

# Together on the Journey

## The Garden

The green space, located on the corner of Spring and Mill streets, that once was the home of Franke's Bar, now contains our parish prayer garden. Installed in 2013, it provides parishioners, staff and passers-by the opportunity to let go of all their worries and let God takeover. Filled with beautiful

flowering plants, shrubs, trees and religious statuary, one can easily forget the hustle and bustle of daily life and enjoy the sights and sounds of a beautiful garden, while turning their thoughts to our Creator. Birds and butterflies (and bunnies), now inhabit the space that only a few years ago was

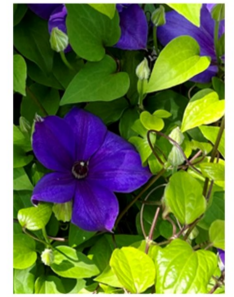
nothing but gravel covering the razed remnants of the bar. A small staff of volunteers donate their time and talent to maintain the garden. Weeding, pruning, and mulching is a never-ending task. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact the parish office.



The start of the garden ...



... After years of growth



*Ponder the fact that God has made you a gardener to root out vice and plant virtue ... St. Catherine of Siena*



## Art as Prayer

The Art as Prayer series is an enjoyable time for parishioners to gather and relax in a creative way. The events are planned and hosted by the **Stewardship Committee**, and include time for prayer and reflection, creative workshops, and delicious food and beverages. The sessions have been focused on the four pillars of stewardship: *Prayer, Hospitality, Formation, and Service*.



In the *Pillar of Prayer* (finding God in artwork), **Kris Schumacher**, owner of *Art on the Town Wisconsin*, led an 'Advent Tree' canvas painting class. Participants reflected on how art can be scripture based, meditative and contemplative, and lead to feeling God's presence as we become one with our Creator.

For the *Pillar of Hospitality* event, **Gail Nampel** shared her talent and guided the group in creating charcuterie boards with gourmet meats and cheeses, sculpted into various shapes including rosettes, fans, braids, and more. The reflection focused on being thankful for God's abundant blessings, sharing our gifts, and serving others as God calls us to serve with love. (Continued on Page 3)



## The Ministry of Hospitality—Welcoming all who enter our doors

One way we demonstrate our desire to be a welcoming community at our parish is through the *Ministry of Hospitality* – or as many people refer to it, ushers. The purpose of this ministry is to be a welcoming face to all who join us for Mass. Our parish is blessed to have a thriving and enthusiastic group of Ministers of Hospitality!

**Dan Nelson**, one of our seasoned ministers, shares the responsibilities of an usher and the changes he has seen and experienced over the years...

Dan started ushering at St. Michael's, then St. Patrick's, and now St. Katharine Drexel. He said the image of an usher in the past was often that of an older gentleman who helped latecomers find a seat in church when the pews were getting full. Ushers also were given the task of collecting the offertory – going from pew to pew collecting parishioners' offering using long-handled basket. Those were the main duties of the ushers in the past. However, now ushers assist at our Mass in many others ways. As people enter our sanctuary doors, an usher offers a welcoming smile, a friendly nod, perhaps a handshake. It does not matter if the person is a longtime member of St. Katharine's, or here for the first time, there is always a cheerful welcome extended.

### Ministers of Hospitality ...

- \* *must be aware of worshippers who have special needs and may require more assistance to find a comfortable place to sit and fully participate at Mass.*

- \* *keep a keen eye out for anyone who may become ill or have a slip or fall while in church. The ushers are instructed to be one of the first to reach the person to assist as needed. Many of our ushers are CPR-trained, including in the use of our defibrillators.*
- \* *oftentimes help set up chairs and hand out liturgy programs during special Masses, such as Christmas and Easter.*
- \* *hand out the parish bulletin at the end of Mass and share well wishes as people leave.*
- \* *secure the offertory collection, and take an attendance count at each Mass.*

The face of today's usher has changed from a generation ago. We encourage others to be a part of this ministry, men and women, young and old, singles and families. The time- commitment for an usher, besides being present during Mass, is 30 minutes prior and 30 minutes after Mass. The schedule rotates every-other-month and ushers select the weekend Mass that works best for them. The commitment is small, but the number of people the usher welcomes and the service an usher provides to the parish, has a far greater return of satisfaction and good feelings.

Through this ministry we provide a wholehearted welcome, so people feel like they truly belong and that we want them to come back when they hear an usher say "See you next week!"

*You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:34*

## Director of Music & Liturgy—Paul Kennedy



Playing Widor's Toccata faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a room full of sopranos, able to leap tall stacks of hymnals in a single bound – look, up there to the right of the altar, it's a musician, it's a choir director, it's Director of Music and Liturgy **Paul Kennedy**!

Talented and humble, in October Paul became SKD's Director of Music and Liturgy. Although not new to the parish,

he was involved with the choir for over eight years. In his role, he directs the choir, selects the music, plays for the Masses, helps plan liturgies and occasionally cantors. He also recruits, trains and schedules the altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and cantors.

In the past nine months, Paul has provided a nice variety to the musical accompaniment during Mass. His love of music is apparent! He considers himself fortunate to work with such talented and dedicated cantors, choir members and musicians, saying; "It is really cool I get to do music for a living." He is thankful for the committed lectors, ushers,

Eucharistic ministers, and altar servers; and is grateful for the warm welcome he's received from the parishioners. Paul finds it challenging to ask people for favors – and has appreciated how responsive the music and liturgy volunteers have been to his requests.

Paul would love to get more instrumentalists involved in the music ministry – especially horn players for Christmas and Easter Masses. Paul's calm demeanor and sense of humor helps quell the nerves of cantors and instrumentalists. The music ministry is a great opportunity for musicians to share their gifts with the congregation.

Paul is hoping to grow the Adult Choir when it resumes in September. Parishioners can also share their talents by singing with the funeral choir. Neither choir has strict attendance requirements. And although it's been a while since we've had a bell choir – it would be an awesome addition for special Masses. Paul is hoping someone would be interested in getting it started again!

If you are interested in participating in the liturgy (cantor, choir, instrumentalist, lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, altar server or to start a bell choir) – please contact Paul at: [kennedyp@stkds.com](mailto:kennedyp@stkds.com); 920-887-2082 x310 or talk with him after Mass!



## Ministry Spotlight—Society of St. Vincent de Paul—SKD Conference

We all need help sometimes and the mission of the local St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) of Dodge County is:

*“A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships and service to people in need.”*

In 2006, with the encouragement of Fr. John Schreiter, a group of parishioners set out to organize the St. Katharine Drexel Conference of SVdP. The first president was **Al Lucas**. Today's president is **Lynn Zick** who has also been a member from the start; vice-president is **Virginia Hanks**, secretary **Emily McCarthy**, and treasurer **Connie Schoepke**. **Barb** and **Dave Kalschuer** are the intake people and when they receive calls for help, they ask members to make a home visit to those in need. The SKD Conference is currently made up of **18 active Vincentian members** who follow the Rule of International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP). **Deacon Randy Wells** is the spiritual advisor for the group.

The SKD Conference is always looking for new members. The need for help is great and SVdP is here to help no matter a person's religion, race, or nationality. When there is a call for help, members go out two by two – to provide guidance and assistance with rent, energy bills, housewares and furniture, auto repairs and other needs. Most recently – after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic – in-person home visits started back up again.

Thank you, SVdP – St. Katharine Drexel Conference, for serving those in need in our community!

*Go to the poor; you will find God ...*

*St. Vincent de Paul*

### Here are a few comments from the Vincentians regarding the impact of the work they do:

*“I feel humbled and blessed to be able to help our brothers and sisters in Christ, through our Society, in the time of their trouble and hardship.”*

*“The most rewarding part of our ministry is seeing the impact on our neighbors in need. Even giving simple information to call another agency or the next step to receive assistance can be huge.”*

*“I'm often humbled by the reaction to our generosity and basic caring and praying for the person/family. When a neighbor in need has been working so hard just to live and provide in a basic way, it's transparent that they are burdened. Then when we are able to assist and erase for the moment a burden in their lives, you can literally see the weight come off their shoulders. Their voice calms; some break down in tears because the struggle is over for the moment. That moment of victory to just live and provide means more than any celebration you have seen on TV.”*

*“Our treasury is solely funded by donations from the generosity of the Conference volunteers, parish members, and the general public.”*

*“I think the most rewarding thing for me has been the continued personal spiritual growth I have felt. The main purpose of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the spiritual growth of its members. Prayerful meetings; interaction with faith-filled members; and serving those in need all help to grow our faith in God.”*

If you would like to get involved with SVdP, please contact the Parish Office and someone will get in touch with you. And if you know of someone who needs help please contact the St. Katharine Drexel Conference at 920.791.7158 or the Tri Parish Conference at 920.285.8267.



## Art as Prayer (continued from Page 1)



The third event focused on the *Pillar of Formation*. Master Gardener **Jean Ramer** shared her gardening talents pertaining to herbs. She showed the participants how to plant, and care for herbs, grown both indoors and outdoors. She also shared how to dry and freeze them. There was a reflection on how we are called to be stewards of all that God has given us in nature, cherishing, tending and sustaining it for future generations. Participants also had an opportunity to taste various herbs in food including homemade bread and herb infused dipping oil, Cuban Mojo marinated pork, and a blueberry, feta, and watermelon salad with chopped basil and mint.

Members of the Stewardship Committee and hosts of the Art as Prayer events include **Gail Nampel**, **Sara Beecher**, **Colleen Nelson**, **Margaret Babicz**, and **Janice Tischler**. Future events will be posted in the bulletin several weeks before the event.



## Website Changes

If you haven't visited our school or parish websites recently, you may want to check them out!

Both sites have taken on a more modern look, with user focused content, updated pictures and easier navigation. Updates will continue, because with any website, it's never really done and requires a lot of care and feeding!

### Website addresses:

[www.stkatharinedrexeld.org](http://www.stkatharinedrexeld.org)  
[www.skds.org](http://www.skds.org)

*We have a generous offer from a local videographer who wants to help with virtual tours of our parish and school. We're in the process of working with this talented professional and are grateful he's offered his services!*

**God is Good!**

## A year's journey ...

Dear friends,

Often, I recall a talk at a seminary retreat led by Bishop Ricken from the Diocese of Green Bay. Previously, as Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, he was working with a group of people trying to open a Catholic college. Along the way, there was one road block after another. While driving, he prayed to God about this. God's response, as I remember the bishop's words, was "to get out of the way." Frequently, I think about this in my own work and spiritual life and how the Lord does the work, but we need to stand aside and allow Him to do it as is fitting.



I arrived in Beaver Dam just a little over one year ago. Immediately, I acquired a sense of why God called me here to preach and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. With a heart full of faith and mind full of ideas I went to work to bring some of those ideas to life –mostly having to do with adoring Christ present in the Eucharist.

Amid the daily and long-term tasks of administration many of my ideas were placed on the back burner not yet having been realized. Perhaps I occasionally feel frustrated by this, but I remember that God will bring about these things in time. Looking back on my hope to spread love for the Eucharist, I think of how we now have Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church every Friday. God didn't need me to give a bunch of talks or start a program. He simply wanted to be exposed for all to come and worship before Him. He didn't need me to convince others to come. His irresistible love and very presence does that.

As we walk this journey of faith, we do so knowing that we are implements in the hand of God and must allow Him to do the work as He wishes. For that is the best way.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

*Fr. Will*

### A Special Prayer for You

May your days on Earth be many,  
may your life be free from strife,  
And may God walk beside you  
every day of your life.

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***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5***

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## St. George Window—Spotlight

St. George was born in the 3rd century AD – more than 2,000 miles away in Cappadocia (modern day Turkey). He is thought to have died in Lydda (modern day Israel) in the Roman province of Palestine in AD 303. It is believed that his tomb was in Lod and is a center of Christian pilgrimage.

St. George is shown traditionally as a knight in shining armor, but it is more likely that he was an officer in the Roman army. A famous legend of St. George is that there was a dragon that was terrorizing flocks and the people who lived around a lake near Silena, Libya. As St. George was passing through, he heard the stories about the dragon defeating full armies and killing many people. When George saw the dragon, he engaged it in battle. He approached the dragon and killed it with one blow of his lance. In the Middle Ages, the dragon was commonly used to represent the devil. After defeating the dragon in the true and constant battle of good versus evil, he began his great preaching and converted many people to Christianity. Like many saints, St. George was described as a martyr after he died for his Christian faith.

