

heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 8
March 2016

**SACRAMENTS OF
INITIATION GROW OUR
CHURCH**

MEET MR. AND MRS. SCHILLING

PRISON MINISTRY LED BY THE SPIRIT



YOU HAVE PUT ON CHRIST, IN HIM YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED

Eric and Lauren VanSpeybroeck knew the first big step in the life of their daughter, Paige Teresa, would be her baptism. Like all parents who desire baptism for their children, Eric and Lauren first attended a pre-baptism class offered by Sacred Heart at the Lee Parish Center. These classes are offered four times a year and all expecting parents are encouraged to learn the dates of these meetings if they are anticipating a baptism in the near future. The class lasted about an hour and was led by Fr. Mark, who educated all of the couples present on the theology behind a Catholic baptism, expectations of parents and godparents, and what to expect on the day of the baptism itself.

When asked if there were any surprises during the class, Lauren commented she did not realize that the mother and father also receive a blessing on the day of the baptism as part of the rite, which she thought was especially nice. As all new parents know, extra blessings always help!

The baptism occurred after the 11 a.m. Mass on December 27, 2015, and Paige wore the same baptismal gown that Lauren had worn 31 years prior when she was baptized at Sacred Heart by Fr. Lee. The fact that the baptism was celebrated just two days after Christmas meant an extra amount of family and friends were able to attend since they were in town.

The choice of godparents was an easy one according to the couple. Ryan and Andrea Hlady are long-time friends of the VanSpeybroeck's and Ryan was even best man at their wedding. More importantly the Hladys are active Catholics themselves and Eric and Lauren are confident that they will be great mentors to Paige in the future when it comes to sharing our faith.

Welcome to the Church, Paige Teresa!

Blessings,

Fr. Mark DeSutter
Pastor

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION GROW OUR CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

Spring is in the air. The Easter Season is always the time when the church celebrates the sacraments of initiation. At Easter Vigil this year we celebrated sacraments with fifteen members of our church community. Children were baptized. Adults made their profession of faith and were confirmed.

It is wonderful to see so many people who want to be initiated into our church community or who want to energize their faith practice. Each person involved has their own story as to why they present themselves for sacraments, but there is a hunger for God that is palpable and it inspires me to look at why I am a Catholic.

April 10th we will be having the sacrament of Confirmation for our eighth grade students. This always is an important moment in a young person's life. Then, on May 1st our second graders will receive First Communion. Throughout the Easter season, we will be having many infant Baptisms. All these are moments of joy.

I want to emphasize two things in this note. One is that we learn during Easter as we reflect on the Acts of the Apostles that we are all sent to bring others to Christ. The church needs your help to encourage more and more people to seek the Rites of Initiation. Without each one of us doing our part, the church will shrivel and grow smaller rather than blossom and grow larger. We have special challenges that face us today as we try to invite others into our faith community. We believe that God will give us the inspiration we need to evangelize today.

The second thing I would remind everyone of is that sacramental rituals are public events in the life of the Church. Come and be renewed and find the meaning of the Easter season by seeing others commit to a deeper life with Jesus Christ.



WEDDING BELLS

by John Bosio, author of three books on marriage, including the recent "Why Get Married in the Church, the Lifelong Blessing of a Catholic Wedding."

If you are beginning to dream about getting married you may also be thinking about where to hold your wedding ceremony. Every couple wants their wedding to be a memorable event and wants the ceremony to have a special meaning. The wedding day is one of the most important days in a couple's life. If you and/or your fiancé(e) is Catholic, you are expected to marry in a Catholic Church unless you have received permission to marry elsewhere. But marrying in a church is much more than an obligation. It's an opportunity to hold a celebration that is joyful and meaningful, one that can have a positive impact on the rest of your married life.

The Catholic Church considers marriage a sacrament, a vehicle for God's graces to the couple and to the community. The focal point of any wedding ceremony is the exchange of vows. The vows are not simply a ritual that defines the relationship of two people in love. They are much more. They are a sacred pact through which the spouses embrace each other and, together, embrace Christ as their partner. The pledge they make is unbreakable because through their union with Christ they participate in the unbreakable pact between God and humanity: the covenant that was sealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

But married life is difficult and today many couples find it hard to keep their promises. One of the benefits of a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church is the power of God's grace, which helps spouses keep their commitment and find happiness together. Social scientists are finding that couples who recognize God's presence in their relationship are most satisfied in their marriages and are least likely to put their children, families and friends through the pain of a divorce. Marriage in the Catholic Church is attractive not only because of its meaningful rituals and traditions, but because of its impact on your life and happiness. The Catholic Church invites you to give meaning to your life by embracing the vocation of marriage and forming a family that is dedicated to cultivating and sharing God's love.

Getting Married At Sacred Heart

Preparation for marriage must begin at least six months before the wedding. Couples must consult the parish calendar for a wedding date by contacting Fr. Mark DeSutter or Suzie Budde at 309-762-2362 before setting the date and place of the wedding and reception.

1. Before a firm date can be finalized for a wedding, the couple must meet with the pastor. Once approved by the pastor, the parish calendar is checked for available dates and the wedding is booked.
2. The use of the church is free for registered members of Sacred Heart Parish. A registered member of the parish is encouraged to give a free will donation to the church to offset the costs of the priest, utilities, janitorial services, etc.
3. Non-members are asked to pay a \$1,000 fee for the use of the church only.
4. Anyone is welcome to have a visiting priest at their wedding, but they must clear that at the initial meeting with the pastor so that it is clear who will prepare the couple for marriage. The pastoral staff will prepare the couple if the visiting priest or deacon cannot do so. The visiting priest/deacon must present a letter three months prior to the wedding that indicates they are in good standing with their diocese or religious congregation.
5. At Sacred Heart, parish organists or pianists must be used for all weddings, because they know the format of a Catholic wedding ceremony and know how to set up our microphones and other equipment. Guest organists or pianists are permitted, but only in addition to one of our approved parish musicians. No taped music of any kind is allowed. This includes backup tapes. All liturgical music should be performed live. Musicians fees for the parish musicians are approved at the time of the first meeting with the musicians.

When you are ready to make your commitment, speak to your pastor and ask for his guidance on preparing for such a noble vocation. We welcome your call!



MEET MR. AND MRS. LEVI SCHILLING

Matt and Amanda Schilling always knew that their marriage could only occur as a sacrament and in the Church. It was important that not only was God to be present at the very beginning of the marriage, but also their family and friends... the same family and friends that Matt and Amanda will lean on in the future to help them during their marriage. Marriage can be hard. The love and support of family and friends and the Church is absolutely essential.

It was the fact that Amanda's grandparents, now deceased, were married at Sacred Heart many years ago that led the couple down the path of celebrating their marriage at our parish even though Matt's family attend St. Malachy's in Geneseo and Amanda's are members at St. Pius X in Rock Island. A wedding at Sacred Heart meant that Amanda's grandparents could be included in the wedding in a special way.

Matt and Amanda became engaged in March of 2015 and wanted to be married in November of that year. With eight months until the wedding, the couple had plenty of time to prepare and meet Sacred Heart's criteria of at least six months of lead time. But, logistics were going to be tricky. Amanda was living in Ohio and Matt in Georgia. Through the coordinated efforts of Fr. Mark and Suzie Budde, the couple was able to complete some of

their Pre-Cana work remotely (and online). Amanda shared that, "Fr. Mark and Suzie were wonderful to work with. Without them, our marriage preparation and the day of the wedding would not have happened so smoothly and been so perfect!"

The couple were also delighted to experience a unique way of choosing their music. They met with Suzie and organist Cheryl Bolt, who previewed each requested song on the spot, including new songs they were not already familiar with. What made this process special for the couple was one weekend when Matt was home on leave; they were invited to sit in the choir loft during another wedding at Sacred Heart that included some of the very same music they were considering. This extra effort to help the couple decide on the perfect music and liturgy for their wedding is something they still appreciate to this day.

November soon arrived and with one last date change accommodation for Matt's leave from the Army, the happy couple celebrated their marriage on November 28 before God, family and friends - just the way they always knew it was to be.



PRISON MINISTRY LED BY THE SPIRIT

An essential ministry at Sacred Heart Parish that many parishioners may not be aware of is our Prison Ministry. Active at both the East Moline Correctional Center and the Galesburg Hill Correctional Center, a dedicated number of volunteers led by Deacon Pat Murphy, retired priest Fr. Dick Bresnahan and Fr. Glenn Harris, Pastor at St. John's, Rapid City, are changing the lives of inmates in a profound way.

Every Wednesday in East Moline, Mass is celebrated at 2 p.m. and a Bible Study is also offered at 2 p.m. on Thursdays where the Catechism of the Catholic Church is taught by Matt Martel. This March 30th saw three inmates baptized. During the second or third week of April four Confirmations will occur and three will receive the Eucharist for the first time. In Galesburg, we also celebrate a Prison Cursillo in November with follow-ups the third Tuesday of each month.

Deacon Pat says there have been many stories where, through the Grace of the Lord, lives have been changed and hearts converted in cases where the Spirit has caught fire. Even non-Catholics will sometimes attend the studies. One unique instance in Galesburg even saw a professing devil worshipper repent and become Catholic! Deacon Pat is quick to point out that he, the priests and the volunteers are only doing a small part in what is truly the Spirit of God at work.

Locally, we have nine volunteers as part of this ministry and in Galesburg around twenty-five, but we are always in need of additional volunteers for this important work. If you feel that you are being called to serve as part of our Prison Ministry team, please contact Deacon Pat Murphy at plm-mbm@att.net or (309) 797-1868. We welcome both men and women to serve in this ministry! All volunteers will be expected to also fill out the official prison application to be a volunteer.

POPE FRANCIS WASHES THE FEET OF MIGRANTS ON HOLY THURSDAY

After spending previous years washing the feet of inmates and disabled persons on Holy Thursday, this year Pope Francis celebrated the liturgy in a welcoming center for migrants and refugees. The Pope celebrated a Chrism Mass at the Vatican before heading to the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers, or CARA, in Castelnuovo di Porto, just over 18 miles outside of Rome, on the afternoon of March 24.

He arrived at the center around 5 pm, where he said the Mass of the Lord's Supper and washed the feet of 12 migrants welcomed by the center, many of whom are not Catholic. In previous years Pope Francis has offered the Lord's Supper Mass on Holy Thursday at a youth detention center, a rehabilitation center for the disabled, and a large prison in Rome. This marks the first year he celebrated the liturgy at a migrant center.

More than 900 asylum seekers are housed at the center, virtually all of whom come from sub-Saharan Africa. CARA is one of the most demanding asylum centers in all of Italy.

The Pope's decision to celebrate the Holy Thursday liturgy at the center comes after he has repeatedly pled on behalf of migrants' rights in past few weeks. In his March 16 general audience Francis appealed to world leaders to open their doors to migrants, lamenting that many are "living a real and dramatic situation of exile."

"Far away from their homeland, with their eyes still full of the rubble of their homes," these migrants often find "closed doors" when attempting to enter another country, he said. The Pope said that "I like it a lot when I see nations, governments, who open their hearts and open their doors" to the migrants and refugees seeking to enter.

Similarly, on Palm Sunday Francis said that when Christ suffered from the indifference of political leaders in being sent from Pilate to Herod and then back to the Roman governor, he was thinking in particular "of so many other people, so many marginalized people, so many asylum seekers, so many refugees."

Pope Francis has also told migrants that "each one of you carries within yourself a story, a culture, of precious value; and often unfortunately experiences of misery, oppression and fear," and encouraged them not to give up in the face of difficulties. *Source: Catholic News Agency*



SACRED HEART

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Mass Times

- Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
- Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
- Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.

Our Friday Mass, when school students are present is at 9 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted in the parish bulletin

- Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. and by appointment, call 762-2362.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction (St. Francis Chapel)

- Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

