

Blessed Trinity Parish

Phone 883-2400

P.O. Box 38, Brussels, IL 62013

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Pastor: Rev. Don J. Roberts

Rectory: 883-2309

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Phone 576-2628

P.O. Box C, Hardin IL 62047

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

www.sfacalhoun.com

Mass Schedule/Intentions		The Sacraments and Our Parish Life																			
Sun. 2/26	8:00 am Meppen - Kenny Kronable 9:30 am Hardin - Alfred Gress 5:00 pm Hardin - For the People	<u>Parish Membership</u> We would like every adult to be properly registered in the parish. Please call the parish for the registration form. Please let us know if you change your address.																			
Mon. 2/27	7:00 am Hardin - Jerry Rose (Month's Mind)	<u>Matrimony</u> Couples should contact Fr. Roberts no less than 6 months prior to the anticipated date. One person in the couple must be a registered parishioner and a practicing Catholic.																			
Tues. 2/28	6:00 pm Meppen - Mildred Kronable	<u>Baptisms</u> <i>Baptism should be received within a month after your child's birth.</i> Baptisms can be celebrated after Mass on any Sunday of the year. A sacramental preparation program for parents is held prior to baptism. These classes are held quarterly. Please register to attend this class prior to the birth of your child. It is necessary for both parents to participate.																			
Wed. 3/1	8:30 am Brussels - Erma Dell Kiel 12:30 pm Hardin - Mary Jane Baalman 6:00 pm Hardin (Communion Service with Ashes) 7:00 pm Brussels (Communion Service with Ashes)	<u>Anointing of the Sick/Home Visits</u> If you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament or in need of a visit and Holy Communion, please contact the church office or Fr. Roberts.																			
Thu. 3/2	7:00 am Hardin - Glenda Siemer 9:30 am Nursing Home - No Mass	<u>Eucharistic Adoration</u> Eucharistic Adoration is held in St. Barbara's Church in Batchtown. 24 Hour Adoration begins at 7:00am Tuesday and concludes on Friday at 9:00pm.																			
Fri. 3/3	8:30 am Brussels - Men & Women in Service/ Youth of the Community	<u>PSR Enrollment</u> —Families new to PSR should contact Angie Goode at 618-410-9152 or Kari Fraley at 653-4440.																			
Sat. 3/4	8:00 am Batchtown - End Abortion 4:00 pm Kampsville - Evelyn Vetter & Gary Scott 6:30 pm Brussels - Aloys Fuhler																				
Sun. 3/5	8:00 am Meppen - Darleen Twichell 9:30 am Hardin - Jason Sagez 5:00 pm Hardin - For the People																				
Confessions		Please pray for																			
Mon- Fri.: One half hour prior to Mass; continuing for 15 minutes Saturday: 3:15-3:30 pm - Kampsville and 5:30-6:00 pm - Brussels		Annette Alberson, John Baalman, Norman Baalman, Philip Baalman, Liam Batten, Harold Becker, David Benz, Lester Benz, Charlie Bichsel, Rosemary Bick, Tanner Bick, Grace Elizabeth Brady, Geneva Breden, Norma Bright, Ray Brundies, Marissa Buchanan, Parker Calbreath, Kennedy Cooper, Dennis Droegge, Patty Friedel, Danny Fuller, Roberta Fuller, Sarah Funk, Jim Godar, Norbert Godar, Penny Gress, Herman Hagen, Elda Hayn, Cindy Herrmann, Tom Hill, Paul Hoemmen, Christine Hornberger, Debbie Ilges, Gary Jackson, Susan Jansen, Allen Johnson, Jim Johnson, Katelyn Johns, Mary Kallal, Mike Kinder, Shelley Kinder, Rosemary Klemme, Ellen Klocke, Alfred Kronable, Short Lorschbach, Jean Lorton, Brian Marshall, Elizabeth McCasland, Shirley McCauley, Paul & Betty McGinnis, Kim Meyer, Hayley Miller, Michelle Montonage, Todd Mueller, Samantha Niezgodski, Lane Oden, Sara Orf, Harvey Phillips Sr., Cheston Pickett, Paul Pluester, Susan Pohlman, Rheta Poore, Rick Randazzo, Raymond Remrey, Otto Retzer, Eleanor Robeen, Noah Rogers, Carter Rose, Jordan Roth, Kurt Roth, Catherine Schleeper, Don Schneider Jr., Darlene Seiferman, Jerry Siemer, Bob Sievers, Alice Snyders, Jo Ann Snyders, Paige Snyders, Mike Stelbrink, Dave Stenbeck, Eleanor Tepen, Mary Tepen, Helen Vetter, Bernie Wallendorf, Gus Wallendorf, Gary Watson, Margaret Wester, Ed Whitehead, Cindy Wieneke, Bruce Williams, Steve Woelfel and for those for whom we have promised to pray.																			
Monday - 6:30 am- 6:45 am; Thursday 6:30 am - 6:45 am; Tuesday 5:30 pm - 5:45 pm; Friday 8:00 am - 8:15 am; Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:15 am; Saturday 3:15 - 3:30 pm;																					
Parish Staff & Boards		Stewardship of Treasure February 11 & 12, 2017																			
Deacon - Dcn. Mike Hagen, 576-8009, mikehagen73@yahoo.com Office Managers - Sarah Kinder, 883-2400, blessedtrinityom@gmail.com Gwen Burch, 576-2628, stfrancisom@gmail.com Bookkeeper - Sue Vazis, 576-2628, suevazis@gmail.com St. Mary School Principal - Brenda Paynic, 883-2124, smsprincipal@gmail.com St. Norbert School Principal - Missy Baalman, 576-2514, mbaalman@snsnwolves.com Director of Faith Formation - Maria Carmody, 576-2662, sfaparishcre@gmail.com PSR Coordinators - Angie Goode, 618-410-9152, angisit10@yahoo.com Kari Fraley, 653-4440, karifraley@gmail.com BT Finance Council - Dale Hagen - 2nd Tuesday 8:00 pm BT Pastoral Council - Mike Wrigley - 2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm St. Mary Advisory Board - 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm SFA Finance Council - Dick Lieber - 3rd Tuesday 8:00 pm SFA Pastoral Council - Brad Vacca - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 pm St. Norbert Advisory Board - 1st Tuesday 7:00 pm		<table><tr><th>Blessed Trinity</th><th>Actual</th><th>Budget</th></tr><tr><td>Reg. Collection</td><td>\$2287.25</td><td>\$3326.92</td></tr><tr><td>Year to Date</td><td>\$83687.64</td><td>\$109788.36</td></tr><tr><td>Amount Under/</td><td>Weekly</td><td>(1039.67)</td></tr><tr><td>Over Budget</td><td>Year to Date</td><td>(26100.72)</td></tr><tr><td>School Support \$175.00</td><td>Envelopes Sent 363</td><td>Used 73</td></tr></table>		Blessed Trinity	Actual	Budget	Reg. Collection	\$2287.25	\$3326.92	Year to Date	\$83687.64	\$109788.36	Amount Under/	Weekly	(1039.67)	Over Budget	Year to Date	(26100.72)	School Support \$175.00	Envelopes Sent 363	Used 73
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Mar 3 - SNS Fish Fry Mar 4 - SFA Dinner Auction, KC Hall, 5:30pm Mar 10 - Hardin American Legion Fish Fry at KC Hall Mar 10-12 - Koinonia Mar 17 - Hardin KC Fish Fry at KC Hall Mar 19 - SFA Spring Dinner Mar 31 - Brussels Legion Fish Fry Apr 1 - Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts Workshop, St. Joseph's Hall, 9-3 Apr 7 - Brussels Legion Fish Fry Apr 9 - Presentation on the Shroud of Turin, St. Joseph's Hall, 2-4pm Apr 29 - Calhoun for Life Quarter Auction																					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mary's Altar Society will meet Friday, March 3 at 7:00pm at the church hall. Joyce Maag and Julie Bimslager are the hostesses.

St. Barbara's Picnic Committee will meet on Thursday, March 9 in the church basement at 7:00pm. A reminder to the following who were recently elected: Denise Bick, Georgia Klocke, Andrea Snyders, Andrea Eilerman, Matt Roth, Tim Bick, Craig Friedel, and Kevin Eilerman. Carry over from 2016 should be Shawna Eilerman, Stacey Wallendorf, Megan Eilerman, Bonnie Snyders, Eric Klaas, Kyle Klocke, Trent Bick and Caleb Goode. If there is any question, please contact Eric Klaas or the church office.

St. Mary Picnic Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00pm at St. Mary Hall.

Anyone who would like to donate a large chest freezer in good condition for St. Mary Picnic, please contact Jeff Kiel at 883-2240 or Karen Kinder at 883-2614.

St. Barbara's Picnic News: SAVE THE DATE... The people of St. Barbara's will cook chickens for the picnic on June 5 & 19. Please mark your calendar, and plan to help with this big job. Thank you.

Thank you to the family of JoAnn LaMarsh for the donation to St. Mary's School Memorial Fund.

Thank you to the Ed Hillen family for the contribution to St. Mary's School Memorial Fund.

St. Norbert's is in need of someone to take care of Easter and Christmas decorations. Please call the office to volunteer or let Marian Hagen know.

St. Norbert's: If you want to buy a memorial Easter lily leave in the back of church the week prior to Easter with your name on it.

St. Francis of Assisi now provides Online Giving - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy... just visit our website, www.sfacalhoun.com, and click on the Online Giving link. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish bank account. And you won't have to remember to write a check or stop by the ATM on Sundays! Just like the envelopes you currently receive, only 'virtual' envelopes!



Ash Wednesday (March 1) Schedule

8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Brussels
12:30pm Mass at St. Norbert's, Hardin
6:00pm Communion Service at St. Norbert's, Hardin
7:00pm Communion Service at St. Mary's, Brussels

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Your Bishop would like to hear from you!

Bishop Paprocki, as you may know, has opened a Diocesan Synod. A diocesan synod is a group of selected priests and other members of the Christian faithful who offer assistance to the diocesan bishop for the good of the whole diocesan community. As part of this year-long process, **each parishioner is being asked to complete the questionnaire found in today's bulletin. Please take the time. Bishop Paprocki wants to hear from you!**

There are four ways to submit the questionnaire by May 2:

- 1) It may be filled out online at: <http://www.dio.org/synod>
- 2) Hard copies found in this bulletin may be sent to: **Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, ATTN: Marlene Mulford, 1615 West Washington Street, Springfield, IL 62702.**
- 3) They may be dropped in the collection. (Gwen Burch or Sarah Kinder will forward any that are collected.)
- 4) If a parishioner is part of a small group, a parish council member, etc. in their parish, the group could answer the questions and have a "secretary of the group" summarize the group responses, then forward the typed responses to **Marlene Mulford** at mmulford@dio.org.

St. Francis of Assisi Dinner Auction

Saturday, March 4, 2017

KC Hall, Hardin IL

Doors open at 5:30pm

Dinner served at 6:30pm

Silent Auction, Live Auction, Card Draws

Tickets available at the parish office.

For more information or to make a donation call the parish office at 618-576-2628.

Calhoun County Koinonia #20

Come enjoy some community fellowship during our March 10-12 Koinonia. This weekend renewal will take place in Meppen, IL, in St. Joseph Hall. We begin Friday evening with a meal at 5:30pm, and each night you will return to your own home. For a complete schedule, please pick up a registration form in the backs of all churches or in our church offices. You may also download a form at www.sfacalhoun.com. For questions, please call Maria Carmody, 576-2662 or Roger Hagen, 576-2350. We would love all forms to be turned in by March 1 so that we may plan meals accordingly.

Adult Faith Formation News

SDCCW Spring Retreat - "With God All Things are Possible"

The SDCCW Spring Retreat will be Monday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 14 at the Villa Maria in Springfield. Presenters will be Sister Betty Jean Haverback and Sister Diane Marie VandeVoorde, Franciscan Sisters from West Peoria, IL, Joliet Diocese. Sr. Betty Jean and Sr. Diane Marie team together to give retreats and days of reflection. Join us for good reflection, mass both days, good food and lots of fellowship? Flyer/registration form/ contact information is in our parish office.

Sacred Relics Of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will host at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

Catholic Women's Breakfast: We are excited to announce that SS. Peter and Paul Altar Society in Alton along with St. Ambrose Church in Godfrey will be co-hosting the 2017 Catholic Women's breakfast. This is a unique Lenten opportunity for Catholic women from our area to gather and strengthen their faith and spirit together in a relaxed, fulfilling setting. This event will take place on Saturday, March 25. Mass at St. Ambrose Church in Godfrey will begin at 9:00am, Fr. Steve Pohlman presiding. A catered breakfast and spiritual presentation will immediately follow in the St Ambrose Community Center.

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2017

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays, 6:30pm at Hardin & Brussels.

PENANCE : Mon.- Fri.: One half hour prior to Mass, continuing for 15 minutes. Saturday: 3:15-3:30pm at Kampsville and 5:45-6:00pm at Brussels.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

All are invited to visit our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Barbara's Church in Batchtown every Tuesday beginning at 8am and continuing through Fridays until 9pm.

Adult Faith Formation News (continued)

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts Workshop St. Paul tells us we should "make love our aim" and eagerly pursue the spiritual gifts. God equips each of the baptized with the spiritual gifts that, together, allow us to build up the body of Christ and carry out the mission of the Church in the world. How has God gifted you? How is he gifting the world through you? Join us April 1 from 9am-3pm at St. Joseph's Hall in Meppen to find out. The workshop will be conducted by Jane Guenther, Director of the Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch. Register by calling Blessed Trinity Parish Office no later than March 25. For more information call Joyce Vogel at 618-980-4433.

Presentation on the Shroud of Turin There will be a special presentation on the Shroud of Turin at St. Joseph's Hall in Meppen on April 9 (Palm Sunday) from 2-4pm. The Shroud is widely believed to have been Jesus' burial cloth and reveals much about his suffering. Mark your calendar now for this special event.

Lenten Regulations

- 1. Abstinence**—Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- 2. Fast**—Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Food Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.
- 3.** To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.



March 3 - St. Norbert School Fish Fry @ SNS Gym
March 10 - Hardin American Legion Fish Fry @ KC Hall
March 17 - KC Hall Fish Fry
March 31 - Brussels Legion Fish Fry

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26 February 2017

Never abandoned. We do need enough – enough clothes, enough food and drink, enough shelter. But truth be told – only enough, not more than enough. Jesus urges us not to be slaves to these things. Jesus assures us that God's tender and maternal mercy is never forgotten. We are never abandoned. How will I rest in God alone this week? Who needs my never-forgetting, tender love? What will I do to help someone have enough clothing, food, shelter?

Ash Wednesday – 01 March 2017

Another return. Even after the exiles of Judah had returned home, the prophet Joel, speaking God's words, called for another return – one of hearts, thus, the whole person – to the Lord. For God, full of grace and mercy, is our true home. From what will I need to turn away? How will I turn again to God this Lent? Who will I invite to help me in this turning?

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the back of church, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God.

RCIA Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition, who wants to know what it means to become Catholic? Know someone already Catholic but has not yet received Confirmation & Communion? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a place to ask questions & seek understanding. Classes are on Thursdays at 7pm at St. Joseph's Hall in Meppen. Anyone already Catholic is welcome to attend any class or all classes to refresh their knowledge. The next class (March 2) topic will be Anointing of the Sick.

The Calhoun County Health Dept. will be offering a Total Cholesterol Profile, Blood Sugar Screening and Blood Pressure Screening for \$20.00. You must fast for 12 hours prior to blood draw. To make an appointment, call 576-2428. Screenings will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays during February.

Madison County Catholic Charities wants you to SAVE THE DATE! Our 17th Annual HELP ON THE MOVE Fundraiser is scheduled for April 8, 2017. It will once again be at the Atrium Hotel in Alton, ILL. Do you remember the great time you had last year winning prizes and dancing to the NGK Band? We promise this year will be even more exciting. Dinner and raffle tickets will be on sale soon. Don't miss your chance at the opportunity to win \$10,000. All proceeds will benefit the Community Programs of Madison County Catholic Charities.

During lent, let us give the right time to prayer, both personal and community prayer, which breathes air into our spiritual life.

Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican.va, Angelus of (last) 3-01-2013

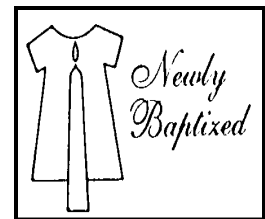
Stations of the Cross

During all the Fridays of Lent, Blessed Trinity and St. Francis of Assisi will have the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm beginning on Friday, March 3 at St. Mary's Church and St. Norbert's Church.

Welcome to our Faith

**Alisha Michele
Emma Lucille
August Jonathon**

Children of
Joshua & Nicole
Behrens



St. Mary School 11th Annual Brussels Sporting Clay Shoot



Individual Shooting—100 Round

Prizes for Top 3 in Each Flight

When: Saturday, March 25, 2017

Time: 9-2

Where: Otter Creek Hunting Club

Cost: **\$60 per adult/

Early Bird *only* \$50 if paid in advance

****\$40 per youth (age 14 and under)**

Includes Lunch and Beverage

Raffle* Auction* Door Prizes

For More Information or to Sign Up:

Call Erik or Bonnie Snyders - (618) 396-0096

There will be a special collection "Aid to Church in Central/Eastern Europe" on Ash Wednesday (March 1).



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

February 6, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE). This collection provides vital funding for our brothers and sisters living in countries that were once under communist rule. Restoring the Church, in both its structures and its spiritual life, has been difficult, but with your support we can help build a brighter future for this region.

In Estonia, religious observance is rare and very little funding is available to assist youth in learning about Christianity or the Catholic faith. Last year, the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe provided support to a summer camp program for youth. About 30 middle-school aged boys attended the camp where they not only learned about the Catholic faith but also had opportunities to attend Mass and even receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once they are in high school, boys who have previously attended are excited to return as staff members to lead and help the new group of campers grow in their faith. With your support the faith is able to flourish in this younger generation.

Your donations make a difference for those still struggling in the aftermath of communist rule. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year, or if you can increase your contribution. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas John Paprocki".

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Discipleship is about relationship with Jesus Christ – to be a disciple is to have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Preparatory Commission has developed the following questions for the Preliminary Phase of the Synod. We suggest that for those questions with a Scripture/Catechism of the Catholic Church reference, begin by reflecting on the passage before answering the question. Please allow enough time to formulate a response to each question.

1. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - What does it look like?
 - How did it come about?
 - How can you start/deepen your relationship?
2. When Jesus asks, how do you answer these questions?
 - “Who do you say that I am?” Mt. 16:13-20
 - “Do you love me?” Jn. 21:16-17
 - “Do you love me more than these? Jn. 21:15 What are the “these” in my life that compete with my love of Jesus Christ?
 - “What do you want me to do for you? (Bartimaeus)” Mk. 10:46-52
3. So - “Is he the one or are you looking for someone else?” (like the question that came from John the Baptist) Mt. 11: 1-6
4. “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” (St. Jerome and as referenced in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 133) What does this quote say to you?
5. How do/can the sacraments help you in your relationship with Jesus Christ?
6. Is your heart grateful? “10 were healed were they not? Where are the other nine?” Lk. 17:11-19
 - How can/do you show gratitude to Jesus for your relationship and all He has done?
Psalm 116
7. What does stewardship mean to you?
8. What else do you want us to know about your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Individuals will submit answers online at www.dio.org/synod

From group discussions, a typed summary of responses should be forwarded to Marlene Mulford at mmulford@dio.org until May 2, 2017.

We will be evaluating all feedback continually during this period and then using that feedback to formulate the questions that become the instrumentum laboris, the working papers of the Synod.

The Ship and the Rafts

A Catholic Convert Looks Back

By Steve Ray

Imagine a king who establishes a new country on the other side of the ocean. In order to populate his new land, he chooses the people that he wants to make citizens. Next, he builds a ship and prepares his chosen people for the long journey across the ocean.

The ship he provides is a large, beautiful ocean liner well-equipped with everything needed for the journey: food and water, showers with hot water, navigation charts, a crew and captain, and power to move the ship. The king puts everyone he has chosen aboard this ship and sends them on their way to their new home. Everything needed to reach the new country can be found aboard that ship.

Of course, the founder of this new country is God, the new country is heaven, and you and I are the ones he has chosen to journey there. The ship that He built is the Catholic Church, the captain is the pope, and the crew is the bishops, priests and deacons. The navigation charts are Scripture and Tradition. The showers are the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation, and the food and water for the journey is the Eucharist. The power that moves the ship is the Holy Spirit. Everything we need to reach heaven can be found within the Catholic Church.

The journey goes smoothly until the ship is halfway across the ocean. Then, some of the passengers start to argue and protest. Like the Israelites who grumbled about the manna in the desert, they begin to complain about eating the same food all the time. They ask, “Who is this captain, and why should he be in charge? Who gave these crew members the right to tell us what to do?”

The protesters go down into the bottom of the ship where they find wood and rope, and they build rafts for themselves. They collect food and water, clothing and anything else they can find, and throw themselves and their rafts over the side of the ship. Now, they don’t have to listen to the captain and crew, or eat that same old food or even take those hot showers which made them uncomfortable. They are free!

The scene is amazing. Instead of a single ship sailing for its home port, there are now 33,000 or more small rafts in the water around the ship! (The Oxford University Encyclopedia of Christianity says there are 33,000 Protestant denominations today with more being added to this number each year.) Now this beautiful ship is surrounded by 33,000 rafts bobbing around it—each with its own captain giving conflicting and contradictory orders.

As the ship continues toward heaven, some of the rafts remain close by, but others drift off into the distance, and some are moving in the opposite direction and have lost their way completely. Those rafts that are close to the ship are sheltered from some of the wind and waves; those

farther away are tossed about during the storms. The farther away they are, the less chance they have to make it to the other side.

Everything good on board the rafts came from the ship, but now they are cut off. Eventually, the food runs out, and the people begin to eat something other than what the king provided. There are no showers available for the people to get clean again.

When I was a Protestant, I never realized that everything good that I had came from the Catholic Church. For example, the Bible was put together by Catholic bishops and copied and preserved by Catholic monks. Martin Luther even admitted that we wouldn't have a Bible if it were not for "the papists." My Protestant fellowship only had two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper, while the Catholic Church has seven. Those who are

still out on the rafts need to be reminded that everything they have, they got from the Mother ship.

One interesting point is that I did not jump off the ship; I was born on a raft. For a long time, I didn't even know there was ship—it was nowhere in sight! I was born on a Baptist raft, and I could yell over to the Methodist raft, and they could yell over to the Episcopalian raft, and they could yell over to the Anglican raft, and so forth. We called that fellowship.

Then one day, I caught a glimpse of something large on the horizon, and I said, "Hey, what is that?" They answered, "We don't want to talk about it." "Why not," I asked. "Because it's bad." "What is it?" "It's the ship." Out of ignorance, I accepted the idea that the ship was bad.

One day, however, it dawned on me that that the founder of the country I was trying to reach had created the ship to carry me home safely. "Of course," I thought. "Why would God create 33,000 rafts competing to ferry His people home?" After reading and researching and praying, I got back on board the ship. I became a Catholic, and I'm amazed at what I have found onboard.

Cradle Catholics may take these things for granted, but we converts are in awe. You have seven sacraments, and they work! You have navigation charts: the Scriptures and the Tradition that helps you make sense of the maps. You have a crew that understands how to read the maps and charts without error, how to prepare the food, the Eucharist, properly, and how to operate the showers so that we can get cleaned up from all the foul-smelling sins we commit. You also have a captain, the Pope, who actually knows where he's going!



St. Mary School

- * Brussels School District #42 in cooperation with the Four Rivers Special Education District is sponsoring free vision, hearing, and developmental screenings for all children 2 ½ to 5 years (not entering kindergartens) who reside in the district. The screening will take place in SMS auditorium in Brussels on Tuesday, April 4th from 9:30am to 1:00pm. Please call 618-883-2124 to schedule an appointment.
- * The 8th grade team tied second place in the Jr. Olympiad sponsored by ROE#40 out of 32 teams. The team consisted of Maggie Toppmeyer, Brennen Grimes, Avery Caselton and Elly Pohlman. One of the construction problem had to do with paper and light bricks which they had to build to hold the light bricks. The points were awarded for the height of the tower and amount of bricks. Their teacher, Mrs. Stephens was impressed with the way the 8th grade team worked together as a team. Hurray and great job 8th graders.
- * The school made about \$22,000 before expenses at our annual benefit. Thank you to everyone who came out for the evening and supported SMS. Also, a big thank you to the volunteers who organized this event and all our SMS families who came out and worked. The food was delicious! There was a lot of nice prizes to bid on, too. Thank you!

- * St. Mary School will have Stations of the Cross on Mondays during Lent starting at 1:15pm in St. Mary Church. Everyone is welcome to come in.
- * March 10th St. Mary School will be in session. The local public school will not. Therefore, all students will need transportation to and from school; plus they will need to bring a sack lunch with a drink. Any questions please call the school.
- * Brussels Fitness Center is having their first official open gym (for anybody) on Wednesday, February 22 from 5:30 - 8:00. There will be open gyms on Thursday and Fridays at the same time. Cost will be \$3.00 for adults, current Brussels students are free. The Crunch will also be starting a boot camp session sometime in March. The Crunch will be doing these on Tuesday at 6 and/or 7 depending on how many people are interested. The Brussels Fitness Center has a Facebook page if you want more information. The center will be a great tool for health for people of all ages.
- * 8th grade class will be having a can drive in the spring.

St. Norbert School

- * SNS students are selling fema pizzas, italian sausage, and tortellini as a fundraiser during the month of February.
- * Students participating in the Six Flags Read to Succeed Program should return their log sheets to school no later than March 1.

- * SNS Fish Fry is on March 3.
- * No school on Monday, March 6.
- * Grades 6-8 field trip to Springfield on March 23.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

	<i>4:00 pm March 4 Kampsville</i>	<i>6:30 pm March 4 Brussels</i>	<i>8:00 am March 5 Meppen</i>	<i>9:30 am March 5 Hardin</i>	<i>5:00 pm March 5 Hardin</i>
Servers:	Volunteer	Jake, Jerica & Kendra LaMarsh	Cory Nelson, Hope Smith, Delani Klaas	Josh & Emily Wieneke	Volunteer
Lectors:	John Baltisberger	Scott Maag	Denise Bick	Matt Haug	Volunteer
Ushers:	J. Ewen, J. Stelbrink	Greg Klaas, Don Moennig	David & Richard Droege	Eric Hagen, Roger Hagen	Volunteer
Offertory:		M/M Don Moennig	Ken & Sarah Schleeper Family	Pat Hurley Family	
Extra-Ordinary Ministers:	M.A. Ringhausen, J. Clendenny, T. Droste	Karen Kinder, JoAnn Nolte, Mary Lee Rose	Kathy Sievers, Janet Droege, Rita Hagen	M/M Hughart, V. Tepen, Phil Gress, Marian Hagen	Volunteer

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Leroy, Tim & Bret Hagen
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Richard and Margaret Roberts
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Louis & Laura Sagez
Alfred & Izella Schleeper
Leo G, Estelle, Toby, Leo B Schleeper
George, Margaret & Agnes
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Joe, Clara, & Randy Sievers
Pauline Sievers
Stanley & Clara Sievers
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Raphael & Phyllis Snyders
Vincent, Agnes & Otto R. Snyders
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Matt & Irene Telkamp
& Bobby Hoemmen
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Lucas & Margaret Tepen Family
Norman Titus
Barney Toppmeyer Family
Barb Van Doren
Paul & Minnie Vetter
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