

INSIDE:	Calendar..... 7-8
Spiritual life.....2-4	Newcomers..... 9
Faith formation.....5	Parish life..... 6-12

# ST MARY Messenger



Mallory Wilson, Kinley Fager and other PSR students brought toys for Catholic Charities and pennies for Guadalupe Clinic to the PSR Gift Giving Liturgy. See more about PSR on p. 6, and about Outreach on p. 12.

You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. -Mat 5:16

This narrative emphasizes Jesus' action of self-giving and his command to repeat this action. Having an attitude of gratitude, like the ripple on a pond when a pebble is thrown in, will change how we view the world. Then our own hearts are changed; then others' hearts and behavior are changed, in ever widening circles.

Giving thanks is the grateful response of a

Christian disciple. It is Stewardship. It leads us to share what we have in thanksgiving to God, in countless ways: welcoming the stranger; collecting food and toys for those in need; teaching our faith, Sunday giving; giving to the building campaign; and in participating in Eucharist and in the life of the parish.

Thank you for all you do all year long.

*Have a blessed Christmas!*

## Gifts and gratitude

by Father Wayne

At Christmas, Christian families gather in churches to celebrate Christ's birth; in our homes we often give gifts as tokens of our love for one another. We express thanks to one another for gifts received.

I am thankful for YOU and for the gifts you share with your parish family that enable us to continue to share the message of God's love, through worship, faith formation and community. A special thank you for sharing your gifts to help build a new school.

As Catholics, we give thanks every Sunday for God's ultimate gift to us, the gift of eternal life. We offer God our gifts in thanksgiving. Gratitude is core to our Catholic faith. In fact, Eucharist is thanksgiving.

The word is derived from *eú-* "good, well" + *cháris* "favor, grace". Eucharistéô is the verb used for "to thank" in the account of the institution of the Lord's Supper in the New Testament:

*For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and after he had given thanks (eucharistéô), broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." —1 Cor 11:23-24*



PSR catechist Linda Turner helps kindergarten students grow in faith. Here she helps Shelby Bussman and Natalie Ostmeyer during Mass.



As his RCIA sponsor, Katie Madsen walks alongside Cody Blevins in his journey of faith. Here she introduces him during the Rite of Acceptance. More on p. 3.



Lola Hunt, Joshua Phillips and other kindergarten students said a prayer of thanksgiving and then enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast.

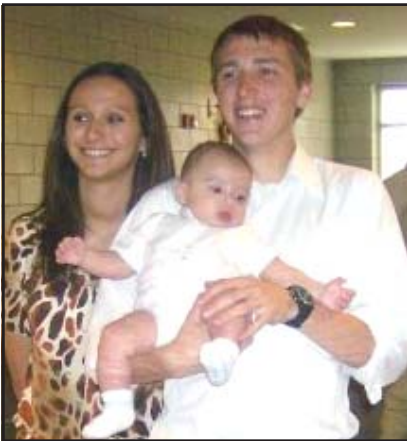


# Spiritual Life

*Made new in faith:* Congratulations and welcome to our newly baptized parishioners!



**Calais Kate Hickerson**, daughter of Chris and Erica, granddaughter of John and Caroline Oborny, and great granddaughter of Pauline Oborny, was baptized on September 13.



**Benjamin Carter Guerrero**, son of Rachael Wilson and Tyler Guerrero, grandson of Chris and Cindy Wilson, was baptized on November 8.



**Fabian Castellanos**, son of Jamie Wallin, grandson of Rick and Candy Moore, was baptized on August 16.



**Kiara Anaisse Altman**, daughter of Bryan and Rebeca, granddaughter of Nancy and Steve, was baptized on September 6.



**Jacob William Hayes**, son of Bradley and Addie, brother of Elizabeth, was baptized on June 6.



**Gavin Wade Qualls and Leah Caitlin Qualls**, children of Scot and Cindy, brother and sister of Alyssa, were baptized on August 2.



**William Cole McDonald**, son of Doug and Cally, brother of Mariah and Makenna, grandson of Steve and Trela, was baptized on November 28.



**Alexander and Anthony Kenemer**, twin sons of John and April, were baptized on December 5.



**We, though many,  
are one body, for in one  
Spirit we were baptized.**

# Spiritual Life

## Other baptisms

**Garrett Rausch**, son of Kristin and Jared, was baptized on November 8.

**Avery Denney**, daughter of Amy, was baptized on November 13.



*Where do those adults go when they leave 9 am Mass, and what do they do?*



*Where do those kids go when they leave 11 am Mass, and what do they do?*

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

by Ann Hughes

If you come to 11 am Mass on Sundays, you have noticed that some children come forward after the Opening Prayer, leave for awhile, then return while the collection baskets are being passed. You may wonder what is going on.

These children (kindergarten to about grade 4) go to the Knights Hall for Children's Liturgy of the Word. A team of adults and teens lead them as they listen to the Readings of the Sunday, taken from the Children's Lectionary, where the translation is more easily understood by children. They then participate in a dialogue homily as they "break open" God's Word and begin to grow in an awareness that these stories and these

words mean something to them. They begin to develop a language of Scripture to express that their lives are different because they are disciples of Christ, treating others as Jesus showed all people how to live together in peace and love.

They complete their time together with a shortened version of the Creed and Prayers of Intercession, returning to the sanctuary as the assembly's gifts are being collected.

Have you ever wondered how this group knows when to return? An usher comes to the door of the Knights Hall as soon as the homily is over and quietly gives them a small sign that it is time to wrap up and return.

If you are curious to see how this works, do not hesitate to leave with the children. You will be inspired to hear them speak about the presence of God in their lives as they learn that many of the good things they just naturally do are ways to follow in Jesus' footsteps and treat others as Jesus did.

## Welcome to the Table of the Lord



Kathleen Thorne, granddaughter of Jere and Jeanne Hix, celebrated her First Communion on October 25.

## Adults on a journey

by Davi Stuhlsatz

If you come to 9 am Mass on Sundays, you have noticed that some adults come forward after Father's homily, wait at the altar during intercessory prayers and a blessing; then they exit through the side door following someone holding up a red book. You may wonder what is going on.

These adults go to Room 112 to learn more about the Catholic faith. Some of them (called catechumens) will be baptized at Easter; some have already been baptized in another Christian denomination (candidates) and will make a profession of faith at Easter; and some will be confirmed at Easter (confirmandi). All are welcomed and supported in prayer by our community.

Once they get to Room 112, Sister Marie leads a discussion of the Sunday readings until about 10 am, when their sponsors arrive. Then in large and small group discussion, they learn about and discuss some facet of the Catholic faith, such as forgiveness or the sacraments. Sometimes there's a video, and other times, a guest speaker.

RCIA participants take home a brochure called Catholic Update which has more on the topic. (You can read Catholic Updates at [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org). Just type in the topic you want to learn more about in the search for articles box at far right).

Even though the candidates, catechumens and confirmandi have only one sponsor each, our entire community welcomes them and supports them in spirit. We do this through our prayers, the refreshments some of our members provide, by our example, and by getting to know them.

Another group leaves 9 am Mass early (right after communion): Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, who take communion to our homebound parishioners!

# Faith Formation

I am with you  
always... -Matt 28:20

## An alumnus in support of Build It NOW



by Laura Betzen

When I think about St. Mary School, I don't think of the building. I think of Sister Alfreda teaching me prayers and giving me stickers on a wall chart showing which ones I've mastered. I think of Mrs. Gentry preparing us for our first communion by showing us a chalice and a paten. I think of Father H talking to our class about vocations in middle school. And, of course, I think about the many good friends I made during my time there.

St. Mary School is so much more than a building. The building is just a structure. The true value of St. Mary School lies in the individuals who teach and serve the school through other functions. These individuals are the reason St. Mary graduates are so successful both educationally and spiritually.

I can name every single teacher I had at St. Mary, but I can't say that about any other school at which I've been. The reason I remember them so well is that they left positive impressions on my life. From teaching me the importance of a personal relationship with God to helping me discover my talents, I can truly say that each of these individuals helped form me into the person I am today.

When I chose to support St. Mary's Build It NOW campaign, I did so for one main reason: I wanted to give back to the school that gave me so much during my childhood. Though the school building is not as important as everyone inside it, we need that building to provide a place in which learning can happen. By building a bigger school, St. Mary will be able to give a quality Catholic education to even more children than it does currently. I'm excited to be part of this project.

If you are an alumnus of St. Mary, I encourage you to take a moment to reminisce on the time you spent in school there. If you're like me, you'll have many good memories. Then, if you're able, please prayerfully consider helping other children to obtain the same quality Catholic education you had by donating to the Build It NOW campaign.

With gratitude,

*Laura Betzen*

St Mary class of 1995

## Forming the total person...



**...Spiritually:** Students learn about Catholic faith and values every day and through special projects. PSR and SMPS third grade students traditionally choose a saint to research in the fall. School students write research papers on them. All third graders dress like their saint and present information about them so that others can learn about the saints' virtues, too.

*Nurturing children in their Christ-like formation*



**...Physically:** Nicholas Summers (at right) and other students in Cat Wilson's class can choose to sit on regular chairs or on these T-stools, which help balance reaction, stability and trunk control. The T-stools are also good for children with focus and fidget problems. Principal Montgomery says less falls occur on these than regular chairs, too. Other teachers are interested in getting them for their classrooms. If you are a woodworker and would like to help make T-stools for other classrooms, call Mr. Montgomery at 788-3151.

## ...Integrating spiritual & academic formation:

A second grade class made rosaries this fall, and wrote and illustrated a book, *Mysteries and Saints of the Rosary*. A limited number of books were published and then purchased by students' families. Pictured at left are Sunny Doffing and Preston Barr.





If today  
you hear his voice  
harden not your hearts

# Faith Formation

## ...To be leaders

by Stacey Cahn, parent

Three former St Mary students have received the Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership Award in the past four years:



Courtney Wells  
2009 (Kapaun)



Kealy Tully  
2008 (Kapaun)



Katy Compton  
2006 (Derby HS)

Another former St Mary student, Christian Kehr, was the HOBY alternate for Kapaun in 2007.

This may not seem that remarkable until you consider that we are a small school, graduating 20-25 kids each year, who typically go on to much larger schools, such as Kapaun (900 students) or Derby (2000 students).

The HOBY award is given to *one* sophomore per school per year. In Kapaun's selection process, the faculty chooses three students they deem to be leaders to submit an essay on leadership opportunities they have had. They then choose one child to receive the award and attend the state leadership conference the next June.

I just can't say enough about how well St Mary prepares students to be leaders, and how well the principal and teachers set expectations, teach life lessons, and help students develop confidence. They do an amazing job of figuring out students' talents and helping them develop.

## ...In gratitude

by Courtney Wells, SMPS '08

Thank you for the gift of our parish school—both the current one, and the one we will begin to build next year.

St Mary Parish School has been very influential in my life. Even though I was only at SMPS for middle school, I learned much. Teachers taught me many valuable life lessons and the true meaning of being a Christian. Every person on the staff had some impact. Each and every person that I came in contact with taught me leadership skills that I can use throughout my life.

I don't believe that I would have even been in contention for the Hugh O' Brian award if it weren't for my time at St Mary. I am grateful for this great experience.

I was blessed with so many opportunities: Duke Talent Search, participating in ministries at Mass, being the assistant director for Tom Sawyer, Scholar's and Religion Bowl, sports, KMEA Honor Choir, prayer services, spelling bee, geography bee, and much more. These activities helped me grow in confidence and become a better leader.

Reading buddies especially helped me because I had to be a leader for my first grade buddy, and as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, my leadership skills and self-confidence grew from Mrs. Gassmann's belief in me and by being pushed to do my best.

## Learning to live a giving life

by Becky Hurtig

*Battle of the Books* is a program in which fifth and sixth grade students commit to read books from a designated list of about twenty titles. Then students compete as a team against



Grace Barr, Shannon Madsen, Gerred Egan, Christina Craig and Beth Westerman came up with the idea to donate books to a competing school without a library.

teams of fifth or sixth graders from other area diocesan schools.

At *BOTB* competitions, students are asked questions about these books and must answer correctly both title and author. It is really a great program, as it promotes reading and involves students who may not be interested in "mainstream" competitions such as organized sports. (*By the way, St. Mary staff who are involved in this program spend a lot of time outside of regular school hours to assist in competitions, including driving students to other schools to participate in evening meets.*)

Last spring, St Mary sixth graders competed against a Holy Savior team which they easily defeated. Afterward, our students learned that Holy Savior did not even have a school library, and students presumably didn't have easy access to the *BOTB* books as our students do. Our (then) sixth grade *BOTB* students decided that they would like to accumulate and donate to Holy Savior all the books on the *BOTB* reading list, so that Holy Savior would have at least one copy of each.

St Mary librarian and *BOTB* facilitator Jean Schif learned of the students' idea, and immediately responded enthusiastically to put their idea into action. Through her hard work, she accessed various resources and managed to gather a majority of the books on this school year's *BOTB* list. She then turned to our *BOTB* students' parents for small donations to buy the remaining books. This month, she and Mrs. McGovern drove the students to Wichita to deliver the box of books, so this year, Holy Savior will have at least one copy of all 20 books on the *BOTB* reading list because of St Mary efforts!

This is such a wonderful example of the way our students are learning, and *living*, stewardship. They saw that they could share the blessings God has given them and quietly set about it. The wonderful gift of Mrs. Schif as librarian, as well as teachers Jo McGovern and Denise Wadas, are shining examples to these young people that they can—and do—make a difference.

I am very grateful that we have been given the blessing of this wonderful school and parish.

# Faith Formation

Faith is to believe in what you do not yet see; the reward for faith is to see what you believe. —St Augustine



Megan Albert, Kealy Tully, Brooke Cleaver and Stephanie Snavley attended NCYC with 25 other St Mary teens and adult leaders, the biggest group in the Wichita diocese.

## Christ Reigns

by Kealy Tully

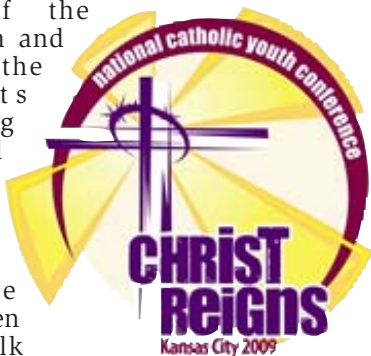
“Christ Reigns” was the exciting theme of this year’s National Catholic Youth Conference, held November 19-21 in Kansas City. Speakers told us to let Christ reign in our hearts and let him guide us in our decisions. This message was very relevant to my life because I needed to focus on Christ entering into my life more than just on Sundays and to involve him in every aspect.

When I went into the Sprint Center for the first time in our conference, there were about 25,000 to 27,000 Catholics all there for God and it was amazing to see this many people standing up for Christ. At NCYC, we did not get much sleep, but all of us were still very energetic to go through our self-less pilgrimage.

My two favorite parts of the conference were the Eucharistic procession and Jason Everett’s workshop.

Early on Friday morning many bishops and one cardinal entered into the Center with the Eucharist and set the monstrance on an altar where we could all see and fixate on it. All 25,000 of us spent a good amount of time praying in adoration in one united room. Still in mystical prayer, we slowly walked

out of the stadium and onto the streets singing and praying in unison. We were forbidden to walk



on the sidewalks, and the roads were blocked off just for our sake. It was very touching to me and I felt very moved.

Of the various workshops, Jason Everett’s stood out the most for me. He and his wife are well-known chastity speakers and I have heard him before at my school, but this time I was able to hear his wife’s story too. She spoke about her mistakes and how eventually God will answer every quality I want in a spouse if I let God direct my relationships. These two speakers encouraged me to write my first letter to my future husband.

This conference was unbelievable! It was a good time to reconnect with God and forget some of the unnecessary worries in my life. I know God has a plan for me and I trust him with my future.



The middle school youth made Advent wreaths in preparation for Advent.

## Middle School Faith Formation

by Ann Hughes, Director of Religious Education

Our parish began a new program this year on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 pm in the Annex called “Middle School Faith Formation.” It is intended for students in grades 7 and 8 who are either home schooled, attend public school or St Mary Parish School.

For students who attend public school or who are home schooled, this will provide a little different approach to how we live as Catholics. For St Mary Parish School students, this will be an additional opportunity to learn more about the fundamentals of our faith with an emphasis on how to live it.

For all students, the intention is to bridge the gap between students in our parish school

and students attending other schools. We hope to give these young people an experience of the 7 & 8 grade community in our parish family, offering them different activities and experiences to allow them to get to know each other as they build relationships with one another to form this faith community.

One of the first things this new group will work on is determining a catchy name for their group. Given their creativity and the endless possibilities, it will be interesting to learn what they want to call their own group. What words will they choose to express who they are and what they are about as young Catholics?



Catechist Cheryl Fulton distributes Pflaum Gospel weeklies to Kyle Francis and the other students in her class.

## Parish School of Religion

by Ann Hughes

Have you ever wondered what PSR stands for? Over the past 6 years, I have facilitated meetings for parents whose children are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. As parents sign-in for these meetings, several have asked me, “What is PSR?” as

Begin to weave in faith and  
God will give you the thread.

# Our Calendar

they see either PSR or Parish School of Religion on top of one of the sign-in sheets. The other sign-in sheet says St. Mary Parish School.

When I was DRE at St. Vincent de Paul in Andover, classes for children who attended a public school or were home-schooled were called Religious Education. But parents still regularly referred to it as CCD, a term from their childhood, when the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine provided guidance and materials to educate people about Catholic faith. The Confraternity no longer exists, but people continued to refer to CCD classes.

After futile attempts to explain that these sessions were Religious Education classes, we decided to use the initials CCD for our classes but to give the letters a new meaning: Continuing Christian Development.

PSR or Parish School of Religion *is* about Continuing Christian Development. A wonderful staff of catechists works with children from Kindergarten through Grade 6. Together they learn more about the faith we all share as Catholics.

Children in K, Grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 use materials called Pflaum Gospel Weeklies to help learn more about the Gospel Readings we hear during Sunday Mass. They develop an awareness that the Scriptures have meaning in their lives as they also learn about the Church year, teachings of the Church, saints, etc.

Children in Grade 2 spend the entire year preparing for and then celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Needless to say, this is a special year for these children, their families and their catechists.

Our sixth grade students use a program called "That's Not Fair!" It is based on the Catholic Church's rich and relevant teachings on social justice. Through activities, games and conversation, they become aware of some of the injustices in our world and hopefully become interested in practicing justice in their own lives.

Yes, Parish School of Religion is about Continuing Christian Development, not only for our students, but also for each of our catechists as we try to learn more about what it means to be a Disciple of Christ in 2009.

Wow! St Mary Parish School students achieved Standard of Excellence awards on these 2009 Kansas state assessments:

- Reading 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, building-wide;
- Math 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, building-wide;
- Science 7;
- Writing 5, 8, building-wide.

## December 2009-February 2010

- Sun, Dec 27** Coffee & Donuts, and St Mary Alumni Social, 10 am, Knights Hall  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
NO RCIA, Life Night or adult choir
- Mon, Dec 28** 8 am Mass at the Faith Center
- Tue, Dec 29** NO Mass today  
*Sunday by Sunday*, 1:30 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Dec 30** NO Mass today  
Eve of the Eve high school youth dance, 8 – 11 pm, school gym
- Thu, Dec 31** NO 8 am Mass today  
Vigil, Feast of Mary, Mother of God, holyday of obligation  
Anticipated Eucharist, 5 pm, Faith Center
- Fri, Jan 1** Feast of Mary, Mother of God, holyday of obligation:  
Eucharist, 9 am, Faith Center; Parish Offices closed
- Sat, Jan 2** God's Food Pantry weekend  
The Lord's Diner, Team B, M Rubel
- Sun, Jan 3** The Epiphany of the Lord  
Coffee and Donuts, 10–11 am, Knights Hall  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
NO Life Night  
Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, FC Rm 112, 7:45 in Worship Space
- Mon, Jan 4** 8 am Mass at the Faith Center  
LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm; core team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
- Tue, Jan 5** *Sunday by Sunday*, 1:30 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Jan 6** PSR, 6 pm, School classrooms, PSR to attend 7 pm Mass  
MSFF, 6 pm, Annex  
Confirmation Parent/Student mtg, 7:30 pm, Faith Center Church  
Centering Prayer, 7:30 pm, Weekday Chapel
- Fri, Jan 8** **K of C Free Throw contest, 4 pm, school gym**  
Adult Basketball, 8:30 pm, school gym
- Sun, Jan 10** The Baptism of the Lord  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Parish & Welcome Breakfast, 10-11 am, KC Hall  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
HSYM Regional Volleyball, 12–4 pm, school gym  
Facebook session has been postponed to February  
LIFENIGHT after 6 pm Mass, FC Rm 114  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 pm, FC Rm 112, 7:45 pm, FC Church
- Mon, Jan 11** LIFE TEEN core team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114  
Grief Support Group, 7 pm, FC Rm 112  
K of C all members, 7:30 pm, Knights Hall
- Tue, Jan 12** *Sunday by Sunday*, 1:30 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Jan 13** PSR, 6 pm, School classrooms  
MSFF, 6 pm, Annex, to attend 7 pm Mass  
Finance Council, 7 pm, FC Off Conf Rm 106  
Confirmation, 7:30 pm, Faith Center  
Centering Prayer, 7:30 pm, Weekday Chapel
- Thu, Jan 14** Altar Society Epiphany dinner, 6:30 pm, Knights Hall
- Fri, Jan 15** Adult Basketball, 8:30 pm, School Gym
- Sun, Jan 17** Coffee and Donuts, 10–11 am, Knights Hall  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
HSYM Regional Volleyball, 12 – 4 pm, School gym  
LIFENIGHT after 6 pm Mass, FC Rm 114  
Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, FC Rm 112, 7:45 in Worship Space

# Our Calendar

## January-February 2010

- Mon, Jan 18 NO SMPS, Martin Luther King Day  
LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm; core team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 (cont.)
- Tue, Jan 19 *Sunday by Sunday*, 1:30 pm, FC Rm 114  
Pastoral Council, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Jan 20 PSR, 6 pm, School classrooms  
MSFF, 6 pm, Annex, to attend 7 pm Mass  
Confirmation, 7:30 pm, Faith Center  
Centering Prayer, 7:30 pm, Weekday Chapel
- Thu, Jan 21 First Reconciliation, 7 pm, Faith Center
- Fri, Jan 22 Adult Basketball, 8:30 pm, School Gym
- Sat Jan 23 **Free Spirits Soup Supper, 4-7 pm, school gym**
- Sun, Jan 24 Coffee and Donuts, 10-11 am, Knights Hall  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
HSYM Regional Volleyball, 12-4 pm, School gym  
LIFENIGHT after 6 pm Mass, FC Rm 114  
NO Adult Choir
- Mon, Jan 25 LIFE TEEN Core Team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114  
Grief Support Group, 7 pm, FC Rm 112  
K of C officers, 7:30 pm, Knights Hall
- Tue, Jan 26 Sacred Heart guild, 8:45 am, Old Rectory  
*Sunday by Sunday*, 1:30 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Jan 27 PSR, 6 pm, School classrooms  
MSFF, 6 pm, Annex, to attend 7 pm Mass  
Confirmation, 7:30 pm, Faith Center  
Centering Prayer, 7:30 pm, Weekday Chapel
- Thu, Jan 28 First Eucharist Parent mtg, 6:30 pm, Neumann Hall; babysitting, old rectory
- Fri, Jan 29 Adult Basketball, 8:30 pm, School Gym
- Sun, Jan 31 Coffee and Donuts, 10-11 am, Knights Hall  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
HSYM Regional Volleyball, 12-4 pm, school gym  
LIFENIGHT w/Father Hotze after 6 pm Mass, FC Rm 114  
**Father Hotze presentation on Father Kapaun, 7 pm, Faith Center**  
Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, FC Rm 112, 7:45 in Worship Space
- Mon, Feb 1 LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm; core team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
- Wed, Feb 3 PSR, 6 pm, School classrooms, to attend 7 pm Mass  
MSFF, 6 pm, Annex  
PSR Rite of Covenant, First Eucharist, 7 pm, Weekday Chapel  
Confirmation, 7:30 pm, Faith Center  
Centering Prayer, 7:30 pm, Weekday Chapel
- Thu, Feb 4 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, noon to midnight, FC Rm 112
- Fri, Feb 5 SMPS Rite of Covenant, First Eucharist, 8 am Mass, Weekday Chapel  
First Friday Coffee and Donuts, after 8 am Mass, Old Rectory
- Sat, Feb 6 God's Food Pantry Weekend  
The Lord's Diner, Team C, S & H Wright  
**Mardi Gras, 6 pm, school gym**
- Sun, Feb 7 Coffee and Donuts, 10-11 am, Knights Hall  
Baptism Session, 9 am, FC Off Conf Rm 106  
RCIA, 9 am, FC Rm 112, babysitting, Rm 114  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 11 am Mass  
NO 6 pm Mass, NO Adult Choir rehearsal  
LIFENIGHT Superbowl party at Father Wayne's

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**Feb 13** - Parish Valentine's Dance **Feb 17** - Ash Wednesday, Mass at 8 am & 7 pm, FC



## ST MARY Catholic School • Derby, KS ALUMNI

St Mary Parish School alumni, fans and friends...if you're in town, come to Coffee and Donuts on Dec. 27 in the Knights Hall after 9 am Mass.

Catch up with old friends, and browse through old yearbooks and photos. Former students, parents and friends, stop by and say hi! Bring photos, albums or yearbooks if you have them, and we'll scan them right there!

RSVP on the St Mary Catholic School Alumni-Derby, KS page on Facebook or to Davi at [vbdragon@cox.net](mailto:vbdragon@cox.net) or 788-4234 so we'll have an idea if we need to order extra donuts. Even if you don't RSVP though, you're welcome to come!

### Don't know how to use Facebook but want to?

It's easy and fun! Our January session has been rescheduled to February. If you're interested, contact Davi, 788-4234 or [vbdragon@cox.net](mailto:vbdragon@cox.net).

## Thanking vets



Fifth grade students hosted the annual Veteran's Day prayer service and brunch, and wrote letters to vets in our community, inviting them to attend. Here, Andrew DuLac interviews Truman Tauer about his experiences.

## Sweet Success

Our Lady of Lourdes Guild's annual Cookie Walk in December raised \$600 for Guadalupe Clinic. Weston and Landon Rau (at right) and other customers chose from an abundant array of tempting sweets to fill their cookie tins to the brim, for just \$6.



## Santa

visited with Andrea Brincefield and other girls and boys at the Knights Christmas party for kids. Children at the annual event burned off a little extra Christmas energy by jumping in the inflatable, playing tag, kicking a soft giant soccer ball, doing crafts and enjoying snacks, too.

## Fishing derby

The Knights' annual fishing derby for kids in September was enjoyed by children and families. The kids caught a total of 26 fish.

Boys: 1st place, Sam Smith caught 5 fish for total of 52"; 2nd place: Harper Cox caught 6 fish for total of 48 1/2"

Girls: 1st place, Kayla Francis caught 3 fish for total of 31"; 2nd place: Sabrina Sherrow: caught 1 fish for total of 11 1/2".

Sam Smith caught the largest fish which was 17 1/2" long.



*Newcomers Cale and Addie Curtis with their dad, Craig*

# Parish Life

## Thank you!

Oktoberfest celebrated our Stewardship efforts and the success of the Build it NOW building campaign. Classrooms of the new school were marked to wander through. beach balls were scattered about to kick, and all (including Lucy and Kenneth Andra at left) enjoyed the food, hayrack rides and fellowship.



*A special welcome to our new parishioners!*



**Malboeuvs**

### ADULTS

Garret and Kara Bilbo  
Ron and Laure  
Matt and Amy Denney  
Chris and Nikole Drum  
Fred Early  
Rick and Denise Gifford  
Chad and Ann Heithoff  
Nik and Jennifer Johnson  
JP and Jasmin Malboeuf  
Doug and Rinae Myers  
Fred and Teri Ranger  
Gary and Jane Rhodes  
Michelle Rodriguez  
George and Suzanne Sevic  
Jaylene Shea  
Dan and Liz Stone

### CHILDREN

Lilly, Garret  
Amaya  
Avery  
Charli, Acie  
  
Jackie  
Michael, Kate, Alex  
Caleb, Bayley, Mia  
Alina, Greylan, Nikken, Brexey  
Anthony, Annie  
  
Victoria, Diego, Emiliano  
Noah, Connor  
Max, Ava  
William, Benjamin, Katherin

*Newcomers are invited to enjoy a free breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.*

# Faith & family

**GIVE THANKS  
TO GOD!**



*Ann Hughes, Sue Bitel, Chris Allen and Ben Sansing participate in a discussion of the Sunday readings in a Tuesday afternoon scripture study.*

## Sunday by Sunday

by Ann Hughes

During Lent 2009, a number of small groups met in homes of parishioners and in parish facilities to pray, read the Scriptures of the coming weekend Masses and share with each other how these Scriptures spoke to them in their daily lives.

One group felt that this experience of community, prayer and faith sharing was so worthwhile that they did not want it to come to an end following Lent. They met through the summer and into the fall using materials from Good Ground Press called *Sunday by Sunday*. Additional small group times and locations were added during Advent.

The *Sunday by Sunday* brochure states, "These materials help adults bring their lives to the Gospel and the Gospel to their lives. Each week there are beginning and closing prayers, up-to-date background from current biblical scholars, questions for groups to chew on and suggestions for the work of charity and justice."

Nancy Farley, a member of the original Lenten group who continued onward said, "During scripture study, I have listened, learned, and discussed. This casual, but structured group uses materials that are read together, followed by thought-provoking questions. Many times, listening to someone's reaction to the scripture reading for the coming Sunday is enlightening. The discussion gives all of us a head start for what we will hear from the Word in the Sunday Mass."

Another person said, "I wasn't sure when I came for the first time what to expect. The good news for me was that

once we came to the sharing questions, we did not all share our thoughts on every question, nor were we expected to. For the first couple of weeks, I just listened. But then, as I became comfortable

with this small group, I found myself wanting to respond at times. I now feel very close to the members of this group and find myself interested in them and their lives, all because we have shared so much with each other."

If you are interested in participating in a scripture study group, contact Ann Hughes at 788-1877 or [ahughes@stmarysderby.com](mailto:ahughes@stmarysderby.com).



*JoAnne Gutierrez and her granddaughter made Jesse Tree ornaments at the workshop.*

## Jesse Tree workshop

by Ann Hughes

Earlier in the year, Father Wayne, and I decided to schedule a Jesse Tree Workshop to help members of our parish learn about a very old, traditional way to celebrate the season of Advent. As I visited with Davi Stuhlsatz about it, she made me aware that Cecille Noonan and Betty Walker had made their own Jesse Trees, after

Sister Alfreda taught their children about them at St Mary Parish School.

In October, Cecille and Betty shared with me their experience and Jesse Tree materials as we planned how best to organize this workshop. Betty provided a decorated Jesse Tree and Cecille drew ornaments that could be copied, colored and cut out to be hung on a Jesse Tree.

In November, about 45 adults and children participated in the workshop. They were able to see four different "types" of trees (two of them decorated) to give them ideas for their own homes. They received a packet of materials with several options for how to use the tree, and spent about an hour visiting with one another, deciding which materials seemed best for them and how to use them. Many began coloring the shapes they would use, ending the workshop with hot chocolate and cookies.

The Jesse Tree will provide these families with an opportunity to begin a family Advent tradition that will acquaint them with this tree that is the family tree of Jesus, as well as their faith family tree. When they put the final figure, the infant Jesus, on the tree on Christmas morning they will have a new appreciation of those Old Testament figures that lived long before Jesus, as well as the New Testament figures that were members of his family as he lived on earth.

## Book Review

**Book:** *have a little faith*  
**Author:** Mitch Albom

*"God sings, we hum along, and there are many melodies, but it's all one song – one same, wonderful, human song."*

Albom's book relates the stories of two ministers – Rabbi Albert Lewis, who has asked Albom to give his eulogy, and Pastor Henry Covington of Detroit's I Am My Brother's Keeper Church, who aids the homeless, despite his criminal past and a hole in the roof of the church.

Through his initial doubts, his growth in faith, and his growing relationship with these two men, Albom imparts wisdom and the universal story of man's struggle with faith,

**Opinion:** It's a great read!

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Together we mark the milestones of our lives, celebrating the joys and sharing the sorrows.

## Births

**Abigail Marie Degenhardt**, daughter of Steve and Kellie, granddaughter of Ed and Kim Smith, was born on December 7.

## Marriage

Erin Rasmussen and Michael Rohr, son of Steve and Mandy, grandson of Fred and Edna, were married on August 1. The couple resides in Boston, MA. He has a BS in Business Marketing from KSU and attends Boston College Law School. Erin has a BS in Business Marketing and International Business, and is pursuing a career in public relations.



## Congratulations

**Frank and Eva Arias** celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 17.



**George and Marion Arnold** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 11.

**Walt and Pat Rohling** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 19.



**David and Susan Lind** celebrated 25 years of marriage on September 7.



**Emily Barker**



**Ashlee Schif**



**Cynthia Wentworth**



**Amber Williams**



**Colleen Zirkle**

**Chuck and Karen Eads** celebrated 25 years of marriage on November 3.

**Cynthia Wentworth**, SMPS class of 1986, has been hired as Derby Community Marketing Director, responsible for all aspects of community-wide marketing and designated communication initiatives.

**Amber Williams**, daughter of Jim and Connie, graduated from Newman University on December 12. Amber, SMPS class of 2001 alum, student taught at St Mary this semester with Mrs. Gentry and Mrs. Gerlach, and said that she was "blessed to have a really good experience at a school that I love." Amber also nurtures our parish teens as a LIFE TEEN core team member.

**Sarah Swank**, daughter of Bryan and Nancy, SMPS class of 2002, graduated from KSU in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, animal sciences & industry-Biotechnology option. She is now working on her masters degree in biotechnology at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

**Colleen Zirkle**, daughter of Liz, placed ninth individually at the state high school tennis tournament, and her team was second. She is a sophomore at Collegiate.

**Kelsey Miller**, daughter of Kerry and Linda, Mulvane High School junior, was inducted into National Honor Society.

St Mary eighth grade students **Ashlee Schif** and **Emily Barker** were chosen for State KCDA Treble Choir.

## Deaths

**Mary Heinrich**, wife of George, mother of Margo McDonald, Valerie Bates and Georgia Gregory, died on August 14.

**Ann Harper**, mother of Helene Harper Roberge, Maurice, Maureen, John and Michael, died on August 27.

**Alice Espiritu Palama**, mother of Mercedes McLellan, died September 6.

**Jackie Cribbs**, aunt of Mark, died on September 20.

**Ralph Rhodes**, brother of Bob, died September 27.

**Johanna "Schmitz" Knoblauch**, sister of Barb Betzen, died on October 5.

**Tillie Kisner**, mother of Patti Straub, died on October 11.

**Dan Gosha**, husband of Irene, father of David and Rick, died on November 9.

**Daniel Myers**, husband of Theresa, father of Robert, died on November 9.

**Oswald Benoit**, father of Kenneth, Glenn, Daniel, Carolyn Denning, Leaana Jandrakovic, died on November 14.

**John Linot**, brother of Tom Linot, died on November 20.



**Doing Good Together**  
—a family Faith in Action event—  
is coming March 24.

Mark your calendar and watch for details in the bulletin!

# Outreach

Put your gifts at the service of  
one another. -1 Peter 4:10



## Get out of your comfort zone!

by Audrey Ronnfeldt

When I first saw the article in the bulletin announcing Children's Liturgy of the Word, I was excited. You see, when my boys and I lived in Georgia, they participated in something very similar. Looking back now I see the impact it had on their faith journey. Because of that I knew that I wanted *them* to be a part of the program here at St Mary.

At first, I was too busy to hear that nagging little voice inside of *me*. When I finally slowed down I heard it: *You believe in this program, it's time for you to be a part of it, too.* I thought of every excuse: I am not a teacher....I have never worked with young children (other than my own)...that is not my gift...I'm too busy. Well the Holy Spirit had other ideas. I am now volunteering as a Minister of the Word for Children's Liturgy.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is a worship experience geared especially for children. The children hear the scriptures in words they understand.

What I've learned is that the children are so accepting and enthusiastic about their faith. Their responses to the questions that are asked about the readings are so insightful! It is truly a blessing to be a part of this ministry and I guess you could say I am learning lessons too! This experience reminds me of a familiar scripture:

*'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'* That is in three of the Gospels - Matt 19:14; Mark 10:14b-15 & Luke 18:16b-17

Another important thing to remember is that the church is here to partner with parents in building the foundation for our children's faith. So if you need a partner, St Mary Catholic Church is here for you.

**Don't miss the blessing!** So often we don't step out of our comfort zone and we miss it.

## Christmas with Jesus

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Many prayers were said in 2008 and early 2009 by school children and other parishioners praying for Lonnie Johnson, who died of cancer in April.

Lonnie's wife Kim graciously allowed me to share this recent experience and note from her with you here.

Kim said, "As I was preparing dinner one night this week, Megan [who is 6] was looking over the lit Christmas tree nearby. She spontaneously said, 'Daddy is SO, SO lucky.' Taken aback, I asked why. She answered, 'Because he gets to have Christmas with Jesus, wherever He is.'"

"I get so wrapped up in our loss that I often forget what Lonnie has gained. And it sometimes takes an untainted, little spirit to put me back on track. So on that note, may you be blessed this holiday season.

With all our thanks for your prayers and support, Lonnie, Kim, Hannah, Adrienne and Megan"




Lonnie and Megan

## A celebration of love

Altar Society and Knights of Columbus are joining together to provide us a great opportunity to honor the love of God, self, spouse, loved ones lost, parish family and friends.

All adult parishioners—married or single, widowed or divorced, young or old—are invited to come celebrate among friends with socializing, a catered gourmet dinner and dancing on February 13. Mark your calendar! What a wonderful way to celebrate LOVE.

Tickets will be available in January. 



Charlie Marlow and other Knights collected food for Operation Holiday, Catholic Charities.

## Loving neighbors

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Parishioners responded generously this fall to God's call to serve our brothers and sisters. Multiple food and toy drives benefited Derby Food Pantry, Operation Holiday-Derby, Catholic Charities' Help Center and Share the Season, and God's Food Pantry. Some parishioners gave gift cards through the purple box at the Scrip table to help parishioners in need. Your actions help others know Christ.



Courtney Coufal, Adam Clark and other LIFE TEEN youth collected for Derby Food Pantry, a global food drive and a clothing drive.

### NEWSLETTER

Submit articles, photos and information for the next *Messenger* to Davi Stuhlsatz, 788-5525 or [vbdragon@cox.net](mailto:vbdragon@cox.net).

*May God's abundant blessings be yours this Christmas and always!*