

St. Mary's Messenger

Volume VII / Spring 2018

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*CRHP Men's Weekend
May 19 & 20*

*St. Mary Church Picnic
July 22*

St. Mary's Messenger is an inspirational and informational publication produced for the families and friends of the St. Mary's Parish Community.

Spring for Success Annual Fundraising Gala is April 21

Parishioners and friends are invited to the annual Spring for Success Auction Gala on Saturday, April 21 at 6 p.m. at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. This festive evening, featuring a cocktail hour, gourmet dinner, and live and silent auctions, is a fundraiser for the St. Mary's Faith Community.

Items up for bid include theater tickets, restaurant gift cards, wine and liquor, purses, jewelry and children's items. St. Mary school children have created one-of-a-kind gifts that you won't want to miss.

Exciting packages and experiences are part of the live auction, conducted by Eric Monahan from Cash Auctions. Highlights include a Justin Timberlake concert package, two Lake Ontario fishing excursions, an RV getaway, and a fall limo bus wine tour.

According to Amy Jensen, auction chair, a new live auction opportunity is Firefighter for a Day with the Snyder Fire Department.

The day includes a tour, training session, taking part in a Firefighter for a Day Combat Challenge, a ride on a fire engine and lunch with the firemen.



Amy Jensen displays Mackenzie-Childs décor items up for bid at the auction.

"With an exciting new venue and luxurious vacation packages, there will be something for everyone," Jensen said. "It will be a wonderful opportunity to support the St. Mary's community and enjoy a special evening."

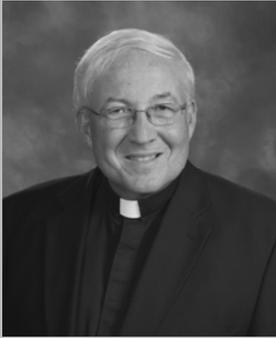
Monkey See, Monkey Do is the Rose sponsor. Daisy sponsors include Daniel and Maryellen Burger, The Carlson Family, Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex, Desiderio, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Noah, M&T Bank, Metzler Advisory Group LLC, Zgoda & Associates

CPAs, PC, and Rev. Robert Yetter.

Individual tickets are \$100. Contact the rectory at 688-9380 or rectory@stmaryswormville.org to reserve your tickets.

By The Way...

by Rev. Robert M. Yetter, Pastor



We will soon be saying “Alleluia the Lord is Risen” as we enter into the season of Easter. We have these 50 days ahead taking us until Pentecost to reflect upon what this means as we journey to God each day.

During the first week of Easter, Jesus appears to the apostles in different ways. He invites them

to go forth, become missionaries and bring people closer to God. Jesus constantly reminded the apostles that God loved them and wished them to be in His heavenly kingdom. We continue that journey as we are reminded of the same commission He gives to us - to be missionaries.

Mission work comes in many forms, and a visit from Father Tony from Food for the Poor this summer peaked my interest to learn more about hands-on work in Central America and various Caribbean islands. In early April, I will journey with Fr. Tony to Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, recently devastated by a hurricane

and earthquake. I have never experienced a truly poor area of the world and will be accompanied by parishioners Joan Clover and John Chavanne to learn about Haiti and what can be done to assist their citizens. I will share my experience when I return. May God bless us with a safe trip.

On June 3 we will welcome Bishop Richard Malone for two important Masses. He will preside at the “burning of the mortgage” at 11:15 a.m. Mass to thank parishioners for overwhelming support of our new church. The first Mass was celebrated in this beautiful church June of 2010. He will also present the St. Joseph The Worker award to Jim Bingham. At 3 p.m., the Bishop will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for 120 of our young people. This will be a very special day for our parish community.

I wish to thank all of our parishioners who have shared their time, talents and treasures with all members of St. Mary’s parishioners during our building process and preparing our young people for the Sacraments of the Catholic Faith.

Mortgage Burning Celebration

Bishop Richard Malone will preside over a celebration Mass on Sunday June 3 at 11:15 a.m. “Seven years ago, we began with a \$1.3 million mortgage for new church construction and to cover land purchases, clearing the field for the baseball and soccer field and other aspects of the new church,” Fr. Yetter said. “If just the principal had been paid each month, we would still owe \$800,000.” Thanks to hundreds of parishioners for fulfilling their regular pledges, special offerings as well as Upon this Rock pledges.



TIME CAPSULE: As construction was completed on the new church in 2010, a time capsule was encased in the cornerstone.

Pilgrimage Chalice for Vocations

On Divine Mercy Sunday, Hope Chavanne heard Father Yetter's and Father Andrew's homilies about the need for priestly and religious vocations. They reminded us that we all have an obligation to pray for vocations - that we all NEED to pray.

"I heard inside my heart to restart the Pilgrimage Chalice for Vocations," she said. The ministry, active prior to the building of the new church, was not carried over once the new church was built.

Father Yetter donated a chalice that was gifted to him by retiring diocesan priest Fr. John Trulin, and the ministry restarted last December 30 on The Feast of the Holy Family. During a Mass each week, the chalice is entrusted to a family who takes it home and prays daily throughout the week for vocations. The family returns the chalice to Mass the next week, a new family takes it, and the prayer chain is extended.

According to Chavanne, it is first and foremost a prayer ministry and anyone can participate, not just families with children. It is

meant to surround those in our parish who hear the call to a religious vocation with a "shield of grace" so that they may hear the call of God through the noise of our modern culture and society. Chavanne hopes that this will start dialogues in families about considering a vocation to the priesthood, sister or brotherhood, or diaconate.



The Wallrich family prays for vocations.

"It has been many years since a priest, sister, or brother has emerged from our parish community," Chavanne said. "For all the blessings we have received from the priests who have served our parish community, it would be wonderful to have a parishioner answer the call. It may take many years to see the fruits of our prayers, but God's time and plan is always perfect," she said.

All are invited to host the chalice, pray and keep praying after they have passed the chalice to the next family. Visit the parish website to sign up to host the chalice, call 633-9525, or email, [hopemarie@yahoo.com](mailto:hopenmarie@yahoo.com).



Teacher of the Year: Foundation for Inclusive Catholic Education (FICE) awarded its first Inclusive Teacher of the Year award to St. Mary's sixth grade teacher Sheila Kahrmanian. FICE works to provide support and training to teachers and administrators in Catholic schools to foster inclusive environments.

From left, Fr. Yetter, Sr. Carol Cimino, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Buffalo, Sheila Kahrmanian, Mary Claire Carver, sixth grader, and Mary Jo Aiken, principal.

SMS Alumni Credit Catholic School Foundation For Their Successes

Successful St. Mary School alumni can be found in all walks of life and professions. Many attribute the strong foundation they received at St. Mary's as a reason for their success. Meet three alumni making their marks in Western New York and beyond:

A member of the SMS Class of 2002, Dr. Peter Davidow attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and Niagara University where he majored in biology and ran cross-country. He graduated from the SUNY at Buffalo Dental School in 2014 and works as a general dentist with Dr. Joseph Modica, a St. Mary's parishioner, who has been his biggest professional mentor. Dr. Davidow also works part-time at ECMC.

According to Dr. Davidow, St. Mary's is a great place to begin your education. Some of his best friends are those he went to school with here, and he feels that the values taught at St. Mary's are important.

"From a young age, we were taught the importance of having a strong work ethic, having assignments and projects done on time, and being able to work efficiently with others," Davidow said. "I have no doubt a student carries those lessons with them after leaving St. Mary's."

He is an active parishioner and enjoys being part of the many parish events, especially the picnic. He is also the defending champion of the Chowder Chase.

Another SMS graduate who chose a medical career is Abigail O'Brien, a member of the Class of 2010. She attended Mount St. Mary Academy and will receive her nursing degree from Niagara University in May. She recently accepted a position as a registered nurse in the Emergency Department at Strong Memorial in Rochester.

(Continued on Page 5)



Peter Davidow, DDS



Abigail O'Brien, center, with co-workers at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital



Linnea Ryer at a Christmas fundraiser



Giving Back:

The St. Mary's Faith Community recently collected hundreds of items for Grace Guest House in South Buffalo. Grace Guest House assists families and individuals who find themselves away from home as a result of a medical crisis. Hygiene and other items are collected and care packages are given to people staying at the guest house while their loved ones are treated at local hospitals. Thank you for your generosity! Pictured are Cynthia Battista, founder and president of Grace Guest House and Jordan Carlson, SMS eighth grader.

STREAM Career Day:

Parishioner Ron Leong, associate director of Engineering - Turbomachinery Operations, Praxair Inc. was one of the parish and community professionals who shared their time and experiences with SMS students during STREAM Career day. Careers represented included attorneys, engineers, teachers, photographers, nurses, law enforcement professionals and judges.



(Continued from Page 4)

“Being a small school with such an involved faculty, St. Mary’s prepared me both academically and spiritually,” O’Brien said. “The personal attention I received from all my teachers prepared me with study techniques and figuring out how I learn best.

In addition to the strong educational background, O’Brien felt prepared to move forward in high school and college because of the sense of faith that was instilled in her. “I learned to have faith in God, who will always be there when I need him,” she said.

O’Brien attends Mass at St. Mary’s, serves as a Eucharistic Minister and is a member of the Parish Council. She also volunteers at many parish events.

Linnea Ryer, Class of 2009, a graduate of the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, still considers St. Mary School to be home. She earned a degree in social work from Niagara University. At Niagara, she was introduced to the Vincentian charism of service – specifically service to the poor and the idea of simplicity. Ryer developed a passion for service work during college trips to Georgia and New Jersey. Wanting to pursue service work, she is currently in St. Louis, MO for a ten month service immersion program run at St. Louis Crisis Nursery. This non-profit organization focuses on

preventing child abuse and neglect by providing emergency shelter to children whose families are in crisis.

According to Ryer, the small class sizes at St. Mary’s and individual time and attention from teachers prepared her for high school and college. While at St. Mary’s she struggled due to a learning disability .

“Despite my challenges, I remember how hard my teachers worked to slow down and break things apart so I could better understand them,” Ryer said. “They were patient, kind, willing to meet after school, and worked with my parents to do nearly everything and anything to see me succeed. Because of their time and effort, I acquired the skills to perform without much difficulty when it came my higher education and am happy to say I earned straight As for nearly the rest of my academic career.”

Prior to moving to St. Louis, Ryer was a member of the St. Mary’s Lifeteen Band, active with IMPACT and Lifeteen. She hopes to re-engage with the community when she moves back to the East Amherst area.

St. Mary School is currently enrolling kindergarten through Grade 8. Contact office@stmaryschoolswormville.org for information.

Parishioner SPOTLIGHT

by Kelley Carlson

Ellen Young

Volunteer focuses on Christ's work

Proverbs says, "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." One could say that this is a perfect description of Ellen Young. Catholic ministry has always been a part of Ellen's life. She served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Pius X and as St. Mary's parish secretary for a decade and views these roles as not just jobs, but ministries. "In everything that we do as parishioners, volunteers or staff we must not lose sight that we are doing Christ's work through these ministries," Young said.

Young and her husband Jay have been at St. Mary's since 2002. They have three daughters, Hope Chavanne, Heather Prestenberg and Hollie Parker, along with six grandchildren, Jacob, Ava, Sophia, Olivia, Trey and heaven-graced baby Marie. She earned a certificate in Pastoral Studies from Christ the King Seminary and a certificate from Catholic Biblical Studies.

A lector, Eucharistic minister, catechist for the fifth grade religious education program, a spirit mentor, Young was a member of



Christ Renews His Parish Team #16 and then became a member of the continuation committee for four years. Wishing to continue the amazing bond of CRHP, team members formed the Women's Faith Sharing Group, which Young has facilitated for the past 12 years. She took on the role of facilitating the Little Rock Bible Study Group three years ago. She has introduced new experiences to the group, even serving a reenactment of a traditional Passover meal last year. "Volunteering is a most rewarding experience. It truly is in giving that we receive," she said. "At times, I have jumped into a ministry beyond my comfort zone or time restraints, but I have placed those concerns in the hands of the Holy Spirit. He has always cleared the path and placed the tools I needed before me."

Young is in her second year of a three-year term on Parish Council and serves as secretary. She was the Spiritual Director for CRHP Team #32 this past February. "Some people are not sure what talents they have to share. I recommend that they attend a Christ Renews His Parish retreat. This will help them identify their gifts while strengthening their relationship with God. We find **JOY** when we put Jesus first, Others second and Yourself last." Young said.

Words of wisdom and kindness, just like Proverbs says.

Risen Retreat Crew: Volunteers Jacob Nostrant, left and Matthew Henry are part of the volunteer group which organizes and facilitates Confirmation retreats for fellow teens. Three retreats were held this year to prepare candidates for Confirmation on June 3.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION

Individual Confessions

Saturday, March 24 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday March 28 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Parish Penance Service

March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

All will take place in the church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - March 25

Vigil Mass, March 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses at:

7:30, 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY - March 29

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel

Friendship Supper at 5:30 p.m. in the parish center

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until 11:00 p.m. in the chapel

GOOD FRIDAY - March 30

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel

Stations of the Cross at Noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 p.m.

Seven Last Words of Christ - 7:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY - March 31

Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel

Blessing of Easter Food and Baskets
at Noon in the chapel

EASTER SCHEDULE

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, March 31, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. (Church)



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 1

7:30 a.m. (Church)

9:00 a.m. (Church)

10:30 a.m. (Church)

10:30 a.m. (Chapel)

12 Noon (Church)



Altar Server of the Year: Samuel Pohle was recognized by Bishop Richard Malone on March 24 at a Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral. A faithful server for six years, Sam is a freshman at Canisius High School and is a graduate of St. Mary School.



Montessori Children's House

Summer ADVENTURES

Ages 3-7

Themed Weeks / 9am - noon

June 25 - June 29

July 30 - August 3

August 6 - August 10

For More Information Call
716-689-8424


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Tell us what you think of the St. Mary's Messenger! Send an email to Rectory@StMarySwormville.org, or call at 716-688-9380 with your comments or questions.



Want to Get Away?

Ellicottville, NY (above), Mirimar Beach, FL condo rental (below left) and Maine condo rental up for bid at the Auction Gala on April 21. Tickets on sale now. Call (716) 688-9380.



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