

PARISH BLOCK PARTY TIME

The 2018 St. Mary's Block Party promises a continuation of what has made the event so popular and such a success the past few years - a day/night full of Faith, Family, Fellowship, Food, Fun, ...and Free. The annual parish get-together will be held on Saturday, August 25 on the parish grounds.



Mass that Saturday will be held at 4 PM (No 5:15 that day) to launch the festivities. Once Mass ends, follow your nose to the parking lot where Mike LoPiccolo and

his crew will have the grills fired up preparing burgers, chops, hot dogs, and brats to be taken to the parish hall. There, Peg Meier and her staff will serve a delicious meal to your heart's desire, complete with ice cream for dessert. Cost – your choice! No charge, but a free will offering will be accepted.

Outside, there will be plenty of activity, beginning at 5 PM. Beer tent for adults (\$1 each), pop available for \$.50, free



popcorn, plus all kinds of kid-related games will be in store, including the very popular Inflatables that will allow plenty of youthful energy to be "bounced around." The games themselves will begin at 6 PM, led by the "Cakewalk/Cookiewalk," guaranteed to attract several participants. And the gym will be open for volleyball, basketball, and other frolicking that kids might enjoy. Father Adam and Father David will both be on the grounds, mingling with everyone.

An added feature this year will be a "Meet the New Teachers" segment, a chance to get to know the new staff members at St. Mary's School. Musical entertainment begins around 7 PM, spearheaded by "Harmony Guaranteed," featuring a barbershop quartet from a very popular award-winning group of performers that parishioner Marty Hatzler is a member of. As their group name ensures, a very beautifully blended song list will entertain all in attendance.

Next on the stage will be a Comedy skit entitled "She's Coming!" Donna Muzzarelli, Ann Finnegan, Paula Trainor-Rosenbaum, and Darlene Demattia are joining forces to

bring laughter to our audience that will even outdo last year's effort, which was very funny.

Finally, new parish music director/St. Mary's Music teacher Justin Lindsey will entertain the crowd on his guitar, vocalizing several Christian songs, along with popular favorites.

Inside the parish hall following dinner, the Annual Euchre Tournament will take place in the main area, while the

Legion of Mary will host "Rosary Building" activity in the Rosary Room. Down the hall in the kindergarten room, the younger kids will be entertained by the 2004 hit movie, "The Incredibles," which had a sequel this summer.

We need days & events like this—a chance to come together to celebrate life as a parish and each other. So often, we think that we're too busy to look on the bright side and see what's available. Co-chairs Don & Linda



Lambert, along with several volunteers, have worked tirelessly to provide this opportunity for fellowship. This event is for St. Mary's, for our parish. Come early. Stay late. Come for a long time. Come for a short time. Sit inside. Sit outside. Eat to your heart's desire. Meet people. Greet people. And tell as many stories as you can remember. Just come!



| | |
|-----------|--|
| 4:00 | Mass |
| 5-6:30 | Dinner |
| 5-7:30 | Inflatables |
| 6-7 | Games/Cake-Cookie Walk |
| 6:50 | "Meet the Teachers" |
| 7:00 | Harmony Guaranteed "She's Coming!" Comedy Skit Justin Lindsey- Guitar/Vocalist |
| 7:30-9 | Kids Movie |
| 7:30-9:45 | EUCHRE Tournament |
| 10:00 | Closing |



Voice of St. Mary's Parish Monthly Newsletter

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Parish Voices

WHAT DID YOU DO THIS SUMMER?

by Father Adam

Throughout the month of August, the question we hear more than any other question is, "What did you do this summer?" With kids going back to school and parents visiting in parking lots, as you see many faces you have not seen throughout the summer, you will be asked that question innumerable times over the next month. If you are like me, you will also ask people that question approximately 529 times this month. Undoubtedly, you will get a wide array of answers to that question. People have taken vacations all over the country and all over the world. Some will say, I went to Canada, Wisconsin, Florida, St. Louis, New York, Washington D.C., Alaska, Mexico, France, New Zealand, or to the far distant land of Rooks Creek.



Some people went on amazing vacations. Some people stayed around the area. No matter where you went or what you did this summer, I am always reminded on vacation (and I was blessed to go on an incredible vacation, I will never forget) of what in my past I called "my daily vacation with God." More than any vacation I have ever been

on, these daily vacations with God have formed my life over the past fourteen years more than any vacation I have ever taken.

These daily vacations started in a little chapel called St. Joseph's Chapel at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. They progressed to St. Joseph's Chapel at Bradley University. After that, they were moved to a tiny chapel, Corpus Christi Chapel, on the top of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. For just over three years, those daily vacations have happened right here for me at St. Mary's Church in Pontiac. Those daily vacations with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament have made me who I am today. They started small. Early on it was just a few minutes. Over several years, they have turned into much longer amounts of time. No matter how long or how short – these "daily vacations" with God have helped me to become who I am today.

On different vacations, I have prayed right at the Rock of Agony where Jesus sweat blood the night before He died. It is incredible to see, but that rock is just a rock that Jesus happened to be on 2000 years ago. However, within the tabernacle in that church and every Catholic church – Jesus is alive and well right now! I have prayed at the very spot where St. Paul was beheaded, St. Peter was crucified upside down, where Jesus was crucified on the cross, and where Jesus rose from the grave. These are all amazing places to pray, but what makes them special is not what happened thousands of years ago, but who is present in each of those Catholic Churches, in every tabernacle, no matter where I go on vacation – Jesus is there!



So, for anyone who is upset because they did not get to go on a vacation at all this summer, or for those who are sad that this summer's trip of a lifetime is fading into memory, do not lose heart. The best vacation of your life can be a simple, little daily vacation to 119 E. Howard Street or any Catholic church with Jesus in the tabernacle. It does not matter how long or how short that visit is. If you make a daily vacation with God to the Blessed Sacrament, a habit in your life, I guarantee you, that your life will never be the same.

Even if you went nowhere this summer, and you are asked, "What did you do this summer?" my prayer is that we can all tell people, every day, I just took the best vacation of my life. I took a break in my day and stopped in the church to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It does not sound as romantic as a night in Paris, France or as exotic as an African Safari, but I assure you it can be. I am certain of one thing, those daily vacations with God will change your life more than any other vacation you have ever taken. Let the question begin, "What did you do this summer?"

In our ongoing effort to update our alumni database, we are asking for your help to find contact information for the following people:

Need Addresses for SMS Alumni, Class of 1935 – Class of 1960

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1935 Thomas Steinbach | 1945 Jeanne McLaughlin Kirke | 1951 Donald O'Donnell |
| 1939 James Henneberry | 1945 Josephine Gullo Roberts | 1951 Bill Ruddy |
| 1940 Alfred Somers | 1945 Larry Wheeler | 1952 Ronald McDonald |
| 1941 Marjorie Shepard Studley | 1946 Joanne Clark Staber | 1952 Eleanor Lane Wegman |
| 1943 Barbara Bauer Collins | 1946 Mary Ellen Wheeler Harkrader | 1953 Theresa Kane Jackson |
| 1943 Hellen Finnell Ferguson | 1947 Nancy Walters Snow | 1953 Mary Beth Craig Stanton |
| 1943 John Hoffman | 1948 Doris Wolf Schmidt | 1954 Robert Mengarelli |
| 1943 James Ripsch | 1949 Jerry Rusteck Hever | 1955 Annamae Fitzsimmons |
| 1944 Joan Cruse Costello | 1949 Fred Mengarelli | 1955 Richard Kennedy |
| 1944 Mary Ann Kerrigan Keys | 1950 Roberta Bohm Costello | 1958 Mary Helen Dean DuDash |
| 1945 Geraldine Shannon Burke | 1950 Jack Craig | 1959 Michael Lavin |
| 1945 Patricia Mayer Degarimore | 1950 Margaret Ruddy | 1959 Sister Margaret Mear, BVM |
| 1945 Peg Hoffman | 1950 Marlene Evans Sassen | 1959 Patricia Bradley Reynolds |

News & Notes Around St. Mary's Parish

*** REPEAT CHAMPS and on their way to a Dynasty! The St. Mary's "Blue" squad captured their second Pontiac Church League Championship in a row late last month. Congratulations guys!



*** The annual Tootsie Roll Drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be held in early September. This yearly fundraiser by the Knights helps support children with intellectual disabilities, and the great thing is that the dollars raised stay right here in our area. Please consider donating when you see the KCs about town wearing their "Tootsie Roll" apparel at various locations.



*** St. Mary's Christ Child Society will be hosting the quarterly regional meeting of the Society on Wednesday, August 22. The program will begin with Mass at 11 AM led by Spiritual Director Father John Verrier. At Noon, a salad luncheon will be served in the Parish Hall, hosted by the Women's Guild. The meeting itself will begin at 1 pm, featuring a talk by Father Verrier. All women in our parish are invited. Cost is \$8

for the luncheon, payable at the door, Please RSVP to Shari Paris 815-419-8620 ASAP.

*** You've seen Rosaries at the entrances of church. Now you can learn how to make the knots between the beads. Come to the Rosary Room of the parish hall, Wednesday, August 22, from 6:00-7:00 PM and learn how. Please bring a small pair of scissors with you, if you have one.



*** Here's a GOOD problem to have... Due to the abundance of current Mass intentions on the books here at St. Mary's (Currently, we have enough to cover the next 12 months, some of which have been on the books for up to 3 years), no new intentions will be accepted for the foreseeable future, with the exception of donations given at funerals for a recent death or to celebrate the anniversary of a death. Our goal is to satisfy as many of these older Masses as possible before we revert to opening the books again.



*** The mid-morning Mass on Friday, commonly referred to as the School Kids Mass, will take place at 9:30 AM from now on.

*** The Faculty Lounge at St. Mary's School, as well as the adjoining classroom used by Mrs. Henkel, received a huge facelift this summer. Mrs. Jones, our new principal, decided to add these inspirational wall hangings to add to the new décor in the Lounge.

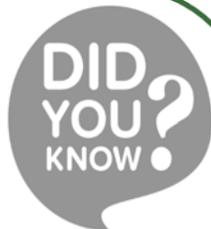


*** Students in need of Religious Formation, who attend public school in grades K-8 should register Saturday, Aug. 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm...south end of the playground at St. Mary's Block Party. Questions, contact Karen 815-822-3282



...why we use incense at Mass?

...The smoke of burning incense is seen by the church as an image of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven. That symbolism is seen in Psalm 141:2: "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering."



...Incense is also mentioned in the New Testament Book of Revelation (8:4) as an image of the worship offered to the Almighty in heaven: "The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel."



...Christian ritual books as early as the seventh century mark the use of incense in church services on Good Friday.

...The current General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the church's "guidebook" for liturgical celebrations) permits the use of incense at several different times during the Mass, including at the Gospel and at the elevation of the consecrated bread and wine.

...At a funeral Mass, as well as symbolizing the prayers of the congregation directed toward heaven, incensing the casket honors the body of the deceased, which through baptism became a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

...The instrument used to burn the incense is called the *Thurible* and the device that houses the incense before burning is called the *Incense Boat*.

A QUARTERLY UPDATE ON OUR FINANCIAL JOURNEY*

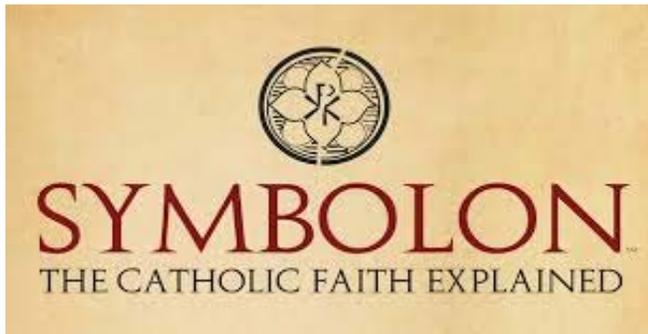
| | Previous Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30, 2017 | Current Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30, 2018 |
|-------------|---|--|
| REVENUES | \$1,223,291.10 | \$1,442,792.98 |
| EXPENSES | \$1,261,126.92 | \$1,334,774.41 |
| GAIN/(LOSS) | (\$37,835.82) | \$108,018.57 |

* Report covers both Parish and School Operations.

RCIA Taking on New, Improved Format

Several months ago, a small group of former RCIA sponsors and recent candidates convened to discuss improving our RCIA program. From this conversation, we began a process to address the RCIA program's curriculum, timing, and sponsorship. Perhaps the most important message coming from our session was a resounding need to maintain and renew our focus on providing our candidates with a dynamic perspective on their personal relationship to the Trinity and how that relationship is delivered, encouraged, and nurtured by the Catholic Church.

Since St. John Paul II challenged us to engage in a "New Evangelization," many world class organizations have taken up this challenge. One of these organizations is the Augustine Institute in Colorado. The Augustine Institute has developed an outstanding program called



"Symbolon, The Catholic Faith Explained." *Symbolon* is a fitting title and means "seal" or "symbol of our faith." *Symbolon* is used extensively for RCIA across the country and presents the faith to candidates through professionally produced DVDs. The DVDs are accompanied by a workbook and discussion format that facilitates the candidates' understanding of each lesson and how to apply the lesson in their

"God's desire for the Blessed Virgin Mary in one's life"

**ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S
TRUE DEVOTION
TO MARY**

Come and hear guest speaker Deacon Cody Miller of Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, speak on the spiritual riches of St. Louis De Montfort's teachings on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the impact true devotion to Her can have on the faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus.

September 8, 2018
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Spaulding Pastoral Center, 419 N.E. Madison Ave. Peoria, IL

The day includes:
3 presentations, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Holy Hour
Fee: \$15.00 for refreshments & lunch

Please register at legionofmary.event@gmail.com or call
Msgr. Michael Bliss at 309-274-3809

Early Registration encouraged at email above or with Mary Monica at 815-844-6034

Sponsored by the Legion of Mary, Diocese of Peoria

daily lives. With Father David's blessing, we will begin to use *Symbolon* this year, supported by the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Also beginning this year, we will offer classes every other Sunday following the 9:30 am Mass, ending at approximately 1:00pm (Lunch/Brunch will be provided). The final class schedule is nearing completion, but classes will

begin in late October and continue "every other" Sunday through Easter. This new format replaces the weekly Monday evening classes that usually began in September. We are very excited by this change and are looking forward to the increased opportunity to create lasting relationships with our candidates through a more intimate and focused class experience.



In the past, we have been very fortunate to have had exceptional parishioners come forward as sponsors. The role of parish sponsor is simply to companion candidates through the RCIA process. A sponsor attends classes and participates with the class. Past sponsors have been richly rewarded with lasting friendships and a better understanding of their faith. Those who have recently discovered their charisms of "encouragement, hospitality, and faith" would make great sponsors. We also encourage everyone to feel free to join a class; topics for each session will be listed in the parish bulletin.

As always, we remain committed to teaching anyone interested in our faith. Along with our Pastor, we will do everything possible to make any necessary arrangements to make this happen.

God Bless You, Jim and Mary Billington:815-844-3008

A Supreme Need For Prayer

by Dave Mishur

President Donald Trump has nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh, an outstanding jurist, to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court.

As he is a conservative, the Democratic response has been frantic and off the rails. Senate leader Chuck Schumer declared "they're going to overturn health care and Roe v. Wade." It always comes down to abortion, doesn't it? Without abortion on demand, the world come to an end.

Well, the world comes to a quick end for the million or so babies cruelly ripped from their mother's womb every year thanks to that infamous 1973 decision that made the "right to abortion" the law of the land.

Judge Kavanaugh will most likely be confirmed, but it's unlikely, due to precedent, that Roe v. Wade will be overturned. At least not yet.

If ever there were a time for prayer for our country this is it. A Judge Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court will be an important step on the way to our ultimate goal of the elimination of abortion in our land.

We offer prayers and adoration for our country every Tuesday evening at 5:00. If you can't stay the whole hour at least come for the rosary. The need for prayer has never been greater. You might even say it's supreme.



Hot Fun in the Summertime at St. Mary's



Crowds & St. Mary's Volunteers alike at the 4H Fair really enjoyed the larger air-conditioned dining hall. Congratulations to St. Mary's Mark Corrigan who was elected 4H King, sharing honors with Queen Morgan I(L).



A very nice crowd were treated a simply powerful performance by the St. Mary's Choir following the 9:30 Mass late in July. The program featured several favorites designed to inspire listeners to a unique way of prayer. Whether in concert, or in harmony, or during one of the many solos, voices were raised toward heaven in amazing tones. Congratulations to Director Kevin Kuska, accompanist Kathy Schultz, and to the 20-strong members of the choir for providing wonderful memories for those in attendance. A copy of the concert is available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/kevin.kuska.9/videos/966932396814967/UzpfSTewMDAwNDk0NjQ2ODUxNTozMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoXNTM1Nzg1MTk5OjE0ODg4NDM5ODI3MDE3ODkxNjc/>



Thanks to the craftsmanship of Bob Paris, several items for the Atrium in the new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program are now in place. Coordinator and Catechist Kelly Krenz will be adding a few more touches to the area before the first class convenes this school year.

From The Back Page

by Mick Peterson

We begin with a prayer we have been reciting in our hearts and minds since probably childhood. Feel free to read along...out loud if you'd like:

*Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
My kingdom come; My will be done
On earth as it is...*

Whoa! Wait a minute! Whose kingdom? "My will be done?" Isn't it supposed to be "THY Kingdom come: THY will be done"?

Of course it is. Yet, how often do we fail to follow that command in our lives. How often do we choose to serve our own needs rather than God's desires for us.

Let's say I went to a wedding on Saturday---that's close enough to Sunday so I counted it as my Sunday obligation. *My Kingdom or Thy Kingdom?*

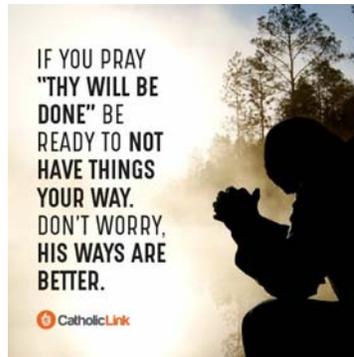
Or I'm on vacation, out of town, and the beach is calling...I didn't need to find a church. *My will or Thy will?*

My kid's got a tournament game in softball...I got a golf match...we're going to the Cubs game or a Bears game---God will understand. *My kingdom or Thy kingdom?*

I've been working long hours this week, but not making enough money. Nobody will notice if I take that cash I found in a drawer. *My will or Thy will?*

I stayed out late that Saturday night before, and I have a tough week coming up, so sleep is a natural choice. *My kingdom or Thy kingdom?*

We all know that "Life isn't fair!" and we have to get as much as we can, take as much as we can, grab for all we can. Because if we don't, the next



guy will. *My will or Thy will?*

The secular world bombards us with temptations daily and from all angles. We're told at an early age to create goals...dreams we see for ourselves...and a timeline for reaching those dreams. We're told to climb as high as we can on the corporate ladder. We're encouraged to reach for the stars...to go all the way...to become that person our parents would want us to become.

Here's the thing. It's not about us. It never has been, and it never will be. My will is to shoot par golf with no slice. My will is to be on vacation seven days a week. My will is to have great health, both physically and mentally. My will is for my children to be rich and famous. My will is to look out after #1 – Me. That's how MY kingdom will flourish.

But it's not about me! It never has been. As much as I'd like it to be, it really doesn't matter if I ever get rid of my slice, or have perfect health, or even have rich and famous kids. What matters is my relationship with God. His kingdom. His Will.

God's will is for me to become the best I can be; God's will is for me to fulfill the plan He has in store for me; God's will is to become as holy as I can be. You have a similar plan. You probably have a better chance of achieving yours than I do. The question is "How?"

To fully realize God's plan for us, we first of all need to trust and pray. We need to trust that God really does desire to develop a relationship with us, that He really does see us as we are, and that He wants to know us personally. Prayer becomes the catalyst to accomplishing these ideals. Without speaking to God in prayer, our hearts will never fully understand His plan. Prayer and trust. The keys to the kingdom. We live for the Kingdom of heaven, not any "prize" this world has to offer. God is with us always, and His grace is ever present. We just have to learn to make Him our priority.

My prayer for all of us is that we learn to trust in the Lord and do His will. Not ours. Strive for His kingdom. Not ours. Amen.

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