

# Spring NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Pastor Announced** ..... 1

**Administration** .....2-3

Stewardship.....2

Communications.....2

Building and Grounds.....3

**Social Justice**.....4-6

Pro-Life Events.....4

Second Sunday Feature.....4

Emergency Resource List.....insert

Loaves & Fishes.....5

Our Lady of the Angels.....5

Teresa Toda Home.....6

VEAP Garden.....6

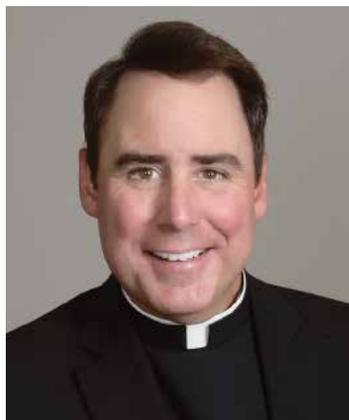
**Ministry Highlights** .....7

Faith Formation.....7

Pastoral Care.....7

Worship.....7

Community Life.....7



## Pastor Announced

**Fr. Rick Banker will become the pastor of St. Edward effective July 1, 2018. The following article was submitted by Fr. Banker as he looks back at his history with St. Edward:**

### **GREAT MEMORIES OF LIFE AND MINISTRY AT ST. EDWARD**

Someone remarked to me the other day that it must be pretty extraordinary to be going back to the same parish where your ministry as a priest began 30 years ago. I agreed, and followed up with, “Gosh, if I could just get Fr. Marty to come back and be my “Senior” Associate, then it really would be full circle!” As I think about how excited I am to be coming back to St. Edward I can’t help but think of some of my favorite memories.

One of the first things I remember was all the fun we had. I think about all the parish parties and special gatherings, and the annual Children’s “All Saints Mass” where the whole ministry staff would dress up and help put on the party afterwards. One Halloween, when Fr. Marty went up to his cabin for a couple of days, the youth group and I turned the Rectory into a haunted house—complete with cobwebs, scary music and a dummy of a dead priest in the back bedroom. I also remember the time the youth leaders (myself included) got the group temporarily lost in the Boundary Waters and eased the tension by doing bits from Monty Python. I think about all the plays and skits we did and the atmosphere of joy in just being together as community.

In addition to the fun we had, I look back and see the ways the pastoral experience at St. Edward helped me to become the priest I am today. I think about the skills I learned from Fr. Marty and the lay leadership—including the consensus decision-making process and the philosophy of Stewardship and Sacrificial Giving. I was so proud when St. Edward began

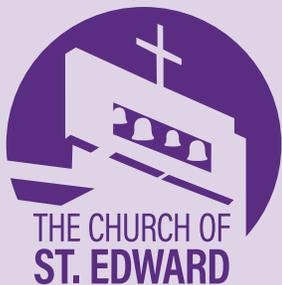
*Great Memories...continued on page 7*



*Fr. Rick and youth leaders getting lost in the BWCA*



*Fr. Rick meeting the President of Nicaragua during a visit to our Sister Parish in Jinotega.*



# Administration

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is about how we manage the resources entrusted to us by God for the benefit of all God's creation. Our understanding of stewardship begins with the acknowledgement that everything we have is a gift from God. If we think, "what I have I got through my own hard work," then we must remember that the ability to work hard is a gift from God. So, all is God's and is given into the care of us human beings for a short time. For the benefit of all creation, taking care of all creation, starts with taking care of ourselves. It is okay that we take good care of ourselves so long as our stewardship of God's gifts doesn't stop there. We must also be generous in our care for others.

St. Edward celebrated our annual Stewardship Renewal in October. This included a Ministry Fair weekend, a Second Sunday presentation on planning to leave a legacy, and Commitment Weekend. The homily on Commitment Weekend featured the stories of a number of parishioners who told about how St. Edward is of particular value in their lives. Many parishioners brought forward their intention cards, by which they renewed their financial support of the parish for the year ahead. The majority of regular contributors to the church returned completed intention cards. Many marked their cards with an increase in their giving. Both the number of cards returned and the total dollar amount of increase in intentions was greater than in the previous year's renewal. Thank you to all who participated!

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In January we mailed out a summary of the renewal results. Since then we have continued to receive intention cards. If you have not yet completed an intention card, *it is not too late*. You may contact the parish office to get a card. While the majority of contributors have completed an intention card, a sizeable minority has not. Also, some who receive this newsletter, and are therefore on the list of members of this parish, have made no financial contribution to the parish. The stewardship committee desires to understand why some do not participate in the financial support of the church. If you have any thoughts about this that you would like to share, please contact me at (612) 269-0478, or email me at [bfranke67@gmail.com](mailto:bfranke67@gmail.com).

This year, the stewardship committee is also working on a program to help parishioners in their legacy planning. Leaving a legacy is about how you will be remembered after you have passed away. How will you pass on that which has been given into your stewardship during your lifetime? We hope that you will include St. Edward's in your beneficiary designation of your retirement plan or IRA, or in your will. We are also in the process of establishing a St. Edward's Endowment Fund as an option for parishioners to consider when they are doing their planning. The committee is actively seeking one or more estate planning professionals to supplement our efforts in legacy planning. If this is your area of expertise, please contact me.

Bill Franke, *Stewardship Committee Chairperson*

## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

There have been some changes in the last six months in the communications area. The first was my being hired as the full-time Director of Communications last October.

Another significant change that took place at the beginning of this year was the refresh of the parish website. This was a project that took many hours of work behind the scenes, culminating with the official launch at the end of January.

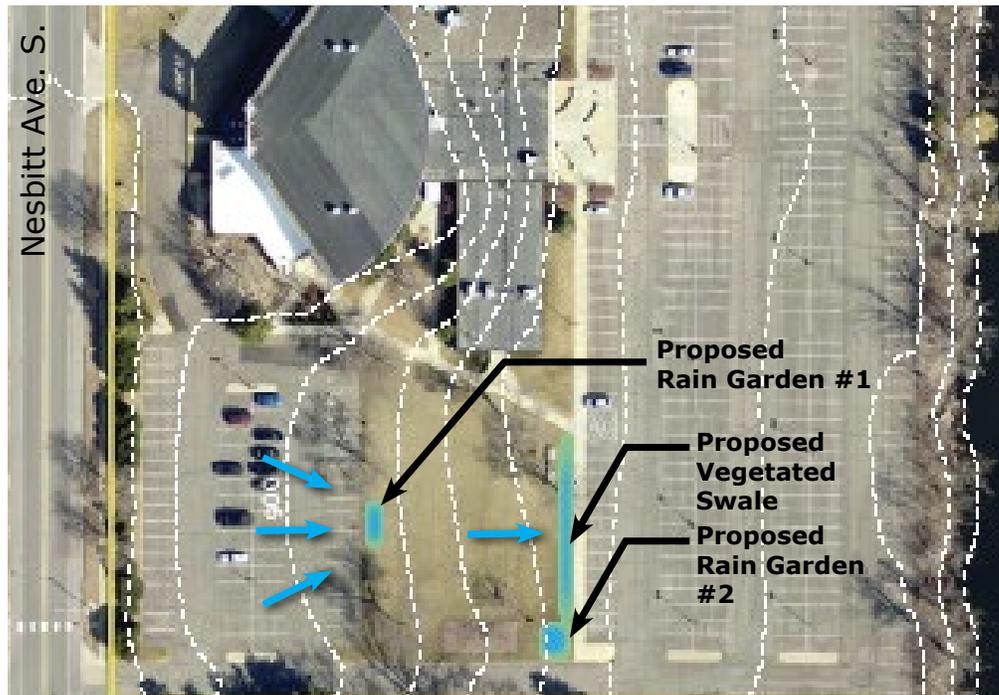
My current focus is getting the newsletters back on schedule, and keeping up with social media. Currently I am placing the majority of my attention on our Facebook page, which

currently has about 200 followers. Our parish-wide Instagram page, with less than 20 followers, is currently in a state of limbo as I research other options that may be better suited to our parishioners' wants and needs. The youth Instagram page, which is popular with both parents and parish youth, will continue to be a resource for faith formation information.

If you have any comments or questions regarding parish communications please email [cmorris@stedwardschurch.org](mailto:cmorris@stedwardschurch.org) or give me a call at 952-835-7101 ext. 201.

Celeste Morris, *Director of Communications*

## Buildings and Grounds: COMING SPRING OF 2019



*Aerial view of our grounds indicating where the proposed rain gardens and swale will be located.*

*Examples of the types of vegetation planned.*

This past fall The Church of St. Edward was approached by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD). They have a Clean Water Legacy Fund grant to work with local nonprofits to reduce the amount of polluted runoff reaching local water bodies. They have determined that St. Edward's property is a good location to install a stormwater best management practice (BMP). These BMPs are things like rain gardens that capture polluted runoff. The runoff soaks into the ground and is gone within 24-48 hours. Most BMPs can be planted with plants that attract birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. The NMCWD has proposed an upper rain garden and a lower vegetated swale that will flow into another rain garden. (A swale is a shallow depression that would convey water to the lower rain garden and soak some of it in along the way.) The upper rain garden would be in the area just below the upper parking lot and a swale with a second rain garden at the area adjacent to the lower parking lot sidewalk. The placement of the rain gardens and swale will not interfere with the VEAP Garden and labyrinth. The NMCWD has met with Administration and the Buildings and Grounds committee. The committee in turn has brought this information to the Administration Commission and Parish Council along with information presented to the Finance Council.

The role of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is to administer Clean Water grant funds for projects that will intercept, treat, and infiltrate runoff at prioritized sites within the District; provide technical consultation through Barr Engineering, which includes project design and construction oversight; coordinate contract bid documents and award project to qualified contractor; coordinate educational and stewardship activities; cover 100% of eligible project expenses; and provide two years of maintenance through a hired contractor.

St. Edward's role is to coordinate with the NMCWD and Barr Engineering on project design; complete NMCWD's grant agreement and commit to project maintenance for 15 years; review contract documents before project begins; work with NMCWD staff to ensure proper maintenance of best management practice; engage in education and stewardship efforts related to water quality with NMCWD help.

The Administration, Administration Commission including Buildings and Grounds, Finance Council, and Parish Council are excited by the project and have given the go ahead. We are pleased to have been considered for this project. Watch for more information.

# Social Justice



*Top: Author, speaker and director of ProLife Across America Mary Ann Kuharski, second from left, answers questions from parishioners after Mass on January 27.*

*Bottom: The Loras College Jazz Band and Choir members performed about 15 songs to an appreciative audience.*

## PRO-LIFE EVENTS

The Church of St. Edward is proud to support pro-life speakers and events each year. Recently Mary Ann Kuharski, from ProLife Across America, spoke at the January 27-28 weekend Masses. Parishioners donated \$1,303 for ProLife Across America after the masses.

The Church of St. Edward hosted the Loras College Jazz Band and Choir for an evening of music on Friday, January 12. The Social Justice commission collected a free-will offering to benefit crisis pregnancy support centers. The collection of \$1,114.00 was split evenly between Northside Pregnancy Options and Tandem Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Crisis pregnancy support centers provide practical, life-saving services to women facing the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy. They offer free pregnancy tests, counseling from trained professionals, medical referrals, information about government assistance, temporary shelter, and adoption information. The objective is to ensure that every woman has access to the resources she needs in order to continue her pregnancy and support her child, without sacrificing her own hopes and dreams.

Pro-life and pro-family organizations we continue to support:

- Tandem  
4105 Chicago Avenue South, Mpls, MN 55407, 612-823-0301
- Northside Pregnancy Options  
4367 Thomas Avenue N., Mpls, MN 55412, 612-522-6589
- Birthright of Minneapolis  
825 Nicollet Mall, Suite 702, Mpls, MN 55402, 612-338-2353

There will be a fund raiser on Mother's Day during the weekend Masses where parishioners will be able to support these wonderful organizations. Watch the bulletin for details.

## SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKERS

On February 11, the Social Justice Commission was given the opportunity to provide speakers for the Second Sunday Speaker time after the 10:30am Mass. We had representatives from VEAP, Bridging, and Meals on Wheels present to a crowd of about 40 parishioners. The representatives shared what the local organizations are doing, how our parishioners have been a valuable part of their volunteer staff for years, and how we can continue to help promoting and volunteering with their programs.

Attendees felt that it was a good paring of organizations all helping serve the poor and vulnerable in our midst.

## EMERGENCY RESOURCE LIST

If someone came to you and said that they were in a crisis and needed help, would you know where to refer them? Do you know the resources that are available in your own community that can help with feeding their family, finding a shelter to spend the night in, finding financial help, finding a job, getting free medical care or mental health care, fixing their car, or getting a prescription filled?

We have compiled a list of local human service organizations and included it with this newsletter. Keep this list handy, on your bulletin board, taped to the inside of a cupboard, or tucked in the back of your address book. It could be a life saver for someone you know in the future.

# Social Justice

## LOAVES AND FISHES

The Church of St. Edward participates in the Loaves and Fishes ministry in two locations on two different days each month. There are two shifts on each day, the 3:00 to 5:00pm food preparation team, and the 5:00 to 7:00pm serving team.

On the first Tuesday of the month, teams prepare and serve meals at St. Stephan's Church in Minneapolis. If you are interested in volunteering at St. Stephan's Loaves and Fishes, please contact Les or Sue Koob at (952) 943-8519.

On the fourth Thursday of the month, teams prepare and serve meals at Creekside Community Center in Bloomington. If you are interested in volunteering with one of these teams, please contact Jerry Ehlers at (651) 459-6022.



*Volunteers gathered in the kitchen at St. Stephan's this past November.*



*Top: A rustic two-room house is home to eleven members of the Herrera Espinosa family, a pig, and two ducks.*

*Bottom: ALEN GREGARIO PEREZ, five, holds a bag of MannaPack Rice®, supplied by FMSC to some of the neediest families.*

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH IN NICARAGUA

Our sister community relationship with Our Lady of the Angels in Jinotega, Nicaragua is vibrant, active, and interactive. The Church of St. Edward supports, affirms, and encourages the good work that is being done at their parish. Because we can never eliminate their poverty, we give what we can to help them accomplish their goals—sometimes with monetary donations, and other times with volunteers from our parish working alongside people from their own community. In return they pray for us and we have come to know them as people of great faith even within circumstances of extreme poverty.

This year, several members of the St. Edward's youth group will be traveling down to Nicaragua to experience this for themselves. Patrick Smalley, the Director of Youth and Adult Ministry, and Sue Kellett, the sister community organizer, will be bringing 11 students and 4 chaperones to Nicaragua. They will be there from July 26-August 6, for a total of 12 days, including two travel days. At this time it sounds like they will be working on building a new chapel in one of the rural areas around Jinotega.

In preparation for the life-changing trip, the participants are having weekly discussions to prepare them spiritually and emotionally for the experience. Some of the questions they are discussing in preparation include: *What is "mission"? What is my "mission" for this trip? What spiritual and physical "tools" do we need, and what do we already have in order to carry out these projects? How do we reach out and trust God when we feel lost?* These experiences change the way we speak about others and other parts of the world. How does the way we speak about our own culture influence others and ourselves?

**Would you like to become more involved with this sister community relationship?**

If so, annual trips are made to Nicaragua, and more than 70 people have traveled from our parish to Nicaragua over the years. Some are so moved by the experience they have made the trip four or five times. Many are looking for a way to share our common bond of faith, encounter a new culture, or to travel to see firsthand how our contributions and projects are changing lives. Undoubtedly, all will come back knowing that they have been the ones who have received the blessings and their lives are changed forever. Please contact the parish office for more information about our sister community in Nicaragua.

# Social Justice

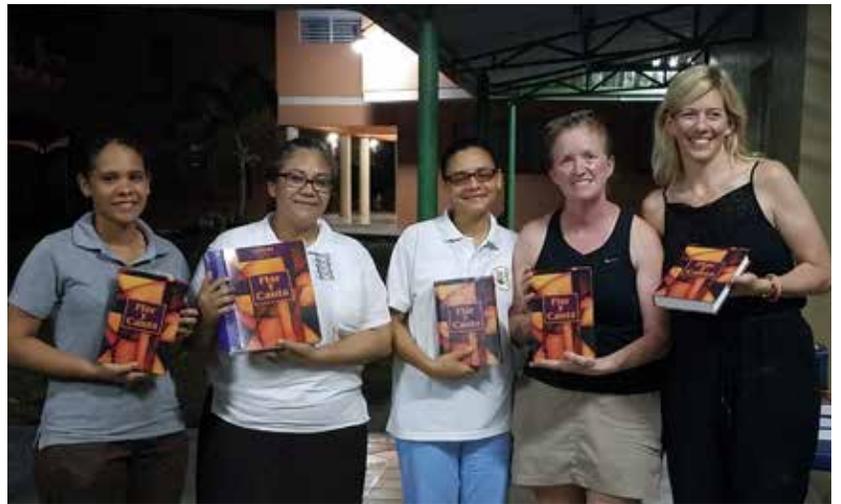
## TERESA TODA HOME FOR GIRLS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Teresa Toda is a home run by Carmelite Sisters for very poor girls. The home was started to help girls learn values and skills so they can realize their dreams despite their economic conditions during the school year, the girls live at the home, visiting their families monthly to maintain relationships with their extended family and their neighborhood. During the summer, the girls live with their families; however the Carmelite Sisters found that the summer away from school was too long. The girls would return with many poverty related maladies like malnourishment, skin diseases, sores, and lost academic progress they had made over the school year. "Campamento" was started so the sisters could check in with the girls midway through the summer, conduct a health check, and supply nutritional basics. Because the sisters wanted campamento to be a special event for the girls, our parish became involved.

Since 2002, the Church of St. Edward has sent two groups of women, ages 15 and older, to the Teresa Toda home for two weeks in July. These volunteers bring supplies, and run a vacation bible school type of camp for the girls. . The camp is 100% volunteer run, and supported by the Church of St. Edward in financial and material ways. Travelers are responsible for their own travel expenses.

This year, the mission group will travel the weeks of July 7-15, and July 14-22 and bring down 18-19 volunteers divided between the two weeks.

At camp, the girls from Teresa Toda are provided with values and companionship that can't come from financial donations alone. They study the Bible, sing, dance, make crafts, explore science and engineering, learn math, and English, and build community. Travelers enjoy unique experiences and a break from their daily routine which helps them gain a new, and maybe even a more hopeful, perspective. They make surprising new connections with local and fellow travelers. In a truly symbiotic relationship, travelers bring the camp and the girls share their love, enthusiasm, lives, and beach!



*Volunteers Ann McGuire, second from right, and Shelly Pomonis, far right, presented Spanish/English hymnals to three of the Carmelite Sisters from the Teresa Toda home. The hymnals were purchased with money donated by parishioners at St. Edward.*



*The VEAP garden in full bloom.*

## VEAP GARDEN: A PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Church of St. Edward has a lovely garden located on the south lawn of the parish that has been providing a plentiful harvest of beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers to our local VEAP food shelf since 2008. These are some of the most highly requested produce items offered. We rely on volunteers to plant, tend, and harvest the garden and then wash, bag, and deliver the produce to VEAP.

We are in desperate need of parishioners to volunteer for this valuable garden ministry, or it is in danger of being discontinued. As one generation of volunteers retires from this ministry, younger volunteers need to step forward to help with the weeding and tending of the garden. Young families and youth are especially requested.

Please visit our parish webpage or call the parish office if you would like to help with this life enhancing work that provides our neighbors with good, healthy, nutritious food.

# Ministry Highlights

## FAITH FORMATION

### Grad Mass

We will be celebrating our annual Grad Mass on Sunday, June 3 at the 10:30am Mass. This is a special opportunity for St. Edward to bless its graduating seniors before the official graduation ceremony. After the Grad Mass, join us for a reception in the social hall with cake and a photo booth to celebrate this year's graduates!

If you have a graduate you'd like to sign up for this special day, please RSVP by contacting Patrick Smalley ASAP at the parish office with the name of your graduate.

### The End of an Era

This summer, we will be celebrating the "retirement" of Matt Kenutis from his position as youth ministry assistant. As he prepares to get married this July, he has decided this is the right time for him to step down from the position that he has held here for the last five years.

Though limited in hours, Matt's role has been incredibly valuable to the youth ministry program. Countless alumni have shared how he has impacted them over the years through Confirmation, Acts 29, Base Camp, retreats and mission trips. While we are excited for him as he prepares for this next leg of his journey, he will be deeply missed by this community.

If Matt has influenced you or someone you love, please join us for the celebration of Matt's "retirement" on Sunday, June 3 from 6 to 8pm in and outside the parish Youth Room.

## PASTORAL CARE

### Changes in Pastoral Care Announced

The retirement of Deacon Jim as our Pastoral Care Director will be effective as of June 30, 2018. The open position will be filled by the current Director of Social Justice, Mia Ah Sani.

## WORSHIP

### Director of Liturgy Announced

Our new Director of Liturgy is Mary Kay Hird. Mary Kay has been on staff the past six years as the Pastoral Care and Liturgy Administrative Assistant.

### Upcoming Contemporary Music Masses

Mother's Day | Sunday, May 13 | 10:30am

Mass on the Grass | Saturday, June 9 | 5:00pm

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### New Families Welcomed into the Parish:

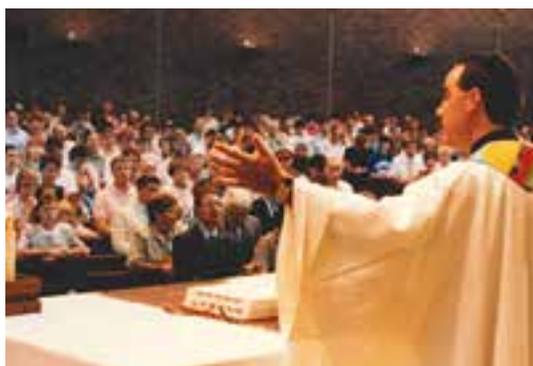
Anthony & Laura Clemens	Junia Kimizuka-Conniff
Jonathan Rubio	Michael & Donna Rubio
Evan & Madeline Boos	Matthew & Erin Cotton
Luke Loecker	Julie Chapman
Daniel & Janel Hengel	Rachel Timp
Dustin & Lisa Harford	Joe Adelman
Bernadette Stanley	Vicky Senica
Luanne Eisenschenk	James Scholten
Erik & Julie Berge	Eric & McKenzie Seiler
Timothy Sirek	William & Karin Shama
Mauricis Magallon & Maria Ortega-Magallon	

## Great Memories...continued from page 1

the tradition of tithing 10% of its weekly collection to the poor. And I will always be grateful for getting involved with our Sister Parish in Nicaragua. Because of my experience at St. Edward, I have been committed to having a Sister Parish ever since.

I remember the vibrant spirit of our liturgies and the incredible Music Ministry that enhanced every celebration. The standard for liturgy was set high before I came to St.

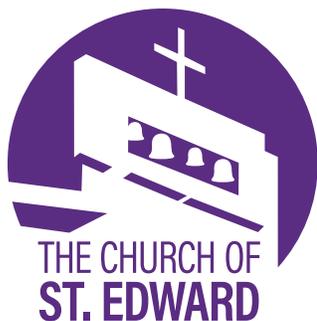
Edward and I remember how it inspired me to "step up my game" as a liturgist and presider. Larry Gully, Marie Bouquet and I traveled to liturgy conventions in other states where I learned things that I still use today.



*Fr. Rick presiding at Mass shortly after coming to St. Edward*

I give credit to Sr. Joanne Dehmer and the Stephen Ministry leaders for helping me to hone my skills as a Pastoral Minister. I had good training in the Seminary but it was at St. Edward where I learned how to truly walk with people in crisis or just be present to them in times of loss or sorrow. Those early experiences at St. Edward taught me so much and influenced my approach to pastoral ministry to this day.

Looking back at my time at St. Edward and thinking of all the fun we had, the vibrant spirit we enjoyed and the skills and experience gained, I can't wait to get back and start a whole new chapter filled with even more great memories of life and ministry at St. Edward!



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## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Due to several personnel changes in 2017, we were unable to publish three newsletters as planned. In 2018, we will be resuming our schedule of three per year, one each in spring, summer and fall. Each spring the newsletter will focus on Social Justice and Administration. Our summer newsletter will feature Faith Formation and Community Life, Finally, our fall edition will have a Pastoral Care and Worship focus.

In addition, Advent and Lent will each have individual mailings with seasonal information.

## Parish Ministry Staff

Phone: 952-835-7101; extensions listed below

Pastor.....	Fr. Brian Fier	x234
Deacon, Director of Pastoral Care, Marriage Coordinator.....	Dc. Jim DeShane	x220
Parish Administrator .....	Sherrie Schroeder	x222
Receptionist / Administrative Assistant .....	Sue Kruchten	x200
Director of Communications .....	Celeste Morris	x201
Director of Community Life .....	Donna Rubio	x219
Director of Liturgy .....	Mary Kay Hird	x217
Director of Music .....	Craig Walker	x231
Director of Social Justice and Charity .....	Mia Ah Sani	x223
Director of Confirmation, Youth and Adult Ministries .....	Patrick Smalley	x211
Director of Faith Formation: Birth to Grade 8 .....	Nicole Smalley	x210
Director of Facilities & Maintenance .....	Brian Swain	x224
Maintenance Crew .....	Miguel Ponce / Gene Vavra / Dave Santos	
Funeral Choir & Organist .....	Roger Burg	x216
Youth Ministry Assistant .....	Matt Kenutis	
Coordinator of Sunday School & Nursery .....	Bridget Grotins	
Worship Aids .....	Beth Schmidt	
Director of Children's Choir .....	Emma Shukle	
Parish Accountant .....	Dc. Mark Johanns	x208