

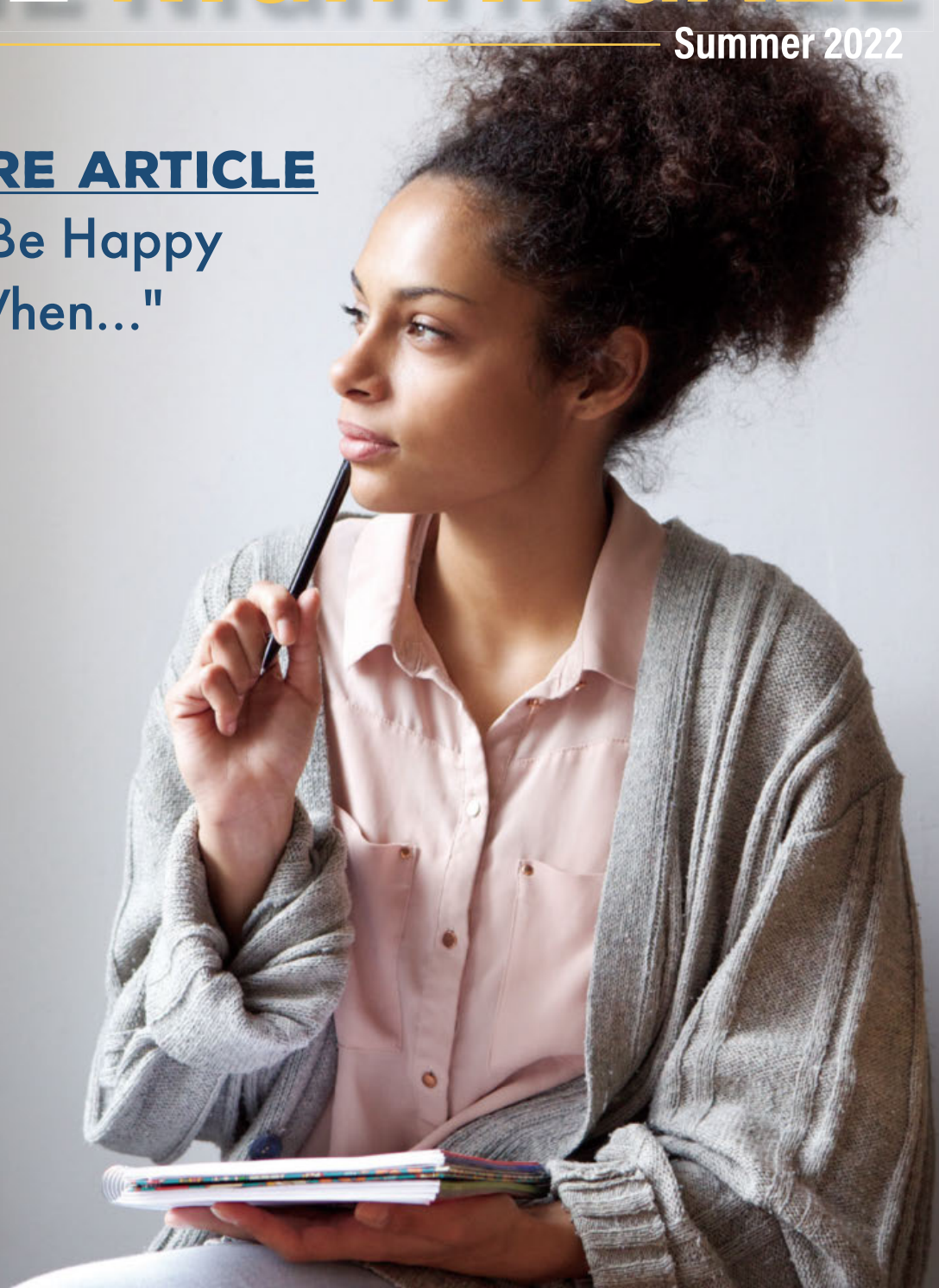


THE NIGHTINGALE

Summer 2022

FEATURE ARTICLE

"I'll Be Happy
When..."



Saint Spotlight:

"Sister Thea Bowman"

Meet this heroic witness to the mercy and love of God!

"A Note from

Sonja Corbitt"

Discover how you can face anxiety with God's grace.

Parishioner Highlight:

"Meet Barb Behm"

Barb shares how volunteering has changed her life!



SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

MASS

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Tuesday 6:15 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM
Thursday 8:00 AM
Friday 9:00 AM

MASS LIVE STREAM

Sunday 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM
Tuesday 5:30-6:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM (summer)
Friday 8:15-8:45 AM
Also available by appointment

ADORATION HOURS

Sunday 6:00 PM - Friday 9:00 AM

*Our Sacraments Schedule is subject to change.
Visit our website to learn more!*

CONTACT US

PARISH ADDRESS

St. Patrick Catholic Church
19921 Nightingale Street NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

Phone: (763) 753-2011
Email: stpats@st-patricks.org
Website: st-patricks.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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"ST. PATRICK RESOURCES"



1. Are you divorced or separated? Our **Separated and Divorced** group meets on Mondays at 6:30-8:30pm until July 25. Come find healing and fellowship!
2. Are you dealing with grief from a loss? Our **Loss Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm, year around.
3. **Mary's Cradle** supports young moms and dads who are facing an unplanned pregnancy by giving them a free baby shower. We're always looking to help!
4. If you're in need of fresh produce or wanting to volunteer, please look into our **Community Garden** this year.
5. Is Christmas a hard time for your family or someone you know? Consider being anonymously adopted or consider adopting a family in need with our **Adopt a Family** program.
6. Our **Pregnancy Loss Ministry** provides support and a proper burial for families going through a miscarriage. We are here to help you.
7. For those who are caregivers, we have a **Respite Care Ministry** where we will sit with your loved ones while you step away to take care of what you need to do.
8. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult life event, look into our **Meal Train Ministry** to have some homemade meals brought to you!
9. Are you financially and physically unable to work around the home or do repairs? Look into our **SPOT Ministry** to see how we can help.
10. Would you like to feed the poor and homeless? On the 2nd Wednesday of the odd month, a group of parishioners get together to cook, deliver, and serve a meal at **Sharing and Caring Hands**.
11. **GROW (GRoup Of Widows)** is a Catholic-based support group for women looking to grow in community with other women who are experiencing loss. We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at 9:00am in the Library.

"FUNNY FAITH MOMENTS"

My one-year-old was playing pretend with an old cell phone at Mass one day. He decided he was done with it and threw it. Poor Cathy Oman got quite a surprise when it hit her during Mass.

My toddler wanted to bring a boat to church to help entertain himself during Mass. As soon as Mass was over, he bee-lined for the holy water font and tried to sail his boat. Needless to say, there are no more boats allowed.

*Do you have a funny faith moment to share?
Email your submission to mfurness@st-patricks.org.*

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Parishioner Highlight -
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PARISHIONER HIGHLIGHT - "MEET BARB BEHM"



I recently had the privilege of sitting down with long-time parishioner, Barb Behm. Chances are you've run into Barb at one time or another because she's pretty much always at church helping with something. For those of you who don't know Barb, she and her husband Denny have been parishioners at St. Patrick since 1982. Together they have three children—Carrie, Scott, and Angela. During her time here, Barb has served the parish in more ways than I can count (and that's not just because I'm an English major). Barb has helped with CountryFest, Fish Fry, weekend fellowship, money counting, funeral bars, been part of our women's softball league, ran the kitchen since 2005, coordinated the Circles Garage sale, led countless funeral luncheons, ran the nursery, been part of St. Bridget's Circle and served as the Circles' treasurer, and the list could literally go on and on. When I started working here, I truly thought Barb was a staff member because she was always around, ready to help with something. Simply put, Barb is the best and I'm so excited to share more about her.

Taking it all the way back to the beginning, Barb was born in Inver Grove Heights, MN and she has two older brothers. Unsurprisingly, Barb's parents were also heavily involved in their home parish. Barb shared, "My mom and dad helped out with polka dances in the area. I learned a lot about volunteering from my parents because they were always helping people. A friend would need a place to stay and we had a five-bedroom house, and so they would stay with us. They taught me that you just do what you can, when you can." Barb learned a love of volunteering at an early age, and carried that into her own family life.

Written by Maria Furness

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"JESUS, SPLENDID BEAUTY"



It is often said that beauty is the universal language which every human person can understand, the way the soul communicates without the need for words. Ask most people about an example of some expression of beauty in the world and you'll find common strands: the majesty of an ember-colored summer sunset over the horizon, feeling a newborn baby gently fall asleep within your arms, an exquisite symphony harmoniously conveying and evoking passionate movements of the heart, enjoying what could be the most perfect meal in the joyful company of longtime family and friends. The list is inexhaustible!

No matter the experience, there's something about beauty which draws us out of ourselves and reminds us that we are part of something bigger and created to soar upon the heights. One of my favorite saints, Augustine, wrote in his work *The Confessions* about the way he came to encounter the living God. His whole life consisted of an unquenchable

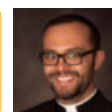
thirst for true purpose, happiness, and fulfillment, and even though that led to various habits of sin and selfishness, he eventually began to seriously consider Christianity as the definitive answer to his search. Although he was a brilliant philosopher and teacher, what ultimately led him to God was not an elegant argument for His existence, but the phenomenon of beauty! To him, God is the most Beautiful One, and like all created things, beauty is a particular expression and testimony of the divine Author's presence. Quite simply, God makes beautiful things, so He must be beautiful!

The beauty of the world indeed can lead us closer to God and deepen our relationship with Him in this way. After all, life with Jesus Christ is truly the greatest and most thrilling adventure as we are caught up into His glory. Jesus, the most complete revelation of the Father and His love for us, makes God's invisible and sublime richness present to us. Jesus, who is certainly Splendid

Beauty, encounters us in prayer and sacraments and can even communicate with us through the language of the senses.

Summertime is a perfect opportunity to slow down and enjoy the many beautiful gifts God gives to call us into a higher level of faith, adoration, and contemplative prayer. Appreciating what is true, good, and beautiful can be a foretaste of heaven! Consider what beautiful experiences truly invigorate you, and the fruit of joy that arises will stir you to share your love with the beautiful Father, opening the heart to receive His merciful gaze. For myself, music is one of my favorite ways to relax, spur my heart onwards, be touched by the mystery of life, and give thanks to God. Being moved to tears by a favorite song, watching that sun fall over the horizon, more earnestly cherishing the ones we love, or even savoring a delicious meal or deepening a particular hobby might be a new way to peer into the splendor of your Creator and Savior.

The more we pray and worship from a place open to the presence of beauty, the more we recognize how truly beautiful we are by being created in God's image and restored by His grace to participate in His eternal life.



Randy Skeate is a St. Patrick parishioner in his first year of seminary at the St. Paul Seminary.

ORA PRO NOBIS - "PRAY FOR US"

Please remember those of our parish who are ill and have asked for our prayers, especially:

Mary Anderson, Vic Bennett, Bianca & family, Bill Bisek, Pat Bourbeau, Dan Bratland, Vicky Carlson, Peggy Carroll, Winnie Conger, John & Kathy Coval, Linda Dierkhising, Marie Ann Downs, Judy Gapp, Ron "Mike" Gardas, Barbara Ingalls, Terry Iverson, Little Leo Jaeger, Ed & Bev Kirchner, Shirley Kopet, Lucas Kramer, Jim Lachinski, Jim Marinan, Joseph & Patricia Merchlewicz, George Mohs, Sam Morgan, Andie Oldham, Wanda Olson, Leona Penberthy, Gayle Perra, Emily Perrin, Sean Pritchard, JoAnn Ravnes, Marge Raze, Blake Rebelein, Ron Schleicher, Pat Smith, Marcy Sparks, Vicki Stariha, Vern Suchla, Jason Yannamie, those who are homebound, those suffering with COVID, those on our prayer chain, those written in our Book of Intentions, and all those serving in the military.

Need additional prayer? Please contact Cathy at 763-753-2011.

SAINT SPOTLIGHT - "SERVANT OF GOD, SISTER THEA BOWMAN"

The witness of the saints challenges us to lead lives radically devoted to Jesus Christ.

Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman is certainly one of these. As a Black Catholic who lived through the civil rights movement in the United States, and as a religious sister who spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, Sr. Thea was a heroic witness to the mercy and love of God, which conquers all hate.

The granddaughter of slaves, Bertha Bowman was born December 29, 1937 in Mississippi, the only child of Theon and Mary. Her father was a physician, and her mother a teacher, so from the beginning, education was very important for their daughter. As they lived in the segregated south, however, options were limited. Though the family was Methodist, the best option was Holy Child Jesus Catholic School, which was run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

The Sisters welcomed, embraced, and loved the African American children they educated. This made such an impression on Bertha that she converted and was baptized in 1947 when she was 9 years old. "I was drawn to examine and accept the Catholic faith because of the day-to-day lived witness of Catholic Christians who first loved me, ...then invited me to share with them in community prayer and mission." A few years later, when she was 15, Bertha moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to become the first Black woman at the St. Rose Convent for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She was given the name Thea.

Sr. Thea was gifted in many ways, and easily made friends with her warm and infectious personality. She often repeated a quote from her mother, "Black is beautiful" which gave her the confidence to develop her talents, including a strong singing voice, as well as a sharp intellect. She subsequently received a college degree in English, then a doctorate at Catholic University of America in Washington DC in 1968. This period coincided with the civil rights movement, which had a profound effect on her. She later taught English at Viterbo University in La Crosse before

she was transferred back home to Mississippi in 1978, so she could be close to her parents.

Here, she began work both with the Diocese of Jackson as well as Xavier University, which gave her a platform to critique lingering racial prejudice while promoting cultural awareness. This prophetic vision influenced American Catholicism to fully embrace and adapt to African American culture, through song, liturgical practice, and social action. Sr. Thea gained a national reputation and traveled around the country, challenging her listeners, as well as exhorting them to live joyfully. "I am a Franciscan" she declared. "I want to be an instrument of peace. I want to be instrument of hope. I want to be instrument of faith and joy."

In 1984, both of her parents died, and she was diagnosed with cancer. Although the pain was immense and she was confined to a wheelchair, Sr. Thea suffered courageously and continued to speak prophetically. In 1989, the U.S. bishops invited her to address their national assembly. She spoke with such zeal and charisma that the bishops were powerfully and visibly moved by her testimony, and it was reported that each of them approached her afterwards and asked for her blessing. (This famous talk can be viewed on YouTube).

Sr. Thea died March 30, 1990 at the age of 52. Tributes poured in around the country, from Cardinals, bishops, priests, and laypeople alike, grateful to have

known this exceptional woman who was fully alive in the Gospel, and who drew others to Christ through her song, her joy, and her witness to suffering with dignity.

In 2018, her cause for canonization was opened, giving her the title 'Servant of God.' Her legacy lives on in her books and songs, as well as the many schools and scholarships dedicated to her memory, and from which many students benefit.

May the following quote from Sr. Thea encourage and challenge each of us to know that God has created us for a specific purpose, and in discovering this, we learn how we can bring God's love to our neighbor, no matter the circumstance.

"Catholic Christians came into my community, they helped us with education, they helped us with health care, they helped us to find our self-respect, and to realize our capabilities when the world had told us for so long that we were nothing and would amount to nothing. I wanted to be part of that effort. That's radical Christianity, that's radical Catholicism. How do we find the needs of God's people? How do we as a community of Catholic Christians show that we believe God is active in our lives, and we want to share the good news we have found with you?"



*Tom Schulzetenberg,
Parishioner*



"100 DAYS TO HOLINESS? NO WAY!"



As you can see from Fr. Eilen's article (on page 9), St. Patrick launched something called "A New Creation—100 Days to Holiness." What an incredible series of events that helped so many encounter Christ and grow in holiness.

Oh, how I wish it was that simple. St. Paul said, "If anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation; what is old has passed away and everything becomes new" (2 Cor 5:17). But he didn't say it would happen in 100 days.

I started working at St. Patrick's in 2014, and when I started, I had been through some serious transformation in my life. In 2001, I struggled with alcoholism, a failed marriage, depression, and anxiety. Through the grace of God and lots of hard work, I experienced great healing and conversion in my heart. I felt, as St. Paul said, that I was "in Christ." So the old had passed away and I was a new creation, right?

Maybe not quite yet. Maybe the refinement was just beginning! Ugh!

Have you ever wondered how God does it all? He must be extremely busy. He's fixing you, He's fixing me, and He's tending to world hunger and war. People everywhere are asking Him to address their problems, fix their brokenness, and save their grandma. How does God do it all?

Or does He? Do I have a role in my own salvation, in my new creation? The answer is YES! I have to invest in this relationship with Christ by getting to know Him, spending time with Him, speaking to Him in a different way, and most importantly, listening to the Word of God as He speaks to me. That's been the biggest change in my life in the past 8 years. I understand how to listen to God—dialogue, not monologue. Fortunately, we don't have to work for the Church to experience this life-changing love, peace, and joy. St. Patrick provides opportunities for people to grow in holiness 365 days a year!

So be amazed and awed at the power of God, for sure. But also be willing to invest in Him. And your journey to holiness, salvation, or sainthood will be very rewarding.



Dan Jaeger,
Business
Administrator

"A NOTE FROM SONJA CORBITT"



Fear and anxiety are at an all-time high because evil is also at a new peak. It may seem like an oxymoron, but rest is a *discipline*. Peace is your promise: "My peace I leave you; my peace I give you."

If that is true, why aren't you at peace?

Everyone experiences anxiety at times in their lives. Professional help is a worthy option that can be useful. But the number one thing you need to know in battling anxiety is that it does not come from God. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control" (2 Tim 1:7). Anxiety is an attack of the enemy; therefore we must close the doors to the enemy that our unresolved experiences in life have left open. What are those doors? 1) unforgiveness, 2) worthlessness, and 3) fear.

Fight the right battle. Fight the right enemy.

The enemy always attacks you in your woundedness. Your enemy is not your wounder. Satan uses the wounder to distract you from the actual battle, which takes place with Christ in *you*.

1) Release your wounder(s) from the debt he or she owes you, and you will close that door to the enemy (Matt 18:21-35). Perhaps the wounder also needs boundaries so that you disable further opportunities to sin against you. Boundaries are of the Lord (see Ten Commandments).

2) Worthlessness is an attack on your human dignity, the image of God in you. The enemy himself is worthless; his name is Belial, meaning "worthless" (2 Cor 6:15). That you are worthless is a lie from hell. Stop listening to it! The process of nurturing an intimate relationship with God will fill you with His healing love and eventually close the door to worthlessness forever (1 Jn 4:18).

3) Long-term, pervasive fear is an attack of the enemy (2 Tim 1:7, see *Fearless*); fear is slavery and failure to appropriate one's inheritance as a child of God (Rom 8:15-17); fear is unbelief (Heb 3:12-13, 19; see *Just Rest*); fear is a deficit of love (1 John 4:18, see *Fearless*).

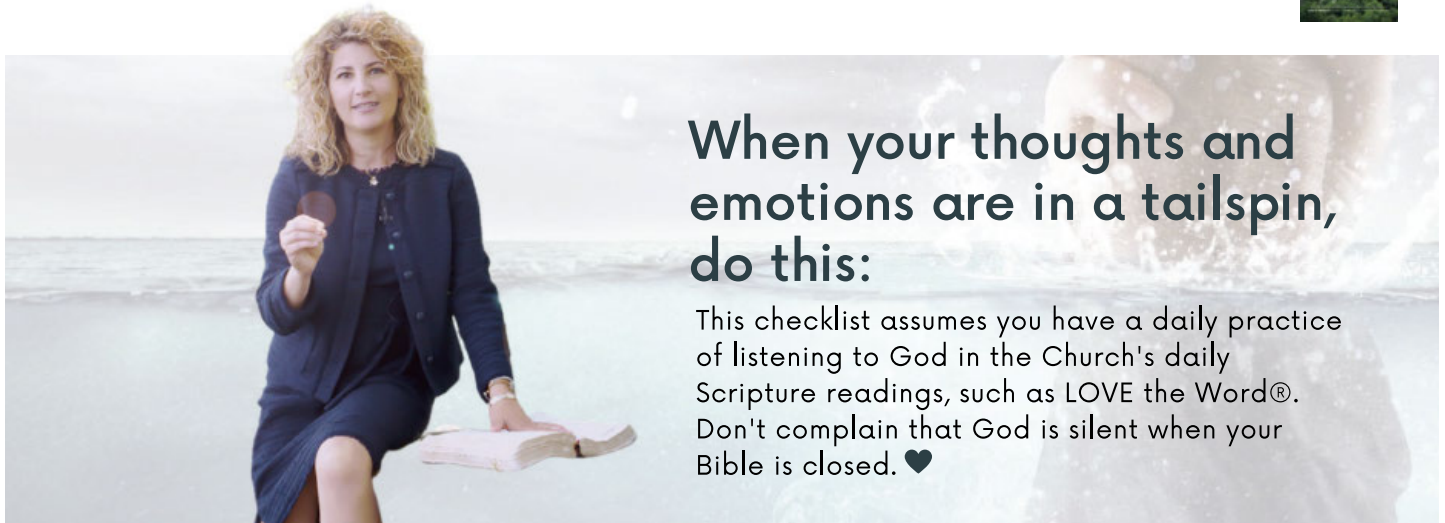
You are not an orphan (Jn 14:18), left without the protection of a Father (Ps 27:10). You only need to step out as a child of God and walk in the faith of these truths to reach the promised land of inner Sabbath rest.

Written by Sonja Corbitt
(Catholic speaker and author)

"JUST REST: THOUGHTS & EMOTIONS CHECKLIST"

www.biblestudyevangelista.com

JUST REST: THOUGHTS & EMOTIONS CHECKLIST



When your thoughts and emotions are in a tailspin, do this:

This checklist assumes you have a daily practice of listening to God in the Church's daily Scripture readings, such as LOVE the Word®. Don't complain that God is silent when your Bible is closed. ♥



STOP

S - Sin not
T - Tell God
O - Offer the right sacrifice
P - Put your trust in God
Psalm 4:4, Pages 86-87



USE YOUR THREE BRAINS

Our head brain (cognitive, cephalic brain), heart brain (emotional, cardiac brain), and gut brain (intuitive, enteric brain) work together to collect and process sensory information. Are your head, heart, and gut in agreement?



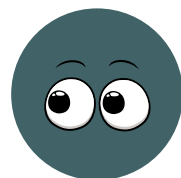
ACKNOWLEDGE

Always acknowledge the truth of what you really feel. Let everything exist. Look for the positive, look for the dew in your sorrow. Ask God to show it to you if you can't see it. Take negativity and fear to the feet of Jesus and leave it with Him (repeat). John 8:32, Page 59



GRATITUDE

Gratitude focuses on the positive. And gratitude is a magnet for miracles! How can you observe daily dew with thanksgiving if you aren't looking for it? End each day with a gentle Ignatius Examen to cultivate conscious gratitude. Philippians 4:6, Page 60



SEEK WISDOM

The Bible promises when we ask for wisdom, God's perspective, He will always give it to us. When we have God's perspective, we have His peace. James 1:5, Page 59



VISUALIZE

With the Holy Spirit and in His presence visualize your "peace place," or your transforming picture. Use all your senses to place yourself there. Breathe deeply through your diaphragm. Pages 91-94



DIVERT YOUR THOUGHTS

'Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' Philippians 4:8, Page 60



TRUST

The only way to learn that God is trustworthy is to trust Him in deprivations. Take Him at His Word, step out in faith, and act on what He says. 'My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.' Philippians 4:19, Pages 60-61

www.biblestudyevangelista.com

FEATURE ARTICLE - "I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN..."

If I'm putting my happiness on hold, what am I waiting for? Often, it's because I want guarantees! I want to know everything will work out the way I want it to before trusting and taking courageous action. When I stop and look at my thought processes, I see a recurring pattern in my reasoning. I see myself thinking I'll be happy when _____, if only _____ happens then I'll be happy, or if only _____ would have happened, I'd be happy.

The problem with this type of thinking is it robs me of the joy accessible to me in the immediate moment. By worrying or obsessing about the past or future, it keeps me from living in today.

Instead of holding out for guarantees, I can choose to live today. I can choose to be present in the moment. One practical step on this path is to become physically aware of my body. I can draw my attention to my feet. Are they in shoes or on the carpet? I notice if they are hot or cold, or possibly cramped after a long day. I stop to notice my breath. Am I holding my breath? Are my shoulders nice and relaxed, or am I holding them up to my ear lobes? This brings me back to the present moment where my hands and feet are. Catholic psychologist Dr. Conrad Baars writes in his books about the importance of mental exercises of body awareness.

When fear wants to grip me from making a decision, I replace the negative banter between my two ears by reminding myself my decision doesn't need to be perfect. All I can do is make the best decision with the knowledge and tools I have at the time, which is right now. I also remind myself that indecision is a decision. I've found by exercising my power of choice, it too has increased my happiness.

True joy starts with gratitude. What can I be grateful for today? I challenge myself, especially in the worst of times, to go through a gratitude list starting with the letter A, then B, then C, and so forth, all the way through to Z. I've never met anyone who couldn't do it. Happiness isn't something waiting to be obtained; it's a decision and a choice in each moment.

Waiting to be happy is like trying to clutch water streaming out of the faucet. It can't be done. I can, and must, fill my cup of joy each day or it will run dry.

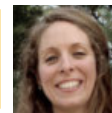
Happiness is subjective, not objective. Let me share a story to illustrate: I once met a woman on welfare who sustained massive body injuries from an 80-car pile-up. She was living in such poverty she would turn her heat down in the winter and wear snow pants in her house, just so she could save up enough money to go on vacation with her daughter and grandkids. One might think, that poor woman. But she didn't think that of herself. She often spoke about all the beautiful things the world had to offer. I never heard her complain, but I did hear about all the things she was grateful for. She radiated joy! Her joy was subjective. It was contagious!

If happiness were objective, everyone would have the same feelings after sustaining a massive injury or traumatic event, but that isn't the case. If happiness weren't subjective, then everyone who was a millionaire would be happy. The same would hold true if all people living in poverty or third-world countries were miserable. We all know that these generalizations are false. There is no objective/magic formula for happiness! It's a moment-by-moment decision.

The universal phenomenon is we all struggle with this type of thinking from time to time. The Bible and science teach that the best way to overcome "stinking thinking" is through awareness of our own self-sabotaging thoughts. Being in a community and listening to others share their experiences, courage, and hope can significantly help to overcome these erroneous thoughts. Support groups such as these have helped millions of people regain control of their thoughts, discover serenity, and become some of the most dynamic, joy-filled, godly leaders in society.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "Take every thought captive." What does that mean? And how do we really do that?

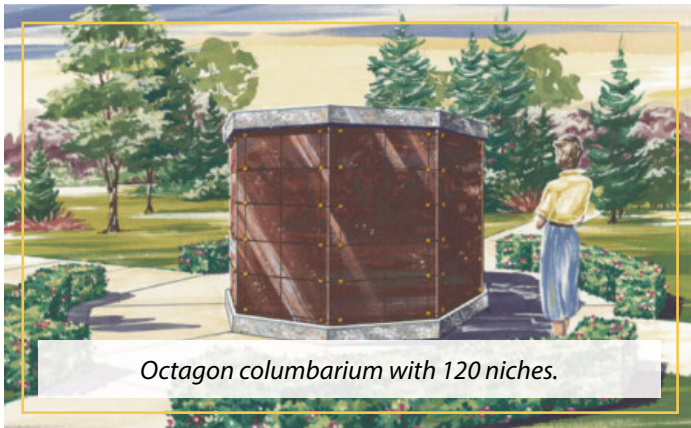
Let's explore these questions and more in the next article.



Lacy Apfelbeck,
Parishioner



"COLUMBARIUM PLAN"



Did you know St. Patrick's is planning to install a columbarium in our cemetery? A columbarium is an above-ground granite structure that has niches/spaces that hold urns with remains of those who have been cremated.

Many Catholic cemeteries have installed columbariums in recent years, and we've had several requests to do the same. It seemed like the right time for the Cemetery Committee to investigate this concept, and they've put in countless hours in this effort.

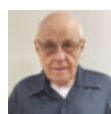
We began discussing the columbarium project in 2017 and gathering data on burial practices. The data consistently showed that the rate of cremations has been increasing in recent years, currently representing 53% of all burials.

With cremations on the rise, the idea of a columbarium begins to make more sense. A columbarium is one of the most cost-effective ways to bury our loved ones. The funeral home costs are much lower, as well as the cemetery costs.

In late 2021, we began to work with vendors on designing and pricing a columbarium, and have now determined the preferred vendor, the location within our cemetery, and the initial design. Our columbarium plan has been developed for our cemetery and the concepts were presented to Fr. Eilen, the Parish Administrator, and Finance Council. Everyone is supportive of the project and it's time to move forward with selling niches!

This columbarium plan provides an above ground burial option for St. Patrick parishioners, and makes our beautiful cemetery available for the next 75 years. Along with existing in-ground burials, the columbariums will provide a functioning and beautiful final resting place for the St. Patrick community for generations to come!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Cemetery Committee at cemetery@st-patricks.org, or call the parish office at 763-753-2011.



Marc Frie,
Parishioner

"PRESS ON UPDATE"



Many of you might recall that we launched our new "Press On" strategic plan back in February 2021. This is a five to seven year plan and it's important that we communicate our progress on a regular basis.

The three key initiatives are:

- Spiritual Growth
- Community Building
- Pastoral Care and Outreach

Spiritual Growth: We've accomplished two key ways to grow in our personal relationship with Christ. The first is a continued commitment to our Reachmore Discipleship training. We currently have over 50 trained "disciple-makers," parishioners who have gone through an intense 12-week training process.

The second way was our New Creation series that Father Eilen wrote about in this edition (page 9). Many people shared their inspiring stories with me, whether it was from the movie "Face of Mercy," or being able to find God's voice in Scripture. We are never finished with spiritual growth, but this is a great start!

Community Building: As we press on toward our goal of community building, many discussions are taking place and planning is in motion. With a vibrant task force of parishioners and staff, we recently launched our new and improved website. When it comes to community building, we need to continue doing what we're really good at: meeting people where they are and having fun while doing it. Watch for the return of our DateNight Ministry this summer and a newly updated Marriage Enrichment series this fall!

Pastoral Care and Outreach: Coordinator Jeremy Weakly has been with us 18 months and is doing a great job serving the individual needs of North Anoka County. This last year we rebuilt our Pregnancy Loss Ministry, adding new procedures and creating a trained group of compassionate volunteers to ensure the dignified burial of the babies and care for the families involved. We are looking forward to new ways of serving in the future, such as Community Meals, Compassion Ministry, and advocating for Mental Health. Visit our brand new website at st-patricks.org to learn more!

Written by Linda Abel-Thomas

"SO WHOEVER IS IN CHRIST IS A NEW CREATION"



Even as a committed disciple of Jesus, like you, I too yearn for deeper relationship, for greater meaning and purpose, to become a new and better creation in Christ.

At St. Patrick's we strove to do just that in kicking off our "100 Days to Holiness" initiative from Ash Wednesday (March 2) to Pentecost (June 4).

Far too many people today say they believe in God, yet do not have a committed, prayerful relationship with Him. Since discipleship demands ongoing conversion, the first step for every Christian is to admit the need for salvation

or transformation.

I'm Broken: Sunday March 6, Jason Simon—President of Evangelical Catholic—inspired over 300 parishioners to become a new creation by encountering a "Friendship with Jesus" through praying with scripture, God's love letter to us.

I'm Free: Leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday (April 24), every St. Patrick parishioner had an opportunity to learn more about the awesome Mercy of God by watching the truly inspiring documentary: **The Face of Mercy**. Those who did were entered into a drawing for two tickets to

the National Shrine of Divine Mercy.

In addition, Deacon Mike Engel (Church of St. Michael) gave a great testimony to the transforming power of God's merciful love in his own life. We closed our largest Divine Mercy celebration to date with Adoration and a beautifully sung Chaplet.

I'm Chosen: The Catholic Church ends the Easter season every Pentecost. And just as we celebrate Christmas and Easter, so Pentecost cannot be overlooked.

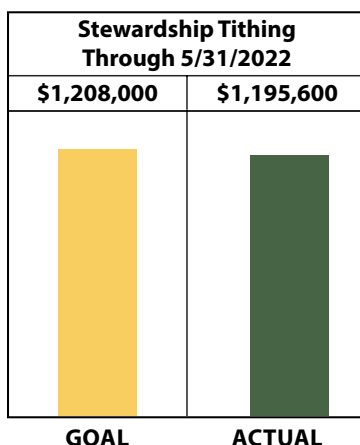
We closed our "100 Days to Holiness" at Pentecost with a grand celebration of the Church's Birthday with Mass, Prayer Teams, Meal, Fellowship—acknowledging that we have all received many graces and gifts of the Spirit to renew our St. Patrick families, and the face of the earth.

St. Paul says above that if we want to be a new creation, we need to be in Christ. It's what I desire for myself, for you, and for your families. **Come Holy Spirit!**



Fr. Eilen,
Pastor

STEWARDS AMONG US - "ARE YOU A STEWARD?"

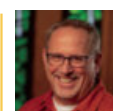


A steward is defined as "one who manages or looks after certain affairs." Stewardship, then, is the act of managing these affairs.

As Catholic Christians, we are called to be stewards of the Church, nature, our neighborhoods, schools, clubs, and even our employer. We take care of the things that belong to the Master, who has created all things on our behalf. As stewards, we are simply caretakers for a time and we'll be held accountable for how well we treat the things we are looking after.

Based on an article I recently read, good stewards possess some of the following characteristics: committed to selfless service and endless generosity, believe in serving future generations, team player, quick to give credit to others, embrace innovation and change, and most importantly, they live a life of gratitude and acknowledge God's presence in all their affairs.

How do you stack up? Where can you grow in stewardship?



Dan Jaeger,
Business
Administrator

PARISHIONER HIGHLIGHT - "MEET BARB BEHM"

Barb went on to share the story of how she and her husband Denny met. "I met Denny in high school. We were in a play together. We went to the same school, but different Catholic churches. He was very quiet, but on stage he was very theatrical and I think that's what drew me to him. At this point we didn't know each other very well, but everyone was going out after the play to get some pizza and there was room in Denny's car. I told my parents I was riding with Denny Behm and my mom looked at me funny. I said he played the sheriff in the play. My dad promptly turned around and said, 'Well, if you can't trust the sheriff, who can you trust?'" and the rest was history. Barb and Denny were married in 1975 and have been a dynamic duo ever since.

One of my favorite parts of the interview was hearing about how involved Barb and Denny were in their kids' lives growing up. Barb and Denny coached softball and baseball teams, served as Boy and Girl Scout troop leaders, and volunteered at church when their kids were in formation classes. "Whatever we were doing, we were doing as a family. It's not just their thing, it's our thing. It helped us stay closer as a family," said Barb. Growing up, Barb and Denny's children also helped with many of the chores, including planning and cooking meals. "My son was a better cook in high school because his older sister was always in sports. I could leave a note saying 'throw this in the oven' and he could do that. We all pitched in and helped with the household chores," shared Barb.

Later on in the interview, Barb shared her favorite part of volunteering. "The biggest thing is the friendships. This parish is all about friendship for Denny and me. We have made so many friendships between the Circles of Claddagh, Knights of Columbus, and being at church." We couldn't write a whole article on Barb without mentioning her enduring friendship with fellow parishioner Pat Haase. "I was here dropping off something for a funeral and she asked if I worked everyday, and I said no. Pat said, 'We have a funeral and we need your help.'" Since then, Barb and Pat have volunteered in a variety of ways together, most notably co-running the Circles of Claddagh Garage Sale for many years. Barb shared, "We say we're sisters. We act like sisters, even

though we're friends 'cause we can make each other mad and still say I love you." It's amazing to see how saying yes to one volunteer opportunity resulted in a life-long friendship.

Barb also talked about how important it is to get new volunteers involved at church. "We've got a list of people who help out with funerals that get asked again and again. I purposely like to call new people to give our regular volunteers a break. People are willing to help—they usually don't want to lead and that's just fine. We'll have more experienced people train the newer people and it makes a difference. When people lead funerals, everyone does things a little differently and that's okay, there's no wrong way. Like Pat and I always say, every funeral is the best funeral they've ever had."

Volunteering requires a lot of effort and I asked Barb about her experience with burnout. She just laughed. "I'm getting better at saying 'let me go home and pray on that and see if it fits my schedule.'" While Barb is a "go-go-go" kind of woman, she can also appreciate the value of taking a break. "Someone asked me during garage sale set up what I was going to do when

I got home. I said, 'Well I'm going to have a beer, watch the Twins game, and take a nap.'" Sounds like my idea of a perfect day.

My new favorite nickname for Barb is "Swiss Army knife" because she's extremely versatile—you can drop her into just about any situation and she'll figure out a way to help. Barb's love of volunteering and willingness to serve others carries into every area of her life—from her many years balancing work and motherhood, working in the schools, acting as a caretaker for her parents, and being a pillar in this church community. We are so thankful for Barb and the many volunteers who share the gift of their time and energy with St. Patrick's. Your contributions are so appreciated and meaningful. Thank you for all that you do!



*Maria Furness,
Communications
Coordinator*





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