

**St. Charles Borromeo  
FaithLink Staff**

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*A special thank you to all  
contributing parishioners.*

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***We extend a warm WELCOME to these newly  
registered parishioners!***

Michael & Patricia Fulco  
Alma De laTorre,  
Timothy, Nicole, Addison, Jackson & Jason Hollingsworth  
Richard & Patricia Korda  
Jennifer Kott  
Kathleen Filipiak  
Tillie Filipiak  
Leonard & Geraldyn Hensgen  
Clarence & Margaret Izydorski  
Craig, Lauren & Thomas Osburn  
Joseph & Joyce Pignotti  
Angela Schlosser & Cameron  
Ryan, Amanda, Lily, Jonah & Micah Davis  
Alexander, Gina & Austin Engler

**Thanks to AlphaGraphics for their donation of time,  
talent and treasure in the printing of this newsletter.**

AlphaGraphics, 650 E. Terra Cotta Ave., Suite 107, Crystal Lake, IL 815.444.9971  
Jeff Magnussen, Director of Operations, Parishioner

# **From the Desk of the Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and with your family. We are very grateful to the Lord for allowing us to see the year 2020! It is a year of Divine Love for our parish and school. We are the people of God called to a new life in Christ. God's message of salvation is to guide our lives to act justly and to find a good reason each day to be joyful and to live in God's presence. Christ said that His new life within us has been sealed with His love and with His precious blood.



St. Paul reminds us that our different gifts are sources of blessings to unite us in love as the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the whole world to spread the Good News of salvation. God's mission must be carried out with love. For this reason, St. Paul says that if you give away everything you own, but do not have love, you're nothing. Fernandez puts it a different way saying, "Without love life lacks its prime and essential ingredient. The most sublime eloquence and all the good works imaginable would be like the fading reverberation of a booming gong or the clash of cymbals which lasts scarcely a few moments and then fades away into nothing."

There are a few things to expect in our parish and school in this new year of divine love. We will do a little repair in our divine mercy adoration chapel, fix the tuck pointing in our school east side of the building; a big school auction to pay down the accumulated debt as a result of the rising healthcare insurance cost, a capital campaign to tackle in advance the healthcare cost, bold programs to increase our school enrollment; positioning it to become more welcoming, prayerful and a spiritual institution.

We shall expand our preschool program to include PK4 all day and 5 days per week and finally, we shall revamp our marketing strategies and school website. We will make little tuition and other necessary adjustments to meet our school needs but we will initiate a Guardian Angel Fund program and Illinois Invest in Kids Acts to assist those families unable to pay the full tuition.

It is never too late to enroll your children in our fine school. Other programs to expect are: there will be a parish pilgrimage to Germany (Passion Play), parish picnic, and additional times for confession during Lent.

I strongly encourage you to be part of the new transformation experience that is taking place in our parish and school. Please pray for an increased enrollment in our school:

*“O Christ, our teacher, we thank you for the gift of our Catholic School, where the message of your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed; discipleship is modeled, worship of you is cultivated, and community is experienced. Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from an authentic Catholic education, and that our Catholic School will grow in its ability to nurture the souls and form the minds of its students for generations to come. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Catholic Schools. Amen.”*

In all things, may we continue to stay united in love, trusting in God’s divine love. Many Blessings to you, One Family of God!

Much love and prayers,

Father Sylvester A. Nnaso, M. Div., M.A., D. Min., Pastor



### **Germany Pilgrimage with Passion Play**

**June 8-16, 2020**

**Act Fast! This pilgrimage is limited to 25 people.**

**Destinations Include:** Schoenstatt Shrine, Dachau Concentration Camp, places from the life of Pope Benedict, Shrine of our Lady in Altotting, Andechs Benedictine Abbey, Neuschwanstein Castle, Oberammergau and Munich. Optional: Passau River dinner cruise.

**Low price of**  
**\$3,495**  
pp, dbl. occ.

**Includes:** Roundtrip airfare & taxes from Chicago, 7 nights’ lodging, breakfast, dinner with glass of wine or beer, tour escort, local guides, admission fees, 2 night Passion Play arrangement, daily Mass and daily Eucharistic adoration.

**Host Parish:**  
**St. Charles Borromeo Church**  
**in Hampshire**

**Host Priest: Fr. Sylvester Nnaso**



For more information please contact Fr. Nnaso.  
Phone: 847-683-2391  
Email: frnnaso@scbparish.org

# School News!



One of the amazing benefits of having a smaller school setting is the opportunity to share learning across grade levels. Our fifth grade students had the opportunity to present their Plains Native American villages to the first, second and third grade classes in three separate sessions. The older students had so much fun sharing their knowledge with the younger students. The practice presenting does not even seem like work when the audience expresses vast amounts of enthusiasm!



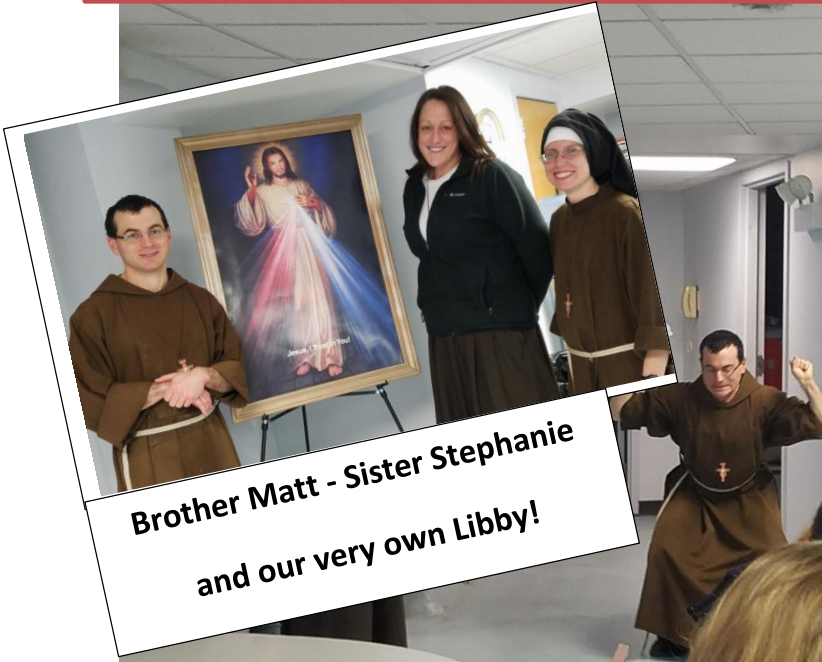
Every year schools around our Diocese have the honor to present Bishop O' Neill scholarships to students in their school. The awards rotate around each Deanery, to insure equal reward for every division of the Diocese. This year St. Charles Borromeo school was pleased to present the scholarship to Murphy and Jocelyne Hunt! The reception for the scholarship is hosted at the Diocesan office in Rockford by Mr. Michael Kagan, Superintendent of Schools.



Thanks to our coach, Mrs. Kristin Flesher, our Spirit Squad cheerleaders were ready to cheer at our basketball games! They are full of school spirit as they bring the crowd to their feet in support of our athletes. Our SCB parents are supportive and generous with their time and talent!



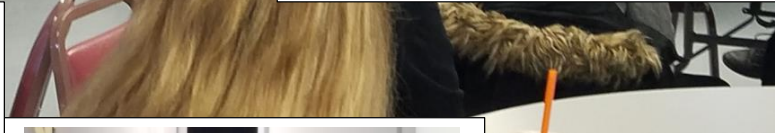
**CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2020 WITH THE  
FRANCISCANS OF THE EUCHARIST OF CHICAGO**



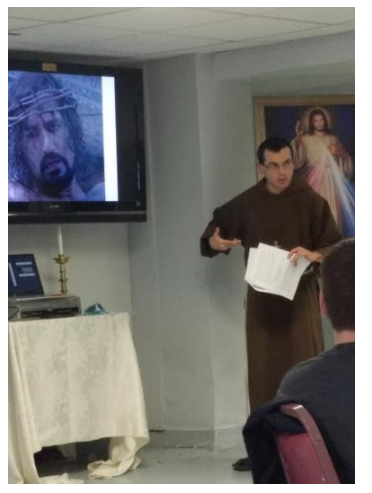
**Brother Matt - Sister Stephanie  
and our very own Libby!**



**Libby Oleferchik gave her Vocation  
testimony.**



Xander, Brock, Gabe and Aiden



After witnessing several  
skits we were asked to  
put on our own skits for  
everyone too!

Thank you  
Father  
Gonnella for  
talking with  
us and  
hearing  
Confessions.



Lenten Reflection  
By: Annette Palazzolo

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Lord, your grace is sufficient. I cannot tell you how many times I have unconsciously uttered those very words. Sometimes they are intentionally said within the structured time I set aside for prayer but more often than not, they are the words that flow unconsciously through me and from me throughout my day. When I took some time to think about that, I found that the very fact that those words strung together composes my go-to prayer, and the fact that they are freely uttered without a lot of mental focus said a good deal about me and my relationship with God. Lord, your grace is sufficient. Let's take the word sufficient...sufficient is synonymous with the word enough. Enough. That is a word that holds so much power over us as imperfect human beings, and often plagues the minds of people everywhere. Am I enough for my family? Am I a good enough friend? Do I do good enough job at work? Am I enough for this relationship? Am I enough for my children? Am I smart, pretty, intelligent, wealthy, strong, or interesting enough? Fill in the blank with any adjective and you get the picture. The world is constantly telling us we are not enough, whether it comes from the impossible artificial yet glamorous standards of the world or from our very experiences of someone making us feel less than or unworthy, the result is the same. We are left with this gaping hole that tells us we will never be enough and therefore, we are less valuable. Here lies the problem, we walk around with this complex and allow it to become part of our identity and it leads us to the biggest error of all; we apply it to our relationship with God. We start to get into this mindset: God, if you honestly knew all the terrible sins of my past, or all my brokenness you really wouldn't want me and you couldn't love me anymore because I don't even know if I can love myself. When we realize that God can and does see us and I mean really see us...past the masks we wear, past the lies we tell ourselves, we end up feeling ashamed. Now generally speaking, there are two responses to this. The first sounds something like this..."well, if God can't accept me for who I am and I am not going to be good enough anyway, I might as well peace out and live my life the way I want to." This always leads to separation from God, loneliness, and so much unhappiness. The other response is that we try to prove ourselves to God. This is where I often find myself. While the effort to improve one's self is a positive life change, especially in regard to our faith, it can become muddled when we fail and we are left with our feelings about not being enough. Here is where the prayer, Lord, your grace is sufficient, becomes so important. According to the Catechism, "our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life (Catechism 1996)." There you have it, grace is a gift from God freely given. It flows from the Father because the Father wants to bestow it on you. Why? Because He loves you and wants you to share in His divine nature and eternal life. So what does this all mean? It means that God loves you so much that he looks at you, the real you-he takes into account all your successes, your failures, your strengths, and your weaknesses-and He still wants you. He sees your mess and it does not deter Him from loving you. Instead of rejection, He gives you His grace, He gives you the very thing that you need to get back up, try again, and keep seeking him. He tells you that yes, alone you may not be enough but that doesn't matter because He is enough and His grace, the one that is freely given, is enough for you. Think about that! Although I will never stop trying to grow into the person God created me to be, when I fall, He will always be there to pick me back up and I am not disqualified from his love. My worth and your worth, can only be found in Him for "power is made perfect in weakness." He can take all that I am, and still use me as an instrument for his grace in this world. Maybe I unconsciously repeat this prayer to myself so often because I need the reminder or maybe it has nothing to do with me at all, and just maybe it is God's reminder to me that He is there and that I am loved. So the next time you are stressed, or alone, or feel like a failure, or when this lenten journey gets tough remind yourself...His grace is sufficient and you are loved.

# Family Faith Formation, Grades K through Confirmation

By Jan Olson, DRE



## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*** ***Family Faith Formation***

Grades Pre-K through Confirmation  
2019/2020

**THEME: POWER IN PRAYER!**

2020/2021

**THEME: ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Parishioners are welcome!  
It's never too late to join the families in our parish.

### **Religious Education Embraces Families!**

#### ***Our Parish is the Curriculum!***

We are enjoying an exciting year of Faith Formation in Religious Education. In addition to the children being in RE classes we have Parent Sessions set up to be a support and partnership in the faith formation of the family. This includes social time, coffee and donuts, snacks, videos, speakers and family prayer. All families will enjoy making lifelong faith filled friends! Please call the RE Office for more information.  
Jan Olson 847-683-1536

## **Partners in Family Faith**

Family Sessions end May 2020

### **Session Days and Times**

**16 Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30pm**

Families in K through 8 - Meet at our parish school/ Calendar on the website.

**16 Sundays, 8:40 – 10:15am**

Families in Pre K through 8 - Meet at our parish school/Calendar on the website.

### **Explore 2 Form**

→ Explore 2 things in the Parish / form will be provided

### **Explore The Mass**

→ Explore the Mass as a family/ form will be provided

### **Try a Ministry Form**

→ Try one of 40 ministries in our Parish/ form will be provided

Parents teach chapters to their children on the off weeks. **Registration Begins Soon for August 2020 Family Faith Formation!**

SCB Parish is so grateful for all the volunteers that help to form Family Faith Formation each year, the Catechists, Assistants, Substitute Catechists, Confirmation Catechists and Youth Ministers who generously volunteer their time to teach and share their love of GOD and their faith with the families and youth of our parish. Thank you!

### **RE/FFF CALENDAR/DATES and Topics**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| March 11 <sup>th</sup> & 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Examen/Prayer/Fasting/Almsgiving with Fr. Nnaso    |
| March 18 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> | Divine Mercy with Ray Oleferchik                   |
| April 15 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> | Centering Prayer with Deacon John Nelson           |
| April 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> | Hail Mary: Our Blessed Mother with Joseph Hahn     |
| May 13 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Living Rosary and Indulgences with Deacon Jim Ward |

## Upcoming Sacramental Schedule - First Reconciliation

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 16 | Jesus Day Planning Meeting 6:30pm – Parish Hall       |
| April 4  | Jesus Day 1:30-4:30pm – School/Church                 |
| May 1    | First Holy Communion Rehearsal 6:00pm – Church        |
| May 1    | First Holy Communion Pictures following the Rehearsal |
| May 2    | First Holy Communion Mass 10:00am                     |

Our Parish and School have 28 children preparing for the *Sacrament of First Holy Communion*

## Calendar for Confirmation Year 2 ( 9<sup>th</sup> graders) 2019/2020

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| March 4 <sup>th</sup>                                       | Dumoulin Farms 7-8:30pm |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> | Dumoulin Farms 7-8:30pm |
| May 6 <sup>th</sup>   | Dumoulin Farms 7-8:30pm |

All 11 Confirmation teens are in Parish Ministry throughout the year. They are making themselves known and witnessing to serving the Lord!

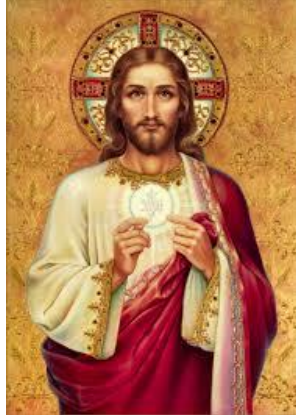
**CONFIRMATION DATE with Bishop David Malloy**  
**Sunday, March 1, 2020 6:30pm Confirmation Rehearsal**  
**Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:30pm Confirmation**

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SCB Family Faith Families join the JAM Youth to Feed the Homeless. They made and served a hot breakfast to over 50 people. Thanks for St. Vincent de Paul for coordinating our event.







## **JESUS DAY**

*Be a part of our **Jesus Day Retreat**  
celebrated on Saturday, April 4, 2020 1:30-4:30pm*

### **Parents, Grandparents, Godparents AND Confirmation Candidates**

We need leaders and helpers for the activities. The day includes: crafts, a skit, snacks, and music. No experience is necessary!

### **Siblings (ages 4th grade and up)**

You can help us by being a group leader helping the kids to experience the activities we have planned.

Please come to the **planning meeting Monday, March 16, 2020**  
**at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall**

Yes, please sign me up for the Jesus Day Retreat for the First Communicants!

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration / name tags     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare & serve refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work an arts & craft station | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead the skit/Assist         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with closing prayer   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever I am needed         |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AT THE FIRST COMMUNION PARENT/CHILD  
MEETING SCHEDULED on March 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

# First Holy Communion Preparations

## Parent Jesus Day Committee

This event is led by the *parents* of our second grade children.

This day is a little retreat for our 2nd graders and Sacramental prep

### Dates to remember:

**Monday , March 9, 2020: SCHOOL and FFF Parent and Child Meeting,**  
Meeting in Parish Hall at 6:30pm

- ◆ This meeting is attended by all School and FFF second graders and at least one parent.
- ◆ If you cannot make the scheduled meeting, please contact the office for an appointment. Thanks.

**Monday, March 16, 2020:** Jesus Day planning meeting  
Meeting in Parish Hall at 6:30pm.

**Saturday April 4, 2020:** Jesus Day 1:30-4:30pm at the school; all 2nd graders

### **Friday, May 1, 2020:**

First Holy Communion Rehearsal all families 6:00-7:00pm in the church.

First Holy Communion Group photo at 7:00pm, then individual photos.

**Saturday, May 2, 2020:** Sacrament of First Communion will be celebrated  
at 10:00am for all families.

*Clothing for Boys:* Sunday Best – Dark dress pants and white shirt with a tie.  
Suit coat is optional. White suit is optional. Dress shoes.

*Clothing for Girls:* White, First Communion dress; veil or flowers in hair.  
Gloves are optional. Shoes can be white or black.

# CEMETERY REPORT

## SPRING 2020

It's been a crazy winter, temperature wise. I hope this finds you all healthy. It's been a very interesting winter season and as I write this there hasn't really been much snow, but I'm afraid by the time you read this winter will have shown us its power, and a cleanup will be needed again this spring in the cemetery.

**WINTER DECORATIONS:** Please remove any winter and faded decorations before March 28<sup>th</sup> and place them in the containers provided throughout the cemetery. If a container is full, place your decorations next to that container and they will be taken care of.

**CEMETERY CLEANUP:** Weather permitting, we would like to have the Cemetery Clean-up on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. If the weather does not cooperate the backup date will be April 4<sup>th</sup>. Keep checking the church bulletin for any necessary changes. Upon arrival, please bring a rake and work gloves. Water will be provided.

As in the past, credit is given to those individuals needing credit for Confirmation and the cemetery fund does donate towards those going to Steubenville.

Remember: Lots of hands make the work go faster, so please come out and help us. Last year it took only about 1 1/2 hours. Thank you for your time and dedication!

If anyone is in need of credit for any church or parish ministry, please check with the R.E. Office. Help is always needed at the cemetery performing light, supervised duties.

**CEMETERY SUNDAY** will be on the First Sunday in June. This year it is June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, we will meet by the LARGE CROSS. I hope to see you there! (In the event weather is bad, we will meet in the Church and will announce this at ALL of the Masses that weekend.)

Blessings,

Deacon James Ward

# JAM YOUTH MINISTRY

## JESUS AND MARY

### SCB Parish MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP WOW

GRADES 6-8 Registration Now Open for Campers!



**JAM YOUTH  
MINISTRY**  
(JESUS AND MARY)



### SCB's youth of our Parish Feed the Homeless



Congratulations to our SCB  
Camp WOW Counselors  
For 2020 are:

- Tori Potter
- Molly Gruber
- Abby Gruber
- Aurelia Gray
- Michael Cozzi



E  
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R

Our Deacons and wives joined  
us for a Thanksgiving celebration!



**Tie-dye and pizza party  
coming Soon!**



### HIGH SCHOOL OLA Mission Trip for teens!



# LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING: THE BEAUTY OF BENEFACTORS AND BENEFICIARIES

*By Rev. Fr. Sylvester A. Nnaso, Founder of SOWL*

Those who put their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken, that stands for ever.  
Psalm 125: 1.

It was a beautiful spring day; summed up with a clear blue sky and a perfect temperature most fitting for the month of May in the Midwest part of the United States. I was returning from West Des Moines, Iowa, after driving precisely 304 miles to visit a priest friend who had lower back surgery. My phone rang, it was the Seat of Wisdom Library manager's voice calling to remind me about submitting my article for the 2019 SOWL Newsletter. Although I was still listening to the Relevant Radio Station, the rest of my journey back to my parish in Hampshire, Illinois was being interrupted by my constant meditation on the power of divine love; how it has the ability to change everything even the whole world. Also, the thought about my library benefactors and beneficiaries flashed back to my mind; I said my usual prayers for them, and my mind continued to wander on and on!

Certainly, the Lord calls us to be good and faithful stewards of His creation and of the gifts He entrusted to our care. Hence, I thought about the challenge of trying to know or figure out exactly what the Lord is asking us to do for Him or in His name. For instance, when the Lord called Samuel for the first time, he answered and went to the wrong person and place (1 Samuel 3:1-21); not knowing that it was the Lord calling him. Like Samuel, I have not been able to recognize the Lord's voice several times in my life and I still struggle with that same challenge. Nevertheless, there are two God calls that were loud and crystal clear to me: The first one was my call to the priesthood of Christ. I was able to recognize right away that it was the Lord calling me to His sacred office, but I vehemently tried my best to fight Him off. But, in the end, He won!

My second call was to build a library. Surprisingly, this time, I didn't fight the call, but I was confused and frightened because I had no idea how to go about the mission or maybe I didn't fight because I was still exhausted from my first battle with God; or perhaps, I recognized that just like a frightened animal at the vet, I was being molded into a new and better person. So, when the appointed time came, the Lord held me almost by the hand, infused me with the necessary knowledge, wisdom and zeal to accomplish the mission He has entrusted to me.



Therefore, whenever I reflect on the amount of sacrificial love that has gone into this project and the good it has done for so many people within a short time period, I thank God for using me as His instrument of love to achieve His divine purpose on earth. In this particular year, I want to sincerely thank my library benefactors for their solemn manifestation of divine love, stewardship, understanding, affirming, supporting, and nurturing the universal nature of the church built on one foundation, which is Christ-the Lord. Also, thank you very much for helping to untie many “donkeys.” To you, my beloved friends in need, my beneficiaries, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you in the name of God; for you are the fertile land for which the Lord invites us to sow the seed of love and a kind generosity. Also, thank you very much for your silent prayers! And to you my beloved staff, thank you for your dedicated service; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall be poured into your laps (Lk. 6:38). Over the years, many of my friends have asked me how I was able to manage Seat of Wisdom Library very well from a distant country and my response has always been “I am blessed with wonderful and dedicated staff.” Please, keep up your good work!

At this junction, I would like to commend the soul of Frank Polizzi, Jr. to God for an eternal reward. Frank passed away on Thursday, October 25th, 2018 at a ripe old age of 97 years. He was just 3 months shy of 98 years (Frank was the gentleman who gave me the first \$20 to start the Seat of Wisdom Library). It might interest you to know that Frank was extremely proud of the achievements of SOWL before he died. Unfortunately, on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I received a chilling call from Mark Serpe’s family that he had a heart attack and died instantly at a very young age of 66 years. It was very sad news for all of us who had known and served with Mark for more than 11 years. Mark became the chairman of Seat of Wisdom Library since 2008 until his death. He travelled with me to Abatete, Nigeria in 2015 for the grand opening of SOW Library. He made lots of new friends over in Nigeria. We will surely miss him! May his gentle soul rest in the peace of Christ, amen. In God’s name, let us continue to light the candle of love and allow it to burn brightly for all to see Christ. A candle loses nothing by lighting another. We shall continue to pray and give the right worship to the risen Lord for his many blessings to us, each day. I strongly agree with St. Ignatius of Loyola, who said that all things are done for the greater glory of God (*ad majorem dei gloriam*). The best is yet to come! Divine Mercy, crown of all God’s handiwork, I trust in you! Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Pray for us!!





“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10)

## **Katie Baynai**

By Dick Bruggeman

Katie Baynai was one of several parishioners identified and honored during the Stewardship dinner held in the Parish Hall in November of 2019. Katie and her spouse Steve moved into our parish about three and a half years ago from Wisconsin due to a career move. They have four children; Olivia (9), Valerie (7), Jonathon (5), and Juliana (2). All three of their school age children attend our SCB school. You may have met Katie in her active role in the school organizations which include the school auction, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Book Fair and Christmas events at the school. Katie has also joined the women's group, WINE, and has attended the Bible study group within the parish. Her knowledge in the travel industry has assisted Father Nnaso in arranging the pilgrimages to Our Lady of Good Works, in Champion, WI and the June 2020 pilgrimage to Germany. On her arrival in Hampshire, Katie was first struck by the fact that SCB is such a welcoming parish and how blessed we are to have a parish school. She was super excited to have both catholic institutions at SCB striving and thriving to do God's work on earth. The first time she walked into our SCB church she felt at home. Her ability to build strong positive relations with young families in our school has been an environment she missed before coming to Hampshire. Katie and Steve want their family to grow in Christ via our Parish and the school. Katie has been given strong roots in the Catholic faith by her parents who have been involved in Parish life all of Katie's lifetime. Through her acts of service, she finds that sharing her faith within the social activities and friendships very easy to achieve. The Baynai family look forward to making memories and creating fruitful relationships within SCB in the future.

## **Jim Gisseler**

By Kim Alberth

I recently had a chance to sit down with Jim Gisseler, one of the stewards who was recognized this year for his contributions to our parish. Jim has been married to Maria for 40 years and they have two sons, Chris, who lives in Pingree Grove, and Adam, in DeKalb. They moved to Pingree Grove to be closer to their son Chris and his family and enjoy their grandchildren. The Gisselers joined St. Charles Borromeo from St. Isidore Parish in Bloomingdale, IL in 2010. Jim worked in systems for thirty-eight years at the same company before he "retired." In his retired life, he is now consulting with the same company in addition to helping out at St. Charles Borromeo in many ways. Jim's first encounter with parish ministry was when his pastor at St. Isidore asked him to be an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. Other than being a regular 10:30 AM Mass guy, he didn't even know his pastor knew who he was. He became a Eucharistic Minister and when they began attending St. Charles Borromeo, he decided to continue in this ministry. As a Eucharistic Minister, Jim feels a bond with each individual as he presents the Body and Blood of Jesus to them. "Each person is different, and you have a very personal encounter presenting Jesus to them." He also joined the Choir and the Marriage Building Ministry. Jim and Maria went on pilgrimage to Italy with Fr. Nnaso and Father asked Jim to join the Pastoral Council. When the head of the Pastoral Council left St. Charles Borromeo, Jim was called on to lead again. He is getting ready to end his six-year term. Jim also takes care of the parish office computers and the My Parish app. He is very active in our parish. When asked about being involved in parish ministry Jim said, "You always get more out of it than you put in."

## **Susan Wiland**

By Dick Bruggeman

Susan is a mother and loving wife to Jerry whom she credits for bringing her back to the Catholic faith. Susan and Jerry were co-workers together at Motorola for a short time before she accepted the challenge of a management role to work in China. During that expatriate assignment, which lasted 10 years, Susan drifted away from her Catholic faith. However, after returning to the United States she and Jerry met again and began to date. Her faith was reignited during that time spent with Jerry as well as through the warm welcoming, kind and gentle assistance from Father Joe Nicolosi. You will find Susan attending weekend and daily mass as well as staying after daily mass for the Rosary. She spends time in weekly adoration, where she is the active ministry chair. These times in prayer have become a regular part of Susan's faith life. Also, Susan is an active member of Family Life, the Light of the World National Travel Team, Lector, Liturgy Council, and has recently joined the funeral luncheon ministry. Susan has in the past led the St. Charles Borromeo Light of the World retreat, she has taught religious education for four years and been a member of the Stewardship Committee before accepting her current role as President of the Diocese of Rockford St. Vincent DePaul Society. Through the St. Vincent DePaul Society banner, Susan has guided twelve teenagers in assisting feeding forty to forty-five hungry people at the Vineyard operation in Elgin. The three trips on Saturdays have found the youth very eager to serve these people in need. Susan believes that when a person becomes invested in a ministry, it is not just a calling but a vocation that they have acknowledged from our Lord. She has developed a devotion to our Blessed Mother and continues to consider the Mass, Adoration and the Rosary the top of her list of items in her life. She is truly a steward of our Catholic faith.

**Are you looking for ways to get involved in parish life? Would you like to nominate a parish member to be recognized for stewardship in action? Email Kim Alberth at [Kalberth4@gmail.com](mailto:Kalberth4@gmail.com).**

**You can also nominate a parish member for Stewardship in Action by dropping this form in the collection basket.**

\_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a good steward because  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_.

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Your name will be confidential)



# Let the Children Come To Me

By: Susan Wiland

As a little girl, I remember my grandmother telling me the story of the three little shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. During the week of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visions, we were blessed to have the opportunity to spend a full day in Fatima. We walked through their homes and down the same paths they walked as they herded their sheep and prayed at the site of the apparitions.



It never dawned on me that the Angel of Peace, who appeared to the children before the apparitions of Our Lady, was sent by the Blessed Mother to teach the little shepherds how to adore Jesus, how to pray while adoring him, and the value of sacrifice. The Angel of Peace entrusted the Little Shepherds with this very special mission: to remind everyone that JESUS is truly present in all the Tabernacles of the world, and to make reparation to God for the indifference that is shown to His Son JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament (Children of the [eucharist.org](http://eucharist.org)). As parents, we should follow the inspirations from the Angel of Peace, gather our children into the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus and allow them to rest in His Presence. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus calls the children: “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

This reminds me of an occurrence I had in adoration. A mom and dad walked into the chapel with three small children who knelt on the floor in front of the monstrance. The mom suggested they say a prayer. They all chimed in with the Lord’s Prayer. Then, she said, “let’s sing a song” and their angelic voices sang Hail Mary, Full of Grace. As quickly as they entered, they left through the sanctuary door. Then I heard the tinkling of bells. I was moved to tears to witness the love this family had for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Pope John Paul II said back in 1996: “I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of his presence?” The Holy Father continues to stress this importance today. What we learn as children will remain in us and help us to stay close to Jesus. Before young children have received their first holy Communion, Eucharistic adoration is a great way to help them receive Jesus in their heart through spiritual communion. “

As parents, how else can we respond but to bring our children to the Blessed Sacrament.

# Encounter with the Holy Trinity

## Date

March 7, 2020

## Time

10:00am—4:00pm

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### Speakers:

- Greg & Kim Alberth on Relationship with Jesus
- Deacon Jim Ward on Encounter with the Holy Spirit
- Fr. Ervin Caliente on Our Father

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We will end with Adoration, Confession and Mass

*Ushers* are needed at all Masses!  
If you would like to learn more,  
please see the Head Usher at  
Mass.

*Greeters* are the warm welcome smile  
that greets all parishioners as they  
enter for the celebration of the Holy  
Mass. Greeters are needed at the  
Masses! If you would like to learn  
more, please contact the Parish Office.

**Homebound Ministry is in need of additional members to take the  
Eucharist to homebound parishioners**

\*The Eucharist is taken after Mass and usually takes less than a 1/2 hour of your time.

\*We are in need of members for every Mass but especially for Saturday and 10:30 Masses.

\*This ministry is very rewarding to our members and many lasting friendships have developed.

\*Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry and contact Deb Ward for more information at 847-997-1643 or by email at [warden47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:warden47@sbcglobal.net).

# Spiritual Weapons: Fasting



“Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness.” – St. Basil the Great

Are you struggling with a sin? I mean a sin that you just can’t seem to get rid of; a sin that keeps you in a constant state of guilt and despair. You’ve prayed, you’ve frequented the sacraments, but you just can’t seem to break its hold. We’ve all been there at one point or another, and such struggles are part and parcel of the spiritual life. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Today, I want to introduce you to a very powerful, but much neglected weapon in the spiritual arsenal: Fasting. If you want to energize your spiritual life, if you want to slay a sin that has you in bondage, if you want to grow in union with God, take up the holy weapon of fasting. For as Jesus said, there are some demons which “cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.”<sup>1</sup> Let’s examine this powerful weapon and its use in the spiritual life.

## What’s the point?

From her earliest days, the Church has taught the need for asceticism in the life of every Christian. That’s right—asceticism is not just for monks and priests, but for laymen too. But what do I mean by asceticism? For our purposes, asceticism can be loosely defined as self-denial with the ultimate goal of self-control. And this self-denial most often takes the form of, you guessed it, fasting. Asceticism isn’t necessary for everyone because of our passions—intense fleshly desires, which are sometimes referred to as concupiscence. Experience teaches us that we often lead about by these desires in a way we can barely control. St. Paul tells us, “the impulses of nature and the impulses of the spirit are at war with one another.”<sup>2</sup> This war is so intense that our passions often lead us to do things we don’t want to do, and we find ourselves saying, “My own actions bewilder me; what I do is not what I wish to do, but something which I hate.”<sup>3</sup> Keep in mind that the passions of our flesh are not necessarily wrong, but because of our fallen nature, they are out of control and they want to dominate us. Left unchecked, our passions will lead us to soul destroying behavior like gluttony, hatred, disordered sexual acts, or addictions of all kinds. Eventually, their dominion will lead us to hell. “The sinful passions...yield increase only to death,”<sup>4</sup> explains St. Paul. Faced with the reality of the passions, it can be easy to become discouraged and think we can never overcome them. We cry, “Pitiable creature that I am, who is to set me free from a nature thus doomed to death?” Fortunately, that’s not the end of the story, and we are not left as helpless slaves to concupiscence. “The spiritual principle of life has set me free, in Christ Jesus, from the principle of sin and death.”<sup>5</sup> Through the grace of God, and by walking in the new life purchased for us by Jesus Christ, we can overcome and subdue our passions. We can live as children of God, free from the law of sin that leads to death. So how do we find this freedom practically speaking? Again, St. Paul explains: “Nature has no longer any claim upon us, that we should live a life of nature. If you live a life of nature, you are marked out for death; if you mortify the ways of nature through the power of the Spirit, you will have life.”<sup>6</sup> “Those who belong to Christ have crucified nature, with all its passions, all its impulses.”<sup>7</sup> “I buffet my own body, and make it my slave.”<sup>8</sup> In other words, we find freedom from the passions by mortifying them, putting them to death, through the practice of grace-empowered asceticism—specifically, fasting.

Fasting helps us tame the wild stallion of our flesh and bring it under the bridle of self-control. In his apostolic constitution on penance, *Painitemini*, Pope Paul VI explains this point clearly: This exercise of bodily mortification—far removed from any form of stoicism—does not imply a condemnation of the flesh which sons of God deign to assume. On the contrary mortification aims at the “liberation” of man, who often finds himself, because of concupiscence, almost chained by his own senses. Through “corporal fasting” man regains strength and the “wound inflicted on the dignity of our nature by intemperance is cured by the medicine of a salutary abstinence.”

### **How to Fast:**

Now that we’ve discussed the purpose of fasting, let’s take a look at how to build fasting into our daily lives.

**1. Start with the basics** – The first step in fasting is obeying the law of the Church—fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and observing the Eucharistic fast (do not eat or drink one hour before communion).

**2. Add more-** Accordingly, once you’ve begun to follow the law of the Church, build on that foundation to include fasting in other ways. Here are some ideas:

- Skip one meal extra a week, like breakfast or lunch. In addition to Fridays, Wednesdays are traditional days of fasting, so that might be a good day to start with.
- Deny yourself dessert on set days. Most of us eat too much sugar anyway. Skip salt on your food.
- Fast from soda. It’s terrible for you!
- Skip the beer or other alcoholic drinks when going out to eat.
- Don’t eat between meals. This sounds easy, but try it. You’ll find it’s quite hard since most of us snack frequently and don’t even realize it.
- Include things besides food. For example, fast from all technology one day a week.
- Fast (one main meal with two small snacks) one day a week.
- Drink only water.

**3. Fast from sin** – Bodily fasting is meaningless unless it is joined with a spiritual fast from sin. St. Basil gives the following exhortation regarding fasting:

Let us fast an acceptable and very pleasing fast to the Lord. True fast is the estrangement from evil, temperance of tongue, abstinence from anger, separation from desires, slander, falsehood and perjury. Privation of these is true fasting.

**4. Pray** – Fasting is not simply a matter of will power. Grace is absolutely necessary. While fasting energizes prayer, prayer energizes fasting. Both are weak without the other.

**5. Beware of Pride** – “Be on your guard when you begin to mortify your body by abstinence and fasting,” says St. Jerome, “lest you imagine yourself to be perfect and a saint; for perfection does not consist in this virtue. It is only a help; a disposition; a means though a fitting one, for the attainment of true perfection.”

### **Conclusion**

If we neglect fasting, our spiritual life will always be mediocre. We will be weak in the combat against our passions, we will easily succumb to temptation, and we will never truly overcome our inherent selfishness and self-indulgence. As men, our desire should be to strengthen ourselves and be the best that we can be. We should train ourselves to be strong in the spiritual warfare, so we can resist the temptations of the evil one. There is no better way to begin this spiritual training than through the practice of fasting.

- 1 Galatians 5:17
- 2 Romans 7:15
- 3 Romans 7:5
- 4 Romans 7:24
- 5 Romans 8:1
- 6 Romans 8:13
- 7 Galatians 5:24
- 8 1 Corinthians 9:27

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Confirmation Rehearsal

Sunday, March 1st

Sacrament of Confirmation

Monday, March 2nd

Light of the World Day of Recollection

Saturday, March 7th

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

Saturday, March 14th

St. Joseph Table

Sunday, March 22nd

Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, April 1st

Jesus Day

Saturday, April 4th

Holy Thursday

Thursday, April 9th

Good Friday

Friday, April 10th

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 11th

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 12th

SCB's 90th Anniversary Auction Gala

Saturday, April 25th

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Saturday, May 2nd

O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine,  
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!

O Jesus, we adore you, who, in your love divine,  
Conceal your mighty Godhead in forms of bread and wine.

O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine,  
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!

O Jesus, we adore you, our victim and our priest,  
Whose precious blood and body become our Sacred feast.

O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine,  
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!

# Seasons Of The Christian Church Year

## March - April - May

### **Lent**

Ash Wednesday  
 St. Joseph's Feast Day  
 Annunciation of the Lord  
 Palm Sunday

March 6 – April 21  
 February 26th  
 March 19th  
 March 25th  
 April 5th

### **Triduum**

Holy Thursday  
 Good Friday  
 Holy Saturday

April 9th  
 April 10th  
 April 11th

### **Easter**

Easter Sunday  
 Divine Mercy Sunday  
 Ascension of Our Lord  
 Pentecost

April 12th - May 30th  
 April 12th  
 April 19th  
 May 24th  
 May 31st

## MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

Adoration ..... Susan Wiland  
 Altar Servers  
   Training.....Jenny, Tricia and Becky Dumoulin  
   Scheduling .....Jan Olson  
 Art & Environment .....Deb Vicicondi  
 Baptismal Prep .....Tess and Chris Gisseler  
 Catholic Order of Foresters.....Lisa and Pat Dumoulin  
 Cemetery Board.....Deacon James Ward  
 Compassionate Ministry  
   Nursing Home Visitation .....Deacon James Ward  
   Communion to the Sick.....Deb Ward  
   Bereavement Ministry.....Deacon James Ward  
 Cursillo .....Ray Oleferchik & Donna Mancini  
 Divorce Ministry .....Susan Wiland  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
   Training.....Deb Ward  
   Scheduling.....Jan Olson  
 Faithlink .....Annette Palazzolo  
 Food Pantry.....Barbara Brust  
 Funeral Reception.....Linda Gray, Barb Mursu  
 Giving Tree.....Diane Grandt  
 Golden Agers.....Cindy Jerger  
 Homebound Eucharist Ministers.....Deb Ward  
 Knights of Columbus.....Gregg DeDina

Lectors .....Deb Ward  
 Liturgical Minister Scheduling .....Jan Olson  
 Marriage Prep .....Deacon John and Kay Nelson  
 Money Counters .....Roger Paddock  
 Music .....Tess Gisseler  
 PSO .....Ngan MacDonald  
 Parish Life/Hospitality .....Donna Mancini  
 Prayer Shawl Ministry.....Madeline Liebert  
 RCIA.....Joseph Hahn  
 Religious Education .....Jan Olson  
 Respect Life.....Chairperson Needed  
 Rosary Makers.....Elaine Meisinger  
 Sacristans/Altar Care .....Mary Miller  
 St. Vincent dePaul Society.....Jim Mancini  
 Ushers 5:00pm Mass .....Paul Vicicondi  
       7:30am Mass .....Charles Smith  
       10:30am Mass .....Jim Mancini  
 Youth Ministry .....Jan Olson

**Pastoral Council .....Jim Gisseler**  
**Education Council .....Katie McMillan**  
**Finance Council .....Tom Shannon**  
**Stewardship Council .....Kim Alberth**

**Burlington-Hampshire Area Food Pantry**  
**147 Mill Street**

Distribution is the third Monday of the month, from 8:30-10:00am  
and the following Saturday, from 11:00am-12:30pm

Donations accepted at SCB church on the Sunday  
before the distribution day;

Monetary donations to the Pantry are also very appreciated!

Checks can be made payable to and mailed to:

Burlington Hampshire Area Food Pantry

PO Box 651

Hampshire, IL 60140

Check out our

website: [www.burlingtonhampshireareafoodpantry.org](http://www.burlingtonhampshireareafoodpantry.org)

Questions? Call 224-400-7130



**FAITHLINK NEWSLETTER**  
**St. Charles Borromeo Church of Hampshire**  
**297 East Jefferson Avenue**  
**Hampshire, Illinois 60140**

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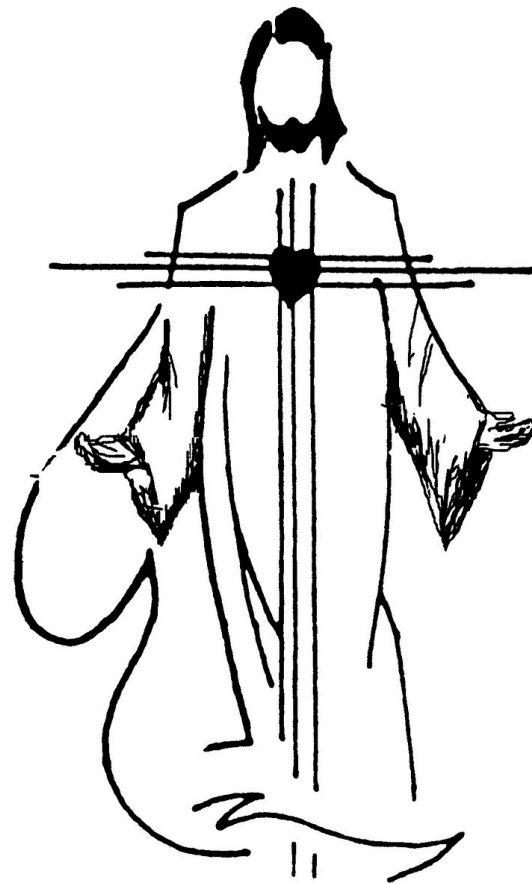


# FAITHLINK

Newsletter of St. Charles Borromeo Parish  
Catholic Community of Hampshire, IL

*Your Grace Abounds!*

VOLUME XXIII  
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[www.scbparish.org](http://www.scbparish.org)

Pastor  
Rev. Sylvester A. Nnaso

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, having a deep faith in the providence of God our Father, the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the presence of The Holy Spirit, proclaim that it is our mission to spread the Good News of Christ so that we may welcome Him into our lives.

Unified in this belief, our faith community will provide a spiritual atmosphere as a means for attaining a deeper understanding of the will of God and for sharing this vision with others in faith, in works and in fellowship.