



# Life at the Spirit

A Quarterly Publication of Church of the Holy Spirit

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Fall 2016

***Our prayers and support go to all those who have been affected by the recent violence at Crossroads Center on September 17, and all those who continue to suffer loss, illness, and accident. May God bring each of you the peace that surpasses understanding, in Christ Jesus.***

## Church of the Holy Spirit

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### Parish Mission Statement:

*The members of Holy Spirit Parish, committed to God, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and our Catholic Faith, with the power of the Holy Spirit welcome and support all on our journey of faith.*

### Mark your Calendar for these events coming soon

**Fall Festival**  
**October 8 - 9, 2016**

**SEAS Work-A-Thon**  
**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

**St. Marcellus Craft /Bake Sale**  
**Nov. 19 - 20, 2016**

**Annual Advent Concert**  
**Dec. 4, 2016**

## Our Homes as Domestic Churches

by Fr. Tom Knoblach

In his recent exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis wrote:



*The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. Living in a family makes it hard for us to feign or lie; we cannot hide behind a mask. If that authenticity is inspired by love, then the Lord reigns there, with his joy and his peace. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place (n. 315).*

Through Baptism, as St. Paul says, we become temples of the Holy Spirit and members of the Body of Christ. A Christian household becomes a communion of life and love, where the members of this Body dwell together, share the Gospel, and grow together in both routines and the exceptional moments of both joy and sorrow that are part of every family.

The Church views our homes as “domestic churches” – a kind of sacred place where the inner meaning of the Eucharist comes to life. The parallels with the Mass are inspiring – at both the parish and in the home, we gather as a community; we learn about forgiveness and mercy; we pray and share conversation with God and with one another; we find our roots in the history of that family and build on those foundations for the future; we share the nourishment of food and love that sustain us; we are sent forth from the gathering to go to our jobs, schools, and other tasks, and we return there to be refreshed and renewed.

Christian living is more than just what happens at Mass or in parish events; it is what we do in every moment and every place Jesus leads us. Our relationship with the Lord carries into every aspect of our lives, and makes our homes privileged places for God to dwell in our midst.

In this newsletter, you will find a few stories of how some of your neighbors in our parish family extend their faith lives in family routines, rituals, and events. These stories are not chosen because they are exceptions, to single out a few people; rather, they are examples of what so many of you do in your own ways, with unique family customs, traditions, and practices to bring your faith home each day in life together. We tried to suggest just a bit of this rich tapestry of ages and different circumstances of life.

Thank you for hearing the voice of Jesus, and living your faith as families. You remain in my prayers each morning ... may Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bring joy and peace to each of you.

## Teen Corner

*We asked our young parishioners how their families live the faith in their homes.*

Megan Januschka



*"A tradition we have in our home is always praying before we eat. Especially, when we have many guests in the house, we hold hands and pray before dinner. I like this tradition because I feel like it brings everyone together."*

Michael Lanz



*"Our family shares our faith my being helpful, generous, and welcoming. Both of my parents' families have a tradition of always being very active in the church community and we try to continue that tradition in our family."*

## Your Home as the Domestic Church

*Three parishioners are featured to illustrate the domestic church, as did a recently canonized couple Louis and Zelig Martin in their daily lives in the 1800's*

*Family - Katie and Gerardo Ortega*

*Widow - Diane Hajicek*

*Young Adult - Sarah Hopfner*

*Saintly Couple - Louis and Zelig Martin (Parents of St. Therese of Lisieux)*

## The Stuff of Life and Love - Gerardo and Katie Ortega

*by Roxann Storms*

Life is busy in the Gerardo and Katie Ortega family as they celebrate birthdays (Charlie recently turned six and Melanie 10, with Maria soon to be 13) and prepare for a new school year. But family and faith remain at the center in all they do. Like most families, Sundays revolve around attending Mass, joined by their grandparents, and then spending the day enjoying good food and just being together. Charlie shared that, just in case they forget, he reminds the family to pray before meals, even if they are in a restaurant.



Prayer is an important part of daily life, with Maria particularly drawn to reading a Bible story and praying before bed, a practice she said she started after her First Communion. She said she loved hearing Bible stories when she was little and has had numerous age appropriate Bibles. She holds a special place in her heart for St. Maria Goretti, patron saint of teenagers who forgave her attacker as she

was dying. Katie said the family relies on prayer "for big things like making medical decisions and in smaller things, such as asking God to help us to not argue." She said they have seen prayers answered in their lives; "I tell the kids if they are struggling, turn to prayer and it will calm you." During our conversation, the kids were surprised to hear their mom say she prays for them every day. A big focus for the Ortega family is the living prayer of being kind and respectful to each other and others, as well as being helpful at home. Melanie said one of her favorite sayings, which she learned from her grandparents, is a quote by Mother Theresa to "greet everyone with a smile, that's the first sign of love."

Love is lived in the Ortega family: in shared smiles and giggles; colorful children's artwork prominently displayed; and family stories passed on, such as how Gerardo's grandfather died protecting a priest during the Cristero War in the mid-1920s in central Mexico. Gerardo said he was a teenager when he learned about his grandfather's sacrifice and that is what strengthened his faith. Charlie, nestled in his dad's lap with strong arms to protect him, learned of the story of his great-grandfather's faith for the first time. Father to son, mothers, daughters, grandparents: the domestic church is where love and faith reside – as Fr. Tom so beautifully referenced, "a privileged place for God to dwell."



## Teen Corner

### Max Drown



*"One way we practice our faith at home is to read the Bible and Jesus Calling book."*

### Jack Drown



*"One way we practice our faith at home is to pray together. We pray before meals, before bed, and for sick people."*

## *A long way home: The Story of Diane Hajicek* by Marc Dvoracek

The biography of every Christian is a story of a response to grace. That is certainly true of Diane Hajicek. She was born and raised in a Catholic family in Sauk Centre and attended Catholic school. Diane recalls, "This gave me a feeling of belonging to the Catholic Church, but I lacked a deep understanding of the faith."



Diane moved to Minneapolis and was married at the age of 18. Her husband was agnostic. Even though he agreed to allow their four children to be raised as Catholic, he did not support her in that endeavor. "I was able to have our children baptized and to see them receive their First Communion," Diane said. But after this, they decided to allow their children to decide for themselves if they would be confirmed in the faith. Today, none of them are practicing Catholics.

In the 1970's, Diane's husband had a conversion experience that motivated him to be baptized by a Methodist minister. Soon after this, he discovered The Book of Mormon and began studying the Mormon faith. "Disappointed, confused, and angry is how I felt during this time of my life," Diane said. As his faith deepened, he began to teach their children about the Mormon faith. Eventually, he moved the family to Burlington, WI, to be closer to a Mormon community. He was baptized and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Diane continued, "I made some visits to his Mormon church but could not attend because of its belief system and some of the personalities of the church leaders. I had minimal contact with the Catholic Church and felt estranged from my own religious home. Despite all this, I was glad that my husband was developing a relationship with Jesus Christ."

After 47 years of marriage, her husband died suddenly. Within the year, Diane moved back to Minnesota to be near family. She spent time taking care of her mother who was aging and needing help in her last years, but she would soon experience her own health problems. She was found to have Stage III ovarian cancer and underwent extensive debulking surgery which removed all traces of cancer, but left her with other serious complications. During this trial, her two daughters saved her life by their quick responses to severe complications of medication and surgery.

A different kind of intervention helped heal her soul. During her hospitalization, a stranger entered her room and asked to lay her hands on Diane and pray for God's intervention and healing. "I consider this woman to be a true angel and that the Holy Spirit cured me of ovarian cancer and allowed the medical professionals to clear my body of all infection," Diane said. She is now a seven year survivor of ovarian cancer, praises God and thanks her unknown angel for her prayers. This event reawakened in her the desire to get to know Jesus Christ again.

Diane says she knows that people are not angels, but she believes that peo-



**October 8 - 9, 2016**

**Spaghetti Dinner - Oct. 8**

**Breakfast Buffet - Oct. 9**

**Games - Cake Spin**

**Bingo**

**Raffle Drawing 11:30 AM Sunday**



**Sponsored by St. Marcellus Mission Group**

**November 19 - 20, 2016**

**Craft Items**

**Quick Breads - Cookies - Caramel Rolls**

**Lunch Served on Saturday**

**Coffee and Rolls on Sunday**

**17th Annual Advent Concert**

**with songs, carols and readings**

**Sunday, December 4, 2016**

**11AM**

**Presented by:**

**Holy Spirit Adult Choir and**

**Spirit Rings on Handbell Choir**

**Director: Jody Martinson**

**Accompanist: Susan Janey**

**Bible Study - The Prophets**

**The course is 10 sessions - 5 scheduled for Oct/Nov and the last five scheduled for Jan/Feb.**

**Study kit is \$24 and can be ordered from the Parish Office.**

**Classes are Tuesday from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM beginning Oct. 18 through Nov. 15**

**Invite a friend to join with you.**

ple are moved to do wonderful things by the power of the Holy Spirit who uses both angels and people to accomplish great things in this world. She knows without a doubt, that she lives today as a result of those prayerful hands of her known and unknown angels.

Soon after all this, Diane started looking for a parish near her home and a nice neighbor, Vi, from Holy Spirit parish invited her to attend a Christmas concert here. She has been here ever since thanking God, friends, and strangers

## ***Pursuing Her Purpose in Life - Sarah Hopfner***

*By Deacon Vern Schmitz*

You have probably seen her proclaiming the Word of the Lord at a weekend Mass at Holy Spirit. She is a relatively quiet person. But don't let 28 year-old Sarah Hopfner's quiet exterior fool you. She typifies what the unknown author was getting at with "Intelligence is like a river; the deeper it is, the less noise it makes."

Unfortunately for us, for the next five years, she will be sharing her faith - and intelligence - with the Holy Rosary parish in Bozeman, Montana as she pursues a PhD in organic chemistry. But it is all for the greater good.

After a high school education at Cathedral, an Associate degree in dental hygiene from St. Cloud Technical and Community College, a Bachelor's in biochemistry from St. Cloud State University, her work experiences as a certified pharmacy technician and licensed dental hygienist, and her own life experiences, she is continuing to pursue her purpose or mission in life. With her education, teaching experiences, and research at Montana State University, she hopes to expand her knowledge of chemistry with the goal of improving the quality of life of others.

She says, "My interest is particularly focused on those afflicted with cancer and autoimmune diseases. Both in my personal life and background in health-care, I have perceived ample pain and suffering. Witnessing my mother's battle with breast cancer significantly influenced my motivation to delve deeper into cancer research. I'm at the beginning of my five year educational journey at MSU . . . focusing on the synthesis of small molecules that are biologically active and to design drug targets. I suppose you could call it my mission in life. It is what I feel driven to do right now."

Pope Francis tells us that "one's life ought to be spent imitating Jesus' example of humble service and self-giving, rather than focusing on one's own needs and interests." He continued, "though letting go of yourself and living for others can make you seem weak in the eyes of the world . . .but this is the purpose of our lives, and that in the logic of God, it's what makes us truly victorious."

Where was Sarah's purpose in life nurtured? Probably from the domestic church of the Hopfner's. She says, "I think that I grew up in a pretty standard Catholic family household. We always went to church every weekend, said



prayers before meals, and had Advent candles. Walking into the house, there is no mistake that it is a Catholic household with symbols everywhere. The doorway entrance is chalked, palms set out, a crucifix visible in the living room, a Last Supper painting in the dining room showcasing the work of Sr. Alice Doll. No matter how busy we three girls were, the weekend plans always included going to church as a family. “With our work schedules as teenagers and young adults, that (also) meant going to St. John Cantius, St. Anthony’s or St. Mary’s Cathedral. Ask a working young adult who is a practicing Catholic, we know the Mass schedules fairly well.”

Sarah has a very busy schedule with classes, labs, research, and the teaching of three general chemistry labs each week (three hours each and 60 total students). But she realizes that “there are few aspects in life that are more important than health.” That includes her own health, as she is maintaining her exercise routines. She says, “Running and lifting (weights) are a big part of my life. It is my daily ritual ‘me-time’ for my brain to slow down and to reflect on my day. It also helps with stress and to get rid of frustrations. It makes me feel alive to run all-out and exhaust myself. I enjoy working out.” With the beauty of the surrounding mountains, she is now running five miles a day. And she invites us to God’s Country with this challenge, “If you ever want to feel small and really blown away by creation, come to Bozeman.”

## ***The Domestic Church, or Keeping up with the Martins***

***by John Koch***

In October 2015 the Catholic Church took the unprecedented step of canonizing a married couple, Louis and Zélie Martin, as part of a package deal. In doing so, it reinforced the Church’s emphasis on marriage and the family as the “domestic church.” Vatican II recognized the dignity of marriage by declaring families to be genuinely “Church,” with the “parents being the first preachers of the faith for their children by word and example” (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium*, #11). The family is the most intimate experience of Church, the place where love, forgiveness and trust is first encountered.

In reading the literature on this subject, the Catholic home as a “domestic church” should imitate the larger Church in at least two ways. First, amidst the usual tasks of earning a living and responding to society’s demands, married couples should embody the love of God and devotion to spouse and family as the main goal of life, not simply a by-product. Second, the home should contain some outward evidence of that devotion—crucifixes in the bedrooms, perhaps a statue of Mary on its own table. It may be asking too much that this Marian “altar” be as prominent as the flat-screen TV, but it is a proven fact that images have a powerful impact in shaping youthful attitudes and receptiveness to religion.

Louis and Zélie Martin’s home was a “domestic church” (although that term was not in vogue when they married in 1858). Except for each being exceptionally devout, they were otherwise fairly ordinary people. Both had sought admittance into a religious order and been rejected, Louis as a priest with the [Great St. Bernard](#) monastery in the Swiss Alps, and Zélie with an order of apostolic nuns in her home town in Normandy, France. They each then learned a trade, Louis as a watchmaker and Zélie as a lacemaker. Louis completed his training in Paris and set up a watchmaker’s shop in the small town where his army-veteran father had retired. For the next 8 years, he steadfastly resisted the wiles of the young ladies, still despondent about his failed monastic vocation. Then fate intervened; he met 26-year-old Zélie. They married three months later.



On their wedding day, the couple decided to live a Josephite marriage as brother and sister. But little by little they discovered that their marriage was to be lived out fully, and that their true vocation was to have children, and to “raise them for heaven.” Nine children followed over the next 15 years—seven girls and two boys. Five of the girls survived to adulthood.

Life in Louis and Zélie’s domestic church was, in many respects, not unlike many American homes: big house, both parents actively working their trade, and children partially raised by a nurse and a maid. The family was comfortable, even affluent. Zélie’s lace business was particularly successful.



She had eight employees, and during the busy season she regularly worked late into the evening. The enterprise prospered to the point that Louis eventually sold his watch shop to assist with the business aspects of the lace operation.

Despite business and community demands, Louis and Zélie's priorities remained God and family. They attended a pre-dawn Mass daily, and had a vigorous prayer life. Their home had a somewhat unconventional three-foot statue of Mary, and the family regularly knelt around it in prayer. Years later, the second youngest daughter recalled that the most compelling memory of her childhood was her tall, elegant father kneeling with the family in worshipful prayer. Reference to God was never far from the lips of father or mother. A repeated household theme was that it was the will of God that was all important. Another was that suffering and misfortune were natural parts of life, but that these became ennobling and strengthening when offered to God.

The Martin family was no stranger to adversity. Within a space of three years in the late 1860s, they buried five people: Zélie's father and four of their children, including both infant sons. During this time, Zélie developed a node on her breast, which made her health precarious and would eventually kill her ten years later. They experienced serious discipline problems with a middle daughter, Léonie, who often acted impulsively, didn't keep promises, lied, and routinely became violently angry. To top it off, Prussia invaded France in 1871, occupying their home town, and quartering nine Prussian soldiers in the Martin home for almost a year.

Through all of this, the parents weathered each crisis, reiterating that everything would work out by the will of God. They circled the wagons around Léonie, focusing on her good qualities without turning her into the odd duck of the group. Then they experienced a stroke of extreme good fortune: their youngest daughter, Thérèse, later known as the "Little Flower," was born in 1873. That is a story way beyond present space limitations. Despite being blessed with uncommon virtue, she had the happy benefit of being a seed planted in extraordinarily fertile soil.

Three years later, Zélie's breast cancer metastasized. She was pressured to travel to Lourdes in hope of a miracle. On the trip, she was accompanied by Léonie and two other daughters. There was no miracle for Zélie, but her compensation was that after bathing Léonie's forehead with the healing water, Léonie experienced a complete reversal, and eventually adopted the "simple way" of her sister Thérèse. She became a holy religious and, after Thérèse, is now the most beloved and prayed-to Martin daughter.

After Zélie's death, Louis lived quietly for another 17 years. He saw all five of his daughters enter convent life, where all distinguished themselves enormously. Undoubtedly, it can reliably be said that his and Zélie's domestic church was successful beyond their wildest imagining in ushering the entire family to heaven.

## ***Intercessory Prayer Team***

*by Scott Frierler*

On Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, an Appreciation Mass and Potluck was held at Holy Spirit for the Cluster Intercessory Prayer Team. The night was an opportunity for Intercessory Prayer Team members to celebrate Mass with Fr. Timothy and share in fellowship with other members of this prayer team. The evening was a wonderful first step to recognize the amazing work of this prayer team over the past two years. When discussions started regarding the creation of an Intercessory Prayer Team in 2014, it was the dream of the organizing team to have all youth in the Cluster in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade prayed for daily by name. This dream was realized after only one year. As the 2016 -17 Intercessory Prayer Team starts its new year, over 200 individuals from the Cluster have made the selfless commitment to pray for young people in our Cluster. This witness and commitment to prayer is truly a gift that will benefit our young people as well as the Church. On personal note, this team is by far the best thing the Youth Ministry program has done to support young people. I sincerely thank everyone who has accepted the call to be an Intercessory Prayer Team member.

**For current Intercessory Prayer Team Members:** Please let me know if you have any questions regarding your prayer partners or if you are not receiving the prayer team calendars through the mail or email.

**Interested in joining the Intercessory Prayer Team?** While at this point all of the young people are being prayed for, the prayer team is always looking for new members. This ministry only takes a couple minutes each day and you will receive monthly support through a prayer calendar

Contact Scott at the Spirit and Saints Youth Ministry office by emailing him at [youth@spiritandsaints.org](mailto:youth@spiritandsaints.org) or calling at 252-0535 ext 102.

## ***Meet our New Staff Members***

### ***Roxann Storms - Pastoral Associate***

*by Arlene Williams*



If you haven't met Roxann Storms yet - you will want to do so! When you meet her, the first thing you may notice is how happy she seems! She likes meeting with people, enjoys listening, and she makes you want to talk (even if you're not a gab gifted individual!). She's

a comfortable person

doing work that she seems called to do - caring for, and about, others.

Roxann Storms is our new Pastoral Associate at Holy Spirit Church. Roxann shares, "After 12 years of adventures in Yellowstone National Park, Utah, Georgia, Texas, Alaska and Kentucky, where I was a long-term volunteer with the Christian Appalachian Project, I settled back in St. Cloud as a social worker". Roxann may look familiar to you as our church has been one Roxann has frequented since she was a little girl in St. Augusta, and as an adult when she returned to the area after her travels. "It's a familiar and comfortable place for me. It feels good to be here," Roxann said.

Roxann is filling big shoes. Sr. Diane Hunker was our Pastoral Associate for 14 ½ years and had dedicated herself to the mission of serving members of our parish who for many reasons, temporary or long term, were unable to engage in parish life. "I really want to give accolades to Sr. Diane. My job is to carry on the wonderful work and programs that she developed and grew."

The largest "responsibility" in the job description for Pastoral Assistant is Visitation Ministry, which truly means "See the people where they are." They may be in the hospital, a nursing home, or their own home. They may be ill, unable to travel, homebound. They may be lonesome, they may be sad and grieving, or they may be dying.

Roxann is there as a bridge to let them know that they are still an important part of the Holy Spirit Community and to honor the stories of their lives, often filled with faith, family, and fortitude.

As a social worker and a therapist, Roxann is well qualified for the visitation responsibilities of this job. But from what I've heard from others and witnessed in my few short visits with Roxann, it is her good listening and communication skills that make her truly a blessing to our parish and especially those with limited opportunity to engage in the parish. So when you see and meet Roxann, please welcome her and share a story or two. And if you have a few minutes, ask her about being a "fish slimer" in Alaska or how she broke a car in half in Kentucky...

### ***Kelly Vangsness - SEAS Principal***

*by Marjorie LaTour*

Kelly Vangsness has been through a lot of interviews recently – first for the position as Principal at SEAS, then for the St. Cloud Visitor, and now for *Life at the Spirit*. However, Kelly was eager to share her ideas about the school and her own personal faith journey.

Kelly was most recently a fifth grade teacher at Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (ACGC) School where she was also the team leader for their collaborative data team. She received her K-12 Principal License from St. Mary's University in 2012 and attended Marzano Leadership Academy where she received training in teacher evaluation framework.

Kelly was raised Catholic and became more involved in Catholic education when her daughter began school at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids. Kelly has served on the St. Katharine Drexel school board and commented, "I learned



so much from Principal Erin Hatelsted about leading a Catholic school and where we are progressing in our system. I have begun attending the Catholic Community School Principal's group and hope to continue learning from other successful schools in the St. Cloud area."

Kelly has selected "Blessed are the Peacemakers" as the school's theme for the year. "We can help our school family to grow in faith and understanding of peace in the world, in our community, and within ourselves," Kelly said. "In the few days since the start of the new school year, I have heard our teachers many times talk with the children about what it means to be a follower of Jesus," Kelly continued. "It doesn't need to be big things, just the small things of being helpful and courteous to others." Kelly said that the school is the perfect place to continue the work of the domestic church in our students' homes by helping children in their knowledge of God's ways. "It is such a privilege to outwardly live our faith every day, and also be able to share it with the staff and children in our school. The parents are so supportive of our mission."

Kelly plans to visit all the cluster parishes to share more about the school with the faith community. "We will be holding our annual Fall Work-A-Thon on Saturday, October 29 and invite any parishioners who wish to help with financial contributions or helping to rake lawns for those who are unable to do it themselves. The Work-A-Thon is a wonderful way to teach children about being of service to others."

Kelly and her husband Jerry have four children: Mason (20), Alex (17), Larkin (14), and Bennett (11). They live in Sauk Rapids, MN.

### ***New Parishioners and Sacraments Received***

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Bogenholm, Ryan and Charae

Brown, Curtis and Aubrey

Dahl, James and Dayna

Doke, Matt and Joy

Doble, Jack and Mary

Halverson, Kelly and Laura

Knoblauch, Andy and Teresa

Poganski, Randy and Christine

Thompson, Martin and Deborah

#### **DEATHS:**

Micahel Brum

William Lahr

Harvey Doble

#### **BAPTISMS:**

Alistair Gerard Lashinski

Calvin Loren Hinnekamp

Olivia Sue Hammer

Grady Lee Pickering

Adrian James Greenen

Henry Lawrence Pfeninger

#### **Parents:**

Joshua and Brie

Adam and Michelle

Aaron and Melissa

Cody and Rana

Peter and Brenda

Samuel and Jordan