETERANS

A beautiful morning added to the inspiring tribute made to our veterans at Holy Cross Cemetery on Memorial Day.



YOUTH CONFERENCE



Steubenville is a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens. Six of our STORM kids went on the retreat this past July. They went with 46 other youth from around the diocese. The kids, pictured above, were Julia Fisher, Jennie Moore, Nora Aschoff, Noah Fisher, David Roberts and Isaac Sharp. John and Andrea Fisher chaperoned.

Here's what two of them had to say about their experience: *Nora* (15): Steubenville was an experience that helped open my eyes to God. The speakers were phenomenal and each one taught me a new lesson and showed me that I thirst for Christ. The entire conference made me revive my soul and be ready to share the good news. *Noah* (17): Steubenville is a great retreat to go on. Adoration is amazing. It's really cool to meet so many other kids from other states. We have a lot of opportunities to go to confession and that is really awesome and refreshing.

- by Andrea Fisher

WILL YOU JOIN US??

Road Trip to West Bend, Iowa

for **THE SHRINE**

OF THE GROTTO OF THE REDEMPTION



The Grotto is frequently considered the "Eighth Wonder of the World" and The Iowan magazine has described the Grotto as a "Miracle in Stone."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st

CONTACT BETH HART at 515-306-4916 or

Mrsmatthart@gmail.com if interested in attending.

Let her know if you are willing to drive or help in any way!

Replies needed by September 21.

Additional information and registration form on our website.

WOMEN AT THE WELL

It was a cold April day and our S.T.O.R.M. team was getting weary from the long year full of activities and ministering to the young church. A member of our core team tagged a few of us in a picture on Facebook simply saying "We should do this." The conference description read...*will be an experience like none other; think 1/3 women's conference, 1/3 retreat, and 1/3 ladies' night out.* That is all it took



to sell me and get a fun day away from our "normal" life on the schedule.

Quickly spring turned summer and the five of us carpooled to our fun day away. Getting there was no easy feat. Some of us had to leave behind crying children, messy houses, mile long "to-do lists" or peel away from the clinging arms of a crying child (or maybe it was a crying husband!?) Either way we were all determined to embark on a journey to **The Well**. This event did not disappoint! It was a lovely day filled with amazing women of all ages! We listened to faith filled talks from various inspirational catholic women, enjoyed good food, and great conversation. One of my favorite experiences of the day was walking with 300+ of my Catholic sisters to St. Ambrose Cathedral and filling the pews as we worshiped, sang and received the Eucharist together at Mass! The joy from Mass spread into the rest of the evening as we processed back to the conference center for happy hour, a delicious dinner and our final speaker of the evening. The evening wrapped up with dancing!

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to attend a conference for **Catholic** women right here in our neighborhood! It was exactly what I needed to help remind me of the value and importance of my vocations as a mother, wife and youth minister! My favorite quote from the day is: *"Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that."*

-Saint Frances de Sales



-by Melissa Kahler

KNIGHTS KORNER



The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce our annual funds distribution – made possible due to your generosity. In June/July we sent checks for the following amounts:

- ◆ \$4,400 to Saint Mary - Holy Cross for the following: Religious Ed, future repairs for the choir loft, music, missalettes, the parish hall, and the Cemetery Fund.
- ◆ \$775 to the Catholic Church outside our Parish: Ankeny St. Luke's school playground equipment, and Des Moines Holy Family School for refugee support.
- ◆ \$325 to our surrounding community: Informed Choices in Ames, and the John Paul II Medical Research Institute.

Thank you again for your generosity!

We enjoyed serving pancakes before Memorial Day Mass, and look forward to the pancake breakfast after 8AM Mass at Holy Cross on September 11.



In preparation for the Fish Fry dinners in 2017, the Knights froze 40 gallons of home-grown sweet corn in July!



-by Jon Hand

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE!

St. Mary-Holy Cross will sponsor a community work day this fall where volunteers sign up to give their time to people in our community who need help with small projects.

These projects could include raking leaves, washing windows, light carpentry, removing trash, cleaning out their garage or simply going to their home for a visit.

Interested in sharing your gifts for a few hours or the day? Please email Arlene Anderson at Helpinghands@saintmaryhc.org.



AMAZON SMILES!

For those of you that frequent Amazon, did you know that by signing into Amazon Smile, you can contribute one half of one percent (.05%) of your purchases to St. Mary-Holy Cross? Use your existing Amazon account and go to smile.amazon.com and the first time you shop on Amazon Smile, you'll be prompted to designate a charitable organization. You'll find the same prices as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected organization. While this in no way replaces tithing and the donation amount may be small (\$100 purchase results in \$.05 donation), it can help offset costs such as office supplies at the Parish. Most products are eligible/available on Amazon Smile. We encourage you to shop local but for the times you use Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and designate Saint Mary-Holy Cross Parish.



-by Arlene Anderson

*Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle.
Amen.*

CHOCOLATE TORTE

Serves 16

Prep time 15 mins

Ingredients:

- 1 lb 2 oz dark chocolate, broken into squares
- 9 oz butter, cut into 8 pieces
- 4 tbsp Amaretto
- 8 large free-range eggs
- 4 oz golden caster sugar
- cocoa powder, to dust
- chocolate curls, to decorate crème fraîche or vanilla ice cream, to serve



Calories: 360 per serving

Pan:

8 inch spring-form cake tin, lined with baking parchment

Preparation:

1. Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Melt the dark chocolate, butter and Amaretto in a bowl over a pan of simmering water.
2. Meanwhile, put eggs and sugar into a large bowl and whisk together with an electric mixer for 5 minutes, until the mixture is light and has tripled in volume. Fold in the melted chocolate mixture.
3. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool for 30 minutes, before putting into the fridge. Chill for several hours, until needed.

To serve, cut into 16 portions with a hot, sharp knife, and dust with sieved cocoa powder. Add chocolate curls and either crème fraîche or vanilla ice cream. Make this only a couple of hours before serving and the cake will have a softer texture, like a melting chocolate pudding.

- by Matt Hart

Thank You! Thank You!

It takes many helping hands to produce *Mass Appeal*. Thanks to Arlene Anderson, Casey Baumberger, Andrea Fisher, Jon Hand, Matt & Beth Hart, Melissa Kahler, Tim Kautza, Barb Liske, Tammi McClain, Celeste Muehlenthaler, Lynn & Chris Schreurs, Sonya Staudt, Sue White, for your contributions to this issue. And thanks to those who have helped with previous newsletters. You are appreciated!

- by Susan Genalo

ALL YOU NEED ARE OREOS, A BUCKET AND A DOOR STOP!

It's approaching that time of year most of us wish would never come around again. We see the commercials on TV and are instantly filled with dread and the longing for more summer months. That's right, it's getting close to back to school time.



However, there's usually one group of students that feels a particular mix of dread and excitement when the middle of August rolls around: incoming college freshman.

The packing and housing contracts, along with the rather large tuition bill in the mail all makes for a crazy, stressful time. The excitement comes from the prospect of being independent, making new friends, and learning new things. Smash all of these ingredients together into the same day and viola! You have the perfect recipe for an overwhelming situation. But fear not! The recipe for preventing this is super easy. All you need is a pack of Oreos (double stuffed preferably), a bucket, and a doorstep.



On move-in day, after you have all of your things moved in, your bed made, your family will take some awkward pictures and smother you with hugs. Then they'll say goodbye, walk out, and that door will close behind them. If you're anything like me, you'll sit on your bed and think "now what?" Well, this is where those items I mentioned earlier will come into play.

Prop your door open with the doorstep, flip the bucket upside down and set it in the doorway. Next, open the Oreos, take three of them for yourself, and set the package on top of the bucket. When I did this, it took about five minutes before the first person popped their head in my doorway and asked, "Hey, can anyone take these?" By the end of the day, I had met everyone on my floor, as well as some who didn't.

College can be scary, but it doesn't have to be. Keep your door, your mind, and your heart open, but stay faithful to what you believe in. College is a crazy, fun, occasionally scary adventure. But luckily, none of us have to face it alone.

- by Casey Baumberger



MEET A LOCAL AUTHOR

(Her parents
belong to
our Parish!)

Bondurant author Kali VanBaale's new novel, *The Good*

Divide, was released in June through Midwest Gothic Press. Her first book, *The Space Between*, was the winner of the Fred Bonnie Memorial First Novel Award and a publishing contract in 2006. *The Space Between* also earned an American Book Award and the Independent Publisher's silver medal for fiction. Book 3, *The Cure for Hopeless Causes*, is pending publication and Book 4 is a "work in progress".

Kali grew up on a dairy farm. **Her parents are parishioners, Sue and Myron White.** Kali started writing as a hobby at age 13 with poetry (as she says, "really bad poetry"), then short stories, and progressed to novels in her twenties. In a recent interview with "Fiction Writer's Review" she says, "Every book I've written has been my dark and twisty version of a love letter to something": motherhood, her family's farm, her hometown, her 80's childhood. She also has had short stories and essays published in literary magazines and reviews and several anthologies.

Kali taught creative writing and literature at Drake University and Upper Iowa University for two years and was a substitute librarian for the DSM Public Library. She is now a faculty member of the Lindenwood College MFA, teaching creative writing online workshops.



OLIVE WOOD ART

Looking for a special gift for someone being Confirmed or receiving First Eucharist; a special anniversary, birthday, or Christmas gift — we have the perfect place for you to shop! There will be beautiful hand carved olive wood art from Bethlehem on display and for sale September 24 & 25 before and after all Masses!!



**FUN NIGHT AT THE
BALL PARK!!**



ELKHART FUN DAYS!!



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

NONPROFIT ORG
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POOL PARTY!!