



The Parish Connection



Volume 1 Issue 1

St. Mary's Parish

October 2016

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Words from Fr. Dana



Welcome to this first edition of the "The Parish Connection" newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to help keep the parish "connected" by bringing news about our church, school, and our Catholic faith directly into the homes of St. Mary's parishioners. Each registered family or individual will receive a newsletter. Our plan is to published the newsletter four times a year, more or less matching the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas (November), Lent/Easter (February), Ordinary Times (May), and Ordinary Times (August). [Obviously, this first newsletter is out of sequence but will be in sync after the next newsletter, which we are planning to publish the second week of December.] We hope that this newsletter will be informative and use-

ful. Your feedback is welcomed.

My first three month here has been very rewarding, as I get to know more people, especially the children. They are miracles from God! Sister Doris and our parish secretary Amy have been a great help and support for me in learning the ins and outs of the parish life and in making me feel at home. My mission as your pastor is to love and serve you as Jesus Christ would, if he was here in person. I pray that the graces of the Sacrament Holy Orders will help me in my mission. I'll do my best to build upon the foundation laid by the former pastors of St. Mary's. This is a great parish, and I'm looking forward to serving you for many years to come. Please pray for me as I continue to pray for you.

Father Dana

Living in the Kingdom of God (by Fr. Dana Clark)

Jesus Christ is a King, and his kingdom is the Kingdom of God. And, what is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is a spiritual reality. It is, essentially, a "spiritual" way of living our lives. In heaven we will fully experience this "spiritual" way of living our lives in the Kingdom of God. We can, however, begin living in the Kingdom of God now, here on earth.

Living in this Kingdom while on earth involves, first of all, living out the two great commandments to love God and to love our neighbor. It involves, living out the beatitudes (being humble, gentle, kind, merciful, peaceful); It involves receiving the sacraments and participating in the Church's liturgies and devotions (especially the Mass); It involves seeking to know, love and serve God. So, we can choose to live in (and experience) the Kingdom of God now - as we live our lives on earth. Those graces and spiritual gifts that

move us to do good and that purify our souls are part of this experience of living in the Kingdom of God.

As I thought about living in this spiritual kingdom, I reflected back on my life, my spiritual growth, my spiritual journey, my living in this Kingdom. It seems like a long journey beginning as a young boy, passing through adolescence, and finally entering adulthood. Being born in 1952, I experienced the Mass prior to Vatican II. I remember serving the Latin Mass, having to learn and memorize the Latin responses. I remember practicing, going over and over the responses. I never liked having to memorize things, so it wasn't totally enjoyable. But there was some excitement too. It was exciting to be part of the Mass--Perhaps not totally understanding it, but being captured by the mystery that was there.

I remember the devotions, the Sta-

tions of the Cross, the Easter celebrations. We didn't have school on Holy Thursday or Good Friday, but I remember as a boy going to the celebrations. I remember walking to church on Good Friday with some of my brothers and sisters - Mom was busy at home with the babies and Dad had to work, so we went on our own. I'm not sure if we had to go, but I think we wanted too. There was some excitement--the walk to the church, the anticipation of the service.

I remember serving funeral Masses. (I really liked that because you got out of school and made \$5.00 - which was a lot of money back then). I was a little concerned about seeing the person lying in the coffin. Not really afraid, but concerned that the person might just sit up and say something. I knew the person

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was dead, but if Jesus rose from the dead, perhaps this person may rise up too. [I wasn't really afraid; I just didn't know what I would say to them if they woke up.] I liked the incense, the candles, the holy water, the smell of the wine, the statues – all those sacramentals. All those visible things that added to an unspoken mystery.

The change after Vatican II for me (as a boy) wasn't major—a little different, but the awe of the Mass and devotions remained—the priest now facing the people, the responses now in English, but the rest seemed (to me) to be pretty much the same. I do remember that pre-Vatican II only the priests could touch the Sacred Host and vessels. There was a certain mystery to the Eucharist as a child –knowing that there was something different and special because it was treated differently and so reverently.

When I was really young (probably 5 or 6) I remember seeing people go up to communion and kneel along the communion rail. A server with a paten and the priest with the sacred hosts would go to each person. Not knowing the purpose of the server with the paten, I felt sorry for him, because he seemed to be offering the people something, but they always took something from the priest. I didn't realize the paten was empty and meant to catch the host if it fell. I remember thinking to myself that when I go to communion I would take whatever the server was offering the people!

Some of the sense of mystery as a child was perhaps loss as I grew up and changes were introduced, but the overall mystery still remained. It wasn't a major adjustment to me.

Dad (a pre-Vatican II convert) was very faithful and devoted to the Church, often going to daily Mass. If there was no school I would serve, especially on Saturday mornings. I remember one Saturday morning Dad dropped me off to serve a 6:30 a.m. Mass. I was to walk home. Mom was in the hospital having another baby so dad was in charge and had to return home. I begin to walk home as normal (about ¾ of a mile). As I passed in front of the one the houses, there were two big dogs sitting by the

front door. As I began to pass by, one of the dogs (a big German shepherd) came charging. It was probably around 7:30 in the morning, streets deserted, everyone probably still in bed. And here I was, all alone, faced with a charging dog. I suppose the normal reaction would be to try to run away and start screaming. I wasn't taught what to do when a dog charges, and so it must have been divine intervention that gave me the insight. What I did was to stand perfectly still, showing no fear (actually I was scared to death inside). To my surprise the dog stopped, turned around and went back to sitting in front of the house. However, if I moved a little it would come charging again. So I stood there not knowing what to do. Not realizing it, I probably did the right thing. Divine wisdom, perhaps?

I had been confirmed in the 2nd grade, so perhaps that spiritual gift of wisdom kicked in. If I ran, I'm sure the dog would have pounced on me, and I may not be here today. So, what is a boy of ten to do? He can't scream, because it may incite the dogs. There was no safe place to run. So, I stood there like a statue. I don't know how long I stood there, but it must have been a long time because Dad got worried and came searching for his lost son. My hero (my Dad) came to the rescue. Dad opened the door to the van. I knew I could make it to van before the dog would catch me (only about 10 yards to safety). So I ran and jumped in. I was safe.

Later, I remember going to high school. It was a Catholic High School – an all boys school. During one of my study halls, we had the option of going to Mass. I'm not sure why I went. As I think back I realize that I found it was more peaceful than sitting in the classroom. Perhaps, not realizing the presence of Christ that was there that made it a place of peace.

I finally made it to adulthood (at the age of 18). I never thought about skipping Mass as an adult. As I reflected on that I wonder: Did I go out of habit? Did I go because I was obliged to under the penalty of mortal sin? Why was it important? It doesn't seem important to many today. As I looked back I realized there was something there – that attracted me. Perhaps some of the child-

like mystery was lost, but the sense of a presence and an adult like mystery was there. a time of peace, and a gaining of spiritual strength. I started going to daily Mass sometime in the mid-80's as I felt a certain peace and received a certain strength to face the world each day.

I share these reflections, because we do not only live in a physical world, but we are also part of a spiritual world. We experience the spiritual through the physical. We can live in the Kingdom of God while on earth and Jesus Christ is our King.

The Mass is an experience of the spiritual world. The movements, the gestures, the readings, the Eucharist, the music are all meant to draw us deeper into the mystery of God (deeper into the mystery of Jesus his Son). It is meant to draw us closer to God.

We experience the divine many other times in our lives as we live the way of the Kingdom. I believe that I experienced the spiritual through the attack by that dog when I was a boy. As I reflect upon this incident, it was probably divine intervention that protected me. I had to trust an inner inspiration that seemed to be contrary to the normal reaction – to run away.

We have a tendency to get caught up in worldly things. We need to regain the sense of awe and mystery. Our liturgy, especially the Mass, is meant to express the mystery, to provide us with a spiritual experience. It is meant to uplift us as we participate in the celebration.

We human beings live in two worlds – a physical world and a spiritual world. Within this the spiritual world we can choose, while on earth, to live in the Kingdom of God – a spiritual reality where Christ is King.

Let us invite Christ our King into our hearts so that we can live in his Kingdom as we live our lives here on earth.



CCD News

This summer our parish hosted a Totus Tuus team. Totus Tuus means "Totally Yours," the motto of St. John Paul II. It is a week-long Catholic summer youth program led by a team of seminarians and college age students. The young enthusiastic team lead their students on a journey toward a deeper love for Jesus and Mary. Students learn

about their Catholic faith in an environment of fun and prayer. The daily schedule includes both the Mass and the rosary.

Our CCD classes are off to a good start. We have eight classes starting with Kindergarten up to 10th grade. There are about 80 kids enrolled this year.

Our teachers are:

K-1st	Amy Hudson
2nd	Clint Bain
3rd-4th	Samantha Baker
5th-6th	Janetta Heroneme
7th	Chris & Brandy Becker
8th	Marnie Kohl
9th	George & Alyssa Crawford and Craig Seibel
10th	Eldon Pfeifer

Students in our 10th grade class are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is a sacrament in which the graces a person received at Baptism are increased and strengthened. This increase in graces helps the confirmed person to more effectively deal with a hostile world that seeks to destroy faith. Confirmation is not end of our faith formation, but the beginning of a new journey of faith. Pray for our students as they prepare to receive this sacrament.

Luci Bain (DRE)



Totus Tuus: 1st-6th Grades

Race for Education (by Michelle Eberle)

Race for Education 2016 has been a success! The students raised \$19,800 plus St. Mary's School received a grant of \$5,000 from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. This year the funds were designated for additional classrooms and other essential updates. Three rooms were selected to be remodeled; to accommodate the ever-changing needs at St. Mary's School. These rooms included Music Room, Nurse's Office, and Computer Lab. The remodel was completed in time for school by Bittel-Haas Construction.

Race for Education is a

fundraising program that was implemented nine years ago to help St. Mary's School update and maintain the school. The students mail out letters requesting family and friends to sponsor them in the Race for Education or jog-a-thon. The students also get to compete for a number of prizes and awards. Every year the Race for Education fundraiser has been a success thankfully because of the students, family, friends and supporters. Each year approximately 60% of the funds come from outside of Ellis. Thank you to all that supported the 2016 Race for Education.



Before & after pictures of new Nurse's Office



Music Room becomes the Nurse's Office



Nurse Office's becomes Special Ed Classroom



Computer Lab becomes the Music Room

St. Mary's School—From the Principal



The school year at St. Mary's is in full swing! We started off the year with some remodeling still going on, but that has all been completed and looks fantastic. You'll find the specifics in the Race for Education report in this newsletter. We are very happy with the extra rooms created for Music, Health, and Mrs. Eller's office.

Our school year began with an ice cream social hosted by Home & School. Parents enjoyed a cool treat and were able to visit their child's classroom to meet with the teacher. Our first weekend school Mass was Saturday, September 24th, and we plan on having several more. Those will be November 20th, January 29th, and March 11th. The students really enjoy being a part of the parish Mass, and it allows them to share their time and talent with the parishioners.

Our enrollment is down slightly this year due to several families moving away. We have an average class size of 10 students, which allows for more one-on-one time with teachers. Even though we are a small school, we are not lacking in technology. Grades 3 through 6 have been on a one-to-one ratio with laptops for several years, but this year we were able to purchase

Chromebooks for grades 4 through 6 due to a generous Wiesner grant. The laptops have now gone down to the Kindergarten through 2nd grades so they are one-to-one as well. There are so many ways the students can use technology in the classroom: typing stories, taking tests, creating projects, and going on virtual field trips, just to name a few.

Of course the most integral part of our school is our Catholic faith. We start Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with a prayer service led by a different staff member; Tuesdays and Thursdays we begin our day with Mass. It's hard to have a bad day when you begin it by giving praise to God! Our sixth grade class is continuing on with the Dominic Savio Club. For those of you who are not familiar with it, the club is named

after Saint Dominic Savio, a young man who dedicated his short life to God. As the Savio Pledge states, "Our main work is to bear witness to Christ." We do this by performing community service, such as visiting the Good Sam and donating money to charities. Elected officers lead monthly meetings to decide which charities receive the profits. Since 2005 we have given over \$4,500 to people in need. The club also votes for a monthly character builder to work on for 30 days, such as treating others with respect. At each meeting the students choose a fellow student as Sportsperson of the Month, someone who best displays the quality of sportsmanship. They also vote for Savio of the Month, someone who is most like Dominic Savio in purity of mind and heart.

Some upcoming events include the Living Rosary on October 19, at 2:30 in the church; Trunk or Treat on October 28, from 7 pm to 8pm in front of Arthur's; and our Thanksgiving community meal on November 22. If you have any questions about our school, feel free to contact me by email, principal@stmarysellis.net, or phone, 785-726-3185.

April Pfeifer



Fourth Grade class presents their rock collections to the Kindergarten class.



Ellis senior athletes signing autographs after sharing a meal with SMS students during homecoming week

Garage Sale to Benefit Home & School



Friday, Oct. 21, 2016 (12 - 5 p.m.)
and Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 (8-11 a.m.).

Call Lillian Bongartz at 785-726-1319 for drop offs or donations.

Meet Our School Staff



**April
Pfeifer**
(Principal)



**Roberta
Augustine**
(Secretary)



**Meagan
Pantle**
(Pre-K)



**Susan
Henrikson**
(Kindergarten)



**Meagan
Everett**
(1st Grade)



**Amber
Deutscher**
(2nd Grade)



**Patricia
Meagher**
(3rd Grade)



**Peggy
Seibel**
(4th Grade)



**Angie
Ward**
(5th Grade)



**Jackie
Baxter**
(6th Grade)



**Deb
Eller**
(Nurse)



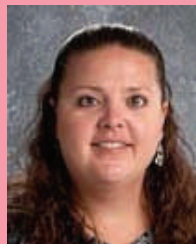
**Shelly
Hensley**
(Librarian)



**Shawn
Demuth**
(Music)



**Jake
Dreiling**
(PE)



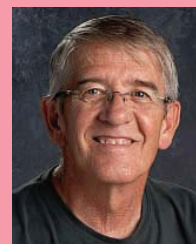
**Stacey
Williams**
(Band)



**Diana
Hamel**
(Dietary)



**Mindi
Mader**
(Dietary Aide)



**Charles
Waldschmidt**
(Custodian)



The fourth grade class has been enjoying their new Chromebook computers, which were purchased with funds from a generous grant from the Wiesner Foundation. These computers are not only used for research and typing reports, but have become invaluable in other areas of the curriculum as well. They are being used to take Spelling tests, review material in Religion, for typing instruction, for online Reading assessments, and many other tasks. The students have been very

diligent about caring for the computers that will be theirs throughout the remainder of their time here at St. Mary's School!

Peggy Seibel



What is Happening Around the Church & School

After many years of fighting sewer backups, we finally have the problem solved. Three separate sewer between the church, school, and convent were installed and tied to the city's main line. Thanks to all those involved in implementing and successfully completing the project. Also, thanks to those who donated money for the project. The grounds looked like a "war zone" for awhile as sidewalks were broken up and removed and deep holes dug to lay the sewer

lines (see pictures below). To the surprise of those who did the digging, there were more "buried" obstacles to work around, like phone lines!

Another project that was finally started, and close to being finished at the time of the writing this article, are the windows. As many may know our Insurance company would not cover the windows because of condition they were in. Associated Crafts, a company that specializes in preservation of stain glass windows, was contracted to do some restoration work on the windows. Existing window coverings were removed and replaced with a clear acrylic covering and aluminum framing. Window trim was scraped, re-puttied, and painted. Some other maintenance/repair work was also done.

Our rope rung bells need maintenance work done on them in order to ensure a working system for generations to come (see pictures below). The consensus of the finance and parish councils is to move forward with plans for bell maintenance. The bells are an important part of the history of the church, and it is the feeling of the councils that this historical perspective of our church should be preserved for future generations. We are looking

into grant money to help pay for some it. As you can see from the pictures, some of bells wheels are beginning to separate and break apart. Maintenance would include replacing the bell wheels, the inside clapper springs, corroded bolts, and A-stands. The bells would be fitted with "pillow block bearings" which will make the bell easier to ring and are maintenance free. Estimated labor and parts may be around \$40,000. Most of the parts will have to be custom made, since parts for these old bells you just can't buy off the shelf, which is one reason the cost will be higher.



A Promise Being Kept (by Gini Augustine)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory...the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me...' " When questioned about when the disciples had done these things, Jesus lovingly answered, "The King will reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' " --Mt. 25:34-40

Even today, Jesus continues to invite us to act in love for those who are the "least among us." For a group of enthusiastic local women, that is exactly the call they have chosen to follow. Acting with compassion, they have said "yes" to helping with a labor of love that was first offered as a sacred promise before the Blessed Sacrament in St. Mary's Church in Ellis, some 19 years ago. For many reasons, that promise was made to offer back to the Lord the talents and materials He had freely given. The idea, fully formed, came suddenly to mind. It would be good to make quilts and gather personal items for the homeless who find their way to the Samaritan House in Denver, those who are truly the "least among us." It is often said that "God's timing is not our timing." Although that promise was made so long ago and never fulfilled, this seems now, finally, to be "the acceptable time."

Fr. Michael Suchnikki, a Capuchin priest formerly of Ellis, has been stationed at the Samaritan House in Denver for many years. Although the shelter provides meals and a



place to sleep, the staff and volunteers also provide far more. People who come to the shelter are given the opportunity to literally turn their lives around, receiving counseling and life skills training. Fr. Michael's concern and humble service for the people there have provided the spark for this project, even during those many dry years, when no quilts were ever made. In speaking to him about a year ago, this errant "wannabe" quiltmaker dared to hope that the quilts were no longer needed, that the people finding their way to Samaritan House were already warm and safe and doing well. There was, to be honest, a sort of hope that Fr. Michael would say, "No, you don't need to worry about the quilt project any more. We're doing okay."

What he said was totally the opposite. Fr. Michael said something like this: "Oh, you can't imagine the great need we have for help in our shelter right now. What we would need most are quilts for the women and children we have to turn away -- we just don't have enough room for many of them, and it's heart-breaking to have to tell them that." WOMEN AND CHILDREN???? What if those were our daughters, our grandkids? But then he added, "Do you think you could make oh, about 20 of them -- and could you get them here by Christ-

mas?" Eighteen years, and not even one had been completed, and he wanted 20 by Christmas, which was barely three months away.

Needless to say, that didn't happen, but the spark had been fanned into a blazing fire. Those quilts needed to get done! Knowing full well the old adage that "many hands make light work," ladies of this parish and beyond have now banded together to help. Ladies are cutting, stitching, donating and tying; they are working at home on their own time and at the K of C Hall during Daughters of Isabella socials. One lady has made entire quilts, and others have offered quilt tops that

were originally gifted to them. The quilts that are emerging are varied, beautiful, and warm.

This could have been simply just another "project" to accomplish, another "duty" that would encroach on people's time. Instead, the women have come together joyfully and in increasing numbers, doing whatever they can to bring these quilts into being. With the current rate of progress, at least 20 quilts WILL be sent to Denver in time for Christmas this year. Additionally, the ladies are working to provide backpacks and personal items to accompany the 20 quilts.

Anyone interested in help-



Hundreds of homeless men, women and families receive services each day and a place to stay.



Samaritan House in Downtown Denver

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ing will still be welcome. People don't necessarily need to be skilled in sewing to contribute to this worthwhile cause -- all sorts of skills are needed to finish these quilts. Additionally, donations of certain items would also be most appreciated. Still needed are larger pieces of fabric in cotton or cotton blends. Small prints, batiks and solids work best for these, which will be used for setting squares, borders and backing; quilt batting is also needed. Beyond that, people could donate any amount of personal items. At the end of this article, you will find a fairly comprehensive list of possible items to include in the care packages for our homeless sisters and brothers. You might think of other things that would be useful as well. Of course, we'll also be asking Fr. Dana to bless these heart-gifts, before we send them on.

In the past, several people were asked to help out with this project, but they declined. It's easy to understand why. After putting in all this work and effort, these quilts may be dragged around, flopped on the ground or in a dirty car. They'll be shoved into backpacks and stuffed into old shopping carts and totes. They may be well-loved, or the people who use them may pay them no thought at all. Why, then, should anyone put out all this effort and time to make quilts that may be treated so poorly? Because, simply put, these people who will receive our quilts are HUMAN -- they are deeply loved by our Lord, and the love and care we put into these quilts may help them know that somewhere, someone "out there" was also thinking of them and praying for them and loving them unconditionally.

Those lovely ladies who have already signed on for service are appreciated be-

yond measure, for all they have done and continue to do. For all of you who are now considering this call to help, the best gift you can give is to offer the work of your hands as though to the Lord Jesus Himself -- to remind yourself, at every opportunity, "with every stitch, a prayer!" That is the hope for anyone who will choose to work on this project -- pray as you begin each work session, as you select just the right fabrics to add a little cheer into their lives, pray for these unknown people whenever you think of them. Allow your loving sacrifice of time and effort to carry your prayers heavenward, even when you aren't even consciously praying. We probably won't ever know who receives our quilts, but God will. In fact, He sees them even now, receiving and bundling up in these quilts some time in "our" future.

Here are two prayers for your consideration. Of course, you're definitely encouraged to pray from your own heart as well.

Opening prayer [In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.] Lord God, we are all so blessed, here in Ellis, Kansas. None of us here are homeless or likely to become homeless in the near future, but our hearts go out to those who are. Sometimes through poor choices, sometimes through circumstances beyond their control, many people have felt their lives disintegrating, closed in by poverty and helplessness. Lord God, we come before you, saddened by the burden these children of Yours must be experiencing as they search about for a safe place to stay. Please allow us to have some small part in stitching these precious lives back together. We ask your blessings on our endeavor and on all whose lives will be warmed and comforted by the work of our hands. [In the

name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.]

Closing prayer: [In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.] Our dear St. Benedict Joseph Labré, patron saint of all homeless people, we ask you to intercede for us with our Lord, on behalf of those people who will receive these quilts that we make. And Lord, we offer You the work of our hands. We ask that you give us true compassion and generosity, that we can work well and joyfully and complete these quilts in time for this year's Christmas giving. [In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.]

If you are considering adding your efforts to ours, beware -- this will probably be way more work than you ever imagined. On the flip-side, it can also be very fulfilling work as well! If you decide you don't have time to do much, do a little. If you don't even have time to do a little, please just keep us and this project in your prayers. Thanks so much for putting this on your radar screen!

For more information, contact Gini Augustine at 785-726-4257 or Peggy Waldschmidt at 785-726-3458.

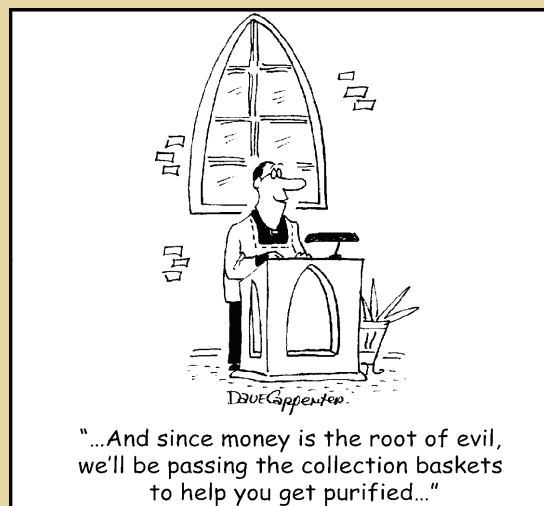
Here is the list of possible donations for our care packs. Feel free to add others!

Personal care items (all in small "travel" sizes if possible): toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizers, shampoo, conditioner, soap, wipes, combs and small brushes, small packs of tissues, chapstick, deodorant, fingernail clippers

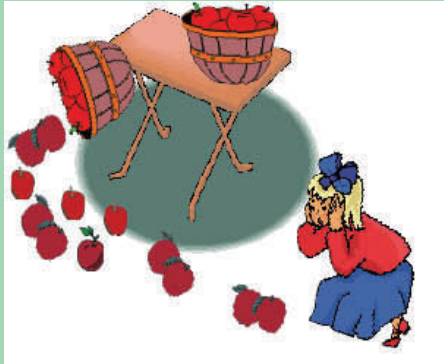
Personal-use items: little flashlights with batteries, plastic rain ponchos, (either of these two are about \$1 at Walmart), small folding umbrellas (you can find them for \$1 sometimes at Dollar Tree) emergency (foil-look) blankets, little hand-warmer packets, little first aid kits (just some sanitizing wipes plus Band-aids might do), sun glasses (you can ask at stadiums and places where concerts were put on, etc. -- there are often dozens of these in the lost-and-found that no one has ever claimed)

Food items, individually wrapped: granola bars, trail mix, beef jerky or sticks, cracker packs, mints, chewing gum, candy, packs of instant coffee or cocoa

Misc. items: little New Testament Bibles, rosaries, gloves and warm caps, warm socks, personal notes of encouragement, ball caps (nothing with well-known sports teams or anything that would identify you or this area), good-condition backpacks



"Are You Jesus" (Author Unknown)



A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home and with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding.

All But One! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain

his taking a later flight.

Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did. The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

He continued on with "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly." As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister," he paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride and he wondered. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus -

He is good, kind, caring, loving and would never have bumped into your display in the first place."

The girl gently nodded, "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me. Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing around in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

"Why Go to Church"

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letter to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone

wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today."

"Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing,

God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



Liturgical Events: November 1, 2016—January 8, 2016

Month of Nov.	The Book of Remembrance will be in the church.
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints—Holy Day of Obligation. Mass Times: 8:10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 1—25	Food Drive for those in need in our town. Boxes will be in the entrance of the church for you to place your items.
Nov. 2	All Soul's Day. Mass at 8:10 a.m.
Nov. 6	Cemetery Prayers after 9:00 a.m. Mass
	Remembering Prayer Service 4:00 p.m. (See article below)
Nov. 13	Anointing of Sick service during Mass after the homily. Front pews will be reserved for those who will find it difficult to walk.
Nov. 20	Feast of Christ the King. The end of the liturgical year. Also the end of the Year of Mercy.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day. Mass is at 9:00 a.m. This is a good time to come and thank God for all his blessings.
Nov. 27	1st Sunday of Advent. The Gift Tree will be in the entrance of the church. The Gift Tree is for the residents of the Good Samaritan Center as a gift from parishioners on Christmas Day. There may be many items on the list but you choose only one. You may take your gift to the Good Samaritan Center or leave them in the entrance of the church, and we will take them to Good Sam's.
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy day of obligation). Mass times: Wednesday evening at 7:10 a.m. (CCD Mass). Thursday at 8:10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 18	Communal Penance Service at 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 24-25	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Mass times: Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Children's Mass). Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 1	News Years. Feast of the Holy Mother of God & World Day of Peace. Mass times: Sat at 5:30 p.m. and Sun. at 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 8	Feast of the Epiphany. Blessings of Homes will be on this day. Holy Water, chalk and Blessing Prayer will be provided.

Remembering Prayer Service



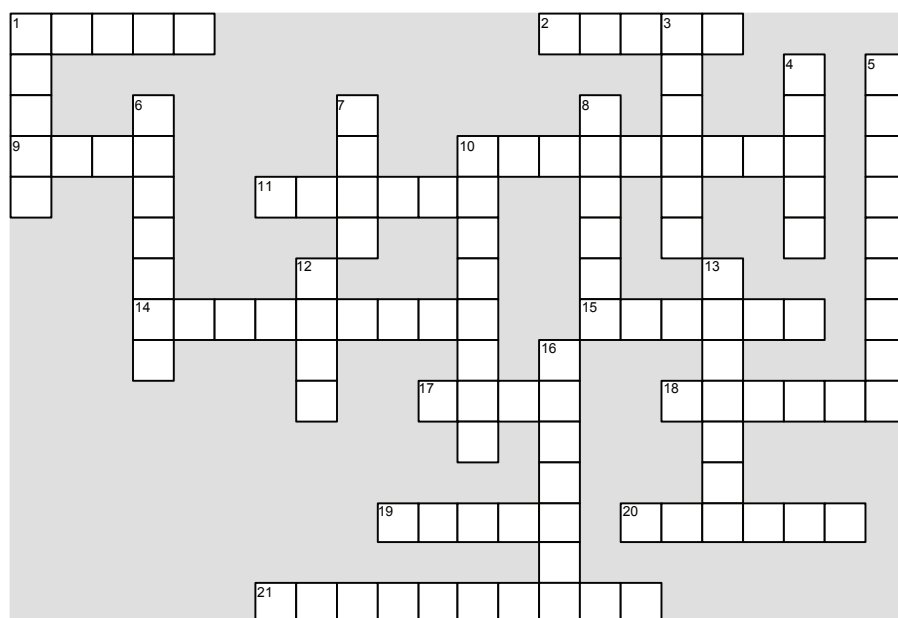
Our Liturgy Committee will be holding a "Remembering Prayer Service" to remember those who have died in the past year. This prayer service will replace the reading of deceased members of St. Mary's during the Sunday Mass before All Saints Day. The prayer service will take place on Sunday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m. Parish family members who have lost a loved one during the year will be invited to attend. At the prayer service the names of the deceased will be announced and family members who are attending will come up and light a candle for their loved one. The prayer service concludes with the Way of the Cross in Time of Grief. Candles will have the name of the deceased on them, and at the end of the service families can take the candle they lit home with them. A glass candle with a six-day candle insert will be used, so that the candle can continue to be used as long as the family wishes by replacing the insert when it burns out. We will be compiling a list of names. If you have a loved one who died within the past year, and you want us to be sure that person is on the list, call Sr. Doris or myself. All members of the parish

are invited to attend, even if they have no loved ones to remember.

Fr. Dana



**Picture of Remembering Prayer Service
held in Colby**



ACROSS

- 1 The disciple who was also called Peter
- 2 Betrayer of Jesus
- 9 Temple prophetess
- 10 Father of John the Baptist
- 11 Mary's very busy sister
- 14 Mother of John the Baptist
- 15 He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
- 17 Doctor and New Testament writer
- 18 Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus
- 19 He had John the Baptist beheaded
- 20 The earthly father of Jesus
- 21 Blind beggar healed by Jesus

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

DOWN

- 1 The tempter
- 3 Peter's brother
- 4 The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- 5 He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
- 6 Tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus
- 7 Writer of the second gospel
- 8 The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
- 10 Short tax collector

Word List—The 12 Apostles

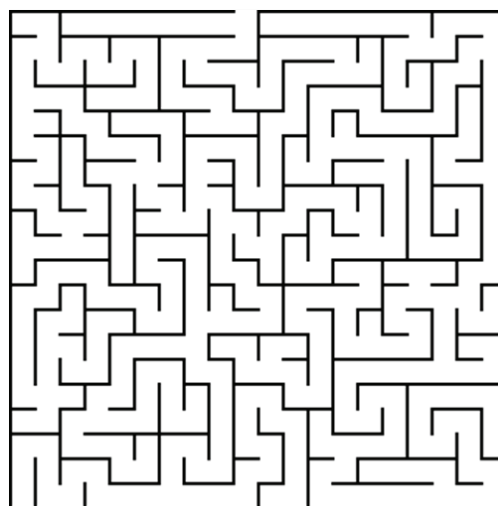
PETER	PHILIP	JAMES ALPHEUS
ANDREW	BARTHOLOMEW	THADDAEUS
JAMES	THOMAS	SIMON
JOHN	MATTHEW	JUDAS ISCARIOT

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

Unscramble these Disney Characters

KCDU
 DNLODA
 MCYEKI
 OOFYG
 OMUES
 PUTOL
 DMBUO
 BBIAM
 NSW O IEHWT

Start



Finish

Life Happenings – May 28, 2016 – September 30, 2016

BAPTISMS

1. Brenna Mae

Born January 14, 2016

Baptized May 28, 2016

Daughter of Monte Honas and Kylie (Morel) Honas

2. Tenley Marie Goldsberry

Born July 24, 2015

Baptized June 2, 2016

Daughter of Craig Goldsberry and Michelle (Augustine) Goldsberry

3. Annistyn Kay Watson

Born May 2, 2016

Baptized July 16, 2016

Daughter of Tyler Watson and Chasity (Waldschmidt) Watson

4. Olivia Elenora North

Born May 20, 2016

Baptized July 25, 2016

Daughter of Travis North and Ava (Toliver) North

5. Easton Paul Aschenbrenner

Born May 5, 2016

Baptized July 31, 2016

Son of Gary Aschenbrenner and Tara (Gassmann) Aschenbrenner

6. Nolan David Reed

Born July 31, 2016

Baptized on September 17, 2016

Son of Darin Reed and April (Lilak) Reed

7. Vincent John Eck

Born July 26, 2016

Baptized September 18, 2016

Son of Mark Eck and Sarah (Hahn) Eck

MARRIAGES

1) John Gnad married Pamela Brummer on June 25, 2016

2) Ethan Cox married Britny Pfannenstiel on September 10, 2016

3) Brian Riedel married Tori Clark on September 24, 2016

DEATHS

1) Leora Schoenberger passed away on November 13, 2015. She was buried next to her husband Don in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS.

2) Lori Newell passed away on June 11, 2016. She was born November 9, 1963. Funeral service was held June 14, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis. Services were conducted by Fr. Richard Daise. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Damar, KS.

3) Irene Dreiling passed away on June 19, 2016. She was born April 17, 1925. Funeral service was held June 22, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis.

Services were conducted by Fr. Richard Daise. Interment was in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Plainville, KS.

4) Donald Herl passed away on August 6, 2016. He was born November 20, 1946. Funeral service was held August 11, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis. Services were conducted by Fr. Dana Clark and Fr. Richard Daise. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS.

5) Virginia "Ginny" Robinett passed away on August 15, 2016. She was born March 16, 2016. Funeral service was held August 19, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis. Services were conducted by Fr. Dana Clark. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS.

6) Jackie Kohl passed away on August 24, 2016. She was born March 10, 1950. Funeral service was held August 29, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis. Services were conducted by Fr. Dana Clark. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS.

7) Charles Carlson passed away on February 20, 2016. He was born October 31, 1930. Committal Service was held September 10, 2016 at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS. Services were conducted by Fr. Dana Clark.

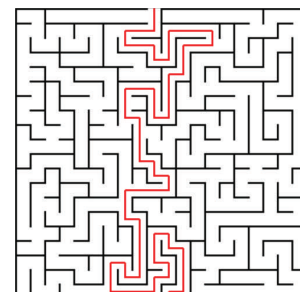
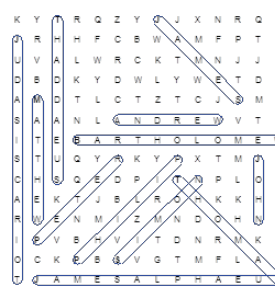
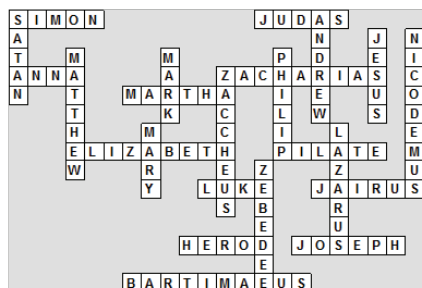
8) Elaine Bittel passed away on September 15, 2016. She was born January 5, 1948. Funeral service was held September 24, 2016 at St. Mary's Church, Ellis. Services were conducted by Fr. Dana Clark. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis, KS.

St. Mary's Parish

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703 Monroe St.
Ellis, KS 67637
Phone: 785.726-4522
Email: stmary@gbta.net

St. Mary's School
605 Monroe St.
Ellis, KS 67637
Phone: 785.726-3185
Email: stmarys@gbta.net

Solutions to Fun Page puzzles.



Duck, Donald, Mickey, Goofy, Mouse, Pluto, Dumbo, Bambi, Snow White