

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

December/January 2019

#sthilaryserves on our Digital Day of Service

St. Hilary Parish parishioners dedicated their time and talent Saturday, November 3 to the local community in the first ever Digital Day of Service. They added a twist by taking their photos with the face of St. Hilary and sharing the images on the parish's Facebook and Instagram pages. Throughout the day our email inbox began filling up with pictures! "The Digital Day of Service exemplifies our call as Catholic Christians to serve others as a means of living out the gospel," said Fr. Steve Brunovsky.

Don't wait until our next Digital Day of Service to send in photos of your service! Service is not confined to one day but should be something that we all strive to do on a daily basis. Here is a snapshot of some of the service photos we received!

A few of our Knights of Columbus members spent their day of service at Habitat for Humanity.



The Sewing Ladies of Catholic Charities met to make afghans, hats and scarves to give to those in need.



Tim Miller collects a weekly donation from Chick-fil-A for the Gennesaret Homeless & Hunger Center.



Journey Women served one another through prayer and togetherness for our Digital Day of Service.



From left to right: Trish Goodin-Yard makes a soup visit with Monique Beauvais who is home recuperating. Bill Schnee bakes up a batch of cookies for the Cookie Ministry. Denise Fresh took St. Hilary to the ACCESS Women's Shelter shopping event.



From left to right: Gay Bisheimer visits and brings Holy Communion to her mother-in-law Betty. Angela and Eric Dublikar brought their family together to clean up their grandmother's house to prepare for winter.



From left to right: Gracie Kannan helped at the local library for Paws for Reading. The Hall family boxed poultry at the Akron-Canton Food Bank on our Digital Day of Service. Susie Straits visited with Rob Sharkey at St. Edwards.

SAVE THE DATE

The Feast of St. Hilary 2019



A Faithful Past...An Abundant Future
Celebrating 60 years of Vibrant Parish Life

Mass at 4:00 p.m.

All parishioners are invited to 4:00 p.m. Mass
on Saturday, January 12 with Celebrant Bishop Perez

Celebration of the Arts

Following Mass, parishioners may exit into the Gathering Area to view the parishioner art show. No RSVP is required. The art show is open to all parishioners at the following times:

Saturday, January 12 - 5-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 13 - 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Adult Celebration at St. Hilary School

The St. Hilary School main entrance doors will open at 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 12. This is a FREE event! Join us for cocktail party style food, drinks and festivities in the multipurpose room and Horning Hall from 5-9 p.m. Highlights will include a 7 p.m. blessing and talk by Bishop Perez, followed by parishioner artistic performances. The event will conclude with additional performances at 8:30 p.m. and a closing blessing from Fr. Brunovsky.

Parishioners must RSVP to attend the celebration at the school. Please call the parish office or register online at sthilarychurch.org/60thanniversary by January 4.



Finding the Best Fit for *Learning and Life*

By Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing & Admissions

With a comprehensive program that blends tradition and innovation in a faith-based, family-focused setting, it's no wonder St. Hilary School enrolls about 100 new students each year. Families consistently choose St. Hilary School, where from kindergarten through eighth grade, a Christ-centered mission to develop the future leaders of our world drives the preparation of students for success in high school and beyond. Here, the families of some of the school's newest students share how they found the best fit for learning and life at St. Hilary School.

Easing the Transition

The Brennan family had a tall order to fill in looking for a school that would provide a similar or better experience to what they had at their beloved previous parish school. With many factors to consider and several schools to choose from, the Brennans chose St. Hilary for eighth grader Sarah, sixth grader Lewis and third grader Maria. Phil Brennan explains, "My family recently relocated from Stow to Wadsworth, and considered three schools on the "west side" of town for the three youngest kids in our family. We were familiar with the community at St. Hilary, through close friendships with some of the families in the parish and through CYO sports. We loved our parish and school community at Holy Family in Stow, and had some genuine concerns about the transition to a new school and a new parish. From the very beginning, our interactions with the staff at the school were warm and genuine, taking interest in our specific story and trying to learn as much as possible about the kids to help ease their transition. The school was flexible and open to some less traditional requests, and took each of the kids on their individual merit. Our first impressions have carried through in our regular interaction with the faculty and staff...all of whom have been mindful of the specific needs of the kids, open to their unique gifts and personalities, and thoughtful and proactive as we deal with the little bumps on the road. St. Hilary is much bigger than Holy Family, but it still offers the personal touch and camaraderie of a smaller parish school. The kids have responded well to the warmth of this community. They are being challenged academically and their sense of curiosity is being fed by the plethora of extra-curricular activities available. We have high expectations that they will flourish spiritually, physically and intellectually in their time here."



Maria, Lewis and Sarah Brennan feel at home at their new school after relocating from Stow.

Looking for More

There were some specific things that attracted the Parasson family to St. Hilary School for their daughter, Katie, who joined the school's fourth grade class in August. Teri Parasson shares, "What drew us to St. Hilary were the variety of classes and activities available for the students. I'm glad Katie has the opportunity to learn based on her ability and to be challenged more as she progresses from grade to grade. While we loved her previous school, it was small and they couldn't offer those opportunities to their students."

Matt and Pam Setzekorn didn't set out to explore St. Hilary School for their children, but as they heard more about it, the school became an appealing alternative to their local public school. Pam explains how they came to decide that St. Hilary School would be a better option for sixth grader A.J. and third grader Phoebe. "We really didn't know a lot about St. Hilary, only hearing it mentioned at our parish, St. Victor," Pam says. "We weren't really considering St. Hilary until we saw a rapid decline in our local school system. So we started to talk to some friends about it and everyone had nothing but good



Phoebe and A.J. Setzekorn transferred to St. Hilary School in the fall of 2018. Their family appreciates the faith aspect the school provides.

things to say about the school. It wasn't until we toured the school that we knew it was the school we wanted for our children. On top of all the academic reasons, we were also looking forward to an atmosphere that a parochial school would provide. We were pleased to see it was affiliated with St. Victor, making it a manageable decision for our family. We are excited for all the additional opportunities that our children will have, in and out of the classroom. And both of our children were excited to come as well, making it an easier decision to change schools. We look forward to all the possibilities that St. Hilary can offer to our children."

Led by God

Dameka and Sherman Lee were in search of the ideal school for their daughter Arissa to begin her academic career, and did extensive research before landing at St. Hilary School. Dameka says, "As we prepared for Kindergarten, selecting a school where our daughter would be comfortable was most important to us. We had a strong desire to find a school where we felt the staff was understanding that all children are unique. After months of searching and interviewing schools, we thought we had found a school that could meet our needs, but our hearts were not settled. After a LOT of prayer, the Lord led us to St. Hilary. We initially contacted St. Hilary through email. The staff was very responsive and encouraged us to come visit. We were welcomed immediately during our first visit, and we could tell from our conversation that we had found a school that truly cares about its students. The staff was attentive, careful to answer all of our questions and did not rush us through our tour. Each teacher we met was engaging, knowledgeable and flexible. As we toured the school, we noticed the students' artwork throughout the hallways and could tell that each student was being treated as an individual. We even had the opportunity to witness first hand that the students were receiving the love and care that they deserve. After our visit, we sat in the parking lot to chat and, for the first time, we both had the same sentiments about the same school and were so thankful to God for His direction. We knew we had not just found a school, but a school community where the team would have our daughter's best interest at heart."



Kindergartener Arissa Lee's parents felt led by God to enroll her at St. Hilary School.

Time to Explore

If you would like your child to experience the benefits of a St. Hilary School education and find the best fit for learning and life, now is the perfect time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. Plan to attend the school's open house from 12 to 2 pm on January 27, 2019, or call 330-867-8720, ext. 343 to schedule a personal tour or shadow day. The faculty and staff of St. Hilary School look forward to providing your family and your child with the same wonderful experience these and hundreds of other St. Hilary families and students can attest to each day.



Art & Environment Ministry creates beautiful environment for worship

While many of us were engaged in Thanksgiving weekend festivities, the members of the Art and Environment Ministry were busy constructing the giant Advent wreath that hangs in church. Meeting in the old rectory garage, the ladies wound boughs of different types of greens on a metal frame that's over six feet in diameter, added several feet of fabric swags, then placed the purple and pink candles that mark the passage of spiritual preparation that is Advent.

In four short weeks, over the course of a day, this same ministry will convert our worship space from Advent to Christmas. That transformation remains a secret until parishioners walk in for Christmas Mass.

Transformation takes time

The banners, greenery, mini wreaths that adorn wall sconces, and table-scapes at the Market Street and parish office entrances take several weeks to prepare. Most members typically meet weekday mornings while those who hold full time jobs do their creative work in the evenings. "Everyone has their own niche," explained coordinator Pam Leeson. "That's why it works so well. It's like a well-oiled machine," she said.

Pam is a quilter and works mainly on banners with Debbie Allen. Debbie Wright and Linda O'Neil specialize in flower arranging. Jennifer Durbin, an interior designer by day, works wherever needed, but mostly on crafts such as the smaller wreaths and decorations for the processional cross. In all, about 10 members contribute their artistic talents.

'Being part of Art and Environment allows me to share those talents and glorify God.'

While the Christmas transformation is most evident, the members of Art and Environment work nearly year-round. Their creations are based on the colors of the liturgical seasons and the priests' vestments, said Pam who also consults the Sunday Scripture readings for inspiration. The group's work is firmly rooted in Catholic teaching.

As Pastor Fr. Steve Brunovsky explained, "As Catholic Christians, we believe in the Incarnation, or becoming human, of our God in Jesus Christ. Thus, the things of our

human life are good, and can help us in our pilgrimage of faith. Among these human things is the beauty of creation that we find in color, flowers, trees, the changing of season, and nature in general. Using these things to clothe the worship space during the seasons of the liturgy helps us to celebrate not only in words of prayer and in song, but also in what we see and observe.

"No one needs to guess what the two most important seasons of the church year are. You know it as you walk into the church that it is packed full of Christmas poinsettias or Easter lilies! The lighting of candles each week on the Advent wreath show in an experiential way our faith in anticipating the birth of Jesus who is the light of the world! The starkness of the worship space and the color purple in Lent give us a visual reminder that this is a time of penance and fasting. And finally, the color green and the placement of live green plants in Ordinary Time remind us that this is a time to grow in our faith," he said.

Creativity impacts faith

Not only do the church decorations impact the faith of the faithful, the work itself is transforming for those

who transform the space. “I really love art and love to sew and quilt. Being part of Art and Environment allows me to share those talents and glorify God,” said Pam.

For Debbie Wright, decorating for Easter in 2017 filled her with awe. “As a convert to the Catholic faith, I was deeply moved that morning when we stepped back and observed our work. I felt such a sense of community for the work our team had completed and I felt excitement for what would happen that night at the Vigil and Easter Sunday morning when other believers would be struck by the pureness and beauty and light contained there in the sanctuary. I truly felt we had captured the weight of mystery, awe, reverence, and wonder.

“It sounds like a lot of weight for a few white hydrangeas or a banner or two to bear, but these additions to our sanctuary point all of us toward prayer and praise. That is what A&E does for me with each change out. It constantly draws me back to the mystery being celebrated and to prayer and praise,” said Debbie.

Ministry fills a role

For others, being part of the ministry fills a specific role. “I feel what we do enhances people’s experience of being in church,” said Linda.



Fr. Steve is also a member of Art and Environment and takes the lead in setting up the nativity scene over the baptismal font.

The experience also fills a need for some members. According to Pat Ashbrook, “I enjoy making people feel happy and joyful when they look at something beautiful.”

Jennifer says her job is more technical than creative. Being part of Art and Environment enables her to exercise her creativity. “It made sense to use the talent God gave me and to make it a welcome and beautiful environment for our parishioners to use every day.” Her mother Judy Jansen is also part of the ministry.

For Katie McCarty, being part of Art and Environment gives her an outlet

to share her time and talent. “I like to be crafty and feel called to share my time in service, especially if I am not the one in charge,” she said. “I feel like there are probably many ministries that have a need for those with time to share and willingness to take direction to help glorify God. This ministry gives glory to God by creating a beautiful environment for our worship spaces and it’s an honor and privilege to play the small roll that I do,” Katie added.

Sharing time and talent

For many of the members, being part of Art and Environment has provided a unique learning opportunity. Said Katie Kapper, who helps with arrangements and banners, “I certainly have learned a lot of information on how the church celebrates over the last year from Debbie, Pam and the other members. I certainly look forward to learning more.

“The group takes pride in making the space reflect the different celebrations throughout the liturgical year,” Katie Kapper added. “I hope that the efforts of the committee help each parishioner feel more welcomed into the church as we come together as a family to celebrate each week,” she said.



From left to right: Judy Jansen, Jennifer Durbin (in back), Pam Leeson, Debbie Wright and Katie McCarty. Not pictured: Debbie Allen, Katie Kapper, Barb Greismer, Linda O’Neil, and Pat Ashbrook.

Advent & Christmas

Liturgical Schedule 2018

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, December 5, 12,
19 at 7 p.m. in the church

Communal Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 11, from
7-8:30 p.m. in the church

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Masses at the following times:
Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 8 at 7 & 9 a.m.

Gaudete Sunday Concert

Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m. in the church

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24
4 p.m. at St. Hilary and Faith Lutheran
6 p.m. at St. Hilary
10 p.m. at St. Hilary (music begins at 9:30
p.m.)

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25
9 & 11 a.m. at St. Hilary