

OUR FAMILY

STORIES FROM THE HEART OF ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

An Example of God's Love in John's "Secret Garden"

One of Rossford's best-kept secrets is the half-acre garden surrounding the Hannum Avenue home of All Saints parishioner John Vrablic. This beautiful garden is the result of over 25 years of effort by John. The garden contains over 1,000 varieties of plants, mostly conifers.

The genesis of the garden is a great example of family love and care. His grandparents purchased the home in 1914. John feels very blessed to have been able to spend his youth living with three generations of family in that house. Twenty-five years ago John was working as an over-the-road train engineer for CSX when his parents incurred serious health problems. He asked CSX to change his assignment to that of a train-yard engineer so he would not have to be away from home overnight. Because of his parents' health, John had to spend most of his spare time near the house. When he was a boy he did much work in the large vegetable and fruit tree garden in the back yard of the house, so when John

decided what to do with his spare time it was only natural to return to the soil.

Over time, John's garden has grown to fill almost every inch of the grounds around the house. John chose conifers as the base for his plantings because they require less intensive care and feeding than most plants. In addition to the plants, the garden is filled with statuary, weathered rocks (one of which weighs about 5,000 pounds), lime stone, several ponds and a bird bath gushing out of a millstone which dates back to the 1830's. A sidewalk makes the area handicap accessible. Because of the layout of the garden it has the feel of being much larger than a half acre.

Even though the garden is conifer-based there is a surprising variety of colors in it. Seasonal changes cause the plants to have color changes throughout the year. There are also many unusual plant shapes in the garden. Even though most of the space is

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All Saints Welcomes New Parishioners to Our Family

The following individuals joined All Saints Parish during the holy season of Lent.

- Scott Connell
- Justin Goulet
- Bridget Johnston
- Robert & Faith Marcinek
- John & Nicole Romstadt and Wyatt
- Christine Rupp
- Jonathan & Angela Weidner; Anika, Laila and Wyatt

Just as Jesus welcomed the disciples to His blessed supper, we welcome you to join us at the supper of the Lord.



All Saints parishioner John Vrablic stands in his half-acre garden. The garden contains over 1,000 varieties of plants, mostly conifers.

A Message From Our Pastor

Hopefully by the time you read this issue of *Our Family*, you will have found your copy of the *Parish Ministries Handbook and Directory* in the narthex of church. They arrived just this past week and we are eager for you to get your copy. Since postage would be costly, we hope that you will take the time before or after Mass to pick up your personal copy.

Just like this newsletter, the handbook and directory are the work of our Stewardship Council. The practice of stewardship means that our parish members are engaged in the life of the parish. The Stewardship Council seeks to match the gifts and talents of parish members with the ministries where they can best be utilized in our parish community.

Indeed, it is part of our Christian discipleship to be generous in the way we serve the larger community. At Easter, I confirmed seven adults in the Catholic Faith. Now, with help of the Holy Spirit they will discern a way to put their gifts at the service of our parish.

On April 21, thirty-five eighth graders from our parish were confirmed in their faith by Bishop Blair at Rosary

Cathedral. The service projects they achieved in preparation for the sacrament were really just the beginning of how they can offer back to the Lord their time, talent, and treasure—for the rest of their lives.

Take time in this springtime of the year to look through the more than forty different ministries listed and described in the new handbook. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in finding one that is a good fit—for you and the parish.

Recently, we added up the number of hours that are needed for bingo each week. The total hours are 87.5. With 44 weekly bingos in the course of the year, that comes to 3,850 hours annually. When taking the average profit these past few years (\$60,000) we discover that when you work one hour of bingo, you earn \$15.50 for the parish. Not too bad!

Whether you are creating prayer blankets, helping with the food pantry, proclaiming God's Word as a lector at Mass, or chairing a booth at the festival, your time is precious and truly a gift for the Lord.



Reverend Kent Kaufman is pictured here holding Ellie Pesci, (daughter of Joseph and Julie Pesci) following her Baptism in August 2011.

As we celebrate in this Eastertide, the Lord's gift to us of forgiveness, redemption, and life eternal, consider carefully and prayerfully how your gift of time, talent, and treasure will be a fitting return to the Lord.



All Saints 2012 Reverse Raffle a Success!

There was a bit 'o luck in the air in the McAlear Center on St. Patrick's Day this year. That was the venue for the 2nd All Saints Reverse Raffle which raised over \$21,000! Guests had a choice of a jigs dinner or chicken for an entree, along with snacks, beverages and desserts. In addition to the raffle and food, several side board bets, Chinese and silent auctions and the ever-popular horse race rounded out the evening. The owners of the last 5 tickets agreed to split the grand prize with each ticket holder winning \$955.

Special thanks to the 2012 Reverse Raffle team (top photo) and to the All Saints community for supporting this event. Pictured in the photo at the bottom are the lucky winners with well wishers (from left to right): Marty Szczublewski (Raffle Team), Rita and Mike Ward, John Strzelecki, Connie Hartle (friend of raffle winners), Keith Aschemeier, and David Sullivan. Missing from the photo is winner Wanda Schick.

We are looking forward to next year!

Seven are Welcomed Into Our Parish at Easter Vigil



Seven new members were welcomed into the All Saints Catholic community following the Easter Vigil Mass. Pictured above from left to right are (back row) Joe Caig, Christopher Smith, Devon Fryman and Cassandra Sarabia; (front row) Emily Koebel, Christine Rupp and Carly Hollerbach. May the All Saints Catholic community continue to support these neophytes with prayer and encouragement during the coming year.

Did you know that All Saints Pastoral Council adopted values following the Parish Mission Statement revision in May 2010? These words are intended to enhance the vision for our parish and guide us as we strive daily to walk with Christ. Our All Saints Parish values are:

Did You Know?

COMPASSION
HUMILITY
JOYFULNESS
REVERENCE

Our values, along with the Parish Mission Statement now grace the walls of the Church narthex. Take a moment to ponder how these values and the Parish Mission Statement can be put into action in the various ministries and activities at All Saints.

PREP Program Cultivates Faith Formation

Since the theme of this issue is spirituality, it seemed only fitting to interview Judy Joldrichsen, the person responsible for coordinating the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) for 100 young students in our parish.

I met Judy a few weeks back in the foyer of All Saints Catholic School where she was greeting the students arriving for class. When I mentioned that she must be pretty spiritually motivated to give up 26 Sunday mornings for the PREP program, Judy was quick to point out the real tribute goes to the 13 catechists who teach the classes. "I am blessed to have a team of very faithful, dedicated individuals committed to teaching these children about their faith," said Judy. She notes that in a few classes the teaching is shared between two or three catechists, which allows for more flexibility in their personal calendars. There are also two All Saints' teens who serve as teacher's aides in the PREP program.

Judy is an active member of Sacred Heart Parish, where she, her mother and her grandfather were all baptized. She has worked for Mercy Healthcare System for 34 years and is proud to be an Associate of the Sisters of Notre Dame. After graduating from the Diocesan Ministry Formation program in 1995, Judy taught 8th grade religious education classes at Sacred Heart for many years, and was the coordinator of religious education at Good Shepherd Church before coming to All Saints last year. During the past year, she has done a lot of observing and learning about the program here. She hopes to implement some new ideas and would like to increase enrollment next year. Judy says she has a genuine

concern for children who do not actively participate in their faith. She said, "Growing up in a large family where our activities revolved around the Church really enriched my life and gave me a deep understanding of my faith."

"Sign-up" for next year's PREP program is currently underway. Registration forms are available in the magazine rack in the Church narthex or on the home page of our Web site. A reduced fee is available if you register before May 31st.

Judy hopes to gain catechists and aides for next year, too. If you have an interest in becoming involved, contact her through the Parish Office. Our sincere thanks to Judy Joldrichsen and the 2011-2012 PREP catechists for their deep commitment to this program: Sue Krasniewski, Renee and Rob Timbrook, Kathy Brown, John McKinney, Angela Jackson, Alice Parisi, Lisa Kolb, Sue Taylor, Angie and Doug Oakley, Allan Cruz and Cathleen Voyles-Baden.



Judy Joldrichsen is the Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator at All Saints.

All Saints Franciscan Garden Nurtures a Sense of Community

The All Saints Franciscan Garden is beginning to sprout. Like seeds planted, the garden needs cultivation and care.

Starting in the autumn of 2011 the Garden Team took on the challenge of building a garden. Here at All Saints we are blessed with land. Using the property to its full potential was an early priority for the team. The size and scope of the Garden took on many forms, but ultimately the Team decided to focus on a vegetable garden located on the north side of the school. The Team is planning on using recycled, sustainable materials in the construction of the Garden, while using rain water harvested from the roof to provide water for the crops.

An integration of the school and parish was vital to the formation of the Garden Team. Members include Father Kent Kaufman, John Arnold, Mark Bruning, Jeff Eberly, Susan Grod, and Rob Timbrook. It is our students, parish pantry and church community that will see the benefits of the Team's work. When we teach a child to grow food, we can help to feed the world. When we can feed the hungry, we fill them with hope. When we work as a community, we grow stronger than by standing alone.

The logistics of school being in session prompted the Garden Team to target early June for a start date on building the All Saints Franciscan Garden. The Team decided to capture this planting season by building a Transitional Garden. The Team used reclaimed planter boxes to construct the garden with the help of students, former students, teachers, parents and parishioners. On April 9th

the Transitional Garden was assembled and fenced in. It is located near the school cafeteria.

One of the first things the Garden Team worked on was the mission statement: The All Saints Franciscan Garden will offer a multitude of benefits for our school and parish community. It will provide fresh produce for our outreach ministries; opportunities in earth literacy and stewardship; an experience of physical as well as spiritual renewal; and a deeper sense of community.

These ideals have guided the Garden Team during the decision making process, and continue to light their way as ground breaking soon approaches.

Rob Timbrook and Susan Grod work on the transitional garden in back of All Saints Catholic School.



Secret Garden

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full, John is constantly replacing plants so the garden is ever-changing. Size varies from forty-foot-tall spruce trees to a one-foot-tall ten-year-old dwarf tree that is still growing.

John designed the garden to minimize maintenance, but it still requires a lot



of attention. For instance, weed control and fertilization is accomplished by using 1,000 bags a year of cut pine needles shipped in from Georgia. John spreads these by hand and it takes about ten weeks to do so. He also spends much time pruning and removing dead needles from plants by hand.

After living into their nineties, John's parents have now passed away. Since he started the garden as a part of his dedication to caring for them he's been asked if their deaths might lessen his interest in the garden. He answers that he

also cares for Rossford and considers the garden his contribution to adding to the pride of his city. He summed up his feelings by pointing to a stone in the garden which is inscribed "Carpe diem"—seize the day.

On The Cover: The photo on the front page, under the words "Our Family," was taken during a special Lenten series on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Other special Lenten activities included Stations of the Cross, the Awakening Faith series, a concert by Masterworks Chorale, the Catholicism series and our Parish Penance Service.

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Area Artist Created the Holy Family Statue and Cross for All Saints

The interior of our church is blessed with some wonderful ecclesiastical works of art created by very talented artisans. The purpose of this article is to discuss two of these works, the processional cross located behind the altar and the Holy Family statue located in the back of church near the confessional. Both of these items were carved by Michael R. Kapetan, a master wood carver, at his studio in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Kapetan has received many professional and academic honors including being an artist in residence at the Washington National Cathedral.

The processional cross was carved in 2002 and was in place when All Saints Church was dedicated in April 2002. The figure of Christ is carved from basswood. The processional cross is made from walnut, as is the larger cross on which it hangs behind the altar. The processional cross is sized large enough to be a presence behind the altar but small enough to be carried in processions on special occasions. The feeling Mr. Kapetan tried to convey is Christ at peace in death after suffering pain and anguish.

The Holy Family statue was installed in our church in 2003. It is carved from butternut wood and is approximately two-thirds life size. The pedestal is walnut wood. It also was carved by Mr. Kapetan in his studio in Ann Arbor. The placement of the statue at the rear of an aisle facing the altar amplifies the feeling of the young Jesus leaving his parents and willingly striding toward the altar and the cross in order to redeem mankind. Mary and Joseph stand, arm in arm, resolutely watching their son leave home to fulfill his fate.



Michael R. Kapetan, a master wood carver, is pictured here working on the Holy Family statue in his studio in Ann Arbor.

The usual portrayal of the Holy Family includes a much younger Jesus, often a baby in a manger. Mr. Kapetan's intent was to capture a much different moment in family life but one common to most families. He has titled his work "First Farewell" and expressed his feeling in the poem on a plaque located on the wall behind the statue. The poem reads as follows.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 Hand-chosen by God to redeem mankind.
 The Son begotten by the Father before all ages.
 The Mother of God blessed among women.
 The betrothed father
 called to his mission by an angel.

The Holy Family
 set apart from all others for all time.
 Breathtakingly extraordinary and yet
 also somehow perfectly familiar.
 Acting a scene enacted and reenacted
 endlessly through the ages—
 Forever before and forever hence.
 Parents bid their child his first farewell.

Shoulders squared, face upward, step springing,
 young Jesus takes the first small measure of his path.
 Gently embracing, standing steadfastly
 behind him, alone together,
 Mary and Joseph let him go on his way.
 The final moments of raising a child.
 The first moments of becoming adult.
 The end of the long years through infancy 'til now.

Like families everywhere
 all parents witness to their children's lives.
 All children attest to their parents' lives.
 Leaving the kinship of family.
 Joining the kinship of humanity.
 The Holy Family.
 Brilliant mirror reflecting and magnifying
 the holiness of Family.

The spirituality of our All Saints family is certainly enhanced by the presence of the processional cross and the Holy Family statue. Please take the time the next time you are in church to reflect on and enjoy these two wonderful pieces of ecclesiastical art.

Parish Calendar

Mass is celebrated every weekday at 8:15 a.m.
 Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.;
 Sundays at 8:30 & 11 a.m.

MAY

- 1 & 15 Knitting Group, 6 p.m.
- 1 & 8 Money Matters Discussions, 7 p.m.
- 10 Senior Ministry Field trip
- 17 Kindergarten screening (pre-arranged with School)
- 20 K of C Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m.
- 20 Senior Graduation Mass, 11 a.m.
- 21 Show Them We Care, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Rossford High School Baccalaureate 7 p.m.

JUNE

- 1 All Saints Eighth Grade Graduation Mass, 7 p.m.
- 15 Life Line Screening
- 16 All Saints Golf Outing, 9 a.m., Whiteford Valley
- 25 Show Them We Care, 6:30 p.m.

JULY

- 12-14 Rummage Sale
- 23 Show Them We Care, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 & 28 All Saints Festival



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Confirmation Candidates Make a Difference with Service Projects

Students preparing for Confirmation are asked to perform ten hours of service which reflect the Corporal Works of Mercy. *Our Family* asked the following students to describe their service project and indicate the impact it had on their lives. The students were confirmed on Saturday, April 21st at the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral.



Collin Bohland worked at St. Paul's Community Center serving food at Thanksgiving. Collin said talking to the people made him realize how blessed he is and how something that means so little to him means so much to others.

Megan Orzechowski worked at the food pantry in Perrysburg packaging bags of food to give to the needy. She also helped with the Giving Tree. Megan said it made her feel good to know she was helping people by giving her time to the community.



Mackenzie Moore & Rachel Zabick both chose to volunteer at the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home because they liked helping elderly people. They helped prepare and serve meals and joined the residents for Bingo. Mackenzie said it was fun helping and it gave her a sense of satisfaction. Rachel said she felt good making the residents happy.

Kathleen Hermes was involved in helping serve food at St. Paul's Community Center, sorting gifts for the Giving Tree, and cleaning up after the Chicken Paprikas dinner. Kathleen believes these experiences helped her to better understand what she learned going through confirmation preparation and showed how it can be used in everyday life.

