



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

November 2019 - January 2020



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

Having experienced the first measurable snowfall this fall, and knowing that Advent begins on December 1, I am reminded that the liturgy reflects, albeit somewhat ambiguously, the change that is in the air. The preface of Mass, which comes before the *Sanctus* (a.k.a. holy, holy, holy ...), specifically part of Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, reads as follows:

***"For you laid the foundations of the world
and have arranged the changing of times and
seasons;
you formed man in your own image
and set humanity over the whole world in all its
wonder,
to rule in your name over all you have made
and for ever praise you in your mighty works,
through Christ our Lord."***

This is a wonderful meditation on the providence of God, recognizing Him first as creator. It does not make sense to have times and seasons if there is not something for time to measure and seasons to affect. Interestingly, we rule over this creation, but with the important qualifiers, *in His name* and *to praise Him*. It is both a privilege and obligation to live out our baptismal roles as kings, bringing His kingdom to bear on this world so that we and others experience it as a foretaste of the eternal kingdom into which we may enter after this life. In the meantime, we encounter this mysterious God in a variety of ways while the natural and liturgical times and seasons change.

Enjoy photos of the Confirmation Students and Team who, along with the Knights of Columbus, helped parishioners with their fall cleanup. (page 2).



Craig and Katie Johnson's family farm was named a Heritage Farm (see pictures and story on page 3).

Don't miss the invitation to the Holiday Brunch on January 5 (page 3).

Two great recipes and some fun "fruit facts" are found on page 4.

Miranda Sturtz spent her summer in Seoul, South Korea. Her story is on page 5. Also on page 5, read about the activities of the Knights of Columbus.

On page 6 read Casey Baumberger's reflection "Hammers and Anvil" and see photos from our Works of Our Hands Fall Festival.

Welcome a new family to our parish, and celebrate a baptism and wedding on page 7.

Enjoy the photos on the back page of the parish picnic and the Interfaith Prayer Service.



CHRISTMAS

***Christmas Eve Masses are
5PM at St. Mary and
7PM at Holy Cross.***

***Christmas Day Mass is
9AM at St. Mary.***

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

As we count our blessings this season, we want to thank you, the members of our parish, who contribute your time and talents to make our parish a special place of worship and community. *Our Thanksgiving Day Mass is 9AM at St. Mary.*



HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS!



The Confirmation students teamed up with the Knights of Columbus to help out some parishioners with their fall clean-up. It was a great group of kids who worked hard and had some fun in the process. Thanks to all who helped!



FAMILY FARM NAMED A HERITAGE FARM

Parishioners Craig and Katie Johnson live on a family farm North of Bondurant. This past summer, their farm earned the honor of being named a Heritage Farm at the Iowa State Fair. This means the farm has been in the same family for at least 150 years.

Katie's Great Great Grandfather, Daniel Maloney purchased the land in 1864. Her Great Grandfather, John W. Maloney built the house they currently live in, and her Grandfather, James F. Maloney (a lifelong parishioner at St. Mary) farmed there his whole life. Craig and Katie bought the house and some adjoining land from the family corporation in 1997. They currently live there with their three daughters, Lydia (18), Grace (15), and Bridget (14).

The row crop is rented out now, but the Johnson's raise sheep, goats and pigs for the girls to show in 4H and FFA. Pictured are the Johnson's with extended family, receiving their new sign.



~ **A New Year's resolution** is something that goes in one year and out the other. May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!

~ Joey Adams ~

SAVE THE DATE!
HOLIDAY BRUNCH
JANUARY 5, 2020
(after Sunday 10AM Mass)

**GREAT FOOD! AWESOME
FELLOWSHIP! FUN ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS AND ADULTS!**

We will also be collecting personal care items to distribute to local food pantries.

Please join us! **Happy
Holidays!**

CONGRATULATIONS



Lydia Johnson, daughter of Craig and Katie Johnson of our parish was honored as Polk County Fair Queen, along with the King, Wyatt Bailey.

THE SEASON OF CREATION

On September 1, Pope Francis invited the faithful to celebrate the Season of Creation. The pope said that the Season of Creation is "a period of more intense prayer and action for the benefit of the common home," and he encouraged us to "feel in deep harmony with the men and women of goodwill" who are protecting creation.

On a beautiful autumn day in September, an interfaith prayer service was held at Holy Cross Church. The service included a prairie pilgrimage and reflections from Matt Russell, director of the Iowa Interfaith Power and Light.

More photos are found on the back page.



30 MINUTE HOMEMADE PRETZELS

Ingredients:

1-½ C. warm water
1 packet instant yeast
1 tsp. salt
1 TBS. sugar
3-¾ to 4-¼ C. flour
1 large egg
½ C. baking soda
Coarse salt



Heat oven to 425 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Dissolve yeast in water and stir 1 minute. Add salt and sugar. Stir until combined. Add 3 cups flour, 1 cup at a time. Add ¾ cup more flour until dough is no longer sticky. Add a little more flour if still sticky.

Turn out on floured surface, knead 3 minutes and shape into a ball. Cut into about ⅓ cup pieces. Roll into a rope and cut sections according to size preference. Shape into pretzels.

Bring 9 cups water and ½ cup baking soda to a boil. Boil each pretzel 20 to 30 seconds but no longer. Put back on baking sheet. Beat egg and lightly brush the top of each pretzel and sprinkle with salt. Freeze or bake.

Bake 10 minutes until top is browned. Cool or serve warm or at room temperature.

Can be made ahead and frozen up to 2 months. To reheat bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes depending on size of pretzel.

- Kathy Gass

OREO FLUFF

Ingredients:

1 family size package regular Oreos (put in large Ziploc and coarsely crush)
7 C. 2% milk
4 small packages instant vanilla pudding
2 C. powdered sugar
2 8oz. packages cream cheese, softened
1 16oz. container Cool Whip



Whisk pudding with milk and set aside to thicken. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese and powdered sugar with a mixer. Add pudding until just combined and then add cool whip until combined. Mix in Oreos with a spatula or large spoon. Chill several hours or overnight. Before serving, decorate with gummy worms, colored lifesavers, peach rings, extra Oreos, etc. Serves 20-30.

- Kathy Gass

FRUIT FACTS

Strawberries - fight aging
Cherries - calm your nerves
Pineapple - relieves arthritis pain
Watermelon - promotes weight loss
Apples - help resist temptation
Bananas - boost energy
Grapes - relax your blood vessels
Blueberries - strengthen your heart
Oranges - protect your skin and vision



Freeze unpeeled overripe bananas until ready to use. Need ripe bananas fast? Place bananas on parchment paper on a baking sheet. Roast in oven at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes until bananas are black. Cool, peel and mash.

- Kathy Gass

BAD NEWS GOOD NEWS



For the upcoming winter, the *Farmers' Almanac* predicts that "the biggest drop — with the most freefalling, frigid temperatures — is forecasted to take hold from the northern Plains into the Great Lakes." And yes, that includes Iowa. It also says the Midwest will receive "above-normal winter precipitation" and a late spring, to boot.

However, a quick review of the *Almanac's* winter predictions over the past five years shows more misses than hits. For example, Iowans hunkering down after the *Almanac* predicted "exceptionally cold, if not downright frigid" temperatures for the winter of 2017 were likely surprised to find the average temperature that winter was well above freezing (35.9°F, compared to a normal mean temperature of 28.8°F). Let's hope!

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Miranda Sturtz is a sophomore at the University of Iowa majoring in microbiology and minoring in Korean studies. This summer she had the opportunity to study at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea for a 6 week summer session. While there, she lived in a dorm with other students, attended classes, and had the opportunity to immerse herself in the culture. Miranda shares some of her experience with us below:

During my stay in Seoul, South Korea, I got the chance to experience so many new things, from the culture, to the people, to new foods I could never find here in America. The streets were constantly filled with luxury cars and delivery people on mopeds, and sidewalks! I learned pretty quickly that all of the best food was from the hole in the wall shops owned by old couples who have made the same dishes like kimchi jjigae and sundae for the past thirty years. But some of the food- like ferment ngray- was not a delicacy I'd like to taste again!

Being in a foreign country, there were more people living in my building than there are in all of Elkhart, I learned how to become independent and to simply go do what I wanted to do. Hopping on the subway cost nothing more than a dollar and a few minutes to wind underneath the streets to a new district. In Seoul, keeping my faith and trust in God helped me to feel at ease no matter where my feet took me. The opportunity I received to travel and study in Seoul was once in a lifetime and the culture I experienced helped shaped me for the rest of my life, accepting and befriending people of all backgrounds.



KNIGHTS KORNER

Knights had the great opportunity to work on several events around the parish and we have several more coming up in the next few months.

In August we prepared a meal for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter, as we have done since the inception of our Council.

In September, we held our fall pancake breakfast at Holy Cross. We had beautiful



weather and a wonderful turnout with great conversation and excellent food.

In October, we handed out free rosary rings at Masses on the first weekend of the month, as we prepared to pray the rosary during that month.

A number of the Knights showed their grilling prowess by grilling for the parish picnic.

We also had our annual Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (CPID) (formally known as the Tootsie Roll Drive). We want to thank everyone for their generosity and support of the drive!

One of the great things your Knights of Columbus Council does is sponsor a seminarian. This is done through a financial contribution directly to the seminarian and regular prayers for them. Please join us in praying for Jake Epstein, who we sponsored last year and again this year. The plan calls for Jake to be ordained as a deacon on Friday, June 12, 2020. He will then be assigned to a parish within the Des Moines Diocese as a deacon for the summer of 2020. He will return to St. Paul Seminary for his final year and will be ordained a priest in 2021.

We are always looking for new members. Please consider joining and helping with some of the great things we have the privilege of doing for our parish! Just ask any member how to join.

GARDEN NEWS



Did you know that the squash, gourds, and pumpkins used to decorate the Social Hall and Worship Space, were all grown in our parish garden?

HAMMERS AND ANVILS



“On anvils of experience, the structure of our Society was hammered out.” I forget where I first heard this metaphor, but I absolutely love it. It’s simple and oh so accurate. Anvils and hammers bring to mind images of hard work, sweat, and strength. It also makes me think of the end product: a snugly fitting horseshoe, a perfectly circular ring. It’s exactly as it should be, but I guarantee you it took a ton of mistakes and reworks to get those things to where they needed to be. Not even a master silversmith gets it right on the first try.

So it is with us. Growth in any aspect of our lives (work, relationships, church, school, etc.) is not linear: it’s full of ups, downs and sideways turns. We have good days where it’s easy to smile at the cashier or to let that passive-aggressive comment from your coworker roll off your back. We have days we struggle- days where an out-of-place glance from your boss makes you fearful of being fired and where you snap at your kid’s crossing guard because they didn’t wait long enough for you.

Living a spiritual life as God intends us to do takes hard work. It takes dedication to the process, which includes making mistakes! I am not the first person to come home to her significant other after a hard day and say something with a harsh tone. Nor will I be the last! I’m also not the first person to get frustrated with where I’m at in life and wonder ‘what’s the freaking point?’ When I start to think those thoughts and feel that frustration, I take time to meditate and find a way to be of service to someone else. At the very bare bones, my purpose (and I believe everyone’s purpose) here on Earth is to love and serve those that God puts in my life. If I stay focused on doing that no matter what, the details like my job, where I live, when I get married, etc. will all fall into place.

Looking back on my life this past year, there’s been a lot of loss: family changes, job changes, moving. I even cried in front of my current company’s CEO at one point. It’s been highly uncomfortable and painful at times, but it simply meant that I was growing and changing. But I held on: I kept close to my Higher Power and tried to help others every day. And now? Now I have the deepest relationships, a job where I am writing and of service, and pursuing my passions daily. My growth is nowhere near done and I know life will get uncomfortable again, but when it does, I know it’s an opportunity to grow. So when God starts hammering away at my life, I think of that perfectly shiny ring and what it went through to get where it is today. So it is with us.

- Casey Baumberger

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

“Keep Christ in Christmas”

Knights of Columbus poster contest begins Nov. 24; entries due by Dec. 15.

Senior Citizen Breakfast

Friday, Dec. 6 following 9AM Mass, Social Hall

Feast of the Immaculate

Conception of Mary, Holy Day

Monday, Dec. 9, 9AM Mass, St. Mary

Advent Reconciliation Service

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1PM, St. Mary

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,

Holy Day of Obligation Masses

Vigil, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5:30PM

St. Mary and Wednesday, Jan. 1,

9AM Holy Cross



Work Of Our Hands Fall Festival



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



Kristi and Rob Barslou moved from Johnston to Bondurant, wanting a smaller community in which to raise their children, Aubrie (6) and Gehrig (3). Kristi works in a mental health facility and Rob works for Wells

Fargo. The whole family loves sports and cheering on the Hawkeyes. Rob and Kristi also enjoy traveling and family time. Aubrie likes to read and ride her bike and both she and Gehrig would rather be outdoors than inside. Kristi remembered coming to Elkhart for Mass when her family visited relatives in Ankeny while she was growing up. Those memories led her to bring her own family to SMHC.

CONGRATULATIONS



Nicholas Griffieon and Samantha Johnson were married September 21 at St. Mary Church. Phil Griffieon was best man and maid of honor was Tierny Dolsky. Parents of the bride are Jeff Johnson of Ankeny and Sandy and Tony Gross of Manilla, IA. Parents of the groom are Craig and LaVon Griffieon of Ankeny. Samantha is

currently coaching gymnastics at Triad and watching her niece. Nick works on the family farm and sells seed through his business, Griffieon AG Services, as well as custom crop spraying. They are making their home on the north side of Ankeny on the old Kochheiser Farm.

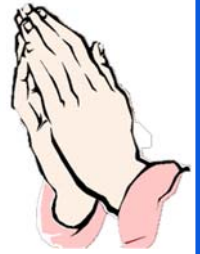
CELEBRATE

Charlotte Marie Christensen was baptized October 20 at St. Mary during 10AM Mass. She is the daughter of Dustin and Miranda Christensen. Her Godparents are Mitchell Irlmeier and Kaitlyn McAlister. Grandparents are Shelly and Lamont Christensen of Irwin, IA and Anissa and Bruce Irlmeier of Templeton, IA.

- Sue White

PRAYER FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Loving Lord, thank You so much for holiday times and the wonder and excitement that they engender in all our hearts. We want to praise You for all the goodness and grace You generously pour out on us and all people – and especially thank You for the many blessings we gain from these important times of holiday fun and family reunion.



I remember the many feast days and times of rejoicing that You planned for Your people Israel. We bless You that we too have holiday days and holiday seasons, when our inner soul can be refreshed and rejuvenated in a relaxed atmosphere, when we are surrounded by precious friends and family members, which provide us with such special opportunities for close fellowship and communal fun.

At this holiday season we particularly remember those that are alone, ill or going through times of stress or difficulty, and pray that You would draw very close to each and every one. Let them know Your special peace in their heart and give to each one Your sufficient grace.

We thank You that You are a God that answers prayer and we give You all the praise and glory in Jesus name, Amen.

- Jacki Ausman

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFICERS

Presented below: Father Andrew, Andrew Jungers, Cory Schoening, Mike Devereux, Doug Jones, Jerry McClain, Bill Schmitt, Garrett McClain, Dave Pottebaum, Gregg Richwine, Patrick O'Conner, Gary Sesker. Thank you to these men.





Interfaith Prayer Service



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



Oktoberfest Parish Picnic

