



To be a vibrant  
community of faith  
where all people feel they belong

March 2020

# Our Lady's Messenger

*Home, where children first receive the faith*



Casey and Shannon Schmidt with Caleb, Anjuli, Ava, Isaac, and Oliver

The term "domestic church" describes the identity and mission of a Christian family.

When a husband and wife accept the responsibility of parenthood, they become partners with God in creation. *"Parents must regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law."*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2222)

How do you live your faith as a family? That is the question I asked Casey and Shannon Schmidt as I visited with them and their children, Caleb (8), Anjuli (6), Ava (4), Oliver (2) and Isaac (9 months). Both parents had this to say. We go to church together, we teach them how to pray, we pray together, we send our children to Bishop Ryan Catholic School and we model our beliefs to give them examples to follow.

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## Our Lady of Grace

### Lenten Daily Mass:

Monday	7:15 AM
Communion Service	9:00 AM
Tuesday	7:00 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM
Thursday	7:15 and 9:00 AM
Friday	7:15 and 9:00 AM

### Holy Week Schedule:

#### **Palm Sunday, April 5**

Vigil Mass - April 4, 4:00 PM

Mass - 8:30 & 10:30 AM

(Wear a jacket for procession of the palms, held outside before Mass if weather is appropriate)

Living Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM

#### **Monday, April 6**

Mass - 7:15 AM

Communion Service at 9:00 AM

#### **Tuesday, April 7**

Mass - 7:00 PM

#### **Wednesday, April 8**

Mass at 9:00 AM

#### **Holy Thursday, April 9**

Mass - 7:00 PM

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament after Mass until Midnight

#### **Good Friday - April 10**

Passion of the Lord Service and Veneration of the Cross - 3:00 PM

#### **Holy Saturday, April 11**

No 4:00 PM Mass

Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 PM

#### **Easter Sunday, April 12**

Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 AM



*Father Bruce Krebs, Pastor*

## OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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[OurLadyofGraceMinot](#)  
and  
[MinotCatholicYouthGroup](#)

### Instagram:

[OurLadyofGraceMinot](#)

### Our Mission:

Our Lady of Grace Parish is a community of faith that encourages stewardship through word, sacrament and service.

# Finding Peace: LENT 2020

The theme our parish worship committee chose for Lent this year is "Finding Peace." Peace is something we all want and is also something the Lord wants for us. Jesus often addressed his disciples in the Gospels with "Peace be with you." We might recall hearing of those words of his in the Mass just before we are invited to offer one another a sign of peace.



Peace comes with being right with God and with others. But it also requires that we come to accept ourselves as the persons we are with all our faults and sins as well as our gifts and virtues. God loves us just as we are, not as we would like to be. We must love ourselves if we are to love and accept other people and are even instructed to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Finally, being at peace requires that we have made peace with the world as it is. We all know it is not perfect and we have much to pray for but ultimately until we come to accept the world with all its flaws we won't find peace.

Take time this Lent to pray for peace of heart and examine your relationship with God, self, others and the world itself and work to accept everyone and everything, imperfect as it is.

*By Fr. Bruce*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Casey takes the children to school each day and on their trip there they have a special prayer time where they take turns bringing their intentions for the day to God. When they arrive at the school they say a Hail Mary together. This is a routine Shannon began when they first started school and Casey said he finds this a personal help to him, too.

To enrich the spiritual life of their children, the family is learning about the lives of the saints. Each of the children have a favorite saint and as they learn more about the saints they are so amazed by what they have learned that they will sometimes add more saints to their favorite list. They have pictures of their favorite saint in their bedrooms.

Shannon said that throughout the day she will talk to God out loud, a way to model to the children how we can express joy, thanks or ask for help for ourselves or others anytime. They talk about God in their daily lives and are reminded that they are always loved by Him. Having a crucifix, statue or religious pictures around the home also gives reminders that Jesus, our friend, is always with us.

Casey and Shannon think about the challenges for them and their children as they get older. They will do their best to teach and model good Catholic Christian values and trust they will turn to God and make good choices.



When asked about what message they would have for other young families, Casey and Shannon said, "teach your children about God, teach them how to pray and pray with them".

*By Edith Schall*



## RCIA participants share thoughts on their journey

Some of the people who participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program these past several months will be receiving sacraments and becoming members of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 11. Here are some thoughts from three of them.

**Aaron Shewmake** said participating in the RCIA program at Our Lady of Grace “helped clarify things I’ve always questioned.”

He likes to research things to make sure he’s doing the right thing, and his research led him to become Catholic.



*Aaron Shewmake*

“I like to have as much information as possible,” he said. “The more you know the better decision you can make.” That’s why he recommends RCIA to everyone. “It’s not a commitment,” he said. You don’t

have to become Catholic after participating in the classes. “If you’re having doubts about God and where to go in your life, it’s a good thing to go through. It helped me find a path,” he said.

“There’s all these denominations” of Christian churches, he said, and he wondered how to choose which was the right church for him. The teaching on the authority of the church led to his decision that Catholicism was the path for him.

His faith background was in the Assembly of God church and faith has always been a part of his life. When he met Makenzie (who is now his wife), he wanted to learn more about her Catholic faith. “I wanted to do it for her, because I wanted our kids to grow up in a household where the faith is the same,” he said. “It’s for me and for her and for our future family.”

Makenzie attended RCIA classes with Aaron which, he said, has made their relationship even stronger. “It was a good refresher for her, too, and it’s nice to have that support system” to help him when he has questions.

He worried a little about his mother and grandmother when he told them he wanted to become Catholic, and was so thankful for their response. “Everyone’s got their own path,” he

summarized what they told him. “As long as you’re going toward God, I don’t care how you do it.”

At the Easter Vigil Mass, Aaron will receive a conditional baptism (done when it is uncertain if the person’s original baptism was valid according to the Catholic Church) and will be confirmed and receive his first communion.

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**Stephanie Hodge** first experienced the Catholic Church up close when she started teaching at Bishop Ryan Catholic School in Minot. “I had never been around the Catholic faith at all,” said Stephanie who was raised Baptist. Like many young adults, she fell away from the practice of her faith for a while. “Bishop Ryan was my way of



*Stephanie Hodge*

going to church and finding my way back to God.”

She goes with the Bishop Ryan students to Mass frequently. “Sitting in the chapel, I felt like that was where I was supposed to be. It was comfortable.

Over the last few years of being [at Bishop Ryan], I realized this is the church I’m supposed to be in.”

Her fiancé, Andy Casarez, is already Catholic and they are taking marriage preparation classes so they’re both busy learning more about the faith.

Over the years, some of her students have asked why she doesn’t receive communion during Mass. “This year I’ve been trying to explain to them that I’m becoming Catholic” and will soon be able to receive communion like them. Some of her former kindergarten students are now second graders who are preparing for their first communion. They’ve said to her, “Oh, you’re doing it, too! How cool!”

During the Know Your Faith competition at Bishop Ryan, “I actually knew some of the answers this year,” she said with a smile in her voice. She’s currently taking graduate school courses where she’s learning even more about the history of the Catholic Church.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### March

- 1 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon  
Knights of Columbus Benefit Breakfast to support Vocations and New Parishioner Welcome
- 1 - 2:00 PM CGS "Seed Planting Workshop"
- 4 - 9:45 AM Lent Coffee & Doughnut Social
- 4 - 7:00 PM Living Stations
- 6 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 6 - 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lenten Meal
- 6 - 6:30 PM Video Program
- 6 - 5:00 - 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Fish Fry at the Columbian Club
- 7 - 8:30 AM CGS Presentations
- 8 - 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Begins, set your clock ahead one hour
- 11 - 9:45 AM Lent Coffee & Doughnut Social
- 11 - No Faith Formation
- 13 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 13 - 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lenten Meal
- 13 - 6:30 PM Video Program
- 15 - No Faith Formation
- 15 - 3:00 PM Spanish Mass & Fellowship
- 18 - 9:45 AM Lent Coffee & Doughnut Social
- 19 - 9:00 - 1:00 PM Parish Staff Retreat
- 19 - 9:00 - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
- 20 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 20 - 6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich Lenten Meal
- 20 - 6:30 PM Video Program
- 25 - 9:45 AM Lent Coffee & Doughnut Social
- 27 - 5:00 PM Boy Scout Fish Fry at OLG
- 27 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 29 - 2:00 PM CGS Teacher/Aide Meeting

### April

- 1 - 9:45 AM Lent Coffee & Doughnut Social
- 3 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
- 5 - 10:30 PM Final Preschool Class of Year
- 5 - 7:00 PM Living Stations
- 8 - No Faith Formation—Holy Week
- 9 - 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass
- 9 - 8:15 - 12 Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10 - Parish Office Closed

## The life-sustaining gift of a heart

After Monte Reiner's first heart attack, it was discovered that the bottom portion of his heart wasn't working anymore. He would need a heart transplant, he was told, and his name was added to a list. He and his wife, Diana, a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Minot, were sent home to wait.

"The next thing I knew, he went into cardiac arrest," Diana said. "We got to the hospital and he coded many times." She said they must have shocked him 30 times before he stabilized.

He was then connected to an ECMO, a machine that does the work of the heart and lungs. According to an American Thoracic Society online article, an ECMO may be used "to support people with heart or lung disease that cannot be cured while they wait for an organ transplant." It also noted that "typically, people are supported by an ECMO machine for only a few hours to days, but may require it for a few weeks, depending on how their condition progresses."

Monte was then flown to the University of Minnesota Medical Center and Diana and their children flew in a different airplane. While there, things were tense as he continued to be on the ECMO. Diana tried to pray. "Prayer was not coming to me and I just needed a rosary."

"I didn't realize it was storming outside," she said. But a priest traveled through the storm that night and brought her a rosary. When Diana told him she couldn't think of words to pray, he told her, "Hold [the rosary] in your hand. The angels and saints will pray it for you."

"I remember holding it so tight, so tight," Diana said.

Diana wasn't able to talk with Monte for more than a month because they had put him into a coma to help his body function and heal. Ten days after his cardiac arrest, they decreased the drugs he was on to see if he could respond. "They had me tell him to wiggle his toes and he did, and that was a big rejoice for us!" Diana said.

He was taken off the ECMO and put on a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) which helps with cardiac circulation. He continued to be in a coma. When he finally woke up "they had to teach him how to sit, how to stand, how to walk," Diana said. His hands were numb, too, so fine motor movement was difficult.

During his wait for a heart transplant, he also developed diabetes and had to go through dialysis. In addition to the numerous medical appointments in Fargo, there were "many, many appointments in Minnesota. Many blood draws."

He lived connected to the LVAD, which operated on batteries or was plugged into the wall, for five years. "Monte says the LVAD just became a part of him. He managed it very well."



*Monte and Diana Reiner with granddaughter, Aubrey Ann*

His hearing and vision were also both affected, so he now has hearing aids and no longer drives. That's difficult for him because he loves to talk with people. He enjoyed his cardiac rehab appointments a lot because of the companionship he experienced there. When friends and family reach out to him, it means the world to Monte.

"And God gave us another little miracle – our grandson," Diana said. Monte cares for their grandson once in a while. "It gives him purpose," she said.

At age 66, Monte was approved to receive a heart through organ donation. "He wanted a heart so bad. I just kept praying," Diana said. "That takes the death of somebody. You know, you feel kind of guilty."

"On March 28, 2018, in the morning, we got a phone call and they wondered how quick we could be to the Minot airport. They said 'we have a heart' and asked Monte if he wanted to accept the heart." He did. She was able to fly with Monte this time. "The kids left immediately in a vehicle."



Once there, Diana got to sit with Monte while he waited to enter surgery. They were both amazingly calm, she said. She took a video of him sharing the message, "I'm off to surgery to get a new heart."

Relatives who lived in the Minneapolis area came to sit with Diana until her sons could get there. "I didn't think I could be by myself if things didn't go well," Diana said.

The surgery took two hours longer than expected with a lot of bleeding due to scar tissue. "I was notified when the heart was in and it was pumping." When she got to see him, "he was hooked up

## What does the Church say about organ donation?

*"Organ transplants are in conformity with the moral law if the physical and psychological dangers and risks to the donor are proportionate to the good sought for the recipient. Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity. It is not morally acceptable if the donor or his proxy has not given explicit consent. Moreover, it is not morally admissible to bring about the disabling mutilation or death of a human being, even in order to delay the death of other persons."* – Catechism of the Catholic Church #2296

to so many pumps and so many machines. But his surgery was so good," she said.

This time it was about a week before Monte woke up. "I really realized that time is a great healer," Diana said. "You have to allow them time."

After about a month, Monte was moved to a different floor of the hospital and the Reiners had to prove they would be able to handle life without the medical services the professionals provided. She was taught how to do bandages, medication, shots and more. She's not naturally a nurse, so it was challenging, but they

(Continued from page 4)

**10 - 3:00 PM** Good Friday Service with Veneration of the Cross

**11 - 8:30 PM** Easter Vigil Mass with reception and confirmation of RCIA Catechumens

**12 - 8:30 and 10:30 AM** Easter Masses

**12 - No Faith Formation Classes**

**13 - Parish Office Closed**

**18 - 9:00 - NOON** First Eucharist Rehearsals

**18 - 4:00 PM** First Eucharist Mass

**19 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon** Knights of Columbus Benefit Breakfast to support Council Activities

**19 - 8:30 AM** First Eucharist Mass

**19 - 10:30 AM** First Eucharist Mass

**19 - No Faith Formation**

**19 - 3:00 PM** Spanish Mass followed by fellowship

**25 - 7:15 AM - Men Rise Up**

**29 - 4:00 PM** Final K-5 Faith Formation Class with Awards

**29 - 5:30 PM** Final K-5 Faith Formation Classes with Awards

**29 - 7:00 PM** Final 6-8 Faith Formation Classes with Awards

## May

**3 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon** Knights of Columbus Benefit Breakfast

**3 - 9:25 am** May Crowning

**3 - 9:20 am** Final K-5 Faith Formation Classes with Awards

**8 - 2:00 pm** Bingo Social

**9 - 7:15 AM** Men's Book Study

**13 - 9:40 am** Wednesday Coffee and Donut Social

**17 - 10:30 am** Graduates Mass & Reception

**25 - Parish Office Closed**

## June

**1 to 4 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM** Vacation Bible School

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## Living Stations of the Cross



Hands-on learning is often what sticks with students the most. That's one reason why we made our traditional Living Stations of the Cross performances a seventh grade Faith Formation project this year.

Living Stations is a moving enactment of the passion and death of Jesus, performed with students acting out a still scene for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross, while the story is told through songs and narration.

The students will perform the Living Stations on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace. There is no charge to attend. A free will offering of money or canned goods will be taken to benefit our parish's Food Pantry.

Only two of the students, Isabelle Aberle and Ramiro Rodriguez, had been involved with Living Stations in the past. Campbell Miller readily volunteered to play the role of Jesus. As an adult was explaining what to do, he confidently told her, "I've got this down." As two girls were leaving the church after their final rehearsal February 19, they said it was fun and thanked an adult for this opportunity.

Making changes occasionally and giving students new responsibilities helps them understand how important they are to our church community. Please come to the Palm Sunday performance to support these students who are learning as they perform.

## Sharing Our Faith With You

### Would you like to learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)?



Are you interested in learning more about CGS (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), which is the hands-on Montessori program offered at Our Lady of Grace to children in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade and a limited number of preschoolers? In order to keep offering this program to our children at Our Lady of Grace, we need more people willing to help out as aides or catechists. In the atrium, the Holy Spirit is the main teacher. Catechists help the children grow closer to God with the help of the Holy Spirit. Wouldn't you love helping children fall in love with God? If you feel like God is calling you to help with CGS or are interested in learning more about CGS, please call or text Christine Aberle at 701-818-2605.

## June and July with Jesus

In the summer, people sometimes drift from the regular practice of their faith because of vacations and other commitments. But there's a Catholic Church nearby almost everywhere you go, so be sure to meet Jesus at Mass every week of your summer. Plus, there are some wonderful opportunities for youth to grow in their faith this summer. Here are a few.



**Vacation Bible School:** To be held June 1-4 at Our Lady of Grace, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is for children age 5 through those finishing second grade. Registration forms will be available soon. It's also a wonderful way for parents to volunteer during the short evening

sessions.

**Sonshine Youth Camp:** To be held July 12-14, this camp for those finishing grades 3 through 8 is held at Lake Metigoshe. Offering outdoor fun, daily Mass, campfire singing and much more, Sonshine Camp is a real memory-maker for our youth.



**Cor Christi Institute:** Attendance at this amazing University of Mary institute is a requirement for our Confirmation program. Students may attend the summer after 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They get to stay in the dorm and live out their Catholic faith in fun and exciting ways for five days. Registration forms are available on the bulletin boards and at [umary.edu/corchristi](http://umary.edu/corchristi).

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eventually were able to come home on June 27. They now return to Minneapolis for appointments about once every four months.

Monte was working full-time when he had his first heart attack. He was never able to return to work. Diana was working, too, but had to leave her work at Head Start to care for Monte. "I have to say my mind was in another world. All I could think of was Monte and his survival." When she was able to return to work part-time, her job responsibilities had changed. Then they asked her to teach. "I knew that a teaching job was too much stress," she said, so she looked for other jobs, which is another stressful process. She has held part-time jobs since then, which allows her the freedom to travel with Monte to appointments and do other things for him.

Through all of this, Diana and Monte have deepened their appreciation of the generosity of others. Because Monte can't drive and is careful of his weakened immune system, "it is so helpful when people visit," Diana said. Often people don't realize what a wonderful impact their presence can have on others.

Because of the wonderful support they have received, Diana feels driven to help others. She appreciates the programs of Our Lady of Grace where volunteers bring food to families that have newborn babies and reach out to people in other ways.

After all they've been through, Diana said, "I just keep thinking...how should I support people?"

*If you would like to reach out to people in need through a parish group, or if you could benefit from home visits, food delivery or other assistance due to health issues, please contact our parish office at 701-839-6834 or [church@olgminot.org](mailto:church@olgminot.org). Watch for more stories about organ donation in upcoming issues of this newsletter.*

*By Tanya Watterud*

(Continued from page 3)

She said RCIA has been "great! You learn a lot. It's a nice open space to be able to discuss things with each other."

Stephanie, who will be baptized, confirmed and receive her first communion, chose St. Elizabeth Ann Seton as her patron saint. "She actually became Catholic when she was older, too." Plus St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was an educator and serves as a great example to Stephanie.

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**Vicki Thiel's** daughter-in-law is Catholic and her granddaughters were both baptized Catholic at Our Lady of Grace. That encouraged her to look at the Catholic Church through RCIA. "The more I got into it, the more interested I became," she said. "It has made me closer to God."



*Vicki Thiel*

Her son, Eric Clark, is in RCIA, too. "We're both on a learning curve right now," she said. She moved to Minot in 2016 and was familiar with Christian faiths and the Bible. Regarding Catholic teachings, she had the most difficulty with Mary as the Holy Mother and Queen of the Church, and with the saints. "It's quite a leap" from the teachings she had as a child, she said.

She said she would definitely recommend RCIA to others. "Go for it," she said. "Even if you choose not to join, I think the information is wonderful. It gives you an eye into what another group of people believe."

"To give it a fair chance, you need to go and find out" about the Catholic Church, she said. "Give yourself an opportunity to learn something new."

She will receive a conditional baptism (described earlier), be confirmed and receive her first communion on April 11. "I'm anxious for it, but at the same time I'm apprehensive. It's a big, big decision," she said.

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*As a church family, let us all pray for everyone who strives to learn more about the Catholic faith and welcome them warmly into our faith community. Your attendance at the Easter Vigil Mass would be a wonderful way to show your support for these new Catholics.*

*By Tanya Watterud*

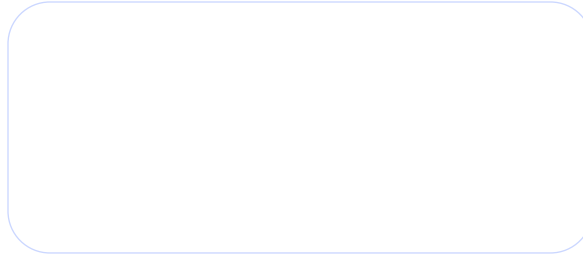




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## Low Hanging Fruit

“On the seventh day he rested from all the work he had done in creation.” Yes, I was well aware of the work God had done in creating the world from the six days he spent making this beautiful world. But since this big job was completed didn’t God basically retire? Couldn’t God just kick back in his “Lazy Boy” throne and watch the planets whirl? That is not what Scripture says. Actually, He is still working. So, what is he doing? He is busy about the work of saving souls. Of all the things he could be busy about, that is what most concerns him; working to get us all to heaven.

Yes, the Father is busy leading people to Jesus, prompting them to come to His Son. Jesus says, “No one can come to me unless the Father draws him; I will raise him up on the last day. ... Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him, comes to me.” Jn 6:44-45. Jesus further tells us, “... the Son cannot do anything by himself—he can do only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.” Jn 5:19

What work was Jesus busy about here on earth?

He was here to do the Father’s will. And what is that? “Indeed, this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.” Jn 6:40 Jesus’ mission was the same as that of the Father; the salvation of souls. “Doing the will of Him who sent me and bringing his work to completion is my food.” Jn 4:33. Jesus told his disciples, “Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest.” Jn 4:35 Was He speaking of a wheat or grapes crop?

A woman from Africa came to me who volunteers at a local nursing facility. She told me she was surprised to find there are Americans who do not know Jesus. She finds many are very receptive of the Good News when she shares her knowledge of Jesus with them.

My brother who is a chaplain at the hospital is often contacting me about patients who he believes are in a receptive state to hear the Good News. I have come to believe this is a time like Jesus was describing, the fields are shining for harvest. Yes, there is much low hanging fruit about us. Could God be calling you to do some of the harvesting?

*By Fr. Bruce*