



Dear Friends,

Spring has finally come! I look forward to this time of year from the first signs of winter!! Spring just can't get here fast enough or stay long enough for me!

Project Updates: Two of the three projects funded by the Seeing the Present Building the Future Campaign are daily getting closer to completion. Thanks to your generosity we continue to maintain the great legacy that has been handed on to us.

The Church Window Restoration Project continues to advance. Eight of the twelve large windows in the nave are now restored and installed in the new frames. We continue to hear many comments about how beautiful the windows are, especially as people drive by in the evenings and can see the windows from the outside when the lights are on. The last 4 windows should be completed early this summer. Then work will begin on the two round windows and the sanctuary, as well as the sacristy and adoration chapels. The rose window will also be reinforced.

The Rectory is very near completion. There is a little brick work left to finish, sidewalks, and front and back entry stairs, and then the landscaping can begin. There are a few minor finishing details to be completed on the interior. Father Weeder and I moved in just before Saint Patrick's Day and are gradually getting settled and unpacked. We will host an open house once everything is complete.

The Heating System Project for the schools is back to the drawing board. We will begin talking to possible contractors in the coming weeks and make sure we get the best value for our dollars.

Looking forward, it would be nice to say we are done building and done fixing. But with aging buildings, maintenance projects will probably always be in process. We are nearing the time for a new roof on the St. Patrick's Church (the sacristy roof is an immediate concern), and gutters and downspouts need to be looked at as well. Concrete needs to be torn up and replaced to pass our insurance safety inspection, and I'm sure there are many more. The Building and Grounds Committee certainly has job security.

Thank you for all you do every day to support the work and mission of St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's.

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor



Would you prefer to receive this newsletter/ calendar via email, so you can print it out yourself? We would be glad to put you on an email only list for this monthly newsletter. Please contact Jennifer at jennifermwallwey@gmail.com to have your email address added to the list!

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Parish Council & Finance Updates

Because there was no March meeting for Finance or Parish Council, there are no updates to be posted.

Development News

It has been a busy time preparing for the upcoming \$10,000 Raffle/Casino Night at the end of April, but all is going well! A huge thank you to the many people who have volunteered their time and work, donated towards our costs, and shared their equipment &/or given food/items. Special thanks to the junior high & high school art classes & Georgia Blumenstock for their work on decorations!

The football ticket package from Joe Ricketts for the Huskers vs. Purdue Boilermakers this fall has been given to the Booster Club to assist with their fundraising efforts for the Bleachers.

Jennifer has begun taking classes at UNO towards a certificate in fundraising management. These are 2 day classes, which can be taken over a 3 year period. Her first class was on Grant Writing, and she is looking forward to her next class on Publicity & Marketing in May.

The Alumni Newsletter is set to go out at the end of May. If you have updates on addresses or contact information, or information on life events or success of St. Mary's alumni, please get them to Jennifer as soon as possible!

We are in the process of updating all of our parishioners information in our Parish Data System, as well as getting information on birth dates, family changes, etc. This will be very time-consuming, but once it is done, it will help tremendously to keep us more efficient and effective.

Bleacher Project

The replacement of the high school bleachers is in process. Money is being raised by the Booster Club for this important project, with \$18,000 of the needed \$50,000 already in place. The bleachers are scheduled to be installed in July over an approximately two week period. If you would like to give to this project, please contact Sue Pongratz at 340-2524 or Wendell Spencer at 340-1117.



*Thank you to
Lisa Wright of
Boutique One29
for sponsoring this
month's Parish
Newsletter!*

Our Sincere Apologies

Dear Parishioners,

Please be advised that we would like to inform you of a correction that needs to be made to the April 2016 St. Patrick's Messenger. In that newsletter, we mistakenly reported that Kratz Heating and Air is going out of business. We would like to report to you that Kratz Services, Inc. is not going out of business and that they will continue to provide sales and service to residential and light commercial heating, air conditioning, and plumbing services. The reason that they are no longer able to service our needs, is because they no longer have a boiler technician employed by them.

We apologize to all of our parishioners for this mistake, and we also apologize to the owners of Kratz Services, Inc., Mike and Nancy Kratz. Have a blessed spring.

School Board News *March 9 Minutes Summary*

Marcus Schneider represented the Student Council at the meeting, reporting that they would like to fund an LK-Easy water bottle filler/drinking fountain for the school and are waiting for a quote from Tom Stepp. Ashley Everitt, representing the Senior Class, gave the Board information about the Senior Class trip March 19-23 at Winter Park, Colorado for skiing and to volunteer at the Pregnancy Crisis Center.

Michael Wecker made a formal apology to the board.

Mr. Havranek reported to the board on activities at the school. He also reported that there are 20 children enrolled in pre-kindergarten and 20 in preschool for next year, and shared information on the School of Faith training from the Archdiocese that our teachers have been receiving during their monthly staff development days.

Paula Atkeson discussed Standardized Testing. She reported that our entire junior class took the PSAT exam, but nationwide not many take the exam. The 81% is very high. 100% of our seniors took the ACT.

Mr. Havranek informed the board that St. Mary's will be having an external review in Spring 2017. In preparation, he has divided teachers into five groups, one per assessment, for them to begin collecting data.

Discussion was held regarding the teaching of the constitution.

April agenda will include electing new school board members, and more details on the \$10,000 Raffle/Casino Night fundraiser for St. Mary's.

School Board Members: Cameron Everitt, Shad Thompson, Ranell Otte, Dean Benson, Julie Barlow, Ann Crumly, Ann Krotter, Father Starman, and Mr. Havranek. Guests at the meeting included Marcus Schneider, Ashley Everitt, Michael Wecker, Jennie Schneider, and Paula Atkeson.

A Good Steward is “Mindful”

Jennifer Wallwey, Development Director

Taken from a book & blog entitled “Everyday Stewardship” by Tracy Earl Welliver, I will be sharing his blog posts from over the 6 weeks of Lent.



We can look at the lives of teenagers in today’s world and sometimes wonder how they can even survive. Due to technology and the constant drone of mass media, young people are under constant attack by forces that are anything but Christian. Of course, if we are honest, it isn’t just the young that are susceptible to these temptations, for any age can be caught off guard and fall into a trap where he or she then wonders, “Why did I do that?” You can imagine then how someone with less maturity and life experience can easily be deceived by the culture.

Jesus was fully human and fully divine. The humanity in Him certainly understood the allure of temptation. While He was in the desert, Satan tried all he could to shake Jesus from His principles. But at no time did Jesus lose His composure and give in to temptation. He was constantly *mindful* of His surroundings, His adversary, and who He was and who He was not.

Being *mindful* is a primary characteristic of an Everyday Steward. When we are ever aware of the forces surrounding us, both good and bad, and when we are constantly listening and looking for God interacting with us, we are able to respond to God’s call in daily life. We also can see evil for it’s true self and not be taken in by it. Whether we are young or old, to be aware of and living in the present, without the baggage of the past and without fear of the future, will allow us to stay true to ourselves and to Jesus. We will be able to give of ourselves freely without concern for what the culture might say. That is Good News. Let us help each other to be more mindful, especially the young people in our lives.

Newsletter Sponsors

Would you (or your business) be willing to sponsor the cost of a monthly newsletter? It costs us approximately \$175 to send out this monthly newsletter, and we would greatly appreciate sponsors to off-set these expenses. Please contact Jennifer at 402-336-1602 or jennifermwallwey@gmail.com. Thank you!



Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program

As we look ahead to the 2016-2017 school year, we give thanks to the Lord for your continued support of St. Mary’s School and its Catholic, faith-based education offered to the children and youth of our community. Your financial support towards our Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program enables us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. We ask for your continued prayers for our students and staff, and specifically today, we ask you to consider a financial contribution towards the St. Mary’s Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program. Through this program, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants). Last year, over \$16,000 was given to students as scholarships, and over \$19,000 was given in the form of grants. Details of our scholarship & grants program can be found on our website at www.stpatoneill.org, or you may contact the parish office.

Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary’s? Please fill out the information below with your donation, and return it to the parish office by Monday, May 9th. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer at 336-1602. Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary’s Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents.

Donor(s) Name: _____

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **SCHOLARSHIPS** for St. Mary’s students.

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **GRANTS** for St. Mary’s students.

Given in honor or memory of : _____

Other Notes: _____

Checks should be made to St. Mary’s Scholarships & Grants. Please submit all gifts for scholarships and grants to the Development Director no later than **Monday, May 9th**. All gifts are tax deductible.

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Upcoming Events!

- May 5** Ascension—Holy Day of Obligation
Mass at 7 am & 7 pm at St. Patrick's, and 7 pm at St. Joseph's
National Day of Prayer – 9 am at St. Patrick's
- May 7** Women's May Breakfast – 9 am at St. Patrick's Parish Hall
- May 15** Graduation—1pm at St. Patrick's
- May 17** Awards Ceremony for Grades 7-12 – 9 am at St. Patrick's
Sixth Grade Promotion – 7 pm at St. Patrick's & St. Mary's Commons
- May 18** Grade School Awards Ceremony – 9:15 am at St. Patrick's

Casino Night/\$10,000 Raffle at KC Hall



It's not too late to get your tickets for the Casino Night/\$10,000 Raffle on April 29th at the KC Hall. Only 250 tickets will be sold, so get yours soon! Your \$100 ticket not only enters you in the \$10,000 raffle to win anywhere from \$200 to \$10,000 but also gets two people admission in for this fun evening, where you could win even more cash prizes. We will begin at 7 pm on Friday, April 29th at the KC Hall. The \$10,000 Raffle will be drawn & announced throughout the night, building to that final grand prize of \$10,000 for one lucky winner (need not be present to win)! There will be appetizers & snacks, cash bar, lots of games like blackjack, craps, roulette & even a few for some of those non-gamblers! When you check in, you will receive \$500 in chips, and if you'd like more chips, they can be purchased at the event. When you are done gambling, turn your chips in for tickets - the more chips, the more tickets - to put in for cash drawings! Contact the Parish Office for your ticket at 402-336-1602.