



# MASS APPEAL

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

November 2016 - January 2017

Volume 1, Issue 15



### CELEBRATE!

Brynn Catherine, daughter of Andy and Jenn Boyle, was baptized on October 27. Brynn joins her siblings Landon and Brooklyn. The family resides in Elkhart.

### PRAYING THE ROSARY Balloon Style

Beads turned into balloons at RE class in October, which is the month of the Rosary. These kids prayed the Rosary using balloons! It was a wonderful visual experience and a special prayer time for everyone!



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*First Reconciliation for 2nd Graders*, Saturday, Nov. 19, 10AM, St. Mary

*Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 18, Jan. 1 & 15, during 10AM Mass, St. Mary

*Adult Choir practice, Sundays*, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18, & 20, 11AM-Noon, St. Mary

*Mass of Thanksgiving*, Wed. Nov. 23, 6:30PM, SM

*Children's Choir practice*, Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 6:00-6:45PM & Dec. 21, 5:45-6:15PM, St. Mary

*Friends of St. Francis gathering*, Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30PM, Office Area

*Senior Citizen Breakfast*, Friday, Dec. 2 following 8AM Mass, Social Hall

*Ladies Christmas Party*, Wednesday, Dec. 7 following 6PM Mass, St. Mary

*Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation*, Thursday, Dec. 8, Mass times to be announced, St. Mary

*Blessing of Mothers-to-Be*, at Masses Dec. 10 & 11

*Parish Babysitting provided by Youth*, Sunday, Dec. 11, 11AM-4PM, Ed Center and Youth Area

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*, Thursdays, Dec. 15 (HC) & Jan. 19 (SM), 7PM

*Advent Reconciliation Service*, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2PM, St. Mary

***Celebrate Christmas by joining us for Mass***  
***Christmas Eve: 5PM, SM & 7PM, HC***  
***Christmas Day: 9AM, SM***

*Super Bowl Snack Pack Sales*, Jan. 21-29, by Youth Ministry students

*Blood Drive*, Thursday, Feb. 2, 3-7PM, Social Hall

*Feast of St. Blaise*, Friday, Feb. 3, *Blessing of throats*, 8AM Mass

*Ash Wednesday*, March 1, 8AM & 6:30PM Mass, SM

***Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017***

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

Please keep the following 2nd graders in your thoughts and prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prepare for First Eucharist: *Alexis, Frankie, Leah, Peyton, Lauren, Sam, Jill, Catherine, Kaden, Emily, Mya, Jackson, Joel, Kelsi, Emmaleah, Luci, and Ella.*

Little things can make a big difference! The RE students are learning about recycling and trying to make a difference in the world. You can help support the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines, by collecting the little tabs you pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans. The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expenses. Collection bins are available in the ED Center. Thank you for your donations!

Did you know that we have 24 PreK-6th grade catechists? Each week, the catechists deliver lessons that reinforce the Catholic Faith that you are teaching your child(ren) at home. You can deepen their faith and understanding by talking about what they learned at RE that week. Attending Mass as a family and answering their questions regarding the readings is a way to strengthen their faith. The bulletin lists talking points and questions, relating to the readings in kid appropriate language, that are easily discussed on the short car ride home from Mass.

- by Tammi McClain & Sonya Staudt

## TRUNK OR TREAT NIGHT!



## PARISH TRIP TO THE GROTTO!



West Bend is home of the Grotto of the Redemption, a vision of Father Paul Dobberstein of Rosenfeld, Germany. The largest man-made Grotto in the world, the Grotto is frequently called "the Eighth Wonder of the World". The Grotto stands as a testimony in stone, a treasured work of art. Each of the nine grottos contains a scene in the life of Christ hand-carved from Italian Carrara Marble. Covering a city block, the Grotto represents the largest collection of precious and semi-precious rocks, minerals, fossils and petrifications concentrated in any one spot in the world. This Geological wonder, started in 1912, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The beauty of the Grotto attracts rock enthusiasts and people of all faiths every year.

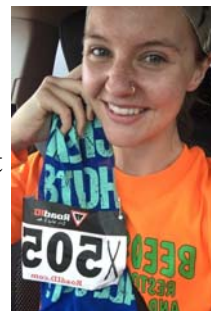
We had a friendly group of 17 for our trip to the Grotto on October 1! Three carloads of parishioners met at St. Mary, (special thanks to the drivers!) and on the way met up with one car from Nevada. Once in West Bend, we ate at the Wagon Wheel Café, where we pretty much took over the place! The Grotto tour started at 2PM, and we were all impressed and drawn into the story of how the Grotto was built and how it is being sustained. When the tour was over, we looked around the gift shop and then went to see Sts. Peter and Paul Church with its Christmas Chapel. The day turned out to be too long to stay for 5PM Mass, or see the scenes showcased by evening lighting, but at least two of the carloads stopped for ice cream on the way back to Elkhart! Another carload made it back for Wine and Cheese, so I think everyone was happy! Thanks to all who made it a great experience!!

-by Beth Hart

## THE POTHOLE AT MILE 17

At mile 17, everything was hurting. My lower back felt like I was laying on a thousand needles and every step felt like someone was hitting the bottom of my feet with hammers, but I had everything under control.

Then, I lost it. I was trucking along, focusing on my breathing to manage the pain that comes with running a marathon, when I stepped in a pothole. I fell to the ground, scraping my knees and bruising my hands as I braced my fall on the hard asphalt. There I was, laying on the pavement, covered in sweat, dirt, and now a little bit of blood, as other runners were passing me. I was mentally defeated; I had trained months for this. My body felt like it was falling apart. I knew just standing up was going to be excruciating, let alone running 8 more miles.



But I got up. I hauled myself to my feet, muttered a few curse words at that pothole, and finished the race.

Even if you don't run marathons, you will eventually hit your pothole at mile 17. In school, you do poorly on midterms. You don't get chosen for the promotion you've been trying so hard to get at work. Someone in your family passes away. Whatever it is, something in life will knock you down. You will bruise your hands, scrape your knees and everything will hurt.

But you will get up. You will get up, finish your race, and be better than before. I can't tell you exactly why I was able to get off my hands and knees and finish that race. All I know is something/ someone set me on my feet, brushed me off, and said, "Get going. You're okay." And you know what? That something/someone was right.

So chin up! If you recently stepped in your pothole, trust that voice and push forward. And when you do conquer your pothole, you can belt out the wise words of Freddie Mercury because you *are* the champion.

- by Casey Baumberger





## KNIGHTS KORNER

The Knights of Columbus held another outdoor pancake breakfast after the 8AM Mass at Holy Cross in September. The weather couldn't have been any better. Thanks to all who participated in any way.



We are looking forward to another opportunity for gentlemen to join us on Sunday, November 20th at our Parish Social Hall.

Also, RE students can look forward to another *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest soon.

Many thanks to all who made contributions to Dorothy's House, a home in Des Moines dedicated to the rescue of girls who had been forced into slavery — often referred to as human trafficking. The council raised \$4,000 this year, 4 times more than the previous year. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

- by Jon Hand

## TINY HOUSE!



Bill Sexton, an active member of our Parish, built his own "tiny house" for those times he needs to "get away". You might have

seen him headed down the road with his little house. Wonder if he loans it out to those who need a little vacation?

## 72 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH



Mary Ann Cory, a St. Mary - Holy Cross parishioner for 72 years, has many fond memories of the church. As an active parishioner, she has been Secretary of the St. Mary's Rosary Group, a catechism teacher, and has volunteered in various ways around the church. She recently celebrated her 94th birthday and has four

children, 18 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren. She graduated from Drake University as a teacher in the mid-1940's and has spent her adult life on the farm where she currently lives. Mary Ann has seen many changes at St. Mary - Holy Cross over the years.

Perhaps her fondest memory is when she and her husband were married during wartime 1944 at St. Mary Church. Since her husband was on short leave from the service, they had just a few days to tell people that they were getting married! Fr. Jermaine presided over the wedding on November 21, 1944.

Mary Ann also recalls midnight Mass at Christmas and how light snow always seemed to fall as Mass ended. She remembers the Rosary Society hosting chicken dinners for the Parish. Women who raised chickens would each donate four chickens for the dinner! Not to mention each woman would bring two pies and slaw from their gardens. How times have changed!

Another one of Mary Ann's fond memories is an 11-day pilgrimage she took in 1989 to Portugal, Spain, and France with a group of Iowans, including a trip to the healing water at Lourdes. She also remembers going on a group tour to Conception, Missouri to visit the monastery and at that time was also able to visit Father Jermaine's grave.

If you see Mary Ann at the 5PM Mass, thank her for her years of service to St. Mary - Holy Cross! We are blessed that she is a part of this church family.

- by Katie Fredericks



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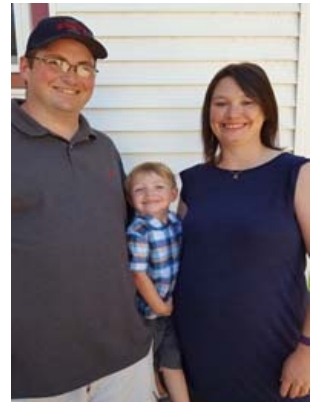


## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Glen and Tara Meier make their home in Ankeny with their children, Ali and Ben. Glen is in operations and sales, and Tara is VP of marketing and communications at Ruan. Ali (14) and Ben (11) are in the Ankeny School District. In their spare time, the whole family loves to golf. Glen also likes to bike and read, Tara likes to travel and work out. Ali is in competitive dance and this past summer had a scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet in New York City! Ben is a sports buff, especially football and basketball. Although they had attended Church in Ankeny for the past nine years, Glen and Tara yearned to find a parish that reminded them of the smaller hometown churches they grew up in. Through member Lisa Gonnerman, they found what they were looking

Mitch and Jennifer Gibson moved with son Christian from West Des Moines to Alleman to be closer to family. Mitch, an industrial engineer, is currently a stay-at-home Dad who likes to work on cars and build things. He is helping his Dad add a three-season room onto his house. Jennifer is a Unity Point child development teacher. In her leisure time she enjoys baking, scrapbooking, and family. Christian (3½) has fun playing in his room with his tractors, and games on his tablet. Mitch and Jennifer found SMHC when they all came to play in the Elkhart park. They saw the St. Mary's sign, attended Mass, and knew this was where they wanted to worship.



Brian and Andrea Haselhoff live in Bondurant with their four children: Clare (9), Ella (6), William (4), and Jacob (1). Brian, who works for Wal-Mart, transferred here from Camanche, IA to be closer to family. Brian is a football enthusiast and roots for the Vikings. Andrea was a full time teacher. She now enjoys being a stay-at-home Mom who is a substitute teacher in the Bondurant schools where their children attend. Clare likes to garden and belongs to the Garden Club at school. Ella is into Legos and both girls are learning to play the piano. William and Jacob like playing together with their toy tractors. Brian and Andrea spent a year "church shopping" and immediately felt welcome and at home when they found SMHC.

Scott and Emily Weber, originally from Tyndall SD, live north of Bondurant with their son Tyler. Scott works at John Deere in Ankeny and enjoys restoring old tractors. Emily is a stay-at-home Mom who volunteers at school, coaches baseball, likes to garden and read. Tyler is a 1st grader in the Bondurant School District. He plays baseball and loves to wash and drive his Dad's tractors. Tyler is also in RE class. The Weber family heard of our Parish through their neighbors and SMHC members, Tom and Kristi Walmsley.



## MASS BAGS FOR THE KIDDOS

Mass can feel incredibly long for small, squirmy, talkative kids. As parents and grandparents we understand! That is why **Dona Cowman** of our Parish, put her sewing machine to use to create Mass Bags! The items in this bag are special, to only be used at church, and help our children develop their spiritual imaginations. In these bags you will find religious coloring books, animal friends of St. Francis, creation stencils, and notepads to write on. You will find these Mass activity bags outside the cry-room. Please pick one up to use and return it after Mass for another child to enjoy.



## BAKE SALE!



RE kids raised \$594 for the Nigerian Seminary, the Senior Scholarship Fund, and the RE program. Thanks to all that baked goodies and all that purchased them!

## CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARD

Check out the bulletin board that is in the entrance of the Social Hall at St. Mary. There you will find photos and information about the newest members of St. Mary - Holy Cross. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them!



I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first-- it wet the bed.



## NO BAKE PEANUT BUTTER CEREAL BARS

- 4 cups Cheerios
- 4 cups Crisp Rice Cereal
- 2 cups dry roasted peanuts
- 2 cups M&Ms
- 2 cups light corn syrup
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 2 1/2 cups creamy peanut butter
- 1 3/4 tsp. vanilla



In a large mixing bowl, combine the first four ingredients.

In a medium sized sauce pan, bring the corn syrup and sugar to a boil, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in peanut butter and vanilla. Pour syrup mixture over the cereal mixture. Toss to coat evenly and spread in a 15 x 10 x 1 pan.

- by Beth Hart

## PITCH PERFECT!



These sisters, Jennie and Josie Moore, know how to sing and share their talents with us at Mass!!



## FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Join our group on Facebook to keep up to date with the most current happenings at SMHC! Just go to Saint Mary's Holy Cross Parish - Elkhart.

## THANKS!

Thanks to Casey Baumberger, Katie Fredericks, Jon Hand, Beth Hart, Barb Liske, Tammi McClain, Kate Rutledge, Sonya Staudt and Sue White for your contributions to this issue of Mass Appeal!

- by Susan Genalo

## CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME !



It was a perfect autumn day when I met up with Bill and Sharon Dunbar in the beautiful prairies they have developed and maintained on their land. While many of us have an interest in protecting the land and our environment, for Bill and Sharon and their family, it has become their passion. Walk with

them around their land and they will give you the names of interesting native grasses and plants, some tall, some short, all different. And they might also tell you a story about these plants and their history. Take the “compass plant” for example. I didn’t know that its name originated because of its tendency to align its leaves north-south, a handy tool for the early settlers to use as their compass.



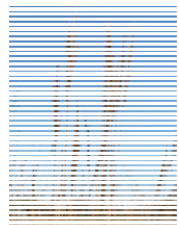
Bill and Sharon started on their path of preserving our natural grasses in 2002 at the suggestion of conservation groups who told them they had the right soil mixture to grow native grasses.

Their latest project is the development of a prairie field that is to be a reserve for the monarch butterfly. This prairie will be planted with milkweed which the monarchs rely on for survival. Milkweeds have declined in the landscape because of use of herbicides, as well as recent bouts of extreme weather, insecticide use and disease. The monarch butterfly is dangerously close to quasi extinction in the next 20 years without significant efforts to save them. Their survival is important because they are the third most popular pollinators behind bees/ wasps and flies. This is in addition to being such beautiful and graceful parts of our landscape.

When I wasn’t wistfully watching the grasses blowing in the wind, Bill pointed out a 200+ year old Burr Oak. Bill and Sharon have cleared growth under and around the tree so it can take advantage of the soil nitrates and continue to prosper in its environment.



In the midst of so much negativity in our world recently, to spend a few hours walking the land, learning about our plant history and enjoying the beautiful day with such knowledgeable and wonderful hosts, was a wonderful gift. If you have an interest, I know they would welcome you too!



- by Susan Genalo

## GOT ANY STRESS?

We are reminded, every year at this time, how difficult holidays can be both for parents and kids. Here are some tips to help minimize stress and make the holidays more fun and fulfilling.

### 1. Be open to change.

Talk with your kids about your traditions — which ones they love and which you might evolve to make them more fun or memorable for everyone.



This is especially important when family dynamics have changed because of divorce, a new marriage or sibling, or a death in the family.

### 2. Be realistic.

Factoring in kids’ limitations when you make plans will reduce stress on everyone. Not overestimating your kids’ patience and ability to focus will help you enjoy yourself more too.

### 3. Prep kids for changes in routine.

Holidays represent a change in a family’s normal schedule, and for some kids that’s



unsettling. Preparing them for changes in their routines — what to expect and what you expect of them—will help head off meltdowns. If you’re traveling, bring familiar toys

and books, and make sure you have quiet one-on-one time like reading before bed.

### 4. Give yourself a break.

Don’t stretch yourself too thin trying to create the “perfect” holiday season. Decide what is important, prioritize, and say “no” to what you can’t handle.

### 5. Be sure to laugh.

Kids pick up their parents’ stress and tension, so they are more likely to be irritable if you are. Have a sense of humor, enjoy your kids for who they are, and keep in mind that what you’ll all remember when it’s over is likely to be the unexpected moment when everybody was relaxed, not the brilliantly choreographed party or outing.



- by Child Mind Institute

# PARISH PICNIC



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## WORK OF OUR HANDS FESTIVAL

