



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August - October 2018



Father Dan was surprised and in awe when he looked out the window during his reception and saw his new ATV. Thanks to everyone for your generous contribution and for keeping it a secret!!

Father Andrew shares some thoughts with us on page 3.

Enjoy photos from Father Dan's farewell reception. You may find a photo of yourself.



Check out the Confirmation Class on page 2.

Enjoy not one, but TWO great recipes from our talented chefs.

When is our picnic? Look on page 6.

One of the Lost Boys of Sudan is coming to our parish, find out when on page 2

And much more.....look inside!

WELCOME!



Ben and Britnie Nerem and their children moved to Elkhart after living in south Des Moines for seven years. The couple wanted a small town that was equidistant to their work places. Ben works for a real estate and insurance business in Boone. Britnie is an ER nurse for Mercy downtown. They have three children: Averee (8), Jameson (2), and Eleanor who was born after their move and is now one month old. They live in the North Polk School District. In his spare time, Ben follows all sports but especially college football. Britnie likes family time when they can make popcorn and watch movies together. Averee is active in softball, gymnastics, and basketball. Jameson loves his Hot Wheels cars. Ben grew up Catholic and has always been involved in Church related activities. Though Britnie is non-Catholic, the family likes that St. Mary is close to their home and they are looking forward to becoming active within the parish.

WELCOME!



Nick and Ashley Segal moved from Illinois to Altoona to Bondurant after visiting the Des Moines area several years ago. They started their own business: Nick is an energy manager for retail establishments and Ashley takes care of the office and keeps the books. They have 3 children: Aiden 10, Grayson 6, and Anderson 3 and are in the Bondurant School District. Leisure time finds Nick golfing and Ashley enjoying family time or reading. Aiden enjoys dance and crafts and Grayson likes spending time with his Dad learning to golf. All three children like to be outdoors especially if it involves swimming. The family recently started coming to St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish because they like the idea of a weekly Religious Education program. They also like the smaller close-knit feel of the parish and that SMHC it is closer to their home.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PreK through 6th



VBS was a success!! The children really enjoyed the teachings and activities. This was the first VBS week that I have organized and it took an ARMY to make it a success and I am every grateful for all of the help. A huge thank

you goes out to everyone that volunteered their time decorating, making food, serving, cleanup, taking pictures, making a video, teaching and leading the various groups of children.



The theme was Shipwrecked and the focus was on "Jesus Rescues Us". We continually expressed that all we need to do is allow his presence into our life. We all simply need to say yes, come on in Jesus, our hearts and minds are wide open to receive your love. The music was sung together as one big group and we started and ended each day singing together. It can be a bit daunting to get everyone engaged and participating but by the end of the week, even those who earlier in the week were refusing to sing were requesting songs; it was a small victory for someone who absolutely loves to sing!!! We expressed how singing is a form of prayer.



On another note, the flood on June 30th had a definite impact on our classrooms; we were able to salvage quite a bit. This clearly is a moment where ones faith is put to the test and you have to have faith that things will work out. We had just made a number of changes to make the Ed Center more homey but we will get it returned to that point again. I am greatly looking forward to seeing all of the children and Catechists this Fall.

- Stacie Hergenreter

**Register
NOW**

**Forms are in
the vestibule
and on the
website.**



These students received the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 10th. May they call on the Holy Spirit to guide them today and always. Our congratulations also to Anthony Nehring of our Parish who was Confirmed May 19th at Christ The King Church.

Andrew Ausman
Karley Mae Bartleson
Abigail Bruce
Emma DeCosta
Carla Edleman
Olivia Gehrke
Isabell Hobbs
Lydia Johnson

Ella Kahler
Emma Kahler
Jared Laffey
Elizabeth Leu
Jackson McClain
Emily Miller
James Miller
Riley Miller

Jennie Moore
Haleigh Penton
Jacob Reid
Sophie Schaffer
Ethan Smith
Hunter Soyer
Nolan Sullivan
Jonathan Wong

- Nicole Cory

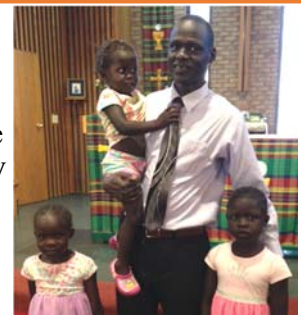
Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin again on September 16 during St. Mary's 10AM Mass and continues the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month during the school year. Your little ones will enjoy learning about God's teachings in a way they can understand.



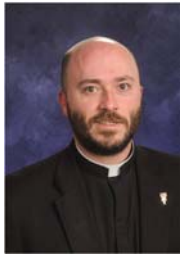
Share God's Word

LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

Our Friends of St. Francis group invite you to an evening with Dhoal Larjin, whose life is witness to the transforming power of God's love in the midst of daily adversities. As a nine year old Dhoal was one of the Lost Boys of South Sudan. He was abducted and coerced to become a child soldier. His journey from that life to a refugee camp, education, and in 2005, resettlement in Des Moines will be shared. Join us **Wednesday, September 26, 6:30PM in the Social Hall. Appropriate for teens and adults.** For more information contact Marion Panyan, 515-321-6395/panyan@mchsi.com.



GREETINGS FROM FATHER ANDREW



In response to my telling someone that I thought I might be a priest, the individual replied, "Don't take the easy way out." There are at least a couple reactions someone can have to such a retort. Perhaps the most obvious to anyone who really knows what priests do, is to be taken aback.

The other, however, is one of agreement. This doesn't have to do with just priests. Serving God and others, be they priest, husband and father, wife and mother, etc., if that is what He intends for them, should in some way experience that vocation as the easy way to eternal life. It certainly doesn't mean there aren't challenges along the way, but it means that we experience genuine peace and joy that comes with doing what God wants us to do with the life that He gave us.

When the Blessed Mother called me to serve her Son a different way than working and dating and possibly getting married and raising a family, I figuratively went kicking and screaming. It shouldn't have surprised me because I have an uncle who is a priest. Plus, when I was six or seven I would have told you that I wanted to be a priest, firefighter, or astronaut. Such a desire waned until seminary. During adoration on a retreat, God showed me serving Him as a priest. This vision was repeated about a year later. With both visions He gave me peace about the vocation that I now enjoy. Despite the challenges and struggles, there's a great sense of fulfillment in serving Him and others.

Meeting with Fr. Dan after the assignment of me here at St. Mary's and Holy Cross, he said something that will be hard for me to forget, which is that the bishop has a great deal of confidence in me to do such a thing. Those aren't his exact words, by the way, but they certainly strike at what I like to think of as humility that's necessary for a servant. There's so much that I could write, but we have plenty of time and opportunities to get to know each other. In the meantime, I appreciate your prayer; know of mine for you. God bless.



October 7 is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the month of October is dedicated to this prayerful gift given to us by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in October to pray the Rosary 20 minutes before each of our weekend Masses.



CELEBRATE

Cora Marie, daughter of Mitch and Jennifer Gibson, was baptized June 10th. Her Godparents are Dan Miller and Esther Gibson. Grandparents are Ray and Rhonda Gibson of Jefferson and Dennis and the late Sharon Miller of Bridgewater. Cora has an older brother, Christian, age 5.

Vera Sonny Ruddick was baptized June 16th. Her parents are Kaitlynn Sandry and Rodney Ruddick. Godparents are Isabelle Sandry and Ryan Sandry. Grandparents are Dan Sandry of Blythe, California, Linda Sandry of Greeley, Colorado, and Lee and Mike Vogt of Lake City, Iowa. Vera joins big sister Isla, age 3.

Thomas James, son of Melissa and Bill Hollister, was baptized at St. Mary's June 23rd. Godparents are Katherine Petersen and Thomas Hollister. Grandparents are Katherine and Glen Petersen of Huxley and Linda and Jerome Hollister of Des Moines. Thomas has a sister Emma, age 5.

- Sue White

CONGRATULATIONS!



Clayton Andrew Cory and Kylie Elizabeth Cornwell were married June 2nd at St. Mary's Church. Parents of the bride are Ron and Christine Cornwell and parents of the groom are Andrew and Lori Cory. Kylie teaches second grade at West Marshall and Clayton works at the Eldora State Training School for Boys. They are making their home in Eldora.

- Sue White

BLOOD DRIVE



August 30 & November 8, 3-7PM in the Social Hall. More than 100,000 pints of blood are needed yearly. Will you help? (sign up sheet is in vestibule or call Lisa at 515-964-7687).



BIKE RIDE

Join us for our 2nd annual parish bike ride! This ride is for all ages and rider abilities. We start in Slater (meet in the lot by the park) and will ride to The High Trestle Bridge or beyond. For those that would like less miles, a group will stay at The Flat Tire Lounge in Madrid. The ride is Saturday, August 18th, starting at 7:00PM.

- Tammi McClain





40th Anniversary and Farewell receptions for Fr. Dan Krettek July 7 & 8, 2018

CHRIST OUR LIFE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 29-30

Plan to join the many Iowans who will be enjoying this inspiring celebration of faith amid enlightening and entertaining speakers, storytellers and musicians at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

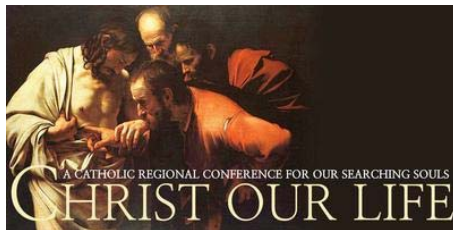
Feel your spirit rejoice at this 5th biennial event that was conceived in 2008 by two women who envisioned a regional conference to encourage a way to search your soul in a fun and mindful way. You will listen, learn, laugh and feel the love of this glorious gathering. Attending all or part of this unique gathering can prove life-transforming.

Attendance pricing is \$25/person, \$15 for ages 6 years through college (\$5 more at the door) and children under 5 years are free. Vendors will also be represented with their unique items.

It would be wonderful if our parish could be well represented! Group pricing is also available for ten or more

attendees; contact Paula Garoutte by September 1st at 515-306-6633 or paulasongbird@msn.com to coordinate -- car pooling and lodging are also offered for those interested.

For more details, visit www.Christourlifeiowa.com or call Paula with any questions.



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Congrats to the Collins-Maxwell Spartans Class 1A State Softball Champions and to members of our parish who were part of the team: Assistant Coach Jean Birchmier, Ella Kahler, Emma Kahler, and Avery Fricke!

TRY THESE RECIPES! STRAWBERRY WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

1 box strawberry cake mix
1/2 C vegetable oil
2 eggs
2 C white chocolate chips



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix cake mix, oil and eggs in a large bowl until well blended. Stir in white chocolate chips and mix well until evenly distributed. Drop spoonful's onto ungreased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake for 12-14 minutes. Let cool for 2 minutes on cookie sheet then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Enjoy! - Kelly Hoffmeier

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MOCK CHAMPAGNE PUNCH *served at Fr. Dan's Receptions*



4 pounds sugar
4 cups water
2 ounces almond flavoring
2 ounces vanilla
1 tsp. fruit fresh

Combine and slowly bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Cool, put in a sealed container and refrigerate. When ready to use mix 1/2 cup of this base mix with one 2 liter bottle of ginger ale. Each 2 liter bottle of ginger ale makes eight 8 ounce servings. The base mix will keep indefinitely in the refrigerator. If it crystallizes simply reheat on low, cool and refrigerate.

- Kathy Gass

PARISH PICNIC!!

Come join us for an Italian-themed parish picnic on Saturday, September 22nd after 5:00PM Mass. We'll gather to enjoy a spaghetti meal along with a variety of parishioner-provided desserts. Watch for a bulletin flyer and announcements regarding sign-up, food contributions, contest and game details.



THANKS!



A very grateful thank you to our talented musicians and singers who made Fr. Andrew's first weekend with us and Fr. Dan's last weekend with us even more special!

GOOD GOALS!

You've probably heard this since you were a little kid and you probably still hear it today: "Set good goals for yourself and achieve them." I had numerous teachers give us "goal worksheets" and even a boss made me make "goal plans" for work. But none of them ever told me it was okay to quit my goals, and that message really needs to be part of any "goal" lesson.

Whoa, what? Did I just say it's okay to quit on your goals? I sure did! Now before you write me off as crazy, let me explain myself with an example. This year, my goal was to run a week-long race in the Himalayan mountains in November. About two months ago, I quit training and decided I wasn't going to do it. I struggled with the decision immensely, I don't quit easy and I don't like to fail (who does?). But no goal is worth causing yourself anxiety, guilt, depression. I was so anxious about the travel, the money, my ability to train properly, among a million other things and I was miserable with myself. As soon as I decided to not do it, I felt a wave of relief.

It's okay, it's encouraged actually, to stop pursuing any goal that makes you utterly miserable. Nothing is worth your happiness and well-being, even if you said you'd do it. Did you promise yourself and others that you'd plant 30 tomato plants and make homemade spaghetti sauce for your neighborhood this year, but now you're completely overwhelmed and find yourself almost to tears when you pick up a tomato? Quit that goal! Are you dreading going to that martial arts class you signed up for and losing sleep because you're so worried about it? Stop going! You get the picture.

It's hard to achieve goals, you will be faced with uncomfortable experiences on your way to achieving what you want, so I'm in no way saying that when the going gets tough, quit. The best things in life don't come easy. But they also don't come with pursuing things that cause you to dread every morning and be filled with cortisol because you're so stressed out. So before you quit any goal, take a serious look at it and decide for yourself if it's just a difficult goal or if you truly don't want to pursue it anymore. Don't let your goals become other people's

expectations. In the end, you know what's best for you. And remember, just because you stop pursuing a goal for now, doesn't mean you can't pick it up again later when you're ready.



- Casey Baumberger

KNIGHTS KORNER



The Knights of Columbus served pancakes at Holy Cross after Mass on Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. Next date for you to enjoy our pancakes is after Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, September 16. We also hosted the Car Show at the Elkhart Festival in June.

We are already looking forward to the fish fries next year -- sweet corn picking and freezing has already started.

The next scheduled opportunity to join our council is at 6:30PM on Sunday, August 19th in the Social Hall.

Please join us and learn about our organization.



Did you know that *The Blessing Box* served a free lunch each Wednesday during June and July? Families were also able to pack a sack lunch to take home to eat later. The kids and parents that attended were so appreciative of this opportunity. Thank you for your generosity!

AND THE RAIN KEPT COMING!



Perhaps, to quote Fr. Andrew, it was God's sense of humor, but a week before Father

Dan's retirement as our pastor, and Father Andrew beginning his assignment as our new pastor, the rains came falling down. Not only did the office area and Ed Center incur significant damage from the water, so did the rectory, as did Father Dan's new home.

Fortunately the parish has insurance to cover the repairs to the rectory air conditioner, replacing of 2 water heaters as well as restoration of walls, carpet and painting in the office and Ed Center. (Father Dan also has insurance on his new home). But it will be a while before things return to normal. Meanwhile the offices are located in the Social Hall. To all of our parish community who are recovering from flooding and the recent tornadoes, our prayers and support are with you.



Church is not something you go to. It's a family you belong to.

Memorial Day at Holy Cross Cemetery



Community Garden



Steubenville Retreat

We had an amazing weekend attending Steubenville in St. Paul the last weekend in July. 32 youth, and 11 adults attended,



including 13 from St. Mary-Holy Cross. This is what some had to say:

Madelyn (15): "My Steubenville experience has been life changing. Each year God teaches me something new, and reveals himself in a whole new way!!"

Taylor (19): "Every time I've gone to a Steubenville conference, everything we talk about that weekend is exactly what I'm struggling with and needed to here. This year was exceptionally better because I've surrounded myself with more people of faith and it made it easier to let God in and keep him in my heart as I went home."

Erin (16): "Going to Steubenville was surprisingly one of the best decisions I have made this summer. I grew in faith, learned a lot about Catholicism in relation to current societal issues, made a ton of new friends, and had a lot of fun. God worked in a special way that weekend to bring so many so much closer to his presence." - Andrea Fisher



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