



# HOLY INFANT SENIOR NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Issue # 215

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## FROM THE EDITOR – By: Maria Dorn

March is coming in like a lamb! I've never been so glad to hear the bah, bah, bah of the little guy. The promise of spring and the budding trees and blooming flowers that come with the rebirth of our world. God is so good to let us experience these blessings moment after moment if we only open our eyes and see and our ears to hear. Our preparation for the coming of the real LAMB is here. Today's day of reflection should inspire us to grow deeper in our faith and become more like Christ. The Chosen, the 5<sup>th</sup> season, is coming out soon and will portray the Last Supper. This show is a favorite of mine in that it shows Christ as a living person and brings action to the scriptures. This enables me to 'see' the readings and feel as though I'm a part of them each time I hear the priest or deacon read the Gospel. I encourage all of you to watch them and let them soak into your heart.

Remember, if you ever have suggestions or an article that you think other members would enjoy, you can call or send an email to [mariadorn@hotmail.com](mailto:mariadorn@hotmail.com). Be sure to put HIS in the subject line. Thanks, and I look forward to keeping you 'in the know'.

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*Spotlight on Saint - Jo Lewis didn't know much about St Norbert, but was a coordinator for PSR here for a time and felt it was a marvelous experience. Here is his story.*

St Norbert was a German from illustrious Frankish and Salic German stock. Offered as a youth to the collegiate church of St Victor in Xanten, he was educated both in literature and the ways of the court and the world. At Xanten, he became a Subdeacon and at this period of his life, showed no inclination to pursue the dignity of the Priesthood. Rather, St Norbert, who was wealthy, handsome, thin and somewhat tall, sought approval in the courts of the great and of the emperor. Known to be an eloquent speaker and possessed of an affability that won him admiration and friendships, St Norbert used these natural gifts, not to seek the glory of God but to gain the love and esteem of men. His biographer describes him at this period before his conversion as one who "had no time for piety and quiet" and that he "lived his life according to his own desires."

But soon life became one of interior strife for St Norbert. He had witnessed Emperor Henry V's mistreatment of Pope Paschal II in Rome in 1111, when he travelled there in Frederick of Cologne's retinue. These events left St Norbert with a sense of uneasiness he could not dispel. The man who had been so happy to live at court no longer felt comfortable in that atmosphere of intrigue, where the emperor's arrogance took the place of law. He left the court and returned to Xanten, where we find him in 1115. In late spring of this year, St. Norbert, accompanied by a single servant, was travelling on the road to Freden when a storm suddenly came up. A bolt of lightning struck the ground before his horse's feet and he was thrown to the ground. Shaken, he asked, "*Lord what do you want me to do?*" *In response, he seemed to hear these words from Psalm 34, "Turn from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it."* St Norbert underwent a profound conversion. Under the influence of grace and led by the Gospel, he became sure of one thing: he wanted to put on the *new man* (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10) and live a life of perfection in the service of the Church, according to the Gospel of Christ and in the footsteps of the Apostle

From the beginning of his conversion, St Norbert aimed at a life of priestly perfection through imitation of the Apostles. He sought ordination to the priesthood and gave his considerable wealth to the poor, in order **"that he may follow the naked cross naked"** (Vita Norberti B, IX 22). Inflamed with the zeal of divine fervor, St Norbert went about with "no purse, no sandals nor two tunics," (Mk. 6:8) proclaiming by his words and example the necessity of poverty of spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God. As Christ had sent out his Apostles not only "*to proclaim the message,*" but also "*to have authority to cast out demons,*" (Mk. 3:15) St Norbert was well known as an exorcist and his biographer records many instances when he was called upon to exercise this office. Regarded as a "minister of peace and concord," he had the gift of reconciling people and establishing peace between feuding parties

At the center of St Norbert's spiritual life and ministry was the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Contrary to custom of his times, he celebrated Mass every day and it was after offering the Eucharistic sacrifice that he loved to preach, while his heart was overflowing with the love he had drawn from intimate contact with Christ. The Acts of the Apostles record how the first Christians "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers,*" (2:42) and that "*the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul*" (4:32). St Norbert sought to realize the fullness of this Apostolic ideal in the founding of a new religious family.

**Patron for peace, invoked during childbirth for safe delivery, of infertile married couples, Bohemia (Czech Republic), Archdiocese of Magdeburg, Germany**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

By Gene Bestgen

**"Why don't you try this?"**

When you're going through tough times, everyone has advice. But often it isn't advice you need, it's caring. Stephen Ministers are trained to give this care by listening instead of telling you what to do.

If you, family member, neighbor or friend would benefit by having a Stephen Minister, have them Contact Alberta, 636 399-6567.

If you or a loved one can benefit from a Stephen's Minister, check out Stephen Ministry on our church website [www.holyinfantballwin.org](http://www.holyinfantballwin.org)

## Birthdays - March Birthdays

By Theresa Bichsel



Wishing each of you, and any others I may have missed, a very Happy Birthday!

Bernie	Flacke	4-Mar	Theresa	Bichsel	13-Mar
Bob	Komor	5-Mar	Ginnie	Guinness	14-Mar
Charlotte	Hamm	6-Mar	Joanne	Lewis	16-Mar
Maureen	Richter	6-Mar	Mary	Schlemeier	16-Mar
Alan	Jordan	7-Mar	Maria	Tate	16-Mar
Marylou	Bergman	8-Mar	Mary	Salvia	20-Mar
Kathleen	Kahmann	8-Mar	Don	Johnson	25-Mar
Sue	Rosswick	8-Mar	Cathy	Lehman	1-Apr
Paul	Mallery	9-Mar			

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## Membership Directory Updates

By Theresa Bichsel

Theres Bolla  
19463 Babler Forest Rd  
Wildwood, MO 63005  
636-591-4994  
BDay June 18

Mary Brooks  
16568 Carriage View Ct  
Wildwood, MO 63005  
314-401-1813  
[Meanmanx3@msn.com](mailto:Meanmanx3@msn.com)  
BDay Nov 18

Linda Effer  
833 Woodside Trails Dr  
Ballwin, MO 63021  
636-220-7087  
[Linda\\_effee@yahoo.com](mailto:Linda_effee@yahoo.com)  
BDay May 13

Maria Viehman  
16435 Green Pines  
Wildwood MO 63011  
[Maria.viehman@att.net](mailto:Maria.viehman@att.net)  
BDay Jan 13

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## ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

By: Kathie Hanneke

### Mark your calendar for the Parish Mission dates.

Plan to come and hear two great speakers talk about this Jubilee Year's theme of Pilgrims of Hope.

**March 12, Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Fr. Augustine Wetta, "Crisis Converted: A Benedictine Guide to Hope." in Church.

**March 26, Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Sr. M. Karolyn Nunes, "Hope Does Not Disappoint." in Church.

**April 10, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.** Reconciliation with guest confessors in Church.

### The FREE Table

All are welcome to drop off books, puzzles, no longer needed glasses, pull tabs from soda and beer cans, plus those tabs from pet food cans onto the FREE table. All are welcome to pick up a book or puzzle to read or work on.

The glasses will go to Lions Club deposit boxes in an eye doctor's office. The pull tabs are turned in at the David Pratt Cancer Center to be given to Ronald McDonald House to generate money.

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### Carol's Corner - by Carol Komor



#### WHAT TO FORGET

If you want to increase your happiness and prolong your life FORGET your neighbor's faults.

FORGET all the slander you have ever heard.

FORGET the temptations.

FORGET the fault finding and give a little thought to the cause which provoked it.

FORGET the peculiarities of your friends and only remember the good points which make you fond of them.

FORGET all personal quarrels or histories you may have heard by accident, and which, if repeated, would seem a thousand times worse than they are.

BLOT OUT as far as possible all the disagreeables of life; they will come, but will only grow larger when you remember them, and the constant thought of the acts of meanness, or, worse still, malice, will only tend to make you more familiar with them.

OBLITERATE everything disagreeable from yesterday; write upon today's clean sheet those things lovely and loveable.

I feel better already.

I knew it was important to sometimes FORGET.

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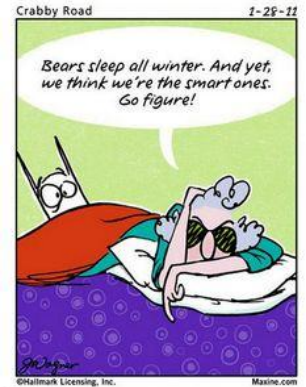


## Gene's Funnies - By Gene Bestgen

### Creator Of Maxine

John Wagner, Hallmark artist since 1970, says Maxine was inspired by his mother, his maiden aunts and his grandmother, the woman who bought him art lessons when 'fill in the pumpkins' was about the extent of his art classes at St John's Catholic School in Leonia, N.J. John remembers doodling as a preschooler and says both his grandmother and his mother encouraged his artistic interests. He eventually attended the Vesper George School of Art in Boston and landed at Hallmark as part of a new artists

group. But, it was the birth of the humorous Shoebox Greetings (a tiny little division of Hallmark) in 1986 that added a new dimension to John's professional life. The Shoebox way of seeing the world unleashed his talents and he created Maxine. Why the name 'Maxine'? 'People at Shoebox started referring to the character as 'John Wagner's old lady,' and I knew that would get me into trouble with my wife,' John says. The Shoebox team had a contest among themselves to name the character and three of the approximately 30 entries suggested 'Maxine.' John says the name is perfect. John, who says he's humbled by such acceptance of Maxine, admits he's proud of her. Now you know the story of how Maxine came to be.



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## Odds and Ends

By HIS members

### Did you Ever Wonder - From Lee Freeman Rung

'What did I do to deserve this?' or 'Why did God have to do this to me'? Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, 'Absolutely Mom, I love your cake'.

'Here, have some cooking oil,' her mother offers.

'Yuck', says her daughter.

'How about a couple of raw eggs?' 'Gross Mom!'

'Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking

soda?' 'Mom, those are all so yucky!'

To which the mother replies: 'Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake: God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and eventually, they will all make something wonderful!'

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. If you like this, share this with the people you really care about. Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here, we might as well dance'.

**Hope your day is a piece of Cake!!!**



### **Thank You for your prayers – Tom and Joan Wojciechowski**

She's still in the hospital fighting lung infection, 2 blood clots and lung cancer. Please keep the prayers coming!

### **Worn Flags Disposal – Olivia Pieknik**

Bring your worn American flags to the next luncheon. I will accept the worn flags for dignified disposal. All flags collected will be deposited at VFW/American Legions Posts for proper disposal. God Bless America!

### **Newsletter Articles or Items of Interest needed - Maria Dorn**

Please share any types of interesting articles, tips, notes of thanks or recipes with fellow HIS members. This is YOUR Newsletter; I am just a collaborator.

### **Meal Train – Maria Dorn**

Both of our meal trains (Ann Goldsmith and Theresa Bicschel) have come into the station. Many thanks to our volunteer Meal Makers. If you want to be added to the list of volunteers, let Maria know by calling 314-610-8784 or email mariadorn@hotmail.com. Please keep this program in mind when you or one of the HIS members needs some support.

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## **OUR THANKS GO OUT TO....**

- Paul Mallery, Paul Bicschel, Bob Hoelsher, Bob Dorn, and Bill Koop for showing up in all kinds of weather to keep our school children safe during morning drop off. We know it isn't easy to get out of bed on those subzero mornings like we've had the past couple of weeks.
- Nancy and Don Turpin for all the delicious meals prepared for our HIS meetings. I struggle just to come up with and idea for meals for myself and husband and you continue to, month after month, come up with great selections. Your hospitality is truly a gift from the Holy Spirit.
- Gene Hanneke for the wonderful words and graphics in our bulletin to spotlight our Seniors. Who wouldn't want to join our fun and exciting group?
- Kathie Hanneke for coordinating such a thoughtful day of reflection every year. It takes a lot of time and energy to pull together just the right celebrants for a meaningful program.

## **ADULT BINGO**

March 15, 2025  
Holy Infant School –  
Upper Cafeteria  
248 New Ballwin Road  
Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.  
Bingo Starts at 7:00 P.M.



\$25.00 per Person  
Admission includes 15  
Games of Bingo  
Beer, Soda, Wine, and Water.  
Food available for purchase  
Sponsored by the Holy Infant  
Knights of Columbus

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## DID YOU KNOW .... OR CARE....

By Mary Jane Bahr, and other members

- That you can ensure you give some thought to taking care of yourself by playing Kindness Bingo? Use the last page of this Newsletter and play this throughout the month and just feel better.
- That Vinegar.....
  - o is effective for removing hard water deposits and stains from showerheads and faucets in the bathroom?
  - o will neutralize the odor and help prevent your furry family members from having a repeat accident? First, blot the accident up, then clean the affected area using a mixture of vinegar and water.
  - o and newspaper will clean your windows? Just pour vinegar into a shallow container, crumple newspaper, and dip. Wipe windows clean then use dry newspaper for a final wipe.
- That you could find our HIS Newsletter through the online bulletin? Go to the website and scroll down till you see HIS Newsletters. We have them all since September of 2015.  
<https://holysinfballwin.org/news/newsletter/>
- That any of our HI Seniors can submit words of wisdom they want to share to this column? We can all benefit from these little gems. Just send to [mariadorn@hotmail.com](mailto:mariadorn@hotmail.com) or call Maria at 314-610-8784.

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## March

As the chill of winter begins to thaw and the world awakens from its slumber, March arrives with its promise of renewal and growth. This vibrant month is a time of transformation, as nature decorates the earth with delicate blossoms and gentle sunlight. It's a season to embrace new beginnings, invigorate the spirit, and welcome beauty all around us. To celebrate this special time, we've curated a collection of inspiring March quotes that capture the essence of March and the blossoming of spring. Let these words uplift your soul and fill your days with hope and joy.

- "Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is." – Jessica Harrelson
- "In March the soft rains continued, and each storm waited courteously until its predecessor sunk beneath the ground." – John Steinbeck
- "Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light." – Theodore Roethke
- "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." – Charles Dickens
- "With the coming of spring, I am calm again." – Gustav Mahler
- "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." – Hal Borland
- "March is the month of expectation, the things we do not know." – Emily Dickinson
- "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" – Robin Williams
- "Blossom by blossom the spring begins." – Algernon Charles Swinburne
- "The earth laughs in flowers." – Ralph Waldo Emerson



## Parish News

By Sandy Hughes

### March

5	Ash Wednesday: Mass times- 6am, 8am, 9:15am(school) and 7pm
6	Seniors' Meeting: 10am, Lower Cafeteria
7	First Fish Fry: 4:30pm-7:30pm, Upper Cafeteria (held all Friday nights during Lent)
7	Way of the Cross: 7pm, every Friday evening during Lent
8	Shamrock Shuffle
9	Day Light Savings Time Change: Spring forward!
9	St. Pat's Celebration
12	Parish Mission: " <i>Get Hope</i> " Fr. Augustine Wetta, OSB
15	K of C Bingo: Doors open at 5pm, Upper Cafeteria
20	HI Seniors' Board Meeting: 10am-11am, Holy Infant Room
24	Way of the Cross: school 2pm, also March 31, April 7 and 14
26	Parish Mission: " <i>Hope Does Not Disappoint</i> " Sr. Karolyn Nunes:
29	HI Date Night, Upper Cafeteria

### April

1	April Fool's Day
3	Seniors' Meeting: 10am, Lower Cafeteria

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## Sentiments

By Carol Laupp

Since our last HIS newsletter the following sentiments were sent to:

**Get well card:** Bonnie Mohr

**Praying for You:** Kelly Wojciechowski (daughter of Joan & Tom)

**Sympathy Mass card:** Pat Bouchaert Family  
Tom Dollus Family  
Ann Goldsmith Family

**Congratulations 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Ken Clemens

If you know of anyone in our HIS group that could use a Get-Well card, a Thinking of or Praying For You card, a Sympathy card, etc., please call Carol Laupp at 636-256-0924 and she will send them a card from the HIS group.



## 2024-2025 H.I.S. Board Members

Bob Maloney	President	636-230-7988	Gene Hanneke	Recycle Coord.	314-913-4230
Randy Ewers	VP	314-477-8900	Nancy & Don	Refreshment	314-800-7420
Mary Daus	Secretary	314-307-1366	Turpin &		
Linda Gatton	Treasurer	314-853-8185	Bernie Flacke		636-227-3825
Mary Mallery	Attendance	314-616-4809	Eileen Buehrle	Service & PAC	636-230-5435
Carol Laupp	Sentiments	636-256-0924	Rev. Edward Stanger	Spiritual Dir.	636-227-7440
Kathie &	Graphics	314-704-2350	Mary Jane Bahr	Trips	636-227-8927
Gene Hanneke		314-913-4230	Becky O'Brien &		314-973-4515
Mary Mallery	Historian	314-616-4809	Joan & Tom Wojciechowski		636-346-3190
Mary Schlemeier &	Hospitality	636-391-9556	Carol Wolf &	50/50	636-795-7982
Brenda George		636-394-2286	Carol Komor &		636-230-9697
Theresa Bichsel	Directory &	314-564-7591	Rose Birkner		636-485-6415
	Membership				
Maria Dorn	Newsletter &				
	Meal Train	314-610-87894			

It was one  
of those  
*March*  
days when the sun shines hot  
and the  
*wind blows* cold:  
when it is summer in the  
and winter in the  
light,  
shade.

~Charles Dickens

### The Winds Of March

March wind, wild wind, blow this day.  
Whirl the winter snow away. Dry the  
ditches and the hollows-in tracks where  
April follows. Clear a path for her advance.  
Teach the daffodils to dance. Through your  
ravines harsh and strong-thrushes thread  
a golden song. Cleanse the air, Make fresh  
the earth-for the season of rebirth.

Wind of heaven, searching, keen. Sweep  
the world and make it clean. Blow away the  
old dissensions-grievances and bad inten-  
tions. Godless dogmas, pagan creeds. Ugly  
words and ugly deeds. Scatter them beneath  
your wings. Blow away all evil things-So  
that man from strife may cease-and enjoy  
the fruits of peace.

Winifred Emma May