



# The King's Crier

Christ the King Parish

December 2020

## Parish adapts to pandemic 2020 changes

by Rose Sterger

When did you ever imagine that you would walk up to the church door and find a notice that services were cancelled until further notice? In March of 2020, the unimaginable happened.

As the number of cases of the coronavirus mounted, the entire country – except for “essential services” – closed down. The bishops of Indiana dispensed the faithful from attending Sunday Mass – first until August 15, then until November 1, and, finally, “until further notice.”

Each Sunday, parishioners could attend “virtual” Masses at about 10



On their way into church, parishioners are greeted by a statue of Pope St. John Paul II reminding them of the need for masks and hand sanitizer.

a.m. on their computers or cell phones. Those Masses continue as winter sets in. In addition, the Wednesday morning school Masses are recorded and posted online.

The parish office was closed for in-person services for several weeks. It was then opened gradually for a few hours each week. As we publish *The King's Crier*, the office is still open only for limited hours with staff members rotating days of working on-site. As in other businesses, much of the daily work has been done at home computers.

During the shutdown, Fr. Todd “covered” the office much of the time and attended to sacramental needs as parishioners requested.

After a few weeks, the church was allowed to open with limits on the number of people who could be in attendance at any Mass. Parishioners were instructed to wear face coverings, to use hand sanitizer upon entering the church, to practice social distancing inside, and to avoid congregating after Mass. Until the end of October, the 8 a.m. Mass was celebrated outdoors. At the indoor Masses, music was instrumental only until November when the congregation could sing again — but still wearing masks and practicing social distancing. No servers assisted at the Masses until November when one server was



Karen Alley of our maintenance staff has been kept busy sanitizing pews between Masses as we follow protocols in working to keep parishioners safe.

allowed to provide limited help to the celebrant at each Mass.

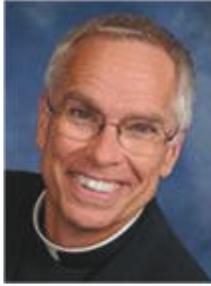
School and religious education activities have also been affected by the pandemic. Sunday morning religious education classes have been suspended until further notice. The RCIA classes are in session, but scripture studies are being conducted via Zoom. The school has experienced a number of changes — see story on page 6. Sadly, it appears that COVID-19 will continue causing disruption in all of our lives. But we have found that there are new ways to do what we need or like to do. And, God willing, this too shall pass.

# Only one word for 2020

by Fr. Todd Riebe

Eerie. It's the word that first comes to mind as I reflect on these last months.

It was the feeling I had as we celebrated the regularly scheduled Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Mass on March 17, knowing that it would be the last Mass for some



days. There were more parishioners present for that daily Mass than usual as word had spread that churches would be closed on March 18.

We would then begin the "Two Weeks to Flatten the Curve" which were later extended, prohibiting public church services in Marion County for several weeks to come.

Eerie. The dictionary defines the word as "abnormal," "strange," "unnatural," "chilling." All of those words described my mood as I locked the doors of the church on March 17. There was so much that was eerie about those first days of coming to grips with a pandemic.

For us, as Catholics, a prohibition on the public celebration of Masses was unthinkable. It had been 100 years since U.S. churches had closed their doors during the pandemic of the Spanish Flu. While

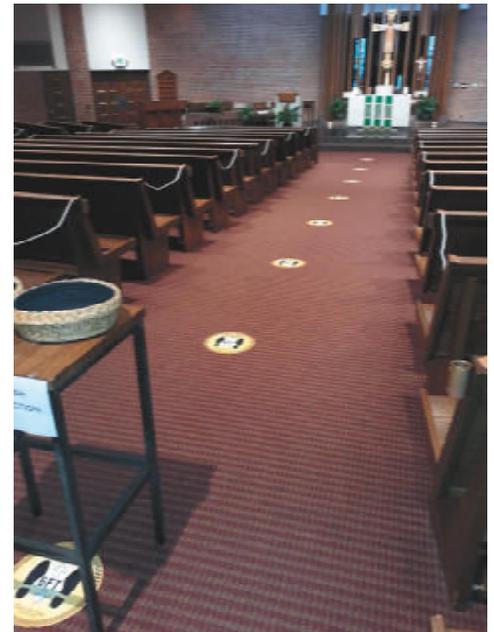
Masses continued to be celebrated by parish priests, they were celebrated without a congregation.

Deacon Michael and I set a schedule for daily Mass in the Adoration Chapel. Pictures from the Parish Pictorial Directory were pinned to the chairs in the chapel as a way of staying connected with parishioners during the Eucharist, but it remained eerie.

Each Sunday, Fr. Bonke would join us for the recording of Sunday Mass as Cheryl Beckerich made virtual Masses a part of our "new normal." Preaching into a camera lens in an empty church, rather than one filled with people, was an eerie experience. Celebrating Holy Week and the Easter Vigil in an empty church was the eeriest experience of my 40 years as a priest.

The Parish Office, which is usually a pretty active place, was eerily quiet. The school building, which is always an active place, was eerily quiet. Kessler Boulevard, which is a very busy street, was eerily quiet.

Visits to nursing homes for Last Rites with families huddled together outside windows — wearing masks and dressed in different degrees of protective gear — became eerie ex-



Parishioners are cautioned to observe social distancing as they proceed down the aisle of the church.

periences, as were funerals celebrated in cemeteries without a Mass and with no more than ten mourners present.

With many restrictions in place, we resumed the celebration of public Masses on the weekend of June 6-7. Outdoor parking lot Masses became a memorable part of the summer of 2020. Baptisms, confessions, funeral Masses, outdoor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and scaled down weddings all began to be celebrated, respecting the

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Virus takes toll on priests' celebrations

This year two important anniversaries have gone, for the most part, unrecognized and certainly uncelebrated — yet another casualty of the pandemic.

Fr. Todd Riebe was ordained on Sept. 6, 1980. Before becoming our pastor in 2017, he worked in a mission field in African Sudan, then at St. Patrick in Terre Haute, St. Mary, St. Andrew, and Holy Family in Richmond, Indiana, and St. Mark the Evangelist in Indianapolis.

Fr. James Bonke was ordained on June 6, 1970. His assignments have

included Our Lady of the Greenwood, St. Christopher, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and St. Michael the Archangel. He then became the archdiocesan defender of the bond at the Metropolitan Tribunal. He even offered the invocation at the Indianapolis 500 three times! In retirement today, he assists with weekend Masses here at Christ the King and is kept busy filling in for other priests in the archdiocese.

While nothing is currently planned, we hope that some celebration will eventually take place to honor our two clergymen.

*The King's Crier* is published by Christ the King parish. Your contributions (articles, letters, ideas, or photos) are welcome. Send them to [kingscrier@ctk-indy.org](mailto:kingscrier@ctk-indy.org).

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# Parish generosity funds church renovation

by Kelly Lucas

In late 2019, Christ the King parish initiated a 50th Anniversary campaign to raise \$300,000 for needed church renovation. Fr. Todd Riebe recently announced that thanks to the generosity of parishioners, that goal has been met.

Construction and renovation originally scheduled to begin in September 2020 were delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the guidance of Indianapolis architect Michael Eagan of Entheos Architects, plans were fine tuned and a new timeline has been established calling for work to begin in early 2021.

According to Fr. Todd, the initial plan to open the brick wall on the west side of the sanctuary to create a choir space was scrapped due to space constraints and acoustical challenges. After examining several

possibilities, it was decided to create a designated space for the choir in the back, southwest corner of the church. The choir space will accommodate 40 people and, when not being used by the choir, will be used for general seating. Moving the organ and piano from their current location to the back of the church will open up needed sanctuary space, Fr. Todd explained.

The baptismal font will be repositioned to the opposite side of the church with space for families to gather around the font during baptisms. A ramp will be built along the wall where the baptismal font currently rests to allow easy access to the sanctuary. The ambo/pulpit will be moved to the opposite side of the sanctuary and brought closer to the congregation.

Flooring will include ceramic tile for the sanctuary and main aisle, with vinyl flooring under the pews and carpet in the side aisles. If fund-

ing allows, a crown of thorns made of black granite will surround the altar and the motif of the crown of thorns will be repeated on the metal rails running along the handicap ramp and around the area surrounding the choir.

The steps behind the altar will be removed and the presider's chair and the servers' chairs will be relocated to the side of the altar in the main sanctuary. The pews will be refinished and new kneeling pads will be installed. The renovation will also include six designated spaces to accommodate parishioners who use wheelchairs or walkers.

"We know that 50 years ago people made a tremendous investment to build the 'new church' and, like a house, we have to keep it up," Fr. Todd added. "We aren't called to build a new church, but we are called to pass it on to the next generation in the best condition that we can."

## Youth group activities increase

by Jerry Traub

The young people of our parish have been ready to get back to a "regular" life.

Thirty-seven young parishioners were confirmed by Archbishop Charles Thompson at Christ the King on Nov. 10. Another class is under way for the 2021 ceremony. Members of that class are scheduled to help deliver our parish's contributions to the Giving Tree in mid-December.

Our youth will not participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January. Instead, North Deanery parishes will have a joint "lock-in" for high school students the evening of Jan. 22 through the morning of Jan. 23 at St. Simon parish. Activities will include poster making, rosary and litany pray-

ers, movies, and praise and worship music. All COVID protocols will be observed with safe distancing and facial masks.

Eighth grade students will gather at a North Deanery parish on Jan. 24 for a celebration of the feast of St. John Bosco, patron saint of youth. The North Deanery High School Youth Advisory Board will sponsor this event. Meals and games will be included.

Our Administrator of Youth Ministry Ann Collins noted that fall 2020 was not a scheduled year for the National Catholic Youth Conference that Indianapolis has hosted for several years.

All parishioners are encouraged to support the costs of these activities with donations that can be directed to Ann Collins at the Parish Office.



These architect's drawings illustrate some of the renovations being planned for the church. The drawing above shows the new look for the altar area while the lower drawing shows the space designed for the choir. (Parishioners will be invited to sit in that area when the choir is not present.)



# CKS graduates receive awards

## Bishop Chatard Awards

### Bishop Chatard Presidential Award

Sam Orr and Hope Bultinck

### St. Francis Xavier Award

Allison Fuydal

### St. Benedict Award

Catherine Thrasher

## Cathedral High School Awards

### The Presidential Scholarship

Sammy Parr

### Holy Cross Values Award

Daniel Kent

## Donald J. Marietta Athletic

### Scholarship

Mary Mason and Ian Kolbus

## Richard and Eleanor Huffine

### Memorial Scholarship

Allison Fuydal and Frank Meyer

## Krier Scholarship Nominee

Victor Cabrera

## Scott Lawson Server Award

Frank Meyer

## Serra Server Award

Ian Kolbus

## President Trump Academic Award

Lucy Baker, Roman Barraza, Hope Bultinck, Jasmine Cho, Kailey Crose, Sydney Cullina, Eric Dessauer, Eva Dessauer, Allison Fuydal, Madison Hinko, Daniel Kent, Audrey Kidwell, Ian Kolbus, Evy Krueger, Madilynn Lunsford, Mary Mason, Annabel McCarthy Young, Mary-Claire McCarthy Young, Grace Miller, Mia Morrow, Sam Orr, Nina O'Tain, Zach Pacheco, Sammy Parr, Hannah Radford, Sydney Shaw, Nathan

Strachota, Avery Tahvonen-Vernon,

Catherine Thrasher, Jake Weber

## Most Improved and Most Outstanding Subject Awards

Math: Sam Orr and Grace Miller

Art: Sophia Jones and Sammy Parr

Spanish: Hope Bultinck and Nina O'Tain

History: Victor Cabrera and Daniel Kent

Language Arts: Lauren Mallory and Daniel Kent

Literature: Avery Tahvonen-Vernon and Madison Hinko

Computer: Chloe Cyganowski and Sydney Shaw

Music: Frank Meyer and Jake Weber

PE/Health: Matthew Woods and Victor Cabrera

Religion: Madilynn Lunsford and Ian Kolbus

Science: Annabel McCarthy Young and Catherine Thrasher

**Sr. Margaret Award:** Nina O'Tain

**Patty Holtz Protector Award:**

Victor Cabrera and Hannah Radford

**North Deanery Youth Ministry Association Scholarship:** Victor Cabrera

**PTO President's Award:**

Allison Fuydal and Mary Mason

**Faye Williams Memorial Scholarship:** Frank Meyer

**Christ the King Parish Scholarship:** Catherine Thrasher



Shelby Thomas, Brigid Dowdle, and Melissa Lesch (Photo by Ruth Warner)

## New at CKS

by Ruth Warner

When Christ the King School reopened on August 20, the staff and students welcomed three new teachers.

Miss Brigid Dowdle (second grade) is in her fourth year of teaching, and came from Glenview, IL. She is one of six children in her family and attended Catholic schools. She is a big fan of the Cubs and likes to read, travel, and attend baseball games in her free time.

Mrs. Melissa Lesch (third grade) went to Lumen Christi High School and married her high school sweetheart, Sam, four years ago. They have two sons, Charlie, three, and Danny, nearly one. She graduated from IUPUI with a degree in elementary education and previously taught at St. Matthew's School. She loves reading, hand lettering, and painting as well as pizza, popcorn, Chick-fil-A, IKEA, and her Catholic faith.

Miss Shelby Thomas (fifth grade) moved to Indianapolis from Louisville, KY. She grew up in a Catholic family and attended Catholic schools. She has a bachelor's degree from Hanover College and is in her fifth year of teaching in Catholic schools. Last year she received her associate level certification in Catholicism through the Archdiocese of Louisville.



**HAITI REPORT --** Pastor Pere Max reports that Bois de Lance fared well in a hurricane and has not seen many cases of COVID. The students of St. Mary and St. Isidore parishes are in school every day and receive food from Monday through Thursday each week. The Haiti Committee notes that financial support from donors at Christ the King makes this possible. Jennifer Priser in the parish office can assist if you would like to make a contribution

# Christmas plans hard to predict this year

by Helen Burke

20/20 may be the standard listed by eye specialists to indicate good vision but, in truth, none of us saw what was coming pandemic-wise for the year 2020. This is especially true when people try to envision how they will be celebrating Christmas this year.

This article is being written in early November and so plans, if indeed there were any, could have changed by the time you read this. Still, numerous responses indicate that this year is going to be like no other for most of our parishioners. It takes no corrective lenses to foresee that!

Shirley Vargas will celebrate early in December when her three out-of-state children with spouses and their children will feel safer traveling from Boston, Atlanta, and Tennessee. Their trips are designed to overlap slightly, but not for extended visits with all being there at once.

Shirley does have hometown family, too, but with young children, well, plans remain to be seen. That will not preclude decorating or large cooking projects for which she is known, but how to serve those meals safely is still a mystery.

Margie Lawson, on the other hand, has already bought a new Christmas tree because, "I like decorating, but not gift-buying." It is hard to keep up with the changing desires for Lego sets and computer games grandsons Michael and Brandon would like to have, but, no doubt, there will be something under that tree when son Michael, daughter Trisha, and families come to her house to celebrate.



Jennifer Priser summed up the reaction of most people interviewed by saying, "I don't even know what I'm going to do tomorrow let alone on Christmas! I'm afraid to make any plans for fear of having to change them." She, husband Shannen, and children Natalie, Landry, and Kael will "probably do something with my parents (Jerry and Betsy Traub) who live down the street, but my siblings who live out of town will probably not be traveling and my in-town brother and his wife have stayed sheltered and probably will remain so. A lot of 'probabilities.' We have not done cards for a while . . . maybe this year we will do cards. It may be the only way to keep in touch."

Walt Steinfeld always does cards, but may increase the number he sends this year for the same reason. Both of his adult children live in town and he normally gets together at their homes for an early Christmas, as his daughter's family usually goes to Florida for the holiday. "This year everything is up in the air. I have been visiting with family through COVID and we sometimes have meals together — outdoors. With my son and daughter-in-law having 16-year-old twins, we will not be eating inside."

He humorously adds, "Maybe we will have to meet on the front porch and exchange gifts. We may have to do a big Zoom call on Christmas Day." Walt is a positive person who will figure out a way to find Christmas joy even in a small act like putting his Holy Family music box on his desk and enjoying its song.

Enjoying songs, including leading the traditional "instant Christmas choir" at church, has long been a joy for Angela Peterson. This year she will miss that a lot. But, with singing or not, she and her family, husband James and sons Ivan and Erik William, will be off to 10 p.m. Mass (assuming the parish is able to



do that this year). Celebrating, just the four of them, is traditional, and she is looking forward to that calmness after what she hopes to be an "incredibly busy before-Christmas season" in the Hupp Jewelry store she purchased less than two years ago. Her goal is to work hard and make up the money lost over the spring shutdown. To say the pandemic has affected her Christmas would be an understatement!

COVID-caused change was also on the mind of Peggy Trier, who stated, "Our lives have changed for sure. We have to take it one day at a time." A retired nurse, Peggy hunkered down for three months, then gradually went back to volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Mission 27 store and a food pantry.

A lot that has changed for her is her expected trip to Hawaii in January with two of her sons. They have changed their plans to go early and stay on the continent. Her daughter Celeste Hinko and her husband Dave and children Stephen, Maddie, and Alixander (also parishioners) might have to skip their normal holiday in Maine.

Peggy's other three children and their families are local but add up to too many numbers to get together all at once. She still hopes her annual cookie decorating party for which she bakes innumerable sugar cookies to decorate with family might occur in some form (shifts?). In any case, she will bake dozens extra for the Miracle Place for the children in residence to enjoy decorating. Christmas is still about sharing, pandemic or not.

# COVID spurs school adjustments

by Tom Hayes

It is business as usual at Christ the King Catholic Grade School. Sort of.

Christ the King has been back to full-time schooling since the start of October when the Marion County Health Department changed its six-foot social distance guideline in schools to three feet. That allowed the school the necessary spacing to return all students to a full-time in-person schedule.

While the students are back full time, there are several stipulations that still make school different than in years past. For example, students are kept in grade groups during recess, after care is open but operating with half its usual capacity, and principal Ed Seib is using everyone and everything to make school work during this pandemic. "The administration and I are constantly trying to figure out ways to help our students," Seib

said. "It is an all hands on deck approach and everyone is helping out."

Part of that helping out this year is a new school nurse, who is funded by a one-year federal grant. She is stationed in the former religious resource room and has been a blessing during this pandemic. "It has been wonderful to finally have a full-time nurse at school," Seib said. "Anything COVID-related goes through the nurse."

Seib has been especially impressed with his student body, which stands at 318 (down from 330 last year). "The students have been extremely resilient," Seib said. "They miss the freedom of seeing their friends and they wish they could move more freely through the school, but we can't rush things."

Seib also says his staff has had to make many adjustments, including removing personal furniture from classrooms to help with spacing.

"I think one of the biggest challenges for the staff has been not being able to have small group lessons as much," he said. "And with the

kids, the staff is always trying to find a balance. This year it seems like they have to be 'on' all the time and that can be tiring." Seib said it is hard to plan for future events and is taking things a week at a time. He says the archdiocese offered weekly video conferences as schools prepared to return and they are there with support when needed.

## Finance Committee report

You may have suspected that parish collections during the pandemic would decrease as did members of the Finance Committee, but maybe not to the extent that we are seeing.

For a variety of reasons, mostly because parishioners in many cases have not been attending Mass in person, collections for the first quarter of our fiscal year (which began July 1) fell more than \$75,000 below our budgeted amount.

Budgeted collections \$339,879

Actual collections \$264,694

Budget deficit \$75,185

You should also be aware that the committee did not budget to break even for the year, since the budget is based on expected collections, not on exactly what we need to avoid running a deficit.

At the rate our budget deficit is growing, it could reach more than \$300,000 for a full year, and that would be a severe blow to what we want to accomplish as a parish.

Fr. Todd and the Finance Committee members would appreciate it if parishioners who have not been giving regularly as they had in the past, could see if they can resume giving again.

And we are asking everyone to do what they can, and to start thinking now about a special Christmas donation to your parish. If you have any questions, give me a call!

— Bob Brafford, Chairman,  
Christ the King Finance Committee



Fr. Michael Prakasam (front, third from left) was ordained in India in October. Pictured with him are his mother to his right and his father to his left along with priests of his diocese. Michael spent several years as seminarian in our parish. Christ the King served as his home parish during breaks from studies at St. Meinrad.

# Mary Beth and Tim Duffy

by Helen Burke

Tim Duffy can see Christ the King School from the home he moved into when he was two years old and into which he and his wife Mary Beth returned 20 years ago when his mother moved to a smaller place. You might say he is a “home-grown” parishioner.

The Duffy house is across the street from one his great grandfather built for his daughter, Tim’s aunt Mary Jo and uncle Don Becker, also long-time parishioners. His mother, Mary Lee Duffy is still a parish member, as well. Oh, the changes they have seen being in the parish for two thirds of its history!

Tim probably would be tickled with the term “home-grown” as he is in the horticulture business selling growing mix to greenhouses, growers, and hardware stores in a three-state area. He has conducted numerous seminars teaching people how to grow beautiful lawns and landscapes.

## A passion for landscaping

He practices what he preaches, too, with window sills filled with tiny germinating flower seeds that are headed for his own yard. He has re-landscaped that yard three times since he moved back, and has added an unusual item this year: a hand-built grotto complete with Mary statue and lighting.

The backdrop of the grotto is two wooden doors salvaged from the house his great grandfather built. He has a great devotion to Mary; he says, “How can I not? Both my wife and my mother are named Mary.”

Tim graduated from Christ the King School and remembers taking piano lessons from Sr. Margaret. She didn’t teach drums; that he learned by ear and became pro-



ficient enough to become a member of several bands after graduating from Cathedral High School and studying at Ball State.

## A romantic proposal

It was music that introduced Tim to his wife. He was playing with his band, the Wolf Pack, at the Alley Cat in the early 90’s when Mary Beth Marcotte came to several of their gigs with her girlfriends. After dating for four years, one day Tim invited her to go on a picnic at Holiday Park. Of course, it was more than a picnic. There were roses on the picnic table and when Tim went down on one knee, Mary Beth said yes.

Mary Beth was born in South Bend and moved to Indianapolis when her Dad took a position at Detroit Allison. They joined St. Christopher parish where she attended grade school. She was active in CCD and CYO while attending Fulton Junior High and Ben Davis High School, also enjoying gymnastics and swimming. Then she, too, headed to Ball State to study criminal justice and counseling psychology.

Unknown to them at the time she

and Tim resided in the same dormitory for a year. While in Muncie she took a summer job in retail optometry fitting glasses. She learned on the job, became full time after graduation, and eventually took a home study course to pass the state boards and become the licensed ophthalmic technician she is today.

Tim still is interested in music, especially the ukulele, which he finds to be a great stress reliever. He owns seven, all four sizes to cover a complete range of sound.

He still has drumming skills, though part of the décor in his front lawn might make one think he had given up on that idea. He has pansies planted in an otherwise empty drum casing. What else would one do when the drum head wore out?? There seems to be a bit of Irish humor there somewhere.

Tim can carry a tune, too, and sings with the Resurrection Choir whenever he is available. He also serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the Saturday evening Masses.

One of the things Tim is both proud and humbled about is his membership in the Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X Council. He served as Grand Knight in 2014, the first time any son had followed his father’s footsteps in filling that role. (His Dad, Frank Duffy, was also a long-time football coach at Christ the King School.) Tim loves meeting fellow Knights from all over, especially those from seven of the North Deanery parishes, and working for charities such as providing scholarships to Catholic schools.

## Free time activities

When he has “free time” he likes to read biographies and history and to watch movies with his wife. The Duffys both enjoy the music at Conner Prairie concerts. They also like to keep up with what is going

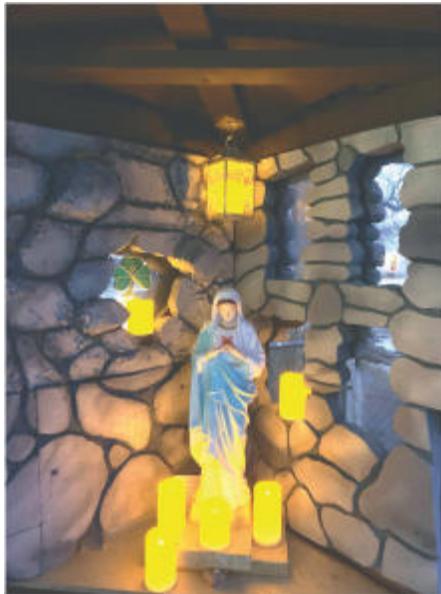
*(Continued on page 8)*

## Profile (from page 7)

on with their 16 nieces and nephews, including five godchildren.

Both Tim and Mary Beth are Indy car race fans following their favorite drivers to numerous tracks. Whenever they score pit passes, they love to meet the drivers, whom they describe as very gracious and approachable. They ask to take their pictures with them. They bring 8 x 10 photos back to see the same guys at future races, getting their autographs. Then they proudly display the finished products in their home, sharing the stories with their friends at game nights and pitch-in dinners.

Mary Beth loves cooking and baking, including providing food for Peace Meals at parish funerals. It seems that this “home-grown” parishioner has spread his roots to include an equally devoted transplant.



**Tim Duffy built this grotto in his yard with a statue of Mary and lighting. Two wooden doors from a house his great grandfather built form the backdrop. The grotto reflects Tim's great devotion to the Blessed Mother.**

## One word (from page 2)

many protocols established by the state and the archdiocese.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of our school administration and teachers, the parish school, against all odds, was able to open for the new school year, and the eerie quiet that had descended on the parish campus in March was replaced by the welcome laughter and noise of 318 students.

As the parish slowly comes alive again, the eeriness I felt during the past months has been replaced by a deep sense of gratitude. All that we enjoy is gift. We can so easily take for granted the many gifts that are part of our everyday lives, including the great gift of the Eucharist. May this be one of the important lessons of the pandemic of 2020!