



# The Heartbeat

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

Fall 2021

## Fall Re-Gathering: Together Once Again

Fall Gathering Chairs **Bryan and Monica Reeder** are thrilled the IHM community will be able to come together for the annual event this year.

"You don't know what you have until it's gone and, due to the pandemic, the Fall Gathering wasn't an in-person event last year. We've lost that sense of community from not being together, face-to-face, over the past year-and-a-half. We're so grateful that we can gather together again in 2021," said Monica.

The event, to be held on **Thursday, October 7** at 6:30, began in 2006 as a way to build a parish maintenance fund while building our sense of community. Aptly, this year's theme is "RE-Gathering."

Co-chairs **Kevin and Amanda Solt** are happy to help in the effort to bring people together and raise funds for parish maintenance. Relatively new to IHM, the young couple attended the 2019 Fall Gathering and had a wonderful time. "We, too, look forward to getting parishioners back together to celebrate our parish. In addition to the camaraderie, the funds help keep IHM in good working order," Amanda said.

With a campus our size, there is never a shortage of things that need to be fixed, from parking lots to roofs to heating systems. Money raised at the Fall Gathering helps offset repairs that might not be covered in the parish budget. A great example is the new air conditioning and air sanitizing system installed in the Parish Center over the past year.

You probably received your Fall Re-Gathering invitation in the mail within the past week. Please respond as soon as possible so the committee can plan for the proper number of guests. In addition, the Reeders and the Solts will contact all new parishioners soon to extend personal, complimentary invitations for them to join the fun.

"As always," said Bryan, "we want to include as many parishioners as possible."

The October 7 event will be held at Cascade Hills Country Club and includes a cocktail hour with cash bar, a delicious array of heavy hors d'oeuvres, an historical display, a short program, and lots of time for socializing—all in a beautiful setting.

Bryan said, "Monica and I appreciate the opportunity to host the Fall RE-Gathering. We look forward to socially re-connecting with fellow parishioners."

### Your Fall Re-Gathering Committee

Bryan & Monica Reeder, Chairs  
Terry & Deb Moore  
Dave Snyder  
Charles & Natalie Lott  
Jim & Betsy Passinault  
Tom & Susan English  
TJ & Mary Ackert

Kevin & Amanda Solt, Co-Chairs  
Dan & Cheryl Heintz  
Greg & Jill Reichardt  
John & Sandy Lowery  
Jim & Debbie Marosi  
Mike & Megan Tietema  
Mark & Maureen Norton



*The Reeders and the Solts hope to see you at the Fall Gathering.*

# PARISHIONER PROFILE: BERNARD & DANA LUCAS FAMILY

by Ann Williams

**Bernard and Dana Lucas** and Dana's son **George** joined Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish 15 years ago. Dana originally is from Jenison and Bernard from St. Clair, Michigan. They met while working at Leo's restaurant in Grand Rapids.

Bernard began his culinary career as a teenager at the original Charley's Crab outside Detroit. Over the years he worked at several Charley's restaurants, including doing the prep work to open new restaurants. Dana worked at the Grand Rapids Charley's. In 2004 they left Charley's to help open Leo's Restaurant. Bernard currently is the executive chef and Dana is a pastry chef.

Dana is known at IHM for the wonderfully delicious and beautiful pastries she has prepared for the annual Italian dinner, cakes for Father Troy's anniversary celebration and cookies for the first communicant receptions and other occasions. She generously donates her time and expertise.

In addition to working long hours in the kitchen at Leo's, Dana finds time to manage the drum line at Forest Hills Northern High School, where George plays trumpet in the band.

Growing up, Holy Redeemer Parish in Jenison was Dana's home parish. When she and Bernard moved to the Forest Hills area, they started looking for a new parish and visited several before deciding IHM was the place for them. The first time they attended Mass here, they were warmly greeted by our ushers and found our parishioners in general to be friendly and welcoming.

Beyond feeling at home here, Dana and Bernard have a strong connection to IHM. **Marge Bush** is Dana's godmother (Marge and Dana's mother were best friends). Dana has spent a lot of time with the Bush family and was close to Brian Bush as he battled brain cancer and died during his freshman year at Catholic Central. In 2019 she participated in the St. Jude's Research Hospital radiothon to talk about her experience during Brian's illness and death. To this day she contributes Putt-Putt cookies to the participants of the annual St. Jude/Brian Bush Memorial Putt-for-Life organized by Mike and Marge.



**Mike Bush** was George's confirmation sponsor. In addition, he shepherded Bernard through the RCIA program. Because of Bernard's work schedule, he couldn't attend the regular RCIA classes and, instead, would meet Mike at his house for instruction. Dana also helped Bernard with his lessons. Bernard joyfully joined the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil this year.

Dana became actively involved almost immediately after joining the parish. **Prisilla Baldwin** recruited her for the faith formation program where Dana has taught elementary students of various ages. George sometimes helps with the classes, and Bernard says he acts as "hall monitor" while the classes are going on. Dana also participates in the handbell choir.

Dana, Bernard and George believe they have found their spiritual home at IHM. They value being among people who share their beliefs and live lives based on what God intended for us. They appreciate Father Troy's homilies and the "assignments" he gives us each week. They look forward to continuing to share their God given talents and growing in faith at IHM.

# THE KILLGOAR FOUNDATION HAS PASSED THE BATON

by Terry Moore



At the Killgoar Foundation the baton has been expertly passed. Its long time Development Director Ann Williams retired and Mark and Maureen Norton stepped up to fill her shoes. As a result, a smooth transition has taken place in this vital role for the Foundation.

Ann, an active parishioner with her husband Vince since arriving at IHM in 1982, first became involved with the Killgoar Foundation in 1995 in her role as a staff person for The Breton Group which provided ongoing support and record-keeping for the Foundation. Fr. Patrick Hollywood, OMI had established the foundation in 1987.

"My Catholic faith and upbringing have been very important to me and our family," said Ann, whose children all went to IHM School and Catholic Central. "The Killgoar Foundation and its core mission to support the school was a natural fit." And it should

be noted that it was always a family effort for the Williams, as Vince was constantly volunteering and, in fact, was the development director himself for two years in the mid-2000s.

Always eager to get involved in parish life, Ann credits Joe Tierney for an inspirational credo. "Joe always said IHM is a parish of doers. And that's true of the Killgoar Foundation." From an initial mailing which generated \$60,000, the Foundation has grown to more than \$5,000,000. Last year, one-third of IHM school families received tuition assistance.

"Generations of parishioners have valued and continue to value Catholic education and are willing to support it financially so it continues to be available for future generations," said Ann.

She's also pleased to have the Nortons pick up the baton and continue the success of the Foundation.

"Mark and Maureen feel strongly about Catholic Education and have generously supported the Foundation for many years. They're carrying on the tradition of Maureen's beloved parents, Bob and Mary Campbell."

Life's often a matter of timing and for the Nortons the time was right for their new role with the Foundation.

"Maureen and I retired 16 months ago and we were both looking to give back and contribute to a cause in a meaningful way," said Mark. "After being approached by Ann, the Killgoar Foundation became that cause."

Like the Williams family, the Norton's children all went to IHM School and they've been active in parish life. "We're believers in Catholic education for our family and others," said Maureen. "We know that without the Killgoar Foundation many families wouldn't be able to afford IHM School. We're very excited to work on its behalf and further the good it does for our parish."

Jim Passinault, President of the Killgoar Foundation, shared these sentiments about Ann and the Nortons. "Ann Williams has been the face of the Killgoar Foundation for many years. During her time, she created innovative ways for people to financially support its efforts. She truly will be missed but we know she'll always be a part of the Killgoar."

"At the same time, we're extremely blessed to have Mark and Maureen transitioning into the development position. Their commitment to IHM is generations long and still going forward."

Let's end by expressing deep gratitude for Ann and Vince Williams and Maureen and Mark Norton, generous doers for IHM and the Killgoar Foundation.



# NEW MUSIC MINISTER LIZ OWEN



As of August 16, IHM has a new Music Minister—Mrs. Liz Owen. She comes to our parish with a dynamic faith and a beautiful talent that will enhance our worship.

by Sue Jakubowski

Liz grew up in a musical family. In fact, she was part of her mother's folk choir at St. Patrick Parish in Portland, Michigan, when Fr. Troy was assigned there in the late 1990s. Although she always was involved with music, Liz did not consider it as a possible career path until she attended a high school retreat where she felt a call from God to consider music ministry as a direction for her life. She believes God used this event to steer her onto the course where she could best serve Him. She soon immersed herself in intense piano lessons while continuing to cantor at Mass. By the time she graduated from high school, Liz was confident she should pursue a degree in Liturgical Music from Aquinas College.

At Aquinas, Liz studied voice, piano and organ, and found herself falling in love with choral conducting as well. At the same time, she fell in love with a young man named Chris, who she went on to marry. Although Chris was a business major, Liz says he has a musical side as well. He likes to play around with a lot of instruments, especially the banjo.

After college graduation, Liz spent five years as a music minister at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Wyoming and another five years at St. Sebastian's in Byron Center. During this ten-year period, she began working on her own compositions. Liz's work has been published in GIA, which produces the *Gather* hymnals. She also writes music for choirs and cantors and enjoys sharing her music with others. Her future composition plans include working on Marian music, and she promises we will hear some of her work. If you are interested in listening to some of her original music, you can find it on Spotify under her name, Liz Owen.

Musically, Liz describes her interests as a mixed bag. She is not easily pegged as a traditional, contemporary, or classical artist—she enjoys all the styles, and under her direction, each of the IHM choirs will perform in a variety of genres. At IHM, she hopes to make her music accessible to all who wish to participate including high school music ministry. She has always been very involved with those who cantor for her, and works closely with them to help develop their talents.

Liz's faith journey is attached to her music. She says she expresses her faith best through silent prayer. Beauty and sound help her find God.

Recognizing the big responsibility she has to enhance our parishioners' spiritual growth, Liz aims to make our liturgical music as beautiful and meaningful as possible. That in turn will help us fall deeper into prayer.

Liz looks forward to meeting everyone. She and her husband Chris have two young children, Isaac and Lilly, so they will be easy to spot. Please take a moment after Mass to stop and introduce yourselves to them. You will be glad you did!

# Theology of the Body Campus



by Karen Weber

In 2018 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish made the bold move to become a *Theology of the Body Campus*. Fundamentally, this means that our school began teaching *Rooted: A Theology of the Body Curriculum* at all grade levels. This curriculum was developed by Ruah Woods in Cincinnati, Ohio, ([ruahwoods.org](http://ruahwoods.org)) and has since been adopted in all Grand Rapids diocesan schools, K-5.

*What this means on our campus....*

## PRAYER:

*We affirm the priority of every person's unique and unrepeatable relationship with God through Mass, Reconciliation and daily prayer.*

## SERVICE:

*We recognize the importance of serving the needs of our brothers and sisters in the human family as a response of gratitude to God's love for us.*

## DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON:

*We uphold the intrinsic dignity of every human person. This value is not earned or achieved but comes from God in whose image each one is made, either male or female.*

## RECOGNIZING UNIQUENESS:

*We affirm every person as unique and unrepeatable through calling one another by name. Teachers are committed to praying for their students by name.*

## EDUCATION:

*We believe education is first a cultivation of awe and wonder at the gift of God's creation. Every subject is seen through this lens. Together we discover God's handiwork.*

## VOCATION:

*We help our students discern their unique vocation to love, and lead by example by devoting our lives to Christ through a total gift-of-self. Through fidelity to our vocations, we strive for Christian sanctity.*

## THEOLOGY of the BODY PARENT HANDBOOK



Based on  
**ROOTED: Theology of the Body K-12 Curriculum**

## IHM School Families

*Theology of the Body Parent Handbooks will be provided for the first time this fall. This will assist parents in reinforcing themes introduced at each grade level and provide ideas for family fun.*

## Mark your Calendars

**October 21, 2021** – DJ Hueneman, Director of Formation and Training for Ruah Woods, will be at IHM to give testimony on how this curriculum has affected schools and parishes around the country.

**October 22, 2021** – DJ Hueneman will conduct a professional in-service day for our school staff. He will share proven methods and lesson plans that teachers can use in their classrooms.

# FR. STEVE VASEK, OMI 50 YEARS A PRIEST

by Deb Moore, Parish Historian

On May 24, 2021, **Fr. Steve Vasek, O.M.I.**, marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination. He was Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish's first vocation to the priesthood.

Steve grew up in our parish, the son of charter members Tony and Lorraine Vasek. Steve and his sister **Barbara Vasek Madura** attended IHM School; Steve graduated in 1958. Our parish was staffed by Oblates of Mary Immaculate at the time (1949-1997), and, as was the custom, the Oblates invited interested eighth grade boys to a vocations workshop at their seminary. Accordingly, during the summer of 1958, **Fr. Art Craig, O.M.I.\***, a young, inspiring assistant priest assigned to IHM, drove four or five young men, including Steve, to the week-long immersion into Oblate life.

Young Oblates from the major seminary in Washington, D. C. conducted the classes/workshop. There was also plenty of time given to recreation; the seminary sits on a gorgeous piece of property overlooking the Hudson River, 60 miles north of NYC, and there were ball fields and a new gymnasium for sports.

Steve felt God's call and enrolled as a high school freshman at the seminary. He studied there from 1958-'71, when he was ordained a priest.

Most of Fr. Steve's career has been spent as a parish priest. He has enjoyed his parishioners as well as the community bond of living with fellow Oblates. "You're never alone," said Fr. Steve.

During those years, Fr. Steve was twice assigned to IHM as an assistant pastor—from 1982-'86 and 1989-'90. In addition, he taught high school students for a few years at Bishop Neumann High School in Buffalo as well as in Florida.

Perhaps the best fit for Fr. Steve was his work presenting parish retreats. For more than fifteen years he was part of various teams—twosomes and threesomes—who travelled out of Washington, D. C., Allentown, PA and Buffalo to inspire parishioners all over the country.

"That was a good experience," said Fr. Steve. "Unlike a parish where you see how the Church effects a relatively small group of Catholics, traveling around the country to more than 20 different parishes a year gives you a broad perspective on where the Church is in our country."

Fr. Steve is currently stationed at Holy Cross Parish in Buffalo, one of a diverse team that serves parishioners primarily of Puerto Rican and African descent.

"I mainly preside over baptisms, weddings and funerals," said Fr. Steve. "It is now part-time work. We Oblates don't really retire. I'll continue to serve in any way I can until I'm no longer able."

For now, he is in good health.

Fr. Steve comes to Grand Rapids a few times a year to visit his sister Barb and her family, still IHM parishioners.

"I have fond memories of greeting people in the back of IHM church after Masses," said Fr. Steve. "I never know who I'll see. Maybe a classmate I haven't seen in 40 years will come up to shake my hand."

"My experience as a priest has been a very positive one," Fr. Steve summed up.

He looks forward to a celebratory gathering at Tewksbury, Massachusetts—Oblate HQ—this October, and many more visits to IHM, his home parish.



Fr. Steve, Then and now



\*As an aside: sometime after his stint from 1956-'59 at IHM, Fr. Craig joined the military as an Oblate Army Chaplain. During the Vietnam War, Fr. Craig parachuted out of planes behind enemy lines to say Mass for the troops. Fr. Steve believes that Fr. Craig jumped over 150 times to provide this spiritual service. At an advanced age, Fr. Craig is still alive and living in Arizona.

# THE PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

## Stewardship Fair



Stop by the Narthex or pick up a postcard in the pews to discover all the ministries seeking volunteers in the Liturgical, Musical, Support and Services to and for the Parish. Come and discover how you can share your gifts with your parish!

AFTER MASSES, SEPTEMBER 11/12TH

All women of the parish,  
please join us for the

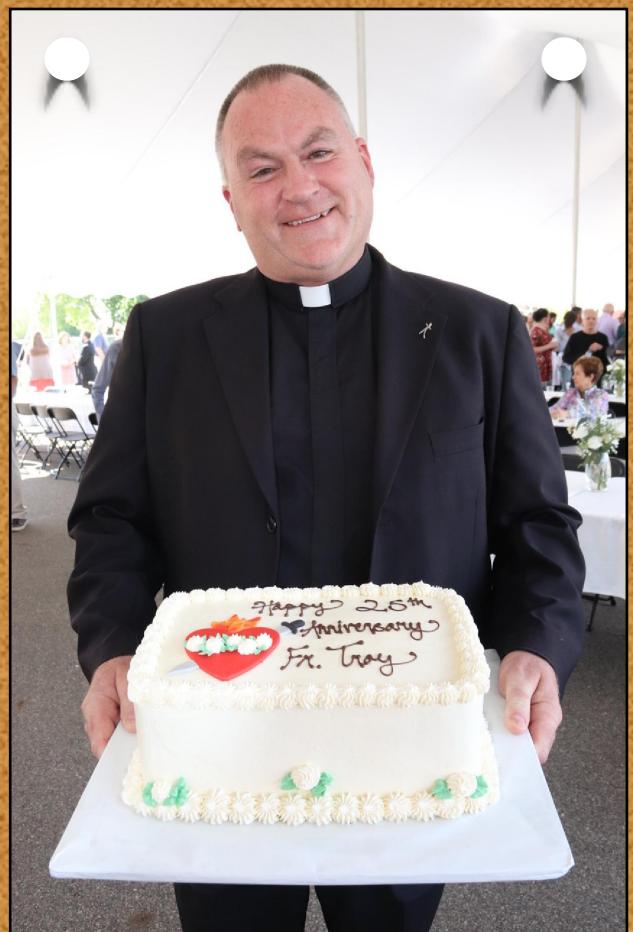
### FALL POTLUCK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:00 PM

DeMAZENOD ROOM

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!





# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

1935 Plymouth Ave SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49506

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 11/12 Stewardship Fair after all Masses
- 20 Vaccination Clinic (Flu & Covid),  
Hearts and Hands rooms, 11:00-1
- 20 Women's Guild Potluck, 6 pm
- 25 Fall Back Together Social, DeMazenod Room, 6 pm
- 27-30 Priest Convocation, no daily Mass

### OCTOBER

- 7 Fall Gathering, 6:30 pm, Cascade Hills Country Club

### NOVEMBER

- 25-26 Parish Office closed for Thanksgiving
- 26 No Mass
- 29 Women's Guild Advent Service

### DECEMBER

- 24-31 Christmas Break for School
- 24-27 Parish Office Closed for Christmas
- 24 Christmas Eve Masses 4 pm & 10:30 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 10am - No 5:15 Mass

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**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).



[ihmparish.com](http://ihmparish.com)



Did you know IHM has a Facebook page? Please "like us" on [Immaculate Heart of Mary - Grand Rapids](#) and follow all of our updates, postings and communications. We are just a click away!



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