



# The Heartbeat

A Publication of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
[www.ihmparish.com](http://www.ihmparish.com)  
Winter/Spring 2021

## COPING WELL WITH COVID

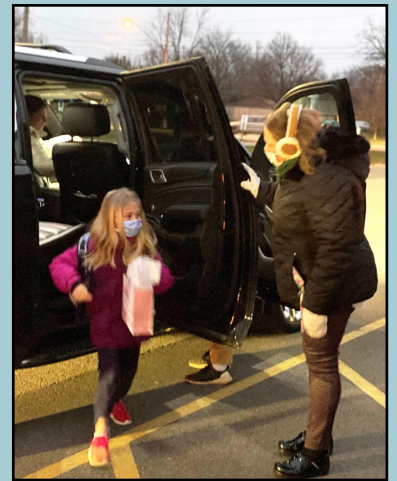
by Ann Williams

No one knew last March that Covid was about to turn the world upside down and, with it, how children are educated. Like all other schools, IHM immediately closed its doors and began online learning per state mandate. An intense, focused effort by school staff and cooperation/collaboration with parents resulted in a successful transition that assured that IHM students continued to learn utilizing new technologies and ongoing communication between school and home.

However, unlike most other schools, IHM welcomed students back to school at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. The vast majority of our nearly 170 families have chosen in person learning for their students. Parents, students and staff are happy, even joyful, to be back in school.

In the meantime, Covid related challenges remain for IHM School, among them:

- Strictly following prescribed Covid protocols, including assessing students for symptoms each morning before school
- Extended quarantine times for students/staff who may have been exposed to COVID again at different times during the original 14 days
- Teachers who must accommodate teaching in person, virtually (students “dial into” classrooms at certain times) and/or online (communicating to/from students/teachers regarding assignments/feedback electronically).
- Sanitizing surfaces every four hours and the cost of cleaning supplies
- Segregating older students by classrooms, eliminating gathering among classes
- Arranging for teachers of “special” classes, e.g., music, to move to students’ homerooms with their accompanying material/equipment, rather than the students moving to the designated “special” classrooms
- The need for parents’ greater involvement with students who are learning at home
- Parents unable to pay tuition due to loss of work



*Principal Holly Lake greets students, like the Wilson family, every morning.*

Principal Holly Lake has been amazed and gratified at how the school and the greater parish communities have worked together to keep everyone safe and to maintain our school’s educational standards. IHM School is on track to finish the 2020-21 curriculum and meet grade standards, just as it did last year. Recently, our school was highly recommended for re-accreditation by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools.

Recognizing that teachers are going above and beyond, parents/parishioners have provided meals and treats for staff to keep up morale. They have contributed PPEs and antiseptic wipes to protect everyone in school.

The Killgoar Foundation has provided tuition assistance for families whose financial situations were negatively impacted by Covid (99 students from 56 families).

Through it all, Holly says the school community has sensed God’s protection. Students’ daily immersion in faith supports and uplifts them. Morning and afternoon prayer is live streamed daily so that students at home and in school can pray together. Their participation in weekly Masses, preparation for receiving the sacraments and time spent in the Adoration Chapel strengthen their resiliency and confidence that God is watching over them.

Holly smiles when she sees students eagerly jumping out of the car on their first day back to school. She notes that they have a new appreciation for being IN school—together with their classmates and teachers in a regular routine, learning and loving God and each other.

Perhaps Covid’s lesson for all of us is that God loves us and He is in charge.

# PARISHIONER PROFILE:

## Mike and Megan Tietema Family

by Terry Moore



As parents of four IHM School students, **Mike and Megan Tietema** remain ever busy and engaged with many school and parish activities. But they're quick to say their commitment is no different from many of their friends and fellow parishioners. "The more we get involved the more we appreciate how many people contribute to IHM," said Mike. "It's truly a generous and spirit-filled community."

Raised in strong Catholic families and attending local parochial schools, Mike and Megan met at Catholic Central and went out to a movie on their first date. They remained close in high school and college. Fast forward and the Tietemas have been parishioners since their marriage at IHM in 2005. The couple have been blessed with four children, **Owen**, 13; **Ellie**, 10; **Matthew**, 9; and **Peter**, 7.

For Megan, IHM has always been her home parish. Along with her loving parents, she credits IHM School for instilling and nurturing her faith. In particular, she vividly remembers the day **Mary Passinault**, her fourth grade teacher, distributed rosaries to the class made by local nuns and constructed of string, beads and utmost devotion. "As a teacher and person, Mrs. Passinault made such a lasting impression on me, encouraging all the students to grow in faith." And yes readers, Megan still has that treasured rosary.

Attending nearby St. Paul the Apostle, Mike also valued his family and faith upbringing. "Early on, my identity with the Catholic faith and education was strong. Megan and I are very thankful for both legacies and being able to pass it along to our children."

The couple's adherence to those legacies has been evident in many volunteer activities including Adoration Chapel, Pre Cana, God's Kitchen, athletic coaching, and as past chairs of the Fall Gathering.

A Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, Mike currently serves as President of IHM's Athletic Association. Among the Association's duties is the raising of \$25,000 per year to maintain the tradition of "no pay to play." "We've tried to make our fundraisers both fun and convenient to solicit financial support," he said.

As a former Grand Rapids Public Schools elementary teacher, Megan drew from those skills and experiences nine years ago and co-founded, with fellow parishioner **Michelle David**, IHM's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Aimed at preschoolers to third graders and based on the Montessori teaching method, faith lessons were offered, prior to the pandemic, after school on a weekly basis and during school once a month. "It's so rewarding to see kids respond to these lessons with light and love. It provides an opportunity to help them grow in their faith," said Megan.

Faith observances are an integral part of the Tietema household including daily prayers in the car on the way to school and at bedtime. "It's important for us to begin and end each day with prayer," said Megan.

When asked how they manage and cope with life's inevitable disappointments and hurdles, Megan replied, "We turn to our faith and the sacraments to keep us on track."

In listening to the Tietema's faith journey and practices and what IHM means to them as a couple and as a family, it seems only fitting to learn Megan's favorite podcast is called "Abiding Together."

# SPOTLIGHT **on** KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

By Sue Jakubowski

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) is a Catholic fraternal benefit society with global reach. The K of C was formed in 1882, the ministry of Fr. Michael McGivney, who was recently beatified. It has grown from humble beginnings to encourage men across the world to promote the sanctity of life, support the goals of the Catholic Church, and become the best versions of Catholic/Christian men they can be.

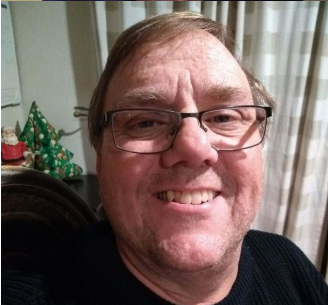
Our local council positively impacts our parish in many ways. About 70 members comprise the IHM council which sponsors an impressive list of activities. Members flip pancakes at the semi-annual pancake breakfasts, assist with the parish picnic, clean up after the school's Second Best Sale and raise funds for Special Olympics through Tootsie Roll sales. The K of C is an integral part of what makes IHM such a vibrant parish.



Current Grand Knight **Augustine (Stino) Iacopelli** proudly describes their many worthwhile activities. All K of C efforts are aimed at building the domestic Catholic Church in one of four areas: charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism. Although many activities have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic, the Knights strive to be as helpful as possible within the necessary restrictions.



**Randy MacGeorge** joined the Knights eight years ago. Knowing that he has time to participate in only one charitable organization, he finds the K of C to be the right one for him. Each member decides which project or activity he feels called to support, choosing from the blood drive, the essay contest, the fifth grade bible giveaway, seminarian support, the canned food drive, free throw contests and soccer challenges. Randy now also serves as a district deputy helping other councils. He wishes he had joined earlier and invites fellow parishioners to do so.



Long-term member **Bob Wasinski** says he especially likes the service orientation of the group, which extends beyond IHM to the greater community and the church worldwide. This December alone, our Knights have organized a blood drive, a canned food drive for the St. Francis Xavier Parish food pantry, a nut sale and a "Keep Christ in Christmas" awareness program. At the diocesan level, the Knights are raising money to purchase an ultrasound machine to assist in the Right to Life focus of their mission.



**Brett Huffman** is one of the younger Knights. Though his school-aged children keep him busy, he encourages other men to join the Knights to make a difference. While the council as a group helps where needed, individual members can participate as they are able—the commitment is flexible. Involvement with any or many projects is welcome. Having moved here from the east side of the state, Brett sees the K of C as a great way to get involved with the parish, school and our community.

The four men pictured have served as Grand Knight of the IHM council. They invite all men of the parish aged eighteen and older to join their ranks. Contact Stino Iacopelli at 616-450-8833 or via email at [aiacopelli@comcast.net](mailto:aiacopelli@comcast.net)



# Vocation Appreciation Care Packages

by Kathryn Hamilton

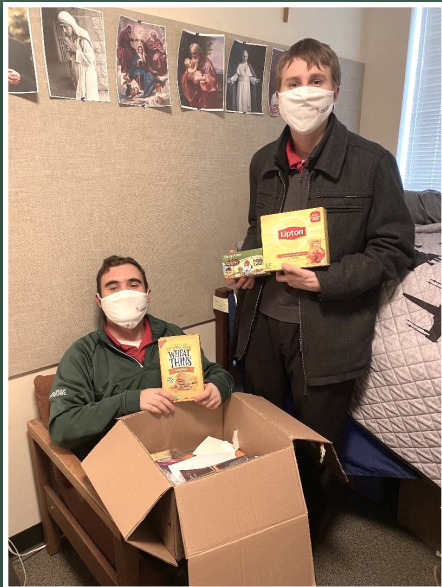


*Then, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Lord'; and you are correct, for so I am. So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you."*

**John 13:12–15**

This passage from John's gospel was the inspiration for Vocation Appreciation Care Packages sent by IHM parishioners to those with vocations to the priesthood and other religious life.

More than four years ago, as one of our parishioners sat in contemplative prayer in the Adoration Chapel, the Holy Spirit sent a vision of supplying physical gifts to accompany the many prayers offered for those discerning Christ's call. Members of the Tuesday Morning Divine Mercy Cenacle and the IHM School student body made donations, and these quiet promptings of the Holy Spirit became "Vocation Appreciation Care Packages."



Max Farrell and Peter Wisinski with some of the items from their boxes. Both Max and Peter are studying for the priesthood at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.



Sister Mary Rose Thomas with some of the letter-writing supplies she received in her Vocation Appreciation Care Package. Sister Mary Rose Thomas is a part of the order of Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George.



Seminarian David Jamieson with his Vocation Appreciation Care Package. He is currently studying at Mundelein Seminary and spent his internship at IHM last year.

Those in formation share a list of necessities and treats they would like to receive and parishioners work diligently to fill a box for each person with those items. Requests range from winter gloves and favorite snacks to letter writing supplies. IHM students write letters of encouragement and promises of prayers to each person as well and festively decorate the outside of the boxes. Since the project began, more than twenty boxes have made their way to Ann Arbor, Michigan; Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana. This year's packages were sent to Sister Peter Grace, Sister Mary Rose Thomas, Steve Jakubowski, Max Farrell, Peter Wisinski and David Jamieson.

Care Packages are our parish's way of washing the feet of IHM parishioners following God's call, our tangible "We love you and thank you" to them. Next year's National Vocation Awareness Week is November 7-13, 2021. If you'd like to help fill the care packages, keep an eye out for our boxes in the Narthex next October.



# THE GIFT OF WORK

by Karen Weber

2020 is behind us now, but the coronavirus will continue to manifest itself in our lives. There have been countless personal losses and untold challenges to life as we knew it. Weaknesses and woundedness have been on full display in our country, but perhaps no more so than in having one's work relegated to 'essential' or 'non-essential' categories. This has led many to question their identity and purpose.

Being made in the image and likeness of God means we have the ability to think, to feel, to love, to choose, to work as God does. This is a great gift of love, for which we are called to be grateful. God has invited us to share His creative work starting from the first work given to Adam, naming the animals, to the work we do today.

We have the ability to do, build and create more, and to use our talents more than at any other time in history. However, many of us are unhappy with our work.

Faith challenges us to recognize that we are integrated persons, body and soul. We thrive when we feel like the work we do is valued and important to our family and society. Our work gives us purpose.

Today's world elevates some kinds of work over others. Our culture has begun to think the individual is solely responsible for whatever success comes. This is not a Catholic view. We believe that all work should begin with gratitude to God for the talents He has given us. Scripture says, "We are many parts, but we are one body in Christ."

December 8, 2020, was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Joseph being declared the patron saint of the universal Church. Pope Francis marked this occasion by calling for a year dedicated to this great saint, saying, "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

You are invited to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph by getting to know him as a dedicated and humble servant of the Lord. St. Joseph turned "his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah." Your celebration can begin by reading the apostolic letter, "Patris Corde," "With a Father's Heart."



# PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

M A Y 3 0 2 0 2 1

*save the date*

25TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF ORDINATION

FR TROY NEVINS  
MASS AND CELEBRATION



## THANKSGIVING CARDS FOR BEACON HILL RESIDENTS

Social distancing has been tough for the residents of Beacon Hill, as it has been for everyone. For the many residents of the nearby community on Boston Street, including 11 IHM parishioners, it's been a time of greatly reduced personal interactions. IHM students and Beacon Hill residents have had a special relationship for at least a decade and both sides have missed seeing the other. Two annual events they missed in particular last fall were the kindergarteners trick-or-treating on Halloween and the seventh graders' fall visit.

**Leanne Miron** had an idea to spread some cheer and enlisted the artistic skills of **Geri Kartes**, **Alicia Parini** and **Sue Jakubowski**. All four women make homemade greeting cards as a hobby, and they partnered with students to colorize the cards and write greetings and promises of prayers inside.

The women did the basic outlines on 300 Thanksgiving cards. **Colleen Lowe** distributed them among the various teachers, collected them when done and delivered them to Beacon Hill. There each resident received a card in his/her mailbox and the extras were displayed in their building's foyer. "When I delivered the cards," said Colleen, "I felt surrounded by the kids' group hugs and good wishes to all. I hope the residents felt that through their efforts, too."

The students continue to lift up these elders in prayers and look forward to offering in-person hugs someday soon.

## 2020 FALL “UNGATHERING” - AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

Many parishioners were disappointed when the 2020 **Fall Gathering** could not be held last October due to the pandemic. Firmly committed to growing the Parish Maintenance Fund, committee members decided to morph the event into the Fall “Ungathering.” Even though there was disappointment about not being able to attend the popular social/fund raising party in person, a healthy \$30,865 was raised.

Co-chairs **Mark and Maureen Norton** thank the Fall Gathering committee for their many efforts. The teamwork is amazing to watch! A special thank you also goes to **Father Troy, Barb Heinbeck, Janet Potoczny and Jane Eggleston** for their vital roles. Most of all, a big thank you to the IHM community for your continued support.

We welcome 2021 Chairs **Bryan and Monica Reeder** to the team. Our hopes and prayers are that we'll be back together next fall for another evening of entertainment, delicious food, and great fun, all for a good cause.

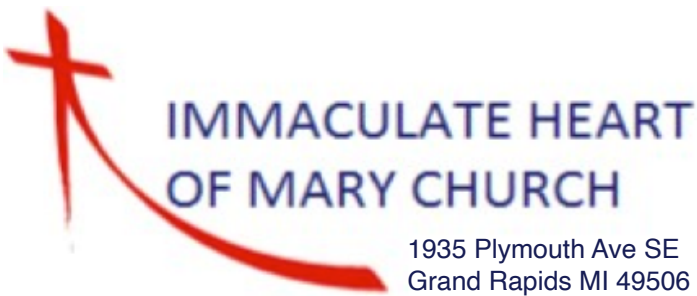


*TOP:  
The Fall Gathering  
Committee, 2013*



*LEFT:  
The Knights of  
Columbus held a  
Blood Drive in  
December. Pictured  
here are Matthew,  
Stino and David  
Iacopelli*





# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

1935 Plymouth Ave SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49506

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR  
Deb Moore

### CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Jakubowski  
Kathryn Hamilton  
Terry Moore  
Karen Weber  
Ann Williams

PROOFREADER  
Ann Williams

STUFFING TEAM  
COORDINATOR  
Vince Williams

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Lauren Murphy-McLalin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

31

Catholic Schools Week begins (thru Feb. 5)

### FEBRUARY

6

Guys and Dolls Dance (tentative)

15 - 16

School Mid Winter Break

17

Ash Wednesday

21

IHM Winter Blood Drive

26 - 27

PreCana

### MARCH

27

Mother-Son Bowling (tentative)

### APRIL

1

Holy Thursday Mass @ 7 pm

2

Good Friday Liturgy @ 1:30 pm

3

Holy Saturday Mass @ 9 pm

4

Easter Sunday Masses @ 8:30 & 11:00 am

5 - 9

Spring Break

**IF YOU ENJOY READING THE HEARTBEAT,** *your help would be appreciated. We are in serious need of writers (ages 16 and up) as well as story ideas. For example, perhaps your group or project could use some advanced notice of an activity or is looking to increase its participation. For either, contact Deb Moore at [djbmoore@comcast.net](mailto:djbmoore@comcast.net).*



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