

# St. Patrick's Messenger

Our official bimonthly newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020



St. Patrick, pray for us

## Parish Pastoral Council Meeting updates

On August 11, 2020 the meeting was called to order by President Ray Reynolds at 7:30 p.m. Six members were present including father Litto. Tom Miller, represented the Finance Council. After the opening prayer, Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Then the council discussed the following things. Parish Center will be available once again for use by our Parish members and non-parishioners provided they follow the Diocesan Covid guidelines. Due to Covid, 1/3 of the space will be available (maximum seating capacity will be 50). For time being the regular Holy Mass schedule will remain the same with one Sunday Mass in Corning, and another in Lenox, since it meets the needs of the Corning community. If the number of participants increases, we are open to other options. Weekend Holy Mass in Spanish at Lenox will begin as

things get better. With regret, and after much discussion, the Parish Council has decided that there should be no Adventureland trip this summer due to Covid19 concerns, with the recommendation that some alternate recognition for the servers be extended. The First Communion is scheduled for Sunday September 13th during the 10:30 Mass. Due to limited seating in the church and because of anticipation of a larger crowd to account for relatives and guests desiring to attend the Mass, a Saturday evening Mass will be offered for those who wish to avoid Sunday's First Communion Mass. Rosie reported that the fire extinguishers have been checked and have passed inspection in preparation for the annual insurance report. After several years of stellar service, John Boswell has resigned from his volunteer position as "maintenance supervisor" for the church. Council discussed possible replacements. The council

also discussed the need for additional people to help serve in the music ministry. The council discussed sending letters of appreciation to some of the local providers for their excellent service during the Covid crisis of the last several months. Then Ray presented the idea of an intermittent Parish newsletter that could be used to help inform the congregation on several topics that are too extensive to be included in the weekly bulletin. Tom gave a brief report from finance council. The Annual Diocesan Appeal goal has been met. A method for adding online giving to our website is being investigated. Finance council will meet separately from Pastoral Council so that each group may focus more closely on their individual intents. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m., with the closing prayer.

## Were you wondering...

Just what was that roof project was all about? What did those big lifts, pallets of tiles and sheets of copper fix?

It turns out that there were three leaks traceable to broken tiles or loose copper flashing. One was opposite the tabernacle, one over by the old confessionals and the third in the choir loft. These had rotted the underlying wood so the fix entailed replacing the wood and tiles and



St. Patrick after renovation

applying the flashing snugly around the chimney and bell tower bases. The cost was around \$32,610 which was paid for out of existing parish building accounts. Given our sometimes harsh Iowa weather, a roof inspection every two years is contemplated to catch the damage at the cheaper and simpler broken tile stage, thus avoiding these costlier repairs needed since the roof was last done some ten years ago.

## Share your stories; it will inspire others.



**D**ear Parishioners and Friends; While we experience the worst of all times with unforeseen death, sickness, political expediency and uncertainty, it could be the best of times for our spiritual awakening and growth. I am excited and grateful to see the

new parish bimonthly newsletter, *St. Patrick's Messenger*, from our parish, gathering the gifts and talents of our parishioners with the guidance of parish pastoral council and finance council. The purpose of *St. Patrick's Messenger* is to identify the hidden stories of the lived experiences of faith and stewardship in and through our parishioners and their various

*"Not all of us can do great things. But we all can do small things with great love."*

St. Mother Teresa



### We have updated our website. Take a look

**I**f you're new to our website, we hope you enjoy our brand new design. We've made it easier for you to access the information you need by making our website more user-friendly. Scroll through our homepage to discover the site; for our weekly parish bulletin, assignments, news and more. We will be soon adding the online donation option to promote online giving. Visit our website. Our web address is [www.stpatrickcorning.com](http://www.stpatrickcorning.com).

ministries at the parish level and beyond. Each time a family and a ministry group from our parish will share their faith experience in this newsletter. These are stories of undaunted faith, courage, hope and inspiration that stimulate souls and transform lives. For that purpose our editorial team will approach each family and a ministry group one at a time. Be ready to share with others how your faith in Jesus changed your life. In this great adventure we would like to thank Dr. Stephen Gruba for his hard work, expertise and continued dedication to this new initiative. We also would like to thank Jim and Monica Hughes, friends and benefactors of our parish. They help

us printing this newsletter every time. Thank you so much. We know you will enjoy the stories and news from these pages and find consolation, hope, vulnerability and courage to be the Messengers of the gospel and share your own stories for the benefit of many. I am sure these stories will inspire and guide your souls. We will also include the parish pastoral council updates and other news related to our parish. We are sure that you will enjoy it. Thank you for your care and support.

God bless

Fr. Litto & the Parish Pastoral and Finance Council members

### It is in our wish list

**S**ince we cannot use our missalettes and song books during this covid time, our parish pastoral and finance council is looking into the possibility of an overhead projector in our church. The idea is to project the songs,

readings, homilies and prayers to help every one to participate actively and consciously the Holy Mass. If some one is interested in sponsoring it, please contact us.



We have launched our official Facebook page. Search **St. Patrick Church Corning** hit the like button and stay connected.

## Meet the noble *Nobis* family

**W**ho is that new family in church and what are they doing in Corning Iowa? Meet the Nobis family: Tim, Tricia, Garrett, (20, who is a sophomore at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS), Austin, (17), Blake (15), and Veronica, (12).

Although Tim and Tricia, both grew up in the Northeast part of the US, thanks to Tim's military career, they have lived in many different places, including the Midwest, and became fond of the conservative values and friendly people that characterized the region. So when it came time to retire from active duty in 2011, they ended up in the Omaha area, where Tim could continue to work at Offutt AFB and their two older children could attend Catholic school. They thought of themselves as ordinary cradle Catholics. That changed about seven years ago when they became restless to learn more about their Faith and live it more deeply. Ultimately, their search to do this led to a tremendous conversion of heart that they credit to Fr. Damien Cook, Pastor at that time, of St. Peter Catholic Church on Leavenworth Street near downtown Omaha, NE. In that very holy environment, under his guidance, God be-



(From the left) Blake, Veronica, Tim, Tricia, Garret and Austin

came the center of their lives which is immediately apparent in the routine of daily life for them. There is attendance at daily Mass when it is offered, a daily family rosary, the Angelus at noon, daily spiritual reading, family prayer and scheduled quiet time for reflection and personal prayer. Blake always chips in with the backstory of the saint of the day.

Blake is a very bright and holy boy who happens to have Down's syndrome. Public school seemed to be letting him fall through the cracks, and so, after a period of prayer, they tackled home-schooling him, along with their other children using Our Lady of Victory curriculum as their guide. Home-schooling offers them flexibility, tremendous family

bonding, and a loving home environment that fosters learning.

Restlessness, and a subtle whisper from God, again spurred a period of discernment and reflection that resulted in a move from the suburbs to an acreage just past the airport on the west edge of town. Although they considered many other towns, Corning just felt right. They fell in love with the property they are currently restoring. Plans are to have a large garden and a variety of farm animals. At the moment they have some friendly goats, two geese, two inherited farm cats, and two sweet barn kittens sharing the spacious barn.

Please make this inspirational family feel warmly welcomed members of our Catholic community.

*When God touches our lives, everything changes. When He touched the life of the Nobis family all of history was changed. They thought of themselves as ordinary cradle Catholics. That changed seven years ago when they became restless to learn more about their Faith and live it more deeply.*



The Catholic Church has some minimum requirements that must be obeyed to be in good standing with the Church. These are called the Precepts (commandments) of the Church and they are five:



1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year (*once a month is recommended*).
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Why does the Church have these rules? The Catechism explains: "The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very **necessary minimum**, in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor". In other words, the Church lays down these laws in her role of shepherding us to heaven. Learn more in the Catechism paragraphs 2041-2043 or in "*A Minute in the Church. Back to the Basics*" available in the back of the church.

## Little drops make mighty ocean

It is easy to overlook the public face for our parish in the humble Thrift Shop on Benton Avenue. Over a dozen women from our parish and two more from Lenox donate their time to sell donated items to raise money for the Altar Society. Although it's open only about six days a month, it meets the needs of a diverse set of clients. Despite preconceived ideas, not all the customers are on a fixed income, some are just searching for that elusive "good deal". Because it is a tiny store, large items are not accepted for display although they might be featured on their Facebook page if they are valuable enough. Mostly clothing, kitchen items and small knick-knacks are on the shelves. If items don't sell well, they are moved on to Cross Ministries in Osceola to continue to try to help people who might

get some good from them. That way, fresh merchandise keeps the customers coming back. And they do. One day people from six different towns were in the shop. You might remember this charitable business as the "Dollar Shop"



when it was located under the business of Larsen and Jones across from Central Park. It was started by Anita Akin in 1973.

Back then, the space had dirt floors covered with rugs. It upgraded to its current location roughly 20 years ago. The Altar Society uses the money generated by their volunteer efforts to help the parish and the community.

Some examples include payment for altar linens, church decorations, altar server vestments, funeral dinner extras and the chair racks used in the parish center. Recently they contributed a significant sum to defray the roof repairs. Think of the Thrift Shop when you have a gently used item that might benefit someone else. Not sure if it's the right fit? Ask Linda Schaefroth or Marcela Gearheart.

And always thank the many volunteers for their service to our parish. Thank you for your wonderful service ladies.