

Together on the Journey



160 Years of Catholic Education

Article submitted by: Sara Beecher

Connected to our newly renovated church building is another busy building, our very special parish school. And this year, 2022 marks 160 years of Catholic education in Beaver Dam!



This year we also welcomed a new school principal, Mrs. Tina Ellefson. Mrs. Ellefson graduated from Marian University in 2001 with a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. In 2010 she graduated from Viterbo University with a Masters in Educational Leadership and Curriculum. Prior to her taking on the role as our principal, she taught second grade, combined third and fourth grade, middle

school, 4-year-old Kindergarten, 5-year-old Kindergarten and was a principal at another school. We are grateful to Mrs. Ellefson for taking on this important leadership role and for her guidance as our school continues to grow.

With around 200 students enrolled, St. Katharine Drexel Parish School (SKDPS) is thriving. The school strives to teach the whole child: Students and teachers pray together daily and attend Mass weekly, Reconciliation during Advent and Lent for grades 2-8, Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, Community service projects, Virtue in Practice: a school-wide initiative to practice a different virtue each month to grow in holiness, Rigorous Core Curriculum: Religion, Reading, English Language Arts, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies and Health. Specialty Classes: Art, Music, Band, Chorus, Physical Education, and Spanish for grades 1- 8. We also provide technology resources for our students including Smart Boards, Chromebooks and tablets. Multi-age group activities to facilitate learning, school spirit, and a family-like atmosphere.

To give you an idea of what students are saying about their experience at SKDPS, here are a few quotes from our 8th grade graduates—about their favorite memory:

"One of my favorite memories from SKDS is going to liturgy practices. They involved lessons on speech, etiquette and helped us unite as a school. People came to school Masses just to hear us sing, and I think that's really special."

"My favorite memory was probably our 8th Grade retreat with the SPIRITUS Team."

"My favorite memory is my first forensics meet. It was so much fun!"

"One of my favorite memories was going to Holy Hill. I got closer to God, but I also had a fun time with my friends."

"My favorite memory is Jazz Band. Jazz Band was great. If I get to go to Jazz Band again in high school, I am going to join it."

Thank you to all parishioners and alumni for your continued support of St. Katharine Drexel Parish School from participating in our various fundraisers, purchasing and volunteering in our SCRIP program, attending concerts, sporting events, spaghetti suppers, pancake breakfasts and especially our school Mass, and for your generous contributions to the school endowment fund. Finally, thank you for your constant prayers. Together we are a strong, faith centered family in Christ.



2022—2023 Teachers and Staff

Love Begins Here—Mission 2022

Between **July 10th and 15th**, St. Katharine Drexel Parish hosted **43** high school students from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (including SKD and the Tri Parishes), who participated in the *Love Begins Here* mission. The purpose of the Love Begins Here (LBH) mission is to help high school teens encounter Jesus Christ through a week of local service lived in a joyful, Catholic community. Inspired by the life and witness of St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta, LBH invites teens to serve those in need in their own homes and communities, thus continuing Christ's work on earth.

During the week at St. Katharine Drexel, the students lived, served and prayed in our community. They served **58** members of the community in Beaver Dam and the surrounding Tri-Parish area.

Along with the teens, there were **23** Adults who provided supervision and support of the students as they performed services like: Cleaning, Organizing, Painting, Yardwork, Landscaping, Washing Cars and Cemetery Cleanup. In total, the teens worked for **1,452 hours** in our community! They started each day with Mass and from there went out to serve. After a long day of work, the students returned to St. Katharine Drexel School to eat, relax and partake in a variety of activities, which included music, prayer, confession, games in the gym—or a venture into the community to support the local business—like an ice cream shop! At night, the students slept in classrooms throughout the school.

Pictures below is just a glimpse of all that these young people did that week. They had a great time!



The Ministry of Serving Mass

Article submitted by: Colleen Nelson

We have a growing ministry at St. Katharine Drexel Parish comprised of some of our younger parish members—the Mass Servers we see assisting Father Will and Father Onildo at our weekend masses.

To learn more about being a Mass Server, I talked with McKenna Nelson, who recently became a part of this ministry. She first became aware of the need for Mass servers through an email message her family received from her Religion class. It was McKenna's dad, especially, who thought this would be something good for her and encouraged her to give it a try. So she did.

Since she missed the first training session, it was Father Will who did most of her training, and she soon realized there were many aspects of being a Mass Server that she would need to learn. For example—

- Lighting the candles before Mass
- Carrying the cross into and then out of church
- Receiving the gifts at the Offertory
- Ringing the bells at the Consecration
- Where to place the containers of hosts and wine
- When to move them from the altar to the side table
- Cleaning and replacing the containers after communion
- After Mass, gathering the items that need cleaning and finally ...
- Extinguishing the lit candles

At first, McKenna felt nervous about being around the altar, in view of so many people. But she remembered Father Will telling her to always keep in mind that during Mass, people keep their focus on the priest, not the Mass Server. That helped her feel much more relaxed.

Now after several experiences of serving Mass, McKenna feels she's much more a part of the Sunday Mass and so much more aware of what the different actions you see happening around the altar and what the different parts of the Mass actually mean.

She thinks it would be helpful if Mass Servers would talk to other boys and girls their age to let them know how much they enjoy being a Mass Server and how their Catholic faith can become even more special to them when they're more involved in it.

Young people like McKenna getting involved with our parish at a young age can only be a good thing for the future of St. Katharine Drexel, and all of our young Mass Servers are a wonderful example of this. May God bless our Mass Servers Ministry.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." II Corinthians 9:12



St. Katharine Drexel Parish is offering a support group, **Calming Grace** which is open to those longing for support, to share thoughts and feelings with others experiencing difficult times in life. Some of these

situations could be grief after loss of a loved one, emotional struggle after divorce, caregiving challenges, or a personal situation that cannot be named but still you desire to sit with others and find comfort in just listening, praying, and resting in the presence of God. **Calming Grace** will gather on the second Tuesday of each month, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, in the St. Michael's room at the parish center.

Janice Tischler, spiritual director and parish staff member, along with Christine Kelly, school and parish counselor will lead the group.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15



But Jesus said, "Leave the children alone, and do not forbid them to come to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Children's Corner

Using his woodworking talents and other resources, Fr. Will recently created a nice space in the Spring Street Narthex, complete with children's activity bags, for families with young children.

The space has been lovingly labeled the **"Children's Corner"**.

We want all families—especially those with young children to feel welcome and comfortable bringing the children to church. They are our future—and as Christ said: **"Let the children come to me."**



Fall into Fun!

Although the final numbers for the first annual *Fall into Fun* aren't totaled, by all accounts it appears that we accomplished the monetary goal and more importantly achieved the objective of bringing people together to have fun! There were so many compliments the day of the event—not just parishioners, but members of the community as well. That is what set *Fall into Fun* apart from other festivals from previous years as we wanted to make this a community event and offer something for everyone!

We are grateful for all who contributed to the success. From our Sponsors (Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze) to the numerous volunteers for the event. So much time and energy was spent and everyone's hard work paid off! Both American and Mexican food was amazing and there was something for every palate! And for the sweet tooth there were plenty of baked goods! Thank you to all who contributed to the bake sale—what a hit!

Kids were kept busy with lots of games, face painting and wonderful prizes! Inside Mission Hall—Bingo or Loteria was offered throughout the day. Although there weren't many people brave enough to boogie on the "dance asphalt", the polka music provided by Ryan Kautzer Band and music and entertainment provided by R&R Music was enjoyed by all.

Just a few pictures from the event—we hope to have a slideshow available on the website soon!



*For he commands his angels with regard to you,
to guard you wherever you go. Psalm 91:11*

St. Michael the Archangel—Window Spotlight

Our featured stain glass window is the all-inspiring St. Michael the Archangel—the one who is widely known as the one who led the army of angels who cast Satan and the rebellious angels into Hell. In Hebrew the name Michael means “who is like God?” and it is believed that “**Who is like God?**” was the battle cry used in that battle, enacting judgement on Satan’s desire to be “like God.” At the end of time, St. Michael will wield the sword of justice to separate the righteous from evil (cf. Revelation 12:7ff).

St. Michael is one of the best loved of all saints in the Catholic tradition because of his strength and dedication to God. Many people make a daily practice of praying the “Saint Michael Prayer,”

which asks him to be a defender and protector. St. Michael is a practical saint for all people because of his great example of tenacity to the will of God, as well as his love for good triumphing over evil. Because of this, he has been named the patron saint of those in the military and police force.

~ St. Michael Prayer ~

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

