



# St. Mary-Holy Cross MASS APPEAL NEWSLETTER

- NEWS FROM THE PEWS -  
MAY 2023



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## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER PARKER

One neat thing about growing up is celebrating milestone moments. As adults we look back fondly on birthdays, graduations, weddings, and other events that mark an end to something and a new beginning of something else. As Americans we mark these moments with particular ceremonies indicating that they are important. As we look back on these events; young people look forward to them.

One temptation that we can face as Catholics is viewing our faith in terms of milestone moments. We graduate from baptism to confirmation to marriage and maybe we do not give thought to the journey we are all on as Christians. Jesus wants to walk with us in this journey. Just like with the disciples on the road to Emmaus Jesus journeys with us and continues to teach us and feed us with Word and Sacrament.

Sometimes young people as they experience these milestones and get some level of freedom, and they can tend to wander off the road. There are so many options now for young people that it is easy to get lost and to forget that Jesus wants to simply be with them. In my work with young people I find that they often do not outright reject Church teaching, but often they simply fall out of practice of practicing their faith.

So, what are some concrete steps or practices to living our faith and staying on the road with Jesus? First, going to mass every Sunday. This is most important. I promise if we put our faith as our number one priority the rest of our life will be better because we keep the most important thing, the most important thing. Keeping the Sabbath day holy is good for us. God does not need our worship, we need it! Secondly, spending some meaningful time in prayer each day. Again, this is for our benefit. How can we say we want a relationship with someone if we do not spend some time each day with them? Finally, go to confession regularly. All of us fall, and all of us struggle with sin in one way or another. Confession keeps us accountable and shows the areas where we can grow as Christians. Oftentimes when we go to confession, we feel like we are at our worst, but really it is when we are at our best.

Milestones are great and important events, but we also remember that our true home is the heavenly kingdom and our journey is hopefully moving us toward that ultimate reality.

## CELEBRATE!

### Baptisms

Genesis Rose Weber  
Parents: Jonathan & Christina Weber  
Baptized February 12, 2023

Emma Claire Hauck  
Parents: Jordan and Laura Hauck  
Baptized February 19, 2023



### New Members

We welcome the following individuals to our parish. Thank you for worshiping with us and getting involved in our faith community.

- Randy and Kathryn Kunert
- Randy Breaman
- Katie Fredericks--returning member
- Brady and Emily Streit
- Kaila Leggat
- Anna Baldwin

## CONGRATULATIONS ST. MARY-HOLY CROSS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

The committee is pleased to announce that **all** scholarship applicants were awarded money for continuing education. All of these recipients showed a strong commitment to our parish community by the time they donated for various events.

We want to wish all of our Saint Mary-Holy Cross Seniors the best of luck in their new endeavors. Scholarship applicants were: **Luke Huntrods, Blake Huntrods, Jace Huntrods, Kelcie Shedd, Veronica Loraditch, and Estella Smith.**

## CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

### **Class of 2023 - Be the change that you want to see in the world.**



#### **Liza Schaffer**

Parents: Mark and Jessica Schaffer

High School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Simpson College to study psychology and play basketball and run track.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you'll receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24"



#### **Estella Smith**

Parents: Shaymus and Kirsten Smith

High School: Bondurant-Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Animal Science, with hopes of pursuing a career as a Livestock Feed Nutritionist

Favorite Bible Verse: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32"



**Bridget Johnson**

Parents: Craig and Katie Johnson

High School: Bondurant-Farrar High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University to study Agricultural Education

Favorite Verse: "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."



**Maci Julia Sullivan**

Parents: Curt and Jill Sullivan

High School: Bondurant-Farrar High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Double major at Iowa State pursuing degrees in Business Marketing and Event Management

Favorite Bible Verse: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13



**Anastasia Ariel Leu**

Parents: Staci and Kameron Shugar, Alex Leu

High School: Ballard

Post-Graduation Plans: Anna is currently working as an EMT at the Pocahontas Community Hospital. She plans to start the Paramedic program in the fall and eventually return to Ames to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Event Management at Iowa State University upon completion of her Paramedic certification.

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Participating in Confirmation activities and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



**Grant Garvin Welch**

Parents: Eric and Leah Welch

High School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attending DMACC for Diesel Technology



**Matthew Olson**

Parents: Sheri Olson and Darren Olson

High School: Bondurant Farrar

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend power lineman school in Sheldon, Iowa

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Attending NCCY was a new start for everything.



**Regan Marie Schmieding**

Parents: Mark and Dana Schmieding

High School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Regan plans to attend DMACC in the fall

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Regan's fondest memories are helping others in the community on service days, and Wednesday night RE classes making friends and creating bonds with youth outside of school.



**Max Turczynski**

Parents: Scott Turczynski, Elkhart and Anita Turczynski, Ankeny

High School: North Polk

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State for Creative and Technical Design in Fashion Merchandising.



**Jaxson Fried**

Parents: Jerrett and Tania Fried

High School: Bondurant Farrar Community School District

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, IA - Majoring in Business and playing basketball

Favorite Memories from St. Mary-Holy Cross: In elementary RE - trunk or treat, the Living Rosary, and doing all of the fun stations every year when we celebrated Jesus' birthday.



**Luke Huntrods**

Parents: Joel and Tara Huntrods

High School: Collins-Maxwell High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and major in Mechanical Engineering

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Church group prays the rosary in a big circle with candles



**Blake Huntrods**

Parents: Joel and Tara Huntrods

High School: Collins-Maxwell High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and major in Industrial Engineering

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: The overnight retreat.



**Jace Huntrods**

Parents: Joel and Tara Huntrods

High School: Collins-Maxwell High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and major in Agricultural Engineering

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: NCYC Adoration



**Kelcie Shedd**

Parents: Celia Shedd and Tracy Shedd

High School: Baxter Community School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and study Kinesiology on the Pre-Med track.

Favorite Memories from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Donut Sundays at Holy Cross and Memorial Day celebrations.



**Emma Bruce**

Parents: Mark and Angela Bruce

High School: Bondurant Farrar High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend DMACC and Iowa State University and pursue a Secondary Education degree

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: Going to wine and cheese after 5:00 mass with my family and grandparents.



**Mary Elizabeth Staudt**

Parents: Phillip and Sonya Staudt

High School: Collins-Maxwell High School

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Iowa State University and major in Agribusiness or Agronomy

Favorite Bible Verse: John 13:7



**Veronica Loraditch**

Parents: Timothy and Geneveve Loraditch

High School: Veronica has been Homeschooled her whole life.

Post-Graduation Plans: Veronica plans to attend University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota and major in Psychology, Philosophy and Catholic Studies

Favorite Memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross: My favorite memory from St. Mary-Holy Cross is being confirmed by Fr. Andrew.



Congrats also to these graduates!

**Justin Anderson   Cameron Barnett   William Herselius   Tyler Naragon  
Andrew Princehouse   Mason Reynolds   Noah Wahlert  
Abigail Stephenson   Alayna Westphal**

## ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Shaymus and Kirsten Smith and their four children raise cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry outside of Bondurant at Pine Grove Family Farms. Shaymus was raised on a farm outside of rural Bayard, IA and Kirsten (Cory) was raised on her multi-generational farm outside of Elkhart. After starting a family of their own they knew it was important to begin raising livestock to establish a shorter and healthier food chain for their family. They then began adding to their livestock numbers as the years progressed, strongly believing all families should have easy access to locally grown food. Our goal at Pine Grove Family Farms is to connect our local community with ethically raised, high quality, regional farm products. We want you to know where your food is coming from and how it is being raised. We want to bring back the days of going to your local farmer to purchase quality food for your families.

We hope to "Bring Back Local" one sale at a time.

You can find more information about our farm at [www.pinegrovefamilyfarms.com](http://www.pinegrovefamilyfarms.com) or on our social media pages at

@pinegrovefamilyfarms.

## SACRAMENTS



Congratulations to our students who made their First Communion on April 23rd.

May they always feel the presence of God.

On April 29, 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 small group leader 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.



# NEW AND RETURNING ALTAR SERVERS-THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

**Jonah Miller, 11 years**

5th grade

Favorite food: Caesar salad

Subject: Math

Enjoys shooting my bow, golfing, football and baseball

I like to serve to be part of the Mass.

**Isaac Miller, 14 years**

8th grade

Favorite food: hamburger and fries

Subject: Math

Enjoys fishing, football, basketball, track, and soccer.

"I like to altar serve to help Father."

**Gabriel Miller, 8.5 years**

2nd Grade

Favorite food: Casey's Pizza

Subject: Animal research

Enjoys fishing, football, basketball, and baseball

"I like to altar serve because I like being up by the Altar and I feel closer to God there."



**Hailey Conover, 12 years**

6th Grade

Favorite food: Crab

Subject: Literacy, because I like to read.

Enjoys softball, basketball, volleyball, student council, crafts and cooking with her dad.

"I became an altar server because it looks like fun and I wanted to help out with mass. I love altar serving and look forward to the next time I get to serve!"

**Emma Swanson**

4th Grade at Rock Creek Elementary in Ankeny

Enjoys playing with her sisters and friends, or gymnastics.

"Both seeing my mom volunteer as lector/EM and having older cousins serve at their church gave me the desire to serve at Mass. I notice that Mass seems to go a little faster when you're helping out!"



**Callahan Coffelt**

Age: 12

Grade: 6th

Favorite Subject: ELA and PE

Favorite Food: Sicily Pasta

Favorite Thing to Do: She loves to play softball

Why she wanted to become an altar server: "I just felt like it was my duty and watched my older brother do it and thought I could do it too!"

**Drew Gilligan, 12 years**

6th grade

Fave food: Beef Brisket

Favorite subject in school: Global Studies

“I never got the chance to altar serve earlier due to Covid so I wanted to once altar serving was allowed again.”



**Justice Loraditch, 12 years**

6<sup>th</sup> grade

Fave food: Tacos (like his brother Peyton)

Enjoys reading lessons with Mrs. Manley

“I became an altar server because there were not a lot of altar servers and I felt like I could help.”

**Peyton Loraditch, 17 years**

11th grade

Fave food: Tacos

Subject: Physics

“I became an altar server because my parents, Tim and Geneveve, encouraged me to serve.”



**Jack Selby**

Age: 17

School: Ballard High School

Grade: Going into 11th grade

Favorite subject in school: Resources, it's nice to catch up on things

Favorite food: spaghetti

Why I decided to become an altar server: I wanted to help the Church

What I want to be when I grow up: Voice actor

Something fun: I like to do impersonations

**Tommy Selby**

Age: 14

School: Ballard High School

Grade: Going into 9th grade

Favorite subject in school: Art

Favorite food: Culver's

Why I decided to become an altar server: I wanted to help the Church

What I want to be when I grow up: Service dog trainer

Something fun: I like playing Roblox



*A little known fact about Jack and Tommy:*

*Jack and Tommy were both micro-preemies. Their combined birth weight was just over three pounds.*

