

# Our Family News

St. William Catholic Church

Champion, Ohio

Third Edition Issue 21

April 2021



## A LABOR OF LOVE

by Tina McCue

As I write this article, we are prepping for week seven of our 2021 fish dinner season. It is a cloudy, windy March day, so windy in fact that we will not be attempting to put up the three blue tents that have marked the path for

### FISHY FRIDAY

by Therese Tuttle

Have you ever wondered why we abstain from eating meat on Friday? As it turns out, there are several reasons why.

According to Christian teaching, Jesus died on a Friday, so fasting on Friday became a way to honor His sacrifice. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), abstinence laws state that meat is considered something that comes only from animals that live on land. Fish, which are cold blooded were considered okay to eat on fasting days. Hebrew scripture also tells of Leviathan, a primordial gigantic sea-creature that represented death. So, carving up and eating Leviathan on the day that Christ

*Fishy Tale (Continued on page 11)*

our drive-thru fish dinner service this season. Plans began back in October of 2020 when Father Balash gathered the Fish Dinner Committee together to discuss whether we should attempt a drive-thru carry-out only service or abandon fish dinners completely for 2021. The committee was unanimous in their decision to march forward; subcommittees were formed and many meetings later, we had what we believed was a solid and safe plan in place. We had hoped to serve between 300-500 meals per week...if we were lucky. WOW! We were pleasantly surprised when we served 432

meals our very first week.

I am so proud to be a part of Saint William Parish. This past year has been a testament to our strong family bonds, rooted in our love for Jesus Christ. The fish dinner volunteers have all risen to the occasion as nearly every component of the fish dinner operations that we do had to be adapted amid this pandemic, often on the fly. We had to work with fewer volunteers which meant that each of us had to work harder to make these dinners a success. Countless hours go into planning and preparing for each dinner and

*Labor (Continued on page 10)*



**Ed Baniak and Margie McCummins working the wildly successful 50/50 booth this year.**

## ...from the Pastor



**“For all that  
has happened  
and all that  
the future  
holds we  
are truly  
blessed!”**

*~Fr. Balash*

### *Back to Normal...*

The title of my last two messages for our Parish Newsletter have been “*Unusual Times...*” (August 2020) and “*Anything but normal...*” (November 2020) and rightly so! The past months have certainly been “*unusual*” and “*anything but normal,*” for all of us in so many ways. From stay-at-home orders to face coverings, virtual holidays to Zoom gatherings, drive thru Fish Dinners to live stream Mass, all aspects of life have been unusual and out of sorts. However with a sense of relief and hope I have titled today’s message “*Back to Normal...*” We have slowly but surely begun to resume a sense of normalcy, many are being vaccinated and a significant decrease in infections continues. It is, indeed, a good and blessed time for all of us! Spring has sprung and we are on the cusp of another summer season that will bring a time to relax, recharge and refresh ourselves from the stress and anxiety of the past months. Hopefully the coming months will be filled with warmth, sunshine, fun activities, long days, and cold glasses of iced-tea!

At the parish we are also beginning a return back to normal routines. Groups are meeting, activities are resuming, and most importantly our worship is slowly resembling the way things were before the pandemic. While we continue to maintain necessary safe health protocols for all attending Mass, a true sense of community and spirit is returning. Our celebration of Holy Week and Easter were uplifting and prayerful and our Easter season has abounded with new life all around us. Our Lenten season that called us to “*mend our heart*” and offer a “*new kind of hope*” has translated into this time of Easter joy and promise. For all that has happened and all that the future holds we are truly blessed! An added bonus was having Bishop Bonnar celebrate his first Easter as bishop with us at Easter Sunday Mass!

Under normal circumstances, this time of year would find parish groups and organizations winding down their activities and meetings in anticipation of the summer season. This year finds the leadership of many groups and ministries making plans and scheduling events in anticipation to a full return of activities this summer and in the fall. All of the many good things happening at our parish are a result of the faithful and dedicated commitment of so many of our parishioners. Your enthusiasm and generosity continues to make our parish a spirited vibrant community of faith and purpose. We have much to be grateful for and much to look forward too. Thank you once again for your patience, understanding and cooperation over the recent months. In the midst of the unusual and unfamiliar, great things continue to happen at our parish.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t offer a word of sincere thanks and appreciation to all who worked and supported our annual Fish Dinners this past year. The response to our “drive-thru carry out only” Fish

*Pastor (Continued on page 11)*

## Our Family News

Is published on the first Monday after the first full weekend in April, 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](mailto:drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org)  
*Reporters & Photographers of all ages are needed!*

## NEW PARISHIONERS

### **THE BLIKE FAMILY**

*John, Caitlin, Vincent & Thea*

### **THE HUMASON FAMILY**

*Paula & William*

### **THE BRUGLER FAMILY**

*Christine, Eric, Haley & Faith*

## DECEASED

**Roscoe Gautschi**

1922-2020

**Maureen “Mo” Thuman**

1939-2020

**Terry Troyan**

1940-2020

**Marylyn Burnfield**

1934-2020

**William Sauer**

1922-2021

**Barb Brdek**

1955-2021

**Millie Bova**

1941-2021

**Donald Lesh**

1935-2021

**Gerald Ott**

1937-2021

**Franklin Amoline**

1933-2021

# Sweet Dream

by Cathy Poponak

Winter in Northeast Ohio can be bleak, grey, and foreboding. Bare leafless trees appear numb and lifeless. But somewhere between mid-February and mid-March, a sweet wonder of nature starts to occur in our beloved maple trees. The exact time the miracle begins depends upon weather conditions. When daytime temperatures rise above freezing and nighttime temperatures fall below freezing, starch stored in the roots for winter, rises through the trunk as a sugary sap. The sap of a maple tree is 98 percent water and 2 percent sugar—and it is that 2 percent that will yield the delicious sweetener we call maple syrup.

Hard but rewarding work is what it takes to make maple products a reality. Maple syrup production happens on a farm called a "sugarbush." About forty gallons of sap are required to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

Nowadays, many farmers have started using a vacuum pressure tubing system that sucks sap out of the trees, rather than the traditional method of hanging a galvanized bucket on a tap and waiting for the tree to give it up. The tubing links the trees together which runs the sap to the sugar house, where the sap is collected and heated in large vats over a fire until it turns into syrup.

My husband and I often visit “May Hill Maple Farm” in Greene Township owned by our friends Karl and Amber Evans. Karl has 4000 taps on his maples with about a mile of tubing winding from tree to tree. He anticipates producing “only” 1500 gallons of syrup this year because higher than usual temperatures have not been very favorable for sap flow. As the wood temperature increases to about 45 degrees Fahrenheit, sap flow may continue but with reduced sugar content, resulting in poorer quality syrup. When buds on trees begin to swell and break due to ongoing warm weather, the sap flow will stop and the collection season officially ends, ceasing production.

Karl has loved maple farming and syrup production since he was a boy. At age 14 he was collecting sap before and after school and making syrup at night with some of his buddies. The idea of owning his own maple farm and “sugaring equipment” supply store never left his radar. But after starting his family and working shifts and long hours at a Warren steel mill, his vision seemed rather distant. Then in 2012 the RG Steel Mill closed leaving him unemployed for the first time in his life. A man of faith and prayer, and with a supportive wife, Karl was able to turn a dire situation into the realization of a sweet dream.

I’ve tasted Canadian maple syrup (Canada is the largest supplier of maple syrup in the world), and maple syrup from the New England states, but I don’t think any of it outdoes the Buckeye State for quality and flavor. Somehow, pancakes smothered in butter and warm Ohio maple syrup makes our long dark winters seem just a little brighter, and you can’t beat that!



**Karl Evans checks the tap on one of his many sugar maple trees.**

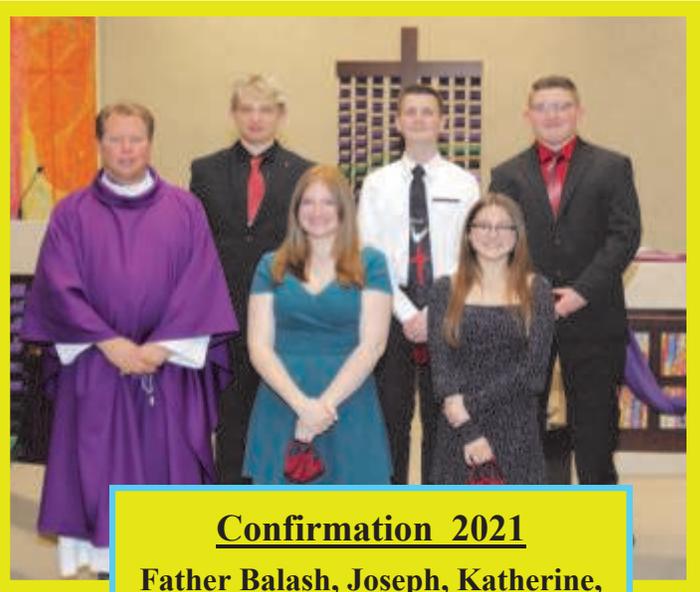


# Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Everyone at St. William would like to wish Julia Cicchillo a very happy and blessed 99<sup>th</sup> birthday! Julia is the proud matriarch to five generations of Cicchillo's (pictured below left to right): Don Lanahan, Julia Cicchillo, James Lanahan, Theresa Lanahan, and Flint Lanahan. Congratulations, Julia!



*Family is a connection to life, a tie to the Past, and a road to the Future.*  
~unknown~



**Confirmation 2021**  
**Father Balash, Joseph, Katherine, Dominic, Alexa, and Nathan**

## Summer Mass Schedule

Begins June 6 and continues through  
Labor Day weekend September 5

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. & **10:30 a.m**

# Portrait of a Saint

## Elizabeth Ann Seton

by Therese Tuttle

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton was born two years before the American Revolution on August 28, 1774 to a wealthy and distinguished Episcopalian family. In 1794 Elizabeth married William Seton and for a short time Elizabeth was happy and content. About a year after they married, William's father passed leaving the young couple in charge of seven half brothers and sisters and the family business. They reared their own five children during years of illness, suffering, and death. William's health and business failed and he was forced to file for bankruptcy. In a final attempt to save William's life, the family sailed for Italy, where William succumbed to tuberculosis.

While in Italy, Elizabeth Ann became acquainted with Catholicism. The Bible was always an important part of Elizabeth Ann's life, and the separation from her family, as well as the death of her husband, served to draw Elizabeth Ann's heart closer to God. Elizabeth Ann captivated everyone with her kindness, patience, wit, and courtesy. She officially joined the Catholic

Church in 1805 at the age of 31.

Elizabeth Ann returned to America where she started the first free Catholic school located in Baltimore, Maryland, established the first American congregation of religious sisters (the Sisters of Charity), established two orphanages, and continued to raise her children. On March 25, 1809, Elizabeth Ann pronounced her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. She then became known as Mother Seton until she became ill with tuberculosis and died January 4, 1821 at the age of 46, only sixteen years after converting to Catholicism. She was beatified by Pope John XXII on March 17, 1963 and canonized on September 14, 1975 by Pope Paul VI.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She is the patron for in-law problems, death of children, widows, death of parents, and opposition of Church authorities. We celebrate her feast day on January 4.



# Women's Guild

by Therese Tuttle

Once again, the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons have come to pass. This year may have been challenging for some, but with a little bit of imagination and engineering, we were able to celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones via phone, e-mail, and the internet. Hopefully, you enjoyed decorating your homes in your individual style of splendor and sparkle. Although the Women's Guild was unable to host the annual Christmas Dinner, the creative women of our parish were able to celebrate Christmas by providing a very unique alternative: Christmas "Car-O-Ling." Parishioners who participated in this event received a take-home boxed dinner and listened to Christmas Carols from their cars. Santa took time from his busy schedule to lead everyone in the "car-o-ling" singing. A big thank you goes out to our Youth Ministry and parents for delivering meals and hot chocolate to the cars. In addition, the Youth Ministry delivered meals and goodwill to homebound parishioners or to those unable to attend the event.

The Christmas Craft Show was held in December with safety protocols in place and was a great success. In January, our meeting was a game night. We enjoyed a night of games and socializing. During February's meeting, we enjoyed the movie *The Last Messiah*; told from the perspective of a 7-year-old Jesus as he embarked on a journey from Egypt to Nazareth. At the March meeting, the program was "A VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY CELEBRATION" where everyone who attended brought a wrapped gift worth approximately \$10.

The first activity of the Easter season was the Easter Kolachi Bake, followed by the April monthly meeting which is a fun and delicious pizza party! The annual Card Party and the Marian Devotion Banquet was cancelled this year but will return in 2022. May will bring the last scheduled meeting- Installation of Officers. If you are interested in an officer's position, contact the church office for information.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

To become a member of the Women's Guild is as easy as 1, 2, and 3; and, it's free...

- *First*, you must be at least 18 years old
- *Second*, you must be a member of St. William.
- And, *third* you just come to the meetings

### Why Should I be Involved in the Guild?

The Women's Guild is much more than a group of ladies getting together for an evening. Rather, because of the fellowship, tradition, and purpose it offers, it becomes part of a woman's identity. It encompasses the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and your unique skills. Your voice is important.

### What Will I Get From Being a Member?

The Women's Guild provides many social, spiritual, and service opportunities for parish women. You will be able to stay in touch with parish life and be a part of what is happening within the Guild. At the heart of the Guild is friendship and support.

### What Can I Give Back as a Member?

By becoming a member of the Guild you will support all of the great work we do for our parish and community. Every woman has her own unique talents. Share your time and talents, or suggest a new activity or event that will benefit our Parish. How much you do is up to you!



Christmas "Car-o-ling"

# PSR News

by Carol Timko

First Reconciliation was held Saturday, January 16 for our five second graders. Congratulations to Logan Freudenrich, Colette Kehoe, Avery McClusky, Michael McKnight and Anthony Pacurar. Please keep these five children in your prayers as they are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 25.

## FFC

The evening FFC (Family Faith Celebration) on Sunday, January 31 looked a little different this year. Each family had their own table in

the social hall where they stayed while we played Bingo and Trivia games. After the games, each family made a Lenten Prayer Jar to take home.

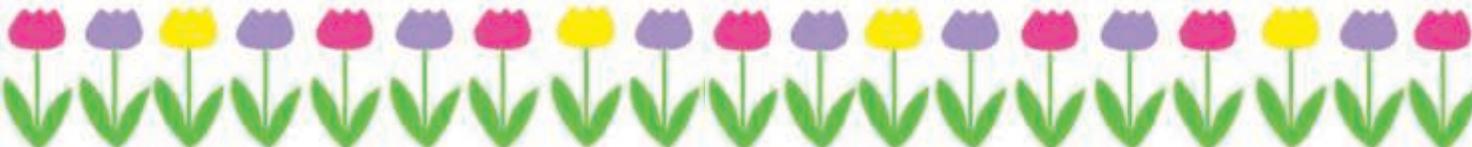
We moved into the church for a lovely prayer service, focusing on the prayers used during the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. During the prayer service, Father Balash blessed candles that each family took home. Our evening concluded with a pasta dinner that was delivered in separate containers to each family table by teens from Youth Ministry. Thank you to the Youth Ministry for helping to make our meal fantastic!

We had a very good turnout for this FFC with only a few families not able to participate. Those families that were unable to attend,

in addition to our homeschool families, all received a "goodie bag" with the materials to make their Lenten Prayer Jar, the blessed candles, and the Trivia game to play at home as a family.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation was held here at St. William for our five candidates on Sunday, February 28 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Congratulations to Nathan Goldner, Joseph Kusmierk, Alexa Szykulski, Dominic Van Niel and Katherine Wineland. A breakfast was held Sunday, March 7 to honor these five young people and their families. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for serving this breakfast.



# Mary's Way of the Cross

Saint William Youth Ministry teens presented the Way of the Cross during the Lenten Season 2021. The presentation can be found on the parish YouTube channel (StWilliamChampion) at <https://youtu.be/DvyxkJDDhL0>. This beautiful production on the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary was a spiritually uplifting gift to the people of St. William. This YouTube video will be part of the St. William permanent online collection .



(l to r): Nate, Kayla, Jack, Lauren, Frank, Faith, Taylor, Kaycie, Alexa, and Joseph

# PSR:

## From the Teacher's Desk

by Melanie Zappia

Finally, after a very long wait, our March 2021 FFC event allowed our 'Secret Prayer Partners' to meet. For those of you that aren't familiar, our PSR teachers implemented the 'Secret Prayer Partner' mission a few years ago. This venture was a unique way to unite our parish children with adult members of our parish family. The goal was to offer a chance to create a new friendship between our parish children and the established members of our church. Throughout the PSR school year, the Prayer Partners sent each other written correspondence sharing prayers and well wishes. We initially were to meet our Prayer Partners last year, but... well, it was 2020!

Our March 2021 FFC was an exciting day for both students and adults. The morning began with our PSR families, adult Prayer Partners, and teachers gathering in the church. Each student and adult Prayer Partner were given their Prayer Partner's assigned number. We had a short prayer service and then the much-anticipated moment finally arrived – when Mrs. Timko said 'GO', each held up his/her number and went on a search to find a match! It was so special to see the anticipation on both the children and adult faces. I have to say, this search

made me feel like a little kid on Christmas. Once we found our partners, we sat and chatted for a bit. It was fun to see the unification of our faithful generations and it made me feel very hopeful for the future of our parish.

After we visited for a bit, we then moved into the social hall and

classrooms to work on our craft. Our prayer partners were seated in close (but socially distant) proximity so that the conversations could continue while constructing our project. The craft we selected for this FFC was a 'Resurrection Garden.' Our PSR staff worked very hard to prepare a tray with the necessary supplies for each family and adult prayer partner. Each tray included moss/greenery, flowers, potting soil, stones, 3 crosses and a makeshift tomb (hand painted by yours truly). We then worked with our families to build our gardens. I had a chance to circle some of the rooms and witness not only the beautiful craftsmanship each garden evolved into, but also, the joyful atmosphere all of us were sharing. To say it made my heart full is an understatement. The gardens made a perfect addition to each family's Holy Week prayer space or even a centerpiece for our Easter Sunday tables. Each garden provides a great teaching moment to remind us of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Our PSR year will be ending soon – kudos to all our families and PSR staff for adapting to this strange school year. We all pulled together to make sure our children continued to hear the Word of God. Thank you all for sharing in the ministry of Jesus. May you have a blessed Easter!





FROM NANCY'S KITCHEN:

Holy Smoke! This banana pudding is awesome! This is totally a comfort food for me. What could possibly be better than pie? Nilla wafers and banana pudding in a pie, of course! Make this to take to a summer picnic and I guarantee it will be a hit!

Have a Great Summer ~ Nancy

## The Best Banana Pudding *EVER!*

- 1 (5 oz) package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 cups cold milk
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 (12 oz) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz) package vanilla wafers or 2 packages Chessmen cookies
- 6-8 bananas, sliced



### Step 1

In a large mixing bowl, beat pudding mix and milk 2 minutes. Blend in condensed milk until smooth. Stir in vanilla and fold in whipped topping. Layer wafers, bananas and pudding mixture in a glass serving bowl. Chill until serving.



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

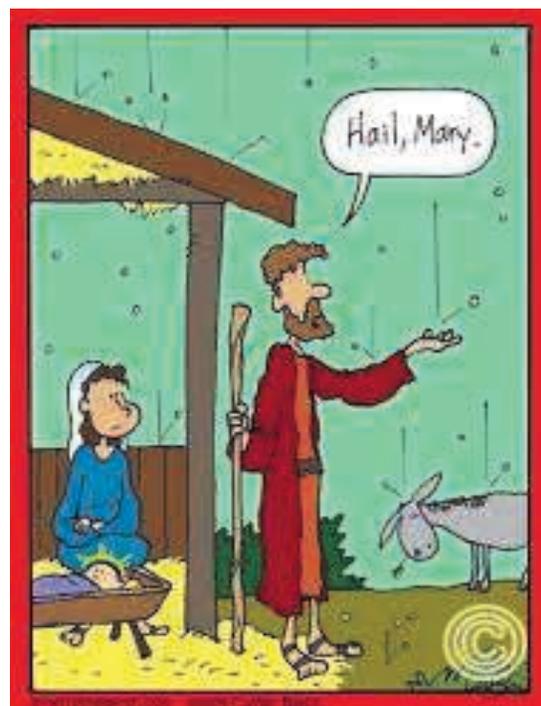


### Nathan, Alexa, and Joseph

First Communion 2015

Confirmation 2021

"Time does not change us.  
It just unfolds us." – Max Frisch



# Knights of Columbus

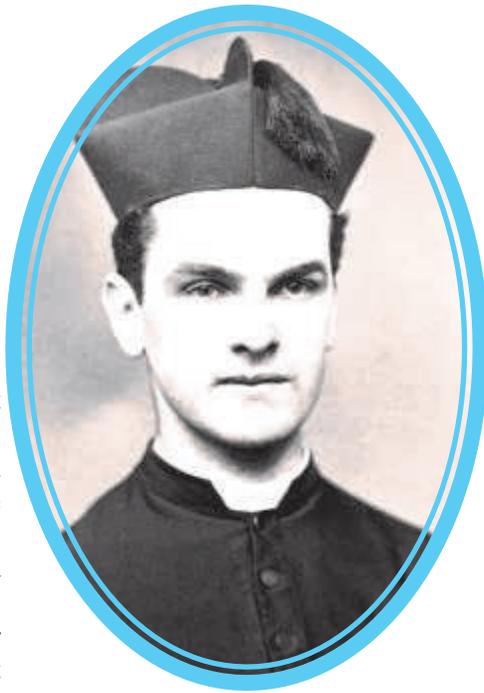
## Founder on his way to Sainthood

by Brian McCue

Michael Joseph McGivney (August 12, 1852 – August 14, 1890) was an American Catholic priest based in New Haven, Connecticut. He founded the Knights of Columbus at a local parish to serve as a mutual aid and fraternal insurance organization, particularly for immigrants and their families. It developed through the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization.

The cause for his canonization started in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1996; in March 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared McGivney "Venerable" in recognition of his "heroic virtue." On May 27, 2020, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to Fr. McGivney. He was beatified on October 31, 2020. The Pope's action means that McGivney can be declared "Blessed," the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

That miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession involved



the healing of a Tennessee boy in 2015 from a fatal case of Hydrops Fetalis. When Mikey Schackle's parents found out that their 13 child not only had Down Syndrome, but Hydrops Fetalis, an uncommon, typically fatal condition where fluid builds up around the vital organs of an unborn child, she and her husband appealed to Fr. Michael McGivney for help. Michelle clearly remembered being asked by her doctor what she would name her baby. Until that day, she and her husband Daniel had planned to name the baby Benedict and had been referring to him as "Baby Ben." But when she heard that her child had been healed, Michelle

knew he had to be named Michael in honor of McGivney.

In recent months, Catholics around the world have reported favors linked to Blessed Michael McGivney's intercession. The website for the *Father Michael J. McGivney Guild* keeps a list of those favors, ranging from COVID-19 recoveries to finding new employment to miraculous healings and more.

The Cause for Canonization of Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney is at a favorable stage at the Vatican and we can help him on his way to sainthood. One more miracle is needed for him to be eligible for sainthood but this is a long and complex process. Our prayers can take two forms. Pray to Father McGivney that he may intercede for you and others in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness or pray for Father McGivney's cause, that it may continue to move forward with favorable reports. Knights of Columbus councils and families especially should engage in these prayers, as well as anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney can and should pray for his intercession and canonization. This is a lifetime opportunity for us to witness the potential sainthood of an individual and know that we may have influenced that act.

Resources: [WWW.FRMCIVNEY.ORG](http://WWW.FRMCIVNEY.ORG);  
The Catholic News Agency

## Comings and Goings...

**Goings...** We congratulate and offer our best wishes to Ross Lenhart, our parish maintenance director, on his retirement May 7. We thank him for his commitment and dedication to our parish over the past three years and for always making sure the building and grounds were clean and ready for every event. *Congratulations Ross* and best wishes as you begin this new chapter in life!

**Comings...** We welcome Chuck Poponak as the new parish maintenance director! Chuck and Cathy and his entire family have been life-long parishioners of Saint William. *Welcome Chuck* to this new position!

(Continued from page 1) Labor

so I thought it might be fun to provide a little snapshot of all that happens “behind the scenes”:

**Sunday:** Volunteers who place the orders for supplies spend time deciding what needs purchased and which shops have the best



pricing.

**Monday:** Orders are placed and local shopping begins. Follow up call to volunteers are made to ensure that we have enough workers for the many duties that are needed throughout the week.

Dessert callers begin to call for dessert. YUM! The week’s to-do list is created and posted.

**Tuesday:** Supplies begin to arrive, stock is rotated, and the thawing of fish begins.

**Wednesday:** Fish is moved from cases to trays to help with

thawing. These men get their workout as anywhere from 300-400 pounds of fish get moved from cooler to trays and back into the cooler. Macaroni or haluski noodles are boiled. Desserts start arriving.

**Thursday:** The day begins around 6:00 a.m. Cabbage and carrots are shredded for coleslaw and, if needed, cabbage and onions are cut for haluski. Fish is rotated again (that’s right 300-400 pounds of fish moved from cooler,

rotated, and put back into the cooler – do the math – that is A LOT of weight lifting!) Cabbage and onions are sautéed if we are serving haluski.

**Friday:** Again, the day begins around 6:00 a.m. and fish is prepped for baking. Cheese sauce is made. Desserts are cut and

boxed for take-out. Blue tents are put in place in the parking lot. Flyers are printed with the weekly advertisements.

amazing job controlling the hundreds of vehicles pulling in and out of the parking lot. Customer cars begin lining up around 3:00 p.m. 50/50 volunteers greet every car as they make their way through the line. Workers greet our patrons with a smile, runners hurry to fill their orders, all while coleslaw is being made, fish is fried and baked, and French fries are fried and bagged. We serve for three solid hours – and then the clean-up begins!!! Inventory is taken, the money is counted, the spreadsheet balanced,



and believe it or not we start talking about how many dinners we should plan for next week. Everyone is so tired – and yet we still begin talking about the following week.

**Saturday:** Inventory is plugged in to spreadsheets, cost

analysis is done and a day’s rest is well deserved by all (at least from fish dinner duties!) Take-out containers are prepped and the food line is set up. Around 2:00 p.m. we begin food preparations in earnest. By 3:30 p.m. many workers have arrived and by 3:45 p.m. we stop to gather for prayer as a group. This year, the volunteers who filled and delivered the orders to the cars literally “stepped it up” by walking miles as they go back and forth delivering dinners. It really is quite impressive to watch! Our parking lot attendants do an

analysis is done and a day’s rest is well deserved by all (at least from fish dinner duties!)

As you can see, our fish dinner season is quite a labor of love. We carry on a tradition of love and comradery to take on a weekly Lenten fish dinner began by our cherished parishioners back in 1984 when our original worship space was transformed into a social hall. I think they would be very proud of the resilience and dedication to our parish.

(Continued from page 1) *Fishy Tale*

died, seemed just. Also, since Friday is the sixth day and was the day that God created animals, abstaining from meat is a symbolic “stay of execution” for animals.

Friday, in particular, is associated with the crucifixion of Christ. For some, fasting on Friday became a form of penance and a way of remembering and recognizing the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. It is a sacrifice that we observe today and that is what makes it such a powerful and mindful act. With the arrival of the five-day workweek, Friday became the end of the workweek as well as the anniversary of the day that Jesus was crucified.

Meat has traditionally been associated with luxury, celebration, and feasting. Historically, meat was relatively rare for most people whereas fish was plentiful and readily available. This would have been true in the ancient Mediterranean world in late winter – our time of Lent. In present time it is just the opposite, meat is considered a staple at the dinner table and fish is a luxury.

A fourth reason was a persistent belief that an unnamed pope used “fish on Fridays” as a way to promote the fishing industry. This is a very old “fishy” tale and many people grew up believing this ruse as fact. Some people, myself included, even learned it in Catholic School. The Vatican archives have been searched thoroughly but nothing to verify this as fact has ever been found. Consuming fish has traditionally been associated with sacred holidays even in pre-Christian times. As the number of meatless days increased on the medieval Christian calendar – not just Friday, but Wednesday and Saturday, in Advent and Lent, and other holy days – the hunger for fish grew. Just to let you know, alligator, a popular food in Louisiana, is also allowed, according to the Archbishop of New Orleans, “Alligator is considered part of the fish family!”

Fishy Fridays become so popular that in 1959 a Cincinnati McDonald’s owner decided to introduce the Filet-o-Fish after suffering big losses on Fridays during Lent. This was followed by other restaurants adopting the fish sandwich along with local Catholic Churches, American Legions, VFW halls, and other organizations began serving inexpensive fish-fry dinners during the Lenten season.



### First Reconciliation 2021

Logan, Colette, Michael, Avery,  
Father Balash, and Anthony

(Continued from page 2) *Pastor* in the area. Great job!

Dinners was overwhelming and unexpected. The spirit in which many of our volunteers adapted to change and overcame new and different aspects of the dinners necessitated by the drive-thru carry out only option resulted in a huge success! It was another great year of serving the “best Fish Dinner”

Thank you once again for all that you do for our parish and community. Enjoy the upcoming summer season and may God continue to bless you, your family and our wonderful parish. It is indeed a blessing and joy to know that soon all will be *back to normal*.

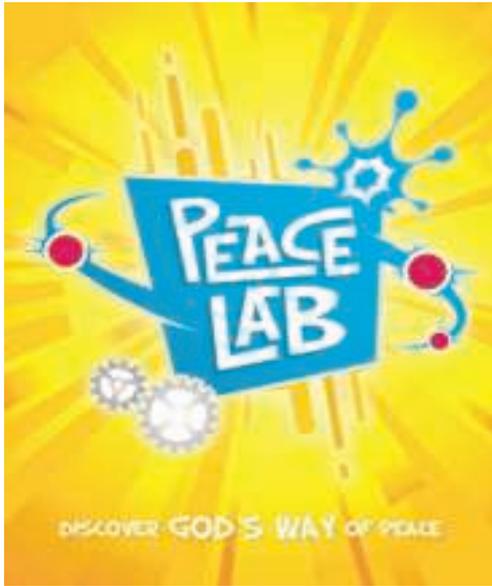
Fr. Balash



### First Communion April 19, 1968

(l to r): Linda Tombar (Ozanich), Brenda Mills,  
Pamela Phillips, Brian Mills, Christopher Trunick,  
Mark Hughes, Charles Poponak, Janet Hughes  
Father Gerald Curran (pictured in backrow)

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



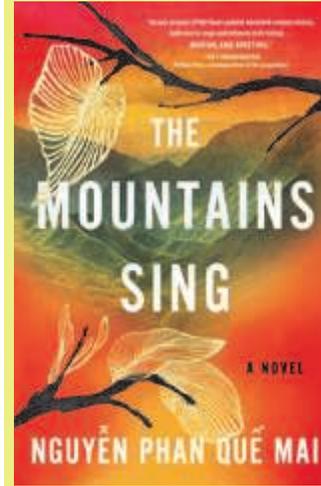
Blessed Sacrament Parish is hosting Vacation Bible School. Monday, June 14 through Thursday, June 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Open to Grades K-5. Teens in Grades 6-12 are encouraged to volunteer.

**Where children discover God's way of peace!**

# SUMMER BOOK CLUB

June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The Mountains Sing tells an enveloping, multigenerational tale of the Trần family, set against the backdrop of the Việt Nam War. Trần Diệu Lan, who was born in 1920, was forced to flee her family farm with her six children during the Land Reform as the Communist government rose in the North. Years later in Hà Nội, her young granddaughter, Hương, comes of age as her parents and uncles head off down the Hồ Chí Minh Trail to fight in a conflict that tore apart not just her beloved country, but also her family.



Vivid, gripping, and steeped in the language and traditions of Việt Nam, The Mountains Sing brings to life the human costs of this conflict from the point of view of the Vietnamese people themselves, while showing us the true power of kindness and hope.

<http://www.stwilliamchampion.org>

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