



S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens August 2024
Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>

Dear Friends,

A well - known speaker once started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200 people, the speaker asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

The speaker then said, "I am going to give this \$20 bill to one of you. But first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. The speaker then asked, "Who still wants it?"

Hands went up in the air again.

"Well," he replied, "what if I do this?"

And the speaker dropped the \$20 bill on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked the \$20 bill up. It was very crumpled and dirty.

"NOW, who still wants this?"

The hands went into the air for a third time.

"My friends, " the speaker said, "You have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our own lives we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, YOU will NEVER lose your value! Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you."

As you begin this new school year - full of anticipation and excitement - remember to make prayer a part of your day. For it is God who loves you unconditionally and it was His Son who *paid the price* for that love...

Patti McTaggart

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe...1 Timothy 4:12

AUGUST

- 2nd Holy Hour -- after 12:10PM Mass in the church
- 8th Holy Hour – 7PM in the church
- 15th ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - Mass at 12:10 and 7PM
- 15th Casserole-Making for Free Lunch **3:30-4:30PM in the parish hall.**
- 16th Holy Hour -- after 12:10PM Mass in the church
- 16th Serve Free Lunch at 11:30AM -1:00PM 1105 S. Gilbert Ct.
- 22nd Holy Hour – 7PM in the church
- AUGUST 23rd - IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME! *(Take Jesus with you each day!)*
- 30th Holy Hour -- after 12:10PM Mass in the church

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FREE LUNCH
CASSEROLE-
MAKERS AND
SERVERS FOR
AUGUST!

Casserole –making will take place on Thursday, August 15th from 3:30-4:30PM in the parish hall. Free Lunch Servers are also needed from 11:45AM- 1PM on Friday, August 16th at 1105 Gilbert Court!



Sing a New Song Unto the Lord...

Do you like to sing?
Would you like to share your gift of music
(given to you by God) with others?
The St. Mary's Choir would LOVE to have you!



All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome!
Rehearsals begin in September in the balcony of the church.
The choir sings both contemporary and traditional hymns of the Church and the music is beautiful.

Come join in the fun – Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM in the balcony of the church beginning August 28th !



CAN YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

1.) What is the “source and summit of Christian life” according to the Second Vatican Council? Email Patti the answer and get a surprise! pmctaggart@icstmary.org.





2024-2025 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

A Confirmation Information meeting will be held for all St. Mary's youth in grades 9-12 who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2025 on **Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 at 7:00PM in the church.**

At least one parent must also attend this meeting.

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Vocation Prayer for Discernment



Lord, I thank You for the gifts You have given me,
especially for life, love, family and friends.
Help me to know myself better and to know my talents,
as I pray, study, and decide on my life's work.
Help me to see and understand the path You open for me.
Help me choose a life's work
which will be in response to my potential
and Your love for me.
If I am being invited to follow You as a priest, brother, sister,
give me a generous heart to respond to Your challenging call
and the strength to follow You
wherever You lead me.
Amen.

Have you thought about being a priest, brother, or sister?

If so, please contact Fr. Jake Greiner (vocation director) at 563-324-1911,

Or Fr. Andrew at 337-4314

or Patti at 337-4314.

Do not be afraid...listen to the Lord's call in your life!

High School Olympics 2024



What? Join us for a "Backyard Olympics"
on the Rectory and Church grounds.

Who? All entering 9-12 grades

When? Sunday August 11, 6-8pm

Questions? Contact Fr. Andrew:
rauenbuehlera@diodav.org

"Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race,
but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win."

1 Corinthians 9:24

High School Adoration and Fellowship



Join us for Eucharistic Adoration
followed by a time of fellowship and food
on the following Thursdays, 7-9pm:

September 12

October 10

November 7

December 12



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF IOWA CITY





Meet Our New Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler!

Interviewed by Noelle Schnoebelen
Junior- City High School

What were your thoughts when you learned that you were assigned to St. Mary's Parish?

I was very excited when I heard I was assigned to St. Mary's, but it was also very unexpected. Iowa City is a great place to be. Sometimes, it was hard thinking that I had to leave Davenport. I have kept in touch with some people that I had connections with back in Davenport--previous students, parishioners, etc.

Who is your favorite saint and why?

My favorite saint is St. Maximilian Kolbe who is also my Confirmation Saint. I have always been fascinated with World War II, but his story especially had an impact on me. Many Christians and priests died in World War II, and I have always been inspired by their commitment to serve their neighbor with their whole lives. St. Maximilian Kolbe is a great example of someone who served his neighbor when he took the place of a prisoner in the concentration camp.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing teenagers?

I would say the biggest challenge facing teenagers is remembering that each life has a purpose given by God. It is easy to forget this because of the many distractions and hardships that we face in life. We can get caught up in social media and the world, and it is easy for them to think that their purpose is found in the world rather than in God. It becomes very easy to forget God. Life is fast-paced and full of distractions--everyone has to contend against things that can pull us away from God. But social media can also help us to remember God, and to stay connected to our faith.

What is your favorite Bible passage?

John 10:10: *"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."* Similar to the last question, this Bible verse helps us remember our desire in God for true happiness. God wants what's best for us and wants us to live a full life. God desires our joy. This is important to remember because we want God to love us, but He already loves us and wants us. Many people live life by looking for the next thing--and emptiness is always the result if the things of this world don't lead us to God. St. Augustine's quote of, *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in You"* also has the same impact. St. Augustine lived his life looking for the 'next thing' until he found God.

Who is your biggest influence?

My parents. They have impacted me in both similar and different ways. Their strong commitment to faith, even in hard times, inspired me. We faced trials that brought our family together in faith. My dad came back to the Faith during marriage, and took his faith seriously. My parents had a serious commitment to their Faith. Faith has to be a part of everyday life, and has allowed them to keep their Faith in a hard world.

- Continued -

Did you have a job prior to being a priest?

Yes, I served as a medic in Davenport. Being a medic is very similar to the life of a priest--you never know what's gonna happen. I was a firefighter, but I preferred working in healthcare because it was more impactful.

What music do you listen to?

I listen to a little bit of everything! I enjoy hard rock, folk and acoustic music. My favorite band to listen to is Coldplay, especially their first two albums. My cousins and I also really enjoyed listening to Coldplay when we were younger.

Do you have any special devotions or consecrations?

I have prayed Marian Consecrations and I also love to pray the Rosary and read Scripture often. I also have always prayed a prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that has become routine in my prayer life.

When did you decide you wanted to become a priest?

I decided to enter seminary in 2015 when, while working as a medic, I had a lot of pulls I felt back to back. I started to realize how much people need God by seeing the tragedies that come unexpectedly in life. When you come across people who are in need of help because of choices they have made, you can help them physically; but even more spiritually. I wondered, *"Whose job is it to remind people to think about God wherever you are?"*

The relationship I was in at the time ended as she moved back to Chicago and this gave God some space to connect the dots for me, and led me to realize that it was the priest who needed to meet the need of bringing Jesus to everyone. I spent a lot of time in prayer, and decided to try one year of seminary. The first few years were a struggle and felt uncertain at times. But at the end of each year, I kept finding a reason to come back and remain there. Some days, I didn't even know if it was for me. But half-way through my years in seminary, I felt that God was leading me. Once the Spirit led me, I felt happy and content.

What sport do you like the best? Do you or did you play a sport when you were our age?

In my younger years, I enjoyed playing baseball and basketball, but baseball was my favorite. Football is my favorite sport to watch. I also love to play golf with my brother in my free time.

What is your favorite thing to eat?

Steak is my favorite thing to eat. For dessert, I love apple pie with either whipped cream or ice cream.



THINGS I'VE LEARNED...



I've learned that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of
an elderly person.

I've learned that when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned that just one person saying to me "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms
is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned that being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned that you should never say "no" to a gift from a child.

I've learned that I can always pray for someone
when I don't have the strength to help him or her in some other way.

I've learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be,
everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned that sometimes all a person needs
is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned that simple walks with my father
around the block on summer nights when I was a child
did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper –
the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned that money doesn't buy class.

I've learned that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular!

I've learned that the Lord didn't do it all in one day - what makes me think I can?

I've learned that ignoring the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned that when you plan to get even with someone,
you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned that love, not time, heals wounds.

I've learned that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned that when your newly born grandchild
holds your little finger for the first time, you are hooked for life!

I've learned that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain,
but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Andy Rooney