



WORDS AND WORKS

*quarterly newsletter for Holy Infant Parish
Ballwin, MO*

EIGHTH GRADE PASSION PLAY

By Eileen Buehrle

For nineteen years, Holy Infant eighth grade students have been presenting a Passion Play in Church for the Parish on Good Friday afternoon. A Passion Play is a dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Jesus Christ, His trial, suffering and death.

Mrs. Maureen Thenhaus, an eighth grade teacher, has been writing, producing and directing this play for the past fourteen years. She rewrites the script each year using a different gospel as the main focus and a different part of the gospel is presented. She writes a part for every student who wishes to have a speaking part. Students who do not want a speaking part work as the crew with props, costumes and scenery. A choir is formed for singing during the play. Once Mrs. Thenhaus has written the script, which is done during the winter months, she listens to students whenever she can, paying attention to their expressions and emotions to determine the different roles in the play. Students try out for the various parts and once they are selected, she lets God direct her from then on.

This year, there are 70 students participating as actors, singers or crew members. Some students do more than one job. For several months, prior to the date of the play, the students walk through the script during class to see if things flow well. The crew starts checking for the availability of props, ensuring that they are in good repair and making decisions to obtain new ones. Costumes and

scenery are examined for use and are repaired or replaced as needed. Once a week, during Lent, the students practice in church, go through each scene and continue to fine tune it.

The play could not be done without the help of others. Eric Henson, music teacher handles the music and the choir; Mrs. Gillian, Mrs. Mertens, and Mrs. Hughes, all eighth grade teachers, help maintain order during the practices and help with costumes. Mrs. Rita Kreutz, liturgist, does the "crowing" of the rooster for St. Peter. Many parents have helped over the years making and donating costumes, scenery and the cross.



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It is evident that this is a presentation of love. The new eighth grade students look forward to the play each year and work hard to do the best job that they can. One outstanding

quality of the Play is that it is done on the steps in front of the altar, without any microphones and all can hear what is being said.

Once the play is concluded, there is silence in church for a few minutes. All have been touched by what they have seen. I know when I leave church I have a deeper appreciation for Christ's Passion and what He went through. Please join the eighth graders on April 3rd at 1:00 pm in church to experience this superb undertaking by these youth and show your support for all of their fine work.

An Easter Message from our Pastor, Father Stanger

HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH

627 Dennison Drive • Ballwin, Missouri 63021 • (314) 636-227-7440

March, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Easter peace be with you! This season brings with it the greatest celebration of our Catholic faith. As St. Paul told the church in Corinth, "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith." (1 Cor 15:14) The belief that Jesus Christ vanquished death by His Cross and Resurrection from the tomb constitutes our claim to being a Christian. What joy and purpose the Easter mystery should give to our lives – not just on Easter Sunday, but every day, Alleluia!

The pool of baptism yields life not only at Easter but throughout the year. In the past 12 months here at Holy Infant we have had 135 baptisms! Life is definitely strong in our community. Thanks be to God for this blessing of vitality!

As many of you are aware, on many Sundays - especially Easter - we find new faces at Holy Infant. Some are attracted to the friendliness of our parish, the energy and vibrancy of our community or the music at our worship. Thanks to all who so generously extend such a warm welcome to those who come to our parish!

In the name of Fr. Anstoetter, Fr. Vordtriede, myself, Deacon Dan Henke, Deacon Dan Raidt, Sr. Rosario, Sr. Laurentia, our School and Parish School of Religion, and all our staff, may the blessings of Easter come to you and your loved ones.

A Blessed Easter!



Rev. Edward Stanger



Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 30

2:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
8:00 -9:00 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, March 31

5:30 pm - Mass Before Dinner

Wednesday, April 1

5:30 pm - Mass Before Dinner

Thursday, April 2

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper,
Followed by Seven Churches Tour.

Friday, April 3

1:00 pm - Eighth Grade Passion Play in Church
3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
7:30 pm - The Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 4

7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday Masses - April 5

6:00 am, 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and Noon

New Catholics And Parishioners

By Eileen Buehrle

On April 4, 2015, Easter Vigil, also known as Holy Saturday night, Holy Infant will welcome 16 new Catholics and Parishioners. Thirteen of these are adults and three are high school youth. For most, the journey started in September learning about the Catholic faith and how to live as a Catholic Christian through their faith journey and the support of their parish community.

Four adults and one youth will receive Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist (these are called the Elect, formerly known as Catechumens) and nine adults and two youths will make a profession of faith and receive Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Holy Eucharist (they are called Candidates). The Elect Catechumens are those who were never baptized. Candidates are those who were baptized in a faith tradition other than Catholic and are seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Others were baptized as infants in the Catholic Church, but were not given any religious upbringing within the Catholic Tradition.

The new Catholics and Parishioners will be:

Elect/Catechumens

Brandon Donat
Alexis Jennings
Brad Mock
Michael Morton
Emily Bosak *(Youth - not in photo)*

Candidates

Leah Borrowman
Amanda Halter
Katie Hancock
Chris Hawk
Craig Hibbeler
Tammie Himmelsbach
Caleb Ipock
Stacie Kirchoff
Jacie Morton
Grace Lester *(Youth - not in photo)*
Julie Saak *(Youth - not in photo)*



The *above picture* - submitted by Kelly Hurst, of the Elect/Catechumens and Candidates is displayed in the Church lobby. It is our duty to support these individuals when we can. Please take a moment and look at their pictures and when you see them, please extend a warm welcome and offer your prayers and support. 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.



"Each time a shawl is used, it's like
a hug from God"

By
Kathie Hanneke

When you think of shawls, what images comes to mind? How about warmth, being wrapped and secure?

Since this is the **Year of Prayer**, Holy Infant's Joyful Hope Prayer Group decided to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry here in the parish to help people in times of crises, illness, grief, plus many other needs to feel wrapped in prayer, peace and God's love. Is this type of ministry, something new, and is it something unique to Catholics? How does one participate or obtain a prayer shawl?

Prayer Shawls were popular to the Old Testament Jews and were worn to remind the Israelites of God's commandments to them. Shawls have been made over the centuries to wrap, comfort, cover, shelter and give solace to those in need. In more recent times, here in the United States, two Christian women, Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo, during the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, combined their love of knitting and crocheting into a prayerful ministry, which reached out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

Good news spread and traveled fast to local Catholic parishes, who adopted this Ministry, such as **Our Lady** in Festus, **St. Joseph**, Manchester and **St. Catherine Laboure** in Sappington. Now Holy Infant, through the Joyful Hope Prayer Group, has joined as well.

Parishioners who are aware of someone suffering from loss, stress, loneliness, etc., are welcome

to stop by the rectory for a Prayer Shawl. Shawls can be given to children or adults and one does not need to belong to the parish or even be a Catholic to receive one. It is for all who need to feel wrapped in prayer and to feel God's love, comfort, healing, wisdom and peace.

Would you like to get involved in this fledgling, but very fulfilling Ministry? We are looking for anyone who enjoys crocheting, knitting or cutting fleece. You don't have to be able to pray while working on the shawl. Many claim they can't do two things at the same time - no problem! Pray before you start and when you finish. The completed Prayer Shawl will be blessed by the priests and if possible, prayed over by the Joyful Hope Prayer group, before being given to the recipient. At this time, the Priests, our Sisters, Deacons, Stephen Ministers and Angel Corp members, all hand out Prayer Shawls to people they feel could use one. Now, **ALL** are invited to participate in this loving and powerful Ministry.

Feel free to email or call Kathie,
gkhanneke@gmail.com, 314-704-2350
for patterns or more information.

(We invite you to read a wonderful Guideposts article "*My Prayer Shawl*" by Lou Zywicki Prudhomme at guideposts.org/shawl and click on her story link.)



Holy Infant Prayer Shawl Ministry — Prayer

As we made this shawl for you,
we asked God's blessing on it . . . warming,
comforting, enfolding and embracing you
in good as well as difficult times.

We prayed that you would be
cradled in hope,
graced with peace,
and wrapped in love. Amen.

A Knock that Awakened my Faith

By Greg Chopin

I have always been a Catholic and my parish journey began at Holy Redeemer, in Webster Groves. In 1971, I left for Indianapolis to attend Marian College, a small, liberal arts Catholic College run by the Sisters of Saint Francis. College provided me with many things, but the best part was meeting Katie Miller from Lima, Ohio. Katie and I shared a common faith, common beliefs, and were married during our Junior Year. We have been together ever since and it has been a wonderful journey, that has given us 3 daughters and 11 grandchildren.

We moved to Ballwin about 25 years ago and joined Holy Infant when the church was still located in the school. While in college, I became active in the Music Ministry of the Catholic Chapel in one of Indianapolis' largest hospitals. Shortly after moving to Holy Infant parish, I joined the Folk Group with Deacon Jim Powers and several other "children of the 60's". We played at 8:30 Mass and were honored to be part of the music during the dedication of our current Church, with Archbishop May being the main celebrant.

I changed jobs, my girls were going off to college and getting married, and even though I was still in the parish, I had backed away from any type of participation. Over time, I realized I was going through all the Catholic motions without grasping what the Church had to offer.

One Saturday morning, in the autumn of 2014, there was a knock on my door. Two men were there and introduced themselves as Bob Phillips and Bill Koop, who were part of the Holy Infant Evangelization Team. They simply introduced themselves as fellow parishioners and we started talking. I told them I was looking for something to draw me back into the full body of the Church and they invited me to attend a meeting of Px90, which is a men's group that meets early on Saturday mornings. I had seen Px90 in the bulletin, but ignored it. It was their personal invitation that got me to the first meeting. From day one, I was hooked and realized

evangelization is still alive and working in our Church.

The meeting starts with coffee and a light breakfast, a little fun with a warm up exercise, and then usually a speaker or a video presentation. I have learned a great deal from the presentations, but the thing I love the most, is the fellowship with the men. After the speaker, we divide into small groups of about 6 to 8 men at round tables. These guys aren't trying to impress anybody with their "holiness" or their great theological knowledge. Like me, they simply want to walk closer with God, so we openly share our faith, our doubts, personal life stories, and our questions with each other. There is a sign on every table that says "What's said here, stays here." It's a promise that really allows us to open up.

I realized after several meetings that I was cheating myself by not accepting what the Church had to offer, and cheating the Church by not offering myself. I'm so glad I found Px90.

Note: Want to learn more about Px90? Check out: www.holyinfantballwin.org

Click on Ministries - Spiritual Growth - Px90. The men meet September - April, Saturdays 7:00 - 8:30 am in the Upper Cafeteria, unless an event is taking place there. Check the bulletin for more details.

Select the link below to view a video on Holy Infant's Px90.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PMSsf6LMw>



Submitted photo



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.

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THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

By Fred L. Vilbig

Hallelujah! He is risen!

Here we are in the Easter Season celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord. But what does it really mean to each of us?

It was clearly relevant to the Apostles. When Jesus was arrested, they all scattered like chickens. In the Gospel of Mark, we hear about one of the disciples who was so desperate to get away that he slipped out of his clothes and ran away naked. Bible scholars think that was Mark himself. Peter denied Jesus three times to save his life.

But clearly something happened. Except for Judas (who killed himself in despair) and John (who died of old age), each of those scared, frightened Apostles died a martyr's death rather than deny the truth of the Resurrection.

How central is our belief in the Resurrection? As Paul said, "If Christ did not rise from the dead, ... then vain is our faith." 1 Cor. 15:17. If our hope in Christ is only for this life, then, "we are the most pitiable of people." 1 Cor. 15:19.

What we need to ask ourselves is what does the Resurrection mean for you and for me? If Christ didn't rise from the dead, then our faith is in vain. But if He did, that changes everything! Has it changed you?



Submitted photo



Photo submitted by Kathie Hanneke

Shamrock Shuffle Holy Infant

By Eileen Buehrle

March 7, 2015 began with a temperature in the low forties with a promise of mid fifties by day's end. While sunny, there were still small piles of snow around the area.

Holy Infant held its second annual Shamrock Shuffle on that day. It was a family-oriented event drawing over 800 participants who ran or walked neighborhoods in Ballwin. There was a 5K Race and a 1K Fun Run/Walk. Medals were awarded to the top three male and top three female runners of the 5K race and other medals were given out based on time and age groups.

Also present at the race were Fred Bird and the Chick-Fil-A cow much to the enjoyment of adults and kids. There were food trucks for the famished runners, drinks for thirsty runners and a DJ to entertain all. Heidi Glaus of KSDK's Show Me St Louis was there to announce the winners. Partici-

pants in the races came from the St Louis Metropolitan area, other areas in Missouri and several areas in Illinois and even one lady from Minnesota.



Submitted photo



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Photo submitted by Kathie Hanneke



Photo submitted by Brenda George



Submitted photo



Photo submitted by Kathie Hanneke

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

Pastoral Staff

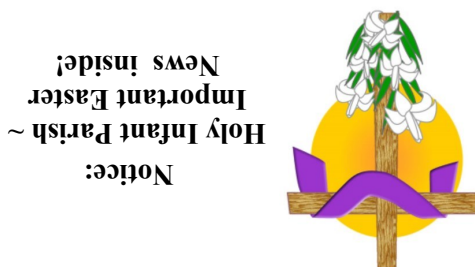
Father Edward J. Stanger Pastor
Father Donald T. Anstoetter Associate Pastor
Father Thomas Vordtriede Associate Pastor

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.



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