



# WORDS AND WORKS

quarterly newsletter for Holy Infant Parish  
Ballwin, MO

## Celebrate the Fatima Centennial with the Holy Infant Legion of Mary!

By Mary Sturm



for a special veneration of Mary and gaining a plenary indulgence. A large statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in Holy Infant's main Church. Our school children will pray a living

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to 3 shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Mary, Mother of God, appeared to the children six times in 1917, on the 13th of each month, May to October. Hovering above the holm oak at the Cova on July 13, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima told the three children, *Continue to pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only she can obtain it.*"

Pope Francis has granted **plenary indulgence** opportunities to celebrate this year. Holy Infant's Legion of Mary<sup>1</sup> is helping you to celebrate this Fatima Centennial Jubilee and gain these indulgences with special events. Mark now on your calendars the 13th of each month, May to October. Keep a lookout for more in our church bulletin, our vestibule displays, and other announcements about these events:

- March and April, learn about Our Blessed Mother Mary, about Fatima, the Jubilee Year, about indulgences, and the **plenary indulgence** available during the Jubilee year. (See insert.) The Holy Infant Legion of Mary will also be giving away the magazine: *40 Keys to Discovering Mary and the Saints*.
- May through September, a **plenary indulgence** can be gained by honoring Mary on the Anniversary dates of her Apparitions in Fatima. On the 13th of these 5 months a statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in Our Holy Infant Eucharistic Adoration Chapel to help you honor Mary and gain the indulgence.
- On Friday, October 13, we will have the opportunity

rosary, there will be a rosary procession, chaplet, other special Marian prayers, right after Mass.

- As always, in our parish vestibule, we will be giving away blessed rosaries, handmade by the Holy Infant Legion of Mary, as well as rosary guides and CDs to aid you in praying the rosary.

### ***So what are indulgences anyway?***

The Bible and the Church teach that sin has 2 components – the guilt of the sin, and the temporal punishment for the sin. Guilt and punishment concept is like this – If you wreck someone's car, the owner can forgive you, but you still owe the debt of fixing his car.

Making a good confession (removing the guilt) combined with getting indulgences (removing the temporal punishment) is the answer.

To obtain the **plenary indulgence**, the faithful must also fulfill the ordinary conditions: Go to confession and Communion, pray for the intentions of the Pope, and be interiorly detached from sin. If the last condition is not met, it is a partial indulgence. To find out more, go to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1471-1479 and

<https://www.ourladywarriors.org/indulge/plenary.htm>

<sup>1</sup> The Legion of Mary is a lay catholic organization whose members serve the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. Holy Infant has 9 Active Members, who meet Friday mornings, and 176 Auxiliary Members.

# Holy Infant Welcomes Father Michael Rennie

By Kris Mispagel

In January 2017, we said farewell to Fr. Foy as he was reassigned to be pastor of St. John the Baptist Gildehaus and welcomed Fr. Michael Rennie to Holy Infant.

Fr. Michael was born to Steve and Kim Rennie and grew up in St. Charles. After graduating from St. Charles West High School in 1999, he attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He married his high school girlfriend, Amber, in 2001 and graduated from Oral Roberts with a degree in New Testament Literature a year later. Feeling a call to become an Anglican priest, Fr. Michael entered the Berkeley Episcopal Seminary at the Yale Divinity School.

At Yale, Fr. Michael read works such as Cardinal Newman's *Apologia* and poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins S.J. Both men had converted to Catholicism and their writings made Fr. Michael think about his own faith. But Fr. Michael admits that he "wasn't ready for the [Catholic] Church, but she is patient." He received a Master of Divinity in 2006. For the next five years, he served as pastor at the Church of the Resurrection in Dennis, Massachusetts and the Good Shepherd in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

But over time, Fr. Michael felt something was missing and that his "heart wasn't in it. [He] was still wrestling every single, little belief [he] had. There was never any rest" (Rennie). In a sense, he felt like he was "on the outside, looking in." Fr. Michael felt like he was being called to the Body of Christ.

Fr. Michael admits that explaining his conversion story is no easy task. He adds that "it is a deeply personal and intimate spiritual journey" and that joining the Catholic Church allowed him "to become more fully what [he] already was." On October 16, 2011, Fr. Michael and his wife Amber were confirmed by Archbishop Carlson. "This was the best day of our lives," he adds.

Under Pope John Paul II, a pastoral provision was established to allow Anglican and Episcopalian priests to become ordained into the Catholic Church.

While working at the Archdiocese of St. Louis in the Office of Family Life and the Archive Department, Fr. Michael began to prepare at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He also acted as a Transitional Deacon and Pastoral Associate at Epiphany of Our Lord in South St. Louis. After two years of preparation, Fr. Michael took a three-day exam at Seton Hall, an exam that included numerous essays and oral arguments.

Fr. Michael was ordained a Catholic priest December 8, 2016, by Archbishop Carlson. When asked why he became a priest, Fr. Michael "described the calling as a gentle, steady series of love letters in which [he] fell more and more in love with God. In the end, His calling on each of us is gratuitous" (Brinker).

Fr. Michael and his wife Amber live in South St. Louis. They have been married for 16 years and have five children, Catherine, Mary, Michael, Augustine and Teresia. When not spending his time with us at Holy Infant, Fr. Michael enjoys running, cycling, playing with his children, reading, and brewing (and drinking) beer.

"In case you want to share. An incredibly large number of people have asked about my hat!"

<http://dappledthings.org/11099/why-wearing-a-hat-is-so-important-to-me/>

For more about what Fr. Michael writes about, check out his blog:

<https://michaelrennie.wordpress.com>

Brinker, J. (2016, December 11). Archbishop Carlson Ordains Former Anglican Priest Fr. Michael Rennie. Retrieved from <http://stlouisreview.com>

Rennie, M. (2011, October 26). Into the Half-Way House: The Story of an Episcopal Priest. Retrieved from <http://www.calledtocommunion.com>



# An Easter Letter from Father Stanger, Pastor

March 2017

Dear Parishioners,

Easter peace be with you! Here we are again, celebrating another blessed Lenten Season and Easter, together. As we pray, fast and give alms, we are reminded that we are one body in Christ.

In recent weeks, many of us celebrated St. Patrick's Day together as well as attended Fish Fries here at Holy Infant. On Ash Wednesday, one of the exhortations that we used when applying ashes on Ash Wednesday was, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Many of us promised ourselves and God that we would do more of some things, or less of others, in an effort to be more like Christ. While some of us have thrived, some of us have fallen short of our goals, and we may feel as if we have failed.

Then, we remember that because of Christ, we have another chance. We have the sacrament of reconciliation – experiencing God's forgiveness. He died and rose to give us life. In His Resurrection, we are offered an opportunity to rise with Him and begin anew.

I'm reminded of the times in the Gospels when Jesus performed miracles and gave second chances to those who believed. From the paralytic, to the official's daughter, to the blind men, they were all graced with fresh starts and new opportunities. They were given chances to live again.

As we began a new season, we can be ignited with the joy that as believers, we can overcome our challenges. We can be renewed with the idea of enjoying new life, here on earth. We can be energized as we anticipate our new lives in heaven.

There are many opportunities in Holy Week to participate and share in the greatest liturgies the Church has to offer. You may not be able to come to all of them, but all are welcome to attend. Our Holy Week Schedule is:

- **Holy Thursday**, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm. Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by
- **the Seven Churches Tour.**
- **Good Friday**, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross and at 7:30 p.m., the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death.
- **Holy Saturday**, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass.
- **Easter Sunday**, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Masses at 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 12 noon.

In the name of Fr. Vordtriede, Fr. Michael, Deacon Dan Henke, Deacon Jim Powers, our School and Parish School of Religion, and all of our Holy Infant staff, may the blessings of Easter come to you and your loved ones!

May the God of second chances bring you joy, peace and comfort, throughout these holy days!

A Blessed Easter!



Rev. Edward Stanger

By Tim Morrison

Submitted by Kathie Hanneke

# ENGAGE

During the period of silence following Communion, I nestled in the pew along with a full house. Through Holy Infant's signature stained glass, rays of April sunshine showered upon us. Our acting pastor and celebrant, Monsignor Buchheit, sat to the right of the altar. His attention stirred as a distraction -- a man stood in an aisle from the back quarter of the church. Dressed in blue jeans with a cowboy hat tucked beneath his arm, the man walked the aisle approaching the podium. As he climbed the altar steps, Monsignor Buchheit rose, concern written across his brow. With open palm raised, the man waved to our priest for affirmation.

The man appeared even stranger as he faced the congregation. A jigsaw of stitches mended severe cuts enclosed in dark bruises, masking the stranger.

Firm and deep, he spoke, "I've travelled from my home in Montana to thank you for your prayers. I'm not much for church, but my sister requested you pray for my recovery. I thank my sister," he acknowledged her raising his western hat. An apprehensive Monsignor sat down.

"I'm a truck driver. I hit a bad patch of ice earlier this winter and demolished my truck." Without smiling (it probably hurt), he added, "Demolished my face. Been reconstructed ... but doesn't look like it." He attempted to humor us.

"For months I've worn braces and still do under my shirt and jeans, but I can walk and if I can walk, I can come here to thank you. Your prayers made a difference. Thank you."

He simply returned to his seat beside his sister. Mass ended and we went in meaningful peace on this Sunday, one week into Easter.

From childhood to adulthood, one grows increasingly independent, autonomous. However, *as one grows in maturity spiritually, one encounters their dependence on God and the grace God provides through others.* For me, our catechumens, the "others," present God's grace to our community through their conscious act ... choosing to join our Catholic family. Like Jesus, the catechumens found their way through the desert and into the garden. On the night of the Easter Vigil, they stood before a house full of people just as the truck driver did and publicly emptied themselves, of control and independence ... temptations in the de-

sert. I watched. I listened. I asked *why?*

As I listened to the catechumens, I recalled a period in my life in which I studied others' faiths and questioned whether I would choose to be Catholic (confirmed in third grade in a mission parish, the decision wasn't mine). How many reading this chose or would choose to be Catholic?

"Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again." Men and women proclaimed it for their first time and did so publicly during the Vigil eve. Despite thousands of proclamations, had I assumed routine in the Eucharist? Through guests, **the initiated** entering the Church ... **the Mystery, our Creator**, revealed grace to us, their hosts. The catechumens, the truck driver travelled the desert to accept grace and to share grace with us. The truck driver stood before me in stitches, braces, broken ... catechumens stood before me, soaked in water, saturated in incense, marked with oil proclaiming, "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again." Both engaged the risen Christ. Under one common act, receiving the body and blood of Christ, we emerge to share many personal occasions of grace. May you engage the risen Lord and share your occasions of grace!

*Written by Tim Morrison for PX-90 blog, April, 2014*

The link to the PX90 latest blog is:

<http://himenpx90.blogspot.com/2017/02/make-this-year-different.html>

If you would like to learn more about PX90, click on the link below:

<http://lists.holyinfantballwin.net/listinfo.cgi/px90-holyinfantballwin.net>



**Rummage Sale**

Holy Infant's Annual Rummage Rampage is coming soon!! Our big sale is only three months away. As you begin your spring cleaning projects, perhaps you can set aside items that you no longer want. Our big sale will take place **June 23 thru 25, 2017**. Donations will be accepted during the preceding week. All proceeds will benefit the parish.

# OUR SCHOOL





**HOLY INFANT  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## OUR COMMUNITY

**Educating for Life's Journey**

Call to schedule a tour 636-227-0802  
[www.holyinfantschool.org](http://www.holyinfantschool.org)  
 Like us on Facebook at  
**Holy Infant Catholic School**



## NEW CATHOLICS AND PARISHIONERS

By Eileen Buehrle

On April 15, 2017 at this year's Easter Vigil, also known as Holy Saturday night, Holy Infant welcomes 11 new Catholics and parishioners. For most, the journey started in September in learning about the Catholic faith and how to live as Catholic Christians through their faith journey and the support of their parish community.

If they have not been baptized before, they will receive Baptism at this time along with Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. If they have been baptized before they will make a profession of faith and receive Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Holy Eucharist. They will then become a Catholic and a parishioner of Holy Infant.

The new Catholics and Parishioners will be:

*Isaiah Brisseaux*

*Jason Epelley*

*Sarah Kolimbus*

*Anastasia Neumann*

*Matt Odlum*

*Michelle Otto-Bruc*

*Michael Rhodes*

*Megan Riggin*

*Coulter Smith*

*Olivia Stevenson*

*Aaron Sundbakken*

Please take a moment and remember their names. When you meet them, take time to extend a warm welcome and offer your prayers and support and pray for them. We are glad they will be a part of our Parish and wish them all the blessings, help and support the Parish has to offer.



Blessed Prayer Shawls are available for anyone, including infant and children, that you want to wrap in prayers and God's love. Shawls have been given in times of celebration, starting a new life or career; as well as in times of sadness, ill health or emotional distress. If you have someone you want to wrap in your love, concern and prayers; please consider giving a Prayer Shawl.

You can find the blessed Shawls at the rectory office during the week, usher's closet on the weekends during the Masses or in the Adoration Chapel. There is NO CHARGE. Love offerings for buying yarn and fleece are always appreciated. For more information, call Kathie 314-704-2350.



Words and Works is a quarterly publication of Holy Infant Parish, informing parishioners of events and activities of interest to the parish, with a further goal of fostering unity within the Church and drawing all together into a closer warmer Church family.

**Layout Editor**

Pam Miller  
(314) 498-6730  
[pam@vizkids.org](mailto:pam@vizkids.org)

**Writers**

Eileen Buehrle  
[ebuehrle@charter.net](mailto:ebuehrle@charter.net)

Kathie Hanneke  
[geneandkathie@hanneke.us](mailto:geneandkathie@hanneke.us)

Kris Mispagel  
[mispagel5@hotmail.com](mailto:mispagel5@hotmail.com)

Mary Jane Zust  
[marjan343@charter.net](mailto:marjan343@charter.net)

[www.holyinfantballwin.org](http://www.holyinfantballwin.org)

## Confirmation at Holy Infant... A Program with a Difference

Submitted by Eileen Buehrle

Each spring, the eighth grade students of Holy Infant receive the sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament offers them an opportunity to think about serious choices that are facing them – choices about values and choices about faith. They do not just study what they find in their religion books but undertake projects and participate in Church activities.

Our parish community groups consist of candidates from PSR, Day School, and Private Schools. They meet nine times during the year. Six of these times are faith sharing sessions and three times to complete three service projects. One service project is always performed at Holy Infant, another in the Ballwin community and the third in the City of St Louis. They also attend an evening of reflection for parents; a Sponsor and Candidate mini retreat; a day retreat; and a Luke 18 retreat as well as a blessing ceremony at Mass

Service projects are to be completed before Confirmation. The projects last for two to four hours. The service sites for 2017 were:

- \* St Peter and Paul Homeless Shelter
- \* Mike Kelly basketball tournament
- \* Lutheran Senior Services
- \* Ronald McDonald House
- \* Circle of Concern Food Pantry -Valley Park
- \* Churches on the Streets of St Louis
- \* SPENSA; Special Needs Soccer Association.
- \* Sisters of Charity Soup Kitchen
- \* Our Lady's Inn in the City
- \* Serve St. Louis
- \* Feed My Starving Children
- \* Project Linus
- \* Parish Live Nativity

Parishioners are encouraged to pray for these young men and women to hold on, cherish, and grow in their faith. Should you be present at one of their projects, do what you can to show them how God loves them and that you love them for what they are doing. These are the future parishioners of our parish and will one day, hopefully, be its leaders.

### Discover ST. LOUIS MASS MOB

**Like** and **follow** on Facebook. Up-coming events include:

May 14 - Mass Mob XII **Saint Wenceslaus Parish** – Sunday, 9:00 AM Mass.

July 9 - Mass Mob XIII **Our Lady of the Presentation Parish** Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass.

September 17 - Mass Mob XIV **Little Flower Catholic Church** Sunday, 10:30 AM Mass.



### THE SISTERS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

**Sister Rosario Delaney**

Convent of Mercy  
Kells  
Co. Meath  
Ireland

Email: [srd@holysinantschool.org](mailto:srd@holysinantschool.org)

**Sister Laurentia Cusack**

St. Joseph's  
Leighsbrook  
Navan  
Co. Meath  
Ireland

Email: [lcusack@holysinantschool.org](mailto:lcusack@holysinantschool.org)

Written by Sr. Rosario  
 Submitted by Kathie Hanneke

**GREETINGS FROM IRELAND ~ LOVE  
 SISTER ROSARIO**



I am sitting in my room looking out at a large green lawn where a few of the trees are over one hundred years old. On Easter Sunday, 1916, as the fight to gain our freedom from England began, the Irish flag flew in the breeze at the top of the ash tree which is still here on our lawn. Right behind the fence, bordering the lawn, is a pasture where each day I enjoy watching the cattle as they graze. As I leave our convent grounds and turn to the right I see the Celtic Cross which was erected in the 900's. If I turn to the left, I see the large Round Tower erected in the 800's as a safe area for the Irish to hide, and where the invaders, the Normans, could not climb high enough to reach the entry door. It was here that St. Columcille and the famous Book of Kells played a prominent part. So, you can gather that Kells is a small country town, rich in history, and very different from the City of Ballwin.

Our convent was built 12 years ago as an assisted living building to house 14 sisters, and included all amenities. However at this time we are an active community of 8 with some sisters needing limited care so my daily schedule is vastly different from Holy Infant days. A small green field separates the convent from the church grounds

and as we walk through the field to church each day we are very much in touch with nature. My tasks include accompanying a sister to her appointments in Dublin on the bus (a 2hr. ride each way), to the local doctor in town or to the pharmacy to pick up medicines. I visit the Adult Day Care Centre right by the convent. I am sacristan for our convent chapel. If not otherwise engaged I try to visit the Blessed Sacrament Chapel each day from 4:30 to 5:30. As our congregation is involved in restructuring I try to attend the information meetings. At this moment I am considering joining the Parish Council. I guess you can say my life has changed drastically but I am enjoying being part of many family events and situations.

I love my convent and surroundings. The sisters have made me feel very welcome but I do admit that after spending 52 years in the vibrant, faith filled, parish of Holy Infant among wonderful priests, faculty, staff, students, parents, parishioners, and friends I miss you very much and you are all part of my daily prayer. You will never be replaced. As we so often sang: "May the blessing of God be upon you" and until we meet again "May God hold us all in the palm of His hand." Much love, Rosario

Written by Sr. Laurentia  
 Submitted by Kathie Hanneke

**GREETINGS FROM IRELAND ~ LOVE  
 SISTER LAURENTIA**



I don't think I have had a typical day since I arrived on Irish soil on September 4th last! My day begins at 7 a.m. a long sleep in from 5 a.m. in Holy Infant! I usually go to Mass in the town church at 8 am. It is a five minute walk from the convent. I enjoy a leisurely breakfast with a few of the Sisters and then spend time in prayer and meditation. No rushing to school but I do have to feed the cat who whines outside the kitchen window until she is fed! I do some chores, check my mail and try to answer some emails. I keep in touch with the kitchen staff since this is my new responsibility. We have dinner at 12:30 and this meal goes on for over an hour! I take a long walk in the afternoon, if weather permits, covering a mile or more. Visitation of our sick Sisters in the nursing home or hospital is done on a daily basis. We have another community across town with elderly Sisters and I visit them on a regular basis. We have evening prayers at 5:30 pm followed by tea when we share stories and chat!! We gather in for the news at nine o'clock and sometimes watch a late program, not too many uplifting ones on the T.V. We get a

dose of Trump practically every night but dying down a bit these past few nights! Each day brings its own interruptions, we have meetings and funerals to attend. Actually Sister Paula who worked in Ballwin from 1976 to 1982 just passed away R.I.P. She belonged in this community after she returned to Ireland.

I visit my two brothers regularly who live just twenty miles from here in a small country village where we grew up on a farm. I love going home to the country. Ireland today is very different to the Ireland we left forty years ago. Back then we never knew the pressures and stress people experience today. It was a very simple lifestyle and we did not have all the material things that people seem to want today? We were happy and Church always came first.

I send best wishes and every blessing to all our priests and dear friends at Holy Infant. Also thanks for cards, good wishes and emails during the Christmas Season. Love, Sister Laurentia

## Regular Mass Schedule

### Sunday Obligation

Saturday: 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m.,  
10:15 a.m. and noon

### Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. and  
8 a.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.

### Holy Day Masses

Please check the bulletin or  
call the rectory to check  
times for Holy Day Masses.

### Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24 hours, 7 days a week.  
Enter the chapel through the  
main lobby.

## Holy Infant Church

627 Dennison Drive, Ballwin MO 63021-4898

Rectory: (636) 227-7440 FAX (636) 227-4548

Website: [www.holyinfantballwin.org](http://www.holyinfantballwin.org)

### Pastoral Staff

**Father Edward J. Stanger . . . . . Pastor**

Father Thomas Vordtriede . . . . . Associate Pastor

Father Michael Rennier . . . . . Associate Pastor

Daniel Henke . . . . . Deacon

Jim Powers . . . . . Deacon

Jacob Carlin . . . . . Transitional Deacon

### Rectory Office Hours

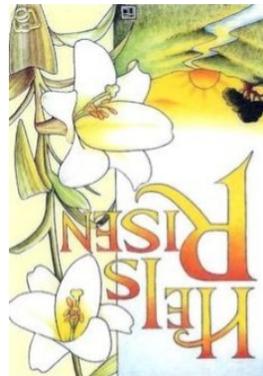
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Closed for lunch from noon -1 p.m.

### Ministry to the Homebound

Please call the rectory if you are ill at home or in the hospital or  
nursing facility and would like Communion brought to you. Volun-  
teers also are available to help in other ways.

Notice:  
Holy Infant Parish ~  
Important Easter News  
inside!



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