



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August - October 2019



MEET THE FIRST COMMUNION CLASS OF 2019

These 2nd graders of our parish celebrated their First Communion on April 28. Thank you to Father Andrew for a beautiful Mass!



~ photo by Jennifer Waters Photography

Enjoy photos of VBS and photos of Deacon Terry's retirement party.



Olivia Jones tells us about her trip to Africa - which for her was a trip of a lifetime. (page 4)

Deacon Terry, a Vietnam Veteran, tells about his trip to Washington D.C. to visit the Vietnam and other memorials. (page 5)

Jim and Nina Given recount how they came across our little rural church of Holy Cross by accident, or more likely, by Divine Inspiration. (page 6)

Casey Baumberger gives her young adult perspective on following God's purpose in our lives. (page 7)

And more.....enjoy recipes and cooking tips, welcome our new Music Coordinator Sue Schmidt, greet our newly baptized little ones and congratulate our newly married couple.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW



As I type this, it is about two days after the ordination of two men to the priesthood for the diocese. It was a humbling experience to be asked by one of them to vest him with the stole and chasuble, which are the garments that you see a priest wear at Mass (the stole is not so easy to see because it is most commonly worn under the chasuble). On the following day I attended both Masses at which each was the main celebrant for the first time. My intention was to show camaraderie with these new brother priests. Hopefully that was accomplished. What I did not expect was what I got out of the festivities. They were a reminder of what I went through about four years ago. Yet it was more than just a simple recalling of fond memories. In some strange way, it is almost like I was living those events in real time and not in the past. *Have you had such a profound experience in your life that you do not simply recall it as a memory from the past but live it out as if it is happening exactly as it did without being affected by the passage of time?* Consider how in such moments many parts of our humanity are affected. For example, there is the physical aspect, such as how our bodies moved. There is the emotional aspect, whether we were happy, sad, or maybe angry. There are certainly other aspects, perhaps many, that we could consider. These experiences and the realization of them need not come as a surprise to us as Catholics. It is the kind of experience that we are intended to have each time we celebrate Mass. Jesus' sacrifice is not acted out again at every Mass. Instead, we are meant to mysteriously experience it as if we are there, and in that time, not in our own place and time. This raises the stakes for us, as though we are St. John and the Blessed Mother right there at the foot of the cross as our Lord takes his last breath and in doing so gives up his spirit. What do we do then?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2019



MEET OUR NEW MUSIC COORDINATOR



After many years and countless hours of faithful dedication, Celeste Muehlenthaler decided to step down as the Music Coordinator at our parish. Her bubbling personality and musical talents will be greatly missed by the parish staff, musicians and congregation!

After prayerful consideration, parishioner Sue Schmidt has taken the leap of faith to continue Celeste's music ministry as the new Music Coordinator. Sue has been a cantor at Mass and choir member at St. Mary in recent years and previously sang in traditional choir at St. Augustin's Church in Des Moines and contemporary choir at Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines.

Thanks to the time and talent of all the great musicians at SMHC, the music program will continue to provide all parish musical needs, including weekly Mass cantors and accompanists, Christmas and Easter choirs, and music for weddings and funerals. It takes many musicians to maintain this level of commitment and your support is greatly needed. If you have a love of liturgical music and enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, you are cordially invited to join the music program in any capacity you feel comfortable. If you are interested, please contact Sue Schmidt at sschmidt@saintmaryhc.org.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si' and the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation we are hosting an interfaith prayer service.

Sunday, September 15, 1:30-2:30PM.

Holy Cross Church (Outdoors along the prairie; will move inside if needed) 12704 NE 98th St., Maxwell.

1:30 - 2:05 Prairie Pilgrimage - with prayers and poems that shout the joy of creation and lead us to embrace its gifts and blessings.

2:15 - Reflection by Matt Russell, Director, Iowa Interfaith Power and Light.

Bring a chair and wear walking shoes.

Our time together in an Iowa prairie can be a source of prayerful praise and move us to closer unity with others and the earth.

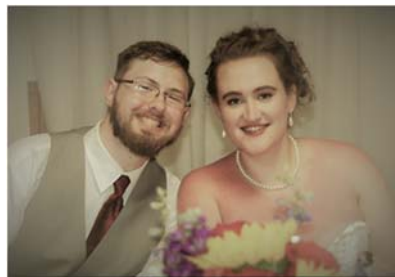


Partners: Friends of St. Francis at St. Mary-Holy Cross, Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, Interfaith Green Coalition, and Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

**And all
of a
sudden...
Summer
collapses
into Fall.**



CONGRATULATIONS!



Nicole Bishop and Mason North celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage on May 25, at St. Mary's Church. Best Man was Joshua Prybil and Maid of Honor was Amy

Lund. Nicole is the daughter of Larry and Mary Bishop of Elkhart and Mason is the son of Robert and Lori North of Ankeny. Nicole has an associate teaching position while studying for her Master's Degree in Chemistry at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Mason is finishing his Master's Degree in Biology at UNI while he works at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral home in Iowa Falls. When he graduates in December, Mason will join Nicole in Columbus.

WELCOME!

Lilian Carol Shuler was baptized April 20 at St. Mary's. She joins parents Jeremy and Gretchen and brother Callen. Her Godparents are Hannah Chambers and Isaac Chambers. Lilian's grandparents are Stephen Schlader and Carol Hoffarth of Rockford, IA, and Mickey Shuler of Rudd, IA.

Averie Jean Overturff was baptized on Mother's Day, May 12, at Holy Cross. She is the daughter of Burke and Jenna and sister to Addison. Godparents are Patrick Rooney and Natasha Overturff and her grandparents are Bill and Mary Rooney of Bondurant and Paul and Nancy Overturff of Altoona.

Levi Vincent Klostermann, son of Casey and Staci, was baptized at St. Mary's May 19. Levi has one brother, Cash. Godparents are Travis Klostermann and Sheila Tharp. Grandparents are Rick and Mary Klostermann of Delhi, IA and Gene and Dixie Wenthold of Dyersville, IA.

Reagan Ann Miller was baptized June 23 at St. Mary's. She is the daughter of Maricia and Justin and her Godparents are Jeffery Schroeder and Megan Lytle. Reagan's grandparents are Jeff and Mera Schroeder of Lincoln, NE and Glenn and Tamie Miller of Princeton, MO.

PLEASE HELP! GIVE BLOOD!

Thursdays, August 29 and November 7
3-7 PM in the Social Hall.

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

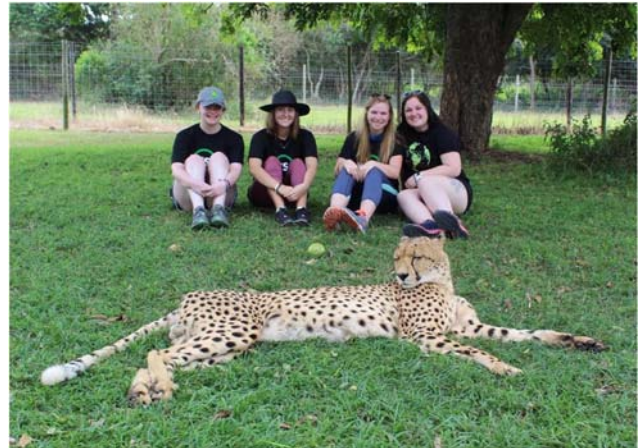
When I was younger, I once spent an afternoon at St. Mary's helping to make pre-packaged meals for Meals for the Heartland that were then being sent on to Africa. I remember being so inspired by the speakers that I wanted to travel abroad and make a difference, particularly in Africa. I put this off as a pipe dream through the years, but, this summer, I had the opportunity to make this dream a reality. Thanks to the program VESA, I was able to spend two weeks in Africa.



While I was in Africa, I spent six days and 40 plus hours doing volunteer work in several different places. I spent two days with children at their school and then at a daycare/orphanage that one of the village women runs. There, I helped to ease the workload of both the teachers and Mama Doris by entertaining the kids and, in the case of the school, answering questions that they might have. I also spent two days working at conservation centers, one for crocodiles and one for several different kinds of wild cats. In addition to helping these centers maintain the habitats for these animals, we were given tours and educated about the important work that these legitimate conservation centers do. On my final two days of volunteering, we worked to help build houses for two different families. My group was in charge of mixing concrete that would be laid for the floor of these houses that would each hold about twelve people. My second week in Africa was spent doing activities that introduced us to the culture of the Zulu people that live and work where we stayed as well as getting the chance to appreciate the beauty of the environment and wildlife of South Africa and Swaziland.

Once I got back home, people frequently asked me what my favorite part of the trip was, and I always found it hard to answer. I found each aspect of the volunteering days enriching and rewarding. I had the opportunity to feel as though I had really helped change happen, even if it was just giving the amazing Mama Doris a two hour break in which she could sit down or pulling out trees that would have been harmful for the cats at the conservation center. Our cultural week was no less inspirational. Being able to see how other cultures live that are so different from our own gave me the chance to be both grateful for what we have and humbled because the people I met seemed no less happy with what they have. And, although I am truly an Iowa girl at heart, seeing a different landscape and variety of wildlife helped remind me how small we are and what a beautiful world in which we have the chance to live. There is no doubt in my heart that taking this trip has made me a better person that will view the world through a changed perspective.

- Olivia Jones



A VETERAN'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC

When we returned from Viet Nam, there was much anti-war sentiment that was taken out on the returnees from the war. We were doing what our country told us to do so the blame should have been directed towards the government for what happened there!

Sentiment was radically different the day of the flight! There were swarms of people lining the bus route to the airport expressing their thanks for our service. At Dulles in DC, there was a double line of folks greeting us, thanking us for our service, and showering us with handshakes and hugs. Guess which I preferred! That line extended through the entire lobby there!

We were taken by bus to various stops within walking distance of the Viet Nam memorial, the Korean memorial, the WWII memorial, Arlington Cemetery for the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and past the Pentagon to the Air Force memorial nearby. It was an emotional, whirlwind day.



The nicest thing about the trip was the camaraderie. All were veterans except the necessary guardians for the wheelchair-bound, so everyone "got it" without any explanations needed. A lot of tears were shed that day. For some it was too intense to get off the bus.

A big thanks to Hy Vee and other sponsors for making this trip possible.

- Deacon Terry

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARY

Our parish medical equipment lending library continues to grow. We currently have items from walkers to shower chairs to name a few items. While we do not have room to store the items, the



Stewardship Committee will arrange for pickup and delivery of the items to parishioners in need. The items are available to anyone who is in need of equipment to aid in their healing.

If you have equipment you would like to borrow or something you would like to lend out, please email Kris Sturtz, KLSturtz@gmail.com or phone/text her at 515-238-1362 to request or donate one item or for more information.

- Kris Sturtz



Our favorite hippie Deacon!



Thank you Deacon Terry & Di for all the spirit, life, and laughter you've brought to our parish! We hope in retirement that Deacon Terry is able to enjoy the back trolling motor and that Di sees lots of birds at her bird feeder!

More pictures on back page.



PARISH PICNIC

Octoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 5
after 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary's



COME ENJOY: German food, root beer, beers, and games & prizes.

PLAN NOW: Bring your specialty for our German Desserts contest and our home brewed beer and root beer contest!!



DIVINE INSPIRATION

Jim and Nina Givan have a unique story to tell regarding their journey with Holy Cross. It started with a seemingly benign event; the purchase of a second-hand statue of Saint Isidore, the patron of farmers and rural communities. Weeks later while the Mitchellville couple was looking for a Colfax restaurant and quite off-track, they happened across Holy Cross Church. The beautiful rural setting caught the eye of artist Jim and after entering the church, Nina immediately noticed the statue of St. Isidore. This was no happenstance event. In Nina's words, they considered this to be "a very sacred place" and "they were *supposed to be there*".



The Givan's connections to Holy Cross only grew from there. They began to research the church's history and learn about the building's Irish roots. With Father Dan and Deacon Terry's support, Jim converted to Catholicism. As a member, he became known to parishioners and was commissioned to produce a painting of Holy Cross. While the painting was a challenge (painted from a dark photograph taken at dusk), the results are truly inspiring and beautifully capture the magical, rural church. The couple also initiated a special celebration of Holy Cross's farming roots on the feast of St. Isidore. Parish youth created a banner depicting nature and farming scenes and led by Father Dan, proceeded outdoors. It still holds fond memories for the couple especially with Nina's love for teaching about saints and Jim's love for art and a 27-year career working with youth at VSA Arts of Iowa.



While it could be considered a happy little accident, this couple's off-course outing to a picturesque rural church and its statue of St. Isidore, is truly inspired.



PULLED PORK NACHOS

2 C pulled pork, prepared
 ¼ C thin sliced red onion
 2-4 Tbsp. BBQ sauce
 1 8-10 oz bag tortilla chips
 1 C shredded cheddar cheese
 1 C shredded Monterey Jack cheese
 Optional toppings:
 ¼ C shredded lettuce
 1 C coleslaw
 2-4 oz ranch dressing



Preheat oven to 400°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread tortilla chips on baking sheet.

Place pulled pork over chips. Top with onions. Sprinkle with cheeses and drizzle with BBQ sauce. Bake 5-10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Add optional toppings and serve immediately.

- Kelly Hoffmeier

USEFUL TIPS FOR YOUR KITCHEN



When making cut out cookies, dip cookie cutters in powdered sugar rather than flour to keep them from sticking. If working with chocolate dough, dip your cookie cutters in cocoa powder.

To reduce the chance of hot oil splattering, sprinkle a little salt in the pan before frying.

Use a microplane on fresh ginger and garlic rather than mincing them.

Love caramelized onions? Add a pinch of baking soda to the cooking onions to speed up the process.



Make your own fruit and vegetable wash by filling a spray bottle with 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon baking soda and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Shake well to mix.



To keep a partial bag of marshmallows from drying out place them in the freezer to keep them fresh.

- Kathy Gass

HUMBLE HAPPINESS

I used to think being humble meant making myself as low as possible on the totem pole, lower than dirt even. As such, I thought I deserved less than dirt. Thankfully, I couldn't have been further from the truth and I was dead wrong.

Let's say you're a great piano player and you're at a party. Someone asks you to play a song. Humility is NOT saying, "Oh no, I'm not good enough. I need to practice more." Humility IS saying, "I would be honored to."

God gave you gifts and desires for a reason. I fully believe our talents, our passions are God saying, "Hey, this is what I want you to be doing." For me, my biggest passions in life are writing, horses, and helping others. Those passions are my purpose on this Earth. Currently, I'm using my love of horses to teach young men and women to ride and care for horses, as well as build self-confidence, teamwork, and problem solving skills. If I were to discount myself, if I were to say "I'm not good enough", I'm saying that God's creation isn't good enough. And who in the world am I to make that judgment?!

Just today, I realized I'm doing that exact thing with my writing. For the longest time, I thought being an author was just a pipe dream: I'm not good enough, I can't make money off of it, it's not important, it doesn't matter, etc. But God gave me that love and talent for a reason! God wants me to use my writing skills to help others.

I invite you to take a look at your life. Have a passion for painting? Develop it, nurture it. Go take a class, spend 2 hours on a Saturday just painting for the sake of painting. Meditate on how you might help others with that. Maybe you're an amazing woodworker, sewer, gardener, guitar player. Whatever it is, whatever brings you joy, that is worth its weight in gold.

If you're anything like me, you look for signs in your life that point you towards your purpose. Whatever makes you happy is your sign! For me, that was a huge relief. It meant I could stop



searching. We can all stop searching and just enjoy what makes our souls joyous, knowing that in our happiness lies God's purpose for our lives.

- Casey Baumberger

KNIGHTS KORNER



The Knights had the opportunity to work on several events around the Parish and we have several more coming up in the next few months. In May, we held our semi-annual pancake breakfast at Holy Cross. We had beautiful weather and a wonderful turnout with great conversation and excellent food.

In June, we were able to help out one night at the Vacation Bible School by grilling hamburgers for their dinner. We had a car show planned for the Elkhart Festival, but unfortunately, we had to cancel due to the weather and wet conditions. We look forward to the car show at next year's festival with coveted homemade trophies from Doug Jones.

A number of Knights, with help from several parishioners, made quick work of cleaning up downed limbs and tree damage from the storm that went through on July 20. Many hands make light work.



We will be installing newly elected officers in August. We have a number of new officers with Doug Jones as our Grand Knight and Garrett McClain as Deputy Grand Knight. Please congratulate them on their new positions. In August, we will also prepare the meal for Catholic Charities Family Emergency Shelter, as we have done since the inception of our Council.

September will bring the fall Pancake Breakfast at Holy Cross on Sunday the 8th. Please mark it on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you.

In October, we will hand out rosary rings at Masses on the first weekend of the month, as we pray the rosary during the month. We will also have our annual Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (CPID) (formally known as the Tootsie Roll drive). We will be at Brick City Market in Bondurant, Fareway in Huxley, and after Mass at St. Mary's and Holy Cross.

- Bill Schmidt



BLESSING OF PETS

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, bring your pets to this special blessing on Saturday, October 5, 10AM on the lawn behind Holy Cross.

DEACON TERRY'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION !!

Saturday, August 10



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

