

Voice of St. Mary



Volume 10 - Issue 1
February 2017

Our mission is to involve ourselves in lay ministries, living and spreading the gospel message of justice and peace.

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Hello,

"Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your heart..." *Joel 2: 12-18*

Lent will be upon us with Ash Wednesday on March 1st. These are very challenging times. We are deeply divided along the vault lines of race, nationality, gender, culture, religion. The chasms seem too wide to cross, the anger and distrust too deep to bridge. We worry about our children and their children's future. What will be left of the earth to give them? But despite the uncertainty and fear, the prophet insists: "Return to the Lord, your God—even now."

Your job is on the bubble. You don't know where the money for next semester's tuition will come from. Health care costs and medical insurance are constant challenges. Yet, no matter, with so much on your mind, seek the things of the heart—even now.

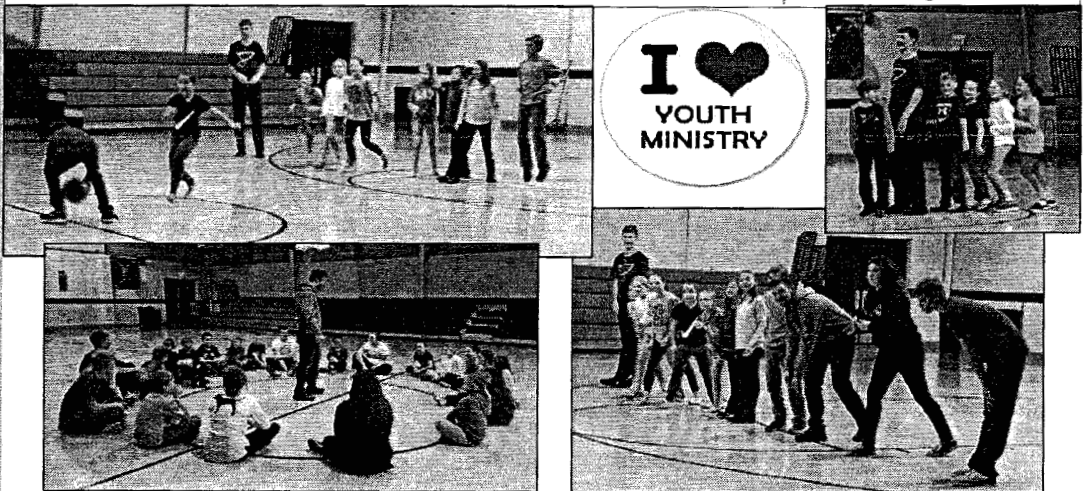
You might be dealing with a loved one's illness. Your son or daughter might be in trouble. Your family is confronting some financial crisis. All the more reason to seek the mercy and blessing of God—even now.

Even now represents any circumstance that makes us feel distant from God—and *even now* is the assurance of God's grace despite those circumstances.

No matter what part of your life is in ashes on this first day of Lent 2017, know that the mercy of God is in your midst in family and friends who love and care. Realize that you can turn around and change course. Let these ashes instill in all of us the hope that our journey does not end on a cross of broken wood.

This Lent, restore the landscape of your life. Refocus on the things of the heart, Return to the Lord of blessing, of kindness, of peace. *Even now*. Especially now.

Peace + Good, Fr. George



YM would like to send out a huge **THANK YOU** to the Parish Council and all who bought tickets or volunteered at the pork chop supper. Your contribution of **\$2,148.94** is truly appreciated. We will use those funds to attend the upcoming Youth Rally in Mt. Vernon on April 1.

YM got the Faith Formation classes involved in the *Turn on the Water* project. The classes combined collected over **\$1,700**. The fourth grade class raised the most money and won a pizza party with YM. We really enjoyed spending time and playing games with the kids.

YM collected contributions for "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Super Bowl weekend. Thanks to all who donated. An offering of **\$382.27** will be given to Matthew 25 Food Pantry.

It truly is great to be a member of YM! Any high school student interested in joining call Judy Doerr at 618-830-9225.

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Fr. George Mack, Pastor

Meet Your Parish Council Candidates

Voting takes place the weekend of March 4 & 5 at all Masses



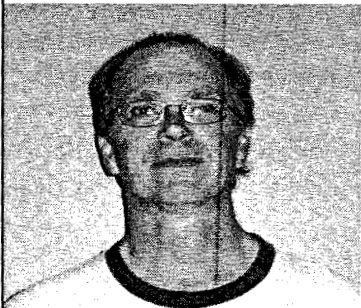
Stacy Holthaus

Stacy Holthaus Hi, my name is Stacy Holthaus. I am married to Chad Holthaus. We have two boys, Collin and Blake. When Collin was in 2nd grade, I chose to convert from being Lutheran to Catholic. Collin is now a freshman at SIUE, and Blake is a sophomore at Mater Dei. I am a child-care/ preschool provider in my home. I am very glad to be a part of the St. Mary's family. I was definitely welcomed with open arms.



Mike Jansen

Mike Jansen Hello, my name is Mike Jansen. I have lived in Carlyle with my wife, Liz and our 3 sons Johnathon age 12, Joshua age 10 and Jeremy age 7 since 2010. I was raised in Breese by my parents Ms. Jane Jansen and the late Wilbert (Butch) Jansen. I am a graduate of St. Dominic Grade School and Mater Dei Catholic HS. I am a 1996 graduate of McKendree College with a Bachelor's degree in Education and earned a Master's Degree in Education Administration in 2008 from Eastern Illinois University. I teach business/computer classes at Carlyle High School and have been there for 18 years. I am currently an Usher at 4 pm Mass for St. Mary's, and our 2 eldest sons serve regularly.



Gerard Luebbers

Gerard Luebbers My name is Gerard Luebbers, and I have been a member of St. Mary Carlyle the entire 56 plus years of my life. A few months ago, I was asked to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council and I accepted without hesitation. It has been an absolute pleasure and an honor to serve on the Council. And if I am elected to the Parish Council this time, I will do everything in my power to preserve the tradition and beauty of our church, as well as prepare this parish for the challenges ahead.



Andy Zieren

Andy Zieren My name is Andy Zieren, and I would appreciate your support for St. Mary Parish Council. I am a lifelong member of St. Mary Church, was a Mass server in my youth, and also served on the Stewardship Committee. I am a 1994 graduate of Mater Dei High School and am a co-owner of Zieren Funeral Home. My wife, Michelle, and I have 2 children - Maya (7) and Tyler (5). Our children are students at All Saints Academy.

I strongly believe in the giving of your time and talents and would be honored to serve our parish further through my participation on Parish Council. I believe in working together and will strive to better the communication and coordination of all the ministries, events and fundraisers in our parish. I would also like see youth programs expanded to get the children and their parents more involved with Mass and other programs at church.

MARK YOUR CALENDER!

Join us Saturday, March 11th at the K of C Hall for the 6th Annual St. Mary Church Reverse Raffle.

You should have received your tickets in the mail. If you need additional tickets, contact the church office. Your \$20 ticket purchase provides your entry, chicken, and a chance to win \$2000! If you are present for the drawing, the grand prize is \$2500! So plan on joining us for an evening of fellowship. Doors open at 6:00PM. Food will be served from 7:00 to 8:00. The raffle drawing begins at 7:00. There will be music, silent auction, and oral auction. Cash bar will be available.

Invite your friends!

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Kendra Vaughn

Congratulations to Kendra Vaughn who won The Messenger Christmas Prayer contest! Her picture and prayer were published in The Messenger. Kendra also received a gift card. The contest was open to all students in grades 4, 5, and 6 in the Belleville diocese. Kendra was the only student from a PSR program to be recognized for her prayer in the Messenger Christmas Prayer Contest.

"Dear God, let the true meaning of Christmas come out of people's hearts and be an example to people everywhere in the world. Let people remember the birth of Jesus and the special gifts we receive from heaven above throughout the entire year. Amen."

Congratulations to Joshua Jansen, who won First Place for the "Keep Christ in Christmas" K of C Poster Contest at the Diocesan level for grades 3 & 4 and Third Place overall.



Joshua Jansen



At the liturgies of Super Bowl weekend, St. Mary Youth

Ministry, in collaboration with St. Teresa Youth Ministry, collected for the Super Bowl of Caring that benefited Matthew 25 Food Pantry. St. Mary donated \$382.27. Youth Ministry thanks you for your generosity.



Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming these new members to our St. Mary Parish Family:

Jared Alan Rakers
Amanda & Ella Jordan
Lucy & Darrel Maschhoff

BEST LENT EVER

DON'T GIVE UP
chocolate
FOR LENT

Faith Formation is preparing for Lent. We will gather on the playground on Wed Feb 22 at 7:30 pm for the Burning of the Palms. Scripture will be proclaimed, we will pray, and say goodbye to the Alleluia until Easter. On Wed March 29 at 7:15 in the gym, YM will lead us in a Shadow Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join us!

We all know the things that make us happy, but we don't always do them. Lent is an opportunity to change that. This year we invite you to do something different.

Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a free, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . And what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever?

TO SIGN UP, VISIT BestLentEver.com

St. Mary Parish has been selected to host a National Catholic Relief Services presentation by Margaret Mwenya of Zambia; this is one of the regions that will benefit from our *Turn On*



The Water project. Margaret will speak about her personal experience witnessing the life saving measures taking place in her country. All parishioners are invited to attend her hour-long touching and inspirational program on Sunday, February 26th, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center cafeteria.

A GREAT WAY TO BEGIN THE LENTEN SEASON!!!

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Calendar

Wed Mar 1.....Ash Wednesday; 7:00 am & 6:45 pm
Mar 4 & 5.....Parish Council Election at all Masses
Sat Mar 11.....St. Mary Parish Reverse Raffle
Sun Mar 26.....Lenten Reconciliation Service; 3:00 pm
Thurs Apr 13.....Holy Thursday; 7:30 pm
Fri Apr 14.....Stations of the Cross; 3:00 pm
.....Good Friday Liturgy; 7:30 pm
Sat Apr 15.....Easter Vigil; 8:00 pm
Sun Apr 16.....Easter Sunday; 8:00 am & 10:00 am
.....Easter Egg Hunt following 10:00 am Mass
Tue May 2.....Confirmation; Cluster celebration at
St. Cecilia, Bartelso; 7:00 pm
Sun May 7.....First Communion; 10:00 am
Sun May 21.....HS Grad Recognition Mass; 10:00 am

Lenten Reconciliation Services

Mar 16..... 7:00 pm St. Dominic, Breese
Mar 26..... 3:00 pm St. Mary, Carlyle
Mar 26..... 4:30 pm St. Cecilia, Bartelso
Mar 30..... 6:00 pm St. Lawrence, Sandoval
Mar 30..... 7:00 pm St. Mary, Centralia
Apr 2.....1:00 pm St. Bernard, Albers
Apr 2..... 3:00 pm St. Francis, Aviston
Apr 2..... 3:00 pm St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
Apr 2..... 4:30 pm St. Mary, Trenton
Apr 2..... 6:30 pm St. Barbara, Scheller

Lenten Liturgies

Tuesdays during LentMass at 7:00 pm
.....Novena at 6:30 pm
Fridays during LentStations of the Cross
.....12:10 pm



PRAY FAST GIVE

The Holy Eucharist is available to those who are homebound or unable to attend Mass.
Please contact Fr. George or call the Parish Office at 594-2225.