April 2020

SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS

Volume 15
Issue 1

EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION

In preparation for the sacrament of confirmation the class experienced a half-day retreat on Sat.Feb.8th from 12 noon to 5:30p.m.Our three students include Meric Herge the daughter of Libby Strickland from Bloomdale,Merryn Lowery daughter of Jeff and Ragon Lowery from North Baltimore and Elizabeth Tussing daughter of Pat and Jennie Tussing of Custar. All students graduated from St. Louis and you may notice the distance they came. We also welcomed 2 other students for the retreat. They were Kiersten Maas from St. Patrick parish and Landon Smith from St. Richard parish in Swanton. Along with sponsors a parent and grandparent all joined in the retreat.

The afternoon began with Adoration. We sang hymn of praise accompanied by Mike Nagel on the Organ. Following our opening hymn all recited the rosary. We closed with another hymn.

From Church we proceeded to the school cafeteria for the art project on canvas that focused on a symbol of the Holy Spirit they chose to paint. The sponsor made a prayer book with a variety of holy cards that were provided. These were to be gifted to the student.

The journey then led us to the rectory for a break with refreshments and socializing. We shared information on the saints the students had chosen for confirmation. We reviewed what confirmation preparation expectations were along with questions and answers. Faith filled fun games were enjoyed as we closed and then proceeded back to church to serve at mass. After the mass the families went to enjoy the soup and sandwich supper in the school cafeteria. Our scripture passage for the retreat was Ephesians 1:11-14. Thank you to Julie Lause who helped me make the retreat a success.

Confirmation Day Sunday, March 8,2020 at 3p.m.

We were blessed with a warm sunny day as we entered for Confirmation Mass at Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary cathedral. It was so inspiring to see the many students, families and friends joined in this most beautiful cathedral. The excitement and joy was so apparent .Bishop Thomas gave a wonderful homily regarding a 15 yr. old, Carlos Acutis, whom the Pope recently recognized a miracle attributed to his intercession. He is a role model for our teens. The confirmands were seated in the sanctuary and felt so engaged in the ceremony. Father Walter and Father Jeff Walker along with other priests concelebrated the mass. Brian Tussing was honored to serve. At a random drawing Merryn Lowery was chosen to take up a gift at the offertory. Hopefully this will be a lasting memory as the young students continue practicing their faith with the gifts of the Holy Spirit they received in Confirmation. Congratulations and continued prayers We are very happy for you.

-Joyce Walker, Catechist.

"Tell everyone who is discouraged, Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue..."
Isaiah 35:4

TECHNOLOGY LETS US WORSHIP TOGETHER FROM OUR HOMES!

Thank you to Fr. Walter for offering the Sunday Mass on Facebook during the global health crisis. Technology can be used for good things! The parish Facebook page, YouTube channel, and Instagram are public. You do not need to have a Facebook or YouTube account to see what is posted. Find them by searching *St. Louis Parish, Custar*. They are good ways to keep in touch with the parish happenings.

The St. Louis Parish, Custar Pinterest page is updated regularly. Find creative ideas and inspiration for both children and adults. Be sure to share your finished projects on the Facebook page.

Free Catholic apps are available for smart phones and tablets. Annunciation Radio broadcasts live (including daily Mass at the Cathedral) and has podcasts. Laudate has daily reflections, the Saint of the Day, and the Rosary. iBreviary has Liturgy of the Hours and a version of our Missalette for Mass. If you need help setting up these resources, ask your kids and grandkids. They can download it in no time. Have them add it to their electronic devices, too.

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A Note From Father

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Never has there been a year like this when Churches have been closed through Lent and the Holy Week. It has been a time of pain and suffering – both literal and figurative language - for a lot of people. This has been truly a desert experience like that of Jesus, depriving people of the Holy Mass and receive our Lord in the Holy Communion.

As it was in the case of Jesus, so in our case too, this time calls upon us to fast and pray. Fasting and prayer has its own merits. Our Lord not only did fast but also taught his disciples about fasting and praying. I think during these difficult times the most powerful weapons we have are Fasting and Praying. Let us offer up our fasting, prayer and penances for the end of the Pandemic.

I am hopeful and I am eagerly looking forward to the day when this will come to an end and we will be able to resume our daily duties.

In the meantime, I want you to know that I am praying for you every day in my personal prayers and during the Mass.

You can participate in all our weekend liturgies and Holy Week services through Facebook. We have Facebook live services available on St. Louis Parish Custar Facebook page.

Our Schedule for Holy Week Services is as follows:
04/09/2020 Holy Thursday @ 07.00 pm.
04/10/2020 Good Friday @ 12 Noon.
04/11/2020 Easter Vigil @ 08.30 pm.

Rev. Walter Tuscano, SAC
Pastor

A very special thank you to Bob and Linda Boyle who have done some behind the scenes work at the church. A new church office sign was hung and new letters put in the welcome sign between the church and rectory to replace the rusted letters. Thank you!

FIRST COMMUNION

We pray for all those students who are preparing to make their First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist....

Logan Carter, Blake Mahlman, Catherine Tussing, Kayley Tussing, Cole Wensink, Peyson Wilhelm, Addyson Young

SCHOOL DAYS!!

Dear St. Louis Friends,

As I write this, I think of how different this past month has been for us. A typical month of March and April would be spent in the classroom learning, however, we all know that this year has brought us to a place of learning outside of the building. We have had to think outside of the box in reaching out to continue on a path of learning. We have been creative in finding different ways and styles to learn! It's been so impressive to hear from families all the ways they have made this new way of schooling work into their daily schedules. I speak not only for myself, but for all the staff, when I say that we miss everyone and pray for each of them and their families! We look forward to being together again! Blessing to everyone for good health and a joyous Easter!

-Mrs. Tussing

FACEBOOK SAVED THE REVERSE RAFFLE!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Reverse Raffle. Despite the circumstances, we had fun with a Facebook Live event! We were able to make a profit of $6,242.48! **We are so very grateful for the generosity of our parish family and community!**

A very special thank you to **Steve Powell** for being the emcee for the evening and **Cathy Hanna**, chairperson for the raffle.

Another special thanks to **Abby Wensink and Melissa Wilhelm**, aka our peanut gallery, who made sure to ooooh and aww when appropriate and fielded all the online comments and questions.

We are still discussing our options for a Silent Auction, so please stay tuned!!!

Mark your calendars for next years' event, **Saturday, March 27th**!

St. Louis PTAA Officers, Luann Flowers, president, Katie Mahlman, vice president, Cathy Hanna, secretary, Sarah Schroder, treasurer

As Catholic School Educators....
We believe our Catholic School is not only a school, but a community of faith;
We believe those entrusted to us are not only students, but children of God;
We believe that we are not only educators, but Ministers of the Gospel;
We believe the values we teach are not only character development, but a call to Holiness;
We believe our courses of study are not only academic pursuits, but a search for Truth;
We believe the purpose of education is not only for personal growth and the development of society, But for the Transformation for the world.

Catholic Schools: Everyone Grows!

The week of March 9-13 was a very special week for us! We celebrated our Catholic school with the theme, "EVERYONE GROWS!" It was such a good week! You could feel the spirit when you entered....handmade sunflower projects made my each student lined the hallways, bulletin boards reinforcing our theme and even a special song called, "Let it Grow" played in the hall as students entered in the morning. Each and every day is truly a blessing here, but it's always nice to take some special time to remember what makes our school such a special place to be a part of; a place where Jesus' presence is felt, a place where faith, self-discipline and respect for others is common ground, where students are working towards becoming saints and scholars. WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL!

Altar Rosary Society-

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38) During this remarkable time in history, we are called to live out our faith in word and action. Setting up a home altar for daily prayer and Mass, learning a new prayer (such as the Rosary!), sending well wishes to one another, caring for those with whom you are blessed to share your home, even taking care of the tasks we've been putting off can all be offerings to the glory of God. Caring for others with a joyful heart, whether you feel joyful or not, is what we are called to do.

The Altar Rosary Society officers have not taken the time to formally meet; however, the needs of the altar are being taken care of. A ciborium has been polished and repaired. One paten has been refinished and the other will be refinished as business returns to 'normal.'

The church decorating crew is decorating for the Easter Season so please visit church for quite prayer. It is open daily noon – 8 PM. Use the handicap button at the east entrance to open the door. Hand sanitizer is available and there is plenty of space.

Surely our Rosary Warriors who lead the Rosary before Mass are praying the Rosary daily or many times throughout the day. Complimentary Rosaries and Rosary booklets are available in the narthex. If you make a visit to church, please take one home and pray. There are many apps, videos, podcasts, cds, and booklets available help pray a more holy prayer and guide those who are new to praying the Rosary. Choose a consistent time daily. There's someone somewhere in the world praying the Rosary at the same time.

As the weather permits this spring, we will gather to pray the Rosary at the St. Francis Shrine at the cemetery. All are welcome to join.

Please contact an ARS officer should you know of someone in need of a word of cheer, congratulations, or sympathy. Olivia Lause serves in sending cards to those in need of a friendly message.

All ladies of St. Louis parish 18 years and older are members of the Altar Rosary Society. Dues are $10 annually to be considered an active member. All ladies are welcome to attend to share ideas, plan activities, and care for the needs of the altar. Thank you for your generosity in prayer and monetary contributions. It is through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother and St. Louis, King of France, that St. Louis parish and Altar Rosary Society are able to continue to serve the spiritual and sacramental needs of a rural community.

In Service,
Julie Lause (419-601-3319:jmlause@gmail.com), Mandi Seedorf (419-308-9985), Lindsay Tussing (419-601-0652), and Abby Wensink (419-601-0226)

Remember

- The 7th and 8th grades used to help Martha Konrad clean the church on Friday afternoon.
- Father Southard had the biggest dog.
- Father Schmelzer went up in a hot air balloon for his 25th anniversary as a priest. It was a gift from the Parish.
- Only boys were allowed to be servers.
- Joe Konrad could fix or build anything. He built the sturdy tables in the pre-school room and they are still strong.
- The Korta sisters had a hotel and restaurant on main street. Those sweet sisters had rosy cheeks and one was the post Master.
- Town children went home for lunch.
- The Custar Post Office, beauty shop and barber shop were all on Main Street. Ben West owned the Sunoco Station and Herman Drummer owned the garage and the Sohio Station.
- The Church before the addition.
- Petey Shuster had the meat market and freezer locker.
- The years our "Big Ticket" prize for the Festival was a car. We sold tickets in malls and churches.
- Jan & Mike Cavanaugh had the J&M club on the corner.

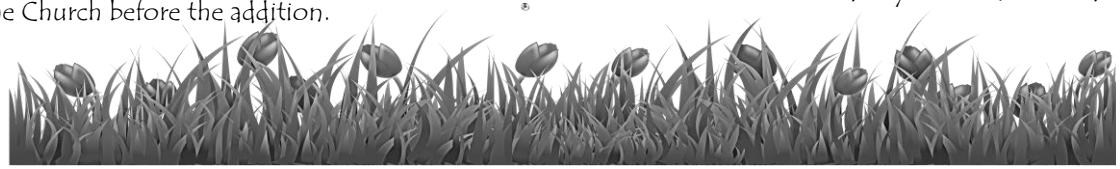
Bless our ancestors who sacrifieced and built our church, rectory, school, convent, and community. Bless those that have passed on their faith to us; God was with them.

Bless the many good people today who continue to pray and support our Parish, School and town. Our faith is strong and it is our duty to grow our community and share our faith for the generations to come.

We are looking for more memories and stories for the newsletter. Who can tell about:

1. The Catholic Church east of Custar and what happened?
2. The trolly car accident next to the Methodist church?
3. The original cemetery behind the church?
4. The one large classroom at the school with steps that went to the kitchen?
5. The variety of businesses that used to be in town?

-Diane Hoile



St Louis Altar Society Flower Sale

The Altar Rosary Society will be having our annual flower sale starting Sunday April 5th thru Sunday April 26th. Please give all orders to Diane Wensink (419-669-2538) or Dianne Hoile (419)-669-2504. Pick up Saturday May 2th from 8:30 – 11 am in the St Louis School parking lot**.**

Mail forms to Diane Wensink, 9024 Rangeline Rd, Rudolph OH 43462 or email form to the church stlouischurch@midohio.twcbc.com **Pay for your flowers at time of pickup or with a check at time of ordering. Please make checks payable to Altar Rosary Society. All proceeds will help cover the cost of the altar needs. Please share your order form with a friend. Don't forget Mother's Day is Sunday May 10th. Forms available in back of church and you may also leave your order there in the basket. Extra hanging baskets will be available on day of flower pickup.**

Follow our flower supplier at FB Knitz Greenhouse

----------**Save Top Portion to Post For Pickup Reminder**----------

Altar Rosary Flower Sale For

Geranium bedding plants - $20.00 Geranium pots - $4.00 Flower Flats - $15.00 Hanging Baskets - $20.00. Flats are sold as Whole Flats. Pick up is Saturday May 2th from 8:30 – 11:00 am in the St. Louis School parking lot.

Checks payable to Altar Rosary

Name_____**Phone**_____

Petunias: Sunny Area

_____Red

_____White

_____Pink

_____Blue

_____Mix

Impatiens: Shade

_____Red

_____White

_____Mix

_____Salmon

_____Violet

Alyssum

_____Purple

_____White

Marigolds

_____Yellow

_____Orange

_____Mixed

Wax Begonias/ Green Leaf

_____Red

_____White

_____Rose

_____Mix

Geranium Pots 4 ½ inch Pots

_____Red

_____White

_____Rose

_____Violet

Geranium Bedding Flat

_____Red

_____White

_____Rose

Hanging Baskets

Geranium Hanging Baskets

_____Red _____White

_____Violet _____Rose

Petunia Hanging Baskets

_____Purple _____Red

_____Pink

Eucharistic Adoration - Please join us in Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday of the month. We will open the church at 8:00 am and it will remain open until 8:00 pm. If you would like to sign up for an hour of adoration please see the sign-up sheet in the back of church. If you are unable to come at a specific time, please stop by for a visit when you can. Time spent with our Lord is never time wasted.

Like St. Louis Parish, Custar on **Facebook**! Share pins with St. Louis Parish, Custar on **Pinterest**! Follow stlouisparishcustar on **Instagram**! Watch videos on **YouTube**, St. Louis Parish!

The St. Louis Parish website is updated regularly. Find contact information, current events, and Catholic resources. Bookmark www.stlouisparishcustar.com for convenient access

The St. Louis Parish Festival!

Don't forget about the
first Sunday in August.
August 2, 2020

As of right now, the festival is still on. So please continue to send in those donations. As a reminder, all monetary donations are due by April 20th in order to be on the back of the Big Ticket. Please prayerfully consider if you or your family would like to donate an item to the Big Ticket as well.

Thank you and God Bless,
Festival Committee

FUNERAL DINNERS- We would like to Thank everyone that has donated to our funeral dinners the last couple years. The families really appreciate the meal and fellowship after the mass.

There are approximately 4 to 5 women that we call to help prepare the meal and clean up afterward. We try to rotate who we call so the same women are not always working.

The committee prepares ham and scalloped potatoes so the rest of the meal is food dishes/desserts that parishioners bring in. If you would like to be put on our call-list to help or donate we would surely appreciate the gesture. Some people drop a prepared dish or crockpot off on their way to work. Our call-list shrinks during the winter due to the snow-birds so any help or donation would help. Call the church office and Linda will let us know.

Dynamic Catholic-Through the generosity of the **Dynamic Catholic Ambassadors (dynamiccatholic.com)** and the **Parish Champions**, free Catholic resources are provided monthly to St. Louis Parish. *Beautiful Hope: Finding Hope Every Day in a Broken World* is the current book offered. Please pick one up if you visit church. Share them with family and friends. When you finish with the resources, please return them to church, share them with friends, or take them to a nursing home or assisting living facility. Enjoy!

Contact Information

Pastor:
Fr. Walter Tuscano

St. Louis Parish
22792 Defiance Pike
PO Box 125
Custar, Ohio 43511

Rectory 419-669-1864
School 419-669-1875

Rectory Office Hours
Mon., Wed. & Thurs:
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Parish email:
stlouischurch@midohio.twcbc.com

Parish Website
www.stlouisparishcustar.com

School email:
stlouis@midohio.twcbc.com

School website
www.stlouiscustaroh.com

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Please Join Us!

U	U	B	O	E	Y	M	D	J	S	O	N	M	O
H	K	E	W	L	S	H	D	B	T	V	O	H	U
A	A	L	O	V	O	A	T	A	C	H	A	E	H
R	S	A	L	D	N	B	P	A	V	A	H	A	J
E	O	C	A	A	J	R	L	A	I	I	I	L	S
H	L	I	Y	S	O	A	T	C	J	L	D	N	H
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Y	A	N	O	S	J	A	O	L	U	A	S	E	L

TIMOTHY JESUS ABRAHAM MATTHEW DAVID CAIN PAUL NOAH ABEL
LUKE JOSHUA MARY CALEB SOLOMON EVE ESTHER GOLIATH SAUL

If you have a St. Louis School memory you would like to share please email Katie Mahlman at robmahlman@frontier.com or send to parish office!

We welcome your comments on our Newsletter. _____
(You may email Katie Mahlman at robmahlman@frontier.com or Lisa Wilhelm at sjlawilhelm@metalink.net)

I would like to contribute to:
_____ St. Louis Church

_____ St. Louis Tuition Assistance Fund

_____ Donation for Newsletter Costs

_____St. Louis School Annual Fund Drive

Please mail comments, donations, and/or requests to:

St. Louis Parish
PO Box125
Custar, Ohio 43511

Please add/remove_____to/from the "St. Louis Spirit" mailing list.

I would like to receive a weekly Church Bulletin.
Name:_____
Address:_____

Thank You!

ST. LOUIS PARISH
P.O. BOX 125
CUSTAR, OH 43511

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ST. LOUIS ALUM BLESSES US WITH HIS TALENT AGAIN!

Richard Romaker, 92 years young, who grew up in the Custar area and went to school at St. Louis, completed a replica of the rectory to add to the church, school and outhouse that we have been displaying at past festivals.

When Scott and Ellen Boyer went to Defiance to pick it up, he explained that it was not perfect because he broke his left arm while he was making the building. One arm did not stop Mr. Romaker and he still completed the project.

The replica was built by pictures he had taken and his incredible memory. We thank Mr. Romaker for his contribution to St. Louis Church & School history. He has many fond memories of St. Louis and Custar.

We will have the rectory on display in the back of church, when services resume, and in the Archive Room during the festival.