

A quarterly publication of the
Saint Stephen Cathedral parish



Community
Garden
Page 8



Class of
2020
Page 11



the Parishioner *the COVID-19 edition*

What's Inside

Forming a Renewed
"Normal"
Page 2

#HealthyatHome
Page 3

Caring for our
Cathedral Building
Page 9

Welcome New
Parishioners
Page 9

Craving the Body of
Christ
Page 10

and more!

Preschool Parade

On Tuesday, May 26, Cathedral Preschool hosted a drive-through good-bye parade for their students. Best wishes for a great summer!



Marley Clatterbuck and her mom, Natalie



Archie Mattingly



Gianna Reffitt, daughter
of parishioners Nathan
and Amanda Reffitt



Mae Nall



Cathedral Preschool Staff greeting
students and parents

Forming a Renewed “Normal”

By Father Sinoj Pynadath HGN

We are pleased to be able to celebrate public Masses once again!
This photo was taken on May 20, the first day public Mass was permitted in the Diocese of Owensboro. >>



Humanity has faced pandemics throughout known history. The ten plagues of Egypt are well known even though we do not know the casualties of them. But we have data explaining the statistics of some pandemics. The Black Death of 1324 decimated around one-third of the world's population. The Spanish Flu in the early 20th century killed more than 50 million people. There also have been other pandemics killing people in lesser proportions. These pandemics influenced the social, political, economic, and cultural history of the world in an unprecedented magnitude.

None of the pandemics in history have made an impact (direct/indirect) on the humanity as COVID-19 has done. The primary impact is, of course, the suffering and pain of those affected and their families, as well as all of us, whose lives are affected indirectly by the social and economic challenges caused by the pandemic. The ripples of those negative impacts continue and will continue. But we need to continue to find reasons to fight negativity, to be at peace. We have been seeing tremendous changes in the way we could look positively at the reality of life. Let us look for some ways to come out of this pandemic not to go back to the “normal” of the past, but to a more meaningful “normal.”

The pandemic reminded us not to take for granted anything in life; our faith, our Church, our health, our family, our friendships, our resources, our time, our nature, our technology, our leaders, our healthcare workers, law enforcement and first responders, etc. The time we were sheltered-in-place might have made us look deeply into the spirit of all what we do in our lives. This was testified by different surveys that said more young people felt the need of faith and prayer. Likewise, many believers considered this situation as a call from God for change.

Many learned to give a bit more importance to practicing good hygiene. Some of us had no idea before this pandemic that most things we were doing and having were not essential for life. Many tasted the beauty of family without luxurious travels or parties and of having more time to look at each other and talk. Families discovered a variety of talents and creativity in doing things in different ways. This issue of *The Parishioner* is a beautiful expression of this. Many learned to appreciate each other, especially those

whose services were unnoticed like grocery store workers, truck drivers, semi-skilled workers of food factories, nurses, doctors, etc.

Humankind was humbled when it learned its helplessness in controlling this invisible creature. The irony of nations, spending large amounts of their wealth for military equipment instead of essentials like healthcare, was exposed. The whole world was united beyond all differences to find a vaccine. The environmentalists happily informed us that the ozone layer has healed itself of its wounds thanks to less pollution on Earth. The minerals of the Earth were saved in large amount due to less consumption. The needs of the poor and homeless got more attention when the world was slowed down. These are some of the positive changes we experienced during this pandemic. In a way, the pandemic gave us a tutorial on a lot of good things. Would it be possible to come out of this pandemic keeping little bits of these changes?

Along with all these changes, there was also a call for changes in the way we live our faith. When we were not able to gather in churches we cherished our domestic Church meaningfully. We celebrated Eucharist in Spirit with the help of mass media. I could hear deep sighs of many faithful for whom anything is bearable except the dreadful plight of not being able to go to the Church. For some, the routine that had become normal was being missed. But could we think of not returning back to that normal? Could we think of a post-COVID-19 situation in new terms rather than merely restoring the familiar religious world? Perhaps the experience of a pandemic is an opportunity to rethink our faith and our mission.

We are challenged more intensely to focus on what Jesus advocated: “Worship in Spirit and Truth” (Jn 4:23-24). We shall gaze beyond identifying the Divine with particular locality and worship with certain forms of rituals. Let all our places and rituals of worship help us to experience God in Spirit and Truth. Truth is an ever-receding horizon. We shall not limit God to any one place or object. Let our Faith in God spread beyond our churches and rituals. After having experienced COVID-19, we shall not just return to “normal,” rather, with an enlightened mind, let us form a “renewed normal.”

#HealthyatHome

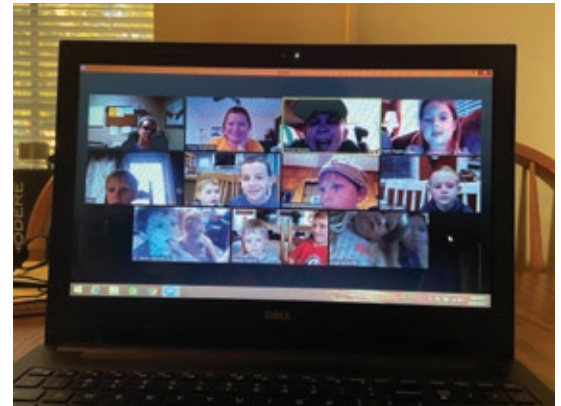
We asked our parishioners to submit photos showing how they're making the best of their time at home.



Although we couldn't gather for Easter Mass, we still honored the Risen Lord with a beautiful and joyous display of altar flowers. Many thanks to all those who donated toward Easter flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones.



Aaron and Evie Pierce work on an Easter activity.



A snapshot of a Children's Ministry ZOOM meeting on April 30. Hannah Bland invited the kids to participate by offering story sound effects!



The Refitts showcasing some awesome chalk art!



Breandan Murphy and Hannah Bland enjoy bubbles but with social distancing! On this day, Hannah, along with Crissy Stevenson and Father Sinoj, visited the homes of youth in our parish to let them know they were missed! Breandan is the son of Kathleen Murphy and grandson of Deacon Richard and Donna Murphy.



Cecilia, Mary Grace, and Will Hemingway (children of David and Sara) prepared chopped pork sandwiches for the men at St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter. Several families worked together to provide a meal one Friday night in April. Awesome job, Hemingway family!



Jude, Felicity, and Lucy Kate Carrico (children of Aaron and Stephanie) make a visit to our Marian Grotto.



On March 26, some loving and creative children left some beautiful drawings at our tabernacle.



Becky Stewart shared her photo of her "COVID-19 Sunday mornings."

#HealthyatHome



Our St. Francis garden provides a bright and beautiful spot near our parking lot! Many thanks to Joe and Becky Stewart, who care for the garden all year through.



Jack Pierce poses with a creative image of the Easter Bunny!



Our Cathedral Preschool playground is usually busy with the sights and sounds of children playing. But while the playground was quiet during #HealthyatHome, a robin chose the playground for her nest!



Brendan Murphy celebrated Easter with a lamb-shaped cake. Looks delicious!



Charlotte Hagan and her fur baby, Mia!



Saint Stephen Cathedral Pastoral Team meetings have been looking different during #HealthyatHome! Each week we've been meeting via ZOOM.



Christy McCrady, son Will McCrady and fiancée Meredith, and daughter Georgia McCrady pose for an Easter photo.



Nathan, Amanda, Landon, Luke, Kolbe, Olivia, and Gianna Refitt's family Easter photo.



Sara Hemingway shared a snapshot of Father Sinoj, Hannah, and Crissy stopping by to visit and to deliver jelly beans.



If you haven't stopped by our Marian Grotto, take a few minutes to visit. It's a beautiful, peaceful spot!



Parishioner John Calhoun operating our cameras and equipment for livestreaming Masses. We are grateful for the ability to bring our liturgies to everyone via livestream. The purchase of the state-of-the-art equipment was made possible by a generous bequest to our parish.



Wiley (L) and Josey (R) Gaynor brought flowers to our Marian Grotto. Wiley and Josey are the children of Wade and Neena Gaynor.



Bishop Medley visited the grotto to celebrate and offer a special blessing for May, the Month of Mary. Photo submitted by the Diocese of Owensboro.

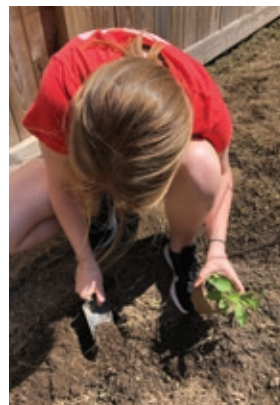


Face masks are now required for many aspects of daily life, including for attendance at Mass. We are grateful for the crafty parishioners who have been sewing colorful face masks, which have been available in church just in case someone leaves home without one! Our talented mask-makers are Mary Ann O'Bryan, Yvonne Fulenwider, Doreen Harney, and Meg Bishop. Meg also sewed surgical masks for healthcare workers.

#HealthyatHome



Saint Stephen Cathedral featuring green lighting for those affected by COVID-19. Photo on left by Donna Duffy. Photo on right by Taylor West.



Emily Calloway doing some spring planting!



Lauren Calloway watering the newly planted garden. Emily and Lauren are the granddaughters of Brenda and Bob Pierce.



Easter at the Osborne's farm!
Submitted by Debbie Osborne.



Spring arrived with a lovely yellow burst of color in our Saint Stephen Prayer Garden. Many thanks to Mike and Mary Wade, Doreen Harney, and Jeff Payne for tending the garden. If you need a few moments to pray in a beautiful place, stop by; it's located at the corner of 7th and Locust Streets, near our Youth House.



The Refitt family's beautiful home worship space.



A view of the empty Cathedral at Sunday Mass during the COVID-19 closure. Photo submitted by James Wells, Director of Music.



Hannah Bland (Director of Children's Ministry) and Crissy Stevenson (Director of Youth Ministry) prepare bags of jelly beans (including the Jelly Bean Prayer) for all the children and youth of our parish. That's a LOT of jelly beans!



Christy and Georgia McCrady.

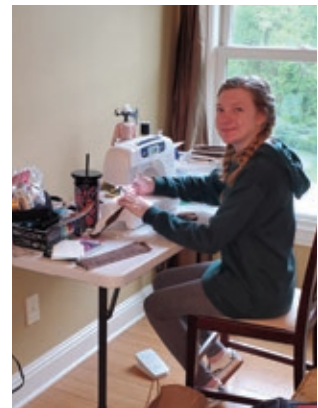
Thank you for sending in your photos for this special COVID-19 #HealthyatHome edition. We're grateful for you!



Lindsey and Allie Warren (daughters of Scott and Kathy) show their artistic skills and a wonderful way to enjoy a beautiful day during #HealthyatHome!



SSC Team member Rick Rhodes organized the distribution of a generous donation of spaghetti sauce. Several local organizations benefited from the donation including St. Benedict, Lighthouse Recovery, and St. Vincent de Paul.



Sofia Sorley making fabric masks during quarantine. Sofia is the daughter of Jefferson Sorley and granddaughter of Margaret Windle.



Denise & Jody Hamilton are busy as bees with their bees! Looks like there will be plenty of honey this year.



The good works of our parish chapter of St. Vincent de Paul continue, even during the COVID-19 restrictions. Though our SVdP volunteers were not able to meet in person, clients were able to place a call to the volunteers, who helped determine how they could best make arrangements by phone to meet their needs. Bags of food were packed by volunteers ahead of time from our parish food pantry and distributed from the Parish Office.

We are grateful to everyone who supports our parish food pantry through monetary donations as well as donations of non-perishable food items. And a big *thank you* to our dedicated, caring SVdP volunteers!

Governor's Scholars

Two Cathedral students were selected into the 2020 Governor's Scholar program: Max Kurtz, son of John and Chrissy Kurtz, and Clayton Lewis, son of Carl and Kim Lewis. Congratulations to Max and Clayton!



Max Kurtz

Clayton Lewis



Community Garden

Our Community Garden has a lot GROWING ON! This summer, we will be able to provide fresh produce for our local community from our Saint Stephen Community Garden, thanks to the parishioners who have adopted the 21 garden spots to make this outreach project possible. Those “green thumbs” will water, weed, and tend to the plants throughout the summer. As you can see, there are some beautiful flowers there too. We appreciate our gardeners: Don Houle, Neena and Wade Gaynor, Doreen Harney, Martha and Mark Sims, Pam Weafer, Sara and David Hemingway, Stephanie and Aaron Carrico, Kristine Henning, Kathryn Wimsatt, Janice Greene, Kelly and Bryan Hedges, and our garden coordinators Denise and Jody Hamilton. Also, John & Michelle Lyon and family serve on the “on-call” garden help list! If you’d like to join the on-call list, contact Denise Hamilton.

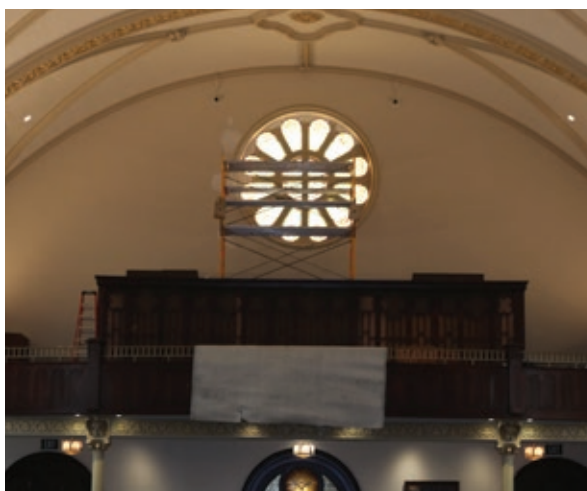
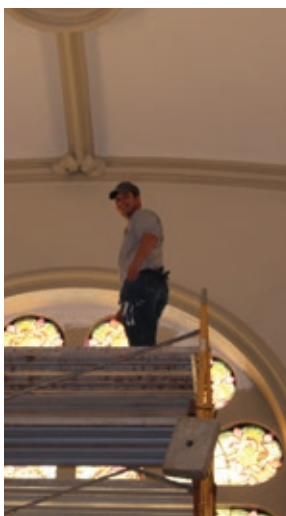


Mark Sims works in the Community Garden with some expert help from his twin grandsons, Quinn and Henry.

Our Community Garden is located at 7th and Cedar Streets.

Caring for our Cathedral Building

During April and May, when the church was mostly empty due to COVID-19 restrictions, repairs were made to the exterior as well as the interior walls surrounding the Rose Window. Over time, moisture leakage had caused damage. Repairs were also made to the ceiling in the tabernacle area which had sustained damage.



Welcome New Parishioners!

Jeff & Amy Andrini, daughter Lauren, and grandson Eli
Ryan & Blakely McDaniel, children Briley and Kensington
Marsha Hardesty

Craving the Body of Christ

By Father Jerry Riney

Is there anything better than the aroma of freshly baked bread? It is almost irresistible! There is another kind of craving for bread, one that stems from stark necessity rather than simple and remembered pleasure. The body has begun to feed on itself and is being sapped of energy; this is genuine hunger, a true craving for bread! It is exactly this kind of hunger that ancestors of the Israelites experienced in the wilderness and of which Moses (Deuteronomy 8:2–3) reminds the Israelites, who are about to enter the promised land. In fact, their hunger was so intense that they begged to return to Egypt where they were enslaved but at least had food to eat.

Yet, there is another deeper hunger only God can satisfy. Have we ever known that primal craving for God? I sincerely believe that this yearning for God is more common than one might think. I believe that the frantic search for meaning, wholeness, belonging, and connectedness that consumes so many people today is, at its heart, a search for God.

The Gospel of John (John 6:51, 51–58) that our Church gave us just a few weeks ago on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus stirs up controversy: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat? His blood to drink?” Disagreements over the section of the “Bread of life” discourse did not end in the first century but continue today. The truth is: Jesus wants no “safe distancing” whereby we could stay detached and know that not much is expected of us, but Jesus longs for a greater intimacy with each of us, “up close and personal” intimacy. Jesus is a life-giving meal and wants to give himself to us totally. To consume the Body of Christ demands expectations that we, in turn, offer ourselves completely in love of God and in service to one another.



When we eat ordinary food, we turn it into our own being. However, when we eat the Body of Christ, we are transformed by it and are to become more and more like Christ. We remain in Christ and Christ remains in us. A bond is forged that not only grants life but endures to eternal life. We are bound together with all others who partake this Food and Drink.

Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, did not discover that God was his ALL until midway through his life. After living a rather promiscuous life and running from God, Augustine had an experience of Jesus that changed his life. When he finally encountered Jesus, Augustine lived the remainder of his years passionately hungering for a deeper awareness of God. He wrote: “God is ALL to you: if you are hungry, God is Bread; if you are thirsty, God is Water; if you are in darkness, God is Light; if you are naked, God is a robe of Immortality.”

May our fasting from the Body of Christ during this coronavirus pandemic make us hunger more for Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Cup of Salvation. Of all the foods of the earth, why is bread the perfect food to become the Body of Christ?



Our parish St. Benedict Shelter team has been preparing and delivering meals to the shelter during this time of COVID-19 restrictions. The team has been working together for at least the last six years; everyone is so willing to help and the residents are so appreciative. Team members miss not being able to serve the meals and visit with the residents (companion volunteers have not been permitted during the pandemic). Hopefully we will be able to get back to this in the fall! Members of the parish St. Benedict team include: Mary Beth and Phil Hurley, Steve and Judy Carrico, Amy and Matt Carrico, Todd and Kathleen Johnson, Pat and Suzanne Padgett, Nathan and Amanda Reffitt, John and Kathy Wright, and Martha House. Do you want to be a part of this ministry? Contact the Parish Office!

Congratulations Class of 2020!

On March 1, all of our High School Seniors were recognized at the 9 AM & 11 AM Masses. Congratulations to all our 2020 Grads! Good luck and God's Blessings.



Display in the Community Center recognizing all of our High School Seniors 2020.



Andrew Ellis, Isabella Henning, Danielle Henning, Lily Moore, Will Murphy, Isabella Wright



Taylor Norton, Mary Grace Hemingway, Kevin Payne, Kate Weafer, Noah Edelen



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Youth 2000

On March 6-8, before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, 21 of our Cathedral youth and chaperones (plus a few visitors) enjoyed the Youth 2000 retreat on March 6-8 at Brescia University. This annual Eucharistic Centered Retreat is a powerful experience for participants as they encounter the Lord through the Sacraments, talks, breakout sessions, and prayers.

