



# St. Mary-Holy Cross MASS APPEAL NEWSLETTER

– NEWS FROM THE PEWS –  
MAY 2025



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FR. PARKER

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## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER PARKER

Dear Good People,

Spring is a time for renewal and new beginnings. The Earth awakens with new growth, and we move out of the slumber of Winter. It is certainly an exciting time for young people as they close one chapter in their lives, and they look forward to a new chapter.

All of us have these transitions in our lives. We move from one thing to another. This could be into retirement, a new job, a new baby, or possibly a new state of life such as marriage or becoming a Catholic.

Certainly, in my own life there have been many transitions. In these transitions I certainly find that the hand of God is at work. I think our attitude about any transition is the belief that we are where God wants us. That does not mean that things will not be difficult or challenging, but hopefully we take some time to recognize that God is with us in the transition and in difficult circumstances we can rely more and more on God's grace. So, as we make these transitions in our lives, we should challenge ourselves to rely more and more on God's grace. That is certainly our prayer for our high school seniors and anyone else who is making a major life transition. We pray that they have been well formed, and that faith will be integral in their lives as they take on new challenges. Hopefully they see our faith community as a place to receive loving support from all of us, and this community of faith is part of what they call home.

## GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR INFORMATION

**The SMHC Scholarship** is awarded to students that show strong parish participation and involvement. The recipients below have participated in many parish activities including altar serving, being an Edge Small Group Leader, ushering, and volunteering for many youth group events.

**Congratulations to these SMHC Scholarship Recipients:**

Lucas Robinson

Jack Selby

## GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

### **Congratulations to these Class of 2025 Graduates!**

Layla Arp	Bennett Bruns	Nathan Feldmann	Caiden Gass
Clare Haselhoff	Ava Husak	Stockton Heuther	Jerrold Kerr
Isabella Kuehn	Abraham Manly	Griffen Muth	Andrew Olson
Joseph Selby	William Pottebaum	Lucas Robinson	Jenna Volz
Martin Schmeiser	Hudson Shipley	Ruth Turczynski	



## DIACONATE FORMATION OF JOHN FISHER



We are just a few months from ending our second year of the diaconate formation process. We have enjoyed our first two years. John has been very busy with classes and homework. We have a pretty large cohort and have made a lot of amazing people that have become good friends and amazing prayer partners.

For the past two years we have met as a cohort one Saturday a month (except on zoom during bad weather) and weekly on zoom. In addition to that, John has taken 10 classes so far. He has enjoyed

learning so much from the classes like the history of the Bible and the diaconate. He said his favorite class so far is the Pentateuch class. For those that are wondering what class that is, it is the study of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

John has had to relearn to study, which has been good, yet challenging. He has been surprised and excited to learn that the Bible is more than a history book. It's a library made with poetry, history, liturgy, and law. It has helped him understand Mass and the bible so much more.

Andrea has enjoyed the process the last two years, with her challenge being the schedule. Andrea has lost six family members in the past two years so that has made attending every session or zoom call a bit of a challenge. Overall the first two years have been grace filled and very fulfilling.

The next steps in the process will include a discernment retreat and a small group session with Bishop Joensen. If the bishop does offer an invitation to continue with the diaconate process, John will participate in the Rite of Candidacy in September.

We would like to thank our parish family for all of your prayers and support and humbly ask that they continue. We truly believe you have helped make our journey a positive one. As always we will continue to pray for all of you.

## THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who came out and prayed the Silhouette Stations of the Cross with the young people of SMHC.

A special thank you to the youth that took part in one or more of the Stations presentations. The following are the fabulous shadow “actors”: Nicole C, Bridget S, Joel K, John F, Emma K, Vivian, Aubrey, Maggie B, Gracie F, Julia F, Abbey and Noah.

## ALTAR SERVERS

Have you noticed new faces around the altar during Mass lately? Several of our young people are in training to assist during services. Give a warm welcome to our new altar servers:

Aubrey Conover  
Elizabeth Collum

Kate Swanson  
David Collum

Cora Swanson  
Jack Cory

Amelia Muehlenthaler  
Rex Roberts

They are joining some of their brothers, sisters and friends who are already altar servers:

Titus Weber  
Emma Swanson  
Gabriel Miller

Zeke Weber  
Oliver Hand  
Jonah Miller

Sampson Weber  
Claire Hand  
Justice Loraditch

Hailey Conover  
Isaac Miller  
Titus Loraditch

Let all of our altar servers know how much you appreciate their dedication to helping at Mass. They are the future of the Catholic Church.



## FIRST EUCHARIST

**Congratulations to the following students for receiving Holy Communion for the first time!**

Cecilia Clarey  
Sydney Eason  
Cash Klostermann  
Amelia Mahan  
Azellie Malanaphy

Fulton Manley  
Charles Muehlenthaler  
Elyza Mullen-Gregory  
Jay Simpson  
Asher Weber



## CONFIRMATION

On May 4th, (17) of our youth celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. It has been a pleasure leading this group through preparation for the sacrament for the last two years. Thank you to our program volunteers, your help is very appreciated. Thank you to those who volunteered to be part of our Liturgy, it was beautiful. Please continue to pray for these young people as they move on to a new chapter of their faith journey.

### **Congratulations to the following Confirmation students!**



Jill Beukema  
Emmaleah Kahler  
Leah Muth  
Peyton Shipley  
Kaden Gilligan  
Kelsi Wilkinson  
Frankie Huether  
Thomas Selby  
Samuel Renoe

Catherine Bruce  
Clara Manley  
Mya Pottebaum  
Quinlan Teply  
Isaac Miller  
Caleb Coffelt  
Lillian Miller  
Laura Feldmann

## MEET THE STAFF – MUSIC COORDINATOR



Hello everyone! My name is Aubrey Sigmund and I am your new Music Coordinator here at SM-HC. A little background about me, my maiden name is Kahler and I am the eldest daughter of Joel and Melissa Kahler (our amazing Youth Minister). SM-HC has been my home church since I was born. I've received every single one of my Blessed Sacraments here and I am so grateful to bring up my own two children into this beautiful Faith at the very same Church. My husband, David, and I live in Maxwell with our two children Marietta (3) and Percy (1).

I am so blessed to be able to share my love of music with the Parish every week.

If you or someone you know are musically inclined and are interested in sharing your talents, please reach out! We have many different ways you can help, whether you play an instrument, sing, or even have certain songs you would like to hear. I am just a text, call, or email away. As Saint Augustine says "He who sings, prays twice". Music is such a joy filled way of praising our Lord Jesus and is such a great way to build congressional connection. Thank you for singing and praying along with us (twice!) every weekend!

## PARISHIONER FEATURE: DAN HARRINGTON



Dan Harrington recently joined the church in February. Anyone who knows Dan knows about his strong faith and unwavering love for Jesus Christ. Here's a little more about him – stop him after church and introduce yourself if you haven't met Dan. He'll tell you exciting stories for sure!

Dan was born and raised in Ottumwa, IA and attended the Methodist church every Sunday where he was also involved in youth ministry. Church was a big part of his family life and through his senior year in high school hardly missed a Sunday. When he was 15, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and at age 16 pledged his life to Him again. As Dan went through his adult life he attended several churches, but didn't find a strong fit so continued studying God's word on his own. Though his faith never wavered, he missed attending church. In his mid-30's while travelling for his job to Israel, Dan spent several days re-tracing where Jesus was born in Bethlehem, where He died, and some of the places He walked (Sea of Galilee). He even touched the Star of David in Bethlehem which was a faith "re-charge" for Dan. It was that moment that connected Dan with the Holy Spirit and guided his life from that point on.

If you have the opportunity to talk with Dan, he can tell you about his several "near misses" in life. He has come close to dying several times but believes the good Lord needs him here on earth. Dan has experienced precarious situations in other countries and has lost friends from unusual accidents. There have been several close calls. Dan attributes this to his strong faith; he always comes back to Christ who re-focuses him.

A couple years ago Dan lost his wife. Throughout that time, he continued to be faithful and accepted that Jesus was taking her back to His home. He felt proud that Jesus took her with Him to Heaven. As any good ending story would have it, he met Sue not long after! Their relationship was founded on faith and Dan believes Jesus gave Sue to him (and him to Sue) to support each other during their time on earth. After meeting Sue, it became clear to Dan that the Catholic church would fulfill his longing for a church. When Sue first took him to St. Mary's he was overwhelmed (everything was Greek to him!), but even so he could feel Christ's presence in the church. Father Ross and the people of the church were so welcoming, and it seemed natural from the get-go. As Dan continued attending church with Sue, he longed for taking communion and decided to join the church. When he comes to mass he feels re-charged and ready to face anything. Dan says "I can face anything without fear because He's there with me"!

*Submitted by Katie Fredericks*

## THE CROWNING

The crowning of Mary is a popular devotion, especially during the month of May, where a statue or image of Mary is crowned with flowers or a crown. This ritual symbolizes Mary's Queenship and her role as the Mother of God, often reenacting her coronation in heaven.



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: HOME VISITS

For the past several years the Stewardship Committee has been visiting homebound members of the parish during Advent and Lent. It has become a tradition – and is equally rewarding to both visitors and those at home! Some Stewardship Committee members say their favorite part of the visits are getting to know parishioners, their families, and stories about their lives. It's been a good visit when a homebound parishioner requests another visit (with board games next time)! This is what it's all about – building relationships with each other and doing the work that God has called each of us to do.

*Submitted by Katie Fredericks*

## SPRING RECIPE

### **Colorful Spring Pasta Salad (submitted by Katie Fredericks)**

1 package cooked cheese tortellini

½ can whole jumbo black olives

Stuffed green olives

1 jar artichoke hearts

½ inch cut red, green, yellow peppers (plenty)

Add as much or as little of each ingredient.

Marinate in Italian dressing, and refrigerate for a day

(up to 48 hours).

