



## Special Interest Articles:

- Summerfest 2019
- Bishop's Blog
- Volunteer Appreciation

## Individual Highlights:

School News	3
REP Roundup	3
St. Pat's KCs	4
St. Pat's PCCW	4
Catholic Answers	5
Upcoming Events	6

## Summerfest – Faith, Fellowship, and Fun

By David Schmidt

The third week of August saw the whole Parish, and the greater Sparta Community come together for a wonderful weekend of Faith, Fellowship, and Fun as we once again celebrated our annual Summerfest.

This year saw an outstanding collection of both new and old events and activities that made this a wonderful weekend for the whole family.

The structure of this year's festival was designed to give each day (Saturday and Sunday) its own unique focus.

Saturday was our "SummerFeista". Held completely outdoors, Saturday gave our Hispanic community the center stage as the day featured a combination of authentic foods and music.

The day also included the return of our Outdoor Craft Fair and some of our Summerfest staples such as our Large Outdoor Benefit Auction, 50/50 Raffle, and Raffle Tickets.

Some of the new things added Saturday were focused on the children. Besides the ever popular

corn pit and mini-golf, a bounce house and pony rides were some newer items added to the day's activities.

All of this led up to the highlight of the day, another outstanding performance by the Mariachi band "Mariachi Estrella".

It was amazing to see the entire parking lot full of people who came out to enjoy the beautiful weather, delicious food, and outstanding music.

If that wasn't enough, the activities continued Sunday with our "ChickenFeast". Held completely indoors in the school, Sunday featured the majority of the Summerfest favorites we have all come to love.

Starting early with our Bake Sale, Country Store, Indoor Craft Sale, Raffle Tickets, 50/50 Raffle, and Children Games, the highlight of the day was our world famous "Baked Chicken Dinner". The gym was packed with people who came to enjoy an old fashioned meal with their Parish family.

But Sunday also offered its own new and unique activity as we introduced our "Specialty Auction".

The highlight of our Specialty Auction was a 3 day fishing trip to northern Minnesota with Fr. Berns and the bidding was amazing as the winning bid was \$1600.

This small benefit auction was a fun and exciting event which saw multiple unique items; all donated by parishioners, auctioned off at a fast and furious pace.

As always it is inspiring to see the continual generosity and selflessness of our Parish and community.

The day then concluded with our large Raffle drawing which saw multiple winners of a variety of cash prizes to include our Grand Prize of \$2000. The crowd was waiting in anticipation as Fr. Berns drew the names.

The entire weekend was a testament to our community, to our Parish, and to all of you. The atmosphere was electric as we all grew in Faith and Fellowship while having some Fun.

Thank you to everyone who helped plan and supported this event. We hope to see you all again next year. God Bless!

## Bishop's Blog – Heroes of Faith

By Bishop Callahan,  
Aug 27, 2019

My dear young people, Bishop Callahan here to greet you as you begin your new school year!

The past several months have been very busy for me; I've been to several important meetings, many of which concerned you because we bishops want to let everyone know how much we care about you and your futures in the Church and in the world at large. We share that concern with your moms and dads.

I hope you all had a good summer. I remember how much fun summer vacation was when I was a kid. But I also remember how I was ready to get back to school with new teachers and new challenges in studies.

This December you will hear about the Beatification of a man who was born and grew up near Stevens Point. Beatification, as many of you know, is the second to last step in the process of becoming a saint in the Catholic Church. This man's name is Brother James Miller. He went to Pacelli High School in the 1950s and then joined the Christian Brothers. He was a teacher and worked in Central and South America. He was shot to death in Guatemala because he loved God and loved the people of Guatemala. He is a hero of our Catholic Faith and a hero of the Diocese of La

Crosse.

There are other heroes of Faith who lived and worked in our area. Blessed Solanus Casey, a Franciscan was born near Prescott; Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli, a Dominican, built St. Gabriel church in Prairie du Chien; and Servant of God, Father Joseph Walijewski whom we may know best of all, who worked in Thorp before leaving for South America where he started Casa Hogar. You can pray through the intercession of these heroes for help and guidance when you feel alone, scared or confused. You can also pray in thanksgiving when your prayers are answered.

These heroes of Faith all have in common their love of Jesus and their desire to follow His teaching. Jesus is the source of Truth and you will learn about His Truth in your classes. When you follow Jesus and your consciences and do what is right, you are acting just like these heroes!

I encourage you to stand up for your Faith and hope

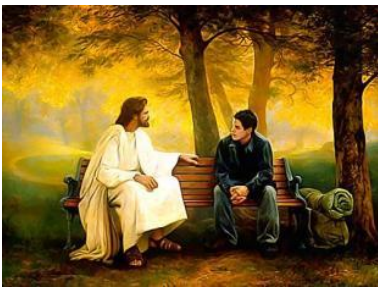
that you will encourage those around you to do the same! Your Catholic Education teaches and models an active participation in the evangelizing mission of the Church. Simply put, the Church exists because Jesus wants it to exist. Through your Baptism, you became a member of His Church. When you help others come to know Jesus, you are doing what God wants.

Try to make Jesus a part of everything you do. Listen to Him and ask Him for the help you need, not only at Mass, but throughout your day.

To all teachers and staff: Thank you for your service to your school and your guidance to your students!

Keep up the good work! I'm very proud of all the good you are doing and I hope to visit you sometime this school year and listen to your stories of heroism and courage.

Pray, learn, and stand up for your Faith!



*Try to make Jesus a part of everything you do. Listen to Him and ask Him for the help you need, not only at Mass, but throughout your day*



## St. Patrick's School News

By Anna Fleming

The year is off to a great start! The new Admin Team is excited about the year and all that is happening.

For those of you who did not know, we have an Administrative Team of three (Jean Suttie, Lori Lazzari and Anna Fleming) filling the principal role and sharing duties.

Jean does all the Federal, State and Diocesan paperwork and handles the food program reports.

Lori handles parent concerns and student concerns, plus organizes the info for parent, education and staff meeting (plus a whole lot

more!). She also teaches 2nd grade.

Anna oversees teacher issues and the curriculum. She also teaches Kindergarten.

In addition to the new administrative team, we also have some new staff faces at school. Peyton Mensink (4th grade), Eugene Vincent (5th grade homeroom & 5th-8th literature and art), Kristin Knopp (Spanish and Interventionist), AJ Jewell (head cook), & Judy Van Kirk (assistant cook).

As always the new school year is flush with activity. Here are a few things happening now and in the coming months. As always your prayers and support are gratefully appreciated.

The "Coffee with Christ" group meets in the school Multi-Purpose Room on Tuesdays. All are invited to join and share in this faith opportunity.

Volleyball is in full swing for our 4th-8th grade girls. They have many games scheduled. Come see our girls play!

Chess Club has started. We have about 20 students learning the game.

The school continues to collect Box Tops & ink cartridges. This year we are also collecting the top tabs from pop cans. Our goal as a school is 100 lbs. of tabs. They will be sent to Ronald McDonald House in Madison.

Grandparents Day is Oct 18 with Mass at 1:00, a short program after Mass and then cookies in the school.

We will have Mass (and school) on Nov.1 at 8:15 for All Saints Day.

Nov. 23 & 24 will be the School and Home pie sale after Masses.

Nov.26 will be our all school Mass at 8:15 with a collection of non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

4K & 5K continue to attend Wed. Mass. And the much anticipated "Cookies for Christmas" will be after 8:15 Mass on Dec.11. All are invited.

## REP News

By Charlie Burnett, DRE

Classes for the 2019-2020 school year have begun. We have 128 students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through High School.

Classes meet on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 4:45 for kindergarten through sixth grade and from 7:00 to 8:00PM for seventh through tenth grades.

This year we have thirteen Confirmation candidates. God willing these juniors will be confirmed by Bishop Callahan on Wednesday,

Oct. 9th at 7:00PM at St. Mary's Ridge. Please pray for them as they approach this important sacrament.

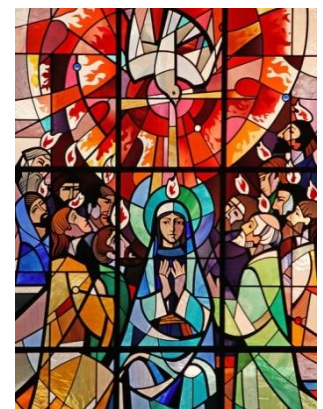
We have a wonderful group of catechists again this year who are so generous with their time and talent:

- Grade K-1: Julianne Hyma and assistant Amanda Schmitz
- Grade 2: Anna Fleming
- Grade 3: Teresa Lakowske and Melissa Timm
- Grade 4: Trisha McCoy
- Grade 5: Darick Bloom
- Grade 6: Ervin Elsen
- Grade 7: Jayme Bahl

- Grade 8: Gene Gowey
- Grade 9: Ron Luebke and Eric Schmidt
- Grade 10: Fr. Eric Berns and Laurie Schauf
- Grade 11: Steve Schauf

If you see these teachers please thank them for their service to the young people of our parish.

Thank you also to Linda Svoboda for all of her administrative work on behalf of our Religious Education Program.



*"God willing these juniors will be confirmed by Bishop Callahan on Wednesday, Oct. 9th at 7:00PM at St. Mary's Ridge"*

## St. Pat's Knights of Columbus News

By David Schmidt

After a fun, but busy, summer the Knights of Columbus is starting this new fall season off with a flurry of events.

First the Knights will be helping with our Parish's next Sunday Social on October 20th. In support of this great event that provides an opportunity for Faith, Fun, and Fellowship, the KCs will be providing a delicious community meal for all to enjoy. We hope to see you there.

Second, the Knights are once again offering all

parishioners the opportunity to purchase engraved bricks for the Ten Commandments monument. If interested please contact Mike Harris at 343-7457 or 608-487-9039.

Next, the Knights will also be having our annual December Calendar Raffle where you purchase the chance to win a cash prize each day throughout the month of December. See any Knight to find out more on how you can win.

Finally, as we have for over 10 years we will be

having our annual "Pizza Knight" on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to enjoy a variety of specialty pizzas for the whole family.

As always the Knights of Columbus are extremely grateful for all the support of the parish.

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!!

Saint Patrick's  
**KNIGHTS** of  
COLUMBUS

**PIZZA  
KNIGHT**

Enjoy a variety of specialty Pizzas prepared just right!

**Saturday 5:00 PM**  
**OCT 26 Church Hall**

Your Free Will offering  
Supports charitable efforts here in Sparta

*We do the cooking - so you don't have to!*  
319 WEST MAIN STREET

## St. Pat's PCCW News

By Rita Verkler

Our organization's first meeting of the new business year was Monday evening, September 23, and it was a great meeting! Many "first timers" came with new ideas and we had lots of meaningful discussions on many topics. Women of all age groups were represented (ranging from 29 to 76 with the average age of 64), and these wonderful women incorporated many walks of life. This was truly a joyful gathering of Catholic women! Our next meeting is Monday evening, October 28, in the church hall. Gather at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Write it on your calendar now and plan to come and bring a friend!

One of the things we will be planning is the meal we will be providing for the November Sunday Social. Join us!

Our summer spirituality day was on July 31 and took several of us to tour the gardens at the FSPA retirement home on St. Joseph's Ridge. It was a great tour. Several of us came home with plants (herbs) and we enjoyed a lunch at Badger Crossing in Cashton on the way home. Thanks to Jayme Bahl for spearheading this event.

The PCCW will NOT be sponsoring the Fall Thrift Sale this year. After discussion, our decision was made to hold off until the school year was over. We will have a thrift sale

in June, so please save your donations if you can. If you can't save them, please consider donating them to other charitable organizations.

If you did not get a copy of the bulletin insert with our schedule/form to send in your \$5.00 dues, there are some extras on our bulletin board in the back of the church. Also on the bulletin board are copies of detailed information from the Lacrosse Diocese Council of Catholic Women on what happens to the money we collect from each parish the Sunday after Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). Our parish has always been very generous when our members take up this annual collection.

December 7 has been set for our Advent Day of Prayer. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

Our leadership team this year is Jayme Bahl (608-633-5615) and Rita Verkler (269-2751), co-chairs; secretary Mary Hoeft (269-3794); and treasurer Maureen Richardson (608-487-2202). Please call any of us with questions about our organization. I consider myself lucky to share the leadership responsibilities with these kind, generous, and smart ladies. I also feel blessed that I made the decision to become active in our St. Patrick's PCCW. I look forward to meeting more parish ladies at our next meeting.

## Who do we love? VOLUNTEERS!!!!

By David Schmidt

This Labor Day St. Pat's had a party to recognize those who give of their time, talent, and treasure to our Parish; Our Parish Volunteers.

With the smell of pork wafting through the air and the sweet sound of music filling our ears, it was a party celebrating the selflessness of our parishioners. Without whom our Parish could not flourish.

With Fr. Eric once again

demonstrating his culinary skills, and Marty Egbert superbly strumming his six string, the Schauf Farm, who graciously hosted the event, was alive with the Faith, Fun, and Fellowship we have all grown to love and expect from our Parish.

It was truly amazing to see the Spirit alive in the incredible turnout on a holiday weekend as people took the time to spend the afternoon with their Parish family.

Even if you were unable

to make it to the event, please know that all of our thoughts and prayers went out to all of you who continuously demonstrate the love of Christ through what you do for our Parish and each other.

We can never truly express the gratitude you all deserve. But want to say...

## THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!



*"It was truly amazing to see the Spirit alive in the amazing turnout on a holiday weekend as people took the time to spend time with our Parish family."*

## Catholic Answers: Why pray to Mary?

By Tom Nash,  
Catholic Answers,

### Question:

Why should we pray to mother Mary?

### Answer:

Why Pray to Mary?

Because Jesus has given us his Blessed Mother as our great spiritual mother (Rev.12:17), a heavenly advocate who intercedes for us. Some Christians will ask, "Why pray to Mary when we can go directly to Jesus?" And yet they have no problem asking others here on earth to pray for them, instead of simply and solely praying to Jesus on their own. Indeed, St. Paul says that God grants blessings "in answer to many prayers" (2 Cor. 1:11). And if the prayer of a righteous man on earth

avails much with God (Jas. 5:16–18), how much more would prayers from one who has finished the race and now reigns with Christ in heaven?

Scripture elsewhere speaks of the "the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" and "the spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb. 12:23, emphasis added). Given their heavenly perfection in Jesus, which would include perfection in charity and thus concern for their brothers and sisters in Christ on earth (see 1 Cor. 2:12-26), we should not be surprised that Scripture presents these holy men and women of heaven bringing our prayers to Jesus the Lamb (Rev. 5:8), and that from the

early Church onward Christians have asked the intercession of the saints who have gone before them to heaven. In this light, we see that the saints—as faithful disciples of Jesus—are his collaborators, not his competitors in interceding for us. Consequently, because Mary is the Mother of God and the disciple par excellence (see Luke 1:28, 38), we should not be surprised that she is our preeminent intercessor among the angels and saints.

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



*"Mary is the Mother of God and the disciple par excellence (see Luke 1:28, 38), we should not be surprised that she is our preeminent intercessor among the angels and saints."*

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://stpatricksparish.weconnect.com/>

Online Giving at:

<https://stpatricksparish.weshareonline.org/>

St. Patrick's School at:

[www.spartacatholic.org](http://www.spartacatholic.org)

## Upcoming Events

- 02 Oct – K-10 REP
- 08 Oct – Education Meeting
- 09 Oct – Confirmation
- 11 Oct – Eucharistic Adoration
- 14 Oct – Knights of Columbus Meeting
- 15 Oct – Worship Committee Meeting
- 16 Oct – K-10 REP
- 18 Oct – Eucharistic Adoration
- 20 Oct – St. Pat's Sunday Social
- 21 Oct – Second Harvest Food Pantry
- 23 Oct – K-10 REP
- 25 Oct – Eucharistic Adoration
- 26 Oct – Pizza Knight
- 27 Oct – End of Month Food Drive
- 30 Oct – K-10 REP
- 30 Oct – Parish Council Meeting
- 01 Nov – All Saints Day
- 02 Nov – All Souls Day
- 05 Nov – Worship Committee Meeting
- 08 Nov – Eucharistic Adoration
- 11 Nov – Veteran's Day
- 11 Nov – Knights of Columbus Meeting
- 13 Nov – K-10 REP
- 15 Nov – Eucharistic Adoration
- 17 Nov – St. Pat's Sunday Social
- 18 Nov – Second Harvest Food Pantry
- 20 Nov – K-10 REP
- 22 Nov – Eucharistic Adoration
- 24 Nov – End of Month Food Drive
- 28 Nov – Thanksgiving
- 03 Dec – Worship Committee Meeting
- 04 Dec – K-10 REP
- 08 Dec – Immaculate Conception
- 09 Dec – Knights of Columbus Meeting
- 11 Dec – K-10 REP
- 13 Dec – Eucharistic Adoration
- 14 Dec – 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation
- 14 Dec – Breakfast with Santa
- 15 Dec – St. Pat's Sunday Social
- 16 Dec – Second Harvest Food Pantry
- 18 Dec – K-10 REP
- 20 Dec – Eucharistic Adoration
- 25 Dec – Christmas
- 25 Sep – K-10 REP
- 27 Dec – Eucharistic Adoration
- 29 Dec – End of Month Food Drive

## Additional Resources...

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

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

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

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