



# Mass Appeal

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



St. Mary-Holy Cross Quarterly Newsletter

November 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Welcome

to the very first edition of “Mass Appeal”, the new quarterly newsletter for members of our St. Mary - Holy Cross parish community. This newsletter is intended to share news and information about the people and events that make up our parish, as well as make you laugh a little. In it you will find information about our religious education programs, adult formation, social activities and events. You will learn more about the staff and the members of the parish. You may even find a recipe that interests you for the holidays. We would very much like to hear from you – we want your feedback and ideas to make “Mass Appeal” meaningful and interesting. If you have suggestions for topics to be covered, please let us know. You can do so by contacting a member of the Stewardship Committee (email addresses and phone numbers are available in the bulletin). Happy Thanksgiving and many Christmas Blessings to you and your family!

## Meet Our Parishioners



### New Members

Hmmm.... Is that a new face in the pew next to you? More than likely YES! In 2012, 27 families, including 33 children, have joined our Parish community. These families are from Alleman, Altoona, Ames, Ankeny, Bondurant, Cambridge, Elkhart, Huxley, Maxwell and Rhodes. Future newsletters will introduce you to new members of our Parish family.

### Weddings

Congratulations to those who were recently married at St. Mary-Holy Cross.

Emily Heger and Michael Leland  
Lindsey Neppl and Kevin Tabor  
Kasey Hudson and Shelby Patterson

### Baptisms

We also have new little bundles of joy that have become members of our faith community.

| <u>Name</u>            | <u>Baptismal Date</u> | <u>Parents</u>            |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Finley Ann Muth        | 09/15/2012            | Mitchell and Kelly Muth   |
| Damen Charles Van Waus | 09/22/2012            | Heath and Erin Van Waus   |
| Evelyn Daphene Smith   | 09/30/2012            | Shaymus and Kirsten Smith |
| Emma Swanson           | 10/27/2012            | Nicholas and Jill Swanson |
| Landon Thomas Boyle    | 11/11/2012            | Andrew and Jennifer Boyle |

### Did You Know?

Our parishioners come from 27 towns which includes 17 school districts.

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### Upcoming Events

- December 1 & 2, 2012—  
Work of Our Hands Festival
- December 5, 2012—  
Ladies Christmas Party
- December 7, 2012 —  
Senior Citizen Breakfast
- December 16, 2012—  
Christmas Babysitting  
provided by EDGE and  
S.T.O.R.M.

### Knights of Columbus Events

- December 2012 – Keep  
Christ in Christmas poster  
contest among RE students
- January 12, 2013 –  
Meal after 5pm Mass
- February 15, 2013 –  
Fish Fry

## Parish Youth Group—Moved By The Spirit!



St. Mary-Holy Cross took a group of thirty-three middle school kids and 8 awesome adult chaperones to the Des Moines Diocese Youth Rally SWAG (Saved With Amazing Grace) on Oct 27th. Fifteen high school teens and 4 fabulous adults attended on the next day. The teens seemed to really enjoy the rally! They heard Chris Stafanic talk about saints and chastity then celebrated Mass with enthusiastic music and an inspiring message from Bishop Pates. We followed up the Youth Rally with a group of 24 Edge and



STORM teens and 6 chaperones venturing out to brave an evening at Sleepy Hollow, for our annual fright night & bonfire. It was a busy but wonderful weekend of relational ministry for our young church! Thank you to all the adults who made it possible!

## 10 Things You May Not Know About.....Deacon Terry

1. **One of five children** Have four younger sisters
2. **Married to Diana for 30 years**
3. **Transient** Lived in six towns during my twelve years of education
4. **No kids** While I have no children, Diana has one child.....ME!
5. **Quit right before Ordination** I was scared, thinking I wasn't qualified, I didn't have what it takes to be a Deacon. I called a member of the core team three days before ordination and said, "I'm out!" Through prayers of many, and some strong signs from God, I followed through with ordination.
6. **Assigned to Bishop Drumm Care Center and VA Hospital** The Bishop has assigned me to tend the pastoral needs of folks in those facilities
7. **Survivor** I have had my bacon pulled out of the fire many times by God's intervention; more times than a cat has lives. Among those near death experiences are a year in Viet Nam as combat infantryman, a few parachute malfunctions, an airplane crash as pilot, a bad ultra light crash as passenger, and a dose of leukemia
8. **Paratrooper in military, skydiver in civilian life** Five military jumps, over 1000 skydives as a civilian, certified skydiving instructor
9. **Harley wrencher and rider** I restore Harleys from the 70s and enjoy riding them in the company of Di on her own bike.
10. **Hippie** Full blown flower child of the 60s

## Religious Ed Asks: What Do You Give God Thanks For?

Recently, a few of our younger parishioners were asked during religious education what they give thanks to God for.

*Keeping us safe, Corin age 6*

*Family, Emma age 8*

*I have a mom and dad who are special to me, Noah age 7 1/2*

*Goodwill, Daniel age 6*

*My friends, Noah age 14*

*Family, Julia age 12*

*A house, Jackson age 10*

*My friends, Alli age 13*

*Everything, Michael age 16*

*For giving Jesus to us, Nyanti age 10*

*Life, food, and water, Cory age 9*

*For the earth, Ethan age 10*

*For my mom and dad, Jaxson age 7*

*Finding gaps in traffic, Nicole age 17*

*Family, Emma age 12*

*Food, Amber age 12*

*Life, Sophie age 9*

## A Positive Financial Report



Recently the Finance Council reported on the progress and status of our Parish finances. The good news reported is that we have made substantial progress in strengthening the finances of the Parish over the past years. The General Fund which is used to pay for the day to day operating costs, has been replenished, and we are nearing our goal of a reserve of \$150,000 in that fund. The Faith to Finish Campaign loan balance was \$164,000 at the end of June, 2012. We have three years left on the loan and with your continued commitment we will be debt free at that time or sooner. And because of your generosity, we now have a Building and Grounds fund of \$54,000 so that we can address both the short term and long term repair and maintenance needs of our churches.

One building repair project that should be completed during this fiscal year, is the repair of the roof leaks in the bell tower area (above the choir loft). The fact that we have had such little rain makes it more difficult to find and repair the leaks. Once addressed, however, the walls and ceiling in the choir loft and stairway will be repaired as well.

With your continued support, the church is in a position to maintain a balanced budget, and invest prudently in new and exciting ministries that will strengthen our relationship with God and our Parish community.

### Trivia Question

What is unique about this verse? "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man." *Psalm 118:8*

#### Answers:

1. Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the Bible.
2. There are 594 chapters before and 594 chapters after Psalm 118.
3. Add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, for a total of 1188 chapters.
4. Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the Bible.

**Should the central verse of the Bible not have a important message?**

## Saint Of The Month

### November 17th: St. Elizabeth of Hungary--patron saint of bakers, homeless, young brides, and medical workers

Princess Elizabeth hurried down the hill, her cloak wrapped around her to hide the loaves of bread she carried. At the top of the hill was the castle of her husband Louis' family. Louis loved her, but she wasn't so sure about his family.

They were very rich, but all around them were poor people who did not have enough to eat. Elizabeth would often take them food. This angered the family, but Louis encouraged Elizabeth.

One day, Elizabeth spotted someone coming up the hill towards her. Elizabeth tensed up, afraid that she would be caught with bread. Then she saw that it was Louis. "What are you hiding?" he teased her. Elizabeth opened her cloak but no loaves of bread fell out. Instead, beautiful roses came tumbling to the ground. "I did have bread, not roses!" Elizabeth whispered. "This is a sign from God," Louis said. "You are a bold woman, Elizabeth, and God must love you very much!"



### Recipe Of The Month



### The Catholic Chuckle

While creating husbands, God promised women that good and ideal husbands would be found in all corners of the world.

And then he made the earth round.



On the way home from Mass one Sunday, a married couple quarrels badly. The wife says to her husband, "you know, I was a fool when I married you."

The husband replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice!"