

“Spreading the Good News!”

Corpus Christi Procession Brings Jesus to Pontiac

Evangelization and Youth Ministry Director Megan Lauritsen found herself towards the very back of the long procession ahead of her on Corpus Christi Sunday last month. She was taking it all in – the reverence, the size of the crowd, the singing, and the genuine joy radiated by all who were participating – and she smiled.

A few days before the procession took place, Father Adam hoped that fifty people would attend. “That would be a good start,” he commented, “and we can build on that for next year. I’d be happy with 50.” He was wrong.



On the first day of a National Eucharistic Revival (lasting three years culminating with a convention in Indianapolis in 2024), Pontiac St. Mary’s set a high standard for the Diocese of Peoria with a procession of nearly 250 people who paraded around the downtown square, sharing our faith with whoever happened to notice, even if it was just each other.

Four devotional altars were set up in front of business establishments and in the Block 59 parking lot. Singing eucharistic hymns along the way as the crowd meandered on their journey, reflections were read at each of the stops; adoration took place, and then the crowd headed to the next one for a repeat performance until the procession ended in the church with Benediction.

People knelt on the streets. Others stood with heads bowed. Still others closed their eyes, looking skyward. Families walked together. Couples held hands. Golf carts hauled those who needed a ride. The Jolly Trolley carried others as well. Parents pushed their young in strollers. Bottles of water were shared. Prayers echoed around the square. Incense floated skyward.

People noticed. Cars stopped to see what was going on. Tourists did a double-take. “Who are these people?” The procession sometimes stretched the length of an entire block.

Four men carried a recently purchased canopy over Father Adam and the Monstrance hosting the Blessed Sacrament from stop to stop on a bright, sunny, yet a bit warm morning. Mick Lauritsen, Craig Cramer, Jeff Gray, and Chris Frauli did an amazing job in that capacity. And so did the numerous altar servers, led by Victor Johns III and seminarian Ryan Mann, as well as the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and Acolyte Ray White.

Following the Benediction, the energy continued to flow throughout the church. Folks just didn’t want to leave. A

TV podcast was on hand to interview Father and several others to share reactions to the day.

Megan explained that it was “a beautiful witness of tangible faith...(to) have such a public witness to your faith and say, ‘Yes! This is what I believe’...is so incredible!” Spreading the Good News...that’s what it’s all about.



Voice of St. Mary’s Parish Monthly Newsletter

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Corpus Christi Procession-Spreading Good News



Photos courtesy of
Chuck Hanley & Mick Peterson



PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOL & CHURCH FAMILIES THIS YEAR

For 2022, we ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday. A list will be published each month in both the bulletin & in our newsletter. Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year. Thank you.

Mon. July 18	Steve & Joan Duffy's Family
	Lori Duffy's Family
Tues. July 19	Beth Dunham's Family
	Joseph & Mary Dunham's Family
Wed. July 20	Sandra Dunham's Family
	Kathy Dunham's Family
Thurs. July 21	Andy & Shirley Eckel's Family
	Virginia Elits' Family
Fri. July 22	Rebecca Dunham's Family
	Gary & Marcia Eckel's Family
Mon. July 25	Shari Dunham's Family
	Bob & Kelly Eckhoff's Family
Tues. July 26	Tim & Kathy Dunham's Family
	Andy & Amy Eppel's Family
Wed. July 27	Gary & Sheila Eggenberger's Family
	Mark & Penny Eppel's Family
Thurs. July 28	Zac & Hannah Dunham's Family
	Henry Eggenberger's Family
Fri. July 29	Lee Ann Erickson's Family
	Mike & Karla Finnegan's Family
Mon. Aug. 1	Steve & Pamela Faber's Family
	Sophia Fecht's Family
Tues. Aug. 2	Jerry & Linda Farris' Family
	Brandon Fenton's Family
Wed. Aug. 3	Danny Fiorini's Family

Thurs. Aug. 4	Jordan & Amber Farris' Family
	Karen Fegatter's Family
Fri. Aug. 5	Robert & Theresa Flatt's Family
	Carol Faust's Family
Mon. Aug. 8	Caroline Finch's Family
	Ann Finnegan's Family
Tues. Aug. 9	Bill Flott's Family
	Charles & Barbara Fogarty's Family
Wed. Aug. 10	Dan Fogarty's Family
	Tim & Linda Fornero's Family
Thurs. Aug. 11	Gary Fogarty's Family
	Linda Folks' Family
Fri. Aug. 12	Jason & Adeana Fox's Family
	Patricia Fogarty's Family
Mon. Aug. 15	Brad & Ashley Follmer's Family
	Mary Fox's Family
Tues. Aug. 16	Connie Fogarty's Family
	Mike & Mary Follmer's Family
Wed. Aug. 17	Robert & Nancy Fox's Family
	Tim & Patsy Fogarty's Family
Thurs. Aug. 18	Charlotte Ford's Family
	Cathy Fraher's Family
Fri. Aug. 19	Shannon Folk's Family
	Jim Fornero's Family
	Daniel & Barbara Fraher's Family

Spreading the Good News Around St. Mary's Parish

June Was an Active Month...

Fanning the Flame Retreat

The "Fanning the Flame WATCH retreat on June 11 was "a powerful experience for the 30 participants in attendance. The personal testimonies given by the speakers were extremely emotional, heart-wrenching at times, yet consistently spiritual throughout.

Totus Tuus Has Largest Group Ever



Well over 50 youngsters participated in the week-long Totus Tuus sessions this year. Led by our four college students, the kids did crafts, learned about Jesus, attended daily Mass, and played lots of games. Sessions ran Monday-Friday for the elementary students and Sunday-Thursday evenings for the older kids. Once again, another successful Totus Tuus!! Huge thank for Taryn Tissiere and the many volunteers, along with our college monitors, for providing our youth with this golden opportunity!

Women's Guild Rummage Sale Reaps Huge Benefits

The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who attended, donated, or purchased items at the 2022 Rummage Sale. Over \$1450 was raised from the event to be used for Guild projects this year. So many helped set up, clean up, and distribute leftover materials to local organizations. It's so rewarding to see that items some people don't need become items other people need or want!



Now, it's July's Turn...



4H Kitchen Provides Another Chance to Serve

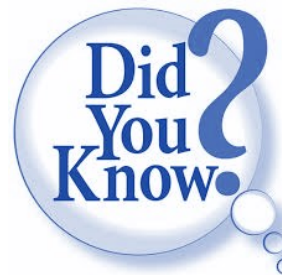
Timeslots still remain for the 4H Fair Kitchen detail from July 20-23. Check the parish website (www.stmaryspontiac.org) or

call 815-848-3066 or 815-848-6767 to find out when and where you can chip in to help out. Bakers, grillers, servers, cleaners (great for young kids), and cahiers all have openings through the week. The monies raised from this annual event go RIGHT back into the parish. Most recently (and currently), the new Security system for both the parish and school that is currently being installed was made possible largely from the donations made from the 4H kitchen. Time, talent, treasure—so many ways to serve God!

Bits & Tidbits

***To clarify some misunderstandings about the kitchen in the Parish Hall—The refrigerator closest to the dining area only should contain items that need to be cold. All other appliances are for special purposes. If an extra refrigerator is needed, please contact the parish office.

*** Would you believe that it has been 10 years since we have had a Parish directory? Plans are underway to launch a new schedule this fall for updated parish family photos. An added thought has been to include this directory on our parish website, so we shall see. In the meantime, practice smiling.



...the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd story?

CGS is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the



The United States Association of
The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Atrium. Its primary goal is "To involve adults and children in a religious experience in which the religious values of the child are predominant, keeping in mind that the contemplative nature of the child indicates to the adult a certain way of drawing near to God."

The CGS approach is extremely unique, yet rewarding. "We believe that God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, particularly before the age of six; that growth of this relationship should be assisted by the adult, but is directed by the Spirit of God; that children need their own place to foster the growth of that relationship; and that the child's spiritual growth is best served through tangible but indirect means. Our mission is to support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children."

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is an integral, critical part of the spiritual development of our St. Mary's students. The students LOVE the program, and the adults working alongside LOVE what they are doing. To see how you can help, go to page 5.

From the Pastor's and Principal's Desk...

(Editor's Note: Father Adam and Principal Karen Jones co-wrote this article. However, the "I" used refers to Father Adam..)

Making Disciples for the Mission Updates and Exciting News at St. Mary's



Happy July everyone, and what an exciting summer it has been! Lots of action going on, and we have much to be thankful for as well as a lot of new people and things going on around the campus.

Ryan Mann, our summer seminarian, has been here this summer, and he has been involved in a lot of action since his arrival, from helping with Corpus Christi Processions, attending parish meetings, learning parish life at St. Mary's, enjoying dinners with parish families, and helping on several jobs around campus.

We welcome the following new people to our staff and team here at St. Mary's:

- *Miss Sarah Schopp* will be our Kindergarten teacher beginning in January. While she finishes her education at ISU, *Mrs. McCorvie* has graciously said yes to coming back for the 1st Semester of school.
- *Mrs. Jamie Woolford* will be our Jr. High Faith Formation teacher starting this fall replacing *Mrs. Kelly Krenz* who will now be focusing her efforts entirely on directing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to a new level.
- *Mrs. Donna Gray* will be our new School Business Manager. Donna is a retired public school superintendent, who will bring a wealth of knowledge to us.
- *Mr. Kel Krenz* will be taking on the role in the parish of Director of Leadership and Discipleship. More to come on the good work that he will be doing in the future.

In addition to our new school staff, we recently welcomed three people into our church family. *Cory and Samantha Farris* had their second baby as we were bringing the other RCIA candidates into the Church at Easter. They just joined us along with their little baby boy.

Along with those three, we also welcome *Spring (Rice) Morgan* into our Catholic faith right before getting married to her now husband, *Craig Morgan*. She received the Sacrament of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation just a short couple of days before receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Pretty cool stuff!



Baptisms are coming in at very exciting rates which is always a sign of growth and excitement.

Fr. David and I are going to be a part of the marriage of a past seminarian, *Ethan Lacey*, who was with us for several months during the peak of Covid. He is marrying a great young lady from Minnesota. Fr. David, Ryan (our seminarian – who is great friends with Ethan) and I will be making the long road trip up for the big day!

Congratulations to our many students who were in the Vermillion Players showing of *Frozen, Jr.* We have many talented young children, and our very own music teacher, *Mrs. Yedinak*, helped direct the show. *Mrs. Erickson* also was an accompanist, and so many parents were often involved.

Remember the 4-H Fair is just around the corner, and there will be some great times at the 4-H park. We also need plenty of volunteers and help to run the kitchen at the park this year. Our brand new security system is being installed as we speak, and it is going to be a great upgrade due to the efforts of so many at the 4-H Fair in the past. Thank you to *Mr. Jason DeYoung* and *Mr. Chris Clement*, *Mr. Corrigan*, *Mr. Farney*, and a host of other folks who have helped make this happen.



Our Golf Outing is also coming up at the end of the month and is a very fun event that helps build community and bring in some additional resources to help our school and parish.

An exciting job is happening in the convent with the expansion of the atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as well. *Mr. Kevin Murphy* has been working hard to get the space ready to go and Fr. David is doing some good plaster work to get the new space ready for *Mrs. Krenz* in the fall. *Mrs. Krenz* is always looking for teachers, volunteers and helpers in this important work to help form our little people in faith.

**Making
Disciples
for the
Mission**

As you can see, there are a lot of new faces and a lot of exciting events and things happening around St. Mary's right now. Those are just a few of the great things that are happening, and we look forward to a whole lot more in the future. Enjoy these very enjoyable summer days, keep Spreading the Good News, and God bless you all!



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd LI and LII ATRIUM NEEDS (and wishes!)

Your donation of...

\$10 will help us purchase items like:



reams of paper in liturgical colors
Tracing paper and prayer card paper
Kingdom of God Parable supplies like yeast, flour
Art supplies for prayer cards Clip boards
smokeless/dripleless pillar and votive candles
Practical life supplies like bowls, beans, beads
Embroidery floss, hoops, sewing notions

\$25 will help us purchase items like:



Fresh flowers 3-4x a year Calligraphy pens
Poster boards for hymns Art Light frame
Italian Florentia stationery Prayer table frames
Baptism balsam Brass chalice/paten sets
Glassware for Model Altar and gesture work
San Damiano Crucifix

\$50 will help us purchase items like:



Framed sacred art
Small laminator and film
Prayer table statues and holy images
Paschal candle holder
Bulletin board/ magnet board
Holy Bible bookstand

\$100 will help us purchase items like:



mini binders for Roman Missal work
Resource books like Bible concordances
Catechist Material Making supplies
CGS Catechist annual journal (collection)
Fontanini figurines for Infancy Narratives
LII History of God's Gifts starter pack

\$500 will help us purchase:

remaining LII wood works for parables/maxims

\$750 will help us purchase:

Window treatments, light fixtures in new space

\$1500 will help us purchase:

Matching carpet for new space

\$3500 will help us purchase:

Child Craft furniture for LII sized children
(shelving, work tables, ladder back chairs, etc.)

For more information, contact krenz.kelly@stmaryspontiac.org

Thank you, Kelly Krenz

Youth Group “Fearless” After Steubenville Conference



By Megan Lauritsen



It was such an absolute blessing to recently get to take a group of rock star teens and chaperones down to Springfield, Missouri for a Steubenville Conference. These annual youth conferences happen all over America throughout the summer and are such a powerful experience of seeing the Catholic Church very much so young and alive. This year's conference, which was held from July 8-10 and was the first time in a few years that our youth group was able to attend, was built around the theme “Fearless.” This was the point that all the talks were centered around, the idea of how we can be fearless in living our faith.

From the dynamic speakers and the gift to be able to participate in the Sacraments, all of this was brought together Saturday night with the adoration of our Lord. It is so powerful to get to see an arena full of teens praising Jesus. God is so good! It is a joy to continue to see the Lord working in the lives of the youth, in

the day to day, but also in the big events like these ones! Thank you for your prayers for the youth of the Church and please know of our prayers for all the parishioners of St. Mary's!

SMS Golf Outing Has New Look for 2022

Sunday, July 31 1pm Shotgun start
9 Hole Scramble Wolf Creek Golf Course
\$30 per player

Our annual Golf Tournament is taking on a new look this year with only a 9-Hole event being played, making it an extremely family-friendly Sunday afternoon- all part of our efforts to raise money for St. Mary's School.

A special day means a special set of rules:

- Two flights of participants – A Flight – Ages 16+ B Flight 15 & under
 - All kids under 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult
 - Maximum of 2 kids per team
 - Games & fun activities will be added throughout the course to test your “skill.”
 - Mulligans & 50/50 raffle will be available
 - Food/drink is NOT included with our event, but can be purchased in the pro shop.
- To register your team, contact Taryn Tissiere (815-979-7663) or email tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org.
Deadline to register is Wednesday, July 27!



2022 SMS SCRAMBLE A family friendly event

**Sunday 2022
July 31**

**\$30/
player**

**1:00
Shotgun
Start**

Visit school.stmaryspontiac.org for complete details

A poem that is a prayer that is a poem

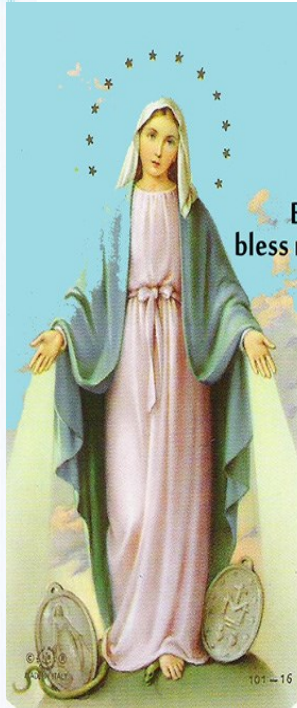
Spend a few minutes reading these poems that can be used as prayers and see if any of them has a spot in your life.

*Nothing is more practical than finding God,
That is, than falling in love in a
quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
What seizes your imagination will affect everything.*

It will decide

*what gets you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read,
who you know,
what breaks your heart, and
what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
It will decide everything.*

~Pedro Arrupe, SJ



MOTHER MARY

**Bless me and my Family today and everyday,
bless my relatives and friends in all they do day by day,
bless everyone and the whole Humanity
and Guide us all throughout eternity.**

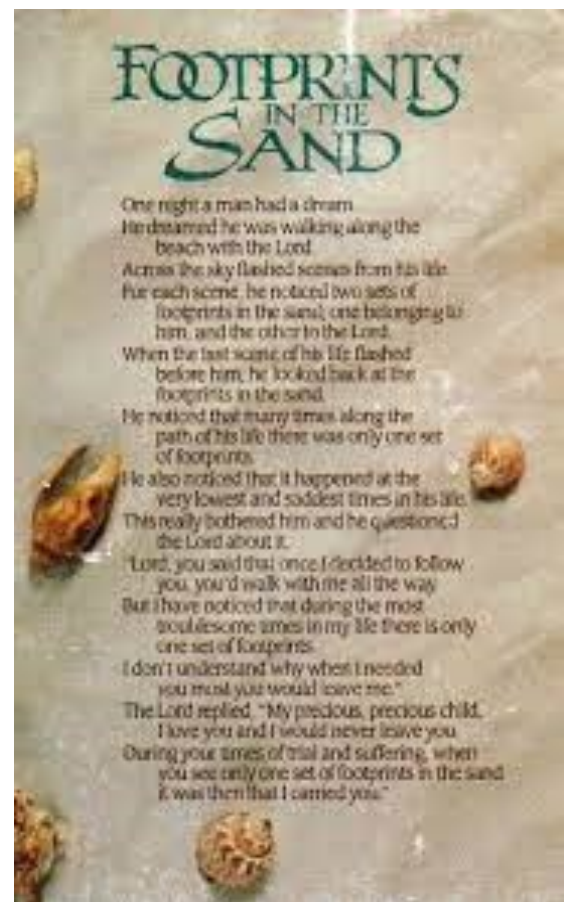
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

**Being with our Life,
all is well and light
all is peaceful and right.**

elflora

**Life is an opportunity,
benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty,
complete it.
Life is a game,
play it.
Life is a
promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
(Mother Teresa)**

<http://love-prayers.blogspot.com>



From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

"We pray for tweaking—and then we wonder why God doesn't answer our prayers. The reason is simple: God is not in the business of tweaking. He's in the business of transformation."

MATTHEW KELLY
Rediscover Jesus

Many readers probably know that I often post a "Thought for the Day" on social media platforms quite regularly. Not that I'm an expert or anything, but when I come across an idea or a picture or a quote or an image that motivates my mind, I feel the need to share it, in hopes that other minds can be stimulated as well.

I came across this one earlier this month, and I couldn't get it posted soon enough. "Tweaking," by definition means *improving (a mechanism or system) by making fine adjustments to it*. We men are really good at this mode of operation. My dad loved to "tinker" or "experiment" out in the garage, always looking for an easier way to get things done. He passed that on to me. Ladies "tweak" as well. Mom oftentimes changed recipes in the kitchen to suit her needs and desires. There ALWAYS has to be an easier way, and in our every day lives, it's not necessarily a bad thing. But NOT in prayer!

I wish I had a dollar for every time I prayed to God for Him to fix things that would satisfy my wants. My wants, not my needs. My wants. What I want. That's what is most important. Not what's good for others or the situation, but what helps me, Mick Peterson, achieve my goal. *Fix it God! I know you can! Make ME happy!*

Well, Sherlock, Prayer doesn't work that way. As a child, I learned *THY will be done!* Not mine! His! But my stubbornness keeps preventing me

from seeing that light. God does not TWEAK...He TRANSFORMS. And that's a pretty big deal.

Transformation involves a *thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance*. As Father Adam has been stressing these last few months, What we form in our minds affects what goes on in our hearts, and what we feel in our hearts affects our performance or actions. God simply wants us to follow His lead, follow His way. Not by tweaking things along the way to make them easier, but by living the life we were meant to...and NEED to in order that we receive our heavenly reward.

It's not easy! We humans constantly look for that tweak to fit our schedules or agendas. I believe the hardest part of this principle is to accept the fact that *It's not about ME!* We love to create our own rules, our own exceptions....*I went to a Wedding Mass on Saturday; I don't need to go on Sunday....We had fish last night; we don't need to go without meat on this Lenten Friday...Mass should only be 45 minutes long; we have a lot to do today...I don't need Confession; I just tell God I'm sorry myself.*

I've used all these. They fit my agenda, so they made sense. I tweaked the rules to satisfy my schedule. I was in charge. I was in command. And then I learned a new definition of "tweaking."

Tweaking also means *twisting or pulling something sharply*, like an ear or nose. The nuns used to do that to us back in grade school. My grandma did it when I got sassy. And it's an idea that surely has crossed God's mind as I pray. A Holy Tweak! And I'd deserve it.

In order to become in the image and likeness of God, we can't look for shortcuts; we can't expect our agendas will be satisfied in prayer; we can't hope that God is going to tweak matters that we pray about. He's looking for that dramatic change in our approach to life, the kind that will lead us to heaven. Let's keep God in the "business" He's known for.

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