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## St Patrick's Day Extravaganza!!!

By David Schmidt

Praise be to God! Praise be to the Father! Praise be to Jesus Christ His Son and our Lord! For He is great and He is good!

These were only a few of the thoughts, and feelings that came to mind this St. Patrick's Day as a confluence of events saw our Parish come together for a whole day of Faith, Fellowship, and Fun.

Not only did the schedule this last month give us a day with multiple opportunities to celebrate as a Faith Community, but it happened to fall on the day we commemorate our Parish's Patron Saint.

Some would say it was an exciting coincidence, but as my mother always asks when someone speaks of coincidence, "Is it odd, or is it God?" And from the response of the Parish, it was definitely God, as the Spirit was alive!

The day started with our 8:00am Mass, which is always a great way to start the day. It then continued with our monthly Sunday Social, where participants had the opportunity share some coffee and donuts; to learn about our Church History; or have the

children learn about Saints.

The day continued with our 10:30am Mass. This was then followed by our Annual St. Patrick's day Dinner.

It was amazing to see the response to the dinner, as the entire Church basement was full of people sitting down and sharing a meal. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm, and joy people had in coming together, not only to celebrate our Parish, but to support our School through the meal, purchasing basket raffle tickets, or placing a bid on a silent auction item. Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us.

If this wasn't enough activity, the day then

continued with the Spanish Mass at 2:00pm. Again, there is no better way to celebrate who we are then coming together at the Mass.

The final event of the day was a volleyball tournament organized by our Hispanic Community. It was a great way to finish the day by coming together for some healthy and fun competition. The entire gym of the school was filled not only with the teams competing but spectators cheering on their family and friends as they enjoyed some popcorn and hotdogs.

It was a busy day. It was a tremendous day. It was a day where we as a Faith Community came together to not only celebrate who we are but support one another. Our Parish is Alive! Praise be to God!



## From the Bishop – Gifts of the Holy Spirit

By Bishop Callahan,  
Catholic Life Magazine,  
January 2019




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*“Wisdom inspires the virtue of courage and promotes the strength of God’s grace in us. We choose to stand with Christ, choosing good and rejecting evil.”*

Wisdom engages us first

The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit play a pivotal role in our response to and use of our unity with Christ in the Church. We can especially give evidence to our action with Christ in His Church through Baptism. In Baptism, by the very ritual itself, we are claimed for Jesus Christ by the sign of His Cross. This signature, the Catechism teaches us (CCC 1272 ff.), is known as a sacramental character or an indelible mark on our immortal souls. It can never be removed; it marks us for all eternity as a child of God. The Holy Spirit marks us with the “seal of the Lord for the day of redemption.”

Three of the seven sacraments are known as Sacraments of Christian Initiation. They are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, each fortifying us in our lifelong faith that Jesus Christ is Lord and that we are Children of God. Baptism and Confirmation are two of the sacraments that implant indelible marks on our souls. Holy Orders is the third. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the action of initiation and seals us in the Holy Spirit, imparting the Spirit’s seven gifts as an “energy source” for our spiritual journey in life.

The first Gift of the Holy Spirit is Wisdom. Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit directs the mind and heart to

judge things from God’s perspective. Thus we can observe and value the things of God above earthly things.

Scripture, especially Psalm 14, teaches us that it is “the fool who says in his heart there is no God.” The lament, repeated in Psalm 53, teaches about the world from two basically different standards: “the fool” and the “company of the just” also called “my (God’s) people.” The wicked persecute the just, but the Psalm proclaims the hope that God will punish evil-doers and reward those who choose and act upon the good in their lives.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the Gift of Wisdom, lead us to virtuous living—living life and following the perspective of God’s plan.

Wisdom enlightens the mind and directs the heart to a purer, deeper love of God. Seeking God allows us to value human life in our daily actions, namely, seeing Jesus in all people and valuing them as brothers and sisters in the divine family with God as our Father.

As we begin this new year, we gain important new opportunities to reshape our lives, seek new directions and

plan goals for the ways in which we want to renew our lives. The hope that comes from knowing Jesus and following His commandment of love allows us to put forth a clear choice for the value of our own lives as well as the value of the lives of those around us.

Wisdom inspires the virtue of courage and promotes the strength of God’s grace in us. We choose to stand with Christ, choosing good and rejecting evil. This is not always an easy choice in our world and it is becoming more difficult each day.

This year, we will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the challenge of virtuous living. It stands to reason, therefore, that we begin with the Gift of Wisdom. We celebrate our Christian calling to value human life. We strive to see the world more clearly from God’s perspective. We live experiencing God’s personal gift of love in this world and long to be united with Him completely in eternity.

To read more from Bishop Callahan and Catholic Life Magazine visit:  
<https://catholiclife.dioc.org/category/from-the-bishop/>



## Coming Soon – Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2019

By David Schmidt

As Spring rolls along and the days get warmer, it won't be long before summer is upon us. Along with the multitude of activities we try to squeeze in.

As you begin to plan your summer, please mark your calendars for St. Pat's Vacation Bible

School (VBS).

This summer's program will take place **Sun. July 21<sup>st</sup> – Thur. July 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm - 7:30pm and is open to all children ages 4-11.**

The program we will be offering this summer is called **"Cathletics: Training To Be Champions For Christ"**.

It's an Olympic sport themed program that engages kids into the "Life Of Christ" with teachings from God's Word on the Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

For questions or to help out, contact David Schmidt at: [davidjschmidt@hotmail.com](mailto:davidjschmidt@hotmail.com)



*"... will take place Sun. July 21st – Thur. July 25th from 5:00pm - 7:30pm and is open to all children ages 5-11."*

## Reserve the Date: Summerfest 2019 – Aug 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

By David Schmidt

This March the Summerfest Committee held their third planning meeting of the year, and already the excitement for this year's Summerfest is building.

Trying to get an early start on planning was one of the main goals of the committee this year. The hope is to build off the momentum and enthusiasm of last year's event by finding new and exciting ways to expand and grow Summerfest to truly be the community building event we all envision.

We started by reviewing the Summerfest Survey that was conducted last fall. We thank everyone that took the time to provide their valuable input and insight into our Parish's biggest event.

Based on this and the input of the committee, it has been decided that Summerfest will be moved to the third weekend in August, which falls on Aug 17<sup>th</sup> - Aug 18<sup>th</sup> this year.

This move will provide less conflict with other events in the area.

Secondly, it was decided to have a particular focus for each day of the event. Saturday's focus will be on our outdoor events and will take place entirely outside in the Church and Monroe County parking lots.

This means that the only things happening on Saturday will be outside. This includes the Auction, Outdoor Craft and Vendor Sale, Food Stands, 50/50 Raffle, Raffle Ticket Sales, Children's Games and many other items we are debating to include. The day will then be capped off with our featured event, a repeat performance of the Mariachi Band. We are calling Saturday our **Summerfiesta**.

Sunday's focus will then shift to all of our Indoor activities and will take place completely in the School. These events will include our Country Store, Indoor Arts and Craft Sale, Tootsie Tease, Bake

Sale, 50/50 Raffle, Raffle Ticket Sale and Drawing, and the return of Bingo. Sunday's activities will then be capped by our featured event; our "World's Best Chicken Dinner". We are calling Sunday our **Chickenfeast**.

The hope with having a specific focus each day is to bring people together and provide a better opportunity for fellowship and community building. With so many events spread throughout the School and Church, it can be difficult to see just how many people come to Summerfest, and to meet and greet our fellow parishioners.

Thirdly, it was decided to

streamline the Auction. In an effort to provide an easier transition between events on Saturday and allow for more space to include some new activities, the Auction will have a set end time, have specific drop off times for donations, and new name. We are calling it a "Benefit Auction". The hope again is to try and avoid the Auction overtaking the entire day of events.

The committee is extremely excited about these inclusions and can't wait to see what they lead to. If you would like to help, provide your ideas, and get involved, please join us for our next meeting on April 23 at 6:30pm. Thank You and God Bless!





*"We warmly welcome our new brothers and pray for them as they begin their journey in the Knights of Columbus."*

## A Great Start to a Great Year!

*By David Schmidt*

2019 has gotten off to a great start for the Knights of Columbus. Even with all the cold and snow, the Knights have continued to do many great things.

Our year started with helping with the Pig Roast Father Eric organized to celebrate the start of Catholic Schools Week. From the set-up, working the kitchen and dining room, to the clean-up, we had a great group of Knights assist in making this an outstanding event for our Parish and School.

Next we dove right into our annual Wisconsin State Council Charity Raffle. Each year Knights

throughout the State participate to raise money for numerous charitable endeavors by selling Raffle Tickets with portions of each ticket sold coming back to the local council. This year the top prize is \$50,000 or an F150 XLT Supercab. Tickets are \$5 each and are still available from any Knight.

If this wasn't enough, our Council then participated in one of the many opportunities for fellowship in the Knights by sending two tremendous teams to participate in the Annual Wisconsin State Council Bowling Tournament in Green Bay. It was a fantastic time filled with

many strikes, spares, and gutter balls that allowed our teams the opportunity to meet many of our Brother Knights from all over the state.

Finally, this quarter saw us initiate several new members into our council. We warmly welcome our new brothers and pray for them as they begin their journey in the Knights of Columbus. If you are a man of our Parish looking for a way to give back and if the Knights seem like a fit for you, then please see our information Kiosk in the back of Church or contact our Grand Knight Dave Kuderer. All are welcome.

God Bless!!!

## Prayer – More than Saying Words

*By Ann Lankford,  
Catholic Life Magazine,  
March*

Lent is an important time to deepen our relationship with Jesus. One way is to pray the words of a prayer from our heart, being aware that we are speaking with the Person of Jesus, rather than just quickly rattling memorized words.

As Catholics, we always begin and end our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. Making the Sign of the Cross is a prayer – not just an introduction. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are telling God we believe in

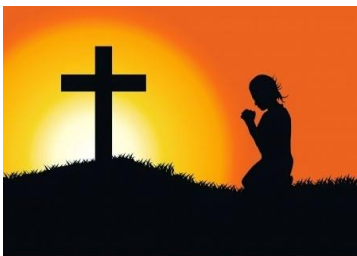
Him, and we are offering our prayers to Him. As we pray the Sign of the Cross, we are professing our belief in the Father, and in the Son and in the Holy Spirit, while acknowledging and honoring their Presence and coming into their Presence. This Sign expresses the central mystery of our Faith, that God is One in three Persons.

We "cross" ourselves to remember that Jesus died on the Cross so that our sins could be forgiven. This Sign reminds us that Jesus gave everything for us on that Cross out of His

complete and faithful love. We end the Sign of the Cross with "Amen" as this means we believe the words that we are praying.

During this holy season, let us make every effort to make this holy Sign in an unhurried and intentional way with the utmost attention and reverence, as we address the Person of the Father, the Person of Jesus the Son and the Person of the Holy Spirit. At this moment, let us pray this important prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*"Making the Sign of the Cross is a prayer – not just an introduction."*





## St. Pat's PCCW News

By Rita Verkler

Spring is a busy time of year for the PCCW. Here's a few things that either have gone on or are coming up.

**26 March** - PCCW provided readers for the Stations of the Cross

**27 March** - PCCW provided the food, serving, and clean up for the Ecumenical Lenten Lunch

**April** - We are providing the lunches for the workers for the St Clare's Health Mission (thanks to everyone who signed up for this at our March meeting)

**April 15** - Our last meeting for the year, in the church hall at 7 PM

**April 27** - We will be co-hosting the Tomah Deanery Spring Gathering with the St. John's PCCW at Summit Ridge. We will be finalizing the plans at the April 15 meeting. Please try to attend both the meeting and the gathering.

**April 28** - We will be taking up a second collection to help fund the Lacrosse Diocese Council of Catholic Women's events and scholarships.

**May 15** - PCCW Appreciation Dinner June 7 & 8 - Spring Thrift and Bake Sale. Watch for details for donation times and work times.

**TBD** - Summer Spirituality Day

Our meetings are the place to find out about service opportunities, meet other women from the parish, and find out what is happening at St. Pat's. We look forward to welcoming new members at our meetings! We hope you all have a safe and fun summer. God Bless!



*“Our meetings are the place to find out about service opportunities, meet other women from the parish, and find out what is happening at St. Pat's.”*

## How is Easter Sunday determined? Palm Sunday? Ash Wednesday?

By Catholic Answers, August 4, 2011

Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday following the feast of Passover. (Technically, he may have risen Saturday night, but that still counts as Sunday on the Jewish reckoning, which begins each day at sunset instead of at midnight.)

The date of Passover is a complicated thing. Theoretically, the date should be the 14th of the Jewish month of Nisan, and it should correspond to a full moon (the Jewish calendar being partly lunar). In practice, it didn't always work out that way. The month-moon cycles got out of

synch, and sometimes feasts would be held on a “liturgical” full moon even when it was not an astronomical full moon. As a result, rabbis periodically had to announce when Passover would be celebrated.

Christians didn't like being dependent on the pronouncements of rabbis for how to celebrate Christian feasts, so they came up with another way of determining the date. They decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after (never on) the Paschal full moon.

Theoretically, the Paschal full moon is

the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. However, this day can be reckoned in different ways. One way is by looking at the sky, which yields the astronomical spring equinox. But since this shifts from year to year, most people follow the calendrical spring equinox, which is reckoned as March 21.

On the Gregorian calendar (the one that we use); Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21. Easter thus always falls between March 22 and April 25.

Now, to find Palm Sunday (the sixth Sunday of Lent) you start with the date of Easter and back up one week: It is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. To find Ash Wednesday, you start with the date of Easter Sunday, back up six weeks (that gives you the first Sunday of Lent), and then back up four more days: Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent.

*To find more Catholic articles and information visit “Catholic Answers” at <https://www.catholic.com>*

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## Upcoming Events

02 Apr – Stations and Soup Supper  
03 Apr – K-10 REP  
05 Apr – Eucharistic Adoration  
08 Apr – Knights of Columbus Meeting  
09 Apr – Education Committee Meeting  
09 Apr – Stations and Soup Supper  
10 Apr – K-10 REP  
12 Apr – Eucharistic Adoration  
14 Apr – Palm Sunday  
15 Apr – Second Harvest Food Pantry  
15 Apr – PCCW Meeting  
18 Apr – Holy Thursday  
19 Apr – Good Friday  
19 Apr – Ecumenical Stations of the Cross  
20 Apr – Easter Vigil  
21 Apr – Easter  
23 Apr – Summerfest Committee Meeting  
24 Apr – K-10 REP  
24 Apr – Parish Council Meeting  
26 Apr – Eucharistic Adoration  
27 Apr – PCCW Spring Gathering  
28 Apr – End of Month Food Drive  
01 May – K-10 REP  
03 May – Eucharistic Adoration  
05 May – First Communion  
07 May – Worship Committee Meeting  
10 May – Eucharistic Adoration  
13 May – Knights of Columbus Meeting  
15 May – PCCW Appreciation Dinner  
14 May – Education Committee Meeting  
14 May – School and Home Meeting  
17 May – Eucharistic Adoration  
18 May – School Bake Sale  
19 May – St. Pat's Sunday Social  
19 May – School Bake Sale  
19 May – Chicken-Q  
20 May – Second Harvest Food Pantry  
22 May – School New Student Visit Day  
24 May – Eucharistic Adoration  
26 May – End of Month Food Drive  
27 May – Memorial Day  
30 May – The Ascension  
31 May – Eucharistic Adoration  
03 Jun – Ladies Book Club  
04 Jun – Last Day of School  
07 Jun – Eucharistic Adoration  
07 Jun – PCCW Thrift Sale  
08 Jun – PCCW Thrift Sale  
09 Jun – Pentecost  
10 Jun – Knights of Columbus Meeting  
14 Jun – Eucharistic Adoration  
16 Jun – St. Pat's Sunday Social  
16 Jun – Anniversary Celebration Mass  
17 Jun – Second Harvest Food Pantry  
21 Jun – Eucharistic Adoration  
28 Jun – Eucharistic Adoration

## Additional Resources...

Diocese of La Crosse - <http://diolc.org/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - <http://usccb.org/>

The Holy See - <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

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