



ST. PATRICK'S MESSENGER

Our official newsletter

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS CELEBRATED

Preparations for First Reconciliation and First Communion started a whole year ago in the Fall of 2019. Under the guidance of Sheila Ramsey and Nancy Amdor, these four students learned the basics of the Catholic Faith and the parts of the Holy Mass: **Ellie Amdor** (daughter of Eric and Lori Amdor), **Lyssa Anderson** (daughter of Mike and Aimee Anderson), **October Edwards** (daughter of Rachel Vanik and Nick Edwards) and **Brinkley Venteicher** (daughter of Pat and Stacy Venteicher). First Reconciliation was held on February 8,

2020. A First Communion retreat was held August 9, 2020 where the students reviewed the parts of the Holy Mass, baked unleavened bread and made ban-



Congratulations to October, Ellie Brinkley & Lyssa.

ners which were displayed from the altar at their communion service. Candles and an altar cloth from the Reconciliation service were used to decorate the sanctuary. On September 13, 2020 the girls processed to the altar carrying their baptism candles as a sign to continually follow Christ. They participated further by reading the intercessions and bring up the gifts which included the unleavened bread they'd made. At the end they processed out of the church with the celebrant to be greeted by the parish community with balloons, cards, gifts and refreshments.

WE CELEBRATED THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The history of the month of October in the liturgical calendar is fascinating. Legend tells us that the Rosary, as a form of prayer, was given to St. Dominic (1170-1221) by Mother Mary herself as an aid in fighting the heresy of the Albigensians. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572) to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. That battle stopped Islam from overrunning all of Europe and the Pope attributed more power to the Rosary than to cannons and soldiers! The feast day has been generalized to honor the Blessed Mother in gratitude for the protection she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. The prac-

tice of dedicating the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary developed under the leadership of Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) who strongly encouraged the constant use of the Rosary.



Saint Patrick parish continued this promotion of the Rosary during October by praying it for all the families of the parish one half hour before each Holy

Mass. All through the month of October we had the Holy Eucharistic adoration and the holy Rosary before each Holy Mass. During this moments of prayer and blessing we prayed for all the families of our parish. We had the Holy Eucharist exposed one hour before each Holy Mass and we prayed the Holy Rosary one half hour before each Holy Mass. In addition, everyone was encouraged to say the Rosary at home daily. Our young people, through the efforts of the Religious Education teachers, were taught more about the Rosary and made the floating balloon Rosary displayed on our lawn in public testimony to this uniquely Catholic devotion. Mother Mary we thank you for your constant protection and for the gift of this powerful way of praying to God through you.

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL PARISH, THERE IS AN ALTAR SOCIETY.

Since its inception in the early 1970's, the Altar Society has existed to serve the material and spiritual needs of the Parish from a feminine perspective. The purpose of the Altar Society is to provide spiritual growth to the women of the parish through corporal works of mercy. Using money raised from manning the Thrift Shop and holding a yearly bake sale, the Altar Society handles the rental, upkeep and cleaning of the Parish Center. They put on funeral dinners for grieving families thus providing a place of gathering and comfort. They host a thank you dinner for the catechism teachers and a

celebration for First Communicants. They also assist in delivering Meals on Wheels three months of the year.

cially support the Parish Religious Education program and recognize our graduating Seniors with a monetary gift. In 2017,

the leadership of Marcella Gearheart, 15 members pray a daily rosary as a prayer chain for the sick and all those with special needs.

They visit the shut-ins with Holy Communion and provide them a Christmas gift and an Easter basket.

Every woman of the Parish is automatically considered a member of the Altar Society to be called upon in times of need. Meetings are held at the Parish Center the first Tues-

day of every month at 5 PM. Please feel free to attend.

St. Patrick Catholic Community thanks our Altar society for the wonderful service. Great Job!!!



St. Patrick Altar society

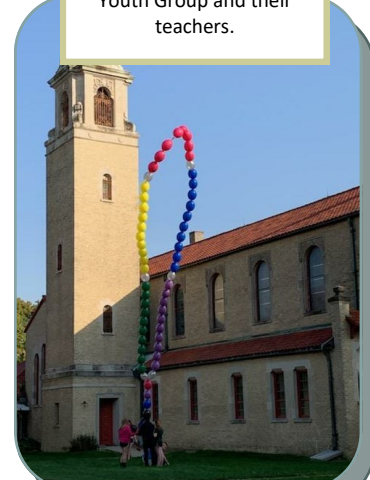
From their funds they give to the community at large. Recipients have included the Rose Ann Auxiliary, Hearts and Hugs Daycare, Kid Council, Feed the Pack, Fostering Hope, Matra, and the Ministerial Association. They finan-

they updated the altar servers robes. They replace and clean the altar linens as needed. In 2019 they updated the Parish computers. Spiritually, the Altar Society leads the Rosary for the Nation every Tuesday at 11 AM. Since 2014, under



A photo from the Holy Hour during the month of October

The floating Balloon Rosary ; Thanks to our Youth Group and their teachers.



We thank Our Altar Society for your dedication and Service.

DIFFICULT ROADS OFTEN LEAD TO BEAUTIFUL DESTINATIONS

Inspiring faith story from the life of the beloved doctor of Corning, Dr. Gruba

I grew up a cradle Catholic which is both a blessing and a curse. My parents met at college in Atchison, Kansas and soon enough I was the second of eight kids. We said grace before meals, had bedtime prayers and attended weekly Mass. Mom took us to Confession every other Saturday afternoon. I guess with five brothers and two sisters to squabble with, she thought we had plenty on our consciences! Most of our friends were Catholic from large families of their own. Because Dad worked for St. Benedict's and Mom for Mount St. Scholastica, priests and nuns were at our house all the time. We were definitely immersed in Catholic culture.

God's first nudge toward a deeper faith came when my college girlfriend joined the Moonies. As you recall, Sun Myung Moon preached that Jesus failed in his mission of salvation when he died on the cross and that he, Rev. Moon, was the messiah chosen to complete the work. She actively recruited me to join her and I was forced to make a choice between what I was taught



and the married life I had envisioned. That led to an intense period of digging deeper into the Catholic faith to understand just what I was choosing. My comfortable but ignorant cradle Catholic excuse of "I was raised that way" was done with.

The second nudge happened when a couple I had arranged sterilization for came up pregnant and chose abortion to deal with the inconvenience. The realization that my actions led directly to an abortion rocked me deeply in my soul and I had to face the fact that I was a "cafeteria Catholic" putting my will above God's teaching through His Church. I faced the hypocrite I was and dropped prescribing contraception from my medical practice. The next

nudge came when one of my brothers joined the Southern Baptist Church and became annoyingly "on fire for the Lord". I say annoyingly because, like many converts, he couldn't shut up and became preachy and confrontational. It's the best thing that ever happened to me!

He forced me into defending my Catholic faith and giving reasoned arguments why it was the

truth. I've never done so much religious study before or since nor benefitted so greatly from the thorn in my side that he still is to this day.

Finally, God quietly whispered in my ear in church one day: "Well, are you going to commit?" He was talking about the dilemma "Do you really trust in God?" asking me to give up my very desire to run my life my way. Since I've caved and said "Yes", I've known the peace and love that comes with making God the center of my life. I daily look forward to the ongoing adventure of seeing what He has in store for me next, reassured, like David, that the words of Psalm 23 are true.

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WHY DO WE PRAY TO MARY?

Why do you pray to Mary instead of going straight to God?

Would you pray for me if I asked you to? I believe your response would be "Yes, I will pray for you." Why wouldn't you say instead: "Why are you asking me to pray for you instead of going straight to God?"

When we pray to Mary, or any of the saints, we are not praying to them as if they have the power and authority to answer our prayers in and of themselves. We do not view them as being like God in that sense. Rather, what Catholics mean when they "pray" to Mary or the saints is that we are asking them for their

prayers. We are asking them, in es-



sence, to add their prayers to ours. For example, in the Hail Mary we say, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen."

So, just as it is okay to ask a member of the Body of Christ here on earth to pray for you, it is okay to ask a member of the Body of Christ in Heaven to pray for you. As James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Who is more righteous than the saints in Heaven who have been perfected and who are in perfect union with Christ?



WHAT IS CATHOLIC TRADITION?

What is Catholic Tradition? Why is this important? Catholic Tradition is not the practice of decorating the altar with lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas. It is much more than that. Understanding Tradition is important because many Protestants believe that the Bible alone is the sole source of all Christian faith and practice (Sola Scriptura). If it isn't explicitly in the Bible, they reject it as a man made, as opposed to divine, teaching and an unnecessary add on. The belief that Mary was born without sin would be a good example of the stark

contrast in thinking. Catholics cite 2 Thes 2:15 as one of many Bible verses that support Tradition. "Therefore, brothers, stand firm. Hold fast to the traditions you received from us, either by our word or by letter." Tradition means a handing down. According to the Catechism paragraphs 77-78 "This is the most basic meaning of Catholic Tradition: it is the true Faith itself, given to the apostles by Christ and faithfully transmitted to each new generation." It includes Sacred Scripture, but, as explained by Pope Pius VI in "Dei Verbum", "it includes everything which contributes toward the

sanctity of life and increase in the faith of the People of God; and so the Church, in her teachings, life and worship (the Creeds, the Sacraments, the Magisterium and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass) perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes." In sum, it is the whole of Catholic thought and practice passed on intact and unchanged from the time of the apostles. However, this is not just the handing on of a static Revelation. It is a living Tradition meaning that, through the action of the Holy Spirit, the understanding of the Faith continues to deepen and ma-

ture over time via the influence of theology and philosophy, the Doctors of the Church, the writings of the Saints and Ecumenical Councils, etc. This active, continuous work of the Spirit in our particular time is the fulfillment of Matt 28:20 "Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world."

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