



The Shamrock

January 2009

Mark Your Calendars

- Jan 25–30—Catholic Schools Week
- Feb 3—Catholic Conversation 7pm Social, 7:30 Program
- Feb 6—Dinner/Auction Reservations Due
- Feb 7—Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction 6pm
- Feb 14/15—Pantry Weekend
- Feb 15—Donut Sunday
- Feb 21—Luck of the Irish Dinner/Auction & Drawing for a new Ford Fusion
- Feb 25—Ash Wednesday—Mass times to the right
- Feb 27—Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7 pm
- Feb 27—Men's Club Fish Fry begins at 5pm in the Parish Center

www.stpatselkhorn.org

Introducing St. Patrick's New Buddy Program

As a new family, it can sometimes be difficult to walk into Mass week after week and feel like it is a room full of strangers. But once you see a few familiar faces, it can change your entire perspective on your parish and your involvement. The goal of the Buddy Program is to get new families to take ownership in the parish and make it feel like home to them.

It is evident everywhere you look that St. Patrick's is growing rapidly. The overflow at Masses is just one indication of our size and growth. In 2008, over 200 new families joined our parish and an incredible 41% of parishioners have been members for less than two years.

These statistics are pretty remarkable which inspired a group of volunteers to launch a Buddy Program at St. Patrick's. According to Dan Hanus, one of the founders and administrators of the group, **"The Buddy Program is designed to be a fellowship program with the intention of welcoming new families and acclimate them into our parish."**

Buddy Families are volunteers in our parish who are assigned to a new family and make themselves available as a resource to them. They are encouraged to call the new family several times in the first few months, meet at Mass or a parish function, introduce them to other parishioners and help them feel comfortable at St. Patrick's. Families are paired up based on similar interests, backgrounds, ages of children, etc to help them find something in common with one another.

The initial group of volunteers is made up of roughly twenty families but with the addition of an average of fifteen new families to the parish each month, more Buddy Families are needed. If you are outgoing, involved in the parish, willing to call new families and share your time and friends, you would be a great Buddy Family. Whether you are single, married with or without children, empty nesters or retired, please consider volunteering. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Dan Hanus at 763-9199.



Our Lenten Journey Begins

Ash Wednesday is on February 25th and marks the beginning of Lent and preparation for Easter. **Mass times are at 8:30 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.** Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend one of these Masses and begin your own journey towards the celebration of Easter.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Welcome to our New Parishioners

- Asmus, Brian & Carla
Dylan & Ethan
- Boardman, Jason & Dana
Emma & Edan
- Eddie, Ryan & Tamara
- Filipowicz, Ray & Cathy
Riley, Alex & Mackenzie
- Gabrielson, Gary &
Jennifer
- Ginger, Donovan &
Elizabeth
- Herman, Rob & Angie
Alex, Austin & Aidan
- Liddell, Russ & Yvonne
Carol, Jeffrey & Bob
- Swanson, John & Sarah
Brett, Katie & Maggie
- Tuch, Mark & Molly

Baptisms

- Samantha Emma Michaud
Daughter of Steve & Stacey
- Eden Carys Connelly
Daughter of Joshua & Tomi
- Madelyn Noel Atwood
Daughter of Brandi
- Eden Cecelia Boardman
Daughter of Jason & Dana
- Jake Jeffrey & Jordan
Thomas Butler,
Sons of Jeffery & Michelle
- Dakota Joshua Dietz
Son of Delven & Vicki
- Mya Mari Dominguez
Daughter of Zac & Jennifer
- Kylie Marie Gonsior
Daughter of Michelle
- Erik Leonardo Lara
Son of Rosa Gutierrez



Living Your Strengths: Discover your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community

Do you know what strengths you possess? What talents has God blessed you with and are you using them to your best ability? St. Pat's is hosting small-group "Living Your Strengths" discussions which can help individuals understand more clearly how they can affirm their talents and use them for service to the parish community.

Look for information in the bulletin throughout the coming weeks and months for details on Information Sessions where you can find out more about the program. Last month we covered Activator, Adaptability and Analytical. This month we will focus on the next five strengths:

Arranger: You are highly organized and highly flexible. You can get a lot done though you usually have many things going on at one time and you do your best when confronted with the unexpected.

Belief: You have unchanging core beliefs that lead you to be very trustworthy, family-oriented and spiritual. Your beliefs give your life meaning and satisfaction and you look for that meaning in your work and in others.

Command: You aren't afraid to take charge especially in conflicts or unpleasant situations. Others may be threatened or intimidated by you but they often know you are the best to take control of a situation.

Communication: You like to talk and are very good at it. Whether you are explaining things or telling a story, you have an ability to capture the perfect way to say something while connecting with others.

Competition: You always compare yourself to others and try to outperform everyone. You thrive in "contest" situations because you know there has to be a winner and you work very hard to achieve that win. To you, there is no other feeling quite like a win.



St. Patrick's Celebrates it's 10th Annual Dinner/Auction

On Saturday February 21, the DC Centre in Omaha will be the sight of this year's "Luck of the Irish" themed dinner/auction. Hundreds of guests are expected to attend this festive event which is the largest fundraiser for St. Patrick's.

Ten years ago the dinner/auction began as a way to not only raise funds for the parish but to provide some fellowship for parishioners. For several years the "Valentine Dance" was held in the parish center and eventually outgrew that space. As the event and our parish grew it was necessary to move to a new location, the Georgetown Club in southwest Omaha. With attendance nearing 400, we once again outgrew that facility and now have a home at the DC Centre where over 500 guests have attended each of the last two years. Profits from the event reached a record high last year of \$170,000!

This year's committee has been very resourceful and is working hard to bring in exciting silent and oral auction items for bidders. The winner of the raffle for a new Ford Fusion will also be drawn that evening. Tickets are on sale now through the night of the event.

If you are new to the parish or have never been to the auction, this is a great year to check it out. Reservations are due by February 6th.