



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

May - July 2017

Volume 1, Issue 17



CELEBRATE!

Cash James, son of Casey and Staci Klostermann, was baptized at St. Mary's Church on March 12.

Emmaleah Patricia, daughter of Joel & Melissa Kahler, was baptized on February 12 at St. Mary's Church. She joins siblings Aubrey, Abigail, Ella, Emma, Weston, and Vivian. Grandparents are Peter & Sue Relyea, Richard & Donna Kahler, and Jim & Jeanette Russell.

Bentley Christopher, son of Rob & Christina Wright, was baptized May 7. He joins siblings Dylan Hockey, Ashley (Hockey) & Mason Highland, and Haley (Hockey) & Trenton Greenfield. Grandparents are Dolores Goche and Jerry and Diane Fischer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Memorial Day, May 29: 10AM Mass at Holy Cross; Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Knights of Columbus prior to Mass from 8AM to 9AM

Blood Drive: Thursdays, June 1 and August 31, 3PM to 7PM, St. Mary

Parish Picnic: Saturday, June 10, after 5PM Mass, St. Mary. Theme: Mexican Fiesta!

Vacation Bible School: Monday, June 19 through Thursday, June 22, 5:30PM to 8PM, St. Mary

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation: Tuesday, August 15, 6:30PM Mass, St. Mary

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



CONFIRMATION CLASS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will take place June 19-23 from 5:30-8PM. Our theme is *Maker Fun Factory*, a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God! VBS is open for kids who have completed preschool through 4th grade. 5th and 6th graders can help out by being Crew Leaders and Station Assistants! We are also looking for adult volunteers to help us out. Check the website and bulletin for more details!





MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



After living in Ankeny for many years, **Rob and Shanan Roling** moved to Maxwell, fulfilling a mutual dream of living in the country. They have three sons: Xyander 25, Philip 21, and William 19. Rob is an engineer for John Deere and travels around the world for the company. He enjoys gardening, NASCAR, the Hawkeyes, and DIY remodeling and rehabbing. Shanan is a payroll processor for ADP and works from home. She likes gardening, photography, and genealogy. But her passion is making “to-do” lists for Rob. They found SMHC through member Tammi McClain. They like the small, homey feel of our parish.

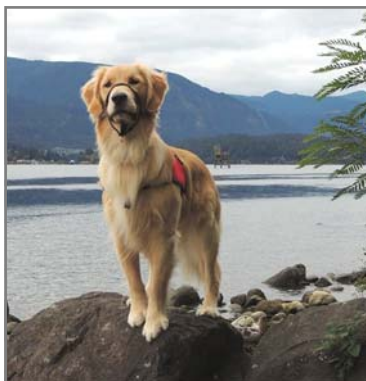
Katie and Doug Akins moved from Ankeny to Bondurant in 2016 and have a daughter, Addison, now 5 months old. Katie is the inventory manager for Iowa Ortho in downtown Des Moines and Doug is a project manager for the ESCO Group in Altoona. Katie enjoys gardening and anything that takes her outdoors. Doug likes hunting and fishing. Both treasure their family time with Addison and long walks with their yellow Lab, Goose. Katie had been “church shopping” when she found St. Mary-Holy Cross through her neighbors, members Jeannie and Lyle Carpenter. Katie likes the cozy friendliness of our parish and has gone through Baptism preparation for Addison with Deacon Terry.



A GIFT OF SERVICE!

We said goodbye on May 7 to a special member of our parish. Reagan has been attending Mass with the Bob and Brenda Reid family for 20 months. Reagan is part of the Puppy Jake Foundation, which is dedicated to helping military veterans through the assistance of professionally trained service dogs. After rigorous training provided by Bob and Brenda and others, Reagan begins his new life serving a Veteran who suffers from PTSD. An estimated 500,000 veterans suffer from this affliction. These specially trained dogs have been proven to have a very positive impact on the veteran and his/her family.

Reagan will be greatly missed by the Reid family, and by all of us who smiled a little more each Sunday when we saw him in church.



KNIGHTS KORNER

Can you believe this was our 6th year hosting the Lenten fish fries at SMHC? Thank you for your part in welcoming people from Central Iowa to see our Church and join us in a fresh meal. Special thanks to everyone who contributed your time to bake bread and deserts, clean up, invite others, and support us financially so we can pass that blessing along to some great organizations.

We anticipate that attendance will continue to grow. The new one-night attendance record is 511, beating last year by nearly a hundred people. Attendance for all three nights was up 30%. We look forward to announcing where all of the raised funds will go later this year.

May 7th we served a pancake breakfast at St. Mary to help support Andrew Cory and others on a mission trip this June. We look forward to serving pancakes at Holy Cross on Memorial Day!





THANK YOU SONYA AND TAMMI!

Sonya Staudt and Tammi McClain will soon be leaving their positions as PreK - 6th grade RE Directors. They just wrapped up their fifth year of RE and are working on plans for their final Vacation Bible School in June. When asked about their time in this position and upcoming plans, they shared the following:



What are favorite RE memories?

"Opening!" This is a time when all children and catechists gather for group discussions, presentations and reminders. It's not just a time to sit together and settle in; it's the feeling of community that makes it memorable. A favorite lesson was Adoration with Deacon Terry where "the stillness and awe of the moment was amazing." And finally, both agreed getting to know all the kids and their families is something they will always treasure.



What was difficult?

Securing catechists. Parishioners want to help but tend to hesitate about their ability to take on the role. When they work through the apprehension, they find they enjoy time with the kids, learning about our faith and are surprised by how much they learn from their students.

What are the messages they hoped to deliver?

There is a bigger world outside of Elkhart and our small communities. There are so many ways we can be a part of that bigger world to get involved and have an impact. — Learning and developing our faith can be fun! — Our church has a lot of opportunities and a lot going on that they can be a part of. — Encouraging students and families in understanding that RE is just an extension of the celebration of Mass.

What will they do now?

Sonya is looking forward to enjoying time with her family and maybe working in a few more bike rides. Tammi too is planning family time and is involved in new opportunities at church such as the Friends of St. Francis and heading up their book club gatherings.



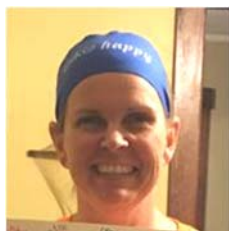
They are also excited for Stacie Hergenreter and the enthusiasm, new ideas and creativity she'll bring as the new Director of Religious Education!



A few messages from their Catechists:

"Sonya and Tammi have a way of capturing the attention of the students and leaving the students in awe of the wonders of Jesus. Often the students have 20 questions related to the Opening which guides the focus of our weekly class. Their guidance is going to be missed."

"Tammi and Sonya have done amazing things with the RE program. Kids now look forward to coming to RE and talk about what they learned. I have been very impressed and thankful for all of the service projects, engaging openings, speakers, and activities. Also, I am thankful for their humor, their smiles, dedication, and how they always made me feel very welcome."



"The enthusiasm and creativity Sonya and Tammi have brought to RE and VBS have been wonderful! Learning about and encouraging us to live our faith, focus on Gospel readings, service to others and just their fun and caring approach has made a difference for the kids of our parish. The on-going education, appreciation and support they've given to me as a catechist, has also made this a memorable experience for me."





CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

John Breen

Parents: Mike and Rachelle Breen

School: Ankeny

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend ISU and study business

Favorite Memory from SMHC: All the Sunday School classes as a little kid! And Confirmation.



Kassidee Margaret Golwitzer

Parents: Shannon and Kevin Golwitzer

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Iowa State University this fall..major?

Favorite Memory from SMHC: Making volcano t-shirts for Lava Lava VBS.

Favorite Bible Verse: Romans 8:31



Aubrey Bartleson

Parents: Kris and Suzette Bartleson



Lukas John De Costa

Parents: Tim and Mary De Costa

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans: Electrical apprenticeship

Favorite Memory from SMHC: Going to CYC



Jamie Rooney

Parents: Bill and Mary Rooney



Abbey Kahler

Parents: Melissa and Joel Kahler

School: Collins-Maxwell

Post-Graduation Plans: This fall I plan to attend Wartburg College and I am blessed to be able to continue my love for softball and play on the Wartburg Knights Softball team. I am unsure at this time of what I want to study, however I am looking forward to the next four years as a student-athlete.

Favorite Memory from SMHC: Helping with EDGE and going to youth group every Wednesday night, and having the opportunity to experience NCYC both my freshman and junior year.



Samantha Koehn

Parents: Jake and Mandy Koehn



Noah Fisher

Parents: John and Andrea Fisher

School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: I plan on going to work full time after graduation. I am looking at a couple of colleges for fall.

Favorite Memory from SMHC: from Youth Group is going to NCYC twice and helping with the 8th grade retreats.

Favorite Bible Verse: Revelations 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."



Elizabeth Schmeiser



Parents: Lincoln and Staci Schmeiser

Lucas Nehring

Parents: Mike & Brenda Nehring

School: Ankeny Centennial

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend DMACC

Favorite Memory from SMHC: The food provided before Confirmation Classes



Madison Reynolds

Parents: Shawn and Dawn Reynolds



CLASS OF 2017!



Taylor Penton

Parents: John & Nicole Cory
Brett & Leah Penton

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans:
Creative Center of Art and
Design, Omaha, NE

Favorite Memory from

SMHC: With the Lifeteen Youth Group going on the NCYC trips, the lock ins, and the Big Creek mission trip because we all came together and did something good, learned something, and had fun.



Lawton Wright

Parents: Randy and Michele Wright

Derek Pottebaum

Parents: David and Pamela
Pottebaum

School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans:
University of Iowa Political
Science/ Business

Favorite Memory from

SMHC: Helping at Fish Fry



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



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE!

Unlike the title, there are MANY chances to help the Earth, Every Day! If you were at the event at St. Mary on March 26, it is likely that you remember a few tips to Reduce, Reuse or Recycle, or stunning facts about the ways in which the World needs our help! If you missed the event, read on!

We began the day in song and prayer. Two guest speakers, Dr. Matthew Halbach of the St. Joseph Educational Center and Hannah Landgraf, of Interfaith Power and Light, shared and motivated nearly 50 participants (from 9 communities!) to Care for God's Creation. Meanwhile, Tammi McClain guided the youngsters downstairs in stories, learning activities, art and Dirt Cake!

Parishioners and others with creation-friendly services hosted "Care and Share" tables which provided vivid illustrations, informational displays and hand-outs. Tracy Kangas previewed the importance of April's "Plant a Tree" event when she explained how trees are vital for the environment, and shared a fitting poem; *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer.

The fellowship of the singing, group discussions, and learning, as well as the beautiful, fresh table decor made the event very special! A notebook with items from the event is available at St. Mary's for you to enjoy and/or add your own ideas; video presentations are available at <http://www.saintmaryhc.org>, and you can access pictures at <https://goo.gl/photos/VQs4nuQW3W1uckZv8>.

AVENUE OF FLAGS

Don't miss the display of almost 100 U.S. flags flying at Holy Cross Cemetery this Memorial Day Weekend. This project was launched by Lynn and Chris Schreurs, who used memorial donations for Lynn's brother La Mont, to purchase flags representing the 5 U.S. military branches. Parishioners and friends of the parish were invited to purchase a flag to honor the lives of their loved ones. These flags will be displayed again on the 4th of July, Veteran's Day and Labor Day.



MEET KATIE FREDERICKS



Katie Fredericks moved to Ankeny 5 years ago from Fort Collins, CO. She grew up in Champaign, IL, and graduated from the University of Illinois.

She works for the Corporate Finance Department of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and is also a graduate student at the University of

Iowa studying Healthcare Administration. Her dream is to improve the quality of the American healthcare system. She lives and breathes healthcare. She says, "It is my calling, my passion, and my life."

Coming to SMHC is a "mini-retreat" for Katie each weekend. The drive to Elkhart gives her time to reflect. Katie likes the size of SMHC, finding the parishioners to be almost like family. Katie looks forward to seeing Father Dan – she says, "he makes me laugh uncontrollably! His kindness and compassion are incomparable."

It is very important to Katie to be involved in her parish, so she writes for the Mass Appeal and enjoys serving coffee and donuts. Katie loves meeting new people in the parish. Hands down, her favorite event of the year is the Advent Women's night. "Delila does a great job hosting this. I have met wonderful people through that event."

Katie loves spending time with family and friends. She has played tennis most of her life, and continues to play each week during the season. Katie also loves to cook! For her, it's relaxation. She grew up cooking with her Mom every night.

Being a homeowner is another meaningful facet of Katie's busy life, though she says; "that comes with its own challenges sometimes!"

Assuming you can catch up with her, Katie is a joy to be around!

By Beth Hart

Teacher: "Where is your homework?"

Student: "I lost it fighting a kid who said you weren't the best teacher in school."



MEET YOUR FINANCE COUNCIL



Some new faces have recently joined the Finance Council. Congratulations to new members (highlighted in green) and thanks to all members for serving our parish. From left to right: (standing) Shaun Magill, **Rita McClain**, **Sue Tollefson**, (seated) **Laurie Phelan**, Karen Bellis, Dave Pottebaum, **Doug Jones**.

The Finance Council has the responsibility of providing the financial oversight of our parish budget and finances.



DON'T MISS THE PARISH PICNIC!

Join the fun on June 10, after 5PM Mass.

A Mexican Fiesta theme has been chosen for this year's parish picnic. Highlights include a salsa contest — so dig out your secret recipe and join the competition to WOW the judges. Prizes will be awarded!!! If you plan to compete, please bring 2 quarts of salsa for the judging and others to taste.

Bingo, trivia fun, a cake walk, piñatas, table decorating, music, bonfire (weather permitting) and much more will make for a fun event!

All food is being provided. Lemonade, tea, water and coffee are also provided but you are welcome to bring other beverages. Feel free to wear any type of Mexican/fiesta costume!!

Picnic RSVP's are in the pews. **Ole'!!**

HAPPINESS MINDSET

Have you ever been sitting in Mass, spacing out while Father Dan gives his homily? (c'mmon, we've all done it once!) But then one word or phrase that Father says draws you right back in?

"Too often we think of the fullness and goodness of life our Faith speaks of as something that's just going to happen for us... but as the blond haired, blue eyed Miss America learned, it doesn't work that way. It takes a lot of hard work to receive those gifts." - *Father Dan*

Being happy takes work. All too often, we go about our daily lives just expecting happiness to find us. But that's not how it works. Over the past few months, I've been so focused on getting good grades, graduating, finding a job, taking care of my grandma, finishing all my class projects, and studying for finals. I stopped dancing, hanging out with friends, sleeping, and eating healthy in order to get all of these things done and I was miserable.



One day, it hit me all at once and I finally had a breakdown: crying, eating ice cream, all that stuff. My mom told me one simple thing "Give yourself a break. Stop doing what everyone else wants you to do."

It's so easy to get caught up in everyone else's expectations: You have to take the kids to soccer, you have to meet with coworkers after work, you have to take your aunt to the airport, you have to go to a professor's office hours. The list goes on and on and on.

Remember yourself. Take the time every day to do something for yourself and just yourself, even if it's only for 10 minutes. It's a simple idea, yet it can be so complicated to do in today's fast paced world. Luckily, Father Dan's words at the Easter Vigil gave us a great reminder. In these next few weeks, remember to work on *your* happiness.

By Casey Baumberger

RECIPE - EASY ALFREDO

"Just 4 ingredients and about an hour to prepare. This is my most often requested meal when the kids come home. I can also make the process last 2 hours easily. Time for conversation and libations you know....."



3 – 10 garlic cloves minced (depends on how much you like garlic)

½ stick butter

Heavy Cream – 32 oz jug

2 – 5 oz packages of shredded parmesan cheese

Melt butter in heavy pan (cast iron), add minced garlic and mellow for 15-30 minutes. Watch heat so as to not let the butter get too hot. We want to avoid bubbles.

Add heavy cream and allow temperature to rise slowly. Once you reach about 90 degrees, add shredded parmesan in small amounts. Cheese will become gloppy but will eventually incorporate. I start out stirring with a long fork and end up using a large whisk.

Pick the pasta of your choice. I usually grill chicken and spicy brats to serve along with. I also have another pan (cast iron) going with onions, green pepper, black olives and mushrooms as another topping.

By Bill Sexton

TIME & TALENT SURVEY

A big THANK YOU to all who completed the parish Time and Talent Survey! You can expect follow up in the month of May regarding the interests you expressed. If you did not get a chance to participate in the survey, we'd still welcome your participation. The survey is available on the website and paper copies are available in the vestibule.

MISSIONARY VISIT



Father Chuong Cao, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist missionary priest, will be celebrating Masses and speaking to us on July 22 & 23, about the vital work being done by the priests and brothers of the Redemptorist order, serving their overseas missions. Father Chuong, a native of Vung Tau, Vietnam was ordained in 2001 and is presently the parish priest of Our Mother of Sorrow Parish in Biloxi Mississippi. *Kindly welcome him and please give this much needed appeal your support.*



Kids learning about dirt at "One Earth, One Chance"



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SMHC!



Happy Summer!