



The Shamrock

May/June 2009

Mark Your Calendars

- **May 27**—Safe Environment Training 6:30 pm
Boland Hall
 - **May 28**—Catholic Inquiry Session— see page 2 for details.
 - **June 14**—Concert in the Courtyard 5:30 pm;
\$15 per family.
 - **June 19**—Wine Club
6:30 in the Outdoor Classroom
 - **June 21**—Father's Day
 - **June 25**—July 4—Men's Club Fireworks Sale
 - **June 28**—Welcome coffee for new parishioners—after 9:00 Mass in Parish Center
 - **July 1**—projected completion date of 140th Anniversary Pictorial Directories
- www.stpatselkhorn.org

COPE Is There In Times of Crisis

The Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn (COPE) is a non profit agency which began in 2002 to “assist persons with needs that are temporarily greater than their resources.” Since then, COPE has become a full-service agency with daily office hours and assists an estimated 250 families every six months. Services that COPE provides to area families include job referrals; home improvement assistance; utility and rent aid; free shopping in their clothing and furniture rooms; assistance with medical, dental and legal needs; and food. They have even given two families vehicles which were donated to the organization. Ten area churches provide support for COPE including St. Patrick's Parish.

According to their website, www.copeinfo.org, COPE “offers support to anyone regardless of religious, cultural, or ethnic background.” Their focus is on the needs of those in Western Douglas County and they encourage their clients to improve their personal skills and job skills in order to get ahead.

In the last few weeks, COPE has had a new presence in the parish by establishing a “community garden” which is located on the south side of the gym entrance of the school. **Executive Director and St. Patrick's parishioner, Jenny Jeffrey, stated that, (She) “always believed in the wisdom of a community garden and I want St. Patrick's to be proud to be the home of the garden.”** Client families, as well as any volunteers who want to get involved, will tend to the garden by pulling weeds, watering, and picking vegetables. “Many times families come in and want to give back after COPE has helped them and now I can direct them to the garden,” added Jeffrey.

Another area where COPE has made a presence in the community is through their famous enchilada sales. Every summer, volunteers from the area churches involved in COPE collect orders for homemade enchiladas and spend countless hours making secret sauces, preparing ground beef and chicken; gathering supplies and ingredients and assembling the enchiladas. **Last year, COPE made a profit of \$2,600 by selling 445 pans of these delicacies.** This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for anyone in the parish and community. Even COPE clients get involved in the assembly of the enchiladas.

Cathy Nachreiner, parish member and COPE Board member, coordinates all of these efforts and would welcome you and/or your family as volunteers for a few hours. This year volunteers will be gathering at St. Patrick's on Saturday, June 13th to assemble the enchiladas. Give Cathy a call at 697-1171 to sign up for a shift or two. And don't forget to place your order by May 24th.

COPE is one of those programs that does so much good in a community but often goes unnoticed by many. They are there not to give hand outs to just anyone off the street but to those families that are down on their luck, are struggling to make ends meet due to an illness or job loss, or those who just need someone to help get them back on their feet. **They operate successfully because of the many volunteers involved and because of the support of a generous community.**

The needs are great, especially in tough economic times. Right now they are accepting donations of spring and summer clothing; twin size beds; diapers, sofa sleepers and canned goods. So as you clean out your closets or stock up for summer barbeques and camping trips, think of COPE and drop off a donation. Drivers also needed to pick up and drop off items, so if you have a little time and a pick-up they could use your help. If you have any questions or want to volunteer your time call the COPE office at 616-2330.

Welcome to our New Parishioners

- Bernasek, Joshua & Nicole; Landon
- Carlberg, Kim
- Gammel, Scott & Karen; Lisa, Coran & Tori
- Lookabill, Mark & Jill; Lauren & Jack
- Mathes, Ann
- McGee, David & Angela; Avery, Cullen, Addie & Sully
- Sonney, Brian and Carrie Losee
- Straka, Scott & Katie
- Wortman, Tim & Deb

New parishioners are invited to attend a Welcome Coffee on Sunday, June 28th after the 9:00 Mass in the Parish Center.

www.stpatselkhorn.org



Living Your Strengths... Continued

Have you identified with any of the strengths that we've covered over the last few months? The Strengthsfinder program has been designed to help us all discover our own strengths and learn how to apply them and fully live the life of Christ in our parish.

Discipline: Your world needs to be predictable, ordered and planned. This makes you efficient and effective in getting a job done no matter what size.

Empathy: You are very intuitive and can sense what others are feeling, sometimes before they can even express it. This allows you to develop very close relationships with others

Focus: Without a clear destination in your life and career you get very frustrated. Your focus motivates you and enables you to get a lot done without getting distracted.

Futuristic: The future fascinates you and you usually have a positive vision of what it holds. This can energize you and others because you can clearly see the possibilities.

Harmony: This allows you to see what people have in common and look for areas of agreement which helps a group move past their differences and function better.

Want to Learn More About Joining the Catholic Church?

Have you thought about joining the Catholic Faith because your spouse or fiancée is a practicing Catholic? Maybe you were baptized in a different faith but have wanted to learn more about joining the Catholic Church. Whatever the reason, you are welcome to attend a Catholic Inquiry Session which will be held on May 28th at 7:00pm in Boland Hall. This is a casual and informational gathering for those who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith and the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process which starts in the fall. If you are interested in attending, or would like additional information, please contact Beth Kathol, bkathol@stpatselkhorn.org or 289-4289 x 1525.

Did You Know?

Many parishioners aren't aware of the fact that St. Patrick's Parish has its own parish cemetery: Mt. Calvary cemetery at 214 N. Skyline Drive is located on three acres of land which was given to the parish by Dr. T.N. Brooks in 1868, which is the founding year of the parish and the year of the first burial in the cemetery. Dr. Brooks served the medical needs of the residents of the Elkhorn area for many years. His son, Peter Francis, a 1924 graduate of Elkhorn High School, was the first man from St. Patrick's Parish to join the priesthood. The first tombstones are marked with many Irish names, many of which are still in the parish and Elkhorn area today.

St. Patrick's Baptisms

Juliette Rose Menard, Daughter of Todd & Dawn

Liliana May Patrick, Daughter of Mitchell & Sara

Brennon Dean Dreher, Son of Dean & Sonja

Jessica Geraldine Brown, Daughter of Mark & Angela

Noah John Paradis, Son of Cory & Lisa

Charlie James Schwartz, Son of Travis & Margaret



On Sunday, May 10th,
St. Patrick's celebrated
the Confirmation of
67 young adults at a
special 12:30 Mass
with Archbishop
Elden Curtiss.

Candidates enjoyed
the celebration and
Mother's Day with
their families and
friends.

St. Patrick's 2009 Confirmation Candidates

*Paige Allen
Mark Bakhit
Joseph Bellinghiere
Alexia Brouillette
Tobin Brown
Clara Burns
Stephen Campbell
Brennan Chandler
Benjamin Clifford
Travis Craig
John Cronin
Meaghan Delaney
Morgan Delaney
Tessa Delaney
Alex Diers
Luke Drazic
Emily Dyer
Jesse Elser
Cara Fangman
Derrick Feldman
Nicole Gappa
Cal Griencewic
Elliot Haack
Elizabeth Hagedorn
Audrey Hansen
Molly Heiman
Nicole Hendrix
Maurcio Hernandez
Sergio Hernandez
Hunter Hottovy
Rebecca Jeffrey
Tierney Johnson
Andrew Karstrom
Spencer Kenkel
Claire Knaus*

*Grant Kobes
Ryan Kruid
Steven Law
Mitchell Lofgren
Dylan Longwell
Cameron Maciejewski
Megan McAuliffe
Madeline Meier
Mary Mercier
John Moritz
Kylie Murcek
Sarah Overman
Lake Petersen
Mary Pflaum
Madilyn Pickering
Grant Ramm
Christopher Rasmussen
Alyson Recic
Nicole Roeder
Spencer Sackett
Joslyn Schonder
Taylor Schrunk
Brittany Schulte
Joshua Smith
Madison Socha
Jordanne Soucie
Kaitlyn Stava
Byron Steckelberg
Sydney Urzendowski
Taylor Vlach
James Wingerter
Colton Wulfekuhl*





Forty-six seniors, who are parishioners with their families at St. Patrick's, are graduating from area high schools this spring. We wish them success as they start a new chapter of their lives!

This year St. Patrick's school celebrated the graduation of its fourth 8th grade class.

This is the first class that started out as Kindergarteners when the school began and they have witnessed the growth and changes in the school firsthand for the past nine years.

Congratulations to these graduates and their families!

Congratulations to St. Patrick's High School Graduates

Chico Barnard
Cassie Bennett
Jocelyn Brasher
Chelsea Bremer
Catlyn Coco
Josh Coleman
Zach Croonquist
Bryan Daily
Katie Fennelly
Kole Gansebom
Tim Hawkins
Caitie Hays
Matthew Hull
Hannah Hummel
Zach Karnish
Matt Kathol
Alex LeGrand
Matt Lerner
Mike Link
Josh Marshall
Jessica Mathes
Mari Matz
T.J. McMahan

Kim McManus
Brian McNeil
Liz McNeil
McKeil Michalek
Ryan Morrissey
Matthew Moylan
Julie Munch
Ryan Nelson
Scott Oligmueller
Ethan Paasch
Justina Petersen
Jake Purcell
Chris Rasmussen
Brad Riedl
Miles Ring
Kelli Schroer
Megan Sinner
Kurt Smith
Will Smith
Erika Soucie
Joshua Topf
Laura Warburton
Ben Zahm

Class of 2009

Congratulations to St. Patrick's School 8th Grade Graduates

Joseph Bellinghiere ~ Skutt
Tobin Brown ~ Creighton Prep
Clara Burns ~ Skutt
Alex Diers ~ Creighton Prep
Emily Dyer ~ Mercy
Cara Fangman ~ Mercy
Molly Heiman ~ Marian
Hunter Hottovy ~ Mount Michael
Rebecca Jeffrey ~ Duchesne
Tierney Johnson ~ Wahoo Neuman
Andrew Karstrom ~ Mt. Michael

Spencer Kenkel ~ Elkhorn High
Steven Law ~ Skutt
Megan McAuliffe ~ Mercy
Maddie Meier ~ Skutt
John Moritz ~ Creighton Prep
Mary Pflaum ~ Mercy
Grant Ramm ~ Mt. Michael
Caitlin Rucker ~ Elkhorn High
Joshua Smith ~ Creighton Prep
Jill Swartzentruber ~ Skutt
Madison Socha ~ Marian