

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church

### A Letter From Our Pastor



Fr. Reynolds at Easter Sunday Mass

As I write this reflection on the year, which ended July first, I am hearing and seeing on television about the new phenomenon of Pokémon Go. There seem to be many who are spending hours chasing after imaginary figures. How I wish people would pursue the true person of Jesus Christ with equal interest and vigor!

Luke Gregory has now completed his first year as Director of Lifelong Faith Formation. His youthful enthusiasm is contagious, and we are

glad that he and Teresa—married just last August—have purchased a home here.

The staff works hard and puts in long hours to serve our church and community in so many ways. Deacon Dan is a great blessing to us. How fortunate we are that he is here at Sacred Heart serving us all so generously and humbly.

I thank the parish for the celebration of my 35th anniversary of priestly ordination. Having sundaes on Sunday is a fine tradition to advance! Your

kindness and greetings are greatly appreciated.

This has been a challenging year for me personally with four hospitalizations and three surgeries. I have recovered well and again express my thanks for your support, cards, prayers, and well wishes along the way. I especially want to acknowledge Deacon Dan who has been so helpful with the various visiting priests who have been filling in while I was mending.

The time last fall when I was home from the hospital—and well enough to celebrate Mass—but unable to do so because I could not consume the Precious Blood—was an interesting dilemma. One of the medications I had been taking had a potentially serious side effect if I were to consume alcohol while having any of that medication in my body. Thus I could not celebrate Mass as I am required to consume the Pre-

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## A Letter From Our Pastor, cont'd. . .



Fr. Reynolds on Palm Sunday

***. . . may the remaining months of the Holy Year of Mercy be an opportunity for you to experience and share the wondrous mercy of our most kind and generous God.***

cious Blood when celebrating Mass. Our bishop was most kind and helpful during this time, which was rather emotional for me.

Know also that your kindness, interest, and prayers were greatly appreciated during my recent knee replacement. Following the surgery I came to appreciate that PT (physical therapy) in reality stands for "pain and torture." I received wonderful care here in Newton and am relieved that I am progressing so well. Your prayers are helping!

The major physical plant

improvement in the parish is the new handicapped entrance to McCann Center. It is so nice finally to have an entrance to our facility that is handicapped accessible. McCann Center looks so much better with the new entrance. The dark metal provides a nice contrast against the blond brick.

The other addition that is so lovely is the stained glass above the church doors. Thanks to a family in the parish for making this donation.

May you enjoy God's abundant blessings in 2016-2017 and may the

remaining months of the Holy Year of Mercy be an opportunity for you to experience and share the wondrous mercy of our most kind and generous God.

We have a wonderful parish here at Sacred Heart. It is a pleasure to serve as your pastor. May the Lord richly bless us in our service to God and His Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

*William E. Reynolds*

Very Rev. William E. Reynolds

## A Note From Our Deacon

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

I recently began reading a book written by Robert

M. Haddad titled *1001 Reasons Why It's Great To Be Catholic*. His book is a compilation of one liners and short graphs of what the title tells us, why it is great to be Catholic. No doubt there are many more that 1001 reasons. To me there is one more – Sacred Heart Parish in Newton, Iowa.

We are all blessed to be a part of our Sacred Heart Parish Family. I can't tell you how many times this past year I have had people say to me when speaking about challenges they are encountering in their lives,

"I'm not sure what I would have done without my faith or my parish family." Those words should affirm all of you as the Sacred Heart Parish Family. Sometimes we have no idea how we might be "parish family" to someone in need.

This past year I continued to have the opportunity to serve the pastoral needs of many in different ways. In addition to the weekend and some daily liturgies, I have assisted with funeral planning, funerals, vigil services, marriage preparation, and have



Ava Marie Schuler Baptism



## A Note From Our Deacon, cont'd. . .

continued to make hospital and care center visits.

Along with the commissions that serve us here at Sacred Heart, we have two committees that are active in our parish: the Vocations Committee and the Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth Committee.

The Vocations Committee was formed a few years ago and continued its work this past year to nurture and encourage vocations in the parish. We continue to pray the vocations prayer as a parish community on the first weekend of each month. Committee member Deb Corlew recruited prayer leaders for each month. It is great to see so many of our parishioners leading us in prayer. Thank you for saying yes to Deb's request. The response to staying for just a few minutes after Mass to pray for vocations has been excellent. On each of those same first weekends, a book/CD review written by librarian Kay Fisher has been published in the bulletin.

In a special effort to encourage and support the Diocese of Davenport's seminarians we supported the Diocese's Serra Club's program, "Adopt a Seminarian." Cards

with information about each of the seminarians were available in the gathering space for several weekends giving us an opportunity to select a seminarian that we would pray for and communicate with throughout the year.

On special occasions throughout the year greeting cards were sent from Sacred Heart Parish to the 13 seminarians currently studying to be priests for the Diocese of Davenport. In recognition of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 17<sup>th</sup> the Vocations Committee members and hospitality ministers distributed prayer cards to those attending the weekend Masses.

The Vocations Committee would like to thank and recognize the

Knights of Columbus for once again sponsoring the Altar Server Appreciation Trip to an Iowa Cubs game. Several Members of the Knights served as drivers and chaperones.

Last fall a core group from Sacred Heart attended a Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth presentation held at Saint Anthony Parish in Knoxville. Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth is an initiative that is encouraged and supported by the Diocese of Davenport. It developed as the result of the National Study on Youth and Religion that revealed the following:

1) The single most important influence on the spiritual and religious lives of adolescents is



Deacon Dan at the Easter Vigil

***"I'm not sure what I would have done without my faith or my parish family,"***



Easter Sunday Mass

## A Note From Our Deacon, cont'd . . .



Presentation of the gifts at Sunday Morning Mass

***The Strong Catholic Family Strong Catholic Youth Committee continues to meet to explore ways Sacred Heart Parish can support all of our families young and old.***

their parents.

2) When compared with other denominations Catholics ranked lower in terms of living and practicing their faith.

3) Teens that are engaged in the life of their Church "do better in life."

4) We as Catholics need to renew our focus to nurture and form our families as Domestic Churches.

Why would we not want all of the teens in our parish to "do better in life" by being engaged in and supported by our parish? Why would we not want to help all of our Sacred Heart families develop their Domestic Church and support them as they raise their children? With the support of Father Reynolds and the work of the Strong Catholic Fa-

milies: Strong Catholic Youth Committee the groundwork was laid for us to build upon in the coming years.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Father Reynolds and I presented the Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth initiative at the weekend Masses. All present that weekend were invited to take part in a survey that asked the participants to express what they might need from the parish to assist them in providing for the spiritual needs of their families. That weekend we also gave every family the *Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth Family Faith Resource Booklet*. This resource booklet is filled with very practical ways to immerse our faith into our everyday family life. If you did not receive a booklet, there are still some available in the

gathering space.

On May 5, 2016, Father Jake Greiner, former pastor of Saint Anthony in Knoxville facilitated a follow-up meeting at Sacred

Heart with the goal of helping those in attendance to discern the results of the survey and to set priorities for the future.

To help us all build our domestic churches and practice our faith at home the committee has been publishing a Domestic Church Challenge in the bulletin and on Facebook. The Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth Committee continues to meet to explore ways Sacred Heart Parish can support all of our families young and old. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for future information about this exciting initiative.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I look forward to another year with you at Sacred Heart. If there is anything I can assist you with, please never hesitate to give me a call.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

*Deacon Dan*

Deacon Dan



Eucharistic Ministers on Easter Sunday



## Church Life Commission

The goal of the Church Life Commission is to create opportunities to expand ministries that involve all members of the parish. We hope to help each individual develop stronger bonds within the parish, deanery, and diocese, and to make Jesus Christ the center of all activities within this Christian community.

Looking back at the last year, our commission was very busy. Our most recent accomplishment was Vacation Bible School. We couldn't have done it alone and are grateful that we had over 35 volunteers to help. Our theme was Cathletics, which reinforced the idea that we are all Champions of Christ. We decorated McCann Center with the Olympic colors and rings. The kids hung medals with their God sightings along the Olympic Wall. We had 62 kids participate, and thanks to some fundraising efforts and donations it was free for every child to attend. It was a fabulous week, and the helpers had as much fun as the kids.

In February we had our annual Mardi Gras celebration, which was once again a big hit. This year we had Dueling Pianos for our entertainment

and had 149 people in attendance. The Dueling Pianos helped us with a fight-song fundraiser, which was very profitable and fun. (Iowa State came away with the victory this year!) We also held a dessert auction, which was a huge success thanks to all those who donated a dessert. The meal was catered by Country Catering and was very delicious. The youth served the meals and were a big help in the kitchen. The proceeds from this event went to fund Vacation Bible School to make it free for every child to attend. A portion of the proceeds went to the youth as they played a big part in making this event a success. We have had many requests to keep that tradition

alive, so buy your tickets early next spring!

A Trunk-or-Treat was held on the Friday night before Halloween. We had many volunteers decorate the trunks of their cars and hand out candy to children dressed in Halloween costumes. There were pizza and dessert for everyone to enjoy. It was a fun family event; we plan to do the same this fall, so come join us this Halloween for some games and laughter.

The Church Life Commission along with Family Life hosted the annual pool party at Maytag Park in early July. We started the night off with a nice potluck dinner and then made our way down to the pool. We had a great turnout and



Lynnette Miller passes out candy at Trunk or Treat

***We hope to help each individual develop stronger bonds within the parish, deanery, and diocese, and to make Jesus Christ the center of all activities within this Christian community.***



Vacation Bible School

## Church Life, cont'd. . .



Brooke & Mylie Soppe  
at the First Communion  
Reception

hope to do the same next year.

Our group has many fun activities planned for the upcoming year and hope that many of you will take part in the fun. Our annual events are Mardi Gras, Vacation Bible

School, the pool party, and Trunk-or-Treat. We are planning a new event this year. Around Advent time we will have a family Polar Express Night, so stay tuned for details. Church Life also designs and puts to-

gether a church directory every five years and hosts some soup suppers throughout the year. The Church Life Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Come join us!

### Church Life Commission Ministries

Communications Ministry  
Funeral Dinners  
Reception/Office Ministry  
Mardi Gras

Friday & Sunday Coffee Hosts  
Monthly Potluck Luncheon  
Parish Receptions Ministry  
Trunk or Treat

***We were delighted to learn from the results that stewardship values definitely have been infused throughout our parish.***

## Liturgy Commission

The Liturgy Commission had many wonderful events take place this year. The choir continued to provide excellent music for our liturgical services while experiencing change in leadership, saying goodbye to

Tom Netzel as he and his wife Kathy moved to Arizona. We have been blessed to welcome aboard Ms. Virginia Bennett as our new choir director and organist. She has done a marvelous job thus far during her time with us!

When the liturgical seasons change, we have many volunteers working long hours to make the church an inspirational environment with seasonal decorations and banners. We had two training sessions for new or recommissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion with 20 individu-

als taking part. Their names were submitted to Bishop Amos and were approved. Having been commissioned over several weekends in May and June, they will serve a three-year term. The Liturgy Commission also had two trainings for new altar servers this year and offered opportunities for both adult men and women interested in becoming altar servers. From the trainings, there were seven youth trained as altar servers. The commission has put a new first-aid kit on the premises, and it is located in the kitchen in McCann Center. During the winter months the Saturday Mass time was changed from 5:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and this will con-



Bishop Martin Amos after the Jubilee Year of Mercy Mass



## Liturgy, cont'd . . .

tinue for next year as well.

This past December 7 on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception, we were blessed to have been able to open the Jubilee Year of Mercy with our very own Bishop Martin Amos who

came to Sacred Heart to celebrate Mass. A reception followed the Mass. We are looking forward to the fall as we get ready to welcome the Grinnell Deanery Mercy Team to Sacred Heart on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m.

The team will provide a time of Eucharistic Adoration, preaching from a deacon from our deanery, and an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation if one desires to go afterwards.



Lector Steve Mullan

### Liturgy Commission Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers  
Accompanist  
Adult Choir  
Sacristan  
Home Visitor  
Rosary  
Hospitality / Greeter / Usher  
Children's Liturgy of the Word

Lector  
Altar Server  
Song Leader/Cantor  
Liturgical Environment  
Stations of the Cross  
Prison Ministry  
Lenten Holy Hour Devotion

*. . . on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception, we were blessed to have been able to open the Jubilee Year of Mercy with our very own Bishop Martin Amos*

## Stewardship Commission

The members of the Sacred Heart Stewardship Commission delight in discovering ways to foster and to support stewardship as a way of life in our parish family. The 2015-2016 fiscal year has been abundant with opportunity!

Our first order of business for the new year was to host a 65<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for our very own Fr. Reynolds. The event on July 2, 2015, included Mass and a potluck following. Our parish has some wonderful pie bakers (Father's favorite is pie!), and we were grateful these bak-

ers were willing to share their talents with us!

During the summer of

2015 we also completed a stewardship inventory for the parish. We were delighted to learn from the results that stewardship values definitely have been infused through-

out our parish. As a matter of fact, stewardship has become such a



Appreciation Brunch

## Stewardship, cont'd . . .



Bruce & Karen Hoffmeier & Lee Zmolek at the Appreciation Brunch

**. . . stewardship has become such a strong piece in our culture that it truly is a way of life for Sacred Heart.**

strong piece in our culture that it truly is a way of life for Sacred Heart. The survey also encouraged us to explore possibilities for growing even stronger in this aspect of our Christian discipleship. We offered the small group series, *Exploring the Life of Stewardship*. Our learning continues. Stay tuned as we challenge ourselves and you, our brothers and sisters, to move even deeper into the stewardship adventure.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal kicked off the weekend of September 26 & 27th. Our parish is blessed to be home to a multitude of members who graciously say yes to the request to share

their gift of voice. Jim Nilles took the microphone this year and generously shared his faith story. He encouraged us to open our hearts (and wallets) to support our diocese and parish. Sacred Heart members responded to the appeal faithfully, and our goal was surpassed. We are very grateful to Doug Swanson who once again agreed to coordinate the collection efforts of this annual campaign

On Sunday, November 22, commission members pulled together, with a little help from our friends, to host the Annual Stewardship Appreciation Brunch. We highlighted a variety of ministries with a slideshow during the brunch and served nearly 200 volunteers!

The desire to extend hospitality beyond Mass continued to be a primary focus for the fiscal year. Our Welcome Basket Ministry for new parish members came to life. We are excited about this approach to welcoming those new to our faith community and can't wait to deliver our first basket. Additionally, the branding project we explored a couple of years back has also

come to life. We partnered with the parish youth to keep our vision fresh. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, a new Sacred Heart logo will be revealed, complete with clothing and miscellaneous items for purchase.

Friends of the Heart embarked on year two. The mission of this committee is to plan regular social gatherings for adult parishioners inside as well as outside our doors. Sacred Heart parishioners delight in our children, but these events are designed to allow adults to enjoy the company of one another without the need to keep one eye on the little ones. "Playing" together is just as significant to our parish life as "praying" together! Please watch the bulletin for events.

The Diocesan Stewardship Day was hosted by St Patrick's in Iowa City in early April 2016. Four Sacred Heart parishioners attended the event. Presentations focused on the corporal and spiritual aspects of stewardship in our everyday lives. Those who attended agreed that the presentation by our longtime friend Bishop Bob Gruss was the highlight of the day.



Cathi Fouts & Kathy Hammerly at Diocesan Stewardship Day with keynote speaker, Bishop Bob Gruss



## Stewardship, cont'd. . .

We are grateful for the opportunities that we have been given to serve you through this past year. We look for-

ward to future moments to nurture stewardship as a way of life. Most importantly, we invite as many of you as would

like to come along to join us in the stewardship journey of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

### Stewardship Commission Ministries

Stewardship of Treasure

Stewardship Envelopes and Autoshare

Stewardship of Time & Talent

Ministry Opportunity Handbook

Diocesan Stewardship Day

Friends from the Heart

All-Parish Appreciation Brunch

Welcoming Committee



As we share our gifts of treasure, Bob Schaffer takes up the collection during Sunday Mass

## Faith Formation Commission

Our theme for the 2015-2016 year was *Back to our Roots: Rediscovering Our Faith!* As we rediscovered our faith, we reset the format of faith enrichment for the parish. We replaced the four or five faith festivals that were traditionally scheduled each year with monthly faith enrichment sessions. On every first Wednesday of the month, Faith Formation hosted a dinner with a faith learning opportunity to follow in McCann Center. The meal began at 5:15 p.m. and ended at 6:00 p.m. The faith learning session followed the meal at 6:00 p.m. and ended at 7:00 p.m. During these sessions, we looked at our Catholic faith through a new lens. Participants were able to rediscover the beauty of our Church and her teachings by watching captivating

videos while seeing some of the places where Jesus walked.

The videos are a part of the *Symbolon* series, which is a vibrant, relevant, and complete program known for re-evangelizing and reinvigorating a parish. The compelling sessions of this series guide parishioners through the breadth and richness of

their Catholic faith. Theologian, author, and well-known Catholic speaker Dr. Edward Sri is the content director and host of the series. Presented by some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world, this unique video and discussion experience is designed to transform the lives of parishioners. These videos also in-

***Participants were able to rediscover the beauty of our Church and her teachings by watching captivating videos while seeing some of the places where Jesus walked.***



Parish Wide Enrichment Meal

## Faith Formation, cont'd. . .



Clarissa & Maddox Bloom, Linda Pierce, & Lori Ward watch the Parish Wide Enrichment film

***This safe-environment program recognizes that each of us lives within a circle of grace that includes our body, mind, heart, and soul.***

cluded talks and discussions from well-known Catholic speakers throughout the country such as Johnette Benkovic, Patrick Coffin, and Teresa Tomeo who convey messages of truth, beauty, and goodness in today's relativistic society. Monthly video episodes included the following topics: journey of faith, Mary and the saints, the Eucharist,

confession, the Mass, the paschal mystery, a Catholic moral vision, and Catholic social teaching. If you didn't get a chance to join one of our monthly faith enrichment sessions, these videos are available in the parish library.

The faith enrichment sessions also included times for discussions and fellowship where adults

and parents were provided with tools and ideas to help build up their own domestic church. When our families are strong, our Church is strong. Please be sure to join us in the coming year during monthly faith enrichment sessions for learning, discussion, and strengthening your faith for yourself and your family!

## Circle of Grace

In January of this past year, all the children and youth in our Faith Formation program were introduced to the *Circle of Grace* program required by the Davenport Diocese. This safe-

environment program recognizes that each of us lives within a circle of grace that includes our body, mind, heart, and soul. The children and youth are taught in age-appropriate ways to

identify and maintain appropriate boundaries and to recognize when those boundaries are threatened and what to do about it.

## K-6 Small Group Learning

Approximately 65 kindergarten-through-sixth-

grade children met for 30 small group sessions

on Wednesday evenings. Eight catechists led the weekly sessions, which focused on the Sunday Gospel readings, Catholic doctrines, and Catholic saints through fun-

to-do activities, storytelling, prayer, and dramatizations. Highlights of the year included a living rosary in October, saints' parade in November, and a small pageant in December. Families were invited to a parish supper on the first Wednesday of each month. We celebrated our year with an end-of-year picnic for all Faith Formation youth and families.



Kindergarteners Small Group Session



## Vacation Bible School

The second week in June almost 70 children and over 20 volunteers came together to practice being Champions for Christ. For five mornings we were inspired to set goals and aim for excellence in our Catholic faith. We learned of the lives of five saints as we explored God's Game

Plan (the *Bible*) and His Rules (*The Ten Commandments*). Daily we learned to train hard with the Beatitudes and to get our 'game on' with the Fruits of the Spirit as we aim for Victory – Eternal Life with Christ in Heaven! We learned new songs and games, created some awesome

crafts, and enjoyed delicious snacks. *Cathletics: Training to Be a Champion for Christ* VBS was a huge success thanks to the adults and youth who gave of their time, energy, and resources and to the campers who came fired up to learn more about their faith. Thank you!



Mathias Bloom & Ben Ratliff at Vacation Bible School

## Library

The library circulated 2149 items this year. The most popular categories in order of usage were the following: Biography; Fiction; Church History; Guides to Christian Living; Sacraments; Mary; Jesus; Public Wor-

ship; Christian Ethics; Apologetics/ Evangelization; Devotional Prayer. The library had 11 new patrons, nine adults and two children, for a total of 357 patrons. Thanks not only to parish funding but also to the

generous donation of several patrons, the library was able to accession 171 new items; half of those were DVDs, audio books, or CDs.

***VBS was a huge success thanks to the adults and youth who gave of their time, energy, and resources and to the campers who came fired up to learn more about their faith.***

## Middle School Youth

Fourteen 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth met on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. Our sessions focused on the Matthew Kelly *Decision Point* series. Several of the youth participated in the deanery ski trip to Seven Oaks in Boone in January and the deanery tubing trip in June. During Lent the youth participated in a Virtual Stations of the Cross. Through their senses of hearing and touch, blindfolded participants experienced

Christ's journey to the cross.



Middle School Scavenger Hunt

## High School Youth



Senior High Youth, Duncan Lee & Reagan Maple help prepare a Parish Meal

This year Sacred Heart Youth Group continued to meet on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Our time together was filled with snacks, games, and deepening and applying our Catholic Faith. The eight components of Youth Ministry were used to guide instruction and experiences. These components include advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leader-

ship development, pastoral care, and prayer and worship. Our time together began and ended with prayer; snacks, games, and times for fellowship happened in between. This year the students engaged in instruction and experiences that aligned specifically with the concept of mercy. Some highlights from our year included the following: making the Faith Enrichment session meal,

decorating and taking candy canes to McCann Village, deepening knowledge about the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage, learning more about the Corporal and Spiritual Gifts of Mercy, having a Resurrection Egg Scavenger Hunt, and cleaning the Sacred Heart Nursery. We had a wonderful year together and look forward to the upcoming school year!

***... over 24,000 people silenced in prayer and adoration of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament... beautiful!***

## NCYC

A group of 24 high school youth and seven adults traveled to Indianapolis, IN, for the National Catholic Youth Conference with over 24,000 other youth, 450 priests, and 35 bishops from across the country including our own Bishop Amos. This year's theme was "Here I Am Lord/ Aquí Estoy

Senor." There were many different speakers for youth to choose to listen to including Matt Maher, Jason and Crystallina Evert, Fr. Rob Galea, Leah Darrow, Mark Hart and keynote speakers Jackie Francois Angel and Paul J. Kim.

A major highlight of the weekend was the period

of Eucharistic Adoration on Friday night at Lucas Oil Stadium packed with over 24,000 people silenced in prayer and ado-

ration of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament...beautiful! During the weekend, we learned about being open to God's Will in our lives and responding in the example of the Blessed Mother when she gave her brave and powerful "yes" to God's request of her to be the mother of His Son. Youth had opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend daily Mass, learn more about our Catholic Faith, and listen to several different musicians including Grammy Award winning Australian Christian pop duo, for King & Country.



High School Youth make candy canes for residents at McCann Village



## Faith Journey

While beginning the initial planning of Faith Journey 2015, the students created lists of what they considered the most impoverished states and cities in the United States. After several attempts to connect with Philadelphia, the students determined that Detroit, Michigan, might be a beneficial city to serve. Many phone calls were made, and the details of the trip began to fall into place. During our week in Detroit the students and chaperones had incredible experiences that will not soon be forgotten.

The group was housed at the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish located in Farmington, Michigan. The students had the experience of being responsible for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for each other and for making daily trips to the grocery store. We quickly found that twenty high school students can consume a lot of food! On two of the workdays we traveled into the heart of Detroit. One group visited a primarily Spanish-speaking parish to complete landscaping work, and another group visited a church that would soon have the doors closed due to budgetary restrictions. Another day was spent at the Catholic

Worker House, where we learned from Father Tom about our gifts. He eloquently said, "You know you are doing what you're supposed to when your gifts meet the cries of the world." Father William Reynolds made a surprise visit that afternoon and joined us on a walking tour of Detroit and a taco dinner!

Another work day was spent doing landscaping work at the Farmington YMCA in exchange for showers for the week. Our final day of work was spent with Father Alex at the St. Joseph Chapel and Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We spent the day cleaning the chapel and doing landscaping outdoors. Each night the students engaged in meaningful reflections

and devotionals. One night was spent doing affirmations and sharing our gifts with each other.

For fun the group rented boats and boated on Lake Erie and participated in swing dance lessons in downtown Farmington. The students also participated in the ninth annual ice cream eating contest; which Duncan Lee won with a 21-second time. We had a beautiful trip filled with humbling moments of spreading God's mercy to all those around us.



CJ Schwarz & Jonah Lilienthal paint the steps & railing while on Faith Journey

***We had a beautiful trip filled with humbling moments of spreading God's mercy to all those around us.***



Faith Journey 2015 in Detroit, Michigan

## Adult Faith Formation



Linda Pierce facilitates the Friday Morning Adult Small Group

**... to rediscover the rich history of God's mercy in their own lives, which then led them to understand the importance of extending God's love and mercy to the world around them.**

### Small Groups

We are pleased to have had many opportunities this year for adult faith formation. Last fall we had a total of four groups that met for small group learning. Three separate groups met for six weeks while they utilized a Bible study called *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa. In this study, Fr. Pacwa led participants to a deeper understanding of mercy through the study of Israel's long, slow struggle to experience mercy. By looking at their experience of their turning away and returning to God, participants were able to understand that God's love, shown through His mercy, is more powerful than sin. This study also helped participants to rediscover the rich history of God's mercy in their own lives, which then led them to understand the importance of ex-

tending God's love and mercy to the world around them. The different groups met on Sunday evenings, Monday evenings, and Thursday afternoons.

Another group met for eight weeks on Friday mornings in the fall while they dove deeper into the *Lord's Prayer*. This group used a Bible study book called *Discovering the God We Call Father: A Catholic Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer* by Rich Cleveland. During their sessions, those who participated were able to take on a deeper understanding of some of the great mysteries of our faith which are contained in the "Our Father" prayer which Jesus taught his followers. This study helped to give participants new meanings to the petitions in this familiar prayer and to develop a new consciousness of their relationship to the Father as His dearly beloved child.

Our Lenten small groups featured three separate groups gathering together to learn more about the last words of Christ on the cross. Meeting times were Monday evenings, Thursday afternoons, and Friday mornings, for seven weeks. They used the book *The Seven Last Words of Christ: A Bible*

*Study on Jesus' Passion* by Rich Cleveland. In this study, those involved were able to dig deeper into the meanings of the final words Jesus spoke from the cross, helping them to bring the real meaning of Easter alive.

Another group met for six weeks while they gathered together to read and discuss the Sunday Mass readings by using an online format, "Sunday Scripture Study." Through reflections and discussions, this group was better able to understand the Mass readings for each Sunday throughout Lent.

New this year was the formation of the Sacred Heart Men's Group, which met on Wednesday mornings throughout the year with a few short breaks in between studies. The first study completed was on a series of talks by Fr. Larry Richards with the theme of "Be a Man." The group gathered weekly for 20 weeks to view a talk on video while discussing what they read from the accompanying book. These sessions helped the men to focus on the right goal, how to live as a beloved son of God, of the need to acknowledge one's faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to pursue holiness, and to make a



Sunday Evening Adult Small Group



## Adult Faith Formation, cont'd. . .

difference in the world. After completing this series, the group took a break from gathering for about a month and re-grouped to focus on a different topic and study. They met for eight weeks while tackling the subject of "Spiritual Combat." At their meetings they watched a video by a group of men that made up "The Crossing the Goal Team" and then discussed the value of the topic of the day. Some topics consisted of how to discipline your body and the spiritual benefits from doing this while also looking at the reality of the existence of the devil in the world. Another focal point was putting on the armor of God.

### Book Clubs/ Catechism Class

**St. Monica's Book Club** met at the Fisher home at 1:00 p.m. twice a month, usually on the first and third Thursdays. (Call 792-2863 for exact dates.) This last year the eight members watched and discussed the twelve episodes in the *Symbolon DVD Series* and read and discussed *The Second Greatest Story* and *You Did It to Me* both by Father Michael Gaitley and *7 Secrets of*

*Divine Mercy* by Vinny Flynn. The focus of the group was to develop a greater love and appreciation for the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith.

**Ave Maria Book Club** met at 7:00 p.m. in the parish library on the first Thursday of the month from September to May. This year the members read and discussed *The Second Greatest Story*; *33 Days to Morning Glory*; *Saints Behaving Badly*; *The Miraculous Medal*; *You Did It to Me*; *Praying Scriptures for a Change*; *Joseph the Man Who Raised Jesus*; *The Witness of the Early Christian Women*; and *Women and Spiritual Equality in the Christian Tradition*. Members selected next year's books in May. The focus was on personal growth

in holiness and spirituality as lived in the family church and work place. We had 16 members with attendance varying from eight to 14 in a given month. The adult education class, **Exploring the Catechism**, met every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Emphasis each week was on reading, questioning, and discussing three to five paragraphs of *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The purpose of the class was to gain a greater understanding of the truths, depth, beauty, and unity of the Catholic Faith when presented in an integrated and organized manner as it is done in the *Catechism*. Current enrollment is ten.



Mary Flattery makes rosaries for El Salvador

**. . . to acknowledge one's faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world.**



Friday morning Adult Small Group

## Sacramental Records



Clayton Mark Seals  
Baptism

The church has several record books to record each individual sacrament that parishioners receive here at Sacred Heart. Confirmation and Marriage records are also sent to their church of Baptism. All sacramental records are reported to the Diocese at the end of the calendar year.

Number of registered families . . . . .	656
Number of Individual Parishioners . . . . .	1463
Number of baptisms of infants. . . . .	11
Number of baptisms of adults . . . . .	8
Number of deaths. . . . .	17
Number of First Communions. . . . .	17
Number of Confirmations by the Bishop . . . . .	18
Number of Confirmations by the Priest. . . . .	8
Number of marriages in year. . . . .	3

***The “Growing Up Catholic” curriculum explicitly brings the faith home and helps children and parents enter into a deeper relationship with Christ.***

## Sacramental Preparation

**Infant Baptism** preparation classes were held four times this year for parents wishing to have their child baptized. During these sessions, parents explored the meaning of the symbols

of Baptism and discussed their responsibility to raise their children in practices of the Catholic faith. Over the year, Sacred Heart celebrated 11 infant baptisms. The names of those baptized

are Samuel Robert Patin, John Robert Patin, Landon Paul Brockhohn, Glen LeRoy Wolfe, Rowen Karen Sherratt, Tysen Seth Banwell, Beckham Mic Rausch, Quinn Marie Kramer, Rory Augustin Otto, Ava Marie Schuler, and Clayton Mark Seals.

**First Sacraments** candidates again this year participated in the sacramental preparation program *Growing Up Catholic*. During the preparation sessions parents and their children were led through a process that encouraged discussion within their family. The *Growing Up Catholic* curriculum explicitly brings the faith home and helps



First Communion



## Sacramental Preparation, cont'd. . .

children and parents enter into a deeper relationship with Christ. Besides the sessions, the children attended regular, weekly K-6 faith formation classes. The celebration of their First Sacrament of Reconciliation was held during the parish's Advent Communal Penance Service in December. Twelve children celebrated First Communion on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation** candidates prepared for the sacrament by participating fully in regular faith formation. During their weekly gatherings they used the Dynamic Catholic Confirmation program called "Decision Point," which uses captivating and informational videos from Matthew Kelly and a textbook that engages youth where they are in their faith journey and helps them think more deeply about the teachings of the Church. They attended additional sessions with their parents as well as sessions with their sponsors. The candidates joined with the candidates from Immaculate Conception Parish in Colfax for two one-day retreats – one in the fall and one during the weekend before Confirmation. Both retreats were held at Im-

maculate Conception and included group activities, team building activities, and several talks. The spring retreat also included an opportunity for the youth to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration. Members of the Pastoral Council along with Fr. Reynolds conducted interviews of the candidates. Bishop Amos came to Newton to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on nine candidates from Sacred Heart and nine from Immaculate Conception on Sunday, May 1st.

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is the process used by people over the age of reason (age seven) who wish to become Catholic. For those who had gone through this process, there were five adults who were received into the Catholic Church including Brooke Soppe, Virginia Bennett, Jason Faidley, Mark

Blasius, and Dustin Brisel. They all received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. There were also three adults who were baptized into the family of God: Edward Paul Roberts, James Aaron Jacobs, and Christopher Wayne Flander. Currently there is one person attending classes and preparing to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the fall.



Bishop Amos talks to the Confirmation candidates.

*. . . the Dynamic Catholic Confirmation program called "Decision Point," which uses captivating and informational videos from Matthew Kelly . . .*



Jason Faidley, Mark Blasius, & Dustin Brisel were received into the church.

## Social Action Commission



Lynn Keller helps  
with the Mother's Day  
Plant Sale

***In addition to addressing the challenges of poverty and hunger in our community, we also worked to alleviate injustice in our society.***

The Social Action Commission focuses on respecting human dignity and human life. In addition to addressing the challenges of poverty and hunger in our community, we also worked to alleviate injustice in our society. As we tried to lighten the burden of those who suffer physically, spiritually, or emotionally, our 2015-2016 activities included many acts of kindness and caring.

In late summer the school supplies collection provided for students who would not otherwise have the necessary materials to begin the new semester. Fall activities continued with the PCCI Baby Shower and Baby Bottle Campaign, CROP Walk, and the Mission Coalition pie sale with proceeds going

to food banks and to utilities assistance.

The month of November kept the group busy with the collection of food and money for Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, along with the food collected by the middle school and high school students, 32 baskets were delivered. We also learned more about the scope of hunger in our state and what can be done about this injustice when we attended the Vote-to-End-Hunger Rally in Des Moines.

During the Christmas season, church members bought gifts for homebound parishioners and Heritage Manor residents and donated items for the Salvation Army Christmas Drive. Recipients were touched by

the thoughtfulness of others.

We were excited to share our enthusiasm for Operation Rice Bowl after attending the kick-off breakfast in Albia. A grand total of \$2700.00 was generously donated throughout the Lenten season. A special thanks goes to Father Reynolds for presenting weekly challenges, which surely contributed to the incredible amount of money given to change the lives of the poor and the hungry.

Each year the El Salvador Medical Mission Trip is an example of love and compassion. The dedicated people who give of their time and talent are remarkable. This was the 18th year of the trip, and in addition to seeing 1800 patients in five days, the group delivered baby bundles, rosaries, and other medical supplies.

The spring activity of the commission was the Mother's Day Plant Sale. Many lovely plants from Coxes' Greenhouse filled the Gathering Space, and folks were eager to buy. Proceeds from the sale were donated to Jasper County Right to Life. Other respect-life activities included the Walk for Life and "Every Life Is Worth Living" bulletin insert.



Social Action Commission decorate the Advent Giving Trees



## Social Action, cont'd. . .

Many of our projects were ongoing throughout the year. These included the community meals ministry, home visitors program, the prison ministry, and Kids Against Hunger packaging events. We continued our work in making Newton and Jasper County aware of the in-

justice of human trafficking. Several commission members are part of "Newton Says No to Human Trafficking," which is a volunteer group dedicated to raising community awareness and enhancing citizen safety through educational efforts and collaborative partnerships

with local and state resources.

Much of what we do to reach our goal of respecting human dignity and human life could not be accomplished without the participation and financial support of Sacred Heart parishioners. We thank you for your involvement.



Ron Gulling,  
Steve Murphy & Lee  
Mangrich help with  
Community Meals

*Be attentive to the needs of the poor, the suffering, the lonely,  
for whoever has chosen to love Jesus cannot but love his neighbor.*

*—Pope Francis 12.18.14*

### Social Action Commission Ministries

Advent Giving Trees  
Community Meals  
El Salvador Mission Trip  
Home Visitors  
Human Trafficking Awareness  
Kids Against Hunger  
Flea Market Pie Sale

Mission Coalition Activities  
Mother's Day Plant Sale  
PCCI Baby Shower/Walk for Life  
Respect Life Activities  
Operation Rice Bowl  
School Supplies Collection  
Thanks giving Baskets

***The Family Life  
Commission  
supports the  
family, which is  
the heart of the  
Christian  
community.***

## Family Life Commission

The Family Life Commission supports the family, which is the heart of the Christian community. Strengthening the relationships of individuals within a family not only promotes the family's growth but also assists families who are experiencing difficulties.

This year the commission supported and encouraged engaged couples, married couples, and families. Prayer partners were assigned to couples in the parish as they prepared for the

sacrament of Matrimony. In addition, Father Reynolds celebrated anniversary milestones by offering a blessing for couples during Mass. Informational packages were mailed to families of babies who had been baptized.

Hosting a family fun night at Maytag Pool, an



Susan Metz places flowers by the statue of Mother Mary during  
May Crowning held on Mother's Day

## Family Life, cont'd . . .



Home Visitor,  
Greta Koppin takes  
communion to  
Frank & Mary Brindza

***They emphasized that small acts of kindness can mend a broken heart and can lift spirits.***

outdoor movie with popcorn, and a Lenten soup supper encouraged interaction among families. Healthy snacks, as well as the recipes, were passed out at Trunk or Treat.

Instead of the traditional Easter egg hunt, children celebrated Easter by receiving "bunny bags" filled with goodies and fun games. The annual May crowning also involved many children in the parish.

Parish community outreach included providing meals for families of newborns and families experiencing hardships, visiting the homebound, and sending greeting cards to parishioners. Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry stayed busy creating many

beautiful items. Parish families who celebrated special occasions such as the birth of a child, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or marriage were presented with a handmade gift. Those who needed extra support due to the loss of a loved one, an illness, the loss of a child, a miscarriage, or who had a child in the Skiff Emergency Room also received a gift. Other items were made for the K-6 Faith Formation students and for Thanksgiving basket recipients. Twice a year homebound parishioners received a special gift. The Giving Tree at Skiff Medical Center was stocked with scarves, hats, and mittens made by the group. They also crocheted baby hats that

were donated to Mercy and to Iowa Health Hospitals in Des Moines.

*The Five Love Languages* was hosted as a marriage enrichment opportunity. The evening began with appetizers, drinks, and socializing. Deacon Bob Glaser and

his wife LuAnn facilitated the evening. Their presentation was about learning to speak the language of love that our spouse understands. They also helped us recognize the love language that speaks to us so our spouse can meet our need for love. The evening concluded with more socializing and yummy desserts. The event was informative, fun, and well attended with 27 couples participating.

An inspirational evening featuring speaker Nancy Salerno and musician Anna Nuzzo was hosted, and the public was invited. The presentation was entitled *Be Love: A Powerful Witness of God's Love & Mercy*. Through story Nancy shared her powerful message of God's love and mercy, and through song Anna presented her beautiful piece "Be Love." They emphasized that small acts of kindness can mend a broken heart and can lift spirits. A dessert social followed the presentation. A "just for fun" ladies' night out was enjoyed as a social time in which participants brought snacks to share and played several rounds of Bunko. Dessert, tea, and wine were provided. This event is a must for next year!



Marlis Strike, Lydia Goetz, & Carolyn Sullivan pray over items that were made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry



## Family Life, cont'd . . .

Our group meets on the second Sunday of the month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass unless it falls on a holiday weekend. Come join us!

### Family Life Commission Ministries

May Crowning  
Grief Ministry  
Bunny Bags  
Home Visitors  
Prayer Chain  
Nursery

Greeting Card Ministry  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Prayers for the Engaged  
Wedding Anniversary Blessing  
Seasons of Hope  
Marriage Preparation Team



Mark & Cindy  
Pollastrini at *The  
Five Love Languages*

## Catholics Returning Home

Although we did not offer the Catholics Returning Home program this year, the parish is continuing to reach out to those that are being called to join us in faith.

## Building & Grounds

The Maintenance Committee inspects all parish property annually and prepares a schedule for replacement, renovation, or removal.

- Parking lot and curb repair
- Installation of new drain, sanding, and resealing in baptismal font
- New valve on the stand-by circulating pump in the boiler room
- Circulating pumps wired so light will show if malfunction occurs

***The Maintenance Committee inspects all parish property annually and prepares a schedule for replacement, renovation, or removal.***

### Improvements and Repairs

- Installation of Handicapped Doors to McCann Center
- Installation of LED lights and ceiling painted inside doors of McCann Center
- Expansion of handicap spaces in parking lot
- New motor and bearings in the main circulating pump in boiler room



Handicapped Doors to McCann Center were installed

## SHARE Preschool



SHARE Preschool visit  
Domino's Pizza

***To carry out this mission, we offer preschoolers a Christian setting in which to grow, learn, and develop physically, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially."***

### SHARE Preschool Philosophy:

"The mission of Sacred Heart Parish includes assisting parents in the development of their children. To carry out this mission, we offer preschoolers a Christian setting in which to grow, learn, and develop physically, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially."

SHARE Preschool is located in the lower level of Sacred Heart Church. The state licensed preschool was directed by Cindy Pollastrini and assisted by Ann Buch, Chris Dunham, Lisa Marston, and Brooke Soppe. Cindy, Ann, and Chris all retired at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Brooke Soppe has been hired as director and will be assisted by Lisa Mar-

ston. Three new employees will join them at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. All staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.

This past year 62 students were enrolled in SHARE Preschool. Students enjoyed a large classroom with many learning centers and play materials. Large indoor and outdoor play areas with new equipment are available for daily use.

The curriculum includes *Handwriting Without Tears* and *The Letter People*. Based on a changing weekly theme, students also learn about a wide variety of subjects. Some examples of these weekly themes include the following: famous people in history, animals, foods, community

helpers, weather, religious holidays and family.

Business professionals visit SHARE Preschool each year. A local dentist talked to students about dental health. Members of the Newton Fire Department visited with a large fire truck and discussed safety while dressed in

heavy fire clothes.

SHARE students enjoy yearly trips to Dominos Pizza, Mariposa, a pumpkin farm, and Maytag Park. A SHARE tradition, "Fun Days," is a favorite of all students. Two bounce houses erected in the McCann Center are sponsored by Scott Farver at True Value for SHARE children to enjoy. The "Fun Day" is culminated by SHARE Preschool Olympic games, complete with medals.

Another highlight for students is a visit from Blank Park Zoo. The popular "Zoo to You" program brings exotic animals like hedgehogs, snakes, bearded dragons, and baby alligators for the students to observe, touch and learn about.

Halloween is celebrated by trick or treating the parish staff. Thanksgiving feasts are enjoyed preschool style with a buffet of child-friendly foods.

A weekly newsletter, as well as snack calendars and reminders for important dates, is sent home to parents. The staff encourages parental involvement and looks forward to parent/teacher conferences held in the fall and spring.

Students perform a



SHARE Preschool trick or treat in the parish office



## SHARE Preschool, cont'd . . .

Christmas program for parents and grandparents in December. A final program is performed in May highlighting favorite songs, games and a mini graduation celebration for students graduating to Kindergarten.

### Class Times:

3-4 year old students: Wednesday and Friday  
8:45—11:15 a.m. - Cost is \$105 per month.

4-5 year old students: Monday, Tuesday, and  
Thursday mornings 8:30—11:15 am  
and

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons  
12:00—2:45 pm. — Cost is \$130 per month.

### Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday — 8 am to 3 pm

Wednesday and Friday — 8 am—Noon.



Fr. Reynolds reads to the  
SHARE Preschool  
students

## Autoshare Giving

Autoshare Giving is a flexible and convenient direct deposit service that replaces the need for contribution envelopes. Autoshare Giving provides parishioners a way to improve their commitment to consistent financial giving. Autoshare Giving supports the stewardship way of life by encouraging parishioners to make their giving planned, intentional, and proportionate.

Please review the component on page 30, "Guidelines for Giving," and use the chart as a guide to help you decide the amount you wish to contribute to the parish.

To enroll in our Auto-share Giving, which is an automated giving program, complete and sign an authorization form.

Forms are in this packet and are also available in the parish office. When complete, return the form to the parish office along with a voided check from the bank account you want us to use for your automated giving.

This will provide the information we need to set your request up with your bank (the identification number and account number) and will be held in strict confidence. You may continue Autoshare Giving as long as you wish and may change the amount you wish to give at anytime.

Approximately 33% of our annual income is generated through Auto-share Giving. Autoshare Giving is a simple way to start giving, to be good stewards of God's gifts, and to share what He has given. Give it a try! Make that small step toward discipleship in the financial area of your life.

***Autoshare Giving is a simple way to start giving, to be good stewards of God's gifts, and to share what He has given.***



Sacred Heart Choir

## Catholic Messenger



Tim Stammeyer  
of NET Ministries

***Stammeyer has been interested in ministry since his days as a youth at Sacred Heart. "I developed a faith and love for God there that really grew when I came to college."***

As editor of The Catholic Messenger, Barb Arland-Fye strives to ensure our diocesan newspaper shares the most current world, national, and local news that relates to us as Catholics. The Catholic Messenger is a wonderful resource for every Catholic. With your financial support, we are pleased to provide a subscription to every family in our parish.

Several times throughout each year, The Catholic Messenger includes stories of our church in its publications. The July 16, 2015, issue featured our own Sacred Heart native Tim Stammeyer in "Trading in Books for Ministry Work." Here is an excerpt of the article. To read the entire article, subscribe to The Catholic Messenger or read the e-edition.

### Trading in Books for Ministry Work

Posted by Catholic Messenger Staff on July 16, 2015 Diocesan News

#### Newton-native joins NET Ministries

By Lindsay Steele  
The Catholic Messenger

*Tim Stammeyer of Sacred Heart Parish in Newton is about to take a year off from his studies so he can witness to youths. The 20-year-old student at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, has been accepted into NET Ministries for a nine-month stint, which will begin this fall.*

*Tim Stammeyer, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Newton, shares his testimony with parishioners June 7. Stammeyer is embarking on a nine-month stint with Minnesota-based NET Ministries.*

*Alison Duffy, marketing and communications coordinator for Minnesota-based NET Ministries, said the organization challenges Catholics ages 18-28 to love Christ and embrace the life of the church. Each August these young Catholics leave behind jobs, school, family and friends for nine months to serve with National Evangelization Teams (NET). The teams "become like family for each other as they work side by side sharing*

*what God has done in their lives. Annually, 75,000 youths across the country hear this message of God's love and power, brought to them in a personal way," Duffy said.*

*Stammeyer has been interested in ministry since his days as a youth at Sacred Heart. "I developed a faith and love for God there that really grew when I came to college." At St. Thomas, he has been involved with a number of peer-mentoring programs and started a weekly "Pancakes with Jesus" ministry, in which he served a free breakfast to his fellow university students as a religious conversation starter.*

*Fresh off his sophomore year, Stammeyer said he spent the past year discerning participation in the NET Ministries program, having heard great things from friends who worked with the organization in the past. He knew it would be a sacrifice and he prayed constantly to see if it was God's will for him to participate. His desire to apply never wavered. "I really felt passionate to go and felt on fire about it and wanted to interview."*

*He said the interview process was more than just a short question-and-answer session. It in-*



NET Ministries Team lead by Tim Stammeyer visits Sacred Heart Church in January



## Catholic Messenger, cont'd . . .

involved spending a weekend at the West St. Paul, Minnesota, headquarters with staff and other interviewees for what he calls a triangular discernment process – the interviewees, staff and God working together to choose the right team. “It’s a really active and prayerful discernment.”

Stammeyer will go through training in August and then be assigned to serve with a stationary parish or school team or travel throughout the country offering workshops. He hopes to serve on a traveling team but said he is content to serve wherever needed.

Volunteers must raise \$5,000 toward the \$20,000 cost of participating in the program. While he hasn’t reached his goal yet, he said Sacred Heart parishioners have been very supportive. He is confident he’ll raise the money by August. Father William Reynolds, Sacred Heart’s pastor, described Stammeyer’s passion for discipleship as “mature and insightful beyond his years. He is a great witness to the good parenting he has experienced from his parents and to good formation from Sacred Heart Parish.”

Stammeyer eventually hopes to work for social justice in a faith environment. “This could mani-

fest itself in a lot of ways. It could be working in a parish or overseas with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) or following religious life. I don’t know yet, but I’m keeping my options open. I want to be in a position to impact those in need in our society.”

Fr. Reynolds believes Stammeyer’s missionary work will benefit him moving forward. “This will be an extraordinary experience for him and will aid him in whatever future endeavors he has.”



Deacon Dan blesses the graves at Sacred heart Cemetery

**Your support of the cemetery through the appeal each spring is greatly appreciated.**

## Sacred Heart Cemetery

Sacred Heart Cemetery functions under the auspices of Sacred Heart Church. The Cemetery Committee continues to stay busy. Since purchasing the computer software, recording plot purchases and locating burial plots in the cemetery have become much easier.

Each spring a group of volunteers helps clean up the cemetery and puts flowers out for Memorial Day. Your support of the cemetery through the appeal each spring is greatly appreciated.



Sacred Heart Cemetery clean up crew

## Staying Connected



Children's Liturgy of the word with Debbie Stratton

***The parish website [shcnewton.com](http://shcnewton.com) continues to be an important communication tool.***

The parish staff uses Facebook to connect Sacred Heart with parishioners, former parishioners, and friends in the Diocese of Davenport, and around the world. Facebook has been a great way to communicate with our middle school and high school youth and their parents. Many adults have also become our Facebook friends. We use it to post upcoming events, photos of our faith community, links to good Catholic websites and blogs, and the slide presentation shown weekly on the big screen in our church Gathering Space. Our Facebook friends are welcome to ask questions and post comments on our wall too. Look for us on Facebook and become one of our 350+ friends. We are Sacred-Heart Church. (First name is SacredHeart (one word), and our last

name is Church.)

The parish website [shcnewton.com](http://shcnewton.com) continues to be an important communication tool. Latest news and parish activities, the daily Mass schedule, and a link to the current bulletin are posted on the home page of the website. The parish calendar of events is also embedded in the website and can easily be added to your own Google calendar. The photo gallery showcases pictures of past parish events. Information is also provided about all of the sacraments, our faith formation programs, and our parish outreach efforts.

Another way parish leadership communicates with the parishioners is through the weekly slideshow shown on the big screen in the Gathering Space. The slideshow includes the daily Mass schedule, a list of death anniversaries, saints of the week, upcoming events, important messages to listen for in the Sunday Scripture readings, and photos of parish events.

Our Faith Formation program now has a Twitter account. This form of social media allows short "tweets," which are little announcements or statements, providing information to those who ac-

cess their page. Sacred Heart Faith Formation is utilizing this means to give updates on what is going on in the parish, to provide informative Catholic articles or blogs to read, daily inspirational, short videos, etc. You do not need a Twitter account to see what is being posted. You can simply access what is being posted by going to the Twitter webpage at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and searching in the search bar: "SHFF Newton." Then click on the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and look for "Go to full profile" and click on that. Now you can fully access the page and see what has been posted. If you have a Twitter account, please follow us and receive notifications when something has been posted on the Faith Formation page!

To stay connected to your parish, please remember to contact the parish office if you change your mailing address, email address, or home and cell phone numbers. We want to stay connected!



K-6 graders as sheep at the Christmas Play



## 2015-16 Annual Financial Report

### Income:

Ordinary Income	\$ 356,162
Auxiliary Income	\$ 57,004
Development & Capital Campaign	\$ 4,079
Investments & Bequest	\$ 21,721
Transfer from Savings	\$ 0
Other Associated Organizations	\$ 90,551
SHARE Preschool	\$ 71,759
Total Income:	\$ 601,276

### Expenses:

Administrative Expense	\$ 312,063
Church Life Expense	\$ 5,558
Family Life Expense	\$ 3,768
Faith Formation Expense	\$ 77,333
Social Action Expense	\$ 4,667
Liturgy Expense	\$ 31,089
Other Associated Organization Expense	\$ 90,477
SHARE Preschool	\$ 73,107
Total Expenses:	\$ 598,062
Net Income:	\$ 3,214



Veronica Mangrich, Gloria Welp, Claudia Bollhoefer, & Carol Hopkey make baby bundles for the El Salvador Mission

***Any Catholic man in good standing with the church is invited to consider joining the Knights of Columbus.***

## Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus meet on the second Tuesday of the month for a meal and a meeting. Any Catholic man in good standing with the church is invited to consider joining the Knights of Columbus. If you have any questions or would like to join, please get in touch with Brian Schwenker at 641-792-4665 or [theschwenks@hotmail.com](mailto:theschwenks@hotmail.com).

Listed below are some of the ways the Knights maintain their involvement in the life of the church:

- Conducting a Tootsie Roll Drive to help people with intellectual disabilities



John McNeer, Terry Townsend, & Gary Kopsa serve at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

## Knights of Columbus, cont'd . . .



Cody Muhs presents the "Knight of the Year" Award to Tim Bloom at the Annual Knights of Columbus Steak Fry

- Serving coffee and donuts after Mass on Sunday mornings
- Hosting an annual golf tournament at Westwood Golf Course
- Grilling meat for the Community Meals Ministry
- Placing crosses on the church lawn in support of right to life
- Holding fish fries on Fridays during Lent
- Helping those in need with odd jobs around the house and yard
- Treating the altar servers to an Iowa Cubs game
- Hosting bingo nights in November and December
- Sponsoring the annual free throw championship
- Conducting a spelling bee for the youth
- Serving a pancake breakfast to benefit prison ministries
- Supporting Special Olympics by participating in a plane pull
- Organizing and grilling for the parish picnic and pool party held at Maytag Park
- Coordinating a parish trip to a Chicago Cubs game
- Packing lunches to give to Newton students in need
- Ringing bells for the Salvation Army

***Included is a summary of the 2015-16 Annual Financial Report and Balance Sheet. The Budget for 2016-17 fiscal year is also available.***

## Balance Sheet

	Balance—June 30, 2016	Balance—June 30, 2015
<b>Assets:</b>		
Bank Assets	\$ 160,287	\$ 200,075
Investments	\$ <u>465,404</u>	\$ <u>385,239</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings:</b>	<b>\$ 625,691</b>	<b>\$ 585,314</b>
Fixed Assets	\$ <u>713,279</u>	\$ <u>751,571</u>
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$1,338,970</b>	<b>\$1,336,885</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b>		
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 686	\$ 263
Other Parish Liabilities	\$ <u>2,561</u>	\$ <u>4,113</u>
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$ 3,247</b>	<b>\$ 4,376</b>
<b>Equity:</b>		
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 291,961	\$ 291,961
Retained Earnings	\$ 1,040,548	\$ 1,006,286
Net Income	\$ <u>3,214</u>	\$ <u>34,262</u>
<b>Total Equity:</b>	<b>\$ 1,335,723</b>	<b>\$1,332,509</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b>	<b>\$ 1,338,970</b>	<b>\$1,336,885</b>



Norm Boyle & Doug Swanson serve as money counters



# 2016-17 Annual Budget

## Income:

Ordinary Income	\$ 352,445
Auxiliary Income	\$ 47,720
Development & Capital Campaign	\$ 3,750
Investments & Memorials	\$ 7,200
Unrestricted Bequests	\$ 30,000
Other Associated Organizations	\$ 85,400
SHARE Preschool	\$ 77,180
Transfer from Savings for major repairs	\$ 0

**Total Income:** \$ 603,695

## Expenses:

Administrative Expense	\$ 314,697
Church Life Expense	\$ 6,940
Family Life Expense	\$ 3,330
Faith Formation Expense	\$ 90,182
Social Action Expense	\$ 6,555
Liturgy Expense	\$ 31,525
Other Associated Organization Expense	\$ 80,660
SHARE Preschool	\$ 66,830

**Total Expenses:** \$ 600,719

July 2016—June 2017



Kristi Meyer & Sharon Hoebelheinrich work on the budget

**Three inmates from the Newton Correctional Facility were baptized this past year.**

## Prison Ministry

Father Reynolds and two other area priests share a rotation of providing Mass for Catholic inmates at the Newton Correctional Facility twice a month on Thursday afternoon. On the other Thursdays of the month Deacon Joe Dvorak or two deacon candidates from Knoxville and Pella provide a Communion Service.

Volunteers from Sacred

Heart in Newton and Immaculate Conception in Colfax offer a Communion Service to Catholic inmates at the Release Center on Sunday evenings.

Three inmates from the Newton Correctional Facility were baptized this past year. Father Reynolds goes to the Release Center for confessions as needed.



Knights of Columbus host a pancake breakfast to benefit Prison Ministry

## Guidelines for Giving

How do we decide how much to give to our parish? We hope that you will consider following these principles, drawn from the Scriptures and offered by the Church.

### Give to God out of Gratitude

*"What return can I make to the Lord, for all the good he has done for me?"*

Psalms 116:12

**It is impossible to give to God. He already owns everything. Our giving should be done not due to parish needs, but in gratitude, as a return to God for his generosity to us.**

### Plan Your Giving

*"Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**Take the time to prayerfully decide what to give. Don't give just out of habit or "Whatever is in the billfold," but plan your gift as carefully as you would choose a gift for one you love.**

### Give to God First

*"Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."*

Matthew 6:33

**Don't wait until all your other bills are paid before you do your giving. Write your checks to God first, through gifts to the church and to the poor, and then pay your bills with the rest. This practice is a powerful symbol of what, or Who, truly comes first in our life.**

### Give Proportionately

*"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."* Luke 12:48

**For years the parish has suggested that we base our giving on the biblical tithe, or 10% of income. This practice was common in Old Testament times and Jesus recommends it in Luke's Gospel. The Church suggests that each Catholic set as a goal the tithe, with the first 5% going directly to the parish, and the second 5% for the poor and other good works.**

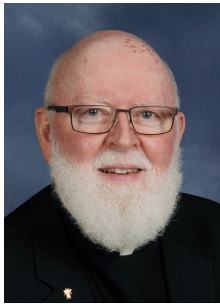
What proportion of God's gift do you currently give? Use the chart below to find what percentage you are currently giving. Find your income at left, then move right until you find your weekly offering. What % are you at? Could you take a step? We encourage all parishioners to set 5% as their goal. If you are already at 5%, or could start giving 5% immediately, that would be great. If not, could you move toward that goal by taking a step (or two) toward 5%?

### Weekly Gift to Parish (as % of income)

Household Income	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%
\$14,000 (\$7/hr.)	\$1.40	\$2.80	\$4.20	\$5.60	\$7.00	\$8.40	\$9.80	\$11.20	\$12.60	\$14.00
\$16,000 (\$8/hr.)	\$1.60	\$3.20	\$4.80	\$6.40	\$8.00	\$9.60	\$11.20	\$12.80	\$14.40	\$16.00
\$20,000 (\$10/hr.)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$20.00
\$30,000 (\$15/hr.)	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$30.00
\$40,000 (\$20/hr.)	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$40.00
\$60,000 (\$30/hr.)	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$36.00	\$42.00	\$48.00	\$54.00	\$60.00
\$80,000 (\$40/hr.)	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.00
\$100,000 (\$50/hr.)	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00
\$150,000 (\$75/hr.)	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$105.00	\$120.00	\$135.00	\$150.00



## Parish Staff



**Rev. William E. Reynolds**  
Pastor



**Deacon Dan Goetz**



**Virginia Bennett**  
Choir Director / Organist



**Chris Basinger**  
Janitor



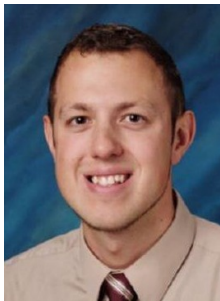
**Kathy Hammerly**

*Pastoral Minister, Stewardship*  
B.A., Education, Central College  
Certificate of Youth Ministry  
Stewardship Institute Graduate  
Lifelong member of the parish  
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 20 years



**Ann Ratliff**

*Administrative Assistant*  
A. A., Commercial Art, DMACC  
Certificate in Tax Preparation  
Lifelong member of the parish  
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 22 years



**Luke Gregory**

*Life Long Faith Formation*  
B.S., Physical Education,  
Northern Michigan University  
Member of the Parish since 2015  
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 1 year



**Renny Crawford**

*K-6 Faith Formation Coordinator*  
B.A., Public Service in Administration,  
Iowa State University  
Member of St. Mary's in Grinnell  
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 2 years



**Emilee Steinbach**

*Youth Minister*  
B.A., Early Childhood Education/Special Education,  
St. Ambrose University  
Lifelong member of the parish  
Years of Service at Sacred Heart: 1 year

## SHARE Preschool Staff



**Cindy Pollastrini**



**Ann Buch**



**Chris Dunham**



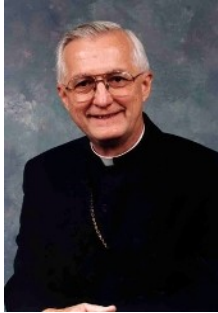
**Lisa Marston**



**Brooke Soppe**

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church



## Greetings from the Chancery of the Diocese of Davenport

As fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all called to serve one another according to our gifts and abilities. On our website you will find a wealth of information including references, policies, and documents for your use. My staff is also here to assist you. Please feel free to contact them by phone, e-mail or in person.

Most Rev. Martin J. Amos,  
Bishop of Davenport

Website for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport: [davenportdiocese.org](http://davenportdiocese.org)

## Sacred Heart Mission Statement

*We, the members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, as a caring Christian community, help one another to live, to nurture, and to celebrate God's gifts.*

*We encourage others on their faith journeys to join us in giving witness to our Catholic faith and to grow as disciples.*

*We celebrate the sacraments and receive the gift of grace to strengthen our faith and to enrich our relationships with Christ and his Church.*

*We gather together to pray, to worship, to give thanks, to petition, to seek comfort, to share joys and sorrows, and to experience God's love, joy, and peace.*

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