

# Our Family News

ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHAMPION, OHIO

THIRD EDITION VOLUME 5

AUGUST 2016 ~ SPECIAL EDITION



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!

#### BISHOP LEADS CEREMONY

The groundbreaking ceremony to kick-off the construction of the new office complex and kitchen/storage expansion was held on Sunday, June 26 after the 10:30 Mass. Bishop Murry led the parish in a celebration Mass followed by the ceremony on the front lawn of the parish. “Cool!”

exclaimed our very own junior parishioner Colin Lee, “I get a gold shovel!”

Indeed, several parishioners ‘got gold shovels’ and were part of the celebration marking the first expansion of the church building in 33 years. Parishioners from several demographics were asked to represent the parish during the ceremony by using fancy gold shovels to symbolically turn the ‘first’ shovel full of dirt.

Colin and his friend, Dean Heriman, represented the youngest generation of parishioners while Mary Pytlik and Vivian Flamini stood up for the senior members of our parish. Teen/Young Adult members were represented by Erica

Sitch and Elizabeth McCue. The Ken and Laura Haynie family took up a shovel for ALL families of St William; and married couples were represented by Eddie and Amy Mackiewicz and Ross and Gayle Lenhart. New parishioners Ed and Carole Baniak stood up with founding members, Jim and Verna McNeill.

The second wave of shovelers, led by Bishop Murry and Father Balash,



representatives from the Champion community and the Parish. Joining us to show community support for this worthwhile project was Fire Chief John Hickey, Champion Township Trustees Keith Bowser, Rex Fee, and Jeff Hovanic. Bruce Sekanick and Michele Schwartz, the architects from Phillips-Sekanick Architects, Inc joined us

*Bishop (Continued on page 4)*

#### How Did All This Happen?

By Linda Horm

Finance Committee Representative to Parish Council and Building Committee Member

Just what was it that led St. William parishioners to endeavor the undertaking of a major ‘Capital Campaign’ for much needed improvements? It began back at Parish Council and Finance Committee meetings in 2012, where the unsavory working conditions of the current office building, much needed space and safety concerns in the kitchen, and lighting in the parking lot were brought up and discussed in depth many times. After a period, thoughts of a ‘Capital Campaign’ were voiced ... and then questions such as: *Can we do this? How can we do this? Who will do this?* We didn’t have the answers yet but agreed we wanted to find out what the steps might entail.

St. William’s glimmer of hope for the ‘Sharing the Light for Tomorrow’ project started to take form after Father Balash met with Bishop Murry in January of 2013

*How (Continued on page 4)*



## ...FROM THE PASTOR

On June 26 Bishop Murry visited our parish and celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass. After Mass, Bishop Murry along with those in attendance participated in our historic groundbreaking for our new office building and kitchen expansion. A number of parishioners representing various age groups turned a shovel of dirt on the front lawn, along with our township trustees, fire chief and our project architects. It was a glorious day and an exciting event as we draw closer to beginning this long awaited and much needed project. Final preparations are currently underway towards completion of the preparatory stages. Please consult the parish bulletin and website for more current updates as they become available. To say the least, June 26 was a significant day in this endeavor.



In late 2014 we began our “*Sharing the Light for Tomorrow*” Capital Campaign and through the generous and dedicated commitment of many parishioners, the hard work at our Fish Dinners and by the faith and prayer of so many, we have moved forward in this project. It goes without saying that the many good and exciting things happening at our parish are because of so many enthusiastic and dedicated parishioners. Please know of my sincerest thanks and appreciation for all your support, kindness and dedication shown to our parish and for making Saint William the wonderful parish it is. God has been good! May we always thank Him for his blessings and abundant goodness given to our parish and each of us!

Finally, as you received this newsletter our annual Parish Picnic is about to happen. This year it will be held at the Warren Olympic Club and promises to be a fun and exciting event. There will be many different activities and games for all to join including swimming, tennis, bocce, and other activities. I hope that you will plan to join us on August 14 for an afternoon of fun and good times! See you at the picnic!!!!

### Editors Desk:

Greetings from the St William Newsletter Staff. We are excited to bring you this “expanded” edition with great articles and news about upcoming events.

Technology Tuesday is coming back in September! Classes are redesigned this time round so everything will be new for anyone interested in attending. Rather than focus solely on Microsoft Office we will be using Google products. Google software is free and available to anyone with a laptop, desktop, tablet (Mac or PC,) or any mobile device (iOS or Android.) Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 for five weeks. There will be 3 five week sessions held between September and May. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. Sign up sheets for Session #1 will be available in the vestibule at the end of August. Watch the bulletin for more details!

Materials for the November newsletter are due by October 21, 2015. We look forward to hearing from you!

Fondest Regards ~ Dan

## Our Family News

Is published on the first Monday after the first full weekend in February, May, August, and November of every year. Articles and submissions are due three weeks before the publish date.

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

**Publisher:** Dan Robinson  
drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org

**Editors:** Lynn Valentino, Nancy Hart

*Reporters & Photographers of all ages are needed!*



From a picture dated: 03-11-79  
Fr. Charles Crumbley, Rob Kane,  
Doug Harvey, and Dennis Durno

# SPOTLIGHT ON...

by Incognito

What is a volunteer? The American English Dictionary defines "volunteer" as a person or persons who do something for an organization willingly and without being asked or for monetary gain. Four of these people who epitomize "volunteer" are the DePasquale family. For this issue of Our Family News, they are in the spotlight.

Joe grew up in the Austintown area and attended St. Joseph Parish where he received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Christine, originally from Boardman, was Baptized and made her First Communion at St. Patrick's and Confirmation at St. Dominic's, both in Youngstown. They were married at St. Dominic's on May 13, 1995 and moved to Champion. They are the proud parents of Bridget (15) and Frank (13).

Christine has worked for Warren City Schools for 22 years, and presently teaches junior high. Joe is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year as Director of IT at Olympic Steel in Bedford, Ohio. While searching for a parish to attend, Christine was encouraged by a fellow teacher, Robin Walk (DeSalvo) to visit Saint William, where Christine says the people were, and continue to be welcoming and friendly.

While we enjoyed coffee and a light brunch at one of Champion's local restaurants, I encouraged Christine to talk about some of the activities they are involved in at the church. WOW! I don't know where to begin. Joe is an active member of Knights of Columbus and currently holds the office of Financial Secretary. He also is a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree team that initiates new members. Christine has been a PSR teacher since 2010, a lector, past Women's Guild president (2013-

2015), and the iPlunge Retreat and Mission chaperone for area youth in 2015 and 2016. She is also known for making delicious cupcakes for special events. Yum! They truly are amazing.

Bridget and Frank are always eager to lend a helping hand with friendly smiles. They are both Altar Servers, participate in Music Ministry, 'iPlunge Mission Trip' participants, and 'Make a Difference Day' workers. This busy family can also be seen volunteering at Fish Dinners and the St. Vincent De-Paul Soup Kitchen.

I asked Christine if they ever found time to just relax with such busy schedules and outside activities. She admitted this was a challenge. They have made it a point to return to Disney World every few years and living by the Greenway Bike Trail has also given them much enjoyment and added to family fun times.



Christine offered this anecdote:

*"About six years ago we took a visit to Thumm's Bike Shop in Warren. After looking around a bit, the owner showed us a bike that grew with the kids and promised we would never have to buy another bike again. That sold us. We walked out with two bikes, one for each child and have never looked back. The weekend after we got the bikes the weather was beautiful, so we decided to try them out. We*

*live near the bike trail and were all excited to get started. The kids were off like a shot."*

*"The bikes had gears and it was a brand new experience for them. They could go faster than they ever could with the little kid bikes they used to have. At every intersection we would ask if they wanted to turn around. "No, we want to keep going!" I understood they were having fun with their new found speed and freedom. But the further we went the more often I would ask if they wanted to turn around reminding them that we had to ride the same distance to get back home. But they were adamant about going on. When we got to Orwell, Joe and I made the executive decision to turn around despite the kids protest. Well, let me tell you it didn't take long after turning around for the complaining to start. "I'm tired, I'm hungry, I want to go home, I can't ride any-more!" We replied that it didn't*

*matter how tired or hungry they were, they had to keep going in order to get home. There were no ruby slippers to tap and wish our way back. They begrudgingly kept pedaling and finally made it home after riding our bikes about 36 miles round trip that day. Needless, to say, that was a lesson learned on their part. Joe and I look back on that and have a good laugh. It was a fun family outing that we will never forget."*

The makeup of Saint William Church is diverse, and we are brought together by each member's willingness and commitment to help us grow and spread the gospel message. Our strength lies in the people who volunteer their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

*"Let all that you do be done in Love."*

~1 Corinthians 16:14

*(Continued from page 1) Bishop*

to celebrate their design of utility and beauty for this project. Parish staff was represented by Bob and Marcia Kane and the Finance Committee overseeing this project from start to finish was represented by Bob and Karen Hardman.

The ground breaking was a short but lovely ceremony led by Bishop Murry, assisted by John Robinson, and witnessed by approximately 150 parishioners. Afterward, the parish Women's Guild provided a pleasant reception for the groundbreaking participants in the parish social hall. A light lunch of chicken salad croissants, fresh fruit, and a large assortment of cookies was provided. All-in-all, the event was a delightful coming together of old and new friends to commemorate an important moment in St. William parish history.

*(Continued from page 1) How*

to discuss the process. It was at this point that the Steering Committee was formed, and the meetings to find the answers to our questions began. Rather than go to the expense of hiring a company to do the work involved in raising the funds, the committee spearheaded the campaign project.

As a result of these initial meetings and continual communications with the Finance Committee, the committee was able to determine that the capital campaign should include the new offices / furnishings, parking lot/ lighting, expansion of the kitchen, and new chairs in the church. With the scope determined, proposals from an architect were obtained. The 'Capital Campaign' goal was determined to be \$1,000,000. The Committee felt there was nothing to lose ... and everything to gain!

In October 2014, the committee's plans to present this

## NCYC ARTICLE

by Olivia Kochunas

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend the National Catholic Youth Choir for the second time. It was held again in Collegeville, Minnesota at St. John's University. It was just as amazing as last year, and I am blessed to have been able to return. I'd like to extend a special thanks to the Women's Guild, the Knights of Columbus, and Father Balash who either generously donated or helped me with fund raising.

There were 24 youths from all over the country, and our conduc-

tor this year was Andre Heywood, a Professor and Choir Director from Canada. I really liked the energy he brought to our rehearsals. He kept us all awake and made rehearsal so much fun. We rehearsed anywhere from six to nine hours a day—imagine how that makes your voice feel!! Mixed in with rehearsal, we had different types of prayer, including Morning Prayer with the monks, noon prayer with the nuns, daily compline, and Taize prayer. Taize prayer is by far the most beautiful type of prayer we participate in while

*NCYC (Continued on page 7)*

opportunity to parishioners unfolded by holding six receptions on varying dates. We provided facts and objective evidence and asked parishioners to consider a pledge that could be paid over a three year period. As of January 2015, 113 Parishioners had pledged \$472,609 ... with \$164,414 already collected. At this time, we had an additional \$100,000 from previous fish dinners which took us over the half way point. This was an important milestone as the Diocese requires at least 50% of the necessary amount before further steps can be taken.

Father Balash met with and updated Bishop Murry. It was reported at the May 2015 Parish Council and Finance Committees' meetings that the total campaign efforts were \$693,044. The next phase committee was formed over the balance of 2015. Meetings were held throughout the first quarter of 2016, resulting in the Diocesan approval to proceed, and we secured Phillips/Sekanick Architects Inc. of Warren for the project.

This first phase includes the construction of the new office building, expansion of the kitchen, and the building of a storage room. Currently, 153 parishioners have

pledged \$565,160 (74% has been collected). Along with other donations and fish dinner monies, that brings the campaign total to \$707,665.

Serving on the Finance Committee prior to and over the course of this campaign, I have been able to see firsthand the continued generosity of St. William parishioners who have continued to support their church expansion while remaining current with expenses. I have been extremely excited about this project from the onset! It brings a sense of security to me to know that we were concerned and acted to assure our Church for future generations. I am proud to be a member of St. William Catholic Church and proud of my fellow parishioners. With all this being said, the three questions mentioned earlier have been answered. *Yes, we did it ... by being committed to the cause ... by our fellow parishioners!* We accepted the opportunity that will allow us to continue our ministry, our outreach, and our service to God's people. We will remain a bright light shining forth in our community and the world.



**GROUND BREAKING**

**“WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY.”**  
~2 Corinthians 6:9

**2016**

**1995**



**LANDSCAPING**

# iPLUNGE SUMMER MISSION TRIP

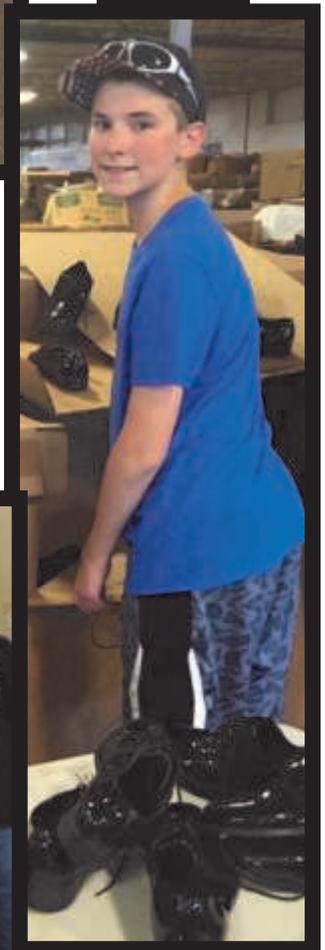
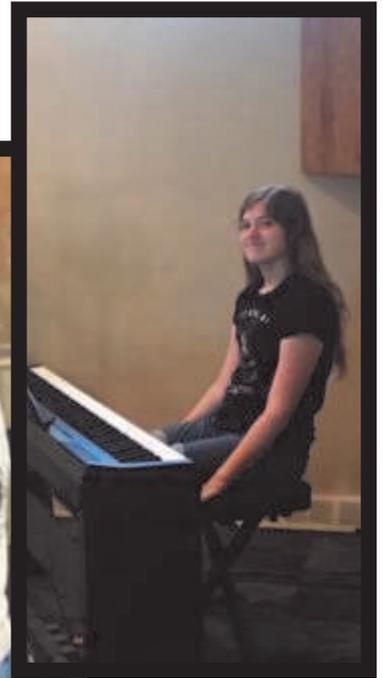
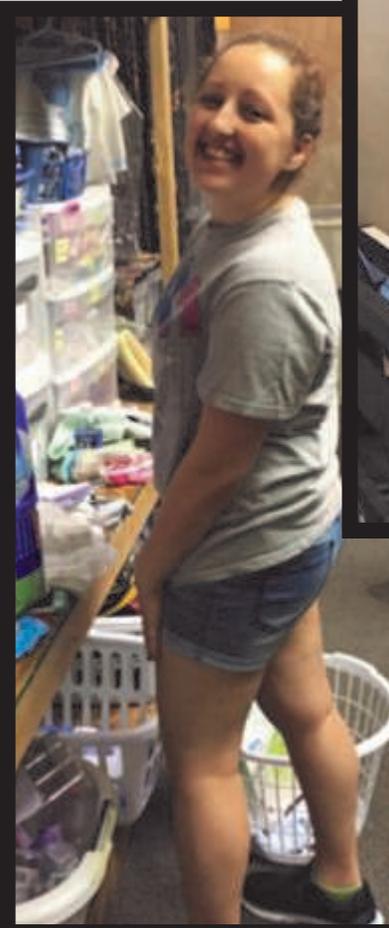
by Christine De Pascale

Bridget, Frank and Christine DePascale along with Tessa Butcher and Tina McCue left Warren, Ohio on the bright, sunny morning of June 27 at 8:30am and arrived in Cincinnati 5 ½ hours later. We were greeted by Steve Poat and Eric Nichols who called out “God is Good!” To which we replied “All the time!” And that is how we started our week at the Jesuit Spiritual Center.

Our daily schedule included Morning Prayer in the chapel, a hearty breakfast, then off to our worksite. At our return, we were treated to a delicious dinner which we enjoyed while comparing our encounters from the day. After some downtime, we regrouped for praise and worship with live music. It was awesome! All the kids and adults were full participants in this group singing which gave praise to our Almighty Father. At the end of the day, we took time out to reflect on our experiences and give thanks to God with our evening prayers.

Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M) was our first worksite of the week. This is an international relief organization completely run through the dedication of volunteers. At our arrival we were ushered to a section of the building set up with rows of tables that had a perimeter created by massive boxes of men’s dress shoes. Why dress shoes, you might ask? Well, Men’s Warehouse is a supplier for M25M. Every week they send a shipment of hundreds of shoes, which they no longer use for rentals, to the corporation. Our job was to match up same size shoes, tie the shoestrings together and throw them in another big box. How easy could that be, right? Well, let me tell you, it was very tedious work. Once we started working, we realized that the shoes were not only different sizes, but different styles and colors as well. Some were missing shoelaces and we had to lace them. Then there were the shoes that were piling up because there were only rights, no lefts to be found. After lunch, we still had three hours to go. Reju-

*iPlunge (Continued on page 13)*



(Continued from page 4) NCYC

we're there. I'm so glad they scheduled it in again. We also had a lot of free time. Within the free time, we could go canoeing, swimming, walking, hiking, etc. All of these activities definitely made you sleep like a baby when it was time for bed!

Another thing I was a fan of this year was the music. The theme was "The Psalms of the People". We focused on the 150 Psalm texts which we learned

quite a bit about when we had our religious history class. I am so grateful to have gone to this camp, not once, but twice! It was truly the best experience of my life. I gained musical knowledge, great friendships that will last a lifetime, and religious knowledge that strengthened my faith exponentially. Also, if you'd like to hear how the choir sounded, I have CDs from both last year and this year. Thank you to all who supported me, both financially and spiritually.

This picture of the 2016 NYCC and others like it can be found at <http://www.csbsju.edu/sothnyc/>  
Olivia is 2nd Row, 3rd from Left



Why do we remain standing during all of communion...I was taught it was proper to kneel after getting back to my place? Signed "On My Feet"

Dear "On My Feet,"

Thank you for your insightful question. It is our practice at St. William to stand during the distribution of Holy Communion until all present have received and the Blessed Sacrament has been reserved in the tabernacle. Why so???? Well perhaps the answer is best situated by understanding the action and meaning of receiving Holy Communion. When we come

forward to receive Holy Communion we are coming forward as an act of faith. When the minister says, "the Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ," and we respond "Amen," that is our profession of our faith! It is a profession of faith and belief in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine and of our belonging to one another. This is significant, important and sacred! Holy Communion is our "common union" with the Lord and with all present. It is the moment in Mass when we express most completely and significantly our unity to Christ and to one another. We accomplish this by first joining in the communion procession and secondly by receiving in the same way as everyone else by gesture, posture, and action. As we move to the table of the Lord, we form a single procession --a pilgrim people on the move together. Our procession forward is an action by all at the invitation of Christ remem-

bering that "blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." This unique action, unlike any other line or procession that we are ever in, in the course of life, leads us to Christ! After receiving the Body and Blood of Christ we continue this sign of unity by returning to our place and standing in unison as others receive until the action is complete. Again, this serves as a way to express our "common union" with the Lord and one another. Once all have received and the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle, we sit for a brief period of silence and reflection giving thanks to God for giving us His Son before bringing our celebration to a close.

Sincerely,  
A-A-A (Ask/Answer Angle)

Have a question about faith or why we do what we do at Mass....submit it to A-A-A Ask/Answer Angle by email at [parishoffice@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:parishoffice@stwilliamchampion.org) or drop your question in the weekly collection basket.

# CALLED TO BE A LIGHT TO EACH OTHER...

by Tina McCue

Through the waters of baptism, we are invited to enter into an amazing love story that God has written on our heart. Like any good story, we must open the front cover and turn the pages so that we can learn what mysteries the story holds. Our loving Father reveals himself to us in countless ways so that we feel His love as the story of our own life unfolds. The most powerful way that God reveals himself is through our savior, Jesus Christ.

In our human weakness, we often turn a deaf ear to the call of God to enter into the ministry of Jesus. As the body of Christ, we are called to be a light to each other. I feel that one of the biggest obstacles to overcome is the realization that faith formation is a life-long process. We do not come to know God by simply attending parish school or by attending Mass. Learning to know someone, falling in love with someone, staying in love with someone takes a lifetime of practice.

There are many opportunities

here at St. William to be formed as the body of Christ so that we may come to know the mission of Jesus and make the mission visible to all those whom we meet.

- Pre-school age children will have the opportunity to get to know God through Stories and Scripture offered the second Sunday of the month.
- K~8 children will gather weekly during Parish School Religion.
- High school students will gather the first and third Sunday of the month.
- Families will join together for several Family Faith Celebrations.
- Opportunities will be offered throughout the year to serve God's people at the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen and at Clearview Lantern.
- Young adults are invited to join Theology on Tap, which gathers

the third Wednesday of every month.

- This year, we will once again offer Little Rock Scripture Study, during which we will help each other discover what Jesus has to tell us through the Gospel according to Luke.

- During the season of Lent, we will come together as a parish for a Parish Mission.

All of these opportunities to form us as the body of Christ are centered in the Eucharist. It is in the celebration of the Mass, through the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist, that we are strengthened personally and formed as a community. God calls you by name to enter into the love story. My prayer for you and your family is that you open the book, come to the table, and respond in prayer and thanksgiving to the call to be a light to each other and to the world



## PARDON OUR DUST

by Gary Gates

During the upcoming construction of the new office building, kitchen, and storage area, there will be an increase in dust and disarray. Some areas may become difficult to navigate. Please be mindful of construction



signs warning of detours and roped off areas. These measures are for the safety of us all.

Also, the walk-in cooler and the walk-in freezer will be relocated. Since these appliances will be inoperable for a short time, it is important that you remove any items you may be storing there.

Thank you for your patience as we complete this important project.

## PSR NEWS

by Carol Timko

It is hard to believe that PSR will be starting soon. Our first meeting of the 2016-2017 school year will be on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30am in the Social Hall. Registration will be held at the conclusion of this meeting. All parents and students, age 4-grade 8, are required to attend this meeting.

We are searching for helpers to aid in keeping our program strong and vibrant. If you are interested, or just want to know how you can help make a difference in the lives of our students, please contact me at [ctimko@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:ctimko@stwilliamchampion.org) or call 330-847-8627.

PSR TEACHERS: Our teacher meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16 at 7pm. All PSR teachers and anyone interested in helping with PSR will need to attend this meeting. Contact me if you have any questions.



# SING TO THE LORD!

By Patricia Maciejewski

“Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous deeds!”

~Psalm 96

Psalm 96 is what we are all about at Mass, singing God’s praises as we join our voices with all the angels, saints, and heavenly hosts. Do you wonder if it matters if you pick up a music book and sing at Mass? The answer is YES! It does matter, because we gather as one body in the Lord and in our public worship at Mass we are



present to one another lifting up one another with our songs, responses, and prayers. This is reinforced by the Second Vatican Council and the US Council of Catholic Bishops where the role of the congregation is described as being “The full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit.” What does this mean? It means that attendance at Mass is a public and group activity where we become one body rather than many. We are a singing parish family! Our music ministry is not about individual performance, but about leading the assembly as a group in sung prayer!

## LITURGY CORNER

by Ann Sprague

Through baptism, faith, and practice of the Bible teachings, we are all Disciples of Christ. We affirm this each time we attend Mass and meet at the table of the Eucharistic to receive Holy Communion. As disciples, we are asked to be servants to one another and to the Lord. There are many different ways to serve as we grow toward Christ.

The liturgy committee leads the other ministries and guides their focus on the liturgy. As we gather for worship, we are welcomed and directed by the ministry of ushers and greeters. The music ministers unite us in one body as we begin our gathering rite and throughout the entire liturgy. The lector calls us to listen, reflect, and respond to the Word of God. The ministers of the Eucharist assist in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ, as we are united as one in Christ. The altar servers assist Father during the entire liturgy. Environmental ministers meet to plan the appropriate surroundings for each liturgical season. They also gather the resources to prepare our worship and entry space for each liturgical season. The leaders



of prayer are lay people who are trained and commissioned to lead us in prayer. When a priest is not available, they may lead the Liturgy of the Word and serve Communion. Caregiving ministers are the people who visit the sick and dying and help to nurture them with prayer and communion. The prayer shawl ministry is a newly formed group that meets once a month to pray and to crochet or knit “prayer shawls” to be given to those who are ill and homebound.

We are currently forming a new ministry in our parish. Recently, we have found that there is a need for us to be present to the families and visitors of the deceased. The funeral ministry is in the formation process and will be prepared to serve soon.

Throughout the Church year, there are many liturgical activities that require the participation and dedication of all lay ministers. As liturgy director, I have various jobs to do and roles to fill. One is the recruiting and the training of the various ministries that serve and enrich us at every gathering we have. Please contact me if you are interested in joining any of our ministries.

*We always welcome newcomers!*

As summer draws to a close and fall approaches, our music groups begin practicing and leading weekend Masses in sung prayer between September and May. We need YOU! Consider joining our Contemporary (Folk) Group at practices Wednesdays at 7pm or our Adult Choir on Thursdays a 7pm. Folk Group and Adult Choir sing at weekend Mass twice a month and a yearly music schedule is found in the vestibule or on our parish website calendar. Our Youth Music Ministry (grades 2-8) will sing at Christmas and Easter with rehearsals scheduled as needed. We are also looking for voices to join our Funeral Choir. This is a very important and worthwhile ministry that comes together during Funeral Mass held at St. William Parish, which is typically during the weekend mornings and early afternoon.

“Our participation in the Liturgy is challenging. Sometimes, our voices do not correspond to the convictions of our hearts. At other times, we are distracted or preoccupied by the cares of the world. Christ always invites us, however, to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice for the honor and glory of the Most Blessed Trinity,” (USCCB, 2005.) Together we can indeed sing of the marvelous deeds of the Lord! Please consider joining St. William Music Ministry!

# LIFE IS GOOD...

by William Vercelli

I Googled “how to be awesome” recently. It scared me. Did you know that there are 788,000,000 suggestions on how to be awesome? 788 million! Surprised? The suggestions ranged from the simple to the absurd and from the humorous to the unrepeatable. The entire exercise was rather disappointing and very confusing.

Awesome is a relative newcomer in the English language. Someone in the 16th century needed a way to say “filled with awe” and “*Poof!*” awesome was born. Luckily for us, good ole Webster clarified the meaning of awesome to “inspiring great admiration.” I don’t need to be a Christian scholar to definitively state that Christ never heard or said the word “Awesome.” It certainly doesn’t appear anywhere in the Bible or in any Christian texts. That is a shame really.

In my mind’s eye, I am positive that had the word existed in Christ’s time He would have used it often. Imagine that He said “Go and be awesome.” How awesome would that be?

Of course, if Christ had really said “Awesome” then some goofball in the intervening years between then and now would have messed it up by overanalyzing the word. Over-thinking it. Many of the beautiful things that Christ said have been over-thought through time. Leave it to us human beings to take a simple idea and make a mess out of it.

Luckily for us the word awesome is a newish word and more importantly it hasn’t been co-opted or abused or copyrighted by anyone. It’s free to use. It is also free to aspire to. You are welcome to be as awesome as you possibly can...actually, I think that it is a divine request. You were built to be awesome by the Creator. What are you waiting for?

I think you are pretty awesome. Go show others.

## LOOKING BACK TO...1967

by Staff

We recently came into possession of an intriguing picture from a parishioner. The writing on the back of this picture reads “St. William Festival 1967-1968 Queen. Jan Ciortan Elliott” The newsletter staff has tried to do some sleuthing on this picture and so far the only information we can find is that “Yep! We remember the year we had a festival queen,” or “Gee! Those chairs in the background look like St. William chairs...so this must be true!” Now I don’t know about ya’ll but not knowing something totally stresses me out! So, please, if anyone knows any of the people in this picture could you let us know. Our archives are desperate for the information. (drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org or 330-219-1927)



# PRAYERS, HARD WORK & DETERMINATION

by Marianne Fleischer

Many of you know that my son Brandon had a horrific accident approximately 2 ½ years ago. October 30, 2013, is the day that changed our lives forever. Brandon spent weeks clinging to life in St Elizabeth's SICU. Among his many injuries were a spinal cord injury, collapsed lungs, and a brachial plexus injury to his left arm. Though he went through many surgeries, not everything could be fixed. He is paralyzed from the chest down, but he has partial use of his left arm.

Although he suffered through many ups and downs, Brandon continued to improve and was eventually moved to another floor, and finally was released for rehab. He chose to go to Cleveland Metro Health where he spent eight weeks in daily therapy. Since this happened on October 30, he was there through Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Brandon worked very hard in therapy to get his strength back. He did get some use in his left arm. Brandon came home on January 17, 2014. He continued to go to

therapy at Hillside.

With all his hard work, prayers, and dedication, Brandon is doing very well now. Brandon and our family found new ways to do things he liked to do and become the person he wants to be. He mows grass, goes in the swimming pool, and many other things. His most recent accomplishment is that he took driving lessons with hand controls and did well. Brandon finished his lessons on November 15 and was then able to drive again. He patiently waited to get his van switched over to hand controls. He has been driving himself around for almost 3 months now. I'm very proud to say he is my son. He continues to



strive to do more each day. His goal is to someday walk again. By the way, he started coming to church on Sundays and has become a Knight in the local Knights of Columbus. Thank

you everyone who prays for Brandon. I believe this has helped him along his journey. What a journey it has been for us. He has a very positive outlook, and that's another thing that keeps him going. He also said God gave him a second chance for a reason.

# FOOD PANTRY

by Tamara Martinko

Did you know that St. William has a food pantry that is available to any parishioner in need? It is located across from the social hall between the adult meeting room and the PSR office, and contains a variety of foods and household products donated by parishioners. According to Father Balash, a variety of families use the pantry when needed. Sadly, the need is so great that food in the pantry rarely ever goes "out of date." They range from the young with children to older people. The number of families helped fluctuates between ten and twenty a month. The food pantry is available to parishioners in need whenever the church is open. If you are in need and would prefer anonymity, you may call the church office and set up an alternative means of using the food pantry.

You may recall the "items of the week" last year in the bulletin. These were used to request specific items for the food pantry that were either low in stock or completely missing. This helped the food pantry to offer items most needed by families and limit super-large quantities of single food items that cannot be used in a timely manner. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has donated in the past; your generosity was greatly appreciated. Due to the positive feedback from the "items of the week" we will be starting up again in the fall. Whether you've donated in the past or not, please consider donating. If everyone just donated one item we'd be able to stock the food pantry and really help out other parishioners in need.

*"Never let the peace of your heart be disturbed by anything in the world."*

~St. Julie Billiart

# Women's Guild

by Therese Tuttle

## A WARM NOTE FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The summer months are always a busy season for the Women's

Guild. In June, we held our annual organizational meeting where we planned events and meetings for the upcoming year. We start the year off with our annual Rummage Sale. As always, parish members have been generous with their donations, and we hope this year will be as successful as previous years.

The Women's Guild is happy to

host the parish picnic August 14th at the Olympic Club in Warren. The parish will be able to enjoy wonderful food, live music, swimming, tennis and other activities.

Our first meeting is scheduled for September 7th where we will go over the 2016-2017 program booklets and enjoy a wine & cheese social. All women over 18

are invited to enjoy and participate in the activities and join in at the meetings. I leave you with this quote by Edward Everett Halle, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."



## R.C.I.A

by Father Balash

Have you...

- been worshipping with us but never officially took the step to become Catholic?
- been away from the Church...and now have returned but want to know more?
- joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?
- felt God leading you and want to find out where that might be?

If any of these apply to you, your spouse, a family member, or if you know of anyone who could answer YES to any of these questions, we would love to help you on your journey! The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an informative and comfortable way to seek answers and discover more about the Catholic Church and our faith. It provides a spiritual opportunity to learn and discuss various aspects of the Catholic faith and its practices. If you or some-

one you know has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith we would love to help you on your journey. Join us for "muffins and coffee" on Sunday, September 25 at 9:30 a.m. or call the Parish Office for more information.



(Continued from page 6) iPlunge

venated from lunch, the kids dug deep (sometimes literally) to finish the job. They had a system of organization that worked for them, and they powered through. At the end of the day, they were proud of what they had accomplished. As we drove back to the Jesuit Spiritual Center, we joked about the dreams we would have that night of piles upon piles of shoes.

The next day would bring a different experience to our group. Once again, we were off after breakfast; this time to the Rose Garden Mission of Covington, Kentucky, an organization run by the Franciscan Daughters of Mary. They are missionary sisters dedicated to serving the needy everything from food to clothing and baby products. They even offer a free health clinic and a pregnancy crisis program. Dental services are soon to come.

While we were there, we had many jobs to accomplish. Some of us bagged food which would be given out to the people that came to the mission. Others cleaned donated baby items such as walkers, strollers and high chairs to prepare for new owners. Newborn baby welcome baskets were created, and orders for diapers, formula and clothing were filled if the supplies were available. This experience really brought to light how much places like the Rose Garden Mission are needed, not just in Covington, but everywhere. However, the joy of volunteering at the Rose Garden Mission is watching God in action. Everywhere we turned we witnessed miracles from heaven. Since this organization strictly relies on donations to survive, when they run out of something, it's gone. Many times the sisters were asked, "What are we going to do? We don't have any more size 4 diapers or bread or lettuce or (fill-in-the-blank)."

The sisters would always reply "God will provide." They never seemed worried. They just kept smiling and working. And wouldn't you know it, within an hour of giving out the last needed item, it would be donated as if by magic. It was absolutely amazing. God had indeed provided, and continued to do so time and time again.

The parishioners from St. William Parish who participated in this amazing experience (many of us for the second time) have admitted that it continues to be a life changing event. We are the disciples of Christ, and for a few short days, God put us where he knew we were needed the most. We heard the call, and as Pope Francis has stated, "When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love." Thanks be to God, we did all of those things and more. So if you hear one of us calling out "God is good," please reply "All the time!"

To donate or learn more about our worksites during the iPlunge, please visit the following websites:

Matthew 25 Ministries

<http://m25m.org/>

The Rose Garden Mission

[www.exclusivesoftware.com/](http://www.exclusivesoftware.com/RoseGardenMission/default.html)

[RoseGardenMission/default.html](http://www.exclusivesoftware.com/RoseGardenMission/default.html)

## THAT'S INCREDIBLE

by Cathy Poponak

I've always enjoyed a great story, especially real life stories that seem stranger than fiction. I remember watching a TV show back in the early 1980s called "That's Incredible". It was hosted by NFL quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, dimply faced John Davidson and the darling Cathy Lee Crosby. The show featured human interest stories about scientific, medical, and technological breakthroughs, reenactments of allegedly paranormal events, people with unusual talents, and dangerous stunt maneuvers. Always entertaining, it added to my own repertoire of stories I could retell around a campfire or at a family gathering.

I come from a long line of storytellers. When our extended family gets together, the first half of the gathering is spent getting reacquainted, and the second half is spent retelling the old family tales. Somehow we never get tired of hearing the same old yarn get retold over and over again, as simple as it might be. Regardless of who's recounting it, the rest of us pitch in, and without fail someone remembers a new detail about the story that gets us all laughing.

There are the near disaster type stories that might start out like....remember when Cathy overdosed all of us on baby aspirin? In order to vindicate myself, I quickly clarify that I was not yet 5 years old and already had 2 brothers and a sister. Always thinking I was in charge of the brood, I decided to treat them to St. Joseph Aspirin for Children. They were delicious fruit flavored little pills in a shapely little glass bottle with an easy to open lid. I still remember the tiny purse I carried to the kitchen where I climbed

*Incredible (Continued on page 15)*



Barb Mendik had her hands full with these three...just look at the grin on Cathy's face. She's up to something!

## FROM NANCY'S KITCHEN:

Wow! It has been a scorcher out there! It is way too hot to cook! It must be hot for me to say that...I love to cook! This month the editor asked me to come up with a few summertime recipes that are easy to make and would keep the oven on for a very short time (or not at all!) I worked on this for awhile until a very dear friend sent me a recipe from the 1993 parish newsletter that reminded me of "tropical!" So this edition is all things tropical. These are soooo good you will want them year round...my family loves them!

Happy Cooking!  
Love ~ Nancy

*BTW—Add 1/2 cup of flaked coconut to the 'No Bakes' for a tropical twist!*

FLASHBACK RECIPE FROM 1993!

## LUSCIOUS LEMON SQUARES

by Vivian Flamini

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup butter (softened)
- 2 tsp grated lemon peel (optional)
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder

### Instructions

Heat oven to 350.

Mix flour, butter and powdered sugar thoroughly. Press evenly in ungreased square pan (8x8) building up 1/2 inch edges. Bake 20 mins or until golden. Beat remaining ingredients until light and fluffy. Pour over hot crust and bake for approx. 25 mins or until firm. Cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into 1 1/2" squares. Makes 25.



## LEMON BITES

by Nancy Hart

- 1 pkg lemon cake mix\*
- 1 egg
- 8oz Cool Whip, thawed
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350.

In a large bowl, combine cake mix, egg, and whipped topping (batter will be very stiff). Drop a teaspoonful of dough into powdered sugar to keep dough from sticking to hands. Place balls of dough 2" apart on a greased baking sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until light brown on bottoms. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container. Makes 6 dozen cookies.

\*Can use any flavor of cake mix

## PINEAPPLE DOLE WHIP

by Nancy Hart

- 350g frozen pineapple chunks (about 2 overflowing cups)
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice (or orange juice)

### Instructions

Place all ingredients in blender or food processor. Start on low then turn up to high. Process until smooth.

## NO BAKES

by Nancy Hart

- 1 stick of butter
- 2 cups of sugar
- 3 Tbsp cocoa
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2/3 cup of peanut butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 1/2 cup oats

### Instructions

Melt butter in saucepan. Add sugar, cocoa, and milk. Bring to a boil and let boil for one minute. Remove from heat, add peanut butter, vanilla, and oats. Drop by small spoonful's onto waxed paper. Let cool.

# PROFESSOR'S BOOKS

By Gloria Alden

[Editor's Note: This is an exciting four part mystery written by Gloria Alden and will be delivered over the next three newsletters. Gloria is an award winning writer and author of the Catherine Jewell Mystery series.

Gloria is an active member of St. William parish and prolific blogger. She blogs with Writers Who Kill on Thursdays. [writerswhokill.blogspot.com/](http://writerswhokill.blogspot.com/). Gloria's work can be found on her website [www.glorialden.com](http://www.glorialden.com) as well as on Amazon. Gloria's next novel comes out in December.

## Part 1

William Faulkner gave Tilly the idea. Well, not the author himself, but a book of his. Not that Tilly had read the book. She didn't read much more than the obituaries or the advice columns in the newspaper. Sometimes she read Dr. Donohue's column if it wasn't about men's problems like prostate cancer. No, Tilly got the idea when she was dusting the Professor's books, something she spent a part of every day doing after she'd finished her other chores.

The book was *As I Lay Dying*, but because the capital "P" was so close to the capital "L," she thought it was *As He Lay Dying*, and that got Tilly to thinking about the Professor dying. Of course, ever since he'd casually mentioned to her that she would be remembered in his will since she'd been such a faithful housekeeper for so many years, she had started picturing the little house she would buy. She'd live there quietly with a cat and a canary. The Professor didn't care much for animals so she couldn't have any here. Those thoughts had just been daydreams of sometime in the future, but when he'd had his heart attack six months ago, Tilly thought maybe that time had come so she started reading the real estate ads in the newspaper, too. But in spite of his advanced age, he had rallied, and although he wasn't as spry as he once was, he didn't seem ready for death any time soon.

And so life went along in its usual rhythm with Tilly cooking for the Professor, doing household chores, and dusting the thousands of books the Professor had not only in his library, but also the piles of books found in every nook and cranny throughout his house. It wasn't a difficult life. The Professor was agreeable enough, and her work wasn't hard, so Tilly was reasonably content until a problem arose, and it seemed to Tilly that the only way she could be saved was if the Professor died before next week. The day before, the Professor had announced that a book appraiser would be coming to catalogue his collection of special editions and re-evaluate their worth. He had given her a key to the locked bookcase and asked her to make sure the books were well dusted.

Tilly's problem was that a year ago she had found a spare key in the Professor's desk to that bookcase. Curious about those books, she had unlocked and opened the glass doors and took a few out to look at them. The first one was a volume of *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens. This surprised her. Why would this be so special when she remembered dusting one very similar to it on the Professor's book shelves? Just to be sure, she went to the shelf holding all of Charles Dickens's books. She pulled it out and compared the two. She couldn't see much difference. Someone had scribbled the name Charles Dickens on the inside flyleaf of the book from the locked bookcase, but it seemed to her that the one without any writing in it should be worth more.

It was several days later on a rainy day that an idea came to her. She was squishing along the sidewalk with one wet foot because her right boot had a leak. She was on her way to a shoe store to get a new pair when she passed The Emporium, a used book store. A sign in the window attracted her attention, "We Buy Used Books."

**Next Installment: Tilly makes plans.**

(Continued from page 13) Incredible

to the top shelf for the "treat" to give my siblings. Not being raised in the consumer safety era of protecting everyone from every danger, there were no childproof lids. That same bottle I would have great difficulty opening today, but that day I easily unscrewed it and dispensed the tablets to my eager brothers. Though my mother was diligently laundering diapers, she apprehended me, but not before an uncertain amount had been consumed by both Paul and David. Whisked to the hospital, and stomachs pumped, they returned never to trust me or the contents of my purse again.

Then there are the embarrassing stories that still make us cringe as we laugh our way through the story, like when all 5 of us (Paul, David, Ann Marie, Michael and I) were waiting for the bus. We attended Catholic school which meant riding the public high school bus. Running late and unaware that there was a sheet of ice on the cement, each one of us flew out the door and slid across the porch. Plaid jumpers flapping in the breeze, book bags and lunch boxes flying through the air, we landed in a pile at the base of the steps. Mom, not sure what happened, but always ready to save her youngsters, followed in her house dress and slippers. Landing in the pile with the rest of us, I still recall her lifting her arm to wave the bus driver on. None of her children would be attending school that day.

Then, as in everyone's family, we have heartbreaking stories. They are the stories that never get retold because they just hurt too much to talk about. Just a few days before our dear brother David was to turn 21, he lost his life in a motor vehicle accident. Like the proverbial elephant in the room, it looms there, the story always untold but forever in our hearts. But like all of our stories, it unites us. Like a thread it binds us together. Spoken or unspoken, our joy and our sorrow is something that we share as a family. Experiencing life together somehow increases our joy and eases our pain. In the end, maybe shared life stories are what make a family and keep it together. I think that really is incredible.



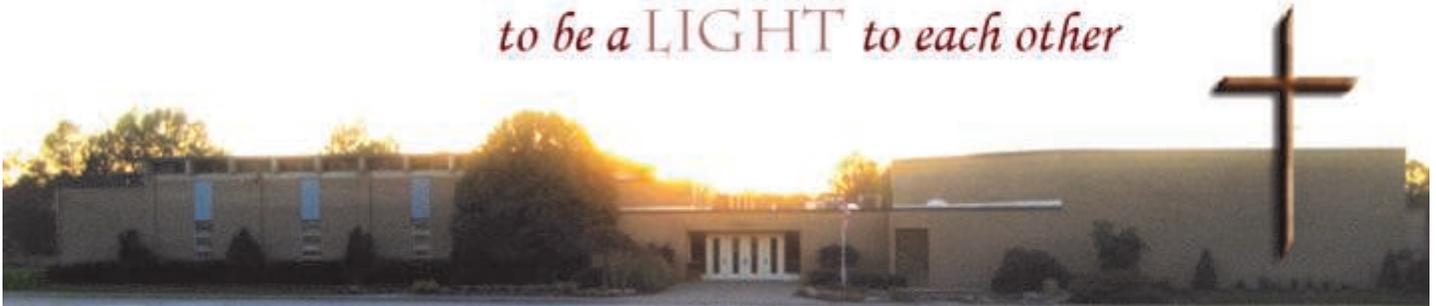
# Upcoming Events

**IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER**  
Summer Mass Schedule Ends ~ Sunday September 4  
11:00 a.m. Mass returns on Sunday, September 11

- Sept. 11 ~ PSR Begins
- Sept. 20 ~ Women's Guild TNT Night ~ Godspell at TNT
- Sept. 25 ~ RCIA Opening Session
- Oct. 1 ~ Blessing of Pets
- Oct. 22 ~ Make A Difference Day
- Oct 22 ~ Knights of Columbus Reverse Raffle

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

*called...*  
*to be a LIGHT to each other*



## St. William Catholic Church

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