

Our Family News

St. William Catholic Church ~ Champion, Ohio

Third Edition Volume 1 June 2015



Welcome Friends

by Dan Robinson, Publisher

It seems that every 20 years or so someone decides that a parish newsletter is needed to bring parish news to all corners of our community. In the 1970's, Sharon Gray and Jim Ogan introduced us to the 1st Volume of issues named "Our Family News". In the 1990's, Nancy Lucanski, Ed Runyan, and Joe Makosky continued that legacy with Volume II. Now, 20 years later, we'd like to continue that tradition with Volume III of "Our Family News." The overall feel of the newsletter will be the same, but the format and delivery will have a decidedly 21st century feel both in print and digitally.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is quite the social media guru, stated on his Facebook page recently that, "An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come

(continued on Page 6)

Connecting to the World

A new and exciting development at St. William Parish is the addition of Internet services to all the buildings on the parish campus. The latest update brought the church building to full internet capacity in all corners of the building and a speed upgrade to the parish office. Internet will now be available for parish function, catering and public events.

We are now the proud owners of an extra large 16:9 digital presentation screen that can be moved to several locations in the building depending on need. Coupled with the digital projector and the social hall sound system, workshops, conferences, and parish events can reach a higher professional level. This will also offer St. William the opportunity to provide training events, and market our social hall to a wider clientele. Please

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Connecting to the World

contact Dan Robinson to reserve this equipment for your event.

Unique to St. William's Parish are the "Technology Tuesday" classes that happen during the school year on Tuesday nights at 7pm. (Check the website for more information.) These classes are currently open to any registered parishioner that has an interest in learning computer basics including: Internet Safety, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and Google. All ages and skill levels are welcome. The basic computing classes will start again on September 8. In addition, Intermediate Excel classes are now being planned, contact Dan Robinson for more information or to sign up.

You can help in this ministry of Technology Education if you have an older working laptop that you no longer use and would like to donate it to "Technology Tuesday." The laptops will be wiped of all personal data and used for inclass computer labs during class hours. Again, please contact Dan Robinson for more information. Thank you in advance!

From the Web:

The parish website,
<http://www.stwilliamchampion.org>,
has reached its seventh year and
is still growing!

The numbers for May 2015 are:

- 945 unique users viewed the website
- 77% of users are desktops/laptops
- Of the top 10 cities using the site, 3 are >3 hours away
(Columbus, NY City, Johnstown)
- 96% of our users are from the US
- 35 Pages & 10 Seasonal Pages
- 100's of parish pictures

*If you haven't visited lately,
What are YOU missing ?*

....from the Pastor

WELCOME!

To this inaugural edition of
the "resurrected" "*OUR FAMILY NEWS*"
Saint William Parish's New and Improved Newsletter!

During our recent 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2013, some parishioners began reminiscing about the parish newsletter from years ago. Some copies of the newsletter surfaced and the words and pictures reminded us of the great gift of faith and ministry that our parish has shared for more than fifty years. After recalling these fond memories, the question was asked "why not do it again!" And so, after some months of preparation and research, it was decided *to give it another shot!*



Today, I am happy to present the results of our labors – this first edition of the revised and resurrected "Our Family News." This newsletter will be published three times a year for you to remain informed and aware of the many happenings and events within our parish; to celebrate and recognize the achievements and accomplishments of your fellow parishioners and friends; and to follow the lead of Pope Francis in evangelizing and exciting the members of the Church about our faith and ministry as we continue our journey of living the Gospel, spreading the Good News and taking care of one another.

As your pastor, it is both a privilege and honor to be part of a wonderful, life-giving and faith-filled community and family. "Our Family News" will be another way, in addition to the Sunday bulletin and parish website, to keep us in touch with one another, tell of our parish news and events, and renew our faith in the Lord Jesus. Our loving God has graciously bestowed His goodness and hope to all of us. May God continue to be with us on our journey of life and may Saint William Parish always be part of our hearts and homes as a beacon of joy, hope and love. God's blessings always to you and to our wonderful parish!

Father Balash



Parish Staff 2015

In 1992 the inaugural Second Edition of "Our Family News" included an introduction to the staff of St. William Parish. Like that issue, we believe that an introduction to the current staff will help serve you better and help recognize a friendly face around the parish campus.

Inset into the current staff portrait is the black and white image of that 1992 staff. Time changes all and

several new faces have been added, but familiar faces are still here too! (I did not have the 1992 picture

when the 2015 picture was taken. What a Catechesis, Adult Faith Formation, Sacramental co-incidence that it is set up in almost the same way!)

Centered around Father Balash, the 2015 staff keeps the daily activities of the parish running smoothly. The PSR Director (Carol Timko), Liturgy Coordinator (Ann Sprague), Music Ministry Coordinator (Pat Maciejewski), Parish Secretary (Marcia Kane), Bulletin Editor (Bob Kane), and Maintenance (Gary Gates) are the current holders of



(f) Mary Ann Ughrin, Nancy Lucanski, Marcia Kane & Sister Mary Cora Skrivan.

(b) Dave Lucanski, Father Mike Smar, & Bob Kane

in the 21st Century requires a few more helping hands that were not necessary, or even invented, until recent years.

New to parish staff is the position of Pastoral New to the parish is the position of Communications Director (Dan Robinson) to help tie all areas of the parish together through web management, social media coordination, parish newsletter, technology infrastructure, and technology

Preparation, Youth Ministry and spiritual growth.

Also new to the parish is the position of Communications Director (Dan Robinson) to help tie all areas of the parish together through web management, social media coordination, parish newsletter, technology infrastructure, and technology

education.

positions that have been a vital part of parish life since our founding in 1963.

But keeping up with the times

Take a bus, hire a taxi, or ride a horse...Just get here!

Listen...

by Barb Robinson

Listen...

Be still and feel the silence.
Let it encircle you,
and wrap you in its quiet embrace.

Let your mind soar.
Experience the mountains
awesome majesty.

Teeter on the precipice of eternal life
and ingest the swirling mist.

Travel deep into the center
of your being.
Let your breath mingle slowly with
the beat of your heart.
Feel it pulsate with the rhythm
of your soul.

Listen...

Amid the quiet expanse of earth's
spectacular beauty
Be humbled by its splendor
and know that it has truly been touched
by the Hand of God.

St. William Food Pantry

by Carol Timko

In the mid-1990's, Sr. Mary Cora Skrivan requested space inside the church building for a food pantry to provide assistance to parishioners needing some temporary assistance. Fr. Smar and the Parish Council approved a space that was previously used as a trophy cabinet for St. William sport teams. The space, located between the PSR office and the Adult Meeting Room, was fitted out with a door and shelving. Donors have been stocking the food pantry with non-perishable staples ever since.

The pantry is open to any St. William parishioner who needs help with food for themselves and their immediate family. When the church doors are open the pantry is open. If parishioners in need cannot come when the church is open, they can contact Carol Timko at 330-847-8627 or ctimko@stwilliamchampion.org to arrange a confidential meeting.

Donations to re-stock the food pantry are always welcome and can be dropped off in the donation box inside the food pantry anytime the church is open. Thank you in advance for your help!

[Editor Note]: *Special thanks to the Robinson and Timko families for taking the time to "spring clean" the pantry by giving this room a fresh coat of paint, freshly scrubbed shelves, and a detailed inventory of food supplies. Sadly, a large quantity of outdated food supplies had to be removed. Please remember to check the dates on your donations before dropping them off for this much needed and very much appreciated service to our Parish community!*



Raffle Quilt Unveiled

by Pat Augustinsky

The lady quilters of St. Williams Parish would like to invite anyone who likes to sew or would like to learn to quilt, to join us each Tuesday 9am-1pm in the quilters room (104). We are in need of helpers—Parishioners and Non-parishioners alike are welcome to enjoy our friendship and camaraderie.

Please consider joining the Angelic Quilters of St. William Parish and share your talents or learn a new one!

We are currently working on the Christmas Raffle Quilt (pictured at



Don't be Fooled by Appearances

By Louise Crump

"The sun is shining, and it isn't snowing!" That was my mom's argument when she wanted to go grocery shopping. It appeared to be a nice day, but the temperature was only 10 degrees. How many times have we been fooled in one way or another, by appearances? Often we find that things aren't always as they seem.

Many years ago my dad was waiting for a ride to work. He heard a car horn and hurriedly put on his coat and departed. A few minutes later a man at our front door asked, "Where is Bill?" My dad would always be outside waiting for him. As it turned out, the horn my dad had heard came from a television program. He had walked several blocks before his ride picked him up in the dark of night. I can't remember, but I'll bet my dad thought his friend was an overly impatient man when he couldn't even wait until he got his coat on. It also had to include some tough convincing on the part of his friend.

I was in the same kind of situation just before Christmas some years ago. I picked up a large roll of wrapping paper and took it to a store check-out counter. The girl flipped it back and forth before taking my money. That evening I thought how strange that this girl would lip this roll of paper back and forth. I then imitated her actions, and what to my wondering eyes should appear? A tube of lipstick fell out!

I gasped! What if this had happened at the checkout with people around? Later, with lipstick in hand, I made a special trip to the store and informed the manager what had happened. It was just a little tube of lipstick, but how could I have convinced anyone that I didn't do it? She said the check-out girl would have said nothing – Riiiiight!

This next experience takes the cake—in more ways than one.

(continued on page 7)

To me, God is ...

by Therese Tuttle

In order to fully understand what God is to me one must hear, feel, and see what I do. To understand my meaning you will need to close your eyes and open your mind. Now take a moment and imagine that you are in an open field just relaxing and listening to the sounds of nature, feel the soft breeze that is brushing you face, your arms, your entire body.



"Endless Love" ~Unknown

With your mind see the colorful flowers that sway in the breeze and see the rainbow that looms in the horizon. Now concentrate on the sound of a lone cricket. Rhythmically, the cricket chirps. "Chirp, chirp" he sings his song; at first you may wonder who he is chirping to; but after a minute or two, you realize he is singing to you and what you once found annoying you find peaceful and soothing.

To me, God is the cricket that sings a peaceful song of glory. As you are listening to God's song, feel the soft breeze and following its movement. The breeze is light; barely can you feel it brushing against you as you sway in its path: smell the many different fragrances that it carries. Without realizing what you are doing, you stretch out your arms, your neck, your entire body to capture it, you take a deep breath to inhale the wonderful smells that flow through the breeze; you hold it and feel it through all your senses.

To me, God is a breath of fragrant air. Again as you are listening to God's song and feeling His perfect breath look toward the horizon. Notice how graceful the flowers sway, back and forth like a well-choreographed dance. You can't

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 1)

Welcome Friends!

back from a funeral." Pope Francis is all about seeing, creating, experiencing, and spreading joy. This newsletter will create an environment that supports joy and evangelizes the awesomeness that St William parishioners create.

I've started the ball rolling (a joyful ball, of course!) Now it's up to you.

The parishioners of St William are the consumers of this newsletter, but they are also the makers of the news. I try to keep a close watch on all of the happenings at St. William, but I don't see everything. So it's up to you, dear parishioners, to spot me.

Let me know when something awesome happens. Did you win a special award at school, bowling, little league, dance, etc.? Did you get married, have a child, make an

awesome casserole, volunteer for Habitat, hear a side-splitting joke, or ____ (fill in the blank). Did you take a great picture at the Mother/Child Banquet, the Parish Picnic, Trick-or-Trunk, PSR, or after mass? The possibilities for content are limitless.

Would you like to make your voice heard? This newsletter will be published three times a year and will be mailed directly to all registered parishioners. Letters to the editor, one-time articles, or recurring serial articles are welcome. Do you like to write Poetry? Bring it. Like to draw? Get to it. Whatever it is that creates your joy and spreads it through our amazing community is welcome. Send it to at drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org.

If you don't like email write it on the back of a napkin, tap it out in Morse Code, or sing it into a recorder. I'll make it work... joyfully!

Capital Campaign Update

By Father Balash

In October 2014, our parish began our "Sharing the Light for Tomorrow" Capital Campaign to address some very pressing and vital needs of the parish. Namely, the condition of the parking lot and driveways, the inadequate outside lighting around the parish property, expansion of the Social Hall Kitchen, the need for storage space, the construction of a new Office Building and Conference Room, and providing new, comfortable cushioned chairs in the worship space.

A Capital Campaign committee was formed to research this project and with the support of the Parish Council and approval by Bishop Murry, a number of receptions were held to introduce the campaign to parishioners. A goal of \$1

million dollars was proposed to meet the needs of the project. Through the generosity of close to 150 parishioners thus far, pledges have been made totaling \$554,574.00. With the addition of Fish Dinner profits from the past three years and miscellaneous donations, the campaign now totals \$693,114.00 with \$407,515.00 already collected.

As a result, Bishop Murry recently gave approval to move forward with the first phase of the project –the construction of a new parish office and conference center to be built in front of the current Social Hall. A Building Committee is being formed to begin the process of planning and overseeing the plans for the new office structure.

This is an exciting and historic

(continued from page 5)

Appearances

I was on the refreshment committee one year for a January Women's Guild meeting. I had brought bread pudding and placed it on the kitchen counter in the Social Hall of the church. Alongside was a scrumptious-looking chocolate cake. Near the end of the business meeting, I went back into the kitchen to make final preparations. On the counter, I spotted (and couldn't resist) a chocolate cake crumb. Expecting to taste a little bit of Heaven, I was floored to find I was chewing on a shriveled-up rubber band. When I think about it, I could have chewed on much worse. Next time I'll wear my glasses.



time in the life of our parish. From humble beginnings, our parish has grown into a vibrant, living community of faith. Our hope is that you will join us in "sharing the light" to keep our ministry, outreach, and service to God's people alive in our parish and wider community.

To learn more about our "Sharing The Light for Tomorrow" Capital Campaign, visit our parish website: Capital Campaign page. There you can once again view the video presentation and review the scope of the project. Thank you for your support and with your help, we will reach our goal insuring the future of Saint William Parish.

OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

By Therese Tuttle

Oh what a night we had. On May 6th the Women's Guild held



L to R: P. Herriman, T. Tuttle, P. Scanlon



(continued from page 5)

To me, God is...

help but move with them – slightly turning your shoulders side to side, bobbing your head left to right. It is hypnotic; it encompasses your every thought, your every movement. You now can see the many colors that appear above the tops of the dancing flowers. Glistening dew being drawn into shades of blue, shades of green and shades of red all arching toward heaven.

Watch carefully, watch with an open mind and you will be a witness to loving souls traveling through the colors of a rainbow on their path to heaven, toward the loving arms of God. After reading this, it is my hope that you now understand what God is to me – every noise I hear, every touch I feel and everything I see.

our last meeting until September at Pat Scanlon, Secretary - Pamela the Upton House in Warren. The Herriman, Treasurer - Gloria fanciful theme was "Tea Party" Karafa, and all the ladies of St. William's Church we will have an hats of all kinds. It was something exciting and fun year to come.

to see and remember. I personally felt enchanted by the ambiance of the night. With my fancy hat on and surrounded by wonderful ladies, I proudly took my oath as President to serve the Guild to the best of my ability. I know with the help I will receive from the newly elected Vice-President -

Oh yeah, did I mention the absolutely delicious foods that was served. My hat (ha-ha) goes off to the ladies who prepared the wonderful feast. A heart felt thank you goes out to you ladies.

I wish everyone a fun filled and safe summer. See ya'll in September.

Meet Collin & Dean!

By Cathy Poponak

Four year old Dean Herriman, son of Greg and Pamela (nee Hostetler) Herriman and 3 year old Collin Lee, son of Jason and Erin (nee Poponak) Lee have become great buddies in their ripe old ages. Regulars at the 11am mass with their families they had great fun this winter ice fishing on Mosquito Lake. The duo caught a perch using bacon. After taking a quick selfie, they dropped the fish back in the water, and headed off to play in the snow.



They pray together and play together. Sounds like the formula for a successful friendship!





Upcoming Events

- Parish Picnic on August 16
- Women's Guild Annual Rummage Sale, August 6-8
- PSR for grades K-8 resume on September 13 at 9:30

Details can be found on the website at <http://www.stwilliamchampion.org> or in the Sunday bulletin as they become available.

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Will be published in April, September and December of every year. Articles and submissions are due two weeks before the publish date. See the website for specific dates.

Parish organizations are encouraged to participate and submit materials for publication. Contact the editors or publisher for more information.

Got a scoop?!?!

Email or call ASAP!

Publisher: Dan Robinson
drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org

Editors: Positions available

Reporters and Photographers needed!

St. William Catholic Church

5431 Mahoning Ave NW
Warren, OH 44483
<http://www.stwilliamchampion.org>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
WARREN, OHIO
Permit No. 160

WANT TO READ THE NEWLETTER ONLINE?

You can "opt out" of receiving print copies of the newsletter each month, but still receive email updates.
Send your request via email to Dan Robinson at drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org