



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August - October 2017

Volume 1, Issue 18



CELEBRATE!



Charles Jake-Poru, son of Kevin and Christine Muehlenthaler of Ames, was baptized May 28. He joins sister Amelia Anne-Mitsuko. Godparents are Kristen Muehlenthaler and Paul Solka. Grandparents are Keith and Celeste Muehlenthaler, Tim Caver, and the late Joy Fujita.

Addison Louise, daughter of Doug and Katie Akins of Bondurant, was baptized June 10. Godparents are Tim and Dixie Garstang. Grandparents are Stan and Jackie Hintze and Dennis and Deb Akins.

A GRAND SIGHT!

116 flags adorned Holy Cross Cemetery on Memorial Day and July 4th. A HUGE thank you to the many volunteers who helped put up the flags and take them down. We are taking orders for flags now through August 16th for display on Veterans' Day and Labor Day weekend. Forms are available on the website and at both of our worship sites. Flags may be for those living or deceased, whether buried at Holy Cross or not, or to honor veterans, loved ones or friends. *See more pictures inside.*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, Holy Day of Obligation: Tuesday, August 15, 6:30PM Mass, St. Mary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays, August 17 (Holy Cross), September 21 (St. Mary), October 19 (Holy Cross), 7-8PM

Parish Pool Party: Friday, August 18, 7-8:30PM, Slater Pool

Blood Drive: Thursdays, August 31 & October 26, 3-7PM, Social Hall

World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation: Friday, September 1

Pastoral Council Informational meeting: Weekend of September 9/10 after all Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month during 10AM Mass, beginning September 17, St. Mary

Pastoral Council Discernment: Sunday, September 17, 11AM, Social Hall

Clothing Drive: September 10-22, St. Mary

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast: Sunday, September 10, after 8AM Mass, Holy Cross

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology and Animals, October 4: Blessing of pets, Sunday, October 1, 1PM, St. Mary

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

Parish Work Day: Saturday, October 28, 9AM-Noon

POPE FRANCIS SAYS:

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation is Friday, September 1.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

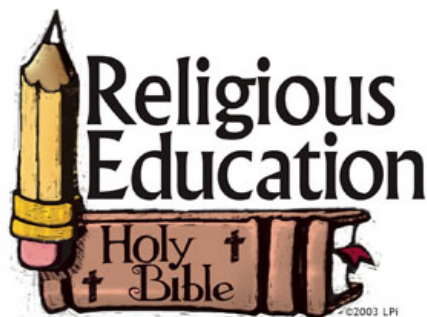
God has a plan for each of us! That was the message heard over and over during Vacation Bible School! 45 kids participated this year and over 20 volunteers gave of their time and talents. We had a great week singing, playing games, learning about the Bible, and becoming hands on inventors as we discovered that we are all lovingly crafted by God. Each night was a different theme focusing on our strengths and the love that we have from God. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord."

Each evening started with a meal and then the kids rotated through various stations like Bible Discovery, Imagination Station, Games and Music. Music and dance was how we started and ended each session and definitely got the message out that God made us and did so for a reason!

Each night, we collected various food items that we donated to The Blessing Box Food Pantry. We even made a trip down the street, so the kids could see firsthand where the collection was going. The Elkhart Christian Church was overjoyed with our donation to the Pantry.

VBS was a success thanks to the many volunteers that participated. From 5th graders through high school helpers, on up to adult helpers, your assistance was greatly appreciated. Thank you to each volunteer that served in some way!

God made each of us and HE will love us always!



STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!!

We are looking forward to another year of RE!

First Class for PreK-6th Grade: Wednesday, September 13, 5:15 & 6:30PM Sessions in the Ed Center

First Session for EDGE (gr. 7 & 8), Parent attendance mandatory: Wednesday, September 13, 6-7PM in the Social Hall

First Session for Life Teen (gr. 9-12): Wednesday, September 13, 7:45-9PM in the Youth Area

Confirmation 1 & 2 (gr. 9 & 10), Parent & Student Mini Retreat: Sunday, September 24, 11AM-3PM in the Social Hall

Register now! Form is on the website and in the vestibule of St. Mary and Holy Cross. Please return your form and payment by August 20th to the Parish Office. ~ Thank you!

WELCOME STACIE HERGENRETER

PreK-6 Religious Education Coordinator



I grew up in Illinois. Both my husband Joel and I were born and raised Catholic. We have been married for fourteen years and we have two children, Alexis (8) and Luke (5). We live in White Oak on an acreage. We both grew up in the country and currently board and show horses and the kids show livestock. We all love sports and our daughter is an avid swimmer and has since gotten me involved in competition. Both children are avid runners and compete in events like Iowa Games.

One thing I have been asked a number of times is why we chose St. Mary-Holy Cross as the church for our family. We chose the church with zero reservations due to a great sense of community and the very strong RE program that has been key in helping our children grow in their faith. The church offers so much support to our family from great church services to gatherings and many learning opportunities (recycling, gardening, music, donating to the youth garage sale, clothing donations, supporting a local food pantry, etc.). All of these things done by others show our children things that we strongly believe in and allows them to participate and contribute.

We have been involved in the church in a variety of ways. I have been a cantor for the past two years. Joel is a member of the Knights of Columbus. I have also been a catechist. The entire family has made meals for shelters, assisted in serving food at the church, participated in church clean up days, donated to various charities, etc. These experiences have been invaluable to the children and they are always excited to help.

I am extremely excited to serve the church and its parishioners as the PreK-6 RE Coordinator. I previously worked for John Deere for 18 wonderful years and chose to leave to better support our family as a stay at home parent. Our son begins school this fall so the position as the RE Coordinator came about at the perfect time and I am so excited to be able to give back to the church in this capacity.

CONGRATULATIONS!



The wedding of Kristen Muehlenthaler and Nick Schramm took place on July 8 in St. Mary's Church. Kristen was brought up in our SMHC Parish. Her parents are Keith and Celeste Muehlenthaler of Alleman. Nick's parents are Jenny and Rick Schramm of Plymouth, MN. Both Kristen and Nick are computer engineers. Kristen is employed by Sococo and Nick just started a new position at Merrell Corporation. They are making their home in Eagan, MN.

A PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Dear God,
So far today, I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper.
I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish,
and I'm really glad of that!
But in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed,
and from then on,
I'm probably going to need
a lot of help.



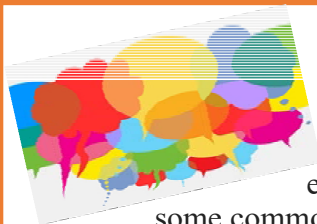
THANK YOU! AMEN!



REMEMBER YOUR PETS!

Bring them to a special blessing on Sunday, October 1 in parking lot of St. Mary at 1PM for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi!





LET'S CHAT

When asked to comment about parishioners' experiences with "Let's Chat"

some common themes came up: fellowship, fun, "church family", feeling of community, ability to participate in unstructured topics of conversation or just listen. AND the free and delicious popcorn is very popular!

If you have a question, want to share something, or just want to see what all the good feelings are about, everyone is welcome to attend the upcoming "Let's Chat" nights. The next one is Tuesday, August 15, after the 6:30PM Holy Day Mass. More info on the group can be found on the Parish website under "Adult Faith Sharing." Hope to see you!!

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

For putting them
up.....



And taking them
down.....



KNIGHTS KORNER

The Knights of Columbus have been keeping busy over the past few months:

In May, we helped the Cemetery Committee and several others set flag pole bases at Holy Cross. The weather was about the best yet for pancakes on Memorial Day.

In June, we welcomed our new Grand Knight, Bill Schmitt, and helped out at the Elkhart City Festival.

In July, we picked, cooked, cut, bagged, and froze 27 gallons of sweet corn for next year's fish fries.

August brings serving a meal at the St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter.

In September, we'll have our second pancake breakfast of the year at Holy Cross.

We have had fun doing all of it. If you are interested in joining us, let us know or just show up at one of our meetings.



OUR YOUTH TRAVEL TO SUMMER CONFERENCE!

Our group from the Des Moines area had a great time at the Steubenville Conference held in St. Paul in July. Thank you to our Parish for helping us get them there!

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.

A special thanks to Andrea Fisher, our group leader who always goes above and beyond for the youth of our Parish as well as for anyone that she knows.



- Nicole Cory



Please join us Friday, August 18th, from 7-8:30PM at the Slater Pool. RSVP to the Parish Office at (515) 367-2685.

OUR PARISH IS GROWING...

in the form of a community garden! The Parish Buildings and Grounds Committee has approved a proposal from the Community Garden Steering Committee for a 16x16 foot space to be located on the west side of the Social Hall.

The plan is to start this fall tilling and fencing the area, and starting a few plants such as winter onions, a few herbs and rhubarb. The hope is to add to the garden next spring with tomatoes, zucchini, and squash.

Produce from the garden will be available for The Blessings Box Food Pantry as well as other uses beneficial to the community.

Our hope is that our Parish and other area churches involved with The Blessings Box Food Pantry, along with the RE program, Confirmation program, Friends of St. Francis, and Knights of Columbus, can team up to make this a success.

Watch the bulletin and social media for ongoing information as we move forward with this exciting project.



OUR KIDS ARE HEADED BACK TO SCHOOL!

But
this
advice
is
good
for
everyone!



CHATTING MONKEYS AND HOW TO STOP THEM

Ever since I was in middle school, the voice in my head has been an overactive little monster. It's always been a nuisance, but there were many times throughout college that this constant stream of overactive thinking made it impossible to focus in class, study for tests, and to sleep at night.

It wasn't until my senior year of college when I attended a retreat weekend in Minnesota that I was made aware of the name for this endless stream of overthinking: Monkey Chatter. The lecturer explained monkey chatter as a constant stream of thoughts about situations (real or imagined) that make focusing on other things difficult or impossible. If any of this sounds even vaguely familiar, you've dealt with monkey chatter before. I am here to tell you the secrets this awesome lecturer told me to silence that monkey.

Don't be afraid of silence. In today's world, there's always noise. I'm guilty of it: when I avoid silence. Then my attention is split between the book and the TV and then the monkey starts asking questions about the show, the TV, what I'm going to have for dinner, when I'm going to start running again, etc. Even if it's just 15 minutes a day, turn off all the noise and

Write it down. When you feel your monkey going off on a longwinded tangent, grab a pen and paper and write down every thought that comes to mind. Eventually, your hand will tire and you'll discover your monkey has lost its breath. The physical exhaustion of your hand mirrors your mental exhaustion that comes with overthinking. This has therapeutic effects, plus it organizes those thoughts into something concrete.

These two tips are simple, but they work wonders for me. They might take a bit of getting used to (as all new habits do), but stick with it. They will help. Everything is so fast-paced now and society (as well as that chatting monkey) are telling you to do so many things: get a job, get good grades, study more, take more leadership roles, get a better job, the list

goes on. You have every right to shut off these pressures. Silence and writing it down will help shut off those pressures and put you back in tune with your own soul.



- Casey Baumberger

RECIPE PRIZE WINNING SALSA

Michele Hand's salsa took home first-prize honors at the church picnic in June. But the good news is her recipe is no secret! It can be found on page 27 of the St. Mary-Holy Cross cookbook. It's her mother-in-law Pat Hand's recipe. And what makes the recipe so delicious? Michele says: "I only use home grown tomatoes and peppers when I make it."

12 cups tomatoes (chunked)
3/4 cups onion (chopped)
2 cups green/yellow peppers (chopped)
1/4 cup sugar
1 T. Italian seasoning
1 T. garlic powder
1 T. Lawry's salt
1 C. vinegar
1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste
5-6 jalapeno peppers (chopped with seeds)
1/4 C. cilantro (chopped)
3 T. salt



Drain excessive juice off tomatoes, then put all in 6 quart pan and cook on medium heat at least 1 hour or until desired thickness. Makes 6-6 1/2 pints. Can or hot water bath salsa. This makes medium spicy salsa. If mild salsa is desired, leave out jalapeno peppers.

- Michele Hand

REFUGEES WHY THEM AND NOT ME?

Pope Francis poses the question to himself about today's discarded people, "Why them and not me?" in an 18 minute presentation at a TED (technology, entertainment, design) conference earlier this year. You are invited to sit in to hear the Pope and dialogue with fellow parishioners about "Why the only future worth building includes everyone" after Masses at St. Mary on September 23 & 24 and at Holy Cross on October 1.



View the presentation beforehand at www.ted.com and search for POPE. It may change your thinking during times of personal difficulty when you ask yourself "Why me?"

GET EXCITED ABOUT OUR FUTURE!

*We are all uniquely called and gifted by God.
While no one has all the gifts,
all the gifts necessary for ministry and service
exists within our faith community.*

Plan to attend a 15-20 minute presentation by Father Dan on September 9 & 10 after all Masses, to learn more about the Pastoral Council's role in empowering all in the Parish.

Consider how your gifts from God can best help to serve our Parish!



REAL STATEMENTS FOUND IN CHURCH BULLETINS

- o The Spring Council Retreat will be held May 10th.
- o Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- o Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.
- o The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- o Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan in preparing for the birth of their first child.
- o The associate minister unveiled the church's new giving campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge--Up Yours."
- o 8 new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.



SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

The Blessing Box Food Pantry, located at 252 South Washington Avenue in Elkhart, is now open the first Saturday of every month with donations of fresh produce (and other food items) accepted from 9-9:30AM, then open for food distribution until 10:30AM. The Blessing Box remains open the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 6-7PM. Clients enjoy homemade foods (especially breads) distributed fresh and frozen; packaged individually and dated. Current special food needs are canned meats, breakfast cereals, jelly, and syrup. Please spread the word about the food pantry to friends and relatives who may be in need of food supplements. Donations can be delivered to the pantry when open or placed in the box by our Parish Office to be delivered by Parish Youth, and tax deductible checks can be made payable and sent to The Blessing Box, c/o Elkhart Christian Church, P.O. Box 97, Elkhart, IA 50073. We thank the many parishioners of St. Mary – Holy Cross Parish for your financial and food support and volunteers.



THANK YOU!



The Garage Sale to support our NCYC participants' trip to their conference in November profited over \$1700. Thank you!!!!

We were also pleased to share unsold donated items with about 35 area families, when we opened our doors for a FREE Garage Sale. People in need were encouraged to come through and "shop" for any items they wanted for their families. FREE! This was a rewarding way to share the generous donations we received! All other leftover donations were set aside for Refugee groups via St. Ambrose Cathedral, the Salvation Army and the ARL. Thanks again for your continued support!

— Melissa Kahler and the Garage Sale Group

Over 25 trillion Styrofoam coffee cups are thrown away each year, and that's just in the U.S.!

Parish Bike Ride



SMHC's group walk to represent our Parish during the Elkhart City Festival Parade was great fun! Watch for opportunities to represent your Parish in future events!



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



Garage Sale Models



Parish Picnic Piñata

