



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February - April 2019



IT'S OFFICIAL!



Father Andrew was officially installed as our pastor by Bishop Pates at Masses on February 2 & 3. The Bishop blessed the relationship between the priest and the people.

LOOK INSIDE!



Parishioner Mark Block shares his life's journey, its challenges and lessons he learned along the way - page 7.

Ever have an "ah-ha" moment? See the article by Casey Baumberger - page 5.

Welcome the new members of our parish - page 6.

Need some ideas for making Lent a more meaningful experience? - see page 4.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday

April 18

7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary
Adoration following Mass until 11PM, Social Hall

Good Friday

April 19

3PM Stations and Veneration of the Cross,
Holy Cross

7PM Passion Service, St. Mary

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 20

8:15PM Mass, St. Mary

Easter Sunday

April 21

8AM Mass, Holy Cross

10AM Mass, St. Mary



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW



Have you ever wondered why the date of Easter changes, while other holy days, such as Christmas, have fixed dates? Easter is seen as a fulfillment of - and has its basis in - the Jewish Passover, whereas the other holy days do not. Now if you look ahead on the liturgical calendar, you will notice that Easter this year is on April 21. Compared relatively to most other years, this is late. Due to the criteria for how the date is calculated Easter never occurs before March 22 and after April 25. So how is it decided? There are more complicated details than what follows and would likely extend this article beyond its limit for the newsletter. But generally, Easter is usually on the Sunday that is on or follows the first full moon of the vernal (spring) equinox. Both the vernal equinox this year and a full moon coincide on Thursday, March 21. That means almost another month goes by until the next full moon on Friday, April 19, then of course the Sunday that follows is the 21st. From there we can easily calculate other dates on the liturgical calendar. For example, Good Friday is the aforementioned April 19, Palm Sunday is the previous Sunday, April 14, and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is the Wednesday about six weeks before Easter, March 6.

JESUS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY (PUT ON BY OUR EDGE KIDS)



Retreat for 8th Graders!
February 24, starting with
10AM Mass and ending at
5:30PM. This retreat is a
requirement in preparation
for the Sacrament of
Confirmation.

EDGE teens are
hosting a Mardi Gras
Party for Religious Ed
kids on March 24 from
6-7PM (one session).

S.T.O.R.M. is
holding a jewelry
sales fundraiser
on the weekends
of March 23/24
and April 6/7.

Deacon Terry will
show *Jesus Christ
Superstar* movie in
the Social Hall on
Palm Sunday, April
14 at 2PM with
potluck snacks at
1:30pm.

S.T.O.R.M. REPORT

The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry took place in early December. This conference is held every other year and offers three entire days of professional and faith-filled development for youth ministers from all over our country. The keynote speakers and workshops are amazing opportunities to help youth ministers focus in on where they would like to strengthen their ministry.

The conference is a wonderful experience, but the best part is what Andrea Fisher, Melissa Kahler and myself, bring back. We learn so much about the always changing world of youth ministry, and we come back feeling renewed with the fire of the Holy Spirit burning bright within us. We are so grateful to have been able to go!



- Nicole Cory

GET MOVING IN YOUR FAITH

Below are some energetic and lively tunes that can inspire us! You might want to add these to your workout music.

Go Out, Go Out; Hymn #374
On Eagle's Wings; Hymn #436
Day One; Matthew West
Let Faith Move You; Matthew West
City on Our Knees; Tobymac
Overcomer; Mandisa
Unfinished; Mandisa
Grace Got You; MercyMe
Diamonds; Hawk Nelson



Do you have music or movie suggestions to share?
 Contact mrsmatthart@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE!

Gianna Rose, daughter of Tim and Geneveve Loraditch, was baptized on January 6 at St. Mary's Church. Godparents are Eric Manley and Sarah Malanaphy. Grandparents are Tim and Jeannette Loraditch of Alta, IA, and Mark and Linda Burke of Norwalk, IA. Gianna joins her six brothers and sisters: Veronica, Peyton, Felicity, Justice, Mercedes, and Titus.

Jayson Todd, son of Todd and Stephanie Volz, was baptized on January 13 at St. Mary's Church. Godparents are Tina and Brad Carroll. Grandparents are Dianne and Terry Wycoff of Ames and Nick and Joyce Volz of Elkhart. Jayson (7) was adopted by Todd and Stephanie on April 5, 2018. His siblings are: Hailey (15), Kiley (13), Jenna (11), and Brooklyn (8).

- Sue White

THANK YOU, PETER! WELCOME, DAVID!

After serving 12 years as parish bookkeeper, Peter Relyea stepped down January 24 to spend more time with his family. Over the years, Peter has provided support and guidance to the Finance Council and the parish in managing its financial responsibilities. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of service.

David Ortega joins our staff. He was the business manager for SS John and Paul Church, is currently the Development Director for Agape Pregnancy Center, and also works as a part-time accountant for Our Lady of the Americas Church. He is married with 8 children ages 9 to 22. He and his wife Nancy cantor for St. Joseph Parish. He is a life-long resident of Central Iowa, growing up with his Italian relatives on Des Moines' South side. He once did stand-up comedy and does a few magic tricks for kids. Welcome, David!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!



Amanda Moore and Colin Robinson celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony on October 27 at St. Mary's Church, with Fr. Dan Krettek officiating. Amanda's parents are Martha Brady and Dean Moore of Polk City. Colin's parents are Donald and Rachel Robinson of Ankeny. Colin is a hospital Emergency Room

Technician in Columbia, Missouri. Amanda is studying for a Sign Language degree at William Woods University and works as a server at Cheddar Scratch Kitchen. They are currently making their home in Fulton, Missouri.

- Sue White

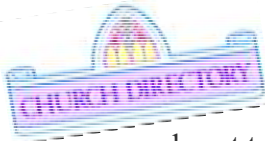
KIDS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS!!!



A three-year-old put her shoes on by herself. Her mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, to her "Your shoes are on the wrong feet." She looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."

Angie (6) and her brother Joel (4) were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."





COMING SOON!

Our *Community Connect Directory* has been proofed and sent to print. Our new directory will look a bit different than what we have had in the past. It is smaller in size and only contains pictures of the staff and our parish families. The roster is included in the back of the directory, however, our new directory does not include any photos of committees, groups, or parish functions. That is what our quarterly newsletter is for! Our new directory is update-able as our parish continues to grow and change. There will also be a private, online link made available to you.

If you had your picture taken for our new parish directory, we should have a complimentary copy for you in about 4 weeks. If you did not have your picture taken, but would like to purchase a copy of the directory, it will be available to you for \$10.00. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for making this process so seamless.

- Tammi McClain

MAKE LENT MORE MEANINGFUL

1. **Slow Down** - Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.
2. **Read a good book** - You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, an inspirational book or one of the pope's new books.
3. **Be kind** - Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.
4. **Get involved** - Attend a Lenten lecture or spiritual program.
5. **Volunteer at your parish** - Whether it's the parish fish fry, cleaning the church or helping with the food drive, it will give you a chance to help others.
6. **Reach out** - Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.
7. **Pray** - Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you.
8. **Tune out** - Turn off social media and spend quality time talking with family members or friends.
9. **Clean out closets** - Donate gently used items to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
10. **Donate** - Google "Catholic Missions"; pick one mission and decide how you can help.



RECIPE - EASY LASAGNA

Ingredients:

- 1 container (15 oz) part skim ricotta cheese
- 2½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese, divided
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 egg lightly beaten
- 1 jar (26 oz) spaghetti sauce
- 1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
- 1 cup water
- 12 lasagna noodles, uncooked

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix ricotta cheese, 1¼ cups of the mozzarella cheese, 1/4 cup of the parmesan cheese, parsley and egg until well blended; set aside.

Pour spaghetti sauce into browned and drained meat in skillet. Pour water into empty sauce jar; cover and shake well. Pour into skillet; stir until well mixed. (This will yield about 5 cups sauce.) **Using the water to "rinse out" the jar allows you to use every last bit of delicious sauce.*

Place 1 cup meat sauce on bottom of 13 x 9-inch baking dish. (This way the noodles won't stick to the pan.)

Layer 3 lasagna noodles, 1/3 of the ricotta cheese mixture and 1 cup meat sauce. Repeat layers 2 more times. Top with remaining 3 noodles and sauce.

**Adding water to the sauce helps cook traditional noodles during baking, so you don't have to cook them ahead of time. This will save you 15 to 20 minutes of prep time.*

Sprinkle with remaining 1¼ cups mozzarella cheese and 1/4 cup parmesan cheese. Cover tightly with greased aluminum foil. Bake 45 minutes or until cooked through. **Spraying the foil with cooking spray prevents the cheese from sticking when you peel it off.*

Remove foil and bake an additional 15 minutes or until bubbling. Let stand 15 minutes before cutting for easier serving.



Makes 12 servings.

- Kelly Hoffmeier

AH-HA AND OH YEAH

I was at a conference the other day and the topic was spirituality. While intrigued, I was a little cautious because I figured it would be one of three things: new age, “meld yourself with Mother Earth” stuff, hellfire and brimstone people, or I simply wouldn’t be able to relate to anything anyone had to say. It was none of those things. I related to all 10 of the speakers even though their stories were vastly different from each other. I left fulfilled, connected, and at complete peace with where I am in my life.

The first speaker talked about a huge “God moment” he experienced while his wife was in the hospital. He went to pray in the Mercy Hospital Chapel and a woman appeared by his side and led him in prayer. When he looked up, she was gone and he had the feeling in his heart the woman had been an angel. He went back up to his wife’s bedside and she made a full recovery the next day. While this story was incredibly moving, I couldn’t relate. I’ve never had an angel come down from the heavens, pray with me, and then deliver exactly what I prayed for. Don’t get me wrong, that would be nice!

A few speakers later, an ancient man took the podium. Very soft spoken, he told his life story: prisons, murder, white supremacist gang leader, robbery. This man had a very violent past, and I’m thinking “Yeah, there’s no way I can relate to this guy.” But then he started talking about how he turned his life around, and that now when he looks back at his life, he experienced many moments of God’s intervention. “I’ve never had a huge ‘ah-ha!’ moment,” he explained, “But I do get this gentle, warm fuzzy feeling in my chest and that’s how I know I’m having a God moment. And it’s never steered me wrong.”

And that is how a former convict turned non-profit lawyer put me in touch with my Higher Power. The first man who spoke was one of the lucky ones who gets to have huge “ah-ha! That’s God in my life!” moments. But most of us don’t experience it that way. Most of us get the subtle realization of “oh yeah... that was God working with me.” I spent the next two days making a list of all the little “oh yeah...” moments I could think of. The list was 12 pages. And that’s just the stuff I can remember.

So I encourage you to take time to reflect on your past week or month. Did you ever get a gut feeling, warm fuzzy feeling, or a random strong inclination towards something you couldn’t explain? We are so quick to brush it off as coincidence today. But the way I see it, coincidence is just a politically correct way to say “God moment” or “spiritual experience”.

- Casey Baumberger



KNIGHTS KORNER

The Knights of Columbus are getting ready for our 8th year of Fish Fry Fridays in Elkhart. As in the past, the dates are the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Fridays in Lent. This year that is March 8, March 22, and April 5. Serving times will be from 5-7PM. Menu to remain the same as the last few years: fried tilapia, baked cod, fresh cut fries, baked potatoes, home-grown sweet corn, fresh-made coleslaw, fresh made bread rolls, macaroni and cheese, iced tea, lemonade, and sweets.

If you are interested in helping out, contact Jon Hand at jon79hand@gmail.com or 515-460-0050. Funds raised will go to support: our parish, the greater Catholic Church, and our local community. Who will you invite to join us at this wonderful meal?

TRY THESE FOR LENT!

Ash Wednesday: March 6, 8AM and 6:30PM
Masses (SM)

Mass: Tuesdays, 6PM (SM) followed by Adoration
Wednesdays, 5:30PM (HC)
Thursdays, 8AM (SM)
First Fridays, 9AM (SM)

Adoration: Thursdays, 7PM, Feb. 21 (SM) and
March 21 (HC)

Stations of the Cross: 6PM followed by Lenten meal
on March 15, 29, and April 12, and fish fry on
March 8, 22, and April 5 (SM)

Lenten Reconciliation Service: April 6, 2PM (SM)

Chrism Mass: April 12, 7PM, St. Ambrose Cathedral

Blessings of Palms: April 13/14 weekend Masses



Don't forget — Daylight Savings time
begins at 2AM on Sunday, March 10.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Shirley Robertson moved from Lakeview, IA to Ankeny to be near family after her husband passed away in November 2017. Along with raising her own six children, Shirley was a foster parent for over 30 years. She has 18 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She is a retired factory worker who loves anything to do with music. While in a singing group in Ankeny, Shirley met SMHC member, Meri Parent, who introduced her to our parish. She likes the cozy, friendly feeling of St. Mary-Holy Cross, which reminds her of the church in Lakeview. Shirley put her musical skills to work right away: she was a member of our Christmas choir and helped with the children's bell choir.

Drake and Paige Ferch moved from Grimes to Elkhart in order to be equidistant from their places of work. Drake is employed by Kinsler Construction in Ames and Paige works for Metlife in Des Moines. Paige enjoys family time and long walks around Elkhart. Drake likes all sports and hanging out with family and friends. Daughter Blaise (2) loves playing with makeup and her doll "babies". They like how close St. Mary's is to their home. SMHC is the first parish they have registered in as a married couple.



Originally from Algona, IA, **Tom and Linda Froehlich** retired to Huxley to be near family: they have four children and eight grandchildren. Linda was a secretary/office manager and Tom was a school teacher and coached several school sports. They love to golf and enjoy cheering at their grandchildren's sports games. After moving to Huxley, they attended several area Churches but found SMHC best fit their needs. They like the homey, friendly feeling of our parish and the Mass times mesh with their many sports events!



THANK YOU to all who gave of their time and talents to provide such beautiful music for our Christmas Masses. It was so inspiring!

Can you believe it? Easter is just around the corner. Starting in March, Celeste will begin rehearsals for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses. She is working on a new rehearsal schedule where members wouldn't have to spend so many weeks at practices. Please consider lending your talents!



MEET PARISHIONER MARK BLOCK

GOD IS AMAZING!



All those years running and breaking records and some still stand today. Always up front setting the pace but never satisfied it wasn't good enough! Quit college my sophomore year and joined the Army to be a combat medic but the Lord intervened after a tragic car crash in which I died on the side of the road upside down in a crumpled car with a broken neck. The coroner revived me and I flew Life Flight to Des Moines — almost didn't make it as I coded again over Ames. Went into a coma and the doctors advised my parents that if I survived I would never move again.

Did survive and after 6 months in the hospital I walked out with my parents stabilizing me, and a cane.

After 20 years of gradual improvement I was back to baseline when another tragic accident brought me to my knees and cursing God! A fall gave me a second spinal cord injury and paralysis on the left side of my body and a host of CNS complications that can be life threatening if not dealt properly with.

When I was down on my knees cursing God in the Chapel at church I saw my first John 3:16 prayer coin and picked it up and it calmed me immediately and I interpreted it as a message from a God that He gave his own son to suffer for me and others who are angry, scared, even cursing Him, as I was. I took it with me and it became the coin reminding me of the day I stopped cursing God, and transforming my "tragedy" into sharing God's love and the saving Grace of Jesus Christ with others who are lost and suffering in their own way, too. I carry the coins in a satchel around my waist when I climb and pray on them and all the blessings and people who have helped me, and those I am yet to meet. I pray I may use them to reach out and help others who are struggling.

I realize now, that God hasn't wanted me at the "front" for a very long time! He stopped me from going into the Army Rangers as a medic, because just like a VA counselor recently told me, I most certainly would have died and wouldn't be here now to lead WW and hand out coins and message to people as I do today! Yes, it was great being up front, but the people who need help are those struggling to climb in back!! That's where I belong and that's what God has been trying to tell me is his "calling" for me! Finally, after 33 years I figured it out!!

- Mark Block



Today, Mark continues to inspire others. He is a TEAM ALTITUDE stair climb leader and a volunteer at Adaptive Sports Iowa. See his Skyrise Climb at <https://youtube/27sW2H7xrYs>.

Ladies Christmas Party



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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ANKENY IA
PERMIT NO. 11



*Holy Cross Church
on Sunday morning,
February 10th*

S.T.O.R.M. Christmas Party

