

FINALLY, THEIR DAY ARRIVED!

RCIA Members Become One with the Church

It was an historic day in the church year, as well as in the lives of 10 RCIA members at St. Mary's Church. On Sunday, June 28, the Vigil of the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, St. Mary's welcomed the following as parishioners and family:

Virginia Bassett	Savannah Doran
Vanessa Kapper	Lilly Logan
Ray Logan	Ricky Matuszewski
Aaron Metcalf	Tom Murphy
Nicki Salinas	Bill Schulz

Despite their delay in coming into full communion with the Catholic Church due to the coronavirus pandemic, these ten men and women patiently awaited the graces of the Sacraments and promises that Christ made for them. Each one of them invested their mind and heart into one of the greatest gifts we can ever receive on this earth - Jesus Christ. Despite the delay, there was beauty: beauty that every single one of them has grown more deeply in prayer, in their trust in God, in their understanding of

something so much greater than anything of this earth. In a sense, their commitment to becoming Catholic has, God-willing, better prepared them to face the current coronavirus crisis and all trials ahead.

During his homily, Father Adam encouraged all new members and their friends and family to "Look into the eyes of Christ." Never take our eyes off Christ. Remember the witness of our first pope, St. Peter. Jesus called him out of the boat during a storm, and Peter walked toward Jesus, on the water. When Peter realized that he was walking on water and how strong the storm was, when he became distracted and fear entered, that is when Peter started to fall. Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter before he fell into the water. We learn from this Sacred Scripture that when Peter kept his eyes on Christ, he was able to walk safely and steadily. We are reminded that it is when we forget or choose not to look into the eyes of Christ that a storm feels stronger and trials feel heavier.

May our new St. Mary's members find the peace of looking into the eyes of Christ!



Voice of St. Mary's *Parish Monthly*

Newsletter

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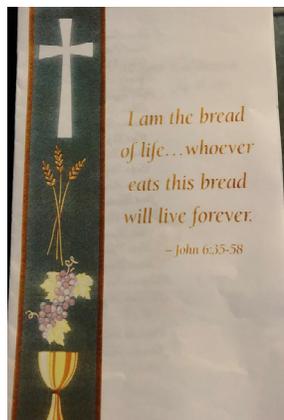
Danielle Gill

IGNITE members

Parish Voices

Twenty-two Receive the Body of Christ for the First Time

First Communion Sunday was originally scheduled for April 26. However, Covid took care of that. Seventy-five days later, on July 10, twenty-two eager young Communicants were able to achieve their goal of receiving Our Lord for the first time in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist at a special Mass along with their immediate families. (Due to pandemic restrictions, only immediate families were allowed to attend the event.)



During the quarantine time, both the St. Mary's and the Faith Formation students were led by their teachers and their parents in continuing their preparation for this special day, including creating and finalizing their own banner for the occasion.

Father Adam and Father David concelebrated the Mass, while Deacon Nicolas handled the readings. Scapulars were blessed in the pew and presented to the communicant by their parents. Families came up as a group with the First Holy Communicant to receive the Sacrament together.



A huge token of appreciation to the following people who, besides the parents, had a great deal to do with preparing these students - Father Adam, St. Mary's Principal Karen Jones, St. Mary's 2nd grade teacher Carol Duffy, Faith Formation teachers Karen Peissig, Sarah Bowling, Mary Monical, and Vicki Trainor.

The 2020 First Communion class includes: Grace Becker, Daxell Collins, Bailey Cox, Alejandro Daily, Flynn Eggleston, Adrian Gill, Christopher Gray, Reid Gray, Charlee Hart, Evelyn Hinz, Ryann Krenz, Jacob Lauritsen, Christopher Legner, Noah Logan, Amelia Maier, Lucas Maier, Madelynn Mikeworth, McKinlee Morgan, Zain Pierce, Samantha Salinas, Johnathan Sanken, Barrett Tissiere. *Due to Covid restrictions, no group picture was taken this year.*

Father Adam Invested as Pastor of St. Mary's

In a very emotional ceremony on July 12 during the 9:30 Mass, Father Adam was installed as PASTOR of St. Mary's Parish. The investiture was performed by our Vicar, Father David. One year ago, Father Adam was appointed ADMINISTRATOR of St. Mary's, and this new title of PASTOR ensures that Father Adam will be with us for the next few years. Father



Adam began his priesthood as a Parochial Vicar here at St. Mary's after his ordination in May of 2015 under Father David.

Father Adam first recited the Nicene Creed as a Profession of Faith and then pronounced an Oath

of Allegiance and Fidelity to both the diocese and the people of St. Mary's as he took pastoral control. The two priests then signed the forms connected with both recitations.

The bond between these two priests was extremely evident as both Father David and Father Adam became emotional talking about their relationship during the past five years. Father Adam called Father David his "spiritual Father" during the past five years. Father David felt the honor of being the one to install his younger protégé as the new pastor, stopping to regain his composure as he talked about Father Adam's importance to St. Mary's.

Father Adam spent a few minutes talking about his vision for our parish. He really dislikes complacency in anything, but especially in spiritual growth. He vowed to find as many different ways possible to lead his parishioners to Christ and overcome that complacency. He promised to push people, knowing that they may push back, but he promised to give everything he had to bring people to Jesus. The congregation gave Father Adam a resounding ovation to show their appreciation. Congratulations Father Adam!



Deacon Nicolas' Road to the Seminary Began Early

Deacon Nicolas Wilson knew at a very early age that he might be called to the priesthood. The Peoria native recalled, "Serving at St. Mary's in



Kickapoo, I remember having an extreme sense of reverence in all areas, from lighting candles to bringing the book to the priest. I just loved serving Mass." He got to serve at the cathedral for his Confirmation, leaving an even deeper impression on him. Once in high school at Peoria Notre Dame, he was asked to serve regularly at Masses, and he added Confession and Adoration to his routine.

From experiences he gained working at a local nursing home, he became intrigued with events in people's lives –

who celebrates marriages, who baptizes, who cares for people, or their spiritual health and well-being.

"I went on Emmaus Days my junior year, and after a good time in adoration and prayer, I talked to Monsignor Brown (the Vocation Director at the time) and I told him, 'I think this where the Lord is leading me.' And the process was begun."

After high school, he went right to the seminary in Minnesota and hasn't looked back.

The 25-year old Transitional Deacon possesses several strong traits as he enters his final year before ordination to the priesthood next May. He has a great sense of humor, is very knowledgeable in the area of videography and media, and he has an excellent singing voice which will endear him to many parishioners. "I like to take time to know people, but I am pretty loyal; I like home and family....I'm looking forward to

taking the time to learn to know the people and be attentive to their needs."

Monsignor Mack gave him a bit of insight about our parish, telling him that "they are good people there." He's noticed the focus on service, seeing several encouraging signs everywhere...the variety of folks attending daily Mass. "St. Mary's is a good, solid, faithful place, that smaller community that really sticks together and is focused on family."

Deacon Nicolas will be with us until July 26 before he returns to Mount St. Mary's in Maryland for his final year of study. "I'm only 25, and I have a lot of learning to do about the practical, pastoral things, all the financial things, and life situations. I'm hoping that I can learn from a number of pastors along the way."

9:30 AM MASS AT ST. MARY'S
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020

**Bishop-elect
Louis Tylka**

Bishop-elect Tylka will be a
Celebrant at Mass.
Please stay tuned for more details.

Around St. Mary's Parish

- The Diocese of Peoria recently approved the selection of Paula Corrigan for the position of Trustee for St. Mary's parish, effective July 1. Paula, wife of Roger and mother of Rachel and Daniel, replaces Ron Schulz, who resigned his position earlier this year, and she joins Chuck Hanley as the Trustees for the parish. Paula has been an active parishioner for several years and is a member of several committees at St. Mary's, including the Finance Council and Building Committee, to name a few. The Trustees serve as special advisors to our pastor, Father Adam.



- CONFESSIONS:** Every Saturday from 2-3:30pm in church in the adoration chapel with a screen, until we are allowed to use the confessionals. Please use the Howard Street door.
- DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION WILL CONTINUE** for those who cannot, or choose not to attend public Mass. Priests will be available each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:00am (please note the shorter time) to distribute Holy Communion in the school parking lot until the Bishop resumes the obligation to attend public Mass.
- WOMEN'S GUILD RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER** is scheduled for Thursday, July 23 from 4-7pm and Friday, July 24 from 8am to 4pm. Prices will be 25 cents per item unless otherwise marked. From 1-3pm it will be \$1 a bag, from 3-4pm everything will be free. Donated items in good condition are needed for the sale such as books, jewelry, linens, toys, household items, decorations and miscellaneous items. This year there will be a purse table. **NO CLOTHES!** Items can be dropped off at the parish hall on Tues, July 21 and Thurs, July 23 from 10am to 2pm and on Wed, July 22 from 3-7pm. Volunteers are needed. To help, or if you have questions, please call Margaret Legner at 815-674-9705.



- HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE PROJECT:** Baby bottles are still available in the vestibule at church. Starting Father's Day thru August 16, drop in your spare change, bills, or a check. Return the bottle to church on Sunday, August 16 and know that the spare change collected will be used to help babies and mothers across the entire area. Help us inspire HOPE!

Bereavement Group Suspends Operations for 2020

The Bereavement Support Group that St. Mary's Parish usually offers in the fall will be canceled this year after much prayer and thought and with Father Adam's permission.

Medical people are concerned about a spike in Covid-19 cases this fall. If this happens, the group would have to be canceled after it had been started and people would be left feeling empty and not able to come to terms with their feelings, the reasons they decided to take part in the support group in the first place. Also, to finish the support group through Zoom or Google meetings would not be personal or intimate enough. Participants would not feel the love and support from the group and would be left sheltering in place by themselves with no support.



Another reason to cancel would be the challenge of social distancing at meetings. With a group of 8-10 participants in the parish hall, the social distancing could be achieved; but it would take away the intimacy. Some of the meetings are very emotional and this would be difficult to handle with people seated at a distance from each other.

Even though the support group has suspended operations for this year, it will be on the parish calendar for 2021.

The Bereavement Ministry is still very active ministering to parish families who have lost loved ones. The All Souls Mass, held on November 2, will still be offered. This Mass remembers parishioners and relatives of parish members who have died in the past year by reading their names and lighting candles in their memory during the Mass.

AS WE GATHER AT ST. MARY'S PLEASE OBSERVE OUR GUIDELINES



Wear Masks

Face-coverings are to be worn by the faithful in & around the church.



Stay 6 feet Apart

Physical distancing is practiced in the church & on the church property.



Holy Eucharist

Holy Communion will be offered only under the form of the Precious Body of Christ.



Sign of Peace

The sign of peace will be omitted from Mass.



Collection

Baskets will be located at the back of church and collected as you leave Mass.



Single Entry/Exit

Please use the marked entrances & exits only.



Holy Water

Fountains will be empty, but you are encouraged to make the Sign of the Cross.



No Hymnals

Missalettes are not available in the pews at this time.

LITTLE DISCIPLES PRESCHOOL

2020-2021 WISH LIST

We are busy preparing for our first class at Little Disciples Preschool. As with any new program, we have a wish list of supplies that will help enhance the learning experience.

If you are able to help, donations can be dropped off at the school office between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays. If this time is not convenient, please contact Principal Karen Jones at jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org to make other arrangements.

All donations should be in new, unused condition. A few exceptions can be made in the case of large items; please contact Mrs. Jones for further information on what we are able to accept.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Clipboards	Sheets and blankets for cots
Binders	Cots
Kindergarten pencils	File cabinet (4 drawer)
Finger paint (washable)	Dramatic play things such as dress up clothes
Finger paint paper	Dollhouse
Water colors (washable)	People (dollhouse size)
Gallon jugs of washable paint (Red, Yellow, Blue, White, Black)	Farm animals set
Paint smocks	Zoo animals set
Drawing easel paper	Aquatic animals set
Glue bottles (individual and gallon)	Dinosaurs set
Glue sticks	Woodland creatures set
Construction paper (long and short)	Household pets set
Inside small chalk (white and color)	Pom pom balls
Sidewalk chalk	Pipe cleaners
Scissors	Tissue paper
Pencil boxes	Felt
Unifix cubes	Scrapbook paper
Large building blocks (plastic, not wood)	Beads
Baby dolls	Buttons
Trucks, cars, tractors (inside)	Craft sticks
Teacher easel	Water toys for sensory play
Tablets	Kitchen gadgets—funnels, cups, bowls, spoons, spoons, whisks, tongs, turkey baster, ice cream scoops, measuring cups/spoons, ladles, etc.
Smartboard	Outside toys—trikes, wagons, trucks, tractors, cars, (ride-on or ones that can be pushed)
CD/tape player	Outside climber of some sort
Sensory and science materials	
Listening station (use with headphones)	
Headphones	
Preschool size chairs	
Adult size chairs (2)	Monetary donations
	SCRIP cards to Walmart and Hobby Lobby



From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson



"A sower went out to sow his seed." But this story really isn't about this sloppy, careless farmer who doesn't seem to care where his seed lands. Not at all. Because, really, the "seed" isn't seed at all. It's people. It's you; it's me; it's all of us.

And we all fall into one of the four "landing places." And so, we ask, where have I landed?

- A. We're "on the path." We hear the Word, but we don't take time to study it or understand it properly or thoroughly, allowing the "Evil One," or society, overcome us with their ideas of pleasure.
- B. We're on the "rocky ground." We hear the Word; we like the Word; we think it's a good thing; it makes us feel good. But then, so does every temptation out there – boating, shopping, TV, video games, Fortnite, ball games, travel ball, road trips, drugs, alcohol – the list goes on and on. And when push comes to shove, we get shoved. We have no roots.
- C. We're "in the thorns." But we're not the rose amongst the thorns; we ARE the thorns. We choke the life out of ourselves, getting blinded by the promises of others or misplaced ideas of our own. An easy pay day for FREE! And we believe that. We choke ourselves.
- D. We're in the "good soil." We nurture; we get fertilized; we received nutrients, and we buy in to growth. We hear the Word and get it. God comes first. We bear the right kind of fruit.

So, where did we land? And how long will we stay there? Will the winds of change blow us to a new landing place? Or will we just be complacent and stay where we are? (See Father Adam-page 2). Do we want to be a fruit bearer?

Since we opened our doors for Masses on Father's Day, our numbers have been steadily growing in attendance for each weekend Mass:

Week #1 – 92 in attendance
Week #2 – 114
Week #3 – 128
Week #4 – 60 on Saturday; 130 on Sunday – close to 200 overall!
That's awesome!

Daily Masses on Wednesday & Friday have been consistent between 35-50 people. Our RCIA Mass and First Communion Mass were also well attended. And the number of Drive Through Communion has remained steady.

But we can do even better. Our goal should be to have NO need for Drive Through because everybody is coming back to Mass. But Covid won't let us do that yet. With the numbers being what they are, it's understandable that people don't want to take that chance. And that approach is perfectly fine. Don't take risk!

We want ALL three of our Masses back. And we will get them back if we continue to populate the two Masses we have. That's our goal.

RCIA families, welcome! First Communion families, congratulations! And families of St. Mary's students, we hope you worship together every weekend.

Let's pray we don't land in the dirt, or the rocks, or the thorns. Let's pray we find the "good earth." Let God lead us to His house where we can all produce 30, 60 or 100 fold.



HOW TO MOVE A PIANO FROM DOWNSTAIRS TO UPSTAIRS

