

OCTOBER 2020  
VOL XX NO. 2

# Expanded Catechesis Atrium Blessed

In February 2018 construction began to create a space for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program in the old convent. As we begin our third year, we have expanded to a larger space upstairs in the convent, and we are able to welcome preschool, kindergarten, first, and second graders to the Atrium each week. Our inaugural class took part in a procession and blessing of our new space (earlier this month.) We are so blessed to be able to offer this program, which fosters each child's relationship with God through an encounter with Jesus.



## Family Affair at St. Mary's School in 2020

### Voice of St. Mary's

Parish Monthly  
Newsletter

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St. Mary's School 8th

Grade Students

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Parish Voices

It was recently stated that St. Mary's School feels like being with family instead of just a place to work. Like many families, each member pitches in and helps wherever help is needed. For us at St. Mary's, this begins each school day morning. To give you a glance inside our family, these are the many people that make St. Mary's such a special place:

\* Mrs. Sandy Erickson, Mrs. Heidi Gregory, Mrs. Katy Sartoris, Mrs. Ellen Yedinak, and Mrs. Karen Jones greet and take temperatures of all students each morning before school.

\* Mrs. Danielle MacZura and Mrs. Taryn Tissiere share the position of Preschool Paraprofessional. They split the week up by working either 2 or 3 days a week. Mrs. Tissiere is also able to be a substitute teacher for us when needed.

\* Mrs. Danielle Gill, Mr. Jon Kinate, and Mrs. Alison Tarr can be found in preschool, the school office, at school Mass, or wherever a need arises!

\* Mrs. Karen Jones and Mr. Adam Lawrence do lunch duty each day. They assist in opening cartons of milk or opening containers for our students! Father Adam was recently on ketchup duty!

\* All of our teachers can be found monitoring recess each day. Additionally, SMS parent Mr. Mike Gray has accepted the position of lunch recess monitor.

\* Our students! They have risen up this year and adapted to all the changes that have been put in place.

\* Last but certainly not least, our parents and grandparents, who are being so diligent in ensuring their child is healthy when dropping them off at school.

With the assistance of these people, the dedication of our teaching staff, and the resilience of our students, we are beyond blessed to continue to be open, in-person, five days a week. What a joy that we can all work together to promote the love of Jesus and be together as a family.

~ Mrs. Karen Jones



# A Message from a Bump

Alison Tarr



You never know when or how God wants to send you a message.

Earlier this month, I sat with the Kindergarten class at the Thursday morning school Mass. All the children were very well spaced out and prayerfully knelt waiting for Mass to begin. I joined a pew and sat between two children. As I

few others in the church who witnessed that had to contain a laugh too!)

I share this story hopefully for its humor, but also because God wanted to send me a message that day: We are meant for relationship...close relationship. Isn't it true? We desire to sit a little closer to those we feel safe with. We lean in when we're having a good talk with a loved one. We miss people we love. And when we think of relationship, we often just think of our

mentioned, the children did a great job of staying spaced from one another. But as Mass began, the little girl next to me inched closer and closer as the first reading was read, and then the Responsorial Psalm, and by the time the Gospel was done and Father was beginning his homily, this gentle child and I were nearly shoulder to shoulder. She realized it, and she then scooted over to the edge of the pew. But then again, this time as we were kneeling during the Eucharistic prayer, I felt a subtle brush of her elbow against mine as our hands were folded, joining in prayer as we looked toward the altar.

As we left our pew to go up for Communion, I was in front and she was behind. With my mind on receiving Jesus (and maneuvering my mask **and** socially distancing **and** trying to do this all with an ounce or two of coordination), I bowed when I was next to receive. Well, that gentle child behind me was a little closer than I knew, and when I bowed, my posterior end slightly grazed her! For the first time in a long time (maybe ever!), I had to contain a laugh as I received Jesus. (And maybe a



earthly relationships - our family and friends. But God also desires a relationship with each one of us. Like any loving father, He gives love and desires to receive love back from us.

God sent me a message that Thursday morning. And that gentle child helped me to hear it (and feel it!). He asked me to come closer to Him. Do I find myself moving closer to Him? Are we shoulder to shoulder, or are we distant? Am I so close to Him as I receive Communion that we bump each other?

Set aside some time each day to seek that relationship. Give thanks. Seek His counsel. Hand things over to Him. **Don't be afraid to bump into God.**

## All Souls Mass Set for November 2 Evening



ALL SOUL'S DAY MEMORIAL MASS: As parishioners and family of parishioners pass away, St. Mary's tries to acknowledge these people in the bulletin each week. The Women's Guild is putting together the Annual Memorial Mass to be held Monday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m. As with all Masses, masks are to be worn, and social distancing in pews will be required.

The Guild has taken names from the bulletin over the past year. If you have lost a loved one since November of last year and did not see their name in the bulletin, please call the Rectory at 844 - 7683 to add their name to our Memorial list.

# News & Notes Around St. Mary's

- As the weather gets colder and inclement, Drive-through Communion on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 Mass until 11 AM will be moved to the garage, eventually, and Father is willing to continue to deliver Communion to the people in the cars so that people do not have to get out, if necessary.



## DRIVE UP HOLY COMMUNION

AFTER LIVESTREAM MASS IN ENGLISH



- The Rosary will be prayed approximately a half hour before each weekend Mass. Come early or just join in when you arrive.

- We are all invited to attend Mass on the weekend of October 31/November 1 to receive "your Saint" for the year. We will continue our annual *Saint Draw* at that weekend's Masses, a great practice for everyone. Happy All Saints Day!



## ALL SAINTS' DAY

- Eucharistic Adoration continues to evolve at St. Mary's as we continue to provide opportunities for adorers on Monday, Wednesday, and, most recently, Tuesday of each week. The day begins with Exposition at 8 AM and concludes with Benediction at 8 PM. Following the original Adoration plan set up years ago, our goal is to have a minimum of two adorers per hour during the Adoration period.



The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar so that we allow sufficient space for our adorers. We will continue this format until our Adoration Chapel, which currently serves as our Confessional for Reconciliation, becomes available again once restrictions are lifted. We will also continue to add days once we can fill up all 12 time slots per day. If you would like to join this ministry or perhaps share an hour with another, please contact Darlene Demattia (815-674-2375) or the parish office (815-844-7683).

- Even though we cannot have as large a gathering for our RCIA/Come & See sessions as we'd like, each of the bi-weekly meetings is livestreamed on the internet for viewing at home or elsewhere (yes, even on your phone!) for anyone interested in participating. Flocknote sends out a reminder before each Wednesday evening the class meets. Upcoming dates include October 21, November 4 & November 18.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



...how October became the month of the Holy Rosary?

Pope Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 decided to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto

on **October 7, 1571**. ... The pope

attributed more to the "arms" of the **Rosary** than the power of cannons and the valor of the soldiers who fought there.

...where the term "Rosary" comes from?



According to the *Dictionary of English Etymology*, from the Latin "Rosarium ... signifying properly a collection or garland of roses, was a title of many works ... consisting of compendiums of flowers as it were culled from preceding authors ... In the course of time the name was specially appropriated to a string of Paternosters and Ave Marias to be recited in a certain order in honor of the fifteen mysteries of our Lord in which the Virgin was a partaker, and from the collection of prayers the name was transferred to the string of beads used for the purpose of keeping count in the recitation."

Initially the Rosary was called "Our Lady's Psalter," referring to the 150 Psalms that monks would pray and from which the tradition of the Rosary originated. The Latin word *rosarium* became associated with the devotion over time, especially after the spreading of a particular legend.

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, "An early legend which after travelling all over Europe penetrated even to Abyssinia connected this name with a story of Our Lady, who was seen to take rosebuds from the lips of a young monk when he was reciting Hail Marys and to weave them into a garland which she placed upon her head."

Thus, the rosary became viewed spiritually and in art as a way to present a garland of roses to the Blessed Mother in a similar way that roses would be picked for a person's earthly mother.

The name has stuck ever since, and the Rosary is the most popular Catholic devotion around the world.

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE-THRU FISH FRY #2



**Friday, November 6  
5:00-7:00 pm**

**Fried Pollack or  
Baked Cod Dinner  
with Baked Potato  
& Cole Slaw**

*To schedule a pick up time, please call  
Grand Knight Bill Bertram at 815-690-7072.  
A call is greatly appreciated but not required.  
Enter the parking lot from the north on  
Chicago Street and follow the cones  
for car side service.  
Freewill donations will be accepted.*

## 2020 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



The 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal has begun in our parish and throughout the Diocese of Peoria. It is time for us to do what we can to support not only our Diocese, but the programs and ministries that benefit our parish and our Catholic community. The ADA supports the education of our future priests and deacons as well as the Office of Catholic Schools. It supports ministries that change lives for the better. We are blessed with much; let us be a blessing to others.

**This year's goal: \$79,885**

(Last year's goal was \$83,206)

You should have all received your pledge card in the mail by now. Pledge cards can be placed in the collection basket at church or mailed to the parish office. All checks should be made payable to the *Diocese of Peoria*.

### ST. MARY'S PARISH & SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

#### INCOME

Sunday Collections	\$577,189
Clergy Reimbursement from other parishes	30,128
Blue Envelope Building Maintenance	28,015
Parish Hall Rental	3,125
Gifts/Memorials/Bequests	189,174
Investment Income/Interest	-1,009
Fundraising (TPO, Annual Fund Drive, SCRIP)	140,944
Activity/Class Funds	3,629
School Collection	35,226
Tuition (paid & scholarships)	381,372
Student Fees	<u>2,059</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,389,852</b>

#### EXPENSES

Salaries	\$761,900
Taxes & Benefits	219,134
Repairs & Maintenance	134,158
Utilities	62,764
Property/Liability/WC Insurance	50,737
Service Contracts	14,333
Rectory Household Expenses	6,739
Office/Church/School Supplies	40,592
Workshops/Mileage	11,791
Textbooks & Instructional Materials	39,012
Field Trips	3,972
Computers/Audio-Visual	<u>5,938</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,351,070</b>

**2019/2020 GAIN (LOSS)**

**+\$38,782**

## Women's Guild Looks to Serve Parish

**Covid-19 restrictions have caused the Women's Guild to cancel the 2020 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.** However, the Guild plans to hold a fundraiser and a membership drive via mail this year. The ladies have several service opportunities to help St. Mary's:

1. Greeter before Mass - welcoming and ushering people as they enter the church for Mass
2. Funeral dinners - Donating your time/food in times of need for others. Serving at the meals is a huge help, but assisting with a casserole, a salad, or a dessert is equally as important to our success. And items don't have to be homemade either; purchases from a deli or bakery are also accepted.

3. Sanctuary Service - It's cleaning, mainly dusting the altar area, normally a 10-15 minute job. We rotate workers every month, so choose the time most available for you. Instructions are posted on the door of the sacristy.
4. Ecumenical Advancement - Programs at nursing homes, usually singing, reading, playing piano, & serving cookies.

The more who participate makes it easier for everyone; the fewer times you may be asked to serve. The Women's Guild is open to every female in our parish.



## Congratulations to Ray White



Newly installed lector Ray White, a deacon candidate from St. Mary in Pontiac, poses for a photo with (from left) Msgr. Timothy Nolan, Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, and Coadjutor Bishop Louis Tylka. (The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems)

## Coming Back to Normal...Slowly

Slowly but surely, Mass attendance is on the rise. Back on the weekend of August 22-23 when we expanded to three Masses, we recorded 77 at the Saturday 4 PM Mass, 80 at the 7AM Mass on Sunday, followed by 95 at 9:30 for a total of 252 attendees. Eight weeks later, on the weekend of October 10/11, 101 attended the 4 PM Mass on Saturday; another 95 came to 7 AM the next morning, and an additional 130 were at 9:30 for a record total of 326 participants!



Our Saturday Mass has averaged 86 per week with a high watermark of 101 and a low of 71. The 7AM Sunday Mass has averaged 77 attendees each week with a high of 95 and a low of 65. Our 9:30 continues to be our most popular Mass, averaging 126 people with a high of 146 and a low of 95. Thus far, we are averaging 289 each weekend.

Our church can safely seat around 140 or so people in tune with regulations right now. Our ushers have really improved on making sure social distancing takes place, while at the same time allowing families or small groups to sit together. If we max out under that figure, we would have 420 people in attendance each weekend. Even if we averaged the highest totals from each timeslot (101, 95, 146), that would still leave us at 342, way below our max.

So, we still have room for you...and you....and you, especially the families of our school children. You will be seated together with plenty of space in between. We understand that some may still feel the need to remain away for health or Covid reasons (Our drive-thru Communion numbers are also still very good). With three Masses to choose from, we believe St. Mary's will provide its parishioners with a wonderful spiritual experience in the safest environment possible.

## Beautiful Day for Rosary Rally; Another Planned



October is known as the month of the Holy Rosary because in October 1917, Our Blessed Mother appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal for the last time and again asked all people to pray the Rosary daily.

On Saturday, October 10 nineteen parishioners, along with Father Adam, gathered in front of St. Mary's church at Noon for the annual praying of the Rosary for America. The Rosary was prayed not just in Pontiac, but in public areas across America.



The banner shown here (upper left) reminds us that our human efforts can't solve America's key problems, and so we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help.

We suggest that we all take this October to renew our commitment of praying the Rosary. Not only our America needs our prayers, so does the world. Another Rosary Rally will be held on Saturday, October 31 (Halloween) at Noon on the front steps of the Church to pray for our nation as we approach Election Day.



# Catholic Thoughts from Catholic Minds for Catholics

## People of Possibility

I love people of possibility, people who dive in and make things happen. They have an energy and enthusiasm that is contagious, and people love being around them. They see possibilities everywhere they look. And everyone loves having people of possibility on their team at work and in their parish.

But there are also people of impossibility. To these people nothing seems possible. They are negative and filled with discouragement. Their attitude can also be contagious. They can be sarcastic and cynical; they discourage others and belittle every idea that points towards new possibilities. People avoid people of impossibility.

As children of God and Christians, and particularly as Catholics, we are called to be people of possibility. We should be contagiously hopeful about God's plans for our lives and the world.

This hope—the hope of a joyful Christian—is needed in society today more than ever. What are three ways you can bring hope to other people this month? I invite you to pray about this challenge, so God can empower you to become a powerful ambassador of hope and encouragement.

Everyone needs to be encouraged from time to time.

  
Be Bold. Be Catholic.®



## We ARE the Ones

As a cradle Catholic, I've found myself getting envious of people who are non-Catholic. Watching non-Catholics get to do whatever they want starts to wear on you if you're not careful. The devil deceives us to think we are somehow disenfranchised by living a moral life.

At parties we're the only one out of our friends who feels guilty for drinking too much. We don't get to use birth control like other couples who "have it together" and get to do "whatever they want." We must stay chaste while dating (and while married). We're required to go to Mass on Sunday so we have to take off work or miss the pre-game tailgate. We don't get one of those juicy burgers that the company bought everyone because it's a Friday in Lent.

Everything in life has to be fair. As small children, we want our turn on the swing. As adults, we don't want people cutting in line outside of the Apple Store.

Being a Catholic isn't a punishment. **We are the ones who are free.** The rest of the world is a slave to their passions. They don't get to live the life they want. So many people struggle with addiction, broken families, and habitual sin. Many of them don't know there is a God who created and loves them. Can you imagine struggling without the Sacraments? *We are the ones who are free.* The rules of the Catholic Church are a gift, they are a universal Truth and it is when we follow that order that we show God we love him.

It's a tendency of human nature to begin thinking we are held captive to God's rules so we check the boxes grudgingly. It might be something small, but before we know it we start to think we're hot stuff. It's easy to get into an elitist mindset. We begin to think we are God's chosen people: *Look at all these holy things I do.*

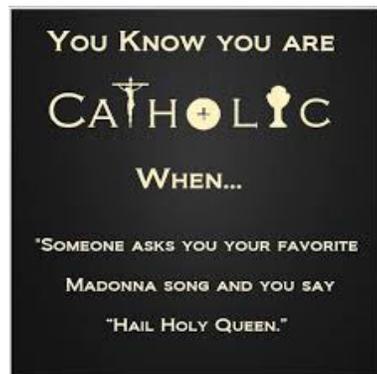
From there, our next step in our flawed human logic seems to be: *so what's in it for me?* So God, I've been good. Now what special thing do I get?

Putting in more "hard time" of following the laws of Christ **doesn't mean we're the only ones who get to heaven.** If we go to Church more than our friends that doesn't make us holier. We should hope and pray that God's Mercy showers down upon them and they too are granted heaven in spite of their ignorance and sin.

Love doesn't expect anything in return. It gives freely. Do we only love God because of what we hope to get out of him or is it because we're in love with the Creator of the Universe? Do we attend Mass to avoid Hell or because we want to be with Him forever?

We often apply human attributes to God. We turn God into someone like ourselves. Someone who gets jealous or prideful. We are stingy. God is not. It's a good thing God is as merciful as he is because we all need it. Especially if we don't have the Truth of the Gospel.

Having the Truth of the Gospel is a gift and it's our responsibility to share that gift with others whenever we can. We have no business keeping it to ourselves.  
(Courtesy of Diocesan Publications)



# Making Disciples for the Mission: Good News in Challenging Times

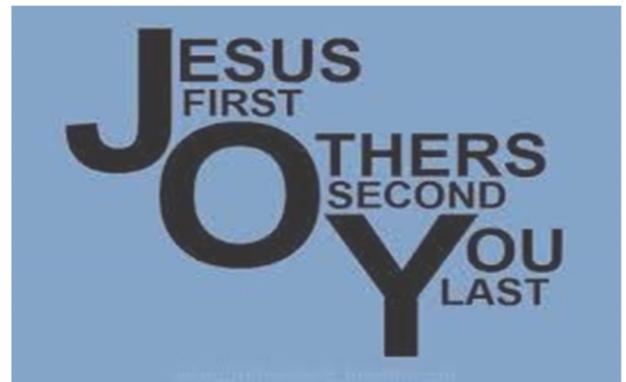


Hello everyone!

I have been inspired to share with you in the middle of challenging times what good news is happening around St. Mary's Parish. Here are a few awesome things that have happened in the last month that you should know about to remind us of the good that God is doing!

1. We started RCIA, and we have around 15 people interested in Jesus and our Catholic faith in the middle of a pandemic. Some are joining us live in the parish hall and others are able to join us online.
2. Our Faith Formation (CCD) children are back in class, and it has been so great to see their enthusiasm as well as the good work of their teachers.
3. Our adoration captains have been working extremely hard to get things together to keep adoration hours moving forward in the church (until we can get back to the adoration chapel). We have people able to spend time with Jesus in the church from 8am-8pm on Monday and Wednesday. All are welcome to come during those times to encounter Jesus. That's a great way to get before Jesus especially if you are still a bit uncomfortable coming with a larger group of people at Mass.
4. We are hoping in October to get 8am-8pm going on Tuesdays as well. That's a lot of prayers and encounters with Jesus!
5. There have been 2 baptisms and a wedding, as well as another wedding coming up this weekend!
6. There has been at least one 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and another 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary! How incredible!

7. I went to the dentist (one of my least favorite bi-annual stops) and still no cavities after 36 years. That's always exciting news!
8. We prayed a Novena to St. Therese petitioning her to pray to God for more Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in the Diocese of Peoria.
9. Our kids in our school have been amazing at Mass each week and how much fun it is to spend time with them there. They have been learning or reminded that "Love is not a feeling, but love is a choice." That we spell JOY – Jesus, Others, Yourself and that Jesus is not our personal genie who says, "Your wish is my command, but rather Jesus asks us to pray, 'Your (God's) will be done.'"



10. Father David and I bought a new fire pit and had a fire outside while also bringing our TV outside to watch the Thursday Night Bears Game. I'm pretty sure that's why the Bears won that night!

That's barely scratching the surface. God is doing good things in this time and will continue to. That's this month's "Good News in Challenging Times!" Know you're all in my prayers and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need any help in these challenging times to find a little bit of good news.

God bless,  
Father Adam



## HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

St. Mary's continues to improve and simplify our Communication process with our parishioners, organizations, and service groups. WE NEED YOUR CELL PHONE & EMAIL ADDRESS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

Please text "PONTIAC" to 84576 TODAY to register. You will receive a reply and we ask that you click on the link to complete the process.



# From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

Professor Wills was our *History of Church Ethics* teacher at Augustana College back in the early 70s. This class met twice a week in the evening for two hours, and it was required for graduation at the time. It most certainly became the worst class I ever took.

Not judging, but he wore the same outfit – shirt, tie, pants, sport coat – to every class. Not judging, but he always would just walk to the front of the room, open his briefcase, get out his notes, and begin lecturing. No interaction with the students at all. Not judging, but he also spoke in a MONOTONE! He was boring!!!!!! Okay, I'm judging!

Remember those days in early elementary school when we learned to read orally with our class. Some of us just struggled to pronounce the



words correctly, for fear of being embarrassed. We learned to read in a MONOTONE. But our teacher would tell us, "Read with expression! Show some feeling for what you're reading!"

Let's face it. Whenever we have to listen to oral presentations, the one fear we get is that the presenter will be boring because he/she speaks in a MONOTONE. Or he/she reads from a typed-out, prepared manuscript...with NO expression. No interaction. No feeling. It makes me want to walk out. What is being expressed are words!

Recently, I subbed at St. Paul's in Odell. The students were reciting the rosary as a class, an excellent way to foster confidence in young people speaking orally. Some spoke so fast that the "Hail Mary" was said in the same breath as "our death-Amen." Some spoke so softly we could hardly hear them. Others spoke loudly enough, but were robotic.

Everybody spoke in a MONOTONE!

When I pray, I find myself getting caught up in that practice. I just recite the words – no meaning, no expression, just words. I want to

hurry up and get to the next prayer. I forget who the audience is. It's God. Or it might be Jesus. Or the Holy Spirit. Or Our Blessed Mother. Or one of the Saints that we seek intercession from.

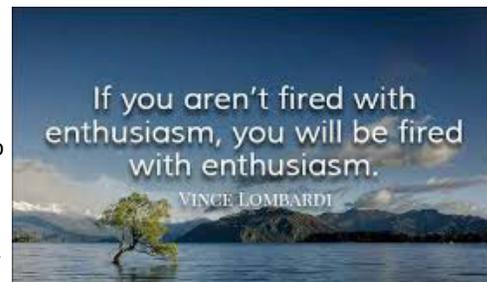
Let's put ourselves in God's "shoes." We pray, He listens. Is there a connection? Does He feel we mean what we say? Does the Holy Spirit feel the impact of our thoughts? Does Jesus get excited about what we are saying? Or are we a MONOTONE?????

God wants Stereo! God wants Surround Sound. God wants to feel what we are praying about. Think about it – if we are not excited about the prayer process, what's going to happen? Will our prayers be heard?

We can start at Mass. Each time we participate by responding or joining in, let's do it with enthusiasm. The *Gloria* is a prayer of praise. The *Responsorial Psalm* normally is as well. *Alleluia* is not supposed to be whispered. The *Creed* is an affirmation of faith. The *Holy, Holy, Holy* is a song of joy and celebration (*Hosanna!!!!!!*). The *Our Father* is the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Let's not be BORING! Let's not speak in a MONOTONE! Let's mean what we say. Let's be enthusiastic about our relationship with Christ! Let's try to be better about expressing our feelings at Mass and in our prayer life. And let's hope God doesn't walk out!

If only Professor Wills had gotten this memo!



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