



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

May - July 2020



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

This first paragraph is intended to provide a brief background for the second. Please take your time with it if it is hard to absorb. In one of his letters, St. Paul teaches about the three theological virtues: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Love can be roughly defined as willing the good for someone else by themselves. In other words, we want good for someone, regardless of whether we get anything out of it for ourselves. It cannot possibly be destroyed; it is the virtue that will always exist. Even in hell someone may not love God, but God still loves them. As for faith and hope, we will need them to help us through this life and are of no longer any use to us once we have experienced the final judgment.

It seems to me, based on recent conversations with others and on my own personal experience, that of those two virtues mentioned at the end of the first paragraph, hope is what we need. Many people are dying, we are not publicly worshipping our Lord as he deserves, and there is no end in sight. That is the unfortunate reality. Thankfully, God gives us hope to look ahead and to be able to spiritually see that at some point, even though we do not know when, it will get better. The Evil One would have us believe otherwise. Let us not give in to his wiles lest we forget that we have in our Lord the best example of hope. Even when he seemed to be despairing in the garden about what would soon happen to him, he saw the greater good that would be accomplished by his agony, suffering, and death. Of course, it was not only his resurrection, it lends to what might also be our resurrection. Suffering in this life is temporary. Living in heaven in the presence of God and all his angels and saints is forever.



LOOK INSIDE!

On page 2 and page 7 hear from two of our parishioners about navigating COVID-19.

Want to purchase a memorial flag for Holy Cross Cemetery? See page 2.

Recipes, Baptisms and information about the upcoming community blood drive are on page 3.

Meet our graduating seniors on pages 4-6. Also on page 6 meet our scholarship winners.

The Knights are on page 7.

Enjoy the photos on page 8 — Remember when?



THANK YOU! TO ALL THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHO PUT THE COMMUNITY FIRST!



YOU ARE OUR HEROES!

WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO WORSHIP AT MASS?

During Father Andrew's most recent weekly online meeting with the bishop, other priests, and diocesan staff, he learned that there is now a committee working on a plan for when it is deemed suitable for us to gather again. At this time, details, including any date for when that would be are not available.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The children planning on receiving their First Reconciliation and Communion this year are Evelyn, Scottie, Grace, Kayden, Ava, Finley, Charlie, Aliya, Landon, Kaylee, Mackenzie, Brenna, Marcus, Ayla, Drew, Will, Luke, Colin, Claire, Dawson and Michael.

Please join us in offering this prayer for them and their families as they continue to wait to receive these precious Sacraments:

Dearest Lord,

You know us and you know our longing. Fill our hearts with your precious love as we continue to grow in love for you. Guide our every action as we wait for the Sacrament of Penance. Fill us with remorse for the times we have failed to show our love, so all the blocks between us may be removed fully. Nourish us with your words while we wait for that heavenly sustenance. Please fill our hearts with peace as we continue to wait in joyful anticipation for the day when we get to receive you; Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Please bring an end to all that separates us from you. In your Heavenly Name, we pray. Amen.

- Tracy Miller & Geneveve Loraditch

NAVIGATING COVID 19 - AND KEEPING SANE



Covid-19 is definitely not one that any of us will forget anytime soon. I work for UnityPoint hospitals so I have still been going to work every day as normal. Brodie has been working from home and is now the stay-at-home Dad/teacher/referee/entertainer/disciplinarian/etc. all while still working. My job is by far the easier of the two right now!



We were all extremely sad when school was permanently closed and quite a few tears have been shed. We were hopeful that the kids could get back to school at least for a little bit. Kaden and Drew helped put together a home schooling schedule and have been doing an awesome job of navigating numerous websites and learning whatever they can (and often teaching their parents something along the way). Their school teachers have sent homework links and have been doing weekly Zoom meetings and reading sessions online which has been much appreciated.

Luckily, the weather is becoming nicer and Kaden and Drew are finding new places outside to explore and are learning that doing science experiments outside are easier to clean up than inside! As much as Covid-19 has interrupted our lives and caused much frustration, we really have enjoyed the family walks, bike rides, board games, cooking sessions, family reading nights and outdoor games that we have been able to do together. Being forced to slow down has been a blessing!



We hope this finds all of you healthy and hope to be back to some form of normal routine soon!

- Angie (and Brodie, Kaden and Drew) Gilligan



PURCHASE A MEMORIAL FLAG

Again this year we will be installing new flags to add to the already 135 American flags that we display four times per year in Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorialize your special someone with a flag that will be flown on Memorial weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and Veteran's Day. Your flag pole will be marked with a laser engraved tag that identifies the honoree and the donor. Price is \$160 which includes the flag and pole, identifying label, base installation, raising and lowering the flag and flag storage. Contact Barb at the parish office with your request by **Tuesday, May 19** and provide her with identification label information and payment (checks made payable to Lynn Schreurs). Contact Lynn if you have any questions: 515-577-8147. Reminder-----we only install new flags once a year prior to Memorial weekend.

SIMPLE BUT DELICIOUS

During hard times people often used recipes calling for simple ingredients when other items were scarce. Considering our present situation we thought it might be fun to include a couple of recipes from the past using very basic ingredients.

GREEN APPLE RELISH

- 1 medium size dill pickle
- 1 green apple cored and unpeeled
- 1 medium sweet onion
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sugar



Chop pickle, apple and onion to desired consistency. Stir in vinegar and sugar. Enjoy!

APPLE GOODIE

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 2 medium apples peeled and chopped



Grease a 9 inch pie plate. Mix all the ingredients together and spread in the pie plate. Bake for 1/2 hour at 350 degrees. Serve warm or cold. Good with homemade ice cream.

- Kathy Gass

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to parishioner **Terri Hamm** for being selected as one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses of 2020 and "thank you" to all nurses, other healthcare workers and first responders during this time of great need.



CELEBRATE!

Wallace Budden Crouse was baptized on February 23, 2020 in Holy Cross Church. His parents are Jake and Macy Crouse. Godparents are Ian Meier and Lanie Crouse. Wallace's grandparents are Lowell and Jackie Crouse of Maxwell; Sheila Kuhn of Lubbock TX; and the late Michael Meier of Omaha NE. He has one sister, Eleanor (4).

Everett McBride Smith, son of Shaymus and Kirsten Smith, was baptized February 16, 2020 in St. Mary's Church. Godparents are John Patrick Cory and Shyanne Clark. Everett's grandparents are Jeff and Julie Carstens of Bondurant; Patrick and Mary Cory of Elkhart; and Audrey and Gail Smith (both deceased) of Bayard. Everett joins Ethan (18), Estella (15) and Evelyn (7).

- Sue White

ELKHART COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Blood is a critical part of healthcare and blood drives are essential to the health of our country. Blood donation locations have been exempted from the COVID-19 recommendation that gatherings of ten be canceled. Our Elkhart Community Blood Drive will be held as planned on Thursday, May 28 from 3:00 – 7:00pm in the social hall. To ensure the safety of the blood supply, blood donors, and LifeServe team members, LifeServe will be disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces in the social hall they will use before, during, and at the end of the drive. All team members will wear face masks and donors are asked to wear their own mask. LifeServe is also practicing social distancing as recommended by the CDC. Additionally, LifeServe Blood Center has implemented new donor screening questions and is monitoring the health of every LifeServe team member.

All blood donors are to schedule appointments. Walk-in donations are not accepted. No volunteers or treats will be allowed. LifeServe will provide the snacks.

To schedule an appointment, please visit <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/>. If you have difficulties or questions, please call LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 and tell them you wish to sign up to donate at the Elkhart Community Blood Drive.

- Tim Kautza

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Nolan Daniel Sullivan

Parents: Curt and Jill Sullivan

School: Bondurant Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: Attend Iowa State University; Career in law enforcement

Favorite Bible verse: Matthew 19:26 - "With God all things are possible."



Ethan Michael Smith

Parents: Shaymus and Kirsten Smith

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post Graduation plans: Career in Agribusiness

Favorite memory: Completing and presenting my saint's report on St. Francis of Assisi for my Confirmation prep.



Abigail Bruce

Parents: Mark and Angela Bruce

School: Bondurant Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: Attend DMACC and Iowa State for BSN degree

Favorite Bible verse: Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



Nyanti Gehrke

Parent: Janelle Gehrke

School: Dowling Catholic

Post-Graduation plans: Attending Iowa Western Community College to play football and major in Business Administration.



Olivia Gehrke

Parent: Janelle Gehrke

School: Dowling Catholic

Post-Graduation plans: Attending Arizona State University majoring in Sports Business and Marketing.



Emma De Costa

Parents: Tim and Mary De Costa

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: Play soccer at Grand View College and major in Accounting.

Favorite memory: 2018 Christmas Mass because I remember the service being so amazing. Everyone in the room was in a good mood, singing and praising. It's a day I don't think I'll ever forget.



Andrew Ausman

Parents: Tom and Jacki Ausman

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation plans: Continue at DMACC for 2 more years to finish degree is cyber security and then join the military to serve our country.

Favorite memory: Helping with the fish fries. I really have enjoyed everything I have done for our church (parish). I have enjoyed my life style at St. Mary-Holy Cross and appreciate the parishioners, they rock!



Elizabeth Haley Leu

Parents: Staci and Kameron Shugar
Alex Leu

School: Newell-Fonda

Post-Graduation plans: Attend Iowa Central Community College and then UNI to study Human Services/Social Work

Favorite memory: Completing her individual service project with her Confirmation sponsor (they prepared meals for a family friend with terminal cancer and her husband) and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation!



Jonathan Wong

Parents: Norm and Suzie Wong

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation plans: Iowa State University majoring in Actuarial Science

Favorite Bible verse: Job 17:9 - "The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger."



CLASS OF 2020!

Jared Thomas Laffey

Parents: DJ and Carolyn Laffey

School: Dowling Catholic

Post-Graduation plans: Attending Iowa State University majoring in Electrical Engineering

Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 23:1-6



Lydia Johnson

Parents: Craig and Katie Johnson

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: Attend Iowa State University to major in Ag Communications and International Agriculture

Favorite Memory: Attending Confirmation sessions to learn more about my faith.



Ella June Kahler

Parents: Melissa and Joel Kahler

School: Collins-Maxwell

Post-Graduation plans: I will be attending PCI- Academy in Ames studying to become a Cosmetologist with a dream someday to own and operate my own salon that will be equipped to serve people with special needs.

Favorite Bible verse: 1Corinthians 13:4-8 - "Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love never comes to an end."



Jackson McClain

Parents: Garrett and Tammi McClain

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation plans: Enlisting in the U.S. Army

Favorite Bible verse: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."



Haleigh Penton

Parents: Nicole and John Cory Brett and Leah Penton

School: Bondurant Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: To pursue the medical field

Favorite memories: Youth Group activities like the 8th grade retreats and Silhouette Stations of the Cross.



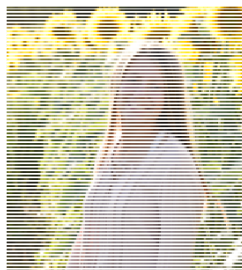
Emma Jane Kahler

Parents: Melissa and Joel Kahler

School: Collins-Maxwell

Post-Graduation plans: I will be attending Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa pursuing a degree in the Human Services field. I am also excited to be a college athlete and will be playing softball as a Warrior.

Favorite Memory: I really enjoyed the trips to NCYC my sophomore and senior years. I made several new friends and was able to celebrate my faith with teens from all over the United States.



Carla Edleman

Parents: Marty and Kristi Edleman

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Iowa State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my Shepherd."



Sophie Schaffer

Parents: Mark and Jessica Schaffer

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: PCI Academy to study esthetics

Favorite Memory: Working at and eating the awesome food at the fish fries.



*Be the change that you want
to see in the world!*

Continued on next page

CLASS OF 2020!

Hunter Soyer

Parents: Sean and Julie Soyer

School: Bondurant Farrar

Post-Graduation plans: Van Wall Equipment in Colfax is providing me with a sponsorship and tuition assistance to attend Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar while I complete the John Deere Ag Tech program.



Anthony Nehring

Parents: Mike and Brenda Nehring

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State for engineering.

Favorite memory: Catching up with extended family on doughnut Sunday.



Jennie Moore

Parents: Dean Moore and Martha Brady

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Faces, Etc. in Minneapolis this fall for month-long multi-media makeup artist program; then begin a 2-year Cosmetology Program at PCI Academy in Ames.

Favorite memory: There are many making it hard to choose. I was in a skit with my peers; I played a mean person and they laughed at the thought of me being mean. I would like to thank Andrea and Melissa, who are true mentors of faith; your dedication literally saved my life.

Favorite Bible verse: "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength."



Riley Miller

Parents: Mark and Autumn Miller

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University, College of Design



James Miller

Parents: Mark and Autumn Miller

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Attending DMACC



Emily Miller

Parents: Mark and Autumn Miller

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University, College of Design



Isabell M. Hobbs

Parents: Chris and Maria Hobbs

School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University, Major in Kinesiology.

Favorite memory: During Edge doing a glow in the dark Rosary.



Karley Mae Bartleson

Jaden Camp

Kara Gorham

Hannah Liske



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The SMHC Scholarship was started three years ago with the support of the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society, the Knights of Columbus, and the Stewardship Committee. The Scholarship continues to grow through the generous donations of parishioners. Thank you for your support!

We had six well-deserving applicants for the scholarship this year. The committee is pleased to announce that Abby Bruce and Andrew Ausman have been selected as the 2020 recipients. Both Abby and Andrew plan to attend DMACC in the fall.



I AM THE MESSENGER

A few weeks ago, I was talking with a friend who was venting about her experience with going to the grocery store. "It feels like everyone is judging me and thinks I'm disgusting. They put masks on when I walk by, no one smiles, it feels like it's me against them." After the call, I wondered if she was smiling at people in the stores or if she was putting a mask on when she was around others. The saying, "What you reap is what you sow" came to mind.



That call with my friend was a very timely reminder that even in the midst of all this chaos, maybe even more so, I am God's messenger. I can't do a darn thing about all the negative news headlines that instill fear, but I can send cute pictures of the stray cat I found to my cat-loving friends to bring them some joy. I can't develop a vaccine to cure COVID-19, but I can let a car into my lane and hope that a little bit of kindness goes a long way. I can't make my employer hire me back or give me a final paycheck, but I can brush up my resumé and use what money I do have to put food on the table.

Growing up, I remember it being instilled in me that it's the small things that count. And what a beautiful opportunity we have right here, right now to really focus on the small things! My days are simpler than ever before and I'm more content than I have been in a long time: I spend the majority of my day admiring sunsets, conquering my fear of swimming in a natural body of water, calling friends, watching the birds and looking them up in the bird book, teaching myself to knit (with mixed success).

These two things, showing kindness to others and savoring life, is what God put me here to do. COVID-19 has presented us with a unique opportunity to focus on these. We just have to choose that focus. I had to put down the inflammatory news articles and stop checking the stock markets and start Face Timing my friends, meditating more frequently, and smiling as big as I can at people in the grocery stores. The bigger the smile, the easier it is to see from behind the mask!

Smile It Looks



Good On You!

Now, each morning I start my day with 10 minutes of meditation and saying this prayer: "God, please guide my thoughts, my words, my actions, and my intentions today. Amen."



This simple prayer helps keep my focus on being a messenger of hope and light, even in the midst of difficult times. I invite you to join me in my personal COVID-19 daily challenge: what's the smallest way I can be God's messenger today? This mindset has brought beautiful things into my life, and I hope it will do the same for you.

- Casey Baumberger



KNIGHTS KORNER

Greetings from your local KOC council! We hope this finds everyone in good health and good spirits! We hated to cancel the last two fish fries for the year, but looking back it seems that it was the responsible thing to do. Unfortunately your donations from the fish fry are our main source of funding for the many local charities that we support, so it's going to be a bit more challenging to 'give back' this year. We also greatly miss seeing all of you and the fellowship that always comes during these events.

Our officers plan to meet virtually later this month to discuss ways to increase the Knight's positive impact on our local community through and after these difficult times are behind us. Whether this is volunteering our time and talents where needed, or hosting other fund raisers similar to the fish fry remains to be seen, just know that we are called to serve and will fight to do everything we can for our church and community.

Please feel free to reach out to one of our Knights with any questions or suggestions for service projects, or if you would consider joining our organization. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see all of you again soon!

- Doug Jones



Another day
without sports:

Found a lady sitting
on my couch
yesterday.

Apparently
she's my wife.

She seems nice.



REMEMBER WHEN?



SINCE ACTIVITIES AND
THEREFORE PHOTOS
WERE SPARSE THESE
PAST FEW WEEKS, WE
DECIDED TO RUN SOME
PAST PICTURES. WE HOPE
THEY MAKE YOU SMILE.



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

