



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



St. Mary-Holy Cross Quarterly Newsletter

March-June 2013 Volume 1, Issue 2

WELCOME

to the Spring edition of "Mass Appeal"! In this edition become acquainted with our RCIA elect and candidates, read about a parishioner who joined the parish 69 years ago, catch up on Religious Education activities, learn more about the Knights of Columbus, and hear what our children think about Lent. Do you have topics for "Mass Appeal"? If so, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Michael and Brenda Renoe and their two children, Samuel and William of Bondurant, who joined our Parish in December.

Darren and Sheri Olson of Bondurant and their two sons, Matthew and Andrew, who joined our Parish in January.

Mike and Sue Schmidt and their two daughters, Leah and Geena of Ankeny, who joined us in February.

BAPTISMS

December 2012

Brenna Rose	Daughter of Brian and Heather Liske
Charlotte Rose	Daughter of Matt and Angie Klein
Imogene Rose	Daughter of Chris and Jen Linderblood

January 2013

Anna Marie	Daughter of Andy and Cindy Hall
Broxton Saul	Son of Dan and Jamie Warg

JOINED IN MATRIMONY

Bradley Mathis and Ashley Kurth were married at St. Mary's on January 26, 2013. They reside in Alleman, Iowa.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 28 HOLY THURSDAY

7:00PM (St. Mary) Mass of The Lord's Supper
Adoration in Social Hall until 11:00PM

March 29 GOOD FRIDAY

3:00PM (Holy Cross) Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross
7:00PM (St. Mary) Commemoration of the Passion of Jesus

March 30 EASTER VIGIL

8:00PM Easter Vigil Mass
All are invited to a reception for our newest members following Mass (No Reconciliation or 5:00PM Mass)

March 31 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00AM Mass, Holy Cross
10:00AM Mass, St. Mary



DID YOU KNOW?

Holy Cross Church was built in 1875 serving 20 families. It was destroyed by fire on October 22, 1927 and subsequently rebuilt, even though there were some in the Diocese who didn't think it should be. It has been affiliated with three Dioceses in Iowa -- Davenport, Dubuque, and Des Moines and has been served by pastors from four parishes -- St. Ambrose (Des Moines), St. Mary (Newton), Sacred Heart (Valeria) and St. Mary (Elkhart). Adjacent to Holy Cross Church is a beautiful Catholic Cemetery.

MUSIC NOTES



If you like to sing, play piano, organ or another instrument, or if you have ideas for our music ministry – we would love to hear from you! We are always open to new ideas; we can't grow if we don't open our hearts to new things. No one is too young or too old. Please consider answering the call! You will receive any needed training that would make you feel more comfortable in your ministry.

Calling singers and instrumentalists for the Easter Vigil! We are holding practice on 4 dates in March and ask that you make it to at least two rehearsals. Check the bulletin for practice times.

We would love to form a children's choir! We hope to have them sing at First Eucharist in April. Please contact Celeste Muehlenthaler at 515-577-9394 or celestemu@msn.com.

RELIGIOUS ED

News about RE: We are really stressing community service this year! Our Works of Mercy help show our loving care to those who need it most.

In August and September, we collected change and purchased goats for families in Africa. In October and November, we collected underwear for those in need at St. Joseph's Emergency Family Shelter, Connection Cafe, and Hawthorne Hill. In December, we tied blankets for the Animal Rescue League. In January, we collected travel sized items to hand out to those in need. In March, we will be hosting a bake sale to help a Seminary in Nigeria. In May, we will be having a church clean-up day.

We are called to be aware of how our actions affect our neighbors and to respond with compassion and generosity to meet the needs of others!



SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!!!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 10

CHILDRENS' LITURGY OF THE WORD

During the 10:00AM Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month. Your little ones will love it!



KID TALK

What is your Lenten resolution and how will it make your relationship with God stronger?

Read more, including the Bible. Tyler, age 8

I gave up pop. It will make me calmer. Bridget, age 8

Not fighting with my brothers. Jesus does not want us to hurt one another. Cameron, age 8

No more doodling. I can use that time for other things. Grant, age 7

I will not whine to my mom. Obeying my mom and dad is a Commandment. Estella, age 8

I will not be mean to my sibling. Maci, age 8

Name one of Jesus' teachings:

Listen to others and do what they ask. Jaxson, age 7

Listening to my parents. Noah, age 8

Love one another. Noah, age 8

Sacrificing. Putting other people before yourself. Anthony, age 10

An interview with Jon Hand, Grand Knight:



Q: Why did you join the Knights of Columbus?

A: I was living in Pella and didn't know many people. A guy my age asked me to join, and it was a fast way to get to know a good group of guys and instantly get involved in the parish.

Q: What do you see as the role of the Knights of Columbus?

A: The overall role of the Knights of Columbus anywhere is this: We are here to serve our Parish, the Catholic Church, and the Community around us. I want to see our Parish grow closer as a community and be involved in things outside of Mass. There are already many more opportunities now than when I was growing up. I see a major role of the Knights to provide opportunities for our Parish to gather socially and grow together as a community. The Knights also provide a relatively informal opportunity for the men of our Parish to get to know one another by serving together. So far, we have mainly achieved this by cooking. As we grow, we will have the ability to spread out more and do other things, such as Habitat for Humanity. If anyone from our Parish needs help that we could provide, please get in touch and let us know.

Q: What do you see for the future of the Knights?

A: We have been steadily adding members since our Council was chartered in August 2011. I hope we double from our original size (36 members) in 4 years. The pancake breakfast at Holy Cross was an incredible success and I look forward to doing that often. Mainly, I look forward to our Council helping our Parish to grow as a community of people who enjoy spending time together outside of Mass.

Fish Fry after Friday night Stations of the Cross — hosted by the Knights of Columbus



SAINT PATRICK

Patrick was born to wealthy Christian parents 1,600 years ago in the British Isles. At 16, while on his father's country estate, he was kidnapped by pirates and taken to pagan Ireland and sold as a slave. After 6 years of slavery, he escaped and found a ship that took him back home.

While he was a slave, Patrick's spiritual life deepened. After his escape, he studied in a monastery. During his training, he realized his calling was to convert the Irish pagans by returning one day to Ireland. Eventually, Patrick was ordained a priest and later a bishop, after which he was granted his wish to go back to Ireland. His mission continued there for 30 years. He established monasteries, churches, and schools throughout the country. He is credited with Ireland's eventual conversion. He died March 17, 461 AD.



RECIPE

IRISH STEW

- 1 pound of lean pork or lamb (boneless and cut into small cubes)
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 3 large potatoes, peeled and sliced
- 1 large onion, peeled and sliced
- 1 can of chicken broth

In sauce pan brown pork or lamb in oil for 2-3 minutes until lightly brown, but not cooked all the way through. Add a row of potatoes and onions, alternate in layers. Add chicken broth and simmer over low heat until potatoes and onion are tender. Stir gently and add salt and pepper to taste.



LOL

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the verses.

One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know."

MEET THE RCIA CANDIDATES



Leah Kruse lives in Altoona, but she and her husband, Mike, are moving to Maxwell. She was baptized at the Moravia Church of the Nazarene, and her religious experience as a child was mostly limited to Christmas and Easter. She and her husband, both graduates of ISU, are the proud parents of baby Christina Marie, born March 2nd. Leah has a degree in Elementary Education and Mike is an engineer at John Deere. Leah had not been exposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church until Mike asked her if she would learn about it, given its importance in his life. The more involved Leah became in the Church and learned its teachings, the more she came to love it. She particularly loves the active worship of the Mass. They investigated different Catholic churches in the area, and fell in love with St. Mary-Holy Cross. They were drawn by the welcoming environment that the Parish has to offer and they enjoy the traditional music. She and Mike are gifted vocalists who share their gifts with us at Mass as cantors.



Shelley Sieberg lives in Bondurant, and will celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil. This celebration will be even more meaningful to Shelley as her seven year old daughter, Miranda, will also be baptized. She also has an adult daughter, Samantha and an eight year old grandson. Shelley is an Operations Processor for Businessolver Inc. in West Des Moines. Shelley's experience with RCIA instruction has been an "eye opening, wonderful experience", and has confirmed her feeling that something was missing in her life. She and her significant other, Chad Buckley, who grew up in a small community and parish, enjoy the personal, small town, close knit community of our Parish.



Diane King lives in Ames and is a kindergarten teacher in the Des Moines Public Schools. She was also a preschool teacher for 12 years. Diane attended college part time for seven years to earn her degree while working as many as three jobs. Diane has four children between the ages of 22 and 30 and two grandchildren— including a two month old grandson. She was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Des Moines for almost 30 years, but after the retirement of the minister, she didn't feel that the church continued to meet her needs. It was also important to her to worship together with her fiancée, Roger Cozemius, also from Ames, who is a cradle Catholic. She found St. Mary's through a teacher friend that she works with — Patricia Williamson of our Parish, and has enjoyed the RCIA process. Mary enjoys reading and exercise—but most of all being with her children and grandchildren.



Lisa Pritchard lives in Alleman, and grew up in Maxwell, attending Collins-Maxwell High School and DMACC. She is an IT Systems Support Manager with International FCStone. Lisa was baptized in the Methodist Church. Lisa's grandmother, JoAnn Meusburger, a life long member of SMHC, has been influential in Lisa's choice of the Catholic Church and St. Mary-Holy Cross. Lisa felt unsettled in her life and after trying a couple different churches, found St. Mary-Holy Cross as the right match for her. Lisa has enjoyed the past years experience as a RCIA candidate, and has especially appreciated the individual attention that Tim Kautza and others have given her. Lisa loves to cook and bake, so she has particularly enjoyed cooking and serving at St. Joseph Emergency Shelter. She enjoys snowmobiling in the winter and running outdoors in the summer. Reading is a year long favorite pastime of hers. Lisa says the more time she has spent learning through RCIA—the more grounded she feels.

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RCIA CANDIDATES — continued from page 4



Meri Ann Parent lives in Cambridge. She was introduced to the Catholic faith at age five when her sister-in-law took her to Mass. Meri said she would sit half in awe and in half fear listening to this foreign language and watching robed and garbed men and women lead everybody else in standing, kneeling, sitting and gesturing....and finally (sigh of relief)

singing. She was baptized and raised Methodist. Seven years into her 20 year marriage she and her husband's lifestyles hit bottom. "I was young, impetuous, and conflicted -- addicted to diet pills, alcohol and street drugs." But during that time she still held a place in her heart for Jesus. "It was as if I had two personalities—the party girl and the daughter of Christ." Through the practical applications of AA, and through the Wisconsin Synod Church which she attended, Meri recovered from her addictions.

Along her journey she met Raymond, a devout Catholic, who continues to be an important part of her life and her family's life. Through a special friendship with a woman in Carroll Iowa, she moved to Iowa from Las Vegas. She raised her children, (she has two children and four grandchildren), earned a BA degree, and became a counselor at the Family Resource Center in child abuse recovery. Meri participated in a variety of religions during her adult life, but eventually focused on the Catholic Church. She found that St. Mary-Holy Cross was the perfect fit for her.

Reconciliation: Sacrament of Joy and Grace Sunday, March 10 at St. Mary's 1:00PM

Take a new look at the healing and joy-filled Sacrament of Reconciliation during the 2 hour retreat with St. Joseph Educational Center Executive Director Matthew Halbach. Our understanding of the forgiveness and mercy shared abundantly by Jesus will be renewed during this retreat as we explore the true purpose of this sacrament. **Following this retreat we will have our Lenten Reconciliation Service at 3:00PM.** Registration is appreciated to help with our planning. Contact Tim Kautza, 515-964-7687 or tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.

INTRODUCING



Mary Ann Cory has been a dedicated, long time member of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish. She took instructions to become a Catholic in

1944, and she and her husband, Ira, were married at St. Mary's on November 21, 1944, with Father George Jermaine officiating. They have four children -- Elizabeth Mitchell, Bondurant; Thomas and Michael, Elkhart; and Joseph, Portland, Oregon, 18 grandchildren and three great grandchildren, with one more on the way. Ira passed away in 2006.

A highlight of Mary Ann's religious life was at age 89 when she and her daughter, Elizabeth went on a Pilgrimage. They flew to Germany and took a bus tour to Portugal, Fatima, Lourdes and Paris. Highlights of the trip for Mary Ann were the beautiful cathedrals, the healing waters of Lourdes, and a visit to the home of Bernadette and the children who witnessed the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her group stopped at side chapels along the route and attended Mass daily.

Mary Ann has always lived in the Elkhart/Ankeny area. She was a teacher at Baxter and Story City. She enjoys Mass on Saturday evenings, when most of her friends attend. Mary Ann enjoys embroidery, reading and many activities with her daughter.

March 17 and March 24: "Vatican II" series, 4:00 - 5:30PM

April 13—22: Clothing drive

April 21: First Eucharist Liturgy, 2:00PM Mass

June 13: Blood Drive

June 23—26: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 8:00PM

MARK THE DATES!



HEY Y'ALL!

Y'all come now! That may sound a little hillbilly-ish, but isn't that the sentiment that we all want, to be invited to join in? Romans 15.7 says: "Welcome one another then, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God". How does our Parish do as a welcoming community? How can we do better?

Many members of St. Mary-Holy Cross feel connected because their parents and grandparents were members of this Parish. They went to school with each other or married someone from this Parish. These members know who is who, what they do, their joys, their ailments, or their struggles.

But there are also many members of our Parish who didn't grow up in this area. Some may have joined the Parish because of a job relocation or marriage. These folks might tell you they have been here for a number of years, and they haven't formed many relationships. Most wished that they knew more members of the Parish. It could be that they have been reluctant to initiate a conversation with someone else, or that no one has reached out to them. And the longer time passes without that contact—the harder it becomes for new or established members to take that first step. The RCIA candidates have told us that the RCIA process embraces a personal welcoming experience — how can we offer that same welcome to all our members?

Most of us feel a little awkward going up to someone we don't know and ask, "Who are you?" but there are more subtle approaches. Maybe something like, "I don't believe I have seen you here before. What is your name?" or "I've seen you in church many times but I still don't know your name. I am". "What town are you from? How did you happen to become a member of St. Mary-Holy Cross? Do you have children in RE? Where do your kids go to school? Which are you, a Cyclone, or Hawkeye, or Panther, or a Bulldog, or none? Are you a farmer, and if so, do you farm red or green? I love that sweater you're wearing. Where did you get it?"



These are just a few of the many possible ways to start a conversation. You may have just drawn someone into our Parish family, or developed a new relationship within the Parish community.



Starting soon, you will get an opportunity to meet some of those sitting near you at church. Before Mass, a member of the Parish will make announcements. He or she will ask you to turn to someone sitting next to you – someone you don't know, or don't know well, and introduce yourself. It may feel a little awkward at first, but please try it. You'll find it to be most rewarding.

Why is any of this important? Because it contributes to the growth of community, that situation that Jesus himself strove to bring about, and which he encouraged us to be a part of. A huge part of Church is being in community. Community is a great thing! When we see a person or family that seems to be alone, we reach out to them. When you get good at "reaching out" here in our Parish, take that skill out into the world and make it a better place to live, and live better yourself because you feel welcomed or accepted.

