

# Bells of St. Mary

## Calling all to Community



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## Cabbage Rolls: a mission of love from St Augustine Parishioners to the community

By Bill Roberts

St. Augustine Parish has hosted a booth at the Waynesville Sauerkraut Festival since the festival's inception in 1969. The first year parishioners made and sold baked goods. The following year they decided to go with something unique and better attuned to the theme of the festival, cabbage rolls. They used parishioner Amy Zimmer's grandmother's recipe, which proved to be a winner. Amy is still involved in making the rolls to this day, along with her cousin Barb Cassano from St. Mary of the Assumption and a number of other cousins.

As to the start of the festival, the story is that some community leaders were trying to figure out how to get people to spend some time in Waynesville," Cathy Moore, who co-chairs the committee with Joe Cella, told us. "When the idea of a festival came up 'Cap' Stubbs, who was the owner of the funeral home, had just eaten a sauerkraut dinner and suggested, 'How about a sauerkraut festival?'"

Thus, the idea was hatched with the first festival taking place the second full weekend of October, the weekend it would be held every year thereafter. The only exception being last year's event when it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

"The second year of the festival St Augustine parishioners made 2,000 cabbage rolls in the rectory next to the old church," Moore told us. "The funny part of this story is that the wallpaper in the rectory peeled off of the walls from the steam the roasters generated."

Cooking of the cabbage rolls now takes place in the church hall starting the week before the festival. The cooked cabbage rolls are then kept in a refrigerated truck until the festival. Small quantities are heated up and delivered to the booth throughout the two-day



Cathy Moore, Alane DiSalvo and Joe Belanich, the "holy rollers"

event to ensure they're hot and fresh. They also sell cold packages containing three or five rolls.

"In 2019, we made 11,000 rolls taking approximately 1,354 volunteer hours with 178 parishioners involved from ages 4 to 81. This included several from St. Mary with even more signing up for 2021," Moore told us. "We really appreciate all the help from our volunteers. The project would not be as successful without them."



Co-chairs for the 2021 Cabbage Roll Committee Joe Cella and Cathy Moore



Kathleen Day, left, and Jackie Agee sell cabbage rolls at the St. Augustine booth at the Sauerkraut Festival

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## ***Cabbage from page 1***

The cabbage rolls sold out during the 2019 festival. The committee presented Father Manning and the parish with a check for \$43,000. “Everyone works hard all week, but we also have fun getting to know our fellow parishioners better,” Moore explains. “It’s quite a community builder and it all goes toward fulfilling our parish mission.”

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## **Our Youth Are... By Bill Roberts**

### **Growing in Faith . . .**

Latin for “Totally Yours,” Totus Tuus is a week long summer program for children entering first grade through senior year high school with the challenge to give themselves to Christ. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the program works to strengthen their prayer lives and becoming better disciples of Christ. Run by college students and seminarians trained by the archdiocese, Totus Tuus was developed in response to the Holy Fathers call for a “new evangelization.” Seventy-five students participated in our parish program this summer led by Chris Stier, coordinator of religious education.



**Team dinner with a parish family**



**Morning class on the virtues**



**Indoor recess on a hot day**



**Several teen evening program attendees**

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### **Serving with Heart . . .**

Ten high school youth and three chaperones—Becky Iverson, Doug Barth and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Jeffrey Kremer headed off to Morganton, North Carolina on July 27 with service on their mind. As part of the Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) program, they met up with approximately 90 other teens representing parishes throughout the country. The following seven days were divided up by doing services for families, being split into groups to work at different jobs at various locations. During the evening they participated in a program run by CHWC. The summer work camp for teens has been a tradition at St Mary of the Assumption with the last work camp in Louisville in 2019. Like most other events, the program was suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.



**Painting a Deck – Justin Wright, Rachel Barth, Rachael Galbraith, Joel Wright, Haley Iverson.**



**Enjoying a free day at Go Karts at Pigeon Forge. Alyssa Iverson, Gabriella Lawrence, Haley Iverson, John Richert, Justin Wright, Erin Coates, James Wright, Joel Wright, Rachel Barth, Rachael Galbraith.**



**Teens at work building a deck.**

# Siblings Serve at St. Mary of the Assumption

By Dan Darragh

Over the years, both at the old church in Franklin and the current St. Mary of the Assumption, siblings have long been servers at the Masses.

Some say they wanted to follow in the footsteps of older siblings or relatives, while for others, the motivation has been to be of service to the priest and the church. And for others, a little push from their parents may have played a part in their decision.

Here is a look at several of the siblings who are servers at St. Mary.

“Growing up, I watched our older cousins serving at Mass and it made me want to do it too,” says Clare Kofron who became a server along with her twin brother, Anthony, about four years ago. “It was a way I could offer service to the church even at a young age, a special way to be a more active participant in the Mass.”

Anthony says, “When we were at Mass, I would see other kids our age serving and I thought it was something I could help with, too. Our parents and other family members have always tried to be involved in their parish community and encourage us to do the same.”

The twins are 15 years old and are freshmen at Springboro High School. They trained as servers together and have been serving a little more than four years now at St. Mary of the Assumption. Anthony and Clare are the children of Frank and Kathy Kofron.

The Kofron twins serve when needed, usually about once a month at the Saturday afternoon Mass. They said there is not a regular serving schedule at this time and Father Manning or one of the Mass coordinators will catch

them when they notice they don't have a server for Mass.

Angelina Lawrence, 12, became a server about a year ago, following the lead of her sister, Gabriella, 15, a server for 5 ½ years. The daughters of Janine and Andrew Lawrence, Angelina is a sixth-grader at Springboro Intermediate School and Gabriella is a sophomore at Springboro High. A visit to her PSR class from Deacon Rich Hobbs and seeing other youths serving got Gabriella interested.

“Since there are not a lot of opportunities at a young age to volunteer, this little act of service is one way to serve the Lord,” says Angelina. The girls say they want to be role models for other children and that participating in the Mass helps them better understand the “truth” and to grow in their faith.

Angelina currently serves at 8:30 Mass on Sunday morning after serving a few Masses with

her sister so she could learn from her. Gabriella serves if needed but will transition to becoming an assistant in the K-6 GIFT program.



**Kofron twins Anthony and Clare with Father Manning**



**Lawrence sisters, Angelina, left, and Gabriella, were servers for Father Emmanuel's last Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption.**



**Koch brothers, Mason, left, and Owen, with Father Manning**

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## ***Siblings from page 4***

One Mass that is especially memorable for the Lawrence girls was the one they served together for Father Emmanuel's last weekend at St. Mary's. "It was always interesting to hear his stories about Cameroon and we felt called to pray for the people in Cameroon and their safety," they said.

Mason and Owen Koch became servers in the second grade, right after making their first Communion. Mason, 10, and Owen, 8, are the sons of Melissa and Greg Koch. The boys are home-schooled and attend CHES Christian School part time. Mason is in fifth grade and Owen is in third grade. Both boys say they want to be priests when they grow up, and right now they want to help Father Jim.

Mason and Owen serve Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8 a.m. and at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. They also serve at special Masses like confirmation and occasionally at funeral Masses. Mason, especially loves serving at special Masses, like Father Mike Kapolka's first Mass, Father Emmanuel's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass and the confirmation Mass with Archbishop Schnurr.

John Wright, director of music at St. Mary who also trains the servers, said the Koch boys were especially helpful through the pandemic. Melissa Koch says Mason jumped back in as soon as the church reopened. "He even had to wear a normal black suit when he served. He was the only server for a while until Owen made his first Holy Communion and joined him."

Wright himself has had five sons who have served at St. Mary through the years.

At least one family at St. Mary's has four of their children currently servers. They are the Ezes: Chimdi, 12, Okemdi, 14, Nnedi, 10 and Kodi 9. They are the children of Dr. Chukwuma and Dr. Chioma Eze.

Okemidi attended elementary and middle school at Incarnation in Centerville and is currently a freshman at Alter High School. He became a server in the summer after fifth grade because, he says, he was old enough to help during Mass at Alter that was the start for him. He says he used to serve with other kids until his younger brother, Chimdi, was old enough and joined him. Mostly he served at the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses because they were the Masses his parents' attend.

Chimdi is a seventh-grader at Incarnation School and became a server in the fourth grade during his sister's First Holy Communion. He mostly served with his older brother once a month.

Nnedi is in the fifth grade at Incarnation and became a server this past July. She says she decided to become a server because her older brothers were.

"I haven't served much at St. Mary because of the pandemic, because there has not been a set schedule," she says, "but my younger sister, Kodi and I also serve Mass at our school parish." Kodi, 9, is in the fourth grade at Incarnation and also became a server this past July.



**Eze family servers, from left: Chimdi, Kodi, Nnedi and Okemdi**

### **Want To Be A Server?**

Youths interested in becoming a server at St. Mary of the Assumption must have received First Communion and received instruction from John Wright, music director at St. Mary.

Servers assist at Mass with the books, bells and vessels. Wright said there are currently about 30 servers, ranging in age from 8 to people in their 60s.

Recently, they have been scheduled by weekly volunteering, but before the COVID-19 pandemic they were scheduled monthly.

To become a server, contact John Wright at (937)557-1711, Ext. 104, or [johnw@stmaryassumption.church](mailto:johnw@stmaryassumption.church).

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## Meet Jennifer Lorents, facilities manager for St. Mary of the Assumption

By Kathleen Garnica

Keeping St. Mary of the Assumption Church and Parish Center clean is no easy job but one that Jennifer Lorents takes great pride in. She likes to stay behind the scenes, yet her work is quickly noticeable. Simply walking into any part of our church building, you will see evidence of her having been there; things just sparkle.

Prior to accepting the full-time facilities manager position following the departure of Dave Bush in the spring, Jennifer had her own residential cleaning service. And, one of her clients was Father Manning. “My grandmother worked at Alter High school for Father Manning in the evenings, doing the cleaning there. Since she was free in the mornings, she had some homes she cleaned as well. One of those residences was Father’s. In 2017, my grandmother was diagnosed with cancer and just could not keep both jobs, so, I started cleaning Father Manning’s home and rectory on a regular basis. He referred me to a few ladies who work here at St. Mary, and I started cleaning for them too,” says Jennifer. “I was cleaning up to 20 homes before joining the staff here.”

Jennifer is married with two children, an eleven year old son and a nine year old daughter. The Lorents family enjoys spending time together riding bikes, hiking and they always love a road trip.



**Jennifer Lorents**

“Prior to having kids, my husband and I worked for ourselves allowing us to travel quite a bit. We lived in several states but spent most of time in Sarasota, Fla. As our family grew so did our desire to be closer to family, so we returned to the area,” Jennifer said. “This is a beautiful church and the most welcoming people. I’m so happy to be here working with such great people.”