



The Parish Connection



Volume 2 Issue 4

St. Mary's Parish

December 2017

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Words from Fr. Dana



Greetings to all and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Time continues to fly! It is hard for me to believe that I'm half way through my second year as pastor of St. Mary's. It is a privilege to be your pastor. Thanks to all who support the life of our parish in so many, many ways - through the various ministries, through your prayer life, and through your time and talent.

Temporary Saturday Night Mass Change from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Because of concerns brought to the Parish Council in regards to the safety of

some of our elderly parishioners, the Council voted to temporarily change the Saturday night Mass time to 5:00 p.m. during the winter months this year, starting Saturday, January 6, 2018. The 5:00 time gives more daylight for a person to get to Mass and back home before it's too dark and cold.

Feedback has already been given and is very much appreciated. The feedback will help us decide what is best for the overall good of the parish. The Council felt it needed to be sensitive to the concern brought to their attention and not delay in making a decision for a couple of months to study it further, at which time it would be too late to address the con-

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Homily Given On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th)

by Fr. Dana Clark



In the first reading (Genesis 3:9-15,20) we hear part of the story about Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the forbidden tree, and now they have to face God. That is part of the story we heard today. Adam and Eve are in trouble, but so is the serpent. The

serpent tricked them, but they were not totally innocent. They have to assume some of the responsibility and face the consequences of their actions. Consequences of their sin include: the loss of supernatural gifts, bodily death, toil for food to eat, pain in child birth.

In today's passage God deals with the serpent. He mentions a woman and her offspring, and how the offspring will strike at the serpent's head. The woman, of course, we know is Mary, and the offspring is Jesus. What is amazing is that the book was written 1500 years before Jesus. How did the author know about this woman and her offspring? Of course it was through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

God in talking with the serpent says, "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring." Enmity means mutual hatred (or ill will). Satan represents pure

evil and Jesus pure goodness. Evil hates goodness. Evil is the lack goodness. Goodness hates evil. Goodness is the lack of evil. We need some protection against pure evil. Jesus will come and make things right with God the Father and provide us with protection against Satan (pure evil).

If we follow Jesus, Satan loses most of his power over us. If we remain close to Jesus, Satan keeps his distance. If we stray, the door is open for Satan to sneak in and for him to get gradually closer. Satan (pure evil) hates Jesus (pure goodness). When we make the sign of the cross, Satan hates that, because he has no power over the cross of Jesus. If we feel Satan (his influence) is sneaking close to us and we make the sign of the cross, he is chased away. A home filled with blessed items helps protect the home.

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Family Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Satan and his followers hate Jesus and his Church. One area that they focus their energy on is the destruction of families. "Attack the family, cause divisions within the family, and it will weaken or destroy the Church," is, I'm sure, part of their thinking. The more we can do to build up strong and holy families, the stronger and holier our parish and the Church will be.

"Enthroning" an image of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus (picture or statue) in a prominent place in your home (living room or dining room, for example) and consecrating your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a great way to help build strong and holy families and to protect your home from evil influences from the outside. One of the promises made by Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is: "I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be set up and honored." By enthroning an image, you are recognizing Jesus as King of your family.

I'll have available blessed, framed pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus ready for enthronement. There is no charge for the pictures. My payment will be the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to bless the home. A simple prayer service is also available for a family to follow. An ambitious goal is to get all parishioners, individuals and families, in the parish to enthrone a picture of the Sacred Heart and consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On the day of enthronement the head

of the household, father or mother (or individual, if a single household), leads the prayer service. Optionally, a priest can be invited in to lead the prayer service and bless the home. A slightly different prayer service may be used by the priest.

An outline of a prayer service follows:

1. How to Prepare Spiritually
2. Explanation to the Family
3. Penitential Rite
4. Liturgy of the Word
5. The Enthronement Ceremony
6. The Apostles Creed
7. Prayer of Consecration by the family
8. General Intercessions
9. Signing of an Enthronement Certificated (optional)
10. A Parental Blessing

Framed pictures and copies of the prayer services will be in back of church and at the parish office.

Fr. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

Satan and his followers tend to stay away from a home that has blessed items and homes blessed or consecrated to Jesus.

Although Satan can have influence over us and can trick us, we are capable of sinning without Satan's help. Satan fell because of the sin of pride. Our pride can be our downfall and cause us to fall into other sins. We struggle with pride and other sins - lust, greed, and envy are three others. But Jesus came to help us rise above our sinful tendencies. His graces help us in our struggle to be good and holy. Satan hates that. He hates the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. I believe Satan has less influence over us when we are at Mass and regularly receive the Eucharist. After receiving Communion Satan keeps his distance.

I saw part of a movie several years ago. For some reason, Satan had a claim on this baby. I didn't see the first part, so I don't know why. In the portion of the movie that I saw, the mother is frantically trying to keep Satan away from her baby. In the movie Satan (or perhaps another demon) was a good looking man, dressed nicely. which is interesting because a de-

mon wouldn't be seen as he truly is.

The time is coming for her to turn her child over. Apparently, she had no choice. You see her running away; headed somewhere. Then you see her enter a church, a Catholic Church. She finds the priest. Satan is standing outside the church. He can't enter, because (I suppose) of the presence of Christ. So he causes the wind to blow inside the church. Things are flying around. Pictures flying off the walls. She tells the priest that she wants her child baptized.

The priest, totally frightened, begins the ceremony (the wind gets strong, more things flying around.) And finally the water is poured, and the words pronounced. The wind stops; everything quiets down. Then you see Satan turn and walk away. He was defeated. He no longer had any claim on the child, for the child was now a child of God.

I didn't see the entire movie, only the last 15 minutes. But I thought the message was good and true. It demonstrates the power of the sacraments and the limitations of Satan against the sacraments.

Today we celebrate a feast of Mary,

the Immaculate Conception. Her soul was prepared for the conception of Jesus. Her soul was created full of grace. We say she was free from original sin. She was free from the effects of original sin. We are born with original sin, which means that our souls are created without grace. We are born into the condition that we call the state of original sin. Baptism removes that condition, that darkness, replacing it with the light of grace.

Grace in the soul gives us protection against the influence of evil, especially the influence of Satan and his followers. We still make choices between good and evil, but the grace gives evil less power - gives Satan less power. We still deal with our own inclination towards sin, but the grace can help us, if we are open to it. In the movie the baby was made of child of God and Satan had no claim over the child. We baptize infants in order to give them extra protection.

We must remember that Mary's desire is to lead us to her son Jesus. She is a model of holiness for us; we ask for intercession; we ask that she will guide us to her Son.

YDisciple—Launching Young Disciples



We currently have a small group of high school seniors (four girls and one boy) who have experience the YDisciple approach to youth ministry. Participation and feedback from the group has been very positive. They plan on continuing next semester. Hopefully, the group will grow and additional groups added over time.

What is YDisciple? YDisciple is small group faith formation program for high school students designed to meet five basic needs of teenagers (see section "Five Basic Needs of Teenagers"). A YDisciple curriculum is broken down into a number of "studies" such as, "Who Is God," "Who Am I," "Follow Me," "The Creed," and the "Church." There are over 30 studies. Each study is divided into sessions. A session consists of fun activities, video presentations of a relevant topic, and discussions led by adult mentors.

What Does a Group Look Like? A group consist of 2-8 teens led by one or two adult mentors. They meet 2-4 times a month for approximately 90 minutes. A meal or snacks are provided by the person hosting the group. YDisciple group environment is not classroom / lecture environment, but a more relaxed home-like environment. Two rooms in the newly remodel basement of the rectory have been set up for YDisciple groups to meet.

Five Basic Needs of Teenagers

1. *The need to be understood.*

Everyone has a need to be understood. However, it is even more important for teenagers who are still developing into full maturity. Unfortunately, the majority of teenagers often feel that adults don't understand them. When an adult takes a genuine interest in a teenager and seeks first to understand, that adult earns the right to be heard. It is necessary to first understand what is going on in the minds and hearts of teenagers before an adult can effectively hand on the faith to them. It's like that often quoted truism, teens don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.

2. *The need to belong.* Teenagers need to have a sense that they belong *before* higher growth, like understanding and living the Christian faith, can truly take place. In fact, teenagers will often compromise the morals in which they have been raised in order to be able to belong somewhere. Teens will find a way on their

own to meet the need to belong if adults don't help teenagers build healthy, life-giving relationships with one another. On the other hand, if adults create an environment where teens are known, loved, and cared for, they create an ideal environment for discipleship.

3. *The need to be transparent.*

Teenagers rarely have the freedom to be transparent today, especially with one another. In their experience, it is too dangerous to be vulnerable in a peer-dominated world that is so focused on image and popularity. Teens long for the opportunity to be transparent about their doubts, concerns, fears, insecurities, hopes, and dreams, and to have the confidence to know that they will not be judged, but rather loved and supported. This is necessary for teens to grow in self-awareness and self-esteem. A place where trust has been established creates an environment where transparency - honest discussion - can take place.

4. *The need to engage in critical thinking.*

Teens are transitioning from concrete to abstract thinking and are able to conceptualize ideas such as truth, justice, fairness, and love. They are capable of pondering big questions such as "Is there a God? Do I need relig-

ion? Can I know God's plan for my life?" Additionally, they are in the process of establishing independence and becoming their own person. Deep down, they desire to be treated as adults and no longer want to be told what to do or what to believe. They are critically evaluating what they have been raised to believe and are not that interested in answers to questions they are not asking. Thought-provoking questions, lively discussion and dialogue, and freedom of expression are the things that engage teenagers in critical thinking about faith and life.

5. *The need for Guidance.* In order to become adults themselves, teenagers need dialogue, collaboration, and friendship with other adults. Relationships with adults help them answer deep and fundamental questions such as: "Am I lovable? Am I capable? What difference does my life make?" Teens are naturally idealistic and desire to be challenged to greatness through the direction, encouragement, and support of caring adults. It is a well-known principle that young people will rise to the level of our expectations of them. Ultimately, teenagers will give their lives to Jesus through the witness and encouragement of loving, faith-filled adults.



Our Youth who went to NCYC in Indianapolis, Indiana.

St. Mary's School—From the Principal



Greetings from St. Mary's School! It has been a busy couple of months for us.

The 6th grade class researched saints and presented them to Kindergarten through 5th grades for All Saints Day. Saints represented were Elizabeth of Hungary, Kateri Tekakwitha, Margaret of Scotland, Jude, Catherine of Bologna, Peter, Luigi Scrosoppi, Sebastian, Gabriel, Katharine Drexel, Joan of Arc, Angela Merici, and Catherine of Sienna.

The 5th and 6th grades participated in the 4H National Youth Science Day with 4-H extension agent Susan Schlichting, creating Incredible Wearables, devices like a Fitbit that could be worn on parts of the body other than the wrist. Students were very creative, making devices for their heads and ankles. 5th grade also finished up their DARE (Drug Abuse

Resistance Education) classes and celebrated with a pizza lunch from Arthur's provided by the City of Ellis. Two students were picked to read their DARE essays to the group: Tyler Bongartz and Isabella Eck. The class participated in ten lessons taught by Sheriff Ed Harbin with assistance from the Ellis Police Department. The D.A.R.E. program is taught in all 50 states, and 49 other countries. All curricula are science-based, age appropriate, and written by a national panel of curriculum and prevention experts. The D.A.R.E. curriculum meets the core educational standards of health, language arts, and math and meets the needs of communities and schools as it relates to bullying.

4th grade completed a unit on geology, learning about the different types of rocks, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Mrs. Seibel invited Dr. Hendratta Ali, from Fort Hays State University, to her classroom. She brought the President of the Geology Club, and they spoke about ca-

reers in geology and helped the students identify the rocks in their collections.

This newsletter finds us finishing up Advent and preparing for Christmas. Preschool through 6th grades collected 388 items to donate to the Ellis Food Pantry for local Christmas boxes. Another Advent project was to draw a name of someone in the school to pray for. Every student and staff member participated and made cards for their advent angel to let them know who had been praying for them. St. Mary's School families were also given the opportunity to take part in a family prayer project, put together by Mrs. Everett, in which 27 of them participated.

St. Mary's School wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Sincerely,

April Pfeifer



5th grade students pose with Sheriff Ed Harbin and other local law enforcement at DARE graduation.



6th graders portray saints.



On November 8th, Mrs. Pfeifer, Mrs. Henrickson, and Mrs. Everett were awarded their years of service in the Diocese of Salina. Combined they taught for 60 years in the Diocese, Mrs. Pfeifer 20 years, Mrs. Henrickson 35 years, and Mrs. Everett 5 year.



*Our Students
Keep Busy
Learning and
Growing*



3rd & 4th graders prepare healthy snacks



Fr. Dana shaking hands of students at lunch



Preschoolers, Sansa and Haven welcome future student, Shaylie at the Thanksgiving family luncheon.



Second graders enjoy a healthy snack served by Mrs. Eller.



Brendan Seibel gets help identifying rocks in his collection.



During November, the 1st graders learned about the habitats of forest, ocean, and desert animals. When concluding their lesson they were given a habitat that they had to pick an animal from that habitat. They then created a shoe box model of their animal in its habitat. They completed this project and researched at home with their parents.

Parish News

Quilts for the Homeless

About a dozen quilts were made by several ladies of our parish for Good Samaritan House in Denver. Quilts will be given to the homeless in need of extra warmth. Fr. Dana blessed the quilts at a children's Mass, explaining to the children to whom the quilts would be given, i.e., homeless families with children. In the special blessing, Father prayed that those who received them would be blessed in a special way, that the quilts would not only keep them warm, but also warm their hearts, and that the quilts would protect them from the evil forces that may linger around them.



Valentine's Dance

The 5th Annual Valentines Dance is Saturday, February 10, 2017 at the St. Mary's School Gym. It is a great night out and a way to support our parish. Come and enjoy a nice dinner, music, and dancing. If you are not a dancer, come anyway to enjoy the meal and entertainment by Jimmy Dee & the Fabulous Destinations. Tickets are available for \$25.00 at the parish office and various other outlets (see below). This year a 50/50 raffle will be held. You need not be present to win, so buy some tickets; they are available at the same outlets. They are 2 for \$5.00, 6 for \$10.00.

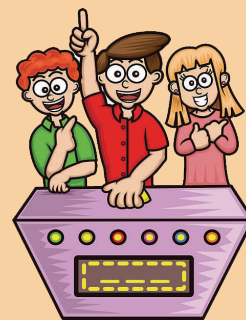
Ticket Outlets:

Divine Mercy Radio – Hays,
Equity Bank - Ellis and Hays,
Gibson's – WaKeeney,
Golden "B" Hydra - Ellis (785) 623-0636,
Golden Belt Bank - Ellis,
KK Farm (Diana) (785) 726-3321,
Weber's Service – Ellis.



Annual Parish Auction

Our 24th Annual Parish Auction is gearing up. The date is Saturday, April 7, 2018, so mark your calendars. The theme this year is "Win With Christ" – a game show theme. The committee has met several times to discuss details and ideas.



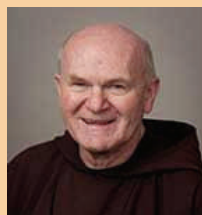
Letters will be sent out to businesses in January. Committee members will then follow up with a personal contact to each business. Letters to parishioners will also be sent out inviting them to participate by buying auction tickets and /or submitting an item to be used in the auction or by giving a cash donation.

Cash donations may be used by the committee to create auction items that will take in more money. A \$100 cash donation, for example, may be invested in an item that brings \$200. The goal in creating an auction item from cash donations and items donated is to maximize the intake of money for the auction.

One idea discussed by the committee was to list items with pictures (if possible) on our website, so bidders can preview items online, instead of waiting for a book to be published. In this way the book can be finalize and published closer to the day of auction to ensure last minute details appear in the book.

Committee members are: Sr. Doris Flax, Cindy Hertel, Daniel Gottschalk and Bailey Hensley, Lacie and Danny Haas, Courtney and Logan Bittel, Kylie and Monte Honas, Cody and Megan Honas, Darren & Alyson Johnson.

Parish Mission



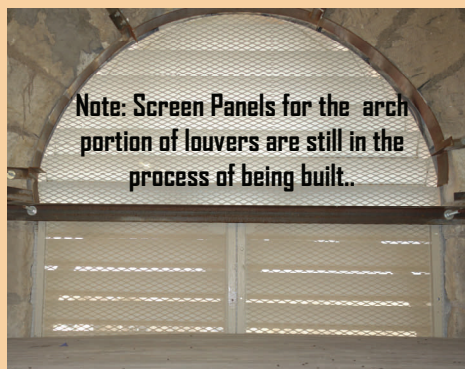
We are, tentatively, planning a parish mission the first week of Lent (February 18-21) with Fr. Michael Scully. Details are still being worked out. Many may know Father Michael, as he is a Capuchin priest and was in Victoria for a while. Father Michael has spent most of his 40-plus years of ministry working with youth as a religion teacher, high school administrator, youth pastor, and parish pastor. His missions, generally, begin on Sunday and run through Tuesday, ending on Wednesday with a full day of reconciliation and a presentation for the youth of the parish in the evening. Talks are given in the evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. More information will be given when the details are been worked out.

Maintenace Update—Bell Tower Louvers

To solve the problem of keeping wind driven rain from entering the bell tower, sixteen screen panels (35" x 65") were built and attached to louver frames.



Screen Panel (35"x65")



Note: Screen Panels for the arch portion of louvers are still in the process of being built..



Top and Bottom Portions of a Louver with Screen Panels Attached

The screen material is a solar mesh fabric woven of strong polyester yarns that are individually coated with PVC. The particular brand we purchased is called TEXTLINE 90, manufactured by Twitchell Technical Products, LLC. It is a dense material designed for outdoor use and is very tough and durable. The 90 in the brand name means it blocks up to 90% of the sun's rays. It also blocks 80% or more of the wind, so it should block wind driven rain from pouring in.

We initially contacted a company that builds and sales screens using this type of fabric. The problem was that screens can't be pre-built and installed. They have to be built and installed in the tower. A couple of options were discussed. The company gave a quote for the cost of the material, a little over \$2,500. After doing more research on the product, we found that you can buy a whole roll (8'x 100') of the same material (almost twice the material) for less than \$600. It pays to do a little research!

For the More Technically Minded: How the Screens were Constructed

The four openings leading up to the bells and the floor above the bells vary in size, the smallest around 21" x 16", which meant that screens had to be built on the top floor of the bell tower and all material to build the screens had to fit through the smallest opening.



Opening to Bell Tower Floor (21"x 16")

A couple of extension cords were used to get electricity to the top level, and a portable LED work light was setup to provide extra light. A work table was built. Pieces of boards were carried up the six flights of stairs through the openings and the work table assembled.

Oak boards of random width and length were purchased and then cut and ripped to the pieces for the frames. A separate table was built for framing and stretching the screen.



Work Table—sitting on top of three saw horses



Pieces of Random Oak Boards



Screen Panel's Frame Pieces



Table for Framing & Stretching Screens

Frames were built by attaching the ends with corner brackets and 2-1/2" trim screws. Screen fabric was stretched over the frames and the edges stapled and glued. Frames were attached to the steel frame with self-drilling hex screws.

One thing we noticed after the screens were installed is that the main sacristy below the bell tower is much warmer than before, about 10-15 degrees warm. Apparently, by decreasing the wind flowing through the louvers, the space inside the tower stays warmer.

Maintenance Update—Bells & Lights

Church Bells

Some people have asked why we don't ring the bells. The reason is that the pulley wheels are beginning to show their age: very rickety, broken in a few pieces, nails rusted and popping out, bolts are rusted and one nut is completely missing on one of the bells! The bells themselves are okay, but the A-frames holding the bells need a lot of maintenance: bolts are rusted, and they have not been greased for years. The clappers inside the bells are worn and need to be replaced. A bell company that we talked to last year gave an estimate of over \$70,000 to bring the bells up to date.

Although the bells are part of the history of the church, they are not essential to the mission of the parish, which is, essentially, the salvation of souls. So, raising money to upgrade them isn't high on the priority list at this time. But it is project, I believe,

many parishioners would like to see accomplished, so it will remain on our wish list. When the economy gets better, we can, hopefully, move it to our to-do list.



Nails rusted and popping out



Rusted Bolts & Missing Nut.



Loose and broken pieces

Upgrading Lights in the Church

We are still researching LED replacements lights for the Metal Halide lights currently installed in the main body of the church. There are several different manufacturers with different options. Some will work directly with the ballasts, but most of them have fans. 18 fans running in a quiet church would not be good! Others require the ballasts to be bypassed, but still have fans. Most of those are designed to work in enclosed fixtures where heat would be more of a problem. There was one that was fanless, but designed to work with the ballasts.

It was decided that it would be better to install a light that required bypassing the ballast. The reasons were: (1) the current ballasts are getting close to 20 years old and will shortly have to be replaced (at a cost of about \$50-\$60 per ballast) and (2) it takes more wattage to run through the ballast. It was also decided that the replacement lights need to put out, as a minimum, the same brightness (lumens) as the current lights (which have 20,000 initial lumens & 14,350 mean lumens for the 250 watt metal halide lights and 12,800 initial lumens & 7,800 mean lumens for the 175 watt lights - obviously, these lights lose a lot of their brightness over time; the LED lights will not.)

We installed, as a test, one LED light that meets our requirements in the north front fixture, a Westinghouse

"corncob" LED light, 18,000 lumens. In that particular fixture it hangs a couple of inches below the fixture; not bad, but there is a glare if looking up at it. The socket in that fixture extends several inches lower than sockets in some of the other fixtures. There are five fixtures with extended sockets. Shorting those sockets is a possibility, but would be more involved. A shorter length light that meets our requirements would require less effort, but all the lights we have researched are about the same length, so we may have to shorten the sockets.



LED light in north front fixture



Light fixture with short socket



Light fixture with extended socket

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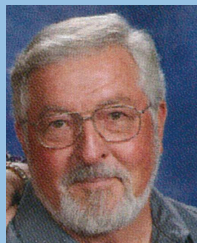
The other problem we have ran into is that some the lights don't have "up light." They light the target area below, but won't light the top part of the fixture. It serves our purpose, but looks strange when the top part of the fixture is dark. We did try one of those lights out.

One company is coming out with a new light in January that may meet our requirements. We will test it out when it becomes available. There are options that we can pursue to upgrade the lights. Choosing the best option is where we are at now.

Some of the reasons for updating the lights are: (1) savings in energy, going from 175 watt & 250 watt

lamps to 120 / 150 watt lamps with a little increase in lumens; (2) five times the life expectancy (around 50,000 hours); (3) the ballasts may shortly have to be replaced at a cost of about \$50- \$60 per ballast; (4) instant on vs. the 10-15 minutes warm and cool down for current the metal halide lights.

Current Parish Council Members



Ken Kohl



Bev Windholz



Mike Augustine



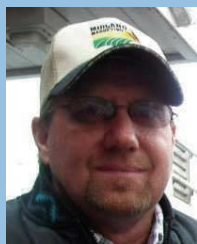
Chris Becker



Shannon Schmidt



Cindy Zervas

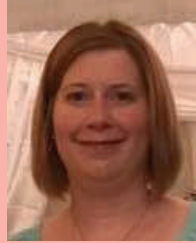


Mark Weber

Ron Amrein
(Replacement needed due to moving out of town)

George Crawford
(Replacement needed, due to his illness.)

Current School Council Members



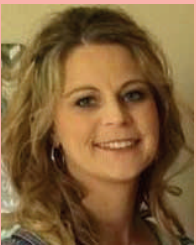
Amanda Shannon



Michele Eberle



Michelle Frickey



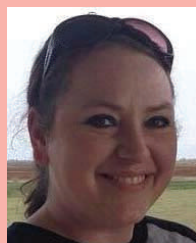
Coleen Born



Mark Bongartz



Cody Honas



Sarah Fischer



Chris Becker
(Parish Council Rep)

Current Finance Council Members



Jeff Augustine



Melvin Augustine



George Spinelli



Allen Weber



Ken Kohl
(Parish Council Rep)

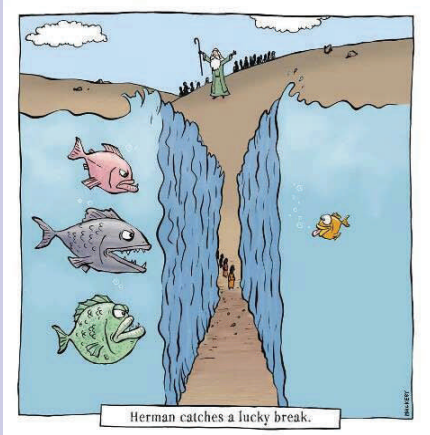


April Pfeifer
(School Rep)



Chris Becker
(Parish Council Rep)

Christian Humor



A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block ten times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note, "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't give you a

ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven."

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the

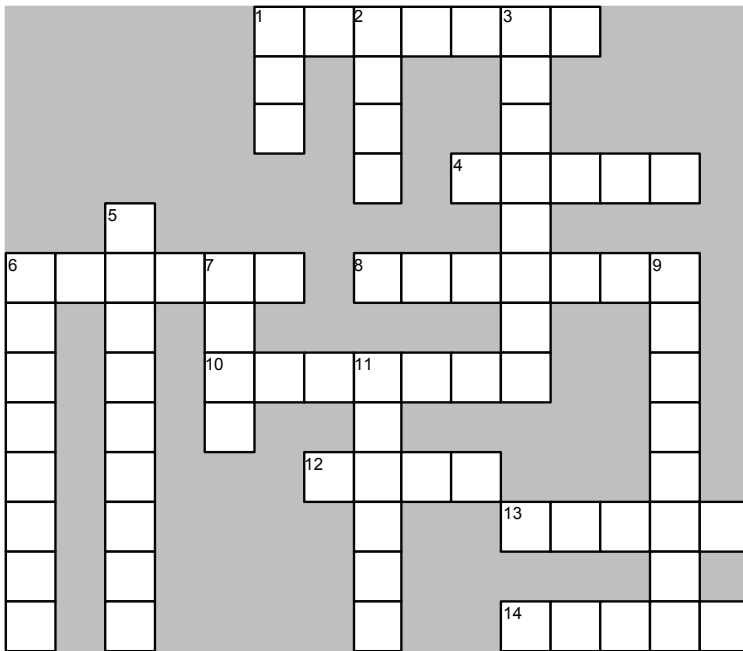
Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

Three Engineers

There are three engineers in a car; an electrical engineer, a chemical engineer and a Microsoft engineer. Suddenly the car just stops by the side of the road, and the three engineers look at each other wondering what could be wrong. The electrical engineer suggests the electronics of the car be removed down to its parts and then try to trace where a fault might have occurred. The chemical engineer, not knowing much about cars, suggests that may be the fuel is becoming emulsified and getting blocked somewhere. Then, the Microsoft engineer, not knowing much about anything, comes up with a suggestion, "Why don't we close all the windows, get out, get back in, open the windows again? Maybe it'll work!?"

Fun Page



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ACROSS

- 1 The king did this when a servant could not repay his loan. (Matthew 18:27).
- 4 "The kingdom of heaven is like _____ that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour..." (Matthew 13:33).
- 6 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine _____." (Matthew 13:45-46).
- 8 In this parable this man went to heaven and the rich man did not. (Luke 16:19-31).
- 10 This seed is the smallest of seeds, but becomes the largest of plants. (Mark 4:30-32)
- 12 A lady lost this and sweeps her house to find it. (Luke 15:8-10)
- 13 One of these gets lost. (Luke 15:4-7).
- 14 This was sown among the good wheat. (Matthew 13:24-30).

DOWN

- 1 In this parable this type of tree was unfruitful. (Luke 12:42-48)
- 2 The house build upon this did not collapse when the floods came. (Luke 6:47-49)
- 3 In this parable workers were sent to work in a landowner's _____. (Matthew 20:1-16).
- 5 In this parable a man is beaten and left for dead. It is called the parable of the Good _____. (Luke 10:30-37)
- 6 In this parable a young man leaves home and squanders his property. It is called the parable of the _____ Son. (Luke 16:19-31).
- 7 In this parable Jesus says that you should place this on a stand to light a room. (Matthew 5:14-15.)
- 9 In this parable Jesus refers to himself as the Good _____. (John 10:11).
- 11 In this parable a farmer went out to sow some seeds. The seed that fell among these grew up but were choked. (Matthew 13:7).

Word List—Some Old Testament Men

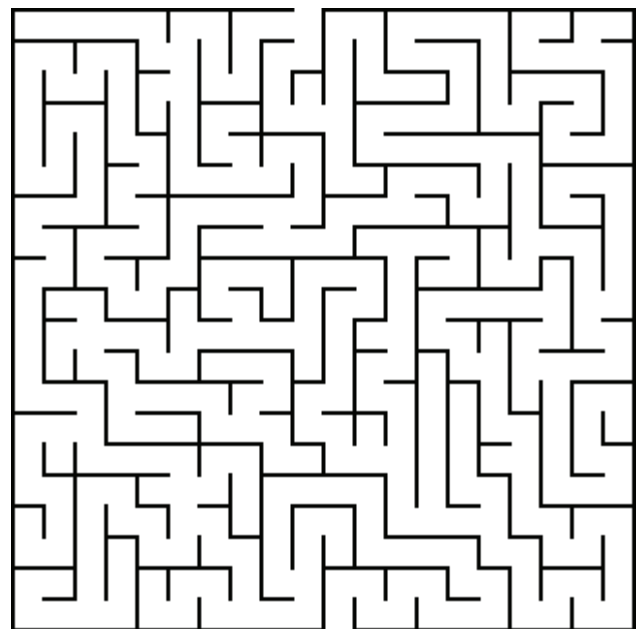
AARON	JOSEPH
ABEL	LOT
ABRAHAM	MOSES
ADAM	NOAH
CAIN	SAMSON
DAVID	SAMUEL
ISAAC	SAUL
JACOB	SETH

Find the words in the grid.

Words can go across, down and in two diagonals.

D	A	V	I	D	R	L	H	N	K
M	O	S	E	S	C	T	I	N	J
S	J	A	I	H	E	A	O	S	O
A	A	A	B	S	C	R	Z	A	S
M	C	D	V	R	A	K	F	M	E
S	O	A	H	A	A	A	T	U	P
O	B	M	L	N	K	H	C	E	H
N	J	U	G	T	O	T	A	L	G
T	A	P	R	T	O	A	K	M	L
S	A	B	E	L	N	Z	H	P	T

Start



Finish

(Continued from page 1)

cern. At the February meeting the Council will revisit the issue.

Part of feedback received is that for some of the 5:30 Mass crowd, it would be harder to make 5:00 p.m. because of their work. In fact for them a later Mass would be better. I did offer doing a 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mass during the fall/winter time change and 6:00 during the spring/summer season. One Mass, probably the 4:30 Mass, would not have any scheduled ministries and be more like a daily Mass. A valid concern was that would affect the solemnity and the communal aspect of our Sunday worship. Although two Masses would solve the problem of both groups, the concern was whether it was the wise thing to do for the overall good of the parish. More thought and prayer would be needed before making that decision.

One option discussed would be that during the fall time change to have Mass at 5:00 p.m. and during the

spring time change have Mass at 6:00 p.m. Again myself and the Council will consider all the inputs and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit decide what is best for the overall good of the parish.

Father Dana



Life Happenings – September–December 20, 2017

BAPTISMS

1. Landen Lee Johnson

Born September 20, 2017

Baptized October 29, 2017

Son of Darren Johnson and Alyson (Bollig) Johnson

2. Noah Joe Schield

Born September 20, 2017

November 18, 2017

Son of Peter Shield and Jennifer (Wehkamp) Shield

3. Olivia Marie Pfeifer

Born October 21, 2017

Baptized December 15, 2017

Daughter of Earnest Pfeifer III and Ann (Brungardt) Pfeifer

DEATHS

1. Alvin "Al" G. Surmeier passed away on November 14, 2017. He was born December 26, 1948. Funeral service was held November 21, 2017. Services were conducted by Fr. Bill Surmeier with Fr. Dana Clark concelebrating. Interment was at St. Joseph's cemetery in Oakley.

MARRIAGES

1. Doyle Pletcher married Sarah Aschenbrenner on November 18, 2017. Wedding was performed by Fr. Dana Clark, St. Mary's, Ellis, KS.
2. Aaron Wade Herl married Shelby Nicole Gottschalk on December 2, 2017. Wedding was performed by Fr. Dana Clark, St. Mary's, Ellis, KS.

St. Mary's Parish

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Email: stmary@gbta.net
Website: stmarysofellis.org

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Ellis, KS 67637
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Email: stmarys@gbta.net

Solutions to Fun Page puzzles.

