

S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens
Saint Mary's Parish Iowa City, Iowa

September 2011

Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>

Dear Friends,

A priest in a country parish got word that one of his parishioners was going about announcing to people that he no longer attended Mass. This rebellious parishioner was advancing the familiar argument that he could, "*communicate with God just as easily out in the fields - with the natural setting being his place of worship.*"

One fall evening, the priest went to visit the man for some friendly conversation. The two men sat before the fireplace making small talk, but avoiding the issue of Mass attendance.

After some time, the priest took the tongs from the rack next to the fireplace and pulled a single coal from the fire. He placed the glowing coal on the hearth.

The two men watched as the coal quickly ceased burning and turned an ashen gray, while the other coals in the fire continued to burn brightly.

No words were spoken.
The parishioner was at Mass the next weekend.

See you at Mass...

Patti McTaggart

Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...

The Third Commandment



Sing a New Song Unto the Lord...

Do you like to sing?

Would you like to share your gift of music

(given to you by God) with others?

The St. Mary's Choir would LOVE to have you!

All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome!

**Rehearsals are on Wed. evenings from 6-7PM (beginning Sept. 7th)
in the balcony of the church.**

***The choir sings both contemporary and traditional hymns of the Church
and the music is beautiful. Come join in the fun!***



THANKS SO MUCH!

A HUGE "Thank You" to all the youth and adults who:

- 1) cleaned and polished the pews in the church
- 2) helped prepare Free Lunch

Your helpful hands and smiles were definitely appreciated by all! ☺ ☺



2011-2012 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

A Confirmation Information meeting will be held
for all St. Mary's youth in grades 9-12 who would like to receive
the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2012 on

Tuesday, September 13th, 2011

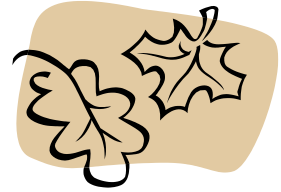
at 7:00PM in the church.

At least one parent must also attend this meeting.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on

Sunday, February at 2:00PM

SEPTEMBER



1st	Holy Hour for vocations	7:00PM in the church
13 th	Confirmation Meeting for 2011-2012 for Confirmation candidates and their parents.	7:00PM in the church.
15 th	Youth make casseroles for Free Lunch	5-6PM in the parish hall.
18 th	Youth Bible Study	7PM in the parish hall



DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? On the third Thursday of every month, join other youth from each high school and junior high as we collaborate together in St. Mary's parish hall and make four casseroles for the Free Lunch program. This month's "cooking class" will take place on Thursday, September 15th from 5:00-6:00PM. The casseroles created will be served the next day, Friday September 16th, at the Free Lunch program. All youth are invited to participate!!

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TEEN BIBLE STUDY GROUP
For Junior High and High School Youth

WHEN: Sunday, September 18th, 2011
 7PM-8PM in St. Mary's Parish Hall

Come join in the FOOD and FUN of learning more about the Bible!!!

You won't be disappointed!



All youth interested in becoming ministers in the parish!
 Would you like to become one of the following ministers?

Minister of Hospitality (greeter/usher)

Lector/Reader

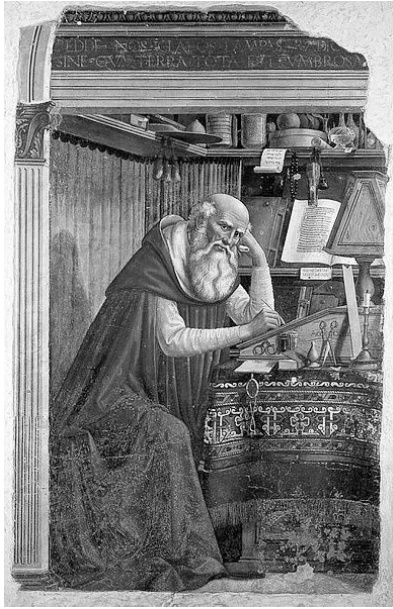
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (must be confirmed)

An evening of ministry training will take place in September/October. Watch the SMART News and parish bulletins for ministry and parish commission sign-up opportunities!

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By: Joseph Malanson

Junior, West High School



St. Jerome (Feast Day September 30) – St. Jerome was born in Stridon (modern day Croatia or Slovenia) and given the name Sophronius Eusebius Hieronymus in 347 A.D. Around 360 A.D., he traveled to Rome to study and there learned Latin, some classical Greek, and philosophy. While in Rome, he engaged in numerous shameful activities, and later he engaged in many acts of repentance. Some of those included entering the Roman catacombs to remind himself what awaited sinners in hell. After several years in Rome, he settled in Gaul and started pursuing his interest in theology and met many other Christians.

In 373 A.D., St. Jerome left Gaul with some friends and set out for Thrace and Asia Minor all the way into northern Syria where they reached Antioch. There, a couple of his friends died, and St. Jerome himself became gravely ill several times. During one of these sicknesses he received a vision that caused him to lay aside his secular studies and devote his life to God. He started reading the classics and studying all parts of the Bible.

Suddenly, he was consumed with a desire for penance and went into a desert not far from Antioch and became a hermit. He still found time to translate some parts of the Hebrew bible into Greek.

The next years of life were marked by travel, as he returned to Antioch only to be ordained by the bishop of that city. He then went to Constantinople and afterwards to Rome, studying scripture some of the time and aiding the Pope in doctrinal issues. He soon became an indispensable part of Church councils. Jerome also began to write a new Latin translation of the Bible, based off the New Greek translation, which would eventually become the Vulgate. He heavily depended on the patronage of Pope Damasus and his friendships with several prominent, well-educated women. From his position he attacked the secular clergy and their supporters, angering many.

After the death of Pope Damasus, he left hostile Rome to return to Antioch in 385. St. Jerome and some of his followers then went on a pilgrimage into the Holy Land, visiting among other places Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Egypt. In 388, he settled down in a hermit's cell near Bethlehem and stayed there for the remainder of his life. He lived with a few friends and served as their spiritual advisor. For the last 34 years of his life, he wrote and translated extensively. Some of his most famous works include scriptural commentaries, his version of the Old Testament, a dialogue against the heretical Pelagians and works of history.

St. Jerome died in September 30th, 420 A.D. in Bethlehem at the age of 73. His remains were originally buried in Bethlehem but now are said to lie in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. He is one of the four Latin Doctors of the Church and is often pictured with symbols of wisdom and scholarship.



WELCOME, FR. BEYER!

My name is Fr. Rick Beyer and I grew up in a small city on the Mississippi River called Burlington. After high school I went to college here in Iowa City, where I made friends and learned all about books and writing stories for the newspaper. Later I went to a school for priests called a seminary, where they teach you all about God and the Bible, how to say Mass and hear confessions, and lots of other things.

When I became a priest in 1981, I worked in several churches like St. Mary's until the Bishop asked me to look after the sick people at Mercy Hospital in Davenport. Since I liked to do this, I was later sent to help sick soldiers in what is called a "Veterans Hospital" (in Texas) for soldiers who have left the army, but still have injuries or various illnesses. Some of them fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, others in the Viet Nam War and even World War II, which ended in 1945.

All the veterans are brave men and women who gave part of their lives to serve America – not only on the battlefield but also in all kinds of jobs like cooks, mechanics, firefighters, and doctors, which are all needed in what we call the "military services, which include the army, navy, air force, and coast guard. Their main job is to keep us safe from foreign enemies who want to hurt us. Because they care so much for us, it is a good thing to pray for them, especially those who were wounded or died in battle. We also have two special holidays to honor them: Veterans' Day and Memorial Day.

After many years at the Veterans hospital, I recently came back to Iowa from Texas so I could be closer to my family and friends. My sister Pat and her family live in the countryside near Iowa City. I am very happy to be at St. Mary's. I look forward to meeting you and I promise to pray for you every day.

God bless you,
Fr. Rick