



MASS APPEAL

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

November 2015 - February 2016

Volume 1, Issue 11



**This Holiday Season is a special time
to reflect on your blessings and seek ways
to make life better for your friends,
family, and community.
May this season fill you with
peace, love and joy.**

~ from your Stewardship Committee

RECTORY NEARS COMPLETION!



More pictures inside.

ANYONE WANT TO GO CAROLING?

Would you like to bring some joy to those who might need it during the Christmas season? We are considering putting together a group of carolers to spread holiday cheer!

If interested, please contact
Bill Sexton, 515-829-8995,
and invite your friends and
neighbors to come along!



WHAT'S COMING UP?

RE & Knights of Columbus collection of winter clothing, now thru Nov. 30

Adult Choir practice, Sundays, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 13, & 20, 11am-Noon, St. Mary

Depression & Emotional Support Group, Tuesday, Nov 17, 6:30pm, Ed Center

Children's Choir practice, Wednesdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 6:00-6:45pm, St. Mary

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Dec. 6 & 20, Jan. 3 & 16 & Feb. 7 during Mass, St. Mary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Thursdays, Nov. 19 (SM), Dec. 17 (HC) & Jan. 21 (SM), 7pm

Crafts, Games & Social Time, Thursdays, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 & Jan 21, 9:30am, Social Hall

First Reconciliation for 2nd Graders, Saturday, Nov. 21, 11am, St. Mary

Mass of Thanksgiving, Wed. Nov. 25, 6:30pm, SM

Ladies Christmas Party, Wednesday, Dec. 2 following 6pm Mass, St. Mary

Senior Citizen Breakfast, Friday, Dec. 4 following 8am Mass, Social Hall

Blessing of Mothers-to-Be, weekend Masses Dec. 5/6

Work of Our Hands Festival, Dec. 5 & 6, Social Hall

Advent Reconciliation Service, Sun. Dec. 6, 2pm, SM

Immaculate Conception of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation, Tues., Dec. 8, 8am & 6:30pm Mass, SM

Soup & Sandwich Supper; Saturday, Dec. 19, 6pm Social Hall, sponsored by Knights of Columbus

Parish Babysitting provided by Youth, Sunday, Dec. 20, 11am-4pm, Ed Center and Youth Area

Celebrate Christmas by joining us for Mass

Christmas Eve: 5pm, SM & 7pm, HC

Christmas Day: 9am, SM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation, Masses: Thursday, Dec. 31, 5pm, St. Mary and Friday, Jan. 1, 9am, Holy Cross

NCYC Appreciation meal & presentation, Sunday, Jan. 10 after 10am Mass, Social Hall

Super Bowl Snack Pack Sales, weekends of Jan. 23/24 & 30/31, by Youth Ministry students

Blessing of Throats for Feast of St. Blaise, at Mass on Wednesday, Feb. 3, and Thursday, Feb. 4

Blood Drive, Thursday, Feb. 4, 3-7pm, Social Hall

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, 8am & 6:30pm Mass, SM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ~ FUN ~ SERVICE!

The R.E. year is off to busy start! Our opening time this year is concentrating on the Gospel readings for the upcoming Sundays. Classes are working their way through our first unit of study which is the Trinity.

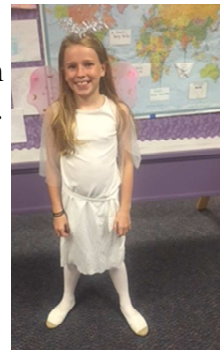
Our service project all year long will be helping the Burmese refugees who will be coming to Central Iowa. So far we have collected dozens of backpacks and filled them with school supplies, donated lots of personal care items, as well as cleaning supplies they will need to help get them started. We also held a bake sale to benefit our youth who will be attending NCYC (thank you to all the wonderful bakers and supporters for our sale).



The 2nd annual Trunk or Treat Night that the EDGE kids held for the younger kids was a huge hit!

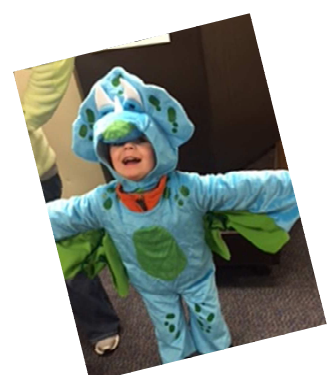
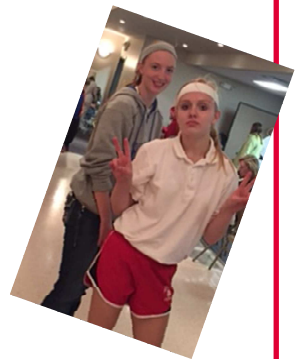
And the Saints Party was also a lot of fun, with some great costumes and fun activities.

Our children's choir, The Good News Singers, will be starting practices real soon and we look forward to them sharing their talents with us during the Christmas season.



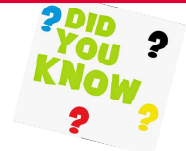
We also had Altar Server training for all 4th through 6th graders. And don't forget our second graders who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on November 21st. Please keep them in your prayers.

Whew! As one can tell, we have been very busy, but also having a lot of fun. As always, feel free to stop by and see us in action on Wednesday evenings!



Meet Some of Our Music Ministers!

Can you match the fun fact with the right person?



Nora Aschoff (a)



Terri Hamm (b)



Staci Hergenreter (c)



Jennifer Linderblood (d)



Kristi Meyer (e)



Jennie Moore (f)



Celeste Muehlenthaler (g)



Mark and Sue Schmidt (h)

Answers found on the back page.

1. This person is the championship winner in an unofficial speed cup stacking contest!
2. This person is an avid horse lover and competes with Paint horses at a world level and has been blessed with some World titles.
3. This person has custom Iowa State license plates that mean "March Madness". The day after they had shoulder surgery, they were at an ISU basketball game - that's dedication!
4. This person loves to travel, and has been to all 50 states and traveled extensively around Europe, Canada, and Mexico.
5. This person loves to cross stitch and spent a summer in Belgium as a nanny.
6. This person's favorite family movie is "The Great Race" with Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. Even though they have seen it many times, they all laugh until they cry during the pie fight scene, and they love the cartoon humor all through the movie.
7. This person is obsessed with sports scores ... football, baseball, basketball ...
8. This person sang onstage with Barry Manilow.

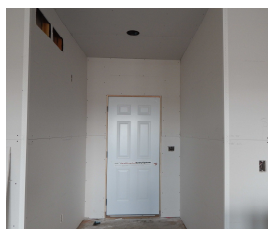


NEW RECTORY MAKES PROGRESS

As can be seen from these photos, the exterior of the new rectory is almost complete and focus has shifted to the interior. The drywall is near completion, utilities are being installed, trim and paint will be added soon. It's possible Father Dan will be enjoying this new home before Christmas!

Once Father Dan has moved into the new home and everything is vacated from the old rectory, it will be torn down. This may not take place until spring depending on weather conditions.

Be sure to check out www.saintmaryhc.org for updated photos throughout the building process.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Chuck and Kara Donley live in Polk City with their three children, Grace (15), Carter (12), and Abby (10). Chuck, a retired electrician, likes camping, reading, and being a Boy Scout leader. Kara, a pediatric nurse, golfs and is involved with the PTA. The children attend North Polk school district. Grace has an interest in art and dance; Carter likes Minecraft, Legos, Boy Scouts, and tree climbing; and Abby enjoys Girl Scouts, dance, and horseback riding. After hearing good things about our Church, the Donley's found they liked our small, close-knit, family oriented parish.



Jim and Nina Givan live in Mitchellville. Jim is retired, spending time on his art work, painting and drawing. Nina is semi-retired and works as a Nanny. She does story telling at Divine Treasures the second Saturday of each month. After seeing a road sign pointing out our Church, they checked St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish over and decided this was what they were looking for.

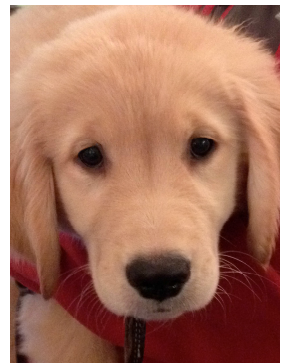


Matt and Beth Hart recently moved from Ankeny to Maxwell. Matt is Food Service Director at Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames and enjoys golf, woodworking, and home repairs in his spare time. Beth is a Special Education Associate at Cornell and Saydel Schools. She likes to ice skate when she has the chance. The location of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish suited them after they settled in Maxwell.

MEET PUPPY REAGAN



Puppy Reagan is a Puppy Jake dog. The Puppy Jake Foundation is dedicated to helping military veterans through the assistance of well bred, socialized and professionally trained service dogs. He will be with the Bob and Brenda Reid family of our Parish for almost two years. As a family, Reagan will join them going everywhere they go and the family will participate in rigorous training over that period of time. All with the goal of helping Reagan serve a combat vet that needs his assistance.



Brenda and Bob have trained dogs for years, first with champion show and lure coursing basenjis, then search and rescue dogs with the Minnesota Search Dog Network. They are excited that St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish has accepted puppy Reagan as a member of the community and hope all will take pride in this great young Golden Retriever as he learns to serve. It was fitting that the theme of his first Mass was service, as his life will be given to serving those who gave so much to our country.

MEET NICOLE CORY

SMHC's New Confirmation Program Coordinator



Nicole will head up the Confirmation preparation process for ninth and tenth graders. She has assisted with the 7th-12th grades youth ministry programs for the past four years, and with last year's Confirmation preparation program.

How long have you been a member of the Parish?

I have been a member of the Parish since I began RCIA in 2011. I was baptized, received my first Eucharist and was confirmed during the Easter Vigil on April 7, 2012. Since I finished RCIA, I've always envisioned myself in a role like this. I didn't want RCIA to be over!! I immediately volunteered for the EDGE and STORM programs. I really enjoy teenagers, it is by far my favorite age to work with. I believe this is when children are most impressionable and I've always wanted to do what I can to move them in the right direction and be there if they need help or have questions. Coming into the Catholic faith and to this Parish was one of the easiest and best decisions I've ever made for myself. I want to help others experience what I experienced. What better way than to help our youth to experience the same fire inside that I did back in April of 2012, and have ever since?

Could you talk about some of your plans for confirmation classes?

My immediate plans are to experiment with a small group, rather than a classroom environment. Also, I want to have a 9th grade program that begins the Confirmation preparation process with a broad range of teachings of our faith and Church. We will introduce them to our Parish, what it has to offer and what they can offer. This will lead into a more intimate 10th grade program, tailored to each candidate to assist them in growing their faith in specific areas aimed at helping them to be disciples of God and involved parishioners.

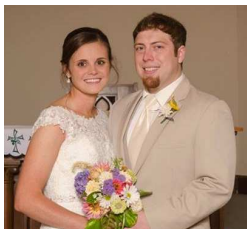
What are your goals for the confirmation students?

My goal is to help them be full and active members of the Parish. I would also like to see them be excited about their faith and Church. I want them to go out and be proud Catholics and evangelize wherever they go!

Any other thoughts you'd like to share?

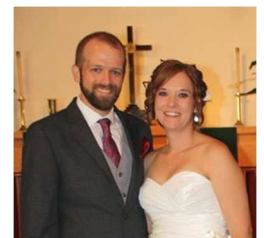
This is the second year of our Candidates being confirmed in 10th grade. I want to build a strong program for them. Our Parish already has many established strong programs for our youth with many great volunteers, so we will be working very hard to create a new one while not taking away from any others. We will need more volunteers and support to do it! Please let me know if you are interested. Also, since our program this year is new to the Parish, any feedback, questions or concerns are welcome!! I'm excited for this year and thankful to have received this opportunity!

WE CELEBRATE!



Audrey Cory and Ben De Vilder were married on August 29 at St. Mary's Church. They live in Eldora, where Ben is the Market Manager of the Meat Dept. at HyVee. Audrey is the Youth Program Director at the Y in Grundy Center and the Coordinator of Youth Ministries at St. Mary's Church in Eldora. Parents are Andrew and Lori Cory of Elkhart and Sam and Judy De Vilder of Eldora.

Annie Kautza and Matt Fornoff were married October 17 in Manito, Illinois. Annie is the daughter of Lisa and Tim Kautza of our Parish and Matt is the son of Kathy and Ken Fornoff. The couple are living in Tucson, Az. Annie is an oncology nurse at Banner-University of Arizona Medical Center. Matt is Grants Program Manager at Community Food Banks of Southern Arizona. Annie and Matt wish to thank the parishioners who were present at their blessing, those who joined them in our Parish Social Hall for their open house the weekend before the wedding, and those who supported them in prayer.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Bill Sexton recently visited with Pat and Janet Phelan to learn more about the history surrounding Holy Cross Church.

It was dark when I arrived to the Phelan home. When I came around the drive, there Pat was sitting in his van waiting for me. I jumped out and he said "Get in"! We exchanged the typical pleasantries between people from Iowa in the fall....How ya' been? Winters coming, ready? The deer are running. It's so quiet out here, I love it. And of course, Thank you for meeting with me, immediately followed by, thank you for coming.

We made the short drive to the church and he gave me the tour. While Holy Cross is not the biggest church, somehow it breaks the laws of dimensional space. Perhaps it's what I see in his eyes and the others that call this house their home. Maybe it's my association of stories told by my grandparents. *This place is special.*

We talked about the history of heating Holy Cross. Back in the day there was a wood furnace, and someone would have to come early and light the fire. If you were a little late getting it started the church was still cold and Father would say Mass with his gloves on. This was before electricity and, to this day, there isn't a water connection to the building. On the way out, Pat pauses to tell me about the terracotta crucifix created by renowned artist Christian Petersen (1885-1961). If you are not familiar with who he is, I suggest you Google him, visit the museum in his honor at Iowa State and take time to really look at his beautiful work. We are blessed to have this in our church.

We headed back to the house and was greeted by Janet with a warm hug. Throughout our conversation, I learned so much about them. Their families' immigration to the United States and humble beginnings, humility and perseverance, their steadfast service to Holy Cross and surrounding community. On the wall in their den is a framed certificate of ordination from Rome naming Pat a Porter or doorkeeper. A guard to the entrance of the house.

I was amazed to realize three hours had passed and I'd hardly taken a note. So my apologies for lack of detail; here are some other facts about Holy Cross...

During its life, Holy Cross has been under three dioceses, Dubuque, Davenport and now Des Moines.

The original wooden church was across the road from where Holy Cross stands today. There is no written record of what the church was named until

1876 when Bill Ryan deeded land to the diocese at its present location and the church was moved. The gift of land granted Mr. Ryan the privilege of naming the church after his boyhood parish, Holy Cross Abbey, Thurles, CO. Tipperary, Ireland.

Sadly, the original wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1927 and church authorities didn't think it should be rebuilt, but the parishioners insisted and the present day church was built in 1929.

There is so much more history; perhaps I will share more in a later writing.

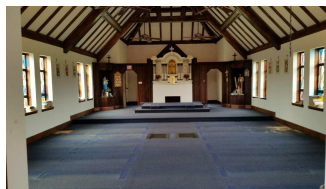
God Bless.

~ Bill Sexton

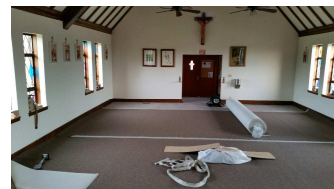


A MAKEOVER!

New carpet was installed at Holy Cross Church!



Before



After



Thank you to Drew Hanlon & Lynn Schreurs who volunteered more than 1000 hours to refurbish the pews.

**What's
That
Funny
Look
On
Your
Faith?**



TRY THIS RECIPE! TURTLE CUP CAKES



Try this recipe from Jen Linderblood! Besides being one of our gifted cantors at Mass, Jen also took 1st place in the dessert contest at the recent Centennial Celebration at St. Mary's. While the recipe below is not her award winning recipe, her daughter (pictured) will vouch for these yummy cupcakes!

Start with a Devils food cake Mix. Bake as cupcakes according to directions. Always bake for a few less minutes than directed and check the cupcakes accordingly (via toothpick or spring test).

While the cupcakes are baking, put your mixing bowl and whisk in the freezer. You heard me right!

Let the cupcakes cool completely. As they are cooling, roast some pecans in the oven with coconut oil and a bit of salt. Let cool.

For the caramel whipped cream frosting...take your bowl and whisk out of the freezer and beat 1 - 8oz block of cream cheese, 2 large dollops of T. Marzetti's caramel dip and a couple tablespoons brown sugar together till blended. Scrape down bowl as needed.

On medium, slowly whisk in 2 cups heavy whipping cream. Scrape bowl in beginning stages. Then beat on high till light and fluffy. Pipe onto cupcakes and top with toasted pecans, caramel and chocolate drizzle!



SILENT — NOT! Sing with Us!

The Adult Choir (Jubilate Deo) is singing at 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve. We rehearse Sundays after 10am Mass. *You are welcome to join us!*

The Children's Choir (Good News Singers) will also sing at that Christmas Eve Mass. They rehearse at 6pm on Wednesdays. Anyone in grades 1-6 (or older!) is welcome!

We always welcome people who play instruments! Bring your instrument and practice with us Sundays after 10am Mass.



WOOH!



Start your holiday shopping on December 5 & 6 at the Parish **WORK OF OUR HANDS** Festival. Stop in the Social Hall before or after 5pm Mass and after 10am Mass to view the many goods and services created by members of our Parish. It's a great time to purchase Christmas gifts, decorations and more! Additional details about the Festival are on the Parish website (www.saintmaryhc.org) and in the bulletin.

KNIGHT'S KORNER



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who came out for pancakes and sausage after Mass at Holy Cross in September. It is tough to figure out who enjoys it most!

In October we handed out Tootsie Rolls and raised funds for People with Intellectual Disabilities at Brick Street Market in Bondurant, Fareway in Huxley, and after all three Masses in our Parish.

In December we again look forward to hosting the meal after Mass on Saturday, December 19th. We hope to see you there!

We are already starting to think about the upcoming Lenten fish fries starting on February 12th. In preparation, the Knights of Columbus froze 32 gallons of home grown sweet corn this past summer.



Celebrating our 100TH ANNIVERSARY Thank You for your support



St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish
460 NW Washington Ave
Elkhart, IA 50073



Fun Fact answers
from page 3:

1 = f	5 = e
2 = c	6 = h
3 = d	7 = a
4 = b	8 = g



Great
fun
and
food!

