Parishioners Visit Holy Land

It was the trip of a lifetime, to be able to visit the land where Jesus walked. Our group of sixteen consisted of folks from St. Louis Parish, St. Mary’s Parish, Rushville and a few other folks from Indiana. One of the pilgrims came from as far away as Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Our purple name tags helped us to identify each other at our departure gate in Newark, NJ. After an uneventful flight, we arrived in Tel Aviv on schedule, ready to find our bus and head to our hotel.

At our welcome dinner that evening, we continued to get to know each other. After dinner a few of us who weren’t too tired from the flight decided to take a stroll around town to walk off dinner and get a closer look at the Mediterranean Sea. It was a beautiful night and a great start to our adventure.

We started bright and early the next morning and were on the bus by 8 a.m. With only a few exceptions, this would be our routine for the next ten days. We were blessed with a very comfortable 50 passenger bus for the sixteen of us along with Akram our driver and Raof our tour guide.

Each day of the pilgrimage was packed full of visiting places that we have read about in the Sacred Scriptures. Some of the highlights were Caesarea Maritima, the city where Pontius Pilate lived; Mount Carmel where Elijah lived and challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest at the altar; and Bet-She’an where the corpses of King Saul and his sons were displayed on the walls of the city.

Of course we also were able to see most of the places that Jesus travelled during his three year ministry. Some of these included the Jordan River; the Church of Cana; Bethany, where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead; and Mount Tabor where Jesus was transfigured.

We ended our pilgrimage in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. As you could have expected, one of the highlights of the trip was being able to be and celebrate Mass at many of the sites we visited and especially where Jesus was crucified and buried. I know I speak for our entire group when I say that if you ever have an opportunity to visit the Holy Land, don’t hesitate to go! Being able to see the places that we continue to hear about in the Sacred Scriptures adds another dimension to a person’s faith. The trip is well worth it.

I would like to end with thanking all of my traveling buddies for making this a very memorable and inspirational pilgrimage. Peace!

Fr. Randy
We are a very blessed parish! I know not everyone agrees with that, but I’ve seen the heart of it, and I can honestly say, “We are a very blessed parish!”

Last year, I started this position two days before Religious Ed classes began. I was greeted with support and patience from the parents, as we worked through the chaos of a new leader. My Catechists were and continue to be a blessing! Everything that went right this past year in Religious Ed was because of them. They are so organized, dedicated and just plain awesome! Then, there is my Wednesday evening door keeper, who I always forget to mention, and sometimes take for granted. She keeps me on my toes. She is priceless!

The Sacraments went well, with all of Michelle’s gentle reminders of what needed to be done, and again, patient and dedicated parents. We also welcomed several new members into the Church at the Easter Vigil. This would not have been possible without our faithful and enthusiastic RCIA Team!

The Parish mission was amazing! Both nights, the church was filled with people eager to hear the inspiring words of Dr. John Wood.

Again, the mission happened flawlessly due to our devoted volunteers! Read all about it in the related article in this newsletter.

To wrap the year up, we had Vacation Bible Camp. Now if you want to smile contagiously, come to VBC! It is incredibly uplifting to hear so many little voices singing about Jesus and praising God! It did not end there. Teens and adults were singing the songs and doing the motions, helping wherever needed and just having a great time! Bible Camp brings out the fun side of people. It is its own world inside this crazy one.

Things started to change with the departure of our pastor. I will miss Father Randy. I saw a different side to him, a side that I had not made the effort to see before I began this job. I learned a great deal from him about the Catholic Faith. I thank God for all the people that have offered support and prayers during this time. You are the heart of our parish and you make this job a job worth having.

Despite all the changes in our parish, it still runs like a well-oiled machine. That is a tribute to our people. My transition would not have gone as smoothly as it did if it weren’t for the organization and dedication of my predecessor, Terri Meyer. She was always willing to help with my questions and is still just a phone call away. I see the same thing in our parish as a whole. We may be in transition, but we are not crippled. We are a parish fueled by faithful volunteers and loyal employees. We are a very blessed parish!

Amy Tonges

Men’s Choir Formed

We all love hearing men sing, and now they’ve come together into a unit of robust, male voices! The Men's Choir has officially debuted at St. Louis, and is open to all men. No experience needed!

No part-singing required - just praise the Lord with the melody. Those who like to sing harmony parts may remain after the regular rehearsal for a couple of minutes to practice their bass or tenor lines.

The Men’s Choir is scheduled to sing the 4th Sunday of the month, with rehearsal that previous Wednesday at 7 PM in Church. Rehearsal is no more than an hour, so early-risers have no excuse! Come be a witness to your parish family and be an active participant in Holy Mass.

Contact Sunny at the Church Office: 934-3204, x.266
**Parish News**

**Ladies Spring Social—“Connected in the Spirit”**

On Sunday, May 18th our Parish Life Committee expanded on the annual “Spring Tea” program. This year St. Louis partnered with St. Anthony’s, Morris and St. Nicholas in Connecting in the Spirit. Renamed “Ladies Spring Social”, ladies high school age and older from the three parishes were invited to St. Anthony’s Shad Hall from 1:30 to 4:00pm to enjoy the afternoon.

The theme this year was “Ladies Fashions through the Decades – 1900 to 2014”. Our speaker, Rita Jansing, gave a short talk on “The female dichotomy and the history of fashion”, explaining how historical events and religion influenced changes throughout the centuries.

The hall was decorated with many fashions from the past one hundred years brought by committee members. Many different dress styles from the 1890’s through the 1990’s were on display along with pictures from weddings and St. Louis Church committee’s. Items donated by parishioners were featured in a silent auction and a light lunch was served. Three hanging floral baskets were given as door prizes.

Many thanks to all the committee members who helped make this event a success. A special thanks to Amy Lesneski, a new St. Louis committee member, for all of her hard work and artistic skills making the displays come alive. Also, thanks to Michelle Hartman and Tonya Hudepohl from St. Anthony’s and their committee that helped organize the event, assisted with table decorations and organized the silent auction items. Thanks to the ladies of St. Nichols for baking the desserts and thanks also to the men who served as waiters for the event.

The event was attended by approximately fifty ladies, with the attendees being equally divided between all three parishes. We hope to expand on this event again next year.

*Linda Siefert*

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**Patriotic Prayer Service**

"In support of the Fortnight for Freedom that the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) promoted, a Patriotic Prayer Service was held in Church on Sunday evening, June 29th. It was a heartfelt and inspiring service that included the Patriotic Rosary. Each decade of the Rosary included petitions for our country, our government and our civic leaders. Each Hail Mary prayed for an individual state - 50 Hail Mary’s and 50 states! Patriotic songs, led by members of the Music Ministry, were enthusiastically sung by the assembly. Quotes from historical American figures reflected on our country’s heritage of religious freedom. An appreciative full house was in attendance!!"
The theme for this year’s work camp was “Repair – Be A Story of Transformation”. Through a series of scriptures, we examined how our relationship with God needs to be repaired. On Monday, the story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22) helped us think about what has been keeping us from following Jesus. On Tuesday, the story of Legion (Mark 5:1-20) reminded us that Jesus can transform our lives in a moment. On Wednesday, the story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44) helped us examine our own disappointment and anger with God over things we think He should have done for us and see that there is still more to come from a Savior who can make anything happen. On Thursday, the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) helped us realize that we can approach Jesus just as we are and let Him take care of the rest. We ended the week with the story of Ananias and Saul (Acts 9:10-19) which challenged us to trust Jesus more than we trust our fear of the unknown and what others will think as we live out our Christian faith back at home.

The entire Mission Team would like to take this opportunity to thank our parish families for its support of this ministry. This experience would never be possible without your spiritual and financial support. Because of your generosity, 31 teens and adults from St. Louis and St Nicholas were able to touch the lives of many needy families in Union County Ohio and bring home memories that will last a lifetime. Words can’t begin to express our gratitude.

We’ve already selected Cedar Grove, WV as the destination for the 2015 mission trip. We’ll leave on July 5th and return on July 11th. Once again, we’ll finance the trip thru a variety of fund-raisers. Among them will be a Murder Mystery Dinner in October, selling Poinsettias, wreaths, and Yankee Candles in November, a chicken dinner at the Knights of Columbus hall in January, a Super Bowl Sub & Turtle Soup Sale in February, & a Royal Ball in March. We look forward to the continued support of the parish.

Dave Meyer

Youth Called 2 Serve!

The St. Louis Youth Ministry holds two “Called 2 Serve” clean-up days twice a year, spring and fall. It is a free service to parishioners who need or want a little help with outdoor or indoor tasks.

This year, under the direction of Carrie Wesseler and Dave Meyer, there were 3 teams (18 youth and 7 adults) who participated. They met at Liberty Park at 8:30 a.m. for a brief orientation and opening prayer, and were at their 1st worksite by 9:00 a.m. They visited 9 different sites and performed a variety of tasks. They cleaned and repaired gutters, replaced a storm door window and screen, painted the frame of a picture window and door thresholds, lacquered a garage door, brought out summer yard decorations, weeded, mowed, pruned and removed bushes, cut down a small tree, cleaned out window wells, raked leaves, picked up branches, washed windows and doors, and did miscellaneous dusting and light house-cleaning. Whew!!!

The crews finished by 3:00 p.m. and met again at the park for a brief “sharing” of the day’s accomplishments and everyone was dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

Dave Meyer
St. Louis Welcomes Author - Dr. John Wood

At the end of March, Saint Louis welcomed author and speaker Dr. John Wood for a two day Parish Mission. The parish was first introduced to Dr. Wood through his book, *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: Five Steps to Winning the War Within*, given to all parishioners following the Christmas Masses. Just like in his book, Dr. Wood’s talk the first night focused on the five steps necessary for winning the war. You might be asking yourself, “What war?” And you are not alone because the first step is Know you are in a War. Dr. Wood captured his audience’s attention with his passionate delivery and relatable examples from his own life and faith journey.

The second day was a busy one for Dr. Wood. After a breakfast meet and greet with those who donated to the book giveaway, he headed to Saint Louis School for a presentation to grades 5-8. His talk, centering on keeping God near in your daily life, was a hit with the school kids. Many of the eighth grade students credit his talk with making them excited about their upcoming confirmation.

The second evening of the mission was about Saints in the Making University (SIMU). SIMU covers 6 important areas of faith development using the acronym SAINTS. Slaying Dragons is recognizing and conquering all of the temptation in your life. Athletics focuses on six virtues (Self Discipline, Perseverance, Obedience, Repetition, Teamwork and Sportsmanship) that make one successful in athletics and life. Instruction and Need to Know Him center on studying scripture and knowing Jesus. Theology of the Body recognizes the importance of understanding yourself in relation to those around you. Finally, Sacrifice and Service point to the need to be humble and have a servant’s heart. For more information or to sign up for SIMU visit www.Saintsinthemaking.com

Congratulations!

*Sister Madeleine Schumacker, OSF*, professed her perpetual vows on August 11th at Mount Alverno, Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. Sister Madeleine is the daughter of Joe & Kay Schumacker. Sister Madeleine and her family celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on August 17th at St. Louis Church. She enjoyed seeing her family and friends during her visit. Sister Madeline entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in September 2006, and is now stationed at the Motherhouse in Mishawaka, Indiana.

For more information about the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, visit their website: ssfpa.org

If you would like a copy of Dr. Wood’s book, please contact the Parish Office. If you are interested in donating to the book giveaway fund, make checks payable to Saint Louis Church with book fund in the memo. If you would like to help plan the next parish mission, contact Hannah Giesting via email Hannah.Giesting@gmail.com or phone 812-363-3714.

Hannah Giesting

We Could Use Your Help!

The parish newsletter is printed twice a year, in Winter and Summer. Our goal is for the newsletter to be interesting and informative for all our readers—parishioners, parents and alumni.

If you have suggestions, or would like to assist with this newsletter, please contact Margie Walke at 812-934-3418 or e-mail marwalke@etrzone.com. We welcome your input, and would love to have additional staff members!
Parish News

BAPTISMS

Eleora Jolie, daughter of Miranda Shadday

Ethan Edward, son of Edward & Diane (Prickel) Dierckman

Benjamin Bolton, son of Joshua & Lindsay (Bolton) Tunny

Lucy Jane, daughter of Andrew & Kimberly (Dickman) Haakinson

Melanie Ann, daughter of Daniel & Elaine (Rennekamp) Meer

Cora Louise, daughter of Mark & Melinda (Eckerle) Koehne

Frank Henry, son of Richard & Anne (Schneider) Meer

Caroline Ann, daughter of Marcus & Ann (Schwering) Bedel

Simon Anthony, son of Michael & Gloria (Moster) Brelage

Matthew Xavier, son of Joshua & Ashley (Roell) Scott

Marcus Ryan, son of Travis & Melissa (Mitter) Cook

Lola Anne, daughter of Clayton & Beth (Weber) Beiser

Christian Alexander, son of Luis & Maria Camarena

Luis Ernesto Garcia, son of Alejandrina Garcia Zamora

Ellard James, son of Keith & Melissa (Dwenger) Rudolf

In Memoriam

Mary Lou Blank 1/17/14
Arlyn K. Sorce 1/30/14
Francis X. Wonnell 2/8/14
David P. Laudick 2/20/14
Raymond Bloemer 2/15/14
Jeanne E. Dwenger 3/6/14
Virginia M. French 3/14/14
Joseph P. Radvansky 3/27/14
Elizabeth J. Rouse 3/28/14
Viola E. Borgman 5/13/14
Helen M. Wettering 5/25/14
Gregory T. Schene 5/27/14
Leo F. Wettering 6/6/14
Daren M. Heppner 6/24/14
Vyola F. Gutzwiller 7/3/14
Michael A. Schene 8/20/14

St. Louis Parish & School Calendar

Sept. 30—Classic Pizza Night
Oct. 13-17—Fall Break
Oct. 19—Super Sunday Bingo
Nov. 1—All Saints Day
Nov. 26-28—Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception
Dec. 22-Jan. 4—Christmas Break
Jan. 25-30—Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 27—Italian Night
Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday -Fish Fry
Mar. 1—Kindergarten Open House
Mar. 8—Super Sunday Bingo
Mar. 16-20—Spring Break (Possible Make up days)
Mar. 23-27—Spring Break
Apr. 3—Good Friday
Apr. 5—Easter Sunday

Check Websites for more information.

St. Louis Church: www.stlouis-batesville.org
St. Louis School: www.stlouisschool.org

Congratulations First Communicants

Megan Allgeier
Angelica Alvarez
Megan Batta
Maggie Beiser
Joshua Bischoff
Jacob Burlage
Marco Canessa
Angela Diaz
Isabel Fitzgerald
Evan Flaspholer
Anacamilia Garcia-Guzman
Mason Grossman
Brian Harmeyer
Sady Hirt
Wesley Hollins
Steven Kestler
Tyler Kuntz

Lillian Lesneski
Thomas Lohmueller
Erica Luna
Anthony Martin
Paul Meer
Benjamin Meyer
Carson Meyer
Connor Miles
Rhea Miller
Ella Moster
Isabel Price
Roman Raab
Hank Ritter
Cole Rudolf
Claire Saner
Lillian Schebler
Alexandra Seubert
Catherine Streator

Matthew Tekulve
Molly Tekulve
Martha Tuveson
Eli Vogelsang
Sadie Wachsmann
Madison Wanstrath
Kate Weber
Elijah Weiler
Elliot Werner
Margaret Wilson
Isabelle Wonnell
Mikhayla Wright
Abigail Wuestefeld
School News

From the Desk of the Principal

Teachers Honored

St. Louis School math teacher Linda Ortman was named the 2014 Batesville Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Ortman was honored at a dinner this past January. Congratulations Mrs. Ortman!

St. Louis School art teacher Hilary Carvitti was named the 2014 Southwest Ohio Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Carvitti will be honored at a ceremony this fall. Congratulations Mrs. Carvitti!

Music Department Receives National Award

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) named St. Louis School as a recipient for the “Support Music Merit Award”. It is given to schools that do an outstanding job of bringing music education to the students. In addition, the St. Louis School community was listed as one of the “Best Communities For Music Education”.

St. Louis School Supports The Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House

Again this year St. Louis School supported the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House. In case you are unfamiliar with the Ronald McDonald House, they provide free room and board to families of seriously ill children. These children have long stays in the hospital making it financially difficult for families to stay close. The Ronald McDonald House, which is located next to the hospital, allows families to be near their child during this difficult time.

Our students donated over 300 pounds of pop tabs, which are recycled to help pay for the operation. Again this May, our Student Council delivered the pop tabs and spent the day there, making brunch for the residents and interacting with the families.

NCA Visits SLS

North Central (NCA) visited St. Louis School in the fall to conduct an evaluation and determine our eligibility for continued accreditation. The NCA team was very impressed with SLS and renewed our accreditation. Here are some of their comments from the exit interview: “Better community school than about any I have ever seen.” “It is not unusual for a Catholic school to have a family atmosphere, but this is the best I’ve ever been in.” When starting to tell us about things to work on he said, “We struggled to find something to tell you to work on. This is the first time it ever happened.” “You have a great, great school.”

School Music Award

St. Louis School has been selected to receive a Support Music Merit Award. In the U.S. 472 schools were selected for the award. In the State of Indiana a total of 10 received this honor. SLS is one of only two Catholic schools to receive the award.

The NAMM Foundation is an organization that supports music education in schools. They annually give out awards to the "Best Communities for Music Education".

Left:  St. Louis Students present the musical, “Peter Pan, Jr.”
Below:  Sophie Wesseler, Alyssa Krekler & Anna Moeller
Mass Schedule
Weekend: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Weekday: Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday-Friday 8:10 am

Prayer & Devotion
Rosary & Benediction: First Sunday at 7:00 pm.

St. Louis Catholic Church and School Websites
Check the St. Louis Church website at www.stlouis-batesville.org for weekly bulletins, mass schedules, parish calendar and school links. At the School website, www.stlouischool.org, there is information on the PTO, school calendar, staff and staff web pages for homework and other school related information.