

We Who Belong to the Lord



We Who Belong to the Lord



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception 1883-2008

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Alpena, Michigan

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We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

So we sing, and so we believe. We worship at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church as a community that arrived from different countries and various cultures. We cherish and carry on many of the traditions of the early Polish founders, but we embrace the richness that comes with diversity. Our roots go deeper than the founding of St. Mary's Church, deeper than the founding of this country or the papacy of Peter. We are followers of Jesus Christ, building on a covenant between Yahweh and the Jewish people. Our unity is in God. So we sing, and so we believe. We, who belong to the Lord.

Pictured on front cover: The Lusardi family; Jayne & Wayne, Eva & Nicholas

Pictured on back cover: Eva & Nicholas Lusardi

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Fellow Disciples,

According to the Book of Ecclesiastes, there is a time and a season for everything under the heavens (3:1-18). This means that for every parish there comes a time for review, a time for celebrating achievements, a time for giving thanks. We look upon this 125th Anniversary as an appropriate time for doing just that. Within these pages we will be seeking to review our past, to celebrate what deserves celebrating, and to offer thanks. In addition, we want the richness of these past 125 years to launch us into the next 125 years. If you are taking the time to read this, then you are automatically part of this effort, this effort to move forward in pursuit of the Kingdom. May this occasion bring about a sense of resolve, so that we can face our challenges as a community of faith, united under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the patronage of Our Lady. God bless you and keep you.

Fr. Greg McCallum



Pastor, St. Mary's



The Holy Father Benedict XVI
cordially imparts the requested
Apostolic Blessing to the
Pastor Rev. Greg Mc Callum and parishioners
of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish
in Alpena, Michigan

on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary
and invokes an abundance of heavenly graces
and the continued protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary

~ July 11, 2008 ~

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die 7.6.2008

+ Félix ad Blanco Prieto
Archiepiscopus Ecdiastarchiarius Apostolicus



DIOCESE OF GAYLORD

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GAYLORD, MI 49735-8349
(989) 732-5147
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June 24, 2008

St. Mary Church
120 E. Miller St.
Alpena MI 49707

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Church,

First and foremost I want to congratulate you and everyone who has been connected with your parish on this, the 125th anniversary. To build a church, not only the building, but the body of faithful, and to exist for a period of 125 years is a major accomplishment. Each and every one of you who are part of this wonderful history deserve our congratulations and thanks.

With this letter I want to thank each and every one of you, the faithful, and the families that preceded you, for the wonderful evidence you have given about belief in Jesus Christ and belief in His Church, of which we together are members. Your parish has been a very clear beacon on the road that the Lord has left for us to follow.

At the same time, I want to congratulate all the current members of the parish who have walked in the steps of their forebears and who are continuing to succeed in making St. Mary's an outstanding parish in the Alpena community, truly representative of the will of the Lord Jesus. I pray daily for each of you and each of you as a parish, hoping that you will be able to continue the wonderful efforts that have been made over these 125 years.

Your parish is very important to all of us. We thank God for blessing you for these 125 years and we call upon God to bless you for the continuing centuries to come.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick R. Cooney
Patrick R. Cooney

GOSS VATICAN CITY
EUROPE

June, 2008

To the People of St. Mary's Church, Alpena

My dear Friends,

I was pleased to learn that you will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of your parish of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception on December 6, 2008.

I am writing to join and be part of your celebration, although I regret I cannot physically be present.

It's important to remember and commemorate the great spiritual events of the Church. Certainly, this is one of those. The faith has lived and flourished in St. Mary's for 125 years. It has been the place where you have gathered together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ who changes our heart into His and makes us divine children of God. It is in this house of God that we are restored to grace and to God's friendship through Baptism and Confirmation. It is here where couples enter into the Sacred Bond of Matrimony. And it is here where we pray for our deceased brothers and sisters.

The Parish is a special place and should have a special place in the heart of each one of you. I will continue to remember you in all my Masses and prayers. I have very special and loving memories of my ten years as Bishop of Gaylord. St. Mary's was always a part of my love and affection.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Edmund Cardinal Szoka
Edmund Cardinal Szoka



FELICIAN SISTERS

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province
36800 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150 USA

July 9, 2008

Rev. Gregory P. McCallum
St. Mary Parish
516 No. Second St.
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Father McCallum and Parishioners of St. Mary's Church,

It is with great honor and pleasure that we send our congratulations to you and the members of St. Mary's Parish on the special occasion of your 125th anniversary. Throughout these years, this Church has touched the lives of so many priests, sisters and parishioners through its faith, love and service to its community. Truly it has been an inspiration in its commitment to spreading the word of God and serving its people.

The Felician Sisters are certainly proud to have ministered at St. Mary Parish and School for the last 119 years. At its very beginning, Reverend Leopold Opyralski, the first pastor, requested our sisters to teach at your school. We recall how our sisters arrived in Alpena in 1889, took care of the sacristy and altar servers, held Religious Education classes, and taught at the school until 2001. Today one sister still teaches in the Religious Education program and visits the sick, elderly and homebound parishioners. We also thank the parish for providing our community with 33 vocations - it is certainly a sign of a parish which values its religious beliefs.

We thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on this parish in the last 125 years, and pray that He continues to grace you with His love and care.

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Sister Mary Rosetta Rumpz, CSSF
Sister Mary Rosetta Rumpz, CSSF



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 2008

I send greetings to those celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Throughout America's history, people of faith have helped shape the culture and character of our Nation by putting their beliefs and values into action. Your compassion, good works, and dedication to family and faith enrich our society and set a positive example for others. By spreading God's message of love, you help lift hearts and make our country a more peaceful and hopeful place.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God bless our great Nation.

B. J. J.

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Pictured at left top to bottom: St. Mary Church interior; Rev. Gregory McCallum and altar servers; Jackie Olsen; the Carriveau family – back row Philip, Charles & Kristen – middle row Samantha & Philip – front row Johnathan & Benjamin

History

The Catholic Church in Northeastern Michigan

Roman Catholicism had an official presence in this area of Northeastern Michigan ever since the Most Rev. Frederick Baraga, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie, paid \$30.00 to Mr. James K. Lockwood for a lot on the north side of Chisholm Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. The date was April 13, 1861, one day after the Civil War began. The bishop spent 9 days walking from the Sault to this part of the state which had uncertain status regarding diocesan jurisdiction. Alpena had been part of Cheboygan County (and the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie) before it was separated in 1857 by an act of the legislature.

Recognizing the need for a shepherd to minister to the growing flock in this area, Bishop Baraga wrote Fr. Patrick Murray of Beaver Island and directed him to go to Alpena and see what he could do. Bishop Baraga was sure that the Bishop of Detroit was unable to do anything this far north. Fr. Murray came on September 2, 1864 and remained until September 14th. In that interval, he baptized 7 children. In November the bishop chastised him in a letter saying, "I see by your letter that you remained only a short time in Alpena; much shorter than I intended you to stay." A July correspondence from the bishop praised Fr. Murray for his good work and stressed the importance of "raising up" a church here. Fr. Murray came back on a temporary basis in August of 1865 and accepted a permanent assignment on May 11, 1866.

It took 5 ½ years from Bishop Baraga's initial visit and another property purchase before Mass was said on November 7, 1866 in the newly constructed St. Bernard Church, located on Chisholm between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Catholics of many nationalities (German, French, Swedish, and Polish) worshipped together and received the sacraments in this wood-framed building. Sunday morning sermons were delivered in English and in French.

Fr. Murray purchased more property and built a rectory and a school. He was succeeded as pastor by Fathers: William Taaken, John Van Gennip, and E. M. DeKiere. During one of Fr. DeKiere's absences due to ill health, a Jesuit priest named Fr. Francis X. Shulak attended for about three months.

Fr. Shulak proved to be an important presence in northeastern Michigan. Educated in Poland by his parents and the village priest, he was ordained in Krakow, Poland and sent to the United States to further his English studies and to serve as a missionary to the Eastern European settlements in and around St. Louis, Missouri. In 1869 he was transferred to Chicago, Illinois and commenced traveling to establish posts on the Great Lakes. In his travels to Indiana and Branch County, Michigan, he informed the Polish foresters and woodworkers that there was land that could be homesteaded in Presque Isle and Alpena Counties. The Poles took his advice.

Fr. Shulak could speak, read and write in English, Polish, Latin, German, Czech, and French, so wherever he went, his missionary work was well received. He purchased the land and directed the building of St. Casimir Church in Posen, Michigan in 1874-75. He also established St. Ignatius Parish in Rogers City, naming it after his father's patron saint.



Slovenian missionary, Bishop Frederic Baraga, ministered to the Chippewas and to European immigrants in the state of Michigan. He is being considered for sainthood.

In May of 1883, Alpena and other northern communities were removed from the Detroit Diocese and placed in the Grand Rapids Diocese. Bishop H. J. Richter assigned Fr. Thomas D. Flannery to St. Bernard's and Fr. P.C. Winter who was to form a parish of the French speaking families. The priests lived together for a time and worked out an agreement whereby Fr. Flannery's congregation would retain the name of St. Bernard and the lands at the south corner of Chisholm and Fifth where the school, convent and the beginnings of a new church stood. Fr. Winter's

congregation kept the rectory and the existing church, to be named St. Anne.

The Polish speaking settlers had also increased in number. They too wanted to preserve their culture and worship in their own language.

Polish Immigrants in Michigan

At the end of the 18th Century, Poland had ceased to exist as a nation. Its land had been absorbed by Russia, Austria, and Prussia. By the mid-19th Century, unfavorable weather caused crop failures and starvation. The economy collapsed and the Poles were dependent on the Prussians who looked on them with disfavor. In this tragic atmosphere, the people began to migrate to friendlier countries.

Polish immigrants, mostly political refugees who had fought in unsuccessful insurrections, arrived in small numbers in Michigan in the 1830's. The first established Polish settlement was in Huron City; the second in Posen in 1854. They were quickly followed by Rogers City, Alpena, Cheboygan, Mullet Lake and Metz. The first of three large waves of immigrants who came to the United States (1880-1920) were mainly traders, farmers and artisans. Their literacy rate was 11th out of thirty immigrant nationalities.

Some were attracted to Northeastern Michigan by its agricultural opportunities, its forests, and its quarries.

While most of the women at that time tended to their homes and families, some were employed in hotels and restaurants, or as domestic servants. Their daughters would later become sales clerks, factory workers, typists, or teachers.

The Polish immigrants chose to live in tight communities, usually built around a Catholic Church with a Polish priest. Their identity was their language and their religion, and that religion was Roman Catholic. The ever moving borders of Poland had ceased to exist. The people were in a new country; one that allowed them to speak their language, form their clubs, practice their customs and worship in their faith. The Polish speaking community in Alpena, Michigan in 1883 was at least 150 families strong. And, yes, they wanted their own church!

History of St. Mary Parish

The First 50 Years (1883-1933)

Fr. Francis Shulak and Fr. Joseph Kucinski, another Polish Jesuit from Chicago, formed a committee of 150 families and purchased the vacant Methodist Church on Dock St. (now Second Ave.) for the sum of \$2000. Title to the property was signed on July 2, 1883. The people worked hard to gather the needed supplies and funds to furnish their new church. Within six months, the renovations were complete and the first Mass was celebrated on December 8 in the Polish Catholic Church of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. The first pastor, Fr. Candid Kozlowski, stayed only a short time and was succeeded by Fr. Matthew Grochowski, then Fr. Kolasinski. From January to October of 1885, there was no priest at the parish.

Fr. Augustine Sklorzyk arrived in October and was here for the official dedication of the church on February 21, 1886. It was then customary to pay the church debt before the dedication. The February 24, 1886 edition of the *Alpena Weekly Argus* reported the ceremony as follows:

"The Polish church, on Dock Street, was dedicated last Sunday. About nine o'clock in the morning the men belonging to the church formed in line in front of the edifice, and then, headed by the Germania band, marched up Dock and Second streets to Chisholm street, and then to the French Catholic church. As it passed the Argus office, we counted the men in ranks and found there were 156 Polanders in the procession. They bore three banners, the first being the stars and stripes and the other two being Polish flags – red and white. The procession was under command of marshals mounted on horses. One of the marshals wore a white coat and a handsome sash. The men marched well and presented a good appearance. The weather was not very agreeable and snow was falling. At St. Ann's church, they were joined by 24 members of St. Jean Baptiste Societe, and 18 Knights of St. John – 16 of whom wore handsome uniforms. The procession, including the band, now numbered over 200 persons, marched back to the Polish church, where the dedication services were held. The members of the French church were then escorted back to St. Ann's. During the march the members of St. John's performed several marching manoeuvres."

Fire of 1888

The first St. Mary Grade School was a two room structure built in 1888 on the newly purchased lot 10 in block 83. It was staffed by Fr. Sklorzyk and a lay teacher, Mr. Snick. Unfortunately, Alpena and the developing community of St. Mary's met with disaster in the form of a terrible fire on July 11, 1888. Burning refuse from the lumber mill of H.R. Morse had ignited a sawdust covered road and then traveled to a sawdust heap. A large fire commenced on the north side. It destroyed the church, the rectory and 200 neighborhood houses. Miraculously, only one person was killed, Mrs. Ann McLean, who had come from Buffalo to visit relatives. The *Alpena Weekly Argus* gave the following account:

"When the fire swept down to Dock Street, blazing brands set fire to the steeple of the Polish Church, and soon that part of the structure was a mass of flames, and presented a striking sight. The steeple was on fire before the main part of the church, and looked like a pillar of fire shining through the smoke-clouds."

All parish records were burned. The parishioners, a determined people with a remarkable work ethic, had a new home built for their pastor before the end of the year.

The people launched a series of fund-raising projects and on June 1, 1889 the first payment was made on the new church foundation. The *Alpena Weekly Argus* of June 12, 1889 stated:

"The cornerstone of the new Polish Catholic Church, on Dock Street, was laid last Wednesday evening. There was an immense crowd present to witness the ceremonies. The stone bares (sic) the following inscription, 'St. Mary Catholic Church, erected A. D. 1889.' The church, which will be built of brick and stone, will be 106 feet and 2 inches in length, and the side walls will be 28 feet high. The width is 55 feet. From the foundation to the top of the spire will be 132 feet. The stone work is about completed."

The challenge of meeting the needs of the expanding parish was met by a young, talented, and



St. Mary School 1888

energetic new pastor named Fr. Leopold Oprychalski who arrived in October of 1889. Fr. Oprychalski organized the Rosary Society and a parish library with Polish literature.

The increase in the number of children demanded a new and larger school. The search began for a religious order of sisters who would accept the responsibility of educating the children while preserving the traditions and values of their parents. This work was accepted by the Felician Sisters of Detroit who sent four of their nuns who arrived by boat on September 3, 1891. Three of the sisters were to teach; one was to do domestic work. The first religious superior was Sister Mary Augustine. Seventy four pupils learned in cramped quarters that year as the frame school now served as the convent and temporary church as well.

The Felician Sisters seminary and normal school was established in the Detroit area in 1882 by Father Joseph Dabrowski. It was the first Polish institution of higher education in the United States. One of its purposes was to preserve the Polish language and the Polish influence on Roman Catholicism in the United States. By 1900, the Felician Sisters ran 40 schools, half the Polish parochial schools in this country.

The dedication of the new church, built for \$19,000 with a seating capacity of 666, took place on October 1, 1893. The *Alpena Weekly Argus* recorded this event in detail in its October 4 edition.

"A ceremony that was of great interest and attraction was that of dedicating the Polish Church last Sunday. The weather was in one of her best smiling moods and tended greatly to make the event more enjoyable. During the forenoon, a procession was formed near the Polish Church, and headed by a band, marched to the St. Bernard's Church; and being reinforced by the French uniformed Societies, marched back to the Polish Church. The procession was a fine and exceedingly attractive one, consisting of the band, followed by thirty boys and twenty-six girls, all the latter being dressed in white. Then marched the two uniformed Societies, St. John and St. Jean the Baptist, after which came the Polish Society, while the rear was brought up by the bishop in a carriage. In the procession were three U.S. flags, three Society banners, and a French and Polish flag."

On arriving at the Polish Church, the procession was formed in open order, reaching from the front of the church to the residence of the priest in the rear, and the bishop passed between the ranks and entered the church. The Societies, children and spectators then massed in front of the church and soon after the bishop, in his gorgeous clerical robes, attended by the priests of

the Catholic churches of this city, and numerous attendants, appeared at the front of the church. Then came the impressive dedication ceremonies.

In addition to the dedication ceremonies there were Confirmation exercises, and a large number of young people were confirmed. In the afternoon, there were Confirmation ceremonies at the other Catholic churches."

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church



Alpena County was prospering at the turn of the century with thirteen lumber mills, a reliable railroad that provided year-round transportation, and a thriving fishing industry. Its population swelled to over 18,000 residents, almost 12,000 of those living in the city. The countryside supported 770 farms with orchards of at least 10,000 fruit trees. Still, life was difficult.

The Felician Sisters at St. Mary's were still quartered above the school. The Felician Chronicles remark that in 1902, the sisters' cells were "tight like cages." The remarkable dedication of these religious women is indicated by school records from 1900-1901. "Klasa I - 14 long benches, 110 children; Klasa II - 15 long benches, 96 children; Klasa III - 6 long benches and 5 short benches, 67 children; Klasa IV - 12 benches 'old fashioned' for 4 children each, 49 children." When the regular school day finished, the sisters taught a sewing class for the girls where sewing, knitting and crocheting skills were learned.

Sr. M. Eudoxia (interviewed April 15, 1961 at the Felician Motherhouse) attended St. Mary's School from 1896-1902. She recalled,

"Both Polish and English classes were held, varying with the classes and the teacher. In the upper classes, geography, U.S. history, arithmetic were in English; whereas catechism, Polish history, Bible history, were generally in Polish. There was also both Polish and English reading. The schoolrooms were heated by a pot-belly stove, fed by wood. Children sat on long benches. Water for drinking was kept in a pail and drinks taken by a ladle or cup. Singing and needlework were important."

In 1900, Fr. Oprychalski was replaced by Fr. Stephen Nowakowski, our sixth pastor. Four years later, in June, the first payment was made for the excavation of a new school. The former school was remodeled into the sisters' convent, and the children of the parish attended public school. The new 8-room, 2-story brick structure was ready for its 305 pupils in September of 1905. It cost \$17,000.

Fr. Nowakowski's pastorate was marred by turmoil. Disagreements with parishioners led to a physical struggle to oust the priest from his rectory. The leader of the uprising was wounded and Fr. Nowakowski was replaced in 1909 by Fr. Joseph Kaminski. Fr. Kaminski showed great interest in the liturgical life of the parish by encouraging church singing and participation in religious services. He also donated a large number of books to the school library.



St. Mary Church Interior, Robert Kujawa Collection

Fr. Gatzke arrives - Fire of 1917

The parish was greatly blessed with the arrival of Fr. John E. Gatzke on January 21, 1914. "Father John" won the love and respect of his people with his quiet, kindly ways and his own loving example. Soon after his arrival, the first "Passion Play" was produced at St. Mary's. It was a financial hit, netting \$122.00.

By 1917, Europe had been involved in World War I for 3 years. The United States "officially" entered the war in April. Here in Alpena, an alert was sounded on December of 1917 as the rectory was on

fire. Fr. Gatzke moved into a house nearby with the few pieces of salvaged furniture. The damaged rectory was remodeled for two additional schoolrooms and another home on Second Ave. was bought and remodeled for the priest's residence. A fund was initiated to build a new school and convent, costly projects indeed.

Fr. Gatzke ministered to an ever growing flock. By 1924, the school had a faculty of 11 teaching sisters and 622 students. The school was "bursting at the seams." But, the Great Depression was about to bring economic hard times to the whole country. Building projects would have to wait as people struggled to find enough food to feed their families. Even then, in February of 1932, St. Mary's celebrated

the 200th Anniversary of George Washington's birthday with a program held in the school and then repeated at the Maltz Theatre (now the State Theatre).



St. Mary School built 1905, Robert Kujawa Collection

The Second 50 years (1934-1983)

Fire of 1935

The parish continued to progress. Its school received accolades from both the community and diocesan supervisors. 1935 proved to be a memorable year with Bishop Pinton confirming 500 people, fire damaging one of the school buildings, and the convent roof catching fire. Although some hoped the old convent would burn to the ground, it was salvaged and restored. The current rectory with a 3 car garage was built in 1936 at a cost of \$25,000.

For 2 years in a row, 1938-1939, St. Mary School won a loving cup from the American Automobile Association for the extent and value of its safety education plan. Patrol captains Myron Szczukowski and Edward Smigelski won free trips to Washington D.C. for sight-seeing and a staged parade viewed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

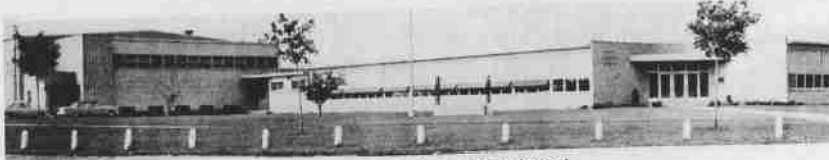
Diocese of Saginaw

On Feb. 26, 1938, His Holiness Pope Pius XI separated 16 counties from the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Diocese of Grand Rapids to form the new Diocese of Saginaw. Most Rev. William Murphy became the new bishop. He organized "The League of Catholic Women" for the City of Alpena in 1941. It was also Bishop Murphy who recommended to Pope Pius XII that Fr. John Gatzke should be given the title Monsignor. "Father John" was named Prelate of the Papal Household in 1945.

The world was at war again, engaged in the massive conflagration that Americans refer to as World War II. Young men, and some women, in their late teens and twenties were entering the military services in defense of our country. They were, as newsman, Tom Brokaw, was to label them, "the greatest generation." Those who remained at home were working in defense plants, organizing home guards, planting victory gardens, buying war bonds, and praying. Many parishioners were in active service during the war years and some gave the ultimate sacrifice. As a Church, we mourned our lost children.

Catholic High School Built

With peace came new hope. The 3 Catholic parishes in Alpena petitioned the bishop in 1946 to be allowed to build Catholic Central High School (CCHS). Construction began in June of 1950 on the corner of Miller and Walnut Streets on 22 acres of land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Besser. Interim classes were held in Memorial Hall until the school marked its grand opening on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1951. Lacking a convent to house the teaching staff, the 3 Orders of Sisters from the parish schools were persuaded to staff CCHS.



Alpena Catholic Central High School

"Mother Januaria, Mother Gerald, and I are of the opinion that one Community operating your high school would be able to do more for God

and His Church than three Communities can do. However, in the position in which you find yourself, each is most willing to co-operate TEMPORARILY and do whatever is humanly possible to make the Alpena

Catholic Central an educational institution second to none."

Mother Mary Victor O.P. April 17, 1950.

Three Felician sisters were assigned to the faculty: Sr. M. Theresilla, Sr. M. Carmeline, and Sr. M. Danutha. Fr. Olin J. Murdick, the first principal, celebrated the first Baccalaureate Mass at St. Mary's on June 5, 1951. Bishop Stephen Woznicki distributed the diplomas to the first 45 graduates.

War hero, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was inaugurated president on January 20, 1953. An armistice treaty ending the Korean Conflict was signed in July. So began, what many consider, a sanguine period in domestic history. But, the power of the atomic bomb had been unleashed and a "Cold War" existed between the United States and the Soviet Union. School children at St. Mary's were instructed where to take cover in the event of an air raid (in the school basement or under their desks) and were given leaflets to take home to their parents with directions for building backyard bomb shelters.

When not engaged in serious study or avoiding potential bomb threats, the students were busy raising money for the Catholic Bishops' Relief Fund or the Propagation of the Faith. Souls in Africa and China were helped by the collection of canceled US stamps, the making and selling of candied apples, and a monthly movie screening of wholesome films mostly starring Shirley Temple or "Ma and Pa Kettle." Popcorn could be purchased for 5 cents a bag. The movies were shown on Fridays with the lower 4 grades seated in the school's second story hall in the morning and the upper 4 grades in the afternoon. Hundreds of dollars were raised during Lent alone.

On the first Sunday of each December, parishioners stood in church with right hands raised and took the Legion of Decency Pledge promising not to see any motion pictures with objectionable or immoral content; nor frequent such establishments that showed these pictures. In 1956, Pope Pius XII relaxed the rules for fasting during Advent and Lent and increased the hours during which Mass could be said.

New Convent

An open house was held in February of 1957 for the Felician Sisters new convent. It had been a mere 40 years since the building fund had been established. A few months later, the parish was assessed \$42,735.94 for the fund to build St. Paul Seminary. The September 28, 1958 Parish Bulletin announced that sealed bids would be taken for the Sisters old

home with its oil burning hot air heater. This building that had served as a temporary church, a school and a convent, this building that had defied age and fire, still had some life.

The parish of St. John the Baptist in Alpena was canonically established by the bishop on October 29, 1958. The pew rent collected at St. Mary's that year was \$5,130. To bolster the parish income, the following decisions were made in 1959:

1. To raise the MINIMUM offering for CURRENT EXPENSES to 75 cents
2. To raise the SEAT offering to 25 cents for adults
3. Students admitted FREE at 6:15-8:15-9:30. Will be expected to pay at 11:00 Mass

Bulletin Gleanings

The Annual Parish Chicken Dinner is next Sunday noon on...? at CCHS. The farmers are requested to bring in their usual donations of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, beets, cream and butter. Sept. 22, 1957

Thanksgiving Clothing Collection. Articles not needed and useless: neckwear and ties, handbags, girdles and corsets, high heeled shoes. Jan. 11, 1962

Both CCHS and St. Mary's announce that their enrollment quotas are complete. No more students can be accepted. Aug. 26, 1962

3 Catholic newspapers are available: Catholic Weekly, Our Sunday Visitor, The Twin Circle. Dec. 1968

Pope John XXIII

The 19 year pontificate of Pius XII ended with his death in October of 1958. St. Mary's joined the rest of the Universal Church in a nine day mourning period during which a Requiem High Mass was offered for the repose of the Pope's soul. On October 28, Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was elected. This 76 year old son of humble sharecroppers was chosen as a conservative interim pope who would "fill-in" while the Church decided how to steer the course in the coming decades. The new Pope John XXIII had other ideas.

Among his many accomplishments in his less than 5 year reign were the revision of the Code of Canon Law and the summoning of the Second Vatican Council. The announced purpose of Vatican II was spiritual renewal and reconsideration of the church in the modern world. Among the questions the Pope asked the Council to consider was, "Who are we, the

Catholic Church?" The Council met from 1962 to 1965 and the changes it recommended were accepted by most but disappointed others. At the parish level, changes were implemented with deliberation.

The beloved Msgr. Gatzke retired on June 16, 1963. These were his final remarks from the pulpit:

"I wish to congratulate the members of St. Mary's for their continuous loyalty to the parish and their splendid co-operation in all spiritual and material affairs of the parish. Personally, the many beloved deeds by the people of Alpena, and their tolerance of my many failings, has made my days most happy – for which I gratefully thank you all."

1960's Renovation



St. Mary Church following renovation of the 1960's

It was left to our new pastor, Fr. Raymond Mulka, to introduce the changes brought about by Vatican II. "Our motto will be 'to make haste slowly'." In the last week of July, 1964, renovation work began inside the church to meet the new directives for a liturgical setting. The architect was William Wesolek. The interior of the church was streamlined and freshly painted to a clean, modern look. Parishioners were cautioned by Fr. Mulka to "keep in mind that no personal preferences, but rather the strictest recommendations of the Church are the constant guidelines." A jeweled, empty cross representing the glorified, risen Christ was hung in the apse behind the altar table.

The communal nature of public worship was to be emphasized. On October 11, 1964, the priest faced the people during Sunday Mass and the people stood to receive the Eucharist. On the first Sunday of Advent, Mass was said in English instead of the traditional Latin; on December 13, the congregation stood to pray the "Our Father."

Pope Paul VI

Pope Paul VI, while aware of the problems some Catholics were having during this period of adjustment, demonstrated a resolve to continue the reforms of his predecessor. He instituted an International Synod of Bishops and instructed them to set up councils of priests in dioceses. Rules of fasting and abstinence were relaxed and some restrictions on intermarriage were lifted. The pope reached out to the leaders of other churches in a new spirit of ecumenism. Fr. Mulka launched a series of sermons and bulletin inserts to "clear the air for the guidance of our people." Lay commentators were incorporated into the Mass liturgy in 1965. December 8, our Parish Feast Day, marked the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

As the Church was striving to recapture the spirit and simplicity of its early years, the United States Government announced deployment of combat units to Vietnam. War, again!

New Elementary School

July 31, 1966 witnessed the groundbreaking for a new elementary school, its \$422,298 price tag offset by a \$48,000 bequest from Msgr. Gatzke. A letter from Fr. Mulka to the People's State Bank requesting a loan of \$275,000 at 6% interest, states the parish membership at 650 families.

Another letter from Fr. Mulka, this one to Jesse Besser, thanks Mr. Besser for his gift of \$30,000 to the new school and requests permission to name the school library (with 9,600 book capacity), the "Jesse H. Besser Memorial Library." "For the record, the handsome bequest from your long-friend Msgr. Gatzke together with your own forthcoming gift has made possible a better timetable for our school construction." Fr. Mulka states that he never got a response from Mr. Besser regarding the naming. The congregation began to participate in singing at Mass during Lent of 1966.



St. Mary Elementary School 1967

CCHS Closes

The Diocese of Saginaw reorganized its financial structure in 1970 and introduced the Catholic Services Appeal. Previously, each parish was assessed a

percentage of its income. The lay people received a greater voice in parish administration through the formation of a parish council. Mounting parish debt forced the closing of the 7th and 8th grades of St. Mary's School and the complete closure of Catholic Central in 1971. St. Mary's hosted the final Baccalaureate Mass for the seniors.

To add to the disappointments, the 82 year old church steeple was struck by lightening and had to be replaced at a sum of \$10,000. The squat, shingle structure was quickly dubbed the "beehive."

Bulletin Gleanings

From time to time – at least once annually, we feel compelled to issue a call to all our people to muster up the courage and join in our singing at Mass. July 9, 1970

Demonstration Mass at St. Anne's in preparation for nation-wide and diocesan-wide switch to the new order of the Mass. Mar. 1 1970

First Annual Father and Son Banquet (June 4) featuring a real man's roast beef dinner and a program with no long-winded speeches. June 1, 1969

We are more than happy to welcome the new school principal, Sr. M. Edwardine, with her wealth of dynamism and experience. Dec. 27, 1970

Alpena became part of the newly established Gaylord Diocese on June 20, 1971 under Bishop Edmond Szoka. St. Mary's struggled with its school debts and a fund was set up with monthly collection envelopes. New underlayment and carpeting were added to the church floor.

After 10 years of serving St. Mary's, Fr. Raymond Mulka was assigned to St. Francis Church in Traverse City, taking his assistant, Fr. Klingshirn, with him. In his farewell letter to the parish, Fr. Mulka wrote:

"I speak of the cross on the sanctuary wall overlooking the altar. Remember how I gave so many elaborate reasons to justify that cross from the standpoint of architecture and liturgy. And there really are a lot of reasons why it can be called an artistic ornament.

Then, just a few months ago it began to dawn on my poor soul that this cross did not say anything to our people and it did not have any meaning to you. There was no warmth in it even when I paused to pray in the sanctuary. So, over 1 month ago, I ordered a wood-carved crucifix – the suffering of Christ – which will

replace the present cross as soon as it arrives sometime this summer."

Fr. Raymond Pilarski arrived as the new pastor on March 15, 1973. One of his priorities was to deal with the burden of parish debt. His program of stewardship, labeled "Time, Talent and Treasures," included parish tithing. The people accepted the challenge.

A much needed cry room and rest room were built in the church by volunteer labor. Extensive renovations were made in the rectory and convent. Communal Penance Services were introduced; an estimated 200 people attended 8 AM Mass daily during Lent.

By the mid 70's, over 500 students were attending the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes and new quarters were constructed on the second floor of the school. A Youth Group was introduced with the aim of showing its members how to have fun with, work with, and pray with each other. St. Mary's opened the first kindergarten in the Gaylord Diocese. The year was 1976 and a total of 25 students registered. The first teacher was Claudia Kelsey.

Bulletin Gleanings

A new feature will be luncheon for St. Mary School on the day of the Bazaar. Price is 30 cents for children and \$1.50 for adults. Nov. 11, 1971

Since lightning struck 1 of the anchor posts of the bell tower, siding has been falling on a regular basis, including a 50 # slab on Good Friday. The cross is loose and off-center. May 16, 1971

There is a plan to form a Parish Council. Thomas Kaminski will chair the Steering Committee. May 11, 1971

"No more rice slinging in the vestibule. This is a barbaric, discourteous, and uncivilized custom. Rudimentary good manners dictate that we refrain from littering another person's home. So much the more so far as our parish home-the House of God and House of Prayer." Jan. 17, 1971

"We join all Americans and the world in a sense of relief and joy over the Vietnam Peace Treaty signed on January 27th." Dec. 1, 1973

The Felician Sisters marked 100 years of service in the United States in October of 1974. Special celebrations were held at the parish in recognition of their 84 years of continuous dedication to St. Mary's.

With the arrival of Polish born Fr. Thaddeus (Ted) Kopek in December of 1974, Polish liturgies were added – such as Mass homilies and *Gorzkie Zale*. The parish debt was being reduced and income was increasing. By January of 1977, a \$300,000 loan from Peoples Bank & Trust was paid and by June of 1978, the parish was debt free with plans for saving. Parish committees were reorganized and a Children's Choir was formed. To make worship services available to the disabled, a wheelchair lift was installed on the Miller street side of the church in 1979.

Decade of the Family

The 1980's were designated the "Decade of the Family." Special liturgies and programs meant to enrich family life were offered throughout this time. To honor the Holy Family and to remind the community of the true meaning of Christmas, a life-size manger scene was built on the corner of Second

Ave. and Oldfield Street. In 1981, Mrs. Florence Kowalski, the church organist and choir director for 30 years, retired. "Cookie Champs of the City" was the title earned by St. Mary Girl Scout Troop 2020 for selling 2,397 boxes of the goods in 1982. With 950 parishioners, the average Sunday collection was \$4,153.60 with an average of 583 envelopes used. School lunches cost 60 cents.

Lay ministers began distributing the Eucharist to the faithful in 1983.

A call went out to parish men to meet at church on June 12, 1983 to take out the pews. The church was closed for 2 weeks as new, more comfortable pews were installed. Backs and seats of the old ones were used to wainscot the gym. When Fr. Ray Pilarski was replaced by Fr. Thomas Dominiak in August, the parish had regained a sound financial footing.

St. Mary's Centennial Celebration 1983

One hundred years of life is a major accomplishment be it a person or a parish. St. Mary Church reached that milestone in December of 1983 and celebrated with a year long party. The biggest event, by numbers, was a parish picnic held at the Alpena County Fairgrounds on June 26 that attracted over 5,000 parishioners and friends. The event opened at noon with a canon fired salute and ribbon cutting ceremony. With the theme, "Old Timers Day," people were treated to a special display of memorabilia reminiscent of the time the church was founded. Some parishioners dressed in turn of the century costumes and all enjoyed a delicious ox roast. The Parish Council, chaired by Harry Wisniewski, put on the picnic.

Six months before the Fourth of July parade, Ray Stepanski and his twin sons, Keith and Kevin, were building a church in their driveway. The 1/5 scale model of St. Mary's Church took every spare minute

of the family's time. The 21 foot long structure was an exact replica from the shingled tower to the tiny basement windows. By the time the parade started, the church was ready to roll.



Pictured l to r: Delores Yarch, Centennial King Floyd Benac, Centennial Queen Leona Hoppe



The 6 foot high cake was donated and prepared by Delores Yarch. Consisting of: 75 boxes of cake mix, 225 eggs, 60 pounds of sugar, 15 pounds of shortening, 3 pounds of nuts, and 3 bottles of flavoring, the cake took 200 hours to decorate in addition to the 2 months of fine needle work to make the silk flowers.

The centennial celebration began on January 2 with a special Mass and the unveiling of a shrine of Our

Lady of Czestochowa. Each month featured a special event that carried through on the centennial theme. Some of the highlights included a Diocesan Choir Festival in February, a Polish Mass and dinner in April, May crowning of the Virgin Mary with the

Rosary Society forming a "living rosary," special Mass and anointing of the sick in August, October reception and dinner for the three nuns who were serving the parish, special Mass followed by a banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in December.



Centennial Logo



Tending the ox roast



Eating their "just desserts"



Selection of Centennial Queen



All aboard for a river ride



Dancing the night away

Bits & Pieces of the Last 25 Years (1984-2008)

One hundred years of prayerful worship, financial struggle, home improvement, sorrow and celebration. The parish family endured; parish life went on.

In 1984, The Womens Club continued to organize parish events and the Childrens Choir expanded.

The Youth Ministry expressed a willingness to help shovel snow or help with other work that needed doing. They fasted and "rocked the night away" during a fund-raiser to collect food to put into Easter baskets for those in need.

St. Mary School principal, Sr. Paphnutia, celebrated her 50th Anniversary as a nun with a reception at the school.

By restricting the number of Masses a priest could say on a weekday (1) and on a week-end (2), the New Code of Canon Law impacted the scheduling of weddings and funerals. It also helped establish guidelines for parish councils as called upon by Vatican II.

The men of the parish organized a softball team in 1985.

New hymnals, requested by the Liturgy Commission, were first used in September.

A city Wide Lenten Penance Vigil that included priests, musicians, singers, lectors and ushers from the 4 Alpena Catholic churches, as well as St. Rose in Herron, was held in 1986. The bishop granted permission for a General Absolution in the event there were a large number of penitents, making it difficult for confessors to hear the individuals.

Pope John Paul II declared January 25, 1987 "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday." He stated, "...the obligation to respect all human life is based on the belief that the human person is made in the Image of God." Fr. Dominiak launched a series of pro-life articles in the parish bulletin advocating for the unborn and all human life. "We humans have stewardship but not absolute dominion...many of us do not appreciate how close our nation is to authorizing active euthanasia."

In September, St. Mary School opened its first pre-school with Julie Kowalski as its teacher.

Later in the month, the Pope visited Michigan and said Mass at the Pontiac Silverdome. Fifty eight parishioners, along with Fr. Dominiak, attended the Mass. In the Sunday bulletin he recorded, "I write

this column in the afterglow of the Papal visit...I saw the arrival of the Vice President, and the Pope leaving to go back to Metro. One sensed that this was truly an international event. This reminds us that we are members of a state, national, and international Church."

Native son, Fr. David Greka, celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination in 1988.

Pope John Paul II proclaimed a "Marion Year" from Pentecost of 1987 to Assumption of '88.

Following through on the call of Vatican II to become a "people of God," a people who share responsibility and mission in the name of Christ, the parish established a Pastoral Council with 23 committees and a Finance Council with 7 committees.

With fewer nuns to staff the school, the parish struggled to meet staff salaries and tuition of \$104 per family was initiated. The tuition was payable at \$2 per week for the '88-'89 school year. The Winter Festival with its talent show and polka contest would contribute to the school fund.

Proceeds from the Thursday Afternoon Pedro Club were used to buy new altar cloths; a donation of \$450.00 was also made to the parish.

Digital Age

After exceeding the \$40,000 goal for a new organ by more than \$4,000, the parish dedicated its new Allen MDS-45 Digital Computer Organ on June 20, 1990 with an evening concert and demonstration by Mr. Joe Fortin. All who attended found the evening enjoyable and inspiring.

Fr. Dominiak expressed that he was extremely gratified to see 880 of the parishioners making contributions in 1991. The following year, St. Mary's published a list of 35 couples in the parish who had been married more than 50 years.

Fr. Walter Derylo became pastor in June of 1993.

School finances continued to be troublesome. By spring of 1994, there was a 50% delinquency in tuition, book fees were behind and the hot lunch program was \$4,000 in the hole. A group of volunteers painted the school kitchen.

Lightning struck the church steeple in July and a fund was established for steeple replacement.

Bishop Patrick R. Cooney announced in October that the diocese would move toward an active

participation of all the faithful in liturgical celebrations.

"I also believe that this decision can bring peace to those in our parishes who were troubled by the question of girls-women being ministers at the altar. Let us make our parish liturgical celebrations more hospitable by incorporating women, men, boys and girls into the roles which are appropriate for them."

The Pastoral Council and its commissions named 1995-96 "The Year of Light." All were called to "shift from a private faith to an enthusiastic community response to God's salvation." Buttons with the logo were worn as reminders for greater participation in faith formation and volunteer projects, stronger community involvement, and a commitment to the capital needs of the parish and school.

Bulletin Gleanings

*"One of the most wonderful things about St. Mary's Parish is that we pray together in song so very well."
Julie Higgins Sept. 1, 1996*

Julie Higgins: Parish Liturgist, organist, choir director, school music teacher, and senior youth group leader married Mark Richards at the Sunday Mass on the feast of the Holy Family - the whole parish rejoiced with them. Aug. 3, 1997

Sometime in the mid 90's, maintenance man, Joe Weiss, was performing his duties by burning Lenten palm fronds to make ashes for Ash Wednesday services. A sizeable fire was burning in a pail just outside the back door of the school as Joe wondered where the screaming fire sirens he heard might be headed. His question was answered when firemen doused the pail. It seems the school principal smelled smoke and sounded an alarm.

In 1997, the women of the parish decided by a majority vote to disband the Womens Club. Various commissions and committees had been absorbing many of the Club's responsibilities.

Fr. Walt and 3 members of the parish joined other area churches in an ecumenical effort entitled "Call Us First for Help." This office directed people in need to various public and private resources. All the faithful united in baptism and ministry.

A Script Program was introduced whereby money certificates spent at participating businesses could

bring between 2 to 19 cents of each dollar back to St. Mary's School.

A City-Wide Catholic Junior High School began operating on the St. Bernard Campus under the direction of Mr. Bill Mumford during the 1997-98 school year.

Renewal, Restoration, Renovation

Once more the church was in need of refurbishing and Christine Reinhardt of Harbor Springs was hired as a consultant. Architects were R.S. Scott Associates. The project's goal was: to restore with discretion the outstanding architectural features of the past, reuse past art forms tastefully, place shrines, candles and images in their appropriate space.

Fr. Walt commented, "I chuckle every time I hear someone anxiously say, 'when you remodel St. Mary's please don't make everything real modern.'"

A capitol building fund drive called "Build a Second Century of Faith" raised \$381,455.81 of the projected \$540,000. The 3-R Committee (Renewal, Restoration, Renovation) visited churches in Cheboygan, Flint and Ann Arbor to gain insight into church arrangements and décor.



The project was a huge undertaking that involved 3 years for planning and construction. During the actual construction which began on August

17, 1998, Masses were held in the St. Mary School gymnasium. An organ loaned by Delmar Kieliszewski was used for music. Accompanied by



John Meek playing bag pipes, a special ceremony to move the articles from the church to the school occurred on August 9. The new pastor, Fr. Donald Geyman, began ministering on August 4.



The central outside entrance to the church was maintained while the 2 entrances on either side were eliminated; the stained glass windows were extended to fill the space. A new terrace with a snow-melt system provided an extra gathering space for socializing even in inclement weather.



Tile flooring, with carpeting in some places, replaced the old carpeting that had covered the entire church. The altar was rebuilt and increased in size. The cry room became a chapel and the choir was moved from the balcony so members could

be part of the assembly. Joining the nearly new organ was a Clavinova.

During the course of the renovation, the church furnace needed replacing at an extra cost of \$42,884.

When the bells rang out at 5 PM on December 26 for the Annual Tour of Churches, St. Mary's proudly displayed its beautiful parish family home to the community.

The March 28, 1999 church bulletin proclaimed, "St. Mary's School is here to stay! Last years financial crisis is overcome."

Sr. Jean, who had served as Hospital Chaplain in Alpena for 18 years, retired.

Sr. Edwardine was welcomed back as school principal.

A New Millennium

John Paul II declared a Jubilee Year and called upon the Church to throw open the doors to Christ! Debts were to be forgiven, people were to reconcile with one another and follow Christ's teachings and precepts. The practice of Mass stipends ended and a calendar was placed on a lectern in the back of church where names of the deceased could be listed for remembrance.



In April, the entire parish was invited to celebrate the Felician Sisters 125th Anniversary as an Order. All the sisters who served in Alpena at St. Mary's, St. John's or Catholic Central were invited to a 4:30 Mass followed by dinner.

Optimism expressed over St. Mary School's solvency in 1999 was short lived. The new talk was about school consolidation. Feelings ran strong about the loss of individual parish schools but the financial realities couldn't be ignored. A school committee with representatives from each of the 4 parishes was formed. People were urged to maintain a positive attitude and look forward without turning back. To name the new school, a contest was held.

The Catholic Church in Alpena celebrated Jubilee Year with a walking pilgrimage to make the Church visible to the entire community. It began at St. John's Church at 2 PM on September 17. After a prayer service, the pilgrimage proceeded to St. Anne, then St. Bernard Churches, culminating with Mass and a light supper at St. Mary's. Transportation was provided for those who couldn't continue the walk and the city secured passage when crossing some of the main streets.

The Catholic Junior High School closed at the end of the 1999-2000 school year.

All Saints Catholic School

The Executive Committee of the new consolidated elementary school known as the Catholic School Servant Leaders (CSSL) adopted a name and a logo. All Saints Catholic School began operations in 2001-2002 with campuses at both St. Mary's and St. Anne's. More time was needed to complete a program so consolidation took place in the following areas: common fund-raising activities, some common operating policies, uniting under the name and logo, and the CSSL taking responsibility for the accreditation process.

Each campus set their own tuition fees and maintained their staff. Parents and students could choose either site and pay the same tuition that the host parish charged its own parishioners. By September of 2002, the entire campus was located at St. Anne's.



Last day at St Mary's School – Sr. Edwardine waves goodbye!

Fr. Gerald Shirilla arrived in August of 2001. He initiated plans to renovate the convent into the Parish Center. Due to personal concerns, Fr. Shirilla's tenure was shortened; Fr. Clarence Smolinski stepped in until a new permanent pastor could be found.

September 11, 2001. Just as December 7, 1941 is etched in people's memories as the "day that will live in infamy," so too will "9-11" stay with all who were alive to hear the news, and view on television, the unfolding of a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Parish staff, along with the rest of the nation, watched in disbelief and horror. Then the local radio station was called to summon the faithful for a special prayer service that evening in church.

The role of St. Mary's current pastor was assumed by Fr. Gregory McCallum on August 1, 2002. With the convent renovation having gained approval from the Bishop, Fr. Greg saw no reason to discontinue the project. Staff members gratefully moved their quarters from the rectory basement.

"Last blast before Lent" heralded the most recent Mardi Gras party at St. Mary's on Tuesday, March 4, 2003. Parishioners were encouraged to decorate their little red wagons and join a parade around the parish grounds. Costumes, masks, floats, music, prizes, dancing, and lots of food were promised. Who could resist?



Parish bulletins from 2003 were peppered with thank you notes from organizations who benefited from monthly Change for Charities collections,

special fundraisers, or donation of time and talent from St. Mary's.

"Please extend to the women of your parish, our extreme gratitude and appreciation for the tasty appetizers and desserts they provided for our annual dinner. Everything looked and tasted delicious and we were privileged to enjoy them!"

Rev. Karen Thompson, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity

Bishop Patrick Cooney submitted the following desperate article for the September church bulletin:

"I dislike sharing this message with you, but I know I must. The priest shortage has reached us here in the Diocese of Gaylord. We, the Catholics of this Diocese, must now face the reality of this shortage and begin to plan for our future ... we have 57 priests to celebrate 176 Masses in 78 different parishes. These parishes are located in 21 counties that cover 11, 171 square miles ... this bishop prays frequently for the 13 priests who are between 70 and 85 years old who are currently working full time as pastors in our Diocese. I have a saying for these priests as well as all the others, 'There is no permission for you to get sick much less to die.' Each day, I hope God hears my prayer."

The Bells of St. Mary's – A 2004 fundraiser to buy hand bells for the children's hand bell choir brought in more than the expected amount.

The latest parish pictorial directory was ready for distribution.

Due to structural safety concerns about the old St. Anne's School, St. Mary's and St. Bernard's Schools were being considered for All Saints School campus in 2005. Both parishes hosted an open house and informational meeting on March 3, 2005. Input was solicited from parents, students, parishioners, and community leaders. In August, All Saints moved to St. Mary's.

Shared Pastorate

With the departure of Fr. David Greka from St. Bernard's, Fr. McCallum assumed responsibility for both St. Mary's and St. Bernard's. The number of Masses needed to be reduced and schedules needed revision. Surveys taken at both parishes revealed that everyone favored the same times - for their parish. After careful consideration and a lot of praying, Fr. Greg found a solution that satisfied almost everyone.

Shaken by blasting from the local quarries, beat upon by both rain and intense sunlight, the stained glass windows of St. Mary's were cracking and losing their leading. The beautiful windows located in the

apse of the church, installed in 1889, had already been restored. The remaining windows, made in 1940 by Grand Rapids Art Glass Works, remained to be done. Save a Window Campaign with an estimated cost of \$5,000 per window was inaugurated.

As the window fund slowly grew in 2006, the status of the rectory came up for consideration. The parish was faced with 3 choices: repair the rectory, demolish it and make room for church expansion, demolish it and build a new rectory. The Pastoral Council deliberated on these options while Fr. Greg made known that he would be willing to live at either St. Bernard's or St. Mary's rectory, but he hated moving. Wherever the Council's decision placed him, there he would stay for the rest of his time in Alpena. The Council voted to replace the roof and windows; new rain gutters were also installed.



St. Mary Rectory

Hurricane Katrina hit the southern states on August 29, 2005, causing massive damage. St. Mary's responded by holding fundraisers to help restore communities. Many parishioners also traveled to effected areas in 2006 to help with on-going clean up.

The Rosary Society reprinted the Centennial Cookbook, selling for \$15.



Hurricane Katrina Fundraiser-Dinner & Fashion Show
Pictured above l to r: Waiters Jim Wallen, Bob Martinez, Brian Holmes and Phil Milostan. Walking the fashion runway is Mary Jo Milostan.

Fr. Jim Kendziorski celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination in 2007; Fr. Greg McCallum celebrated his 10th.

During a Pastoral Council meeting in December, the subject of St. Mary's impending 125th Anniversary in 2008 was introduced. An Anniversary Committee was assembled shortly thereafter. A separate committee was formed to create a book honoring the anniversary and the work began.

125th Anniversary Committee

Pictured l to r: Linda Bicksler, Maria Standen, Mary Winton, Fr. Greg McCallum, Maxine Donajkowski, Julie Kowalski, Ruth Richard. Not Pictured: Leona Wisniewski, Bernice Zolnierak, Eugene Hoppe, Mike MacKay



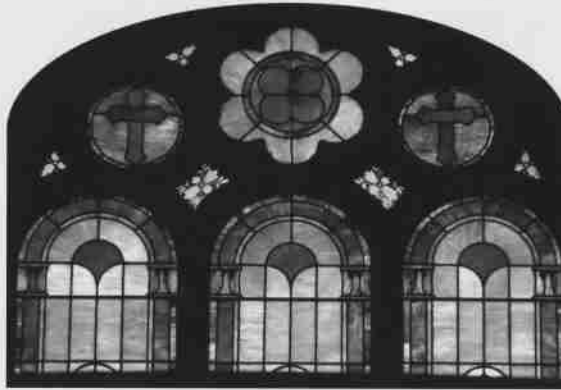
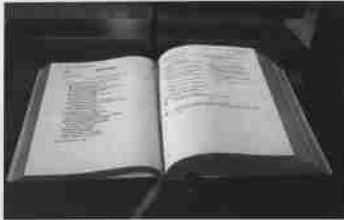
125 Years

We are a pilgrim people on a faith journey. We do not walk alone. The parish history continues in its members' worship, their outreach, their memories, their love for the Creator, and their love for each other. The pages that follow celebrate St. Mary's Parish Family in this year of Our Lord, 2008.

*"Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place."*

Marty Haugen GIA Publication

Architecture & Symbolism



AS A BUILDING, St. Mary Church is more than a physical presence. It is a witness to Christ among us.

Parishioners of the 19th Century chose to rebuild their church in brick to help safeguard it from fire. They chose to give it a Romanesque character typified by its barrel-vaulted central nave and rounded windows.

The nave is the “world of man,” the area where the people worship. It is flanked by columns supporting arches that lift the eye heavenward.



The columns also define the two arcades on either side of the nave.

On the east end of the church, 3 steps (representing faith, hope and charity) lead us up to the “spiritual world” of the sanctuary. Here we find the altar table where the sacrificial offering takes place. In the Eucharist we share in Jesus’ destiny as members of His risen body.

Beyond the altar table stands a crucifix within a semi-circular wall recess known as the apse.



“I will go to the altar of God...” Psalm 42:4

Our Lady of Czestochowa



AT THE BACK of the church hangs a beautiful rendition of an historic painting of Our Blessed Mother and Her Divine Child. This portrait, also known as The Black Madonna, is steeped in history, legend and tradition.

Tradition tells us of how St. Luke, following the wishes of the faithful, asked Mary to sit for a portrait. He then painted the image on a cypress table from the Holy Family's home. Being pleased with the finished portrait, tradition tells of Mary saying, "My grace shall accompany it." Thus began the miraculous history of the painting.

Hidden in Jerusalem for nearly 300 years, it was discovered by St. Helen, whom at the time was in search of the True Cross. She gave the painting as a gift to her son Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor. He had a shrine constructed and there the painting would reside for 500 years. During this time, countless miracles were attributed to the portrait. Numerous attacks were launched at the shrine and most proved fruitless. At one point the shrine was set fire by invaders, and all burned except for the portrait and a portion of the wall where the painting hung.

Gifted again, the painting made its way to Kiev, and would remain there for 579 years. Prince (St.) Ladislaus Opoloski moved the painting in 1382 because of invasion and subsequent damage to the painting caused by an arrow. While enroute to another castle, Ladislaus was visited by the Blessed Virgin. She indicated a hill named Jasna Gora overlooking the town of Czestochowa in southern Poland. The painting was placed in a chapel there and cared for by Basilian monks of the Eastern Rite. St. Ladislaus gave it a few years later to the Latin Rite Hermits of St. Paul.

The monastery where the painting resided suffered a multitude of attacks. In 1430, heretics ransacked the church, killed the monks, and stole the portrait. The attackers attempted to burn it, but the painting would not ignite. Tradition says that an individual struck the portrait twice with a sword (leaving two gashes on the Virgin's face) and when attempting a third stroke, fell dead. The others fled and the painting was returned to the shrine.

King Casimir, in 1656, proclaimed the Virgin Mary as "Queen of the Crown of Poland" and her shrine at Jasna Gora became Poland's national sanctuary. Pope Clement XI recognized the miraculous image in 1717. In 1909, Pope Pius X sent two golden crowns to display alongside the painting, and in 1925, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the Madonna of Jasna Gora "Queen of the Kingdom of Poland."



FR. GATZKE CHALICE

Recently refurbished, this chalice is used for Christmas and Easter Masses.

THE TABERNACLE (bottom right) is housed in the Sacred Chapel to the left of the main altar. It contains the consecrated hosts to be used for distribution to shut-ins, the sick and the dying.

In front of the chapel stands the ambry containing the holy oils (middle) used in the sacraments.





St. Matthew, a tax collector, was called by Jesus to be a disciple and an Apostle.



St. Luke, a physician and convert, was a co-worker of St. Paul.



St. Mark, a convert, based his gospel on St. Peter's preaching.



St. John, Apostle and brother of James, was the son of a fisherman.



Immaculate Conception

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX pronounced in his Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin." This doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was drawn on proofs from Scripture, tradition, and reason.

The feast of Mary's conception had been celebrated in Jerusalem as early as the eighth century. As with many other feasts, this one originated in a monastery and gradually made its way into cathedrals and churches. It first spread through the Eastern Church with the date being fixed on December 9, according to the Oriental calendar. By the eleventh century, it was celebrated in England, moving on to France where it was known during the Middle Ages as the "Feast of the Norman Nation." Through the centuries it spread over Western Europe with Pope Sixtus IV adopting the feast in 1476 for the entire Latin Church and establishing the date on December 8.

In November of 1760, Mary in her aspect of the Immaculate Conception, was declared the principal patron of all possessions of the crown of Spain, including those in America. The First Council of Baltimore (1846) elected Mary as the principal Patron of the United States.

Stained Glass Windows

It would be nearly impossible to enter St. Mary's and not notice the magnificent stained glass windows. While the detailed craftsmanship and vibrant colors are quite apparent, the rich symbolism portrayed in some of them may not be so obvious.

The five windows in the front of the church were installed in August of 1889. The center window of the Blessed Mother is 132 inches high and 32 inches wide. Mary is clothed in white, blue, and green indicating virginity, heavenly love, and immortality. She stands, bathed in radiant sunlight, on a world that God created. The crescent moon and the lily are also symbols of her purity and used to signify her Immaculate Conception. Her left foot is poised to crush the head of an encircling serpent, thus fulfilling the prophesy found in Gen 3.15. Resting on the moon is an apple, a reminder that Mary, as the mother of God, is the new Eve. On the rim of her halo and on the cup over her head are seven circles representing Mary's seven joys and seven sorrows. White, red and yellow roses are found in various parts of the window signaling the joyful, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries. The three leaves of the vine suggest the Holy Trinity. And finally, Mary stands with her right hand over her heart, accepting the honor bestowed upon her by God. "May your will be done."

While Mary is easily recognized, the other windows next to her may not be. They each represent one of the Gospel writers. St. Matthew is shown as a winged man because he begins his Gospel by giving the human ancestry of Jesus, and he teaches us about the human nature of Christ. St. Mark is portrayed as a winged lion. His Gospel informs us of the royal dignity of Christ. The winged ox is assigned to St. Luke for his Gospel deals with the sacrificial aspects of Jesus' life. St. John is the eagle because it is said that his gaze went deeper into the mysteries of Heaven than that of any man. The symbols for the Four Evangelists are taken from references made in the books of Ezekiel and Revelation.



While the windows in our church are beautiful, they are so much more. Several windows are easily associated with the celebration of the Eucharist. The pictures of the grapes, the wheat, and the chalice need no explanation. The monstrance is another instrument used during Eucharistic Adoration and can be seen in the glass.



There are four windows depicting crowns. The crowns represent royalty. The crown of thorns with three nails brings to mind Jesus' suffering on the cross, while the crown with lilies in the center reminds us of His triumph over death. The crown with the cross and palm branch in the middle reminds us to follow our King, Jesus, daily even if that means we must suffer. The heart is a symbol of our emotions, of our center, of the most important part of our lives. We cannot live without it. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is represented, as well as the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Some of the windows have Latin symbols in them. There are the Alpha and the Omega, or the beginning and the end. A window with a banner displaying the words Agnus Dei, meaning Lamb of God, can also be found. The IHS is Greek for Jesus the Savior.



Prayers and praise are other popular themes in worship. The reminder of our prayers reaching Heaven is represented by the thurible, or censer, that holds the incense as it is burning. The praise that Jesus received upon entering Jerusalem is shown in the picture showing the palm leaves with the word hosanna written over them. Jesus is the Light of the World. It is fitting then to have light also represented in the glass. He is both the Word and the Light which are shown in the piece with the lamp sitting on the book.



A few of the more unfamiliar images might be the keys, the anchor, and the pelican. The window containing the keys and stole is to remind us of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The symbols of this sacrament are the gesture of forgiveness offered by the priest, and the keys given by Christ to Peter, which open and shut the way to the Kingdom of God. The anchor represents hope. Lastly, the pelican was thought to feed its young with the blood from its own breast. It is symbolic of Christ "by whose wounds we are healed," and Who nourished us with the sacrament of His Body and Blood.



The next time you walk into church, take the time to appreciate the deep meanings portrayed in the magnificent stained glass. You will be blessed by them.





TO THE RIGHT of the main entrance is the Marion Shrine where the faithful can spend time in quiet reflection and devotion. A statue of the Sacred Heart is also located there. Adjoining the shrine is the Reconciliation Chapel.

BLESSING ONESELF with holy water serves as a reminder of Baptism's life-long commitment as followers of Christ.

The font (as pictured below on Palm Sunday) has been emptied of its water during Lent as a reminder of Christ's desert experience and a Christian's yearning for the water of life.

Early Catechumens prepared for Baptism with 3 years of instruction, prayer, and good works. This was shared by a sponsor who vouched for the candidate at the Easter Vigil.

Early artists created a favored azure-blue pigment by grinding the semi-precious stone, lapis lazuli, into their mixture. Because it was a very expensive color to create, they began using it for the Blessed Mother as a sign of respect.



Stations of the Cross

THIS DEVOTION CONSISTS of meditation before each of 14 stations representing the Passion of Our Lord. Several of the stations, such as Jesus meeting with Veronica, are based on tradition rather than scripture.

Stations of the Cross arose about the middle of the 15th century among Franciscan friars who practiced it as a spiritual pilgrimage.



WHEN CELINA LOSINSKI took classes in ceramics some years ago, she had no idea her newly acquired talents combined with her religious interest would beautify St. Mary's Church.

During the last major church renovation, Celina, Fr. Walt Derylo, and Jane Melville drove to Andrzejewski's Mariam Church Supply in Saginaw to view a set of eighty year old Stations of the Cross that had been advertised in the Catholic weekly. Originally from a church in Fowlerville, MI, these high relief plaster castings contained figures that were scratched, gouged and had broken parts. Their paint, too, had faded and chipped. Yet, Celina appreciated their potential and was willing to try some ceramic techniques to restore them.

Celina's husband, Barry, loaded the back of his truck with mattresses from the Gatzke Center and drove to Saginaw to transport the newly purchased Stations. Each mattress supported and protected two of the fourteen.

For the first year, Celina worked on the Stations at Losinski Excavating. Later, the operation was moved to a room in the rectory. Layers of old paint were removed using small scrapers, nail files and many grades of sand paper. This was particularly difficult around the leafy scroll work on the frames. Recreating broken (and missing) faces and hands with a mixture of glue and plaster was even more difficult and time consuming, as they had to be molded little by little and sanded to create a seamless blend with the old.

Color was achieved by rubbing a medium bristled artist's brush on appropriately colored chalk and applying it to the subject. Every coat had to be sealed with a spray.

This tedious but creative work took place over a period of two years and thousands of hours. Celina was assisted by Susan Anders, and for the last eight months, by Donald Wysocki. Celina thinks that seeing the first restored station hung in the church was ample reward for her "labor of love."



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW CANONICAL VISITATION MAY 21, 1943 by T. William Murphy

Catholic Population – 2,319; 461 families

St. Mary Church – Doors, roof and tower are good; urgent repairs needed on walls, chimney needs new cap. Felgemaker organ purchased in 1915 for \$2,600 needs new pneumatics in console. Epistle & Gospel Books in both English & Polish are in good condition. Sunday Mass attendance estimated at 1800. Twenty four altar boys. Ten statues. Catechism classes on Saturdays for children not attending parochial school.

Sacred Music – Singing in the vernacular is not tolerated during High Mass except for Offertory and distribution of Communion. Congregational singing is not encouraged.

St. Mary School – 382 students; 212 boys & 170 girls. Annual salary of religious teachers is \$4, 550. Building in fair condition.

Financial Condition – Annual Income of Parish is \$15,630. Property value is \$110,000. No debt.

Our Grand Steeple



THE CHURCH AND THE STEEPLE seem to have suffered from nature's and man's actions. St. Mary's Church burned twice and was hit by lightning several times. A 1971 lightning strike damaged the upper section of the steeple, Alpena's highest, forcing the removal of a 47 foot section. A temporary all-wood cupola, sided with cedar shingles was set in place.

Lightning struck again in July of 1994 leaving some structural damage to the cross and its base support. A desire to maintain the original look of the church led to a search for a replica of the original steeple. This one was to be made of fiberglass, be light weight and have a no maintenance finish. Pictures of the church dated 1889 show how closely the new steeple resembles the old.



Watching the steeple placement are l to r: Jillian Garant, Anthony Garant, Nancy Garant, Andrew Garant, Philip Schultz. In background: James Szczukowski

"If I was going by a church and had the time, I'd make a visit. One day, when I had my 2 pre-school children with me, I was kneeling in prayer when a storm came along and lightning hit the steeple. It sounded like the windows blew out. I kept praying until I heard the fire engines and Mr. Jodway came running from his store across the street and asked if we were okay.

I'm still wondering what the Lord was trying to tell me. Within a short while, the steeple was removed and replaced."

Delphine Gatzke

Worship

The Church celebrates 7 different times in the liturgical year, beginning with Advent. How it celebrates a particular time is dictated by the GIRM (General Instructions of the Roman Missal) but the local bishop and his understanding of the documents can allow for some variations. How the church is decorated for a particular season is a combination of norms from the liturgy documents, guidelines of the local bishop, and the ideas of liturgy commissions.

Advent

The Lord is at hand!

Advent is a 4 week period of anticipation, preparation and joy. It began in 6th Century Rome, but in the Middle Ages it took on more of a penitential character similar to that of Lent. The Church today is trying to restore some of the character of joyful expectation without losing the benefits of the penitential spirit.

The priest's vestments and the altar cloth are a blue purple to distinguish it from the rose purple of Lent. The children who participate in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd know that purple means "preparation" and they can sing the song telling you about it.

At St. Mary Church, we have a tradition of families lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath while reading a prayer of thanksgiving and petition. This is not a liturgical requirement but a tradition in many Catholic churches.



Pictured above are the children of Daniel and Monica Weaver who display the ornaments they crafted at the parish Advent Festival. L to r back row: Clayton, Abigail, Grace; front row – Cecelia and Magdalyn

Christmas

God among us! He is Emmanuel!



Ordinary Time

ORDINARY TIME WHERE THE COLOR IS GREEN.

Following Christmas, where the liturgical color is white, comes Ordinary time. Faith grows with reflection on the miraculous in the ordinary. In the Episcopal Church, it is also referred to as "growing time." Ordinary time continues until Lent, then resumes after the Easter season.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

"I wish I'd been open to the priesthood at an earlier age. Nobody talked to me about being a priest, except my mother, and she gave up by the time I was twelve."

Fr. Don Geyman



Fr. Don Geyman with Knights of Columbus Honor Guard

On April 13 the Church celebrated the 45th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. St Mary's hosted a one

hour service of prayer and scripture readings led by Fr. Don Geyman, former pastor at St. Mary's and current Delegate for Vocations for the Gaylord Diocese. Fr. Greg McCallum shared the story of his faith journey to the priesthood.

This service preceded a visit to the US by Pope Benedict XVI who arrived on April 16th. The Associated Press quoted the Rev. Donald Cozzens, a former seminary rector and author of "The Changing Face of the Priesthood." "There's a certain mystery to a call to ministry in the priesthood. Some people know they are destined to be a priest from their childhood and other people discover this call much later in life. Sometimes it's awakened by a papal visit." The day of prayer promoted vocations for religious women and lay people as well.

In a reception in the parish hall following the service, Fr. Geyman talked about a pilot program in Gaylord called the St. Andrew Task Force. It is an effort to help Catholic boys and young men between the ages of 12 and 18 to listen to God's call and discern the path in which He may be leading them. The young men come together to pray, to serve, to learn, and to support one another in their walk with the Lord. It is dedicated under the patronage of the apostle Andrew, who invited his brother Simon Peter to come along and follow Christ on the journey.

Lent

"Is this such a fast as I have

chosen: for a man to afflict his soul for a day?...Is not this rather the fast that I have chosen? Loose the bands of wickedness, undo the bundles that oppress, let them that are broken go free, and break asunder every burden." Isaiah 58: 5-6

Lent is a 40 day retreat, a time of special reflection and prayer. A time of healing; a time to offer sacrifices and small penances to unite with the suffering of Christ. The liturgical color is purple. It changes for the celebration of the Triduum which includes Holy Thursday (white), Good Friday (red), and Holy Saturday (white).



Easter

"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our Song!" St. Augustine

Easter is the heart of the Christian faith, the holiest and happiest day of the liturgical year. It begins with evening Mass, continues through the Easter vigil and closes on Easter Sunday. Passing from Lent into Easter, the liturgical colors change from purple in the morning to white (or gold) with the celebration of Christ's passing from death into life. The Easter Season continues through Christ's Ascension into Heaven and culminates with the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Blessing of Baskets

Having observed the forty-day penitential season of Lent, people are ready for a feast. Carrying on the Polish tradition of filling a basket with food and taking it to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday marks the end of fasting. The Easter baskets are filled with hard-cooked eggs, butter, bread, smoked meats and other foods to be used for the Easter meal.



Paschal Candle

Blessing of the Paschal candle is a notable feature of the Holy Saturday Service. From then until Ascension Day, it stands on the Gospel side of the altar in the sanctuary. It is lit during high Mass and solemn vespers on Sundays until it is extinguished and removed after the Gospel on Ascension Day. In the earlier days of the Church, the catechumens were baptized on Easter eve in a ceremony called *photismos* (illumination). The Paschal candle is symbolic of Christ, the true light.



*Fr. Greg lights the Paschal Candle held
by Brian Holmes*





We Remember We Celebrate We Believe

*"..they had come to know Him in the breaking of bread."
Luke 24:35*



"The Lord has been raised! It is true!" Luke 24:34

Święconka (Easter Meal)

THE TABLE IS SET WITH THE BEST LINEN AND DECORATED WITH BRANCHES OF PUSSY WILLOW, GREEN LEAVES OR FRESH FLOWERS.

Ham or kielbasa centers the meal and represents the sacrifice of the new covenant. A relish of beets and horseradish, *cwikla*, symbolizes the bitter herbs of Passover while the decorated



eggs, *Pisanki*, remind us that Christ's resurrection is the reason for our celebration.

Sharing a loaf of bread brings the Eucharist into our homes while salt gives flavor and meaning to our lives. The pascal lamb makes an appearance in the form of butter; the Twelve Apostles in the twelve fruit salad.

Wine or honey-flavored vodka joins us once more to the Eucharistic table. Rich *baba*, cheese cake, or a frosted cake comforts us.

He is risen and through Him comes the sweet reward of heaven.

Ordinary Time, Part Two

May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Healing Mission

On September 9, 2007 St. Mary Parish experienced a healing mission unlike any most had seen. It was led by Fr. Glen Fontana of Mary's Helpers Healing Ministry, Inc. of Wonder Lake, Illinois. Fr. Glen celebrated Mass with a full church where he talked about some of his own life experiences and what really drew him closer and closer to the Trinity and the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.

He then asked anyone who wanted prayers for healing to come forward. He laid hands on each person while praying for them in the language of the Holy Spirit. A great number of the people coming forward experienced what is known as "resting in the Spirit."

One person in attendance explained that he really didn't know what to expect but when Fr. Glen asked

him if he wanted a blessing, he said, "Yes." Fr. Glen then asked him what he wanted to pray for and he said, "Understanding." With that, Fr. Glen laid hands and began to pray. "I could feel myself falling, but had no control. It was certainly nothing I had ever experienced before!" The fruits of that experience have continued throughout the year. That person's experience was not unlike those of many other people

*"It was certainly nothing
I had ever experienced
before!"*

present.

Although he has devoted his life to this ministry, Fr. Glen is still a diocesan priest. With his bishop's permission, he travels around the country telling people about some of his own life experiences and sharing his gift of healing.

October – Month of the Rosary



The origins of the rosary are "sketchy" at best. The use of "prayer beads" and the repeated recitation of prayers to aid in meditation stem from the earliest days of the Church and has roots in pre-Christian times. Evidence exists from the Middle Ages that strings of beads were used to count Our Fathers and Hail Marys. Actually, these strings of beads became known as "Paternosters," the Latin for "Our Father."

The structure of the rosary gradually evolved between the 12th and 15th centuries. Eventually 50 Hail Marys were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. During this time, this prayer form became known as the rosarium (rose garden)...During the 16th century, the structure of the 5-decade rosary based on the 3 sets of mysteries prevailed.

Eternal Word Television Network

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the first Friday of every month.

On the following 2 pages are pictures of the Snyder/Zann families as they have celebrated the sacraments and worshipped in their daily lives.

Now abide, faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is Love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Everett and Gladys Snyder married ~~in~~ and had seven children: Jack, Joan (Fisher), Lorraine (Bromund), Barb (Bowen), Mary (Amiotte) Emmett (pictured below at St. Mary's school) and Tom.

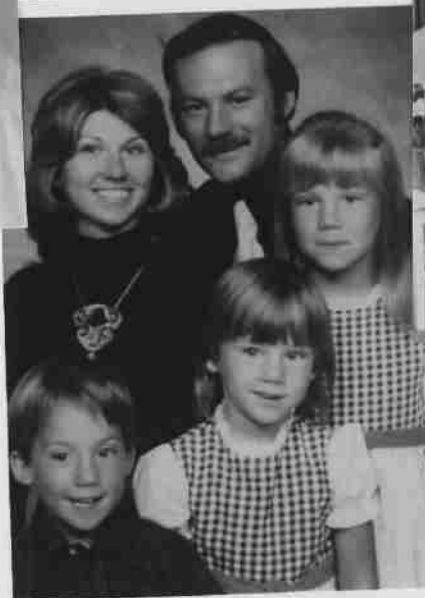
One of Emmett's memories of attending church with his family was going to get his Dad, Everett, up at Communion. He was blind and would sometimes get turned around.



One of my favorite memories of my grandparents is seeing them at church Sunday morning and walking back to their home on Clark Street where we would visit and my grandma would prepare a big lunch.



← Mary Lou (Snyder) + brother Ron Snyder 1st Communion at St. Mary's.



pictured below: Mary Lou's aunts + uncles that attend St. Mary's: Lillian Markowski, Blanche Skowron (her mom), Florence Witte, Ernie Peplinski, Julius Peplinski, Irene Zolnier, and Rosie Paul.



Roxane and Andrea's Confirmation pictures (above).

Emmett and Mary Lou Snyder with their children Roxane, Andrea and Emmett, jr. Picture taken for St. Mary's in 1976.



← Andrea's 1st Communion 1979 picture. My mom made our dresses and we both used her wedding veil.

Roxane married Chad Zann and have two children: Edie and Everett who attend All Saints Catholic School. "They really enjoy going to Sunday school, too"



Andrea married Josh Toller and have four children: Eli, Luke, Nikki and Ashton. They live in Paw Paw, MI.

Emmett married Jennifer (Knack) and have a son Ezra, who was Baptised at St. Man's Church in 2007.

Chad Zann and his family - Bruce and Gail Zann, Steve and Barb also attended St. Man's and ~~they made~~ were Baptised, made their 1st Communion and Confirmations there. His grandparents Jerry and Beverly Zann attended St. Man's Church and his Aunt Elaine Zann is a member and was very active in church organizations.



Glorious, majestic are his deeds
and his righteousness endures forever.
Psalms 111:3

It is my hope that our family can continue to pass down, generation after generation, the love we have for God and for each other.

Roxane Zann

Priests

Following are stories about priests who are related to St. Mary's by virtue of having grown up in the parish or by having ministered here as pastors.

Reverend Charles Donajkowski

Dear Fr. Tom, and People of St. Mary's,

I am writing to let you know that things are really great here in Grayling. I am adjusted and find that I fit in over here just like home. I want to thank you and the Finance and Pastoral Councils for all the Support and Prayers.

The Parish there at St. Mary's has given me so much. Not only does the Parish give me vocational support, but I was reflecting the other day on what a great role St. Mary's has played in my own personal Faith Life. The St. Mary's Community plays such a great role in the development of a Faith Life of so many young people in Alpena.

As I was preparing a short entry for our bulletin about who I am and how I wound up in the Seminary, I found that St. Mary's played a major role, along with my Family, in presenting to me a Faith perspective that included Catholic Christian Traditions, Beliefs, and Values. I found that yet today I hold these same Traditions, Beliefs, and Values as the backbone not only of my faith but also as the backbone of who I am.

I am very proud to claim St. Mary's Alpena as my home Parish and can only pray that God will help me to be able to share with others all that you have shared with me.

I am ever grateful for your continued support and all your Prayers. Be assured that I remember my Home Parish and all my benefactors in my daily prayers.

God's Blessings to you all,

Charles Donajkowski

The above letter appeared in the Sunday Bulletin on October 16, 1988. "Fr. Charlie" was ordained to the priesthood on June 28, 1991. He serves as pastor at St. Ignatius' in Rogers City, St. Casimir's in Posen, and St. Dominic's in Metz.

Right Reverend Monsignor John E. Gatzke

Born a farm boy in Isadore, MI on October 21, 1882, John Gatzke left home at the age of 14 to complete his classical studies at Marquette College in Milwaukee, WI. He then entered St. Francis Seminary, also in Wisconsin. He was ordained to the diaconate in April of 1905 and ordained to the priesthood 3 months later in Grand Rapids, MI when he reached the requisite age of 23 years.

Fr. Gatzke's first 7 years as a priest were spent serving the faithful in and around Bay City, MI. His first Pastorate was at St. Stanislaus Parish in Ludington, MI. But 49 of his 59 years as a priest were spent at St. Mary Parish in Alpena. When the Diocese of Saginaw was established, Bishop Murphy appointed him Dean of the Northern Six counties. On December 17, 1945, Pope Pius XII conferred on him the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

On the occasion of his 50th Anniversary in the priesthood, August 27, 1955, The Alpena News published the following:

"Alpena has no more humble a man than Msgr. Gatzke, none more highly revered by people in all walks of life, perhaps in part because of his humility and also for the fact that during more than two-fifths of a century he has stood as such a pillar of quiet, but still forceful moral strength in the life of the community. Such characters as he are rare indeed."

A St. Mary's program published for the same anniversary stated, "Our Pastor does his work quietly and humbly - a shepherd who knows his flock."

In the first 41 years of his pastorate at St. Mary's, 1,053 marriages were solemnized, 3,871 people were baptized, and 1,390 parishioners died.

Msgr. Gatzke retired in 1963 at age 80. He died on August 22, 1964 and is laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery. For the many in the parish who still remember him, he will always be "Father John," our priest, our friend.

Reverend David Greka

David Greka was born in Alpena in 1936 to John and Martha Greka and was baptized in St. Mary Church. The family moved to Posen a few years later. There he attended St. Casimir elementary school.

David Greka moved back to Alpena after his elementary schooling. Here he attended Catholic Central High School where he participated in football, basketball and baseball. After his freshman year of high school, he left for the Seminary at Orchard Lake, MI. There he attended high school, college and Theology. He graduated from St. Mary High School and then received a bachelor of philosophy degree from St. Mary University. Fr. Greka was ordained on June 2, 1962 for the Diocese of Amarillo, TX at St. Mary Cathedral in Saginaw by Bishop Stephen Woznicki. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Mary Church in Alpena in 1962.

After his ordination, he was involved with the Vatican II Council which had just started. He felt that using the vehicle of Vatican II, the church was able to open the windows and allow the Holy Spirit into the Church. He was impressed with the way it made worship more applicable to our faith and the modern world. The administration and meaning of the sacraments were enhanced by the changes. Vatican II brought the lay people into the liturgy. The ecumenical spirit it encouraged was of great value when working with non-Catholic students and ministers and relating with other religions.

The Cursillo movement had its beginnings in Texas and was quite active during the early years of his priesthood. The Cursillo made it inspiring to see the Spirit working within the people, causing the people to be open to express their faith. Fr. David worked in the Diocese for 16 years. He was an associate in Amarillo St. Joseph Church for 5 years. He became pastor for 5 years in Morton, TX and then 6 years in Tulia where he built a church, the first in the Amarillo Diocese to incorporate multi-media.

In 1978, Fr. Greka became a chaplain in the U.S. Army, subsequently serving in many states including Missouri, Alaska, California, New Jersey, Michigan, Kansas and Alabama. He also served in Germany and Korea. He became the director of Family Life Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama from 1988-1991 when he returned to Germany. While in the military he took advantage of what the areas had to offer. He skied throughout Europe, motorcycled, bicycled, scuba dived and parachuted as a jumpmaster for the Green Berets. He also flew as a bush pilot in Alaska.

Fr. Greka retired in 1994 after 20 years of active ministry and then ministered in the Federal Bureau of Prisons at Latuna, TX until 1997. After a sabbatical at the North American College in Rome, he returned home to Alpena where he was assigned to St. Bernard Church for 6 years.

He obtained his Masters degree in Education in 1979 and a Masters in Counseling in 1988 at Kansas State University, while in the Military. Fr. Greka

celebrated his 25th anniversary Mass as a priest in 1987 at St. Mary Church.

Fr. Dave retired in 2005 and is presently filling in for priests on weekends, celebrating weddings and funerals and weekday Masses. He still is interested in athletic endeavors, playing tennis and golf 4 times a week.

Reverend James Kendziorski

Father Jim was ordained to the Priesthood in June of 1957. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Mary's in Alpena on June 1, 1957.

For over 17 years, he worked among the people of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada. In 1962 he visited Rome, Italy and Jerusalem.

Fr. Jim has made a great contribution to the Catholic community of Alpena by serving at all 4 of the parishes whenever he was called upon. He currently serves at St. Rose in Herron and ministers at Tendercare and Greenview nursing homes where he celebrates Mass each week. He is the Catholic Chaplain at the Alpena Regional Medical Center. He is a comforting presence in the rooms and hallways of the hospital and always has a kind word and a blessing for everyone.

Fr. Jim has been serving the spiritual needs of God's children for over 50 years.

Reverend Raymond Mulka

Father Raymond Mulka, former pastor, attended St. Ignatius School in Rogers City and found his vocation at an early age. Although he was quite athletic and loved baseball, he often found himself making the Stations of the Cross during recess. His parish priest noticed his presence in the church, suggested to him that he may have a vocation to the priesthood and guided him in his grade school days. His parents were also very supportive and had a great influence on him. He remembers that his family prayed the rosary daily. He left for the seminary following his graduation from the eighth grade. He was the first from his parish to be ordained and nine followed. In fact, seven young men from one block were ordained.

Vocations, Father Mulka thinks, come in cycles. He recalls a shortage of priests in the 1930's. Pope John Paul, in his work with youth, greatly inspired them. His tremendous support of youth and the reception accorded the Pope by youth, will bear fruit and more young men will hear God's call and enter the priesthood.

Father Mulka's arrival at St. Mary's in 1963 coincided with the changes required by Vatican II.

Vatican II, Father Mulka states, was a providential approach to the changing world at large. It helped preserve the Church in modern times.

He implemented meetings on the changes in the liturgy for all parishioners who wished to attend. It was a traumatic experience for some people even though the changes allowed the people to participate in the Mass more fully. Younger people responded more positively. There was a period of transition in which there was a balance of the traditional and the new. The changes were gradually incorporated into the liturgy and included Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and song leaders. Besides the liturgical worship changes, Father Mulka presided over the changes in the church interior. In addition to all of this, he oversaw the construction of the new school, which was completed in 1967.

So, with all of this work, work, work, what did Father do for a break from so many responsibilities? One of the things he liked to do, and did not consider it work, was to teach a religion class to a different grade each week at the school. It helped him to get to know the students. And what provided a complete change of pace? Remember that love of baseball mentioned earlier? He continued that interest as an assistant pastor and as a pastor. He played in the Bay County Federation under the alias of Ray Mullins, coached parish high school teams, not to mention the Presque Isle, Alcona and Top of Michigan leagues before his arrival at Alpena. As time passed, he also became interested in landscape photography, especially flowers and the western mountains. Father often shared his slides with children and various adult groups.

Father Mulka has spent much of his time serving Polish neighborhoods – from Polish Town in Rogers City, to St. Stan's in Bay City and St. Mary's in Alpena – to name a few. He is proud of his ethnic and faith origins. In retirement he serves the spiritual needs of many individuals and enjoys reading books on theology, philosophy, world events and the classics.

Reverend Clarence Smolinski

Fr. Clarence Smolinski, our former interim pastor, attended both public and parochial schools in Alpena and Presque Isle Counties. He attended St. Mary School for his sixth grade studies so he could prepare for his First Holy Communion. His family belonged to St. Dominic's Parish in Metz.

Clarence sensed a calling to the priesthood in his early years as a student at St. Casimir High School in Posen when a woman, who had entered the convent and was a friend of his mother, asked his mother if any of her boys had entered religious life as a priest.

Since Clarence's father was deceased and he was the youngest of 7 surviving brothers, he thought he couldn't afford to enter the seminary.

His brothers offered to give him financial assistance so he could study for the priesthood. After 2 years at Orchard Lake Seminary, Clarence was told by the priest at St. Dominic's that he no longer belonged to that parish. Msgr. Gatzke welcomed him at St. Mary's and that's how he became one of our "sons." Fr. Clarence went on to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. John's in Plymouth.

At the many parishes where he was assigned, Father always had a building program. Honesty and an open door policy were part of his style in ministering to his flock. In regard to the many challenges that evolved from Vatican II, he took a middle of the road approach with his congregation and would state, "We'll try this for a few weeks to see what you think of it."

Father Clarence has been to Rome, Italy where he studied for 4 months. He has shaken hands twice with Pope John Paul II and spoken to him in Polish. He felt the Pope gave special personal attention to each individual he met and that he was a very holy man. Father also studied in Jerusalem where he walked in the footsteps of Jesus and saw the tomb where our Savior was buried; in Greece, he walked in the footsteps of St. Paul. Of Pope Benedict XVI, he thinks he is reaching out to get those who have left the Catholic Church to come home.

From his father, Fr. Clarence learned to be a carpenter; from his brothers he learned to be a painter, plasterer and electrician. All these skills served him well when he completed the work on his own home after it had been roughed in. From his mother, he learned to garden, cook and bake, especially bread. He now has over 130 hedge roses and grows and preserves many different vegetables and berries.

One of his brothers, who had a serious heart condition, lived with him for 17 years before dying at the age of 92. Father considers his help to his brother as a way of thanking his brother for his assistance while he was in the seminary.



*Fr. Tom Dominiak, Fr. Jerry Hunko
1992*

Priests Who Have Served at St. Mary Church

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
December 8, 1883	Candid Kozlowski
1884	Matthew Grochowski
1884	Kolasinski
January to October 1885	None
October 1885	Augustine Sklorzyk
March 1889	Leopold Oprychalski
February 1, 1900	Stephen Nowalkowski
August 14, 1909	Joseph Kaminski
January 21, 1914	John E. Gatzke



Msgr. John E. Gatzke

June 18, 1963	Raymond Mulka
March 15, 1973	Raymond Pilarski
August 10, 1983	Thomas M. Dominiak
June 30, 1993	Walter W. Derylo*
August 4, 1998	Donald R. Geyman
August 1, 2001	Gerald M. Shirilla
March 2, 2002	Clarence D. Smolinski
August 1, 2002	Gregory McCallum

<u>Date</u>	<u>Associate Pastor</u>
1921-1926	Leo J. Piaskowski
1926-1927	John F. Grzybowski
1927-1928	Ladislaus Switalski
1929-1930	John J. Kuchinski
1930-1931	Bronislaus B. Roguszka
1931-1934	Stanislaus A. Fron
1934-1937	Stephen J. Kozak
1937-1942	Casimir Walkowiak
1942-1943	Edward Szturmowski
1943-1944	Frank Jurek
1944	Francis Piaskowski
1944-1945	Camill F. Klos
1945-1949	Sigmund Haremski
1949-1950	Leo Skornia
1950-1953	Chester J. Pilarski
1951	George H. Klimas
1952	Charles Ganley
1953-1954	Noel T. Rudy
1954-1956	Chester J. Pilarski
1956	Bruno L. Kaczmarczyk
1956-1957	Harold R. Sikorski
1957-1962	Bernard L. Skornia
1962-1963	Vernon Sierminski
1963-1966	John W. Troester
1966-1968	Richard Seifferly
1968-1970	Lawrence Boks
1970-1971	William Beitz
1971	Ron Gronowski
1973-1979	Ted Kopek
1979-1981	John Ladd
1981-1983	Richard Sitar
1987-1988	Michael Connor
1989-1991	Leonard Joyce
1991-1993	Jerald A. Hunko
1993-1994	Zbigniew Kozar

* Neal Kaminski, OFM and Stanley Stone filled in while Fr. Derylo was on sabbatical.

Priest Vocations from St. Mary Parish

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORDAINED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORDAINED</u>
Fr. Julian Utecht	June 16, 1899	Fr. Walter Switalski	1922
Fr. Francis Piaskowski	1906	Fr. Joseph Gorski	June 6, 1953
Msgr. Julius Manteufel	1906	Fr. Clarence Smolinski	June 1, 1957
Fr. Walter Szczukowski	1908	Fr. James Kendzierski	June 2, 1962
Fr. Leo Piaskowski	1919	Fr. David E. Greka	June 28, 1991
Fr. Victor Piaskowski	1921	Fr. Charles Donajkowski	

Religious

The Felician Sisters have served at St. Mary's School from the time 4 Sisters arrived on September 3, 1891 until the school closed in 2000. They also taught at Catholic Central High School during its existence. This congregation of nuns was founded in 1855 by Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska in Warsaw, Poland. They came to America in 1874 to work in the fields of education, health services, and social work.



Sr. Pius (6th grade teacher) 1964

Over the years, the sisters have modified their habits and changed their names, but they have not changed their spirit of dedication to Our Lord and His people. Sr. Edwardine Stoppa is still actively involved in the life of the parish family. The example shown by the nuns has encouraged many young women of the parish to follow a vocation as a member of the Felician Order.



L to r: Sr. Ildefonse (organist) & St. Agnetta (1st grade teacher) in December of 1938



L to r: Sr. Rose, Sr. DeLourdes

Sister Vocations from St. Mary Parish

S.M. Theophila Kotwicki	S.M. Ladislaus Muszynski	S.M. Carolita Arciszewski
S.M. Josepha Piaskowski	S.M. Cassilda Zielinski	S.M. Adele Wiczorkowski
S.M. Stanislaw	S.M. Canisia Wilemski	S.M. Edwardine Stoppa
S.M. Anatolia	S.M. Theresilla Golla	S.M. Elise Milostan
S.M. Clemens Kendzierski	S.M. Angeline Filipiak	S.M. Janet Gapinski
S.M. Dominic Przykucki	S.M. Florence Filipiak	S.M. Richardine Durecki
S.M. Eudoxia Eisbrenner	S.M. Edna Kwiatkowski	S.M. Juanita Szymanski
S.M. Loyola Piaskowski	S.M. Dina Klamecki	S.M. Agnes Marie Molitoris
S.M. Justina Golla	S.M. Andrea Klamecki	S.M. Luke Jeziolkowski
S.M. Theresa Paschke	S.M. Amadeus Harkiewicz	S.M. Robert Hejka
S.M. Blandina Paschke	S.M. Balbina Kendzierski	S.M. Valerie Fenski

Pastor

Reverend Gregory McCallum



Father Greg has deep roots in Alpena even though he grew up in the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo area. His parents were both raised here. His paternal grandfather, Ray McCallum, was editor of the Alpena News and Ray's wife was a Ritzler, part of the family dry cleaning business.

We have been privileged to hear snippets from Fr. Greg's life as he's woven stories of his growing years into his Sunday homilies. His fascination with science fiction television programs, his favorite cartoon characters, the family prejudice for its cat over its dog – all of these have been fodder for stories that pique our interest and lead us to parallel stories from the Bible and the lessons they teach us.

In addition to celebrating the Mass and administering the sacraments at both St. Mary's and St. Bernard's, Fr. Greg is the Regional Vicar, the chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, has responsibility for All Saints School and serves on its Board, writes a column for The Alpena News, sits on the Holy Cross Cemetery Board, and is a regular contributor to Christian Conversations.

His many responsibilities reflect the shortage of priests in this country. Fr. Greg

sees this as leading to the inevitable clustering of churches and the opportunity for the laity to respond to its baptismal call and give of its time and talent.

One of the most rewarding aspects of his duties is working with children in the faith formation classes and those attending All Saints and seeing their interest and thirst for faith. A second is to hear Confessions and "have people open themselves to the life changing experience of rediscovering God's grace and forgiveness. I like to encourage them to keep that momentum. Some people walk into the confessional with the feeling of walking into torture. They leave feeling one hundred times better."

When asked what comes to mind when he thinks about the people of St. Mary's, Fr. Greg replied, "Their passion and intensity is impressive. It's the hardest working parish I've ever been involved with. There's a tremendous amount of spirit and motivation. They respond to a challenge and don't give up."

Greg McCallum entered the US Air Force in May of 1982 after graduating from high school. He was stationed in Texas, Louisiana, and at Wurtsmith Air Base in Michigan. After his honorable discharge, he took advantage of the GI Bill and attended St. Meinrad College in Indiana where he majored in English with a minor in Philosophy. While at this Benedictine school, he had some conversations with priests which started him thinking, "Maybe the Lord is inviting me down this path." He entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Ohio and took the five year program on a "one semester at a time approach. At each stage I felt more affirmed. It wasn't so much like a calling as it was Greg seeking the Lord and the Lord opening the path and blessing it."

As a seminarian, Greg spent three summers working with the janitors at St. Mary's stripping the school floors. This was about the time Al Witucki was hired. He interned under Fr. Jim Hayden at St. Anne's in Alpena and after his ordination in June 1997, he was assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Anne's with Fr. Joe Graff. He next served for a year at St. Ann's in Cadillac as an Associate under Fr. Frank Murphy. Fr. Greg's first solo assignment was with St. Hubert's and St. James' at Higgins/North Houghton Lakes where he served for two years before an opening occurred at St. Mary's in Alpena.

Fr. Greg is the son of Paul McCallum and Barb (Golder) Astling. He has one sister, Lynn, who is twenty one years younger.

*"Maybe the Lord is inviting me
down this path."*

Parish Staff

Linda Bicksler



Linda Bicksler began working as Director of Pastoral Ministries at St. Mary's fourteen years ago. On this Wednesday of Holy Week, she attended Mass, checked over her list of things to do and got on the phone to line up altar servers for Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil, and Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the Easter services. She then went to the store to buy goodies to make up baskets for the parish shut-ins and for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. On the way, she stopped at

a florist to drop off vases to be filled with flowers for the weekend services. She answered questions while working with the members of the Social Service Commission who were assembling the Easter baskets. When finished, she readied the former chapel for Holy Thursday, after which it will be returned to its function as the Atrium for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. And then there are all those phone calls to finish. Linda admits that Easter is a particularly busy time for anyone working in the Church.

Loosely defined, her job includes researching ideas for the spiritual enrichment of the parish as well as acting as Pastoral Liaison for each of the Commissions; helping with the planning and carrying-out of various social and spiritual parish activities. Some of the ongoing activities she is involved with are: Prayer Chain, Mom's Scripture Group, Evening Scripture Study, scheduling the various liturgical ministries, Baptism preparation, teaching the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as well as

bringing Eucharist to the homebound.

"This is an active parish and we are blessed with a large number of wonderful volunteers, without whom nothing would happen. "I love my job because it has allowed me to grow in faith, as well as use my creativity. I am even allowed to cook once in a while!"

If you spend any amount of time with Linda you're likely to hear a number of heartfelt, "Thank you, Jesus!" and a few exasperated, "Has anybody seen my keys?"

In her spare time, Linda enjoys painting, cooking, reading and walking. She and her husband Randy were married on June 29, 1968 by Fr. Raymond Mulka at St. Mary Church. They have three children: Chris, Stacy and Brad; and five grandchildren.

Before joining St. Mary's staff, Linda worked as a secretary at First Congregational Church. Prior to that, she worked five years in the physical therapy and admitting areas of Alpena Regional Medical Center.

Maxine Donajkowski

Chances are if you've rung the doorbell and walked into the Parish office in the past 13 years, you've been greeted by the warm smile of Maxine Donajkowski. Besides greeting visitors, Maxine's position as Parish Secretary/Office Manager has kept her busy answering phones, maintaining a calendar for the pastor, scheduling appointments for staff and for parish facilities, producing the weekly bulletin, developing and maintaining parish records, and the many other duties involved in the smooth functioning of a parish office. If you missed her at the office, you surely would have seen her behind the bake sale counter at many of the parish functions.

By 9:00 AM on a frigid February morning, she already had all office machines up and running, the

coffee brewed, and a welcoming environment established. She answered interview questions while taking phone messages, found a

liturgical book for John Meek, answered a question from Mike MacKay and greeted a visitor, all without skipping a beat. Of all her duties, Maxine has most enjoyed her interaction with people and getting close to the volunteers. Her retirement this summer was bittersweet for those who worked closely with her.



She plans to tackle some projects around her house and just enjoy life along with increasing her volunteer work and doing some travel. She enjoys sketching and watercolor painting; a favorite subject is birds. Reading and walking are other leisure activities.

Maxine Marciniak was born in Bay City and moved to Alpena with her parents and 4 siblings when her father took a job with Wiltze Brothers, making caissons for the Mackinaw Bridge. She joined St. Anne's Parish and attended Catholic Central High School. In her sophomore year, her brother convinced her to go on a group sleigh ride with a senior boy who was a "good guy." Maxine reached the same conclusion about Dave Donajkowski and dated him

until their marriage at St. Mary's in 1963. After living in Bay City for 7 years, Dave and Maxine returned to the Alpena area and built a home on Long Lake Road on the original family farmstead. With Dave's brothers living close by, the stretch of road is known as "Donajkowski Row."

Six years before accepting her post at St. Mary's, Maxine worked for Northeast Michigan Mental Health teaching life skills to severely disabled people. It was work she found very rewarding. She also catered weddings for a number of years.

Maxine and Dave had 6 children: Fr. Charlie, Robert, Sheri, Jean, Jacob, and a son Anthony Joseph (deceased); and 8 grandchildren.

Deacon Bob Goetz



On December 29, 1974, the Feast of the Holy Family, Bob Goetz was ordained a Deacon of the Catholic Church. The ceremony took place at his home parish, St. Michael the Archangel Church in Monroe, Michigan. Much thought and introspection went into Bob's decision to become a Deacon.

From his early days, starting as an altar server at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Rossford, Ohio, Bob had been involved in church activities and ministries. As an adult, he recognized needs in the community and he became involved there also. Important people in Bob's life saw his calling and encouraged him. Fr. Hugo Noetzel, pastor of St. Michael Parish focused his direction and Sister Marcella provided reading material. Bob's wife Judy was and is very

supportive. At the time he was wrestling with the thought of diaconate, she provided both the words needed and the encouragement into the final realization of his calling. The position of Deacon, after hundreds of years of inactivity, had only recently been restored by the Church following Vatican II. Bob was part of the very early programs, completing 2.5 years of diaconate formation and an internship before ordination.

Bob reports to and serves at the discretion of the bishop. His Ministry is primarily one of outreach from the church to fulfill the needs in the community. As such, Bob's is a busy ministry. In the past he has served as Hospital Chaplain as well as Chaplain for the Vista Maria program for troubled teen girls, who were wards of the court. Bob also served a diaconal ministry in Canada for about 3 years, while transferred there by Ford Motor Company. Later, he served as the first deacon Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Detroit for three years. Here in the Alpena area, Bob is involved with hospice patients and bereavement, Scripture services at Caring Place (adult day care center at the Health Dept.) and especially active in the Suicide Prevention, Awareness, Resources and

Education (SPARE) group for this area. He is also active in the Alpena Area Ministerial Association, presently serving as the Secretary/Treasurer.

Another dimension to Bob's ministry is his liturgical roll where he assists Fr. Greg at Mass, where we normally see him. Additionally, Bob serves his liturgical role through leading prayer services, funeral, vigil and burial services and occasional Baptism and Marriage celebrations.

As a deacon, Bob is not really "assigned" to St. Mary Parish. He serves a liturgical role in a parish within the community. Both Fr. Greg and the parishioners of St. Mary's welcome him.

Bill Kaltrider



It's a remarkable series of coincidences that brought Bill Kaltrider to be sitting at the organ in the choir practice room at the

Gatzke Center. Bill was living in Owosso and planning his retirement when he was called to jury duty. There, he sat with a young man named Mark whose fiancée, Julie Higgins, was working as an organist at St. Mary's in Alpena. Bill and his wife checked out the area and found it to their liking. When Julie left her job, Bill answered an ad in the paper and told Fr. Derylo he would fill in as organist and choir director to see the church through the Christmas season. Shortly after Christmas, Fr. Derylo was transferred and the new year brought a succession of priests. Bill found the full time schedule too demanding so Eileen Tank was hired to share the duties.

Bill's introduction to music came by way of his aunt who gave him piano lessons. In high school, he started taking organ lessons

and was in the first three week summer music program offered by Michigan State University. After high school, he joined the US Navy and became part of the Blue Jacket Choir, traveling to concerts and making radio and TV appearances. The Navy then assigned him to the Chaplains Department and put him in charge of church music. Seven organists and eleven choir directors reported to him. Following his naval career, musical training at Michigan State, Kansas State, and Wayne State Universities ensued.

There was a period when the lack of money forced him to quit college and he took a job in the X-ray department at a hospital. A young woman named Jeanne worked as a technician across the hall from him. A relationship developed and the couple was married in 1955. They have four

children: Kevin, Linda, Jeffrey, and Steve. They have five grandchildren.

Bill supported his family by working as an organist in main line Protestant churches around the Flint and Lansing area. He also sold Allen organs. He received, by examination, a Service Playing Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. This is a prestigious award that is difficult to achieve. "The proctor's are tough and you have no idea what they want you to play until one minute before."

Bill currently plays the organ and directs the choir (where wife Jeanne is a member) for Saturday evening Masses at St. Mary's. He is also the organist for Trinity Episcopal Church in Alpena.

Delmar Kieliszewski



Question – Who implements the seasonal changes in sanctuary décor, and keeps the rectory clean, and waters the church plants, and makes welcoming posters for the school children at All Saints appear? Answer – Delmar Kieliszewski. In 1995, Delmar responded to an ad in the church bulletin to help with cleaning at the rectory, a job that expanded to include the Gatzke Center after the parish office moved. Because of his talents, more duties just seemed to follow. Although it's not included in his job description, he can be counted on to distribute posters for parish events "wherever they won't slam the door when they see me coming."

Like all of the staff, Delmar is a frequent volunteer at parish functions. He became a cantor when Julie Higgins was organist and continues today, crediting Bill Kaltrider with "teaching me a tremendous amount about singing, projection and phrasing."

Delmar honed his artistic skills by taking a correspondence course in commercial art. He enjoys painting landscapes for family and friends, considering his best works to be the likenesses of the farm behind Elowski's Mill where his mother was raised and the house in Posen where his father was raised. Tailoring, crocheting, and walking are among his other interests.

Prior to his job at St. Mary's, he worked for 28 years at Midway Supermarket, mostly in the freezer and dairy departments. In 1992, he joined the Clean Team and also works three nights a week at the Township Building.

Mike MacKay

"Where are my paczkis?" asks Mike MacKay as he's tapping away inputting financial data on his computer. He's not looking for the tasty pre-Lenten treat but trying to find where the sales

dollars disappeared on his spreadsheet. A few seconds later, there's a satisfied, "Ah!" as the figures come into view.

Mike is an Alpena native who attended Gordon School and St. John School into the fourth grade. He was then accepted by the

Columbus Boy Choir School in Princeton, New Jersey. He remembers getting on the "Blue Goose" and making three stops before he arrived in Detroit. From there, he made his way to Newark. He lived in a dorm on campus unless he was touring all of North

and South America in a GMC bus that had a piano in back and desks attached to seat backs for the students to do their homework.



Mike returned to Alpena to attend Thunder Bay Junior High and Alpena High School where he was a member of the Michigan State Honors Choir for two years. Recruited by Olivet College, he majored in Music Education and Vocal Performance with a minor in Psychology.

He first worked as a Training Leader for Parks and Recreation

in Alpena before advancing to Park Manager at Long Lake Park in 1981. That same year, he married Della Schiemke on April 24th in St. Mary Church. During the ceremony, he sang *The Rose* to his new bride and after the lighting of the unity candle, he followed with *The Wedding Song*. Mike and Della have a 16 year old son, Justin, who was born on the 4th of July.

Mike has worked both as Youth Minister and Choir Director at St. Mary's. In 1984, Fr. Tom Dominiak hired him as Lay Administrator, a title changed to Business Manager by Fr. Walt Derylo. The job includes managing human resources, buildings and grounds, and finances. "It's my responsibility to account for every penny coming in and going out."

The weekend before this interview, Mike spent Saturday working with Angel Food Ministries and setting up for

Cabin Fever Cookout. After Sunday Mass, the family went for breakfast and returned to St. Mary's to work at the cookout until 8:00 PM. On Monday, he and his collection team sorted all the donation envelopes, made record of the dollar amounts, verified the amounts and took the money to the bank. The same was done with the proceeds from the cookout. After the interview, calls were made to notify the winners of the cookout drawings and W2G forms were completed.

When asked what he likes most about his job, Mike answered, "The people I work with. We make a very compassionate team."

Mike enjoys hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf. He lends his beautiful tenor voice to church services where, "Singing in front of people comes naturally. Reading or speaking does not."

Maria Standen

Maria Standen thinks that her position as the new Parish Secretary/Office Manager has neat historical relevance to her busia (grandma). "She'd probably be hugging me all the time." Her grandmother, Antonia "Tillie" Tadajewski,

attended St. Mary School and was married to Gerald DeRosia at St. Mary Church. As research is being done on the 125th Anniversary Book, Marie is finding more familial ties to parishioners. "I have more family here than I ever knew."

But, her office skills, experience, and winning personality are what landed her the position. In her early years, Maria would spend time in the office with her mother, Jeri Jo, who was the Director of Religious Education for St. Anne's Church in Alpena. "I was her right hand and I never really left office work after



that." Her experience included stints with the Volunteer program, Alpena High School office, Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce, and Louisiana-Pacific.

She was drawn to applying for this particular job because she likes the family atmosphere and human element that is found in a parish setting. "Helping out people in the milestone moments of their lives involves the heart as well as the head."

While attending Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, MI, Maria was trained as a Medical Lab Technician. She worked down state for a time in that field but found that the combination of shift work, 12 hour work days, and very little "people contact" was not to her liking. And, she missed her family.

Besides her mother, Maria's immediate family includes her father, Jim, and her younger brother, Dan. Despite a 6 year age difference between the siblings and the application of the usual methods of sibling "torture," they remain close.

This talented young woman is involved in the St. Anne Handbell Choir, Vocal Ensemble, and Faith Formation team. She enjoys painting with watercolors and oils, takes Latin Dance classes, teaches calligraphy and scrapbooking, and gardens. Dan is also teaching Maria to play guitar.

Eileen Tank



Eileen describes herself as "the person least likely to become a musician because of my shyness." What then would motivate her to be playing an organ and leading a choir every Sunday at 10:30 Mass? Well, God works in mysterious ways.

Eileen is the seventh child in a family of eleven children. Her parents, Albin and Victoria Krawczak, lived in Hawks and had a piano in their home. Eileen and her sisters took piano lessons but Eileen quit after one try. She harbored a great desire to play but

couldn't overcome her shyness. When the piano was eventually sold, "it was like a death to me."

After Craig Tank and Eileen married on September 3, 1977 at St. Ignatius Church in Rogers City, the couple bought a 27 year old, half painted piano that barely fit in their tiny living room. Craig restored the piano with the assumption that Eileen could play. To the rescue came Mary Lou Ikens from Rogers City. Mary Lou was a teacher who believed in doing things the right way, no shortcuts. With one year of piano lessons to her credit, Eileen was called by a nun from Rogers City and asked to play the organ at St. Ignatius Church. She was shown how to use the organ with a 10 minute lesson and then left on her own.

Craig began working at LaFarge and the couple moved to Alpena and joined St. Mary's. Eileen continued her piano lessons, this time with Joe Fortin. Joe told Don Partyka that Eileen would be his next fill-in organist. Eileen doubted that but began organ lessons, practicing pedals

for the first year. The first time she played the organ on her own at St. Mary's was for the Stations of the Cross. Advanced studies were pursued with Wayne Wrembelski and when St. Bernard's advertised for a full time organist, Fr. Graff hired Eileen on the same day he interviewed her.

Two years later, she returned to play at St. Mary's, sharing the organist and choir director duties with Bill Kaltrider. "I couldn't do this just for myself. When God gives you a gift you don't hide it under a bushel basket. God will give you what you need to use it where the gift is needed. When you use it for His glory, He will in turn use you in ways you never imagined were possible. The church is like another family."

Eileen also works part time at the Medicine Shoppe. "Working with the public, you can put your faith into practice."

She enjoys reading, walking, collecting stones and traveling. She and Craig have three children: Eric, Chris and Beth Ann. They also have 2 grandchildren.

Gladys Wisniewski



Over 20 years ago, Gladys was asked to substitute as a secretary when Joanne Schaedig needed time off. She accepted the offer and the small salary that came with it. When Fr. Ray Pilarski was pastor, he informed Gladys that the parish couldn't afford to pay her. With a practical and philosophical attitude Gladys replied, "Then don't pay me. If there's work to be done, I'll just come in and do it."

Gladys committed her mornings for 5 days a week. She describes herself as being something of a fixture in the office. Gladys remembers when the first computer arrived with a manual but no personal instruction. "What one person was inputting, the other was deleting. It was real interesting for a while but we got it worked out."

When she is not volunteering her time at the parish, she enjoys hunting deer, bear and turkey; and has been known to show up at an occasional Bingo. She also dabs in knitting, painting, and flower gardening.

Gladys and Harry have 4 children: Bryan, Myron, Colleen and Sally. They have 10 grandchildren.

Al Witucki and Greg Dzieszinski

It's even more impossible to separate the duties of Al Witucki and Greg Dzieszinski than it is to get them to sit for an interview.

Al has been working for the parish for eighteen years and Greg for eight years. Between them, they clean and maintain the church, school, Gatzke Center, and rectory. Ongoing duties

include: maintaining ten boilers, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, snow removal, grass cutting, and set up and take down for the numerous parish and school functions. They are on call



Al Witucki



Greg Dziesinski

alternate weekends and sometimes both are here to take care of

emergencies and "just keep it safe for people."

Summer break for the school children finds Greg and Al waxing floors, checking lights and getting things ready for September. They have also been called on to put a new bathroom in the rectory, construct a ramp for the handicapped, replace doors, put a new roof on the chapel, and construct the choir platform. They both enjoy their work saying, "every day is something different."

Al is a graduate of St Mary Grade School and Catholic Central High School where he graduated in 1965. He worked at the cement plant for 21 years, working a variety of jobs including repair man and conveyor man. Before securing his present position, he also worked on his own doing odd jobs. He describes himself as a man who "likes his space" and loves fishing.

The other loves in Al's life are his wife Sue (Bates) whom he

married at St. Anne Church November 4, 1967 and his son Tim.

Greg is also an Alpena native and graduate of St. Mary Grade School. Of his grade school years, he recalls that "when you saw a pair of little black shoes stop by your desk, you knew you were in trouble." He attended Alpena High School. In 1987, he married Lisa Milostan at St Anne's. They have four children: Heather, Samantha, Matthew and Stephanie. The family also houses a menagerie of little four-legged critters.

Greg enjoys deer hunting, bowling, wood working, golf, watching his children's sporting events, and camping with his family. In the summer, they spend one weekend a month visiting state parks. Greg built his own home and does remodeling as well as building decks and garages. He previously worked for National Gypsum, Eagle Engineering and Fletcher Paper.

Ministries



Lectors

Lectors proclaim the word of God as well as read the prayers of the faithful when the deacon is not in attendance.

Pictured from l to r: Chuck Mosier, Linda Splitt, Pete Alexander, Fr. Greg McCallum, John Meek, Tom Splitt, Julie Kowalski. Insert: Gladys Wisniewski.

Not pictured: Chris Benedict, Paul Cormier, Patti Martinez, Joseph Merrill, Phil Milostan, Joseph Sobczak, Aaron Woldt. Substitutes: Frieda Hirschenberger, Linda Bicksler

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Jesus at Mass and in bringing Eucharist to the home-bound.



Pictured l to r: Leonard Donajkowski, Shari Alexander, Celina Losinski, Maxine Donajkowski, MaryLou Keen, Deb Alexander, Julie Kowalski, Kati Meek, Dorothy Kowalski, John Meek, Lauriene Marzean, Linda Bicksler, Ruth Richard Phyllis Kuchnicki, Mary Ann Gunderson, Sr. M. Edwardine, Fr. Greg McCallum. Not pictured: Miriam Benoit, Wayne Benoit, Mary Charoth, Chris DesOrmeau, Barb Donajkowski, Barb Gilmet, Judy Goetz, Bill Hirschenberger, Brian Holmes, Rene Holmes, Gladys Wisniewski, Bob Martinewz, Maria Mills, Jackie Olsen, Tammi Woldt. Substitutes: Jim Hubert, Phil Milostan, Margaret Kamyszek, Jeanne Szymanski.



Eucharistic Ministers pictured l to r: Lillian Grochowski, Pam Boyk, Harry Wisniewski, Rosanne Schultz, Kathleen Hubert

them an idea of what their tasks are. After that, they are paired with an experienced server during Mass until they are ready to be on their own.

Black cassocks with white surplices were the official attire except for red on Christmas and Easter. Now servers wear beige cassocks.

In appreciation, the Diocese of Gaylord puts on an annual outing. Servers have attended a Great Lakes Loons baseball game and have also gone to Great Wolf Lodge. This year their time will be spent here in Alpena at the Northern Lights Arena, and Thunder Bay Recreation Center.

Back row l to r: Lauren LaFleche, Nicole LaFleche, Alexis Smith, Samantha Carriveau. Front row l to r: Philip Carriveau, Johnathan Carriveau, Joshua Sommerfield, Clayton Weaver, James Benedict. Not pictured: Karsten Alexander, Hannah Gagnon, Brianne Holmes, Courtney Holmes, Laura Kane, Megan Kreger, Alicia Wozniak

Altar Servers

There are many different opportunities to serve the Church, and becoming an altar server is one way for young people to give of their time and talents. Currently, 16 servers handle the three different Mass times. In the past, there were as many as 80.

New altar servers, taken from among the third graders, go through a brief training exercise. Since 1983, girls have been allowed to join the ranks. Father Greg walks them through the Mass to give



Musicians

Sunday 10 AM Choir – Pictured l to r back: Dick Sutherland, Jack Kowalski; 2nd row Kirstine Furtaw, Michael Furtaw, Mike Furtaw, Terry Hall; 3rd row Kathy Eiler, Linda Furtaw, Eileen Tank; front row – Nan Hall, Amanda Pilarski, Denise Fusina, Linda LaCross



Ensemble
L to r Linda LaCross, Eileen Tank, Amanda Pilarski



Saturday 4 PM Choir - Pictured l to r back: Delmar Kieliszewski, Bill Hirschenberger, Tom Splitt, Bill Kaltrider, Bob Niedzwiecki, Pete Alexander; 2nd row Deb Alexander, Freida Hirschenberger, Cherie Smigelski, Anne Iler, Linda Splitt; front Jeanne Kaltrider, Jane Krajniak

When **Florence Kowalski** retired from her job as St. Mary Church organist in 1982 after 30 years of service, she was hailed as "the organist of the people." Fr. Ray Pilarski expressed the sentiment of the entire parish when he said, "She was the perfect example of the faithful servant of the gospel. She has unselfishly shared her time, talent, and treasure with all of you. Her constant efforts brought beauty and majesty to the Masses and liturgical functions of the parish. The lives of thousands of parishioners have been enriched through her noble efforts of the past thirty years." *Parish Bulletin*

"During Jeanne Nowak's and my tenure with the children's choir, St. Mary's celebrated its 100th Anniversary and we wanted to make it very special!

I remember getting the children's choir, the youth choir and the adult choir together with many parishioners who joined for just that occasion. The music was special and the thrill of conducting a 100 voice choir is one I will never forget!"

Dianne (Konczak) Kowalski

"As a youngster, I studied piano and played for singing sessions and other children's activities at the school. At the age of 15, I studied organ with Mrs. Olive Steele. I was given permission to use the church organ for these lessons, knowing the session was over when the janitor came to ring the bell at 6 P.M. and to lock the church door.

Ray Niewola played for services at that time as did Leon Fanslow. Sometimes the nuns played but those assigned to the parish did not always include a musician. Leon's work with Prudential took more and more of his time and he had to relinquish his position as parish organist. Msgr. John Gatzke offered me the job. There was a mixed adult choir that sang for the 8 A.M. Mass, a children's choir at the 9:30 A.M. Mass, and a young ladies choir that sang at 11 A.M. Of course, that meant practice sessions with each choir group and a weekly evening service.

After several years at St. Mary's, I left to study at Madonna College. Florence Kowalski then became organist."

Jeannette (Kuchnicki) Sydlowski

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Ensemble
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Bell Choir



L to r: Bill Kaltrider, Freida Hirschenberger, Karsten Alexander, Katrina Alexander, Shari Alexander, Ruth Richard, Linda Splitt, Bill Hirschenberger, Bob Niedzwiecki. Not pictured, Jared Kieliszewski

The music room in the basement of the Gatzke Center is filled with the peals of bells and laughter. Daisy sits attentively on the floor assessing the group of people before her. As the adopted parish cat and queen of the center, she knows the group is there to pay her tribute but she doesn't quite know what to make of it.

June 17, 2008 marked the first practice session of the newly assembled Bell Choir. Present are a few of the eleven members of the original Childrens Bell Choir. Since all of the adults are novices with these musical instruments, Bill Kaltrider, director, begins the session by demonstrating the proper way to hold a bell and the graceful arc made with the arm to get the best tone from a bell. He assures them that the ability to read music, while helpful, is not required. The choir attempts a simple tune. Concentration is intense. There are missed beats, extra beats, complaints of faulty bells. Daisy's ears perk up as if to ask, "Am I supposed to name that tune?" Bill says the choir has potential.

June turns into July and the music becomes a bit more complicated, the choir members a bit more confident. Daisy strolls in from time to time checking on progress. One can tell from her stance and the expression on her face, she thinks the group has potential. People of all ages are welcome to join.

Childrens Bell Choir



L to r: back row; Shaun Losinski, Emily Losinski, Katrina Alexander, Courtney Holmes, Rachael Belanger; middle - Karsten Alexander, Alicia Wozniak, Michael Lazarowicz, John Grabiell; front - Bailey Braidwood, Maggie Skiba

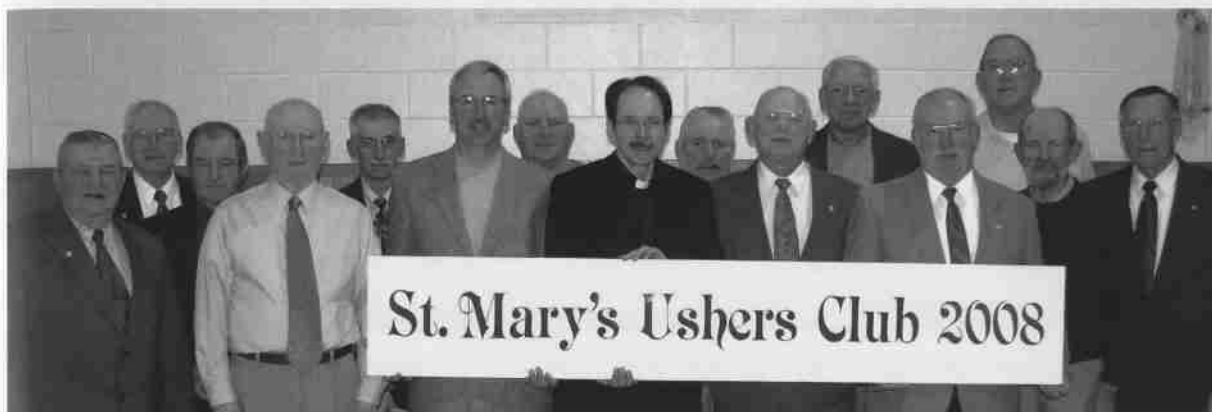
The Children's Bell Choir was organized in 2001 by Cheri Alexander and Celina Losinski under the direction of Bill Kaltrider. Using a set of choir chimes that St. Mary's already owned, the group practiced in Bill's home at North Point Road. Bill recalls that the chimes were used for about two years with the thought that if there was interest, they could go to the congregation and ask for bells. This they did in 2004 with a fund drive to sponsor a bell for \$200. They strove for a three octave set; the drive was so successful, they were able to purchase more.

The choir played at St. Mary's, in nursing homes, twice for the Hospice Memorial at the Besser Museum, a concert at Trinity Episcopal Church and at the Advent carol singing at St. Anne's. Bill gives credit to the parents' commitment as well. They had to drive the children to practices and concerts and did the set-ups. He also appreciates the support of the church. The choir disbanded a few years ago.

Ushers

"They're a great bunch of guys." Ray Stepanski

The Ushers – they've been around as long as anyone can remember, serving the people of St. Mary's in numerous ways. First and foremost, they help prepare for services by turning on the lights, greeting people, tolling the bell, and lending a hand near the elevator. In the celebration of the Eucharist, they shepherd the flock in an orderly fashion, pass collection baskets, and arrange for offertory gifts to be taken to the altar. They are usually the last people to leave the church and may even be seen helping someone with car troubles in the parking lot.



7:30 AM Mass Group L to r: Leonard Donajkowski, Don Schultz, Bob Donajkowski, Julian Romel, Ralph Desormeau, Phil Schultz, David Donajkowski, Fr. Greg McCallum, Ray Donajkowski, Dan Szymanski, Ron Losinski, Ed Wojcicki, Mike Chadkewicz, Harry Wisniewski, Al Taratuta. (Missing from photo: Mike Szydowski, Don MacNall, Gary Pikula, Gary Pikula Jr.)

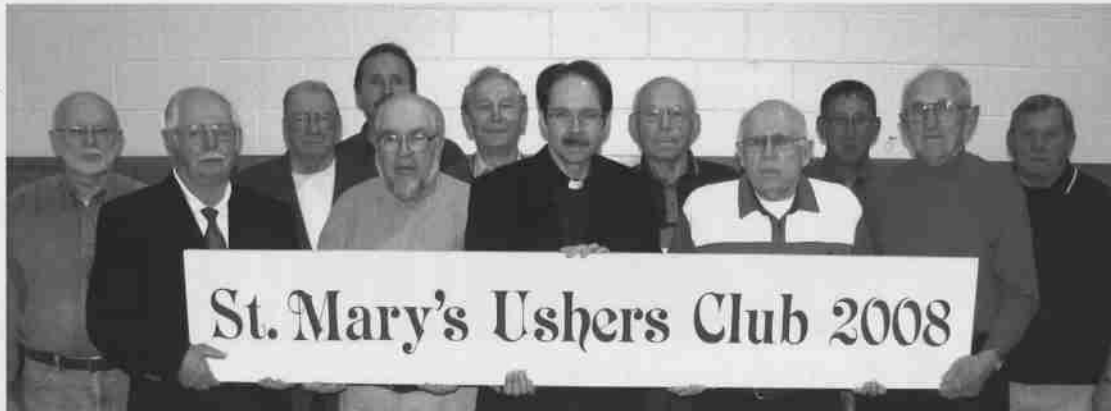
Their duties are observed by parishioners every weekend, but often unseen are the many activities where the ushers help. If there's a parish event, the ushers had a hand in it, one way or another. The Festival? It's usually chaired by an usher. The first one was Ray Stepanski and the current chair is usher Dan LaCross. Cabin Fever, Bingo, they're there. Blood Drive, they're there. Need help to set up or take down tables, they're the ones called. At least fifteen ushers are involved with obtaining, setting up, and decorating trees in the church for the Christmas season. They helped clean and paint the Gatzke Center just before the parish office was moved there. In recent years, ushers from all the parishes put on a citywide Steak Fry at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Alpena or Ossineke.



10:30 AM Mass Group L to r: Tony Mischlony, Darryl McQuarrie, Doug Roznowski, Patrick Schepke, Fr. Greg McCallum, Mike MacKay, Matt Krawczak. (Missing from photo: Frances Keen, Gerald Kline, Arnold Boyk, Barry Losinski, Joe Warholik, George Melville, Arnold Kreft, Tom Garber, Jim Wallen, Brian Wozniak, David Kelly, Alfred Kamyszek, Jim Cathers)

Today there are 61 members of the St. Mary's Ushers Club. They are organized into nine groups and sub-groups that are assigned to each Mass. They are a loyal group with most members serving for many years. President, Ray Stepanski, has been a St. Mary's Usher for "well over 50 years." Don Schultz, Vice President, joined the group in 1948. Phil Schultz serves as Treasurer and Mike Szydlowski is Secretary.

As Ray Stepanski says, "If I get a call asking for urgent help, I can get at least 10 members on site within an hour. They're a great bunch of guys."



4 PM Mass Group L to r: Dale Goupell, Jerry Nowicki, Richard Filipiak, Tim Bruski, Dan LaCross, John Niemiec, Fr. Greg McCallum, Chet Dziesinski, Thomas Kaminski, Kevin Kapala, Ray Stepanski, Chet Gorski. (Missing from photo: Dan Przeslawski, Jack Visger, Jim Hubert, Mike Kieliszewski, Frances Marzean, Brian Holmes, Christopher Holmes, Florian Chrzan, Eugene Kamyszek)

Organizations

Rosary Society

119 years and still going strong!

In 1889, Fr. Leopold Oprychalski, pastor of St. Mary Church, organized the Rosary Society. This group has been an active, important part of the parish since its inception.

It is a prayer group, composed of men and women, who fulfill their purpose of promoting spiritual development of the individual through recitation of the rosary. The Rosary Society meets three times a year, March, June and October with the annual meeting held in October. Members are divided into groups. Each member is assigned one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, including the Mysteries of Light introduced by Pope John Paul II in 2000. In May and October the group sponsors the scriptural rosary service in church honoring Mary as our Patron, our Mother, and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.

Members receive the following benefits: Mass is offered in October for all living and deceased members; the Rosary is prayed for a deceased member at the funeral home; members act as an honor guard at

the funeral service; long time members and their families are honored at a dinner with each honoree given a bust of Mary as a memento.

The Rosary Society is also instrumental in the life of the parish in other ways. In May, the CCD students participate in the Rosary Service and the Crowning of Our Lady. The service is followed by an Ice Cream Social for the congregation. The Society sponsors the Chinese Raffle at the Festival, sells religious articles, and has hand-outs on the History of the Rosary. Members also pray for a special intention each month which is published in the parish bulletin. They clean the altar area and help purchase items needed for use on and around the altar. The president also coordinated activities for the East Central Region of the DCCW and hosts a quarterly meeting every 3rd year at St. Mary's.

Officers for 2008 are: President Bernice Zolnieriek, Vice-president Angie Kolinowski, Secretary Jackie Olsen and Treasurer Gladys Wisniewski.

Funeral Cooks

"I said to Father, I need you to multiply the loaves and fishes."

Barb Donajkowski

In the stressful time following the death and funeral of a loved one, it's a comfort to have the services of this special group of volunteers who are ready when called upon to prepare and serve a meal to the family and friends who have gathered. Barb Donajkowski has organized this group of women since mid 1995, following in the steps of Irene Przeslawski. Her crew of 19 women work on a rotating basis. There is an average of one funeral per week. "There was a time when Fr. Derylo was here when we had five funerals in seven days," Barb said.

Barb gets input from the family estimating how many people are expected at the meal and what they would like her to serve. One of the crew will check on the attendance at the funeral Mass and, sometimes, last minute shopping is in order. Remembering one of the first times she was in charge, Barb prepared for 150 people and over 200 showed. "I said to Father, I need you to multiply the loaves and fishes."

It's a lot of hard work but everyone finds it very rewarding. If someone is having a bad day, the crew will tell jokes and try to cheer each other. Eleanor Lazarowicz says she likes working with Barb because everything goes smoothly. Barb counters that she tries to be as calm and easygoing as Irene, who never seemed to get upset about things. "One time, when I first started, two people showed me completely different ways to arrange the bread on the plates. I asked Irene about it and she said, 'As long as it gets on the plate, it's OK with me.'"

Barb will only cook for the parish festival and bazaar as well as the funeral luncheons. "I think people appreciate having this taken care of for them. I do it as a hobby, not a business." When Barb isn't available, Gerrie Orban fills her slot.

Many women have worked on the funeral meals over the years. Irene Przeslawski, Virginia Nerkowski, Helen Tolzdorf and Grace Kolnowski are also remembered as being head cooks. The current group of women has over 150 years of combined service.



Front row seated: Dolores Jasmen, Virginia Dault, Barbara Donajkowski, Gerrie Orban, Margaret Piontkowski, Dolores Kruczynski. Back row standing: Eleanor Hoppe, Esther Gerszewski, Rosemary Trelfa, Florence Talaska, Irene Zolnieriek, Theresa Orban, Phyllis Kuchnicki, Shirley Kaminski, Eleanor Lazarowicz. (not pictured) Pam Boyk, Mary Ann Gunderson, Jane Sylvester, Eleanore Buszka, and Regina Thompson

Handmaids of the Altar

Eleanore Buszka, Virginia Dault, Theresa Digman, Barb Donajkowski, Doris Donajkowski, Germaine Kaiser, Jane Krajniak, Dorothy Muszynski, Barb Niedzwiecki, Jackie Olsen, Theresa Orban, Clara Przeslawski, Joan Przykucki, Florence Talaska, Betty Wieschowski, Bernice Zolnieriek.

Quilters *"It's a small way of helping to preserve the environment..." Jeanne Szymanski*

In April of 2004, parish member Jeanne Szymanski started meeting upstairs in the Gatzke Building with approximately 8 to 10 ladies to share their sewing and quilting techniques. There are currently 5 in the group, including 1 man.

They make hand tied lap robes, throws, crib blankets, as well as larger quilts for homebound parishioners. Some items are donated to outreach agencies and groups in our community, including All Saints School, to be used as fundraisers. The quilters find it very rewarding to make something useful out of something unwanted and, at the same time, cheer up the less fortunate.



*Pictured l to r: Lauriene Marzean, Patrick and Patricia Glomski
Not pictured: Jane Melville & charter member Elaine Zann.*



Donated scrap fabrics (preferably cotton), batting, sheets, clean used mattress pads, lightweight worn blankets, flannel sheets, etc. are some of the materials used. "It's a small way of helping to preserve the environment and landfills."

Planning is done at their meetings as well as sorting and matching of coordinating fabrics. Most of the actual piecing and sewing is done in their individual homes. No fine hand quilting is required and anyone who likes to sew is welcome. Jeanne estimates the group has made up to 175 lap quilts and throws.

Left: Jeanne Szymanski demonstrates quilting at the parish festival.

Ticket Sellers *Jacinta Boyk, BP Gas, Sherry Brousseau, Bob Donajkowski, Doris Donajkowski, Fran Garant, Dale Goupell, Eleanor Hoppe, Phyllis Kuchnicki, Richard Kujawa, Geri Lasecki, Barry Losinski, John Marchlewski, Maryann Mellen, Rosemarie Pokorski, Don Schultz, Jerry Slominski, Art Stepanski, Cristine Stevens, Jeanne Szymanski, Cocker Szymanski, Marlene Werda, Don Wisniewski, Phyllis Wyman, Joan Wysocki, Bernice Zolnieriek, Theresa Orban.*

The Women's Club

...an active group for many years

The Women's Club was a very active group in the parish for many years. It came into being sometime in the late 60's when Fr. Raymond Mulka asked 12 women from the Rosary Society to coordinate parish events. They were called The Steering Committee. This was also the time when the changes brought about by Vatican II were in their infancy. Parish Councils and their commissions were not yet formed.

Sometime in the early 1970's this group of women officially became the Women's Club. All women of the parish, 18 years of age and older, were automatically members of the Club. They elected officers, wrote bylaws and held regular meetings. The purpose remained the same: plan, coordinate and carry out parish events, such as First Communion and Confirmation receptions, the Bazaar, graduates

breakfast, Volunteer Appreciation Dinners and many other events.

The parish, as a living and growing institution, was in the midst of growing pains brought on by the changes, revisions and reorganization of the work of the Parish Council and its commissions. As the Council and the Commissions took on more responsibilities, those of the Women's Club were gradually shifted, although the help of all of the women of the parish was needed to carry on parish events.

In the late 1990's, the Women's Club was disbanded. Some functions, such as representing the parish at the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, are now under the leadership of the Rosary Society.

Money Counters

Dave Grochowski, Lillian Grochowski, Tom Holzworth, John Marchlewski,
Bernice Zolnierak, Joe Zolnierak

The Young Ladies Sodality

...dignity, honor and purpose to young girls

The Sodality was an organized part of St. Mary's Parish in the 1930's. It was open to girls in the eighth grade whose parents were members of St. Mary's.

Its purpose was to provide a social contact after graduation, promote continued reverence for the Blessed Virgin, share reports of religious research, and have one or two fund raising projects with or without the Rosary Society ladies.

Monthly meetings were held in the eighth grade room of the St. Mary's School on Miller Street. Parliamentary procedure was observed by the four elected officers who were expected to hold each office for two years. Msgr. Gatzke asked that the group raise money to provide electricity for the left side altar of the church as an equal reflection of the right side altar; and so it was done with garage and bake sales.

May crowning each year ended the meetings until September. The Sodality gave dignity, honor, and a purpose to young girls.



May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Young Ladies Sodality in 1949

Pictured l to r back row: Patricia Turske, Phyllis Bronikowski, Jeannette Kuchnicki, Bernice Kieliszewski, Lorraine LaComb, Dolphine Greskowiak, Clarisse Karpus, Thelma Talaska Front row: Delmar Kieliszewski, Carla Kuchnicki

Religious Education

Preschool Program



Pictured l to r: back row – Gabriella Benedict, Wesley Leeck, Ethan Johnson, Alli Losinski, Heidi Garant, Elizabeth Kieliszewski; front row – Alisha Ballor, Hunter Ballor, Alan Johnson, Anthony Tank

Five years ago, St. Mary's began a preschool program for children 3-6 years old. With the Confirmation age being lowered, Fr. Greg wanted the younger children to start learning about their faith

sooner. And so began the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in St. Mary Parish.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a worldwide program that began in Rome approximately 60 years ago by a woman named Sophia Cavaletti. She had worked with Maria Montessori and adopted her method of "hands on" learning into this program. The children are encouraged to use all of their senses while in the atrium. Cavaletti believed that young children "are quick to grasp the concept of Jesus and the Eucharist because they've so recently come from God."

In the atrium, Jesus becomes real to the children. They walk through His life using maps, globes, and figures. They use the Montessori teaching method to learn about altar work, parables, and narratives. They also explore how God reaches out to us through baptism, the Eucharist, and the Holy Spirit.

The program began in the school building, but when All Saints School moved in, the atrium was moved to the Gatzke Center. The vast majority of hands on learning items the children use were made by our parishioners.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered at 2 separate times: Wednesday during Faith Formation classes, and Sundays during the 10:30 Mass. Teachers are Linda Bicksler and Cherie Smigelski.

Faith Formation Classes



Pictured l to r: Elizabeth Belanger, Kelsey Fras, Brooke Gersewski, Phyllis Gagnon, Emma Gagnon, Ben Carriveau

Faith Formation classes are vitally important to the spiritual growth of the children of St. Mary's Parish. They teach the children how important their faith life is and help them grow in knowledge of the Church.

The parishes of St. Mary's and St. Bernard's have come together for this program. Classes meet at the school building at St. Mary's Church during the school year. The children also participate in some special activities. Families come together for soup and crafts at Christmas time. They also have an All Saints Night where the children learn about many of the important people in our Church history.

Faith Formation teachers are volunteers from the parish. Without their dedication, the program would not be possible. They aid the children in learning about their faith and preparing them for the Sacraments. They are: 1st grade – Sr. Edwardine; 2nd grade – Phyllis Gagnon; 3rd grade – Julie Kowalski; 4th, 5th and 6th grades – Tammy Leeck.

Junior High Youth Group

The junior high youth group combines the youth from all 4 parishes in the city of Alpena. Its purpose is to help build a relationship with other students who have a common interest in their faith. It presents opportunities for the youth to become involved in community service, social justice, Youth Masses and retreats.

They meet in the evening during the school year in the youth center at St. John's Parish. The night begins with a meal, fun, and fellowship; followed by scripture study and prayer. The group also likes to keep things fun by going on field trips to the Corn Maze, bowling, and the Thunder Bay Theater, to name just a few.

The youth are active in the community by helping out in the parishes, volunteering at the Friendship Room and Tendercare. They wrap gifts for Toys for Tots and make gifts for shut-ins; they collect personal care items for the local homeless. These are just some of the ways they actively live out their faith.

High School Youth Ministry

A blending of youth from all 4 catholic parishes in the city of Alpena meets once a week during the school year at the youth center located in the basement of St. Bernard Church.

The night begins with a meal, some games, and fellowship. It continues with a lesson and prayer time. During the summer, they meet for weekly lunches to keep connected. They also have 2 weekend retreats each year to assist their spiritual growth.

They are also involved in service. In Alpena, they have worked at the Friendship Room and have helped to put away food after the Postal Drive. Each November, they raise money and sleep out in cardboard boxes to bring awareness of the homeless and needy in the area.

Every other summer they spend 3 days working as Disciples in Action by working at the Sunrise Mission, the Friendship Room, Habitat for Humanity, and Madonna House.

They have wrapped gifts for Toys for Tots and done service for the National Relief Network by traveling to hurricane and tornado affected areas.

Teachers for this youth group are Penny and Tom Pelleran, Pat LaBelle and Robin Szymanski.



Enjoying a game of pool are Ben & Chris Zhytowski.

High School Youth Ministry Leaders are: Marcia Hoppe and Kolleen Carol.



Relaxing while on fall retreat at the Fireside Inn are: back row l to r - Maggie Garant, Dana Sutherland, Dan Seguin. Front row beginning second from left - Claire Nelson, Samantha Farintas, Hilary Burg, Austin Bailey

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR for St Mary's/St Bernard's is Anne Kelley. Teaching assistants are: Marian Belanger, Kristin Cariveau, Amy Kieliszewski, Melissa Kreger and Jennifer Losinski.

Scripture Study Group

A place for people to meet and grow spiritually by studying God's word. The Scripture Study Group has been meeting at St. Mary's for at least 6 years. It began as a simple soup supper and scripture study during Lent, but has expanded from there. It has studied books of the Bible and other readings and recently finished reading the Bible in chronological order.

Mom's Scripture Study

In the fall of 2006, a Mom's study group was born. Some women in the parish expressed a need for Bible study, but found evening attendance difficult. They meet in the mornings to share experiences while learning more about their faith. With the generous help of a few wonderful women, child care is available.



Pictured l to r: Maggie Weaver, Nicholas Lusardi, Cecelia Weaver



Pictured l to r: Jayne Lusardi, Kristin Carriveau, Monica Weaver, Roxane Zann, Gretchen Benedict

Prayer Chain

St. Mary's has its own prayer chain. It is a group of people who agree to pray daily for the people of our parish, our community, and our world. It began here approximately 13 years ago with 8 members and has now grown to 27. There are about 15 people who attend each month for a potluck supper and informal meeting. Members also enjoy each other's company at the annual Christmas Party, and sometimes have a picnic in the summer. Members minister to each other, and become good friends.



"... where 2 or 3 are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Pictured back row standing l to r: Rita Glomski, Eleanor Buszka, Pam Boyk, Julie Kowalski, Theresa Dignan, Virginia Dault. Seated l to r: Cherie Smigelski, Maxine Donajkowski, Linda Bicksler, Monica Weaver, Jane Melville, Delphine Beland. Not pictured: Florence Kowalski, Elaine Zann, Dorothy Kowalski, MaryAnn Gunderson, Maria Standen, Jane Krajniak, Lauriene Marzean, Marge Kline, Linda Wallen, Kris Carriveau, Jayne Lusardi, Mona Donnelly, Mike Furtaw, Mary Jo Milostan

Councils & Commissions

Pastoral Council



Pastoral Council

The **Pastoral Council** is a community of servant leaders involved in advisory decision-making through a process of spiritual formation, prayerful discernment, and consultative dialogue regarding matters of pastoral concern. The Council decides how the mission of the Church can best be carried out by the parish and promotes the essential ministries of the parish: proclaiming the word, building up the body of Christ Community, serving those in need, and celebrating liturgy.

The Pastoral Council is composed of the pastor and the staff liaison, the chairpersons of all commissions, and at least two at-large members, representing groups within the parish who would not otherwise have representation.

Pictured l to r back: Phil Carriveau, Patrick Styma, Mike Szydlowski, Fr. Greg McCallum; middle, Kathy Styma, Linda Bicksler; front – Ruth Richard, Linda Splitt, Linda Wallen



Christian Service Commission

The **Liturgy Commissions** responsibilities include liturgical planning and education, and matters concerning worship life such as environment and art. *Members are Linda LaCross, Mary O'Neil, Cheri Smigelski, Mary Winton and Helen Roznowski.*

The **Christian Service Commission** is concerned with assisting those in need through programs and direct personal action. Annual charitable drives and ministry to the poor are two examples.

Pictured l to r: Rosemary Trelfa, Virginia Dault, Judy Goetz, Linda Wallen, Roxane Schultz



Social Service Commission

The **Social Service Commission** fosters a spirit of community among the parishioners by means of social activities including welcome, parish receptions, sacramental receptions, and ministry to the bereaved.

Pictured l to r: Ruth Richard, Deb Milostan, Jackie Olsen. Not pictured: Jacinta Boyk, Linda Bicksler

The **Education Commission's** responsibilities include Catholic School, Religious Education, Family Life, Adult Education and Evangelization.

Finance Council



Finance Council

The **Finance Council** is a community of servant leaders whose purpose is to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish. Distinct from the Parish Council, the Finance Council is to serve the goals and priorities set by the Parish/Pastoral Council. Both councils are guided by the mission statement of the parish.

Pictured l to r: Fr. Greg McCallum, Denise Fusina, Dan Clase, James Rau, Jeanne Szymanski, Mike MacKay, Paulette Roznowski, Helen Suszek, Blanche MacNall

Affiliated & Outreach Organizations

Knights of Columbus

Local Council 529 of the Knights of Columbus was established in Alpena in 1900. It is the oldest council in the diocese of Gaylord. While most councils are associated with individual parishes, Alpena's council includes members from all 4 Catholic churches with St. Mary's being well represented.

Founded in Connecticut in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGiveney, the Knights had 3 primary purposes: to help men and their families remain steadfast in their Catholic faith through mutual encouragement, to promote closer ties of fraternity among the men, to set up an elementary system of insurance for the widows and children of deceased members.

The Knights actively support Catholic education and encourage family life, prayer and vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

This area is very familiar with the delicious Sunday morning K of C breakfasts which benefit council projects as well as community programs.

Columbian Squires

Part of the Knights of Columbus organization, young men between the ages of 12 and 17 learn leadership skills as they gather for spiritual, cultural, civic and social improvement.



Placing boulders for Marion Shrine on Knights of Columbus site



Marion Shrine as it looks today

Columbian Squire Memories

My husband, Bob Donajkowski, became the Columbian Squires Counselor. Shortly after, Fr. Ray called a meeting with Bob and the boys. He told them they should build a shrine on the Knights of Columbus property. The boys and Bob came home from the meeting all fired up and excited.

They said they were having a Polish dinner to raise money for the statue, etc. I said to them, "Are you crazy? By the time you pay a cook, your profit will be gone. Polish food takes a lot of time to prepare." They said, "We aren't hiring a cook. You are going to do it." I'd never cooked in my life except for my family.

Fr. Ray then called me and said it was my job to convince Bob and the boys to build the shrine. Knowing that Father didn't take no for an answer, we all got together to work on it.

With the help of the Squires, their parents, friends, and family, we had a yard sale, breakfasts, and Polish dinners. The Squires always said, "Mrs. Donajkowski, if we don't make any money you aren't getting paid for the groceries." We assured them that the Blessed Mother would take care of that and she always did!

When we could buy the statue, we contacted Al Losinski from Losinski Excavating and he donated his time and equipment. With Fr. Ray's direction, they placed all the big rocks.

Barb Donajkowski

LARCC—Lutheran, Anglican (Episcopal), Roman Catholic, Congregational

In June of 1999, a meeting at St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord was held to introduce the concept of Christian Unity. Bishops from the Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches were present as were representatives from various churches around the Diocese.

A Steering Committee was formed with the intention that each church of the various denominations have at least one representative attend monthly meetings. The Congregational Church was invited to join. On June 10, 2000, a Covenant among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Northwest Lower Michigan Synod), the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan, and the Roman Catholic Church (Diocese of Gaylord) was signed. The first sentence says, "It is the will of our Lord that all His disciples be one."

Learning we have much in common, we remember each other in our prayer intentions each week and hold 3 to 4 joint events each year. LARCC also sponsors Christian Conversations. Representatives from our parish are Bernice Zolniersek and Jane Melville.

Society of St. Vincent DePaul

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul was founded in Paris in 1822 by a student named Frederic Ozanam. He modeled this society on the philosophy of French priest, Vincent DePaul, who was actively involved in dealing with social problems.

This international organization of lay people seeks through a spirit of justice and charity, to alleviate the suffering of others. It is a Catholic organization but serves all people with person to person contact and a spirit of compassion.

Volunteers from St. Anne's, St. Bernard's, and St. Mary's of Alpena make up the St. Anne's Conference. The only paid employees are those who work in the Alpena store on Chisholm St. Members join in prayer at monthly meetings.

Marriage Encounter

Some of our parish members have experienced a Marriage Encounter weekend. They found it so rewarding that they became facilitators and are giving back to others.

A weekend encounter is to help a good marriage become better, or a weak marriage become stronger. The couple facilitators, along with priests and pastors from our community, give 12 topics to be discussed in an intimate setting with no group discussion and no interference from outside distractions. The weekend is open to all denominations and ages.

Alpena has been holding Marriage Encounter Weekends since 1976. They are currently held at Lorient Resort in Long Lake with each couple getting their own cabin. What a great way to learn about your strengths and weaknesses and to celebrate your love for each other.

Change for Charities

St. Mary's Change for Charities Collection came about by a decision of the Christian Service Commission to find simple ways to help people in need in our own community. The collections started with painted coffee cans as the collection receptacles. The change would make a "mighty noise" as it was passed back and forth, but eventually the noise element became irritating and people began to give more "silent money."

The organizations receiving funding were determined by the Commission and have remained nearly the same for these many years, with exceptions being made for various, more immediate needs. Recipients have included: Call Us for Help, Shelter, The Friendship Room, St. Vincent's, Sunrise Mission, The Baby Pantry, The Caring Place, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, All Saints School, Pregnancy Hotline, and Senior Citizen Center.

Daughters of Isabella

While its origins were as an auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella is now an independent organization. The name is derived from its patroness, Isabella of Castile, the Spanish queen who sponsored Christopher Columbus.

The Daughters' objectives are: to provide financial aid and assistance to sick and distressed members, and to promote social and intellectual growth for its members.

Madonna House

It was 24 years ago that a call went out to the community for help. A House of Prayer was being opened and it needed help with cleaning, painting, building shelves and some very basic furniture. That was the beginning of Madonna House in Alpena.

Bishop Rose invited this international community of priests, lay men and women whose mandate is "to preach the gospel with your life, without compromise." Established in Canada by Catherine Doherty, each mission house also has a particular mandate from its local bishop. Members make promises of poverty, chastity and obedience for a period of 7 years, after which these promises are made for life. One of the first two people to come to Alpena, Rosemary Horan, is still here.

Fr. Bob Bissot, pastor of St. Bernard's, was the liaison person who scoured the town for suitable housing. Two houses were purchased right next to each other. One was to be used as a residence, the other as a *poustinia* (Russian for "desert experience"). Many people came forward to lend a hand and many others can attest to the blessings they have experienced with food shared, clothes given, scripture opened and shared, or simply a welcoming voice and a listening ear.



Rosemary Horan with a box of blessings.

Passing on the faith traditions and customs of the liturgical year is also a ministry of Alpena's Madonna House. Rosemary has taught the art and spiritual element of *Pysanki* to many area residents.

Angel Food Ministries

St. Mary's Parish partners with Angel Food Ministries to bring affordable food to Alpena's families. Angel Food Ministries is a nonprofit, nondenominational organization dedicated to providing food relief to families across the United States. It began in 1994 with 34 families in Georgia, and has grown to serve more than 500,000 families across 35 states.

For thirty dollars, participants receive one unit of food consisting of both fresh and frozen items with an average value of sixty dollars. Generally, 1 unit



Pictured top: Chris Benedict; bottom l to r – James Benedict, Gabriella Benedict, Matthew Benedict, Johnathan Carriveau, Shane Iler

assists in feeding a family of 4 for 1 week, or a single senior citizen for a month.

There are no qualifications, income restrictions, or applications. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Menus are printed in St. Mary's bulletin monthly. People are free to purchase on a monthly basis with no obligations.

Chris and Gretchen Benedict brought this ministry to the Alpena area by becoming an offshoot from a church in Gaylord. By December 2007, Alpena became its own official site. In just one year, it has grown from only a handful of families to around 160 packages. Angel Food Ministries has become both a bargain and a blessing to the people in Alpena.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree came about in 1999 as a decision of the Christian Service Commission to help children at Christmas time. The Volunteer Center asked if the parish would be willing to help supply some of the needs that were presented to them.

The commission began to consider other organizations and people who needed help but not to the degree of those on the list of Change for Charities. A Giving Tree is set up in church in the spring and fall of the year. Some of the recipients have been Huron Humane Society, Hope House, Huron House, All Saints School teachers, Shelter, Sunrise Mission, MOPS, and our soldiers overseas.



Events

POLISH CUISINE IS a mix of local ingredients flavored by foreign influence but it has a hospitality all its own. As a crossroads country with a history of intermarriages, foreign rulers, partitions and conquests, Poland benefited from French, Italian, Jewish, German, and Russian cooking. The Polish word for vegetables, *włoszczyzna*, means "things Italian." Even Far East invaders introduced pungent spices and artichokes. Coffee and potatoes were among the spoils after the famous victory of the Poles over the Turks at Vienna in 1683. Coffee quickly became the national drink and potatoes became an alternative to kasha and a staple of the peasant diet.



Polish food is flavorful with a comfortable "home" feeling about it. It is also known for its generous servings, perhaps influenced by the feasts that were served following the strict fasts of Lent and Advent. Cabbage, beets, carrots, mushrooms, pork, fish and dairy are prominently featured. The distinctive flavor of Poland's smoked hams and sausages comes from the plentiful juniper wood used in the smoking process.

As hospitable as their food is so are the Poles themselves who have a greeting, "Guest in the house: God in the house (*Gość w Dom, Bóg w Dom*)."
A visitor replies to the greeting, "Praised be Jesus Christ (*Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus*)."
The family then responds by saying, "Forever and ever, Amen (*Na wieki wieków, Amen*)."
Polish hospitality is especially evident at the Christmas Eve meal, *Wigilia*, where a place is always kept ready for a guest at the table.



Many of the events hosted by St. Mary's feature the generous servings of both food and hospitality that were a trait of our founders. Kielbasa, cabbage, ham, smoked or pickled herring, cheese, and pickled beets are considered staples. But to this add a meld of Italian pasta, French quiche, Oriental stir fry, Swiss meatballs, (to name just a few) and all the food preparations considered typically American, and you have a St. Mary's reception.



Pictured left: Linda Bicksler mixes one of many batches of punch served at St. Mary's events.

Pączki

THE TRADITION

WHAT MAKES AN AUTHENTIC PĄCZKI? People have definite opinions on the matter. The dough can be made with whole eggs or yolk only; some add a few tablespoons of rum or brandy. Lard has given way to more healthful cooking oils. Although many commercial makers have added jelly and custards as a filling and frosted glazes on the outside, we stand by our traditional recipe.

The Polish tradition of pączki came about when people tried to use the last of their eggs and lard before Lenten fasting began. Because the treats were fried in lard and packed full of calories, the day before Ash Wednesday was called Fat Tuesday.

The women of St. Mary's used to make batches of pączki at home and bring them to the school on Shrove Tuesday. Coffee was served and people stayed and played cards with their friends. Carry-outs were also available for home parties.

Over time, the pączki making transferred to the school cafeteria and the card playing was left to the discretion of the customers. For the last 25 years, Celine Shiemke has been an integral part of the pączki operation. She took over from Gertrude Boyk and she remembers Irene Przeslawski and Helen Tolsdorf organizing the project before that. Shortly after Celine started, she was joined by Linda Canfield who partnered with her until two years ago when Della MacKay (Celine's daughter) and Mary Winton took over.

Every year Celine makes 20 quarts of kvas and 10 quarts of chicken noodle soup along with 20 pounds of homemade kluski to be served at the lunch break on pączki day. Her soups alone are reason enough to volunteer. Maybe that's what brings her sisters Terry and Bernie all the way from Sterling Heights and her son Joe and his daughters Alisha and Sarah and friend Tim Davis all the way from Traverse City every year. The Shiemke's really make it a family affair.

But it takes a lot of people, somewhere over 50, to get the 38 batches with 14 dozen to a batch made on Fat Tuesday. Della MacKay recalls that last year two women were walking past the cafeteria when the delicious aroma of fresh pączki drew them inside. They stayed to help and were soon tending fryers. Patrick and Patricia Glomski, who have been involved in the project for the last five years, donated 18 new fryers this year as well as some spoons and colanders. "The new fryers should give more reliable temperatures and keep Joe from getting burned when he strains the oil."

Pictured above: Celine Shiemke removing pączki from a fryer
Pictured opposite page top to bottom, l to r: Vintage photo of
Bernice McIlwan, Helen Tolsdorf, Linda Canfield mixing the dough;
Della MacKay cutting the "rounds;"
Pączki laden tables



SMATCNIE!

IT'S A LOT OF WORK. IT'S A LOT OF FUN. IT'S A PĄCZKI PARTY!

IT WON'T BE LIGHT FOR MORE THAN 4 HOURS. The snow crunches underfoot and the wind is brisk. Inside the Old Town Café, the clock reads 3 A.M. on this February 2nd, 2008 and the first shift of the pączki brigade is assembling. Time for an eye opening cup of coffee and a protein boost.

By 4 A.M. the brigade and other "dough makers" are in the kitchen of the parish center beating eggs and creaming butter and measuring yeast and flour. It's a precise operation with everything in its spot, placed there the night before. It has to be because the first batch of dough must be rising by 5.

At 8 A.M. the "rollers" arrive. The cafeteria tables are dusted with flour; a portion of dough is plopped in front of each of the workers. Rolling pins are off in all directions. "Do you think this is too thick? Too thin?" "Can I have just a pinch of your dough? I'm a little short here." Chatter fills the air, mingling with flour dust and the rich smell of yeast. The dough is cut into rounds and placed on large cookie sheets to rise again.

It's 10 A.M. and the "fryers" have oil sizzling in the skillets and the "runners" are bringing the puffy balls of dough to be cooked. Into the oil. Fry, flip. Fry the other side to a golden crust with a bread-like interior and a lip smacking goodness. Remove with a strainer and set aside to drain. More puff balls go into the oil. Whoops! This one got a little dark. Such a shame. It'll have to be eaten immediately.

The "runners" are taking the pączki to the "sugarers" and "baggers" who have been drifting in throughout the later part of the morning. "Make sure you keep the raisin ones and the date ones separate." "Plain ones over here." "Do you think we have enough with powdered sugar?" "I like the other sugar better." "No sugar at all is best if you want to freeze them." Tables in the parish hall become laden with plastic bags filled with one dozen pączki each.

Noon. Must be time for lunch. Tables are cleared at the far end of the hall. Sandwiches are made from Celine's ground meat. But, wait. Let us say grace. And bring out the steaming pots of kvas and chicken noodle soup and did someone say there was enough for seconds?

The final batch of dough is working its way through the assembly line. Sales are advertised to start at 1 P.M. at a cost of \$7/dozen but eager shoppers with appetites for a good thing have been appearing much earlier. Bare spots appear on the tables as bags of merchandise leave through the doors. Consolidate. Clean. Collapse!



Recipe

41 lbs butter
3 pkg. yeast
10 lbs dates
20 lbs. raisins
500 lbs flour
1 lb salt
3 L cans orange juice
26 gal oil
52 doz eggs
25 lbs powdered sugar
11 bags powdered milk
11 bags instant potatoes
1 qt vanilla

Cabin Fever

Cook Out



CABIN FEVER COOKOUT is a one day event with twelve months of preparation and a nine year history. When Father Don Geyman was pastor, he looked into the St. Mary's School operations fund and found the pot nearly empty. He approached John Boyk and explained the situation. John, an experienced fund raiser for various organizations around the area, assured Father Don that the money could be raised. He had an idea for a wild game dinner and he knew just who could turn his idea into reality, Jim and Linda Wallen. The Wallen's enlisted the help of Brian and Rene Holmes, and Jim and Nancy Garant. Working with the Knights of Columbus kitchen crew and a host of parish volunteers, the first Cookout was a rousing success earning over \$10,000.

This year's event took place on March 2nd with adult and children's games, 50/50, various raffles and a live auction. But the true star was the food. Chef Tony Donajkowski, who has been lending his talent for the past five years, introduced a strolling buffet with venison

stir-fry, roasted chicken, baked pheasant with apples, stewed rabbit, meatballs with penne pasta and vegetables, ravioli in wild mushroom sauce, and roasted wild boar with a medley of sauces. There was also a variety of appetizers and desserts. The fish, rabbit, and deer were donated items that were harvested in season and frozen. About twenty five percent of the meat, including the wild boar, was purchased.

According to the Wallen's, raffle tickets are sent out in December and "that's when things really get into gear." By January, the bonus packs are ready,

sponsors are approached and the advertising begins. Most donated raffle and auction items arrive in February. The organizing committee also purchases prizes that fit the cabin fever theme.

For eight years, John Boyk conducted the live auction with his inimitable wit and enthusiasm. After his death in December, 2007, the committee was looking for a special way to memorialize him. The committee unanimously agreed to start a scholarship fund to All Saints School in John's name. They agreed to buy an item to be raffled with proceeds to be donated to the scholarship fund. A portable GPS was purchased with money donated by Mark Boyk. The GPS was raffled and the winner then donated it back to the auction with the proceeds also going to the fund. All this brought in \$625 to start the John Boyk Scholarship Fund.

Ivan Sumerix conducted the auction in 2008 joining the 65 other workers who volunteered their time and energy to create a little fun and chase away that



winter cabin fever. Profits continue to support education.



John Boyk at auction

Pictured above l to r: Rene Holmes, Brian Holmes, Linda Wallen, Jim Wallen, Jim Garant, Nancy Garant

Pictured opposite page clockwise from top: wood carving by Mona Donnelly, Al Lazarowicz and Don MacNall, food line, Gene Boyk and Aaron Woldt, Choker Szymanski and Chet Gorski, Joe Stepanski, Brian and Christopher Holmes. In center: Specialty clock by Ken & Mary Jarmuzewski, Don MacNall and Louie Hoppe.

Summer Festival

A MAJOR FUND RAISER AND
A LOT OF FUN



THE FIRST SUMMER FESTIVAL took place in 1989 with a Buick Skylark being the top prize. Nearly 20 years later, the Festival is still a major fund-raiser for the parish as well as being a popular draw for the parish and the entire community.

Recent festivals have seen the car replaced by a top prize of \$10,000, 2nd prize of \$2,500, 3rd of \$1,500, and two \$500 prizes. Past festivals have included a spectacular breakfast as well as brats, hamburgers and hot dogs. Attractions have been horse drawn wagon rides, petting zoos, ice cream wagons, baked goods, a Chinese Raffle and a popular favorite – The Birch Road String Band.

Each year something new was added while occasionally doing away with a less popular feature. Some things have really retained popularity, like Bingo and the big breakfast. The location has gone from our own facility to the K of C Hall, back to the parish grounds.

Through the years various parishioners and parish groups have come forward to take leadership roles. Each time there is a change in leadership, there is some fear that "it might not be successful." It always is. A wonderful parish of generous, hard-working, food-loving, bingo-playing, music-listening people come together to celebrate as a parish family.

Counter clockwise from top: Craig Tank and grandson, Anthony; Mark Milostan and daughter, Megan; festival horse ride; Nancy Garant, Phil Schultz, Anthony Garant; Dale Goupell



Pictured clockwise top right: Jeri Jo & Maria Standen; Gerrie Orban & Rosemary Trelfa; Mike & Cindy Szydlowski; Leonard & Helen Buszka. Pictured below from top: Ready, set, ...; Mary Winton & Breann Olson review raffle items; Gayle Nowak, Leona Wisniewski & Barb Donajkowski; Dave & Ruth Richard enjoy an ice cream break.



Watching the hunt for pennies.



Birch Road String Band





Bazaar & Country Store

ST MARY'S FALL/WINTER CHRISTMAS BAZAAR has been in existence for as long as most people can remember. The date has been changed from mid November to mid-late October. The name has become St. Mary's Bazaar & Country Store, but the concept remains basically unchanged.

The women (and some very good men) of the parish put forth their best efforts for the benefit of the parish. These efforts include knitting, crocheting, sewing, canning, baking, carving and painting. Hand-crafted items have run the gamut from dish cloths to afghans to exquisite little doll clothes. Items like plants, potatoes and sugar beets as well as canned jams, jellies, and soups are sold. Baked goods have included the most delightful little cookies as well as wonderful specialty breads and bagels.

Another feature of our bazaar is a delicious luncheon, which seems to have become a tradition of ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, cole slaw, rolls and relish tray along with fabulous desserts.

This bazaar showcases the level of talent and generosity we have at St. Mary's. People spend literally weeks on a quilt or afghan or wood item, just to donate it to the cause!!!

The bazaar is one of those traditions that may change a bit in style and look, but still remains a favorite for all involved.

2008 co-chairs were Julie Kowalski and Jacinta Boyk.

Pictured from top counter-clockwise l to r: Mary Ann Gunderson & Helen Kreft; Helen Suszek & Carol Morsches; turkey treats; Betsy Boyk & Vicky Weinkauff; Chinese auction items; Halloween goodies; Bazaar co-chair, Jacinta Boyk pours a cup of hot cider for a thirsty guest.





A TRADITION OF DELICIOUS FOOD



Ministries Fair

IN AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN MORE FULLY the various ministries available at St. Mary's, and to recruit more volunteers, a Ministries Fair was held in the Parish Hall during fall of 2008. On hand to interest prospective members were clockwise from top right: Phyllis Kuchnicki and Lillian Grochowski representing Eucharistic Ministers, Gene Boyk and Joe Warholik representing the Ushers, Karsten and Shari Alexander representing the Bell Choir.



Blood Drives

Every May, August, and December, the Christian Service Commission and the Ushers Club in cooperation with our local Red Cross Chapter conduct a blood drive for the Alpena community. These drives attract a wide variety of "everyday heroes" who quietly and regularly come to give what they know could be the "gift of life."

The first to arrive at the May event was a homemaker from Presque Isle. Around noon, Fr. Greg was there to do his part as a donor. In the morning, women seemed to outnumber the men; in the afternoon, the reverse was true. Some had appointments while others were walk-ins. All were welcome.

Four gurneys were set up for the comfort of donors and the convenience of the Red Cross staff who expertly drew blood and did the monitoring. When finished, donors were escorted to tables where they were served Phil Milostan's famous "Sloppy Joes" which he provides for most of St. Mary's blood drives.

The May donors were given a green MASH style T-shirt as a token of appreciation. This event exceeded the goal of 41 good units of blood by 8 units. Sixty one people came to give.



*Pictured above:
Dorothy Buszka;
Dr. Olin Joynton*



Kristin Carriveau gets plugged in while her husband Philip waits his turn on the gurney in background.



Edie and Everett Zann display Red Cross t-shirts. They came to help their mother, Roxane, who oversaw the event.



Graduation Celebration

Each spring, the parish honors its graduating high school seniors with a breakfast served after Sunday morning Mass. Pictured at left, along with their former principal, are students who attended St. Mary Elementary School.

L to r: Sophia Przewozniak, Casey Wallen, Brianne Holmes, Erin Kane, Sr. Edwardine Stoppa, Alex Senchuk, Shaun Losinski, Andrew Garant, Gary Pikula Jr.

Also graduated in 2008 but not pictured: Trent Bruski, Sara Grochowski, Samuel Grulke, Matthew Kowalski, Matthew Maurer, Amanda Pilarski, Jacob Schmidt, Alyssa Smith, Stephen Sutherland, Kristin Tanner, Jessica Walmsley

THE ST. MARY NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

125TH YEAR

ALPENA EVENTS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 1886

By *Alpena Weekly Argus*

The Polish Church, on Dock Street, was dedicated last Sunday.

*

Albert C. Frost is putting 6 first class bath tubs in the Alpena hospital.

On Saturday evening next a two mile race is to take place at the roller rink between Master Willie Casey, of Bay City, and little Mike of the rink, for a purse of 10 dollars. Best 2 of 3.



*

Thunder Bay is full of drifted ice this morning.

*

AREA RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT ABOUT GROWING UP IN THE EARLY 1900'S

We Knew Who We Were

By Irene (Stoppa) Smigelski

All good Catholics had large families then. The Woloszyk's had 18 children and every one of them was so kind. On the west end, everyone was poor but we all knew each other. When I see the few people who are still here, I'm proud of us. The guys went to school and went off to work instead of jail. They struggled but went out there and made good lives. We knew who we were and where we belonged. There was a man we called "the millionaire of the west end." He was the only one who had a car and a house that was paid for.

My dad was the authority in the house but he never raised his voice and we never sassed. Mom was the disciplinarian.

All 7 of my brothers were in sports. Ed was the first manager of St. Mary's baseball team. They played at Market Square and later at the fairgrounds. It was like going to a Tiger's game. Everyone was there. They played on Sundays and traveled as far as Bay City and Saginaw.

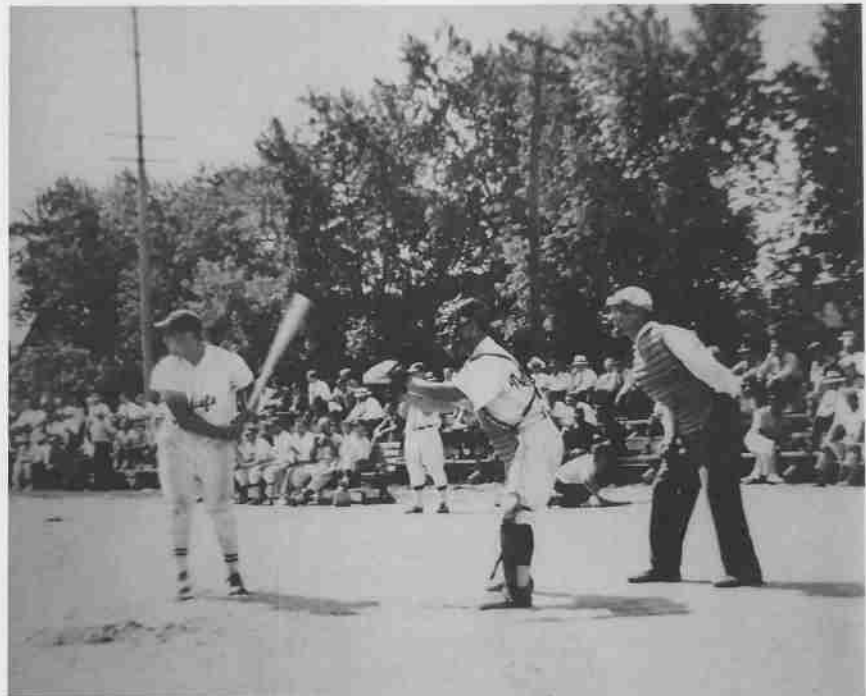


Photo from Robert Kujawa Collection

Market Square Baseball Game

Batter – Woody Palmer, Catcher – Bill Franklin, Umpire – Ed Stoppa

St Mary's Celebrates First Communion Rite 1915



Edward & Regina Przeslawski

Grandfather Visits

By Helen (Mandock) Majesky

After my grandmother died, my grandfather (Frank Mandock) walked to Alpena from Cathro every Sunday to visit us. My parents would give him money for a train ticket back.

My grandfather was a very sweet man and my parents were the best parents anyone could want.

Joseph A. Zolnierrek Baptized



The hand-made baptismal gown first worn by Joseph A. Zolnierrek in 1925 has subsequently been worn by about 50 family members over 3 generations.

Store Sells Everything

By Margaret Alexander

A general store in the 1930's sold everything – anyway the Donajkowski's did. Grocery, gas and oil, nails, farming needs such as fertilizer and baling twine. Clothing, mostly men's, health aids for animals and humans, candy, school aids, beer, and wine. And Florence Donajkowski tested cream for farmers. It was then sold and shipped into Alpena on the train.

Sunday Was a Holy Day

By Josephine (Tadajewski) O'Leary



Michael Tadajewski Family

Sunday was observed as a holy day. That means on Saturday we did lots of work: scrubbing floors, baking bread and cakes and pies. The last thing in the oven was a crock of beans. On Sunday we rode to church in a horse drawn carriage or sleigh. In 1930 my dad bought a Model T. There wasn't enough room for all of us to fit in the vehicle so the children went to Mass on alternate Sundays.

When I was 7 or 8 years old, I woke during the night of a full moon and thought it was morning.

It was my turn to go to church and I wondered why everyone was still sleeping. I went outside and looked at the sky until the sun came up. I didn't want to miss Mass.

After church we had dinner and my father would take a nap. Later he would play the harmonica and the family would play games or visit friends and neighbors. Of course, the cows had to be milked morning and evening every day.

Monday was wash day. In the summer the well would go dry and water had to be collected in rain barrels or carried in pails from a stream.

Tuesday was ironing day with everything but our socks getting a sprinkling of water and the touch of an iron heated on the wood stove. The rest of the week was filled with chores: field work, garden work, housework. It was a hard life.

Steve & Della Donajkowski Children Attend Morning Catechism

Taking us
For Catholicism
Dad Clem Louis
Ten
Bob Rita



Rural Power Lines Installed

By Eugene Hoppe

In 1939 I worked putting up power lines in the country. The digging was all done by hand and it was hard work. The mosquitoes were horrible, especially when we were in swampy areas.

Many people granted a right-of-way through their property in exchange for a job for a family member. I went to work at 5 AM and was paid 35 cents an hour. Sometimes we stayed overnight in farmers' barns and ate baloney and bread.

*

Church Mattered

By Florence (Robinette) Kowalski

If you didn't go to church on Sunday morning, you didn't go anywhere else the rest of the day.

MEMORIES FROM THE MID 1900'S

Church Always a Must

By Barb (Losinski) Donajkowski

When we were making our First Communion, we would have to stay at our grandparents' or aunt's and uncle's home in town for 2 weeks and walk to St. Mary's for instruction to prepare us.

Church was always a must. During the winter storms, my parents would park the car about 2 miles from home on a main road so, come Sunday, we could walk to the car and go to Mass because the main roads would be plowed.

*

Parish Property Maintained

By Joe Wojt

When my dzia dzia (Anthony Wojt) worked for St. Mary's, there were 14 furnaces that were coal fired. This required hand feeding and removal of ashes.

During the summer months, the grass needed mowing. There were 3 vacant lots where the new school is now located. The grass there would be cut with a sickle and the grass (hay) was carried home for the chickens.

*

Young Ladies Sodality



Pictured l to r: Loraine LaComb, Bernice Kelly, Sodality President Jeannette Kuchnicki, & Treasurer Dolphine Greskowiak

Sodality members showcase a portable radio raffled as a fundraiser.

St Mary Choir Party December 31, 1952



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kuchnicki hosted St. Mary's choir for a New Year's Eve party at their home. Among those attending were: Leon & Imelda Fanslow, Ted & Agnes Piaskowski, Rose Swallow, Don Parteka, Mr. & Mrs. Roznowski, Mary Pelleran, Mr. Kreft, Mr. Lipski, Bernadette Przykucki.



St. Mary's First Girl Scout Troop

Back row l to r: Board members Gladys Smith, Clara Szczukowski, Elaine Werda, Mae Boboltz, Agnes Skiba, Rose Kowalski, Ann Kaminski, Celia Nowak. Middle row l to r: Barbara Kaminski, Elaine Moszynski, June Kuznicki, Jeannette Kuckierewicz, Clarisse Karpus, Marilyn Shilts, Phyllis Suszek, Barbara Kreft, Rosalie Kowalski. Front row l to r: Susie Tucker, Phyllis Kuznicki, Loraine Keen, Bernadette Ruczynski, Marie Kaminski, Phyllis Smigelski, Jeannette Kuchnicki, Dolphine Greskowiak, Arlene Skiba and Patricia Kraft.

St Mary School Hosts Eighth Grade Dance 1956



Pictured l to r: Geri Wekwert, Marlene Maciejewski, Mary Philips



Pictured l to r: Jerry Swallow, Richard Konczak, Thomas Stepanski

Learning Is a Strain

By Ruth (Przeslawski) Richard

Every school morning started with 8 o'clock Mass. The teachers would take roll call and the classes would file into the church. After a full day of study, we packed our bags with the

assigned homework and bolted out with the ringing bell. You could always tell the St. Mary's kids because they had the heaviest school bags.

Getting ready for school started the night before when we washed our hair and our mother rolled the damp strands in pin curls fastened with bobby pins. In the winter, we dried our hair by kneeling over the furnace registers. In spring and early fall, we just lay our porcupine looking heads on our pillows and hoped for the best.

By our high school years, hair styles had graduated to the smooth look and our necks strained at night supporting a head with 2 inch plastic rollers. It's a wonder our mangled heads could take in all that "learning" that the good sisters provided.

*

Best Friends Forever

By Jane (Garant) Degen

I met my best friend, Claudia Kelsey-Minton, at St. Mary's School. She later taught there for 13 years. Claudia and I were inseparable. We walked home together and many times I stopped at her house at 116 E. Spratt for a few minutes, which turned into hours. I guess Mom always knew where I was.

When we got to the 4th and 5th grades, we used to stay and help our teacher, Sr. Frumentia, clean the room. We dragged the dust mop down the aisles and under the

desks and dusted the place the best we could.

Claudia and I are still the best of friends and both work for the Alpena Public Schools. Some day it would be fun to work in the same building.

*

St Mary School Impression

By Julie (Losinski) Kowalski

When I came for Saturday catechism, the Felician sisters always had beautiful calligraphy-lettered posters on the walls and would give us candy or religious items as rewards for doing homework.

I was overwhelmed with the size and the beauty of old St. Mary School. The wide wooden steps greeted you at the entrance and carried you up to, what then seemed to be, a huge gathering room on the second floor. The dark, hardwood, shiny floors always smelled freshly waxed.

The room was often used for assembling the students to pray, listen to a speaker or watch a movie or filmstrip. It was bordered by walls with many doors which led to individual high ceiling classrooms, cloakrooms or closets. The building seemed so big compared to the one-room school I went to.

I have to admit that I was a bit envious of the city kids who were fortunate enough to attend St. Mary School daily.

*

St. Mary School Falls to Wrecking Ball November 14, 1967

After 63 years of sheltering the students of St. Mary's as they mastered the "4 R's" (reading, riting, rithmetic and religion), the brick walls of St. Mary School came tumbling down.

As many as 622 students attended the 8 classroom school in 1924. The old elementary school, located on Miller Street, has been replaced by a new school on the corner of Second Avenue and Oldfield Street.





1922-23



1939-40



Early 1900's



1998

School

"I like attending a Catholic school because you can teach about God & I love to learn about God. In other schools there would be no Communion or Christmas plays. Christmas plays are about God & Jesus. And May crowning is about Mary. We can do the rosary and read scriptures at Wednesday Mass. We can go to the National Day of Prayer. And learn the 10 Commandments. We can hang pictures of Jesus. We can do children's church bulletins. I love the Catholic Schools. You can read the Bible out loud."

Katie, Grade 2
All Saints School 2007

Days



1970-71



SCHOOL LIFE
1938-1959



Changing Times



~1980



1989



1932



1979



1960



1943



1928



1915



2008



For God & Country



St. Mary Parish members have spent 125 years serving the Lord. Some have also served their country by being members of the Armed Forces. A few have shared their experiences. This represents a fraction of the number of parishioners who have served their country. During World War II alone, approximately 405 members of St. Mary's were in the military.

Felix Szymanski – WWI veteran

My father, **Theodore A. Schultz**, was too young to serve in the US Army at the start of WWI. When recruiters from Poland came to the States, he volunteered and served for 36 months with the Polish and French armies. Most of his tour was spent in the Russian zone.

Don Schultz



Benjamin Stoppa



Joseph Stoppa



Eugene Stoppa

Four of my brothers were in the armed services during WWII. The oldest, **Benjamin D. Stoppa**, was a Marine at Pearl Harbor when the attack came on December 7, 1941. My brother **Joseph** joined the Marines at 16 years of age and made a 25 year career of it. **Eugene S. and Richard L.** both joined the Navy and served on PT boats. **David**, the baby of the family, was in the Korean Conflict as an army man. All the boys came home. My mother had sons, grandsons and son-in-laws in the service. My husband, **Tom Smigelski**, was in WWII also.

Irene Smigelski



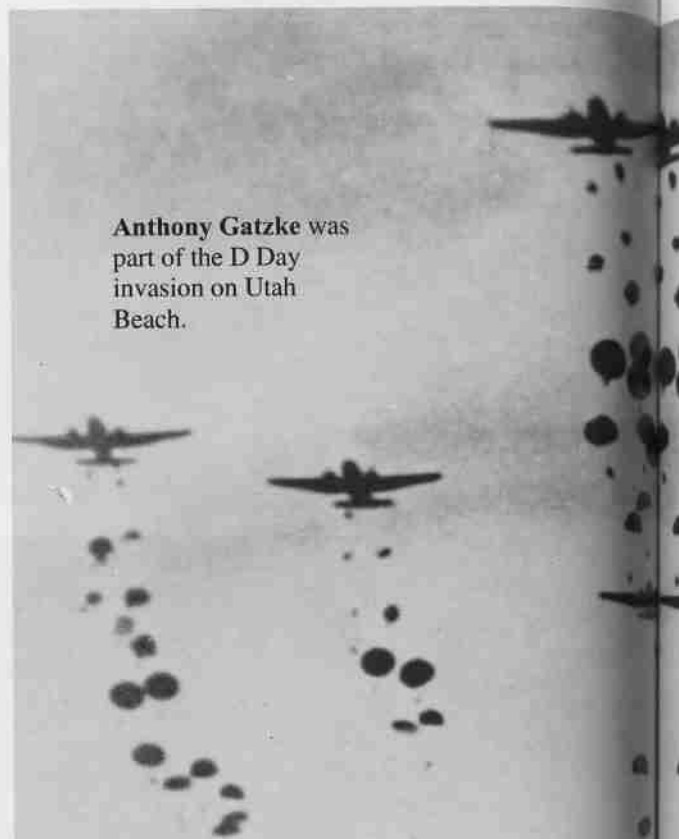
Richard Stoppa



David Stoppa



Tom Smigelski



Anthony Gatzke was part of the D Day invasion on Utah Beach.

During WWII, I came into Normandy on a landing craft. It was after D-Day. My job was mostly in communications and I went all over Europe. In the middle of the war, I was a replacement as a forward observer searching for artillery targets. I met the Russians at the Albe River.

After the war I went to night school in Alpena under the GI Bill to get my high school diploma. Transportation was a problem when you lived in the country. The older children were expected to go to work following grade school.

Eugene Hoppe

I enlisted in the US Navy in 1951 and served 3 years as a plane captain and crew member with Patrol Squadron Eight VP-8 during the Korean Conflict. I received an honorable discharge June 14, 1956. **Dan Szymanski**

My oldest sister, Evelyn, went to Detroit to work during WWII. My brothers **Earl, Henry and Stanley (Stepanski)** were in the service. Henry was killed in France. Raymond, Kathleen and I were too young to go. Ray eventually served in Germany. *Gladys Wisniewski*

John Przeslawski served in the US Army in Germany during WWII. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

David Buszka served in the Marine Corps from July 31, 1940 to August 10, 1946. His time was spent in the South Pacific and he was involved in the first campaign on Iwo Jima. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a baker and a cook.

Being able to speak and read in Polish and German came in handy during my brother, **Robert Maciejewski's** time as a paratrooper during WWII. The other paratroopers would fight to have him in their group. Robert learned German and Polish from our parents and was taught Polish in school as well. He made over 100 jumps and was in the group that landed on Normandy Field on D-Day.

He was also one of the men who liberated some concentration camps in Germany. He said it was horrible beyond imagining.

Janice Kell

I served with the 217 Field Artillery Battalion HQ Btr of the Army 44th Division from February 23, 1943 to November 14, 1945. We were on the line many consecutive days a number of times. I was a heavy machine gunner, radio operator and tinman. We saw action through much of France, Germany and Austria.

Since that time, I have attended 30 consecutive Army Reunions for my unit held all over the United States. This year, 2008, I will have hosted the 31st Reunion in Alpena.

Chester Szymanski

Photo courtesy Janice Kell

*Mass Jumper
Normandy Field
Dawn Jump*

Military Service

Name	Branch	Dates	Where Served
Buszka, David	Marine	July 31, 1940 to August 10, 1946	Pacific in 1 st campaign on Iwo Jima, February 19, 1945
Cook, Thomas H.	Army		France
Donajkowski, Chester	Air Force	1952-54	
Donajkowski, Leonard	Cavalry	1952-1962	Europe
Dziesinski, Chester	Air Force	WWI	
Gatzke, Anthony	Army	1941-45	Normandy
Greka, Fr. David	Army	1978-	
Holzman, Thomas	Air Force	8-21-46 to 8-26-49; 3-20-52 to 3-19-69	Stateside, Phillipines, Okanawa, N. Africa, Goose Bay Labrador
Homant, Jim	Air Force	1948-52	Korea
Hoppe, Eugene	Army	WWII	Europe
Kowalski, John (Jack) P.	Army	1942-1945	Western Pacific
Kreft, Arnold		Korean War	
Kuchnicki, Jim	Navy		
Lasecki, Ralph	Army	1956-1957	Alaska
Maciejewski, Robert		WWII	France, Germany
MacNall, Donald	Army	1955-1958	Germany
McCallum, Fr. Gregory	Air Force	1982-86	
Meek, John	Navy	1960's	Pacific
Przeslawski, John	Army	WWII	Germany
Przeslawski, Louis	Army	WWII	Germany
Schultz, Theodore		WWI	
Smigelski, Tom	Army	WWII	
Stoppa, Benjamin	Marine	WWII	Pacific
Stoppa, David	Army	Korea	
Stoppa, Eugene	Navy	WWII	
Stoppa, Joseph	Marines	WWII	
Stoppa, Richard	Navy	WWII	
Szymanski, Chester	Army	1943-45	Europe
Szymanski, Clarence	Navy	WWII-3 yrs	
Szymanski, Daniel J.	Navy	1951-56	Iceland, Greenland, Africa
Szymanski, Felix	Army	WWI	France, Germany
Van Dusen, Leonard	Army		France
Wisniewski, Harry	Army	1951-53	Germany
Wojda, Joseph	Army	WWII	Philippines, New Guinea
Zolnierrek, Clarence	Army	1953-1957	
Zolnierrek, Joseph A.	Army Air Corps	1944-1946	
	Air Force	1950-1952	
Zolnierrek, Leonard T.	Marines	1957-1959	
Zolnierrek, Walter A.	Navy	1949-1953	

Our Stories



"Being a part of St. Mary's Parish is, first and foremost, a matter of the Spirit of Jesus in people's hearts."

Fr. Walt Derylo Jan. 22, 1995

St. Mary Parish Statistics

1883 – 150 families
1900 – 500 families, 322 students enrolled
1938 – 70 Baptisms, 60 First Communions,
27 Marriages, 31 Funerals
1963 – 92 Baptisms, 89 First Communions, 182
Confirmed, 25 Marriages, 35 Funerals
1988 – 36 Baptisms, 36 First Communions, 40
Confirmations, 16 Marriages, 42 Funerals
1999 – 723 families - 325 active*
2007 – 8 Baptisms, 17 First communions, 28
Confirmations, 609 families - 250 active,*
8 Marriages, 57 students enrolled, 28
Funerals+

* determined by # of envelopes mailed & used
+ does not reflect # of parishioners who died

Occupations

Administrative Assistant . Farmer . Father .
Homemaker . Janitor . Kiln Burner . Merchant .
Millwright . Molecular Biologist . Mother .
Nurse . Physician . Sales Person . Teacher .
Attorney . Musician . Cook . Judge . Engineer .
Principal . Artist . Minister . Medical
Technician . Computer Programmer .
Mechanic . Carpenter . Clerk

*"God chooses to work
through creation."*

Fr. Greg McCallum April 4, 2008

*From birth to death,
from the waters of
Baptism to the sprinkling
at the burial rite, we live
our lives as a part of
family and community.*

*We have our stories.
We who belong to the
Lord!*

Pete & Deb Alexander



Pete, Deb and dog Freebie

We met June 1983 at a campground near Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Deb lived in Mount Pleasant at the time and Pete lived in Alpena. Deb was church shopping

and was reaffirmed in her faith when she visited Sacred Heart Church in Mount Pleasant. It was the first time she felt like she belonged, so she decided to become Catholic.

Pete's reaffirmation in God came when he had cancer at the age of 18. A year after his battle with the disease, he met Deb. We dated for 5 years before getting married at St. Mary's in Alpena on October 8, 1988. We lived in Virginia for 7 years, and then moved to Grand Blanc, MI for 1 year. We now reside in Catho, MI.

We have had some very serious events happen to us both since being back. Deb had her own battle with cancer in 2006; Pete had open heart surgery in 2008. On top of all this, we can't have children. All of our challenges have made our faith in God even stronger with the help and prayers of St. Mary's.

We have 13 nieces and nephews and love them all. We are both Big Brother and Big Sister to a little brother that we love spending time with.

Pete and Deb are both active in the Church. We are both in the choir, Pete is a lector and Deb is a Eucharistic Minister.

Pete has several published papers that he has written through his work as a training specialist. He also does a lot of traveling all over the country and enjoys doing this. At home, he enjoys woodworking and gardening.

Deb started her own photography business and enjoys her job also. She sews and shares the gardening with Pete. *Submitted by Pete & Deb Alexander*

Pete is the son of Margaret and Roger Alexander. Debbie is the daughter of Richard Ward and Mary Vanhorn.

Isidore & Helen Baltroszewicz,

Isidore Baltroszewicz (Grandpa) came from Lithuania. Helen Piaskowski (Grandma) from Poland and when Grandpa saw Grandma on the steps of St Mary's Church, he knew he wanted her for his wife. So it was on May 21, 1900 they were married at St Mary's by Rev. Stephan Nowalkowski. This union resulted in 3 boys and 5 girls. Edward and Eli died young.

Anna married Jack Frey, John Kwiatkowski and Carl Tarracks. Rose married Joseph Darga. Theophila (Sybil) married Delmar L. Daly and Leonard R. Piantkowski. Mae Helen married John Tucker. Gertrude married Orval Kramer and Joseph Darga. Harold married Jane Dodd. All are deceased now except Jane Barton.

Even though there are 13 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and 17 great great grandchildren, the family name (Baltroszewicz shortened to Barton), has ceased to exist. The Barton children were all baptized, married, and had their Requiem Masses at St. Mary's.

I remember picking potato bugs in Grandpa's large potato garden. But, the best memory is of our family Christmas – walking to midnight Mass and walking home in the crisp air to warm meat pies. St. Mary's was the thread that connected our family for over 100 years. *Submitted by Marlene Werda.*



Ed & Arlene Baryla



Since recently becoming new members of St. Mary's, it's been our pleasure to be made welcome by so many warm and friendly people at a parish celebrating its 125th Anniversary. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary with a cruise.

Joseph & Sally Bronikowski



50th Wedding Anniversary

Joseph and Sally (Lewandowski) Bronikowski, both deceased, were married in Posen, MI on August 30, 1926. They became members of St. Mary's when they moved to Alpena and made their home on W. Chisholm Street. There they raised three daughters: Phyllis Wyman, Germaine Kaiser, and Margaret Ruth Keller. All of their girls attended Catholic grade schools – St. Mary's and St. Anne's.

Joseph worked at the Huron Portland Cement Plant and was an Usher at St. Mary's. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. Sally worked at the old Frazier factory as well as sold flowers from their garden. She was an excellent baker and worked at St. Mary's Bazaars for years.

Sally was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Lewandowski and Joseph was the son of Leo and Anastasia Bronikowski. *Submitted by Germaine Kaiser*

Joseph & Julianna Buczkowski Family

Julianna Tadajewski was born on February 8, 1875 in Poland. On May 16, 1898 she married Joseph Buczkowski. Their union was blessed with 4 daughters, all of whom were baptized and received the sacraments at St. Mary's. These daughters remained faithful to their parish; they as well as their spouses had Masses of Christian Burial from our church. Their grandchildren also received the sacraments here and attended St. Mary's Grade School.

Their daughters and families are:

1. Frances (4-28-1889) married John Mischley. Their children are Alfred (Irene Otto), Eleanor (Ted Balon), Robert (Shirley McNeill), Clarence (Virginia Robinette), Delores (Cam Jury).
2. Anna (4-14-1901) married Ted Schultz. Their children are Alice (Joseph Skiba), Kenneth (Marge Wagner), Donald (Phyllis McNeill), Ted (Barb Krebs).
3. Lillian (5-31-1906) married Fred Kauffman. Their child is Jack (Janice Maciejewski).
4. Esther Julia (8-19-1909) married Irwin Dean. Their children are Donna May, Patrick (Judy Bigham), Mary (Jerry Kasubowski), Norbert Joseph (died December 26, 1953).

Submitted by Mary Winton

Dave & Eleanore Buszka

I, Dave, was born to Anthony and Elizabeth (Donajkowski) Buszka in Long Rapids Township on April 10, 1920. My mother died of diphtheria when I was 8 months old. My father moved to Alpena when I was 6 years old and I went to live with my sister, Sally, in Flint when she got married. I became a boxer, 112 pound flyweight, and won the Chevrolet Championship in 1937. At age 20, I enlisted in the Marine Corps for 6 years. After that I moved to Metz where my sister Sally was then living.

I met my future wife when she was 7 years old and I was 16. We were picking stones on her father's farm. Then I didn't see her for 10 years. On our first date, I took her to the movies at the Maltz Theater. I courted her for 2 1/2 years. We were married by Fr. Fron on August 12, 1950 at St. Dominic's Church in Metz.

I, Eleanore, was born August 24, 1929 in Detroit, MI. My parents, Leo and Celia (Pieczynski) Orban moved to Metz on my grandpa's farm. My mother was needed for field work so I did all the cooking and cleaning. Killed, cleaned, and cooked the chickens for dinner. I raised my sister who was 14 years younger than me. When Dave and I were courting, we couldn't sit next to each other because Mayvine would come and sit between us. She cried when I got married and left home.

For two winters I worked as a housekeeper and kitchen help at Sacred Heart Convent in Detroit. They paid me \$10 a week. I also worked one year for Dr. Bunting and 2 years for Mrs. Faith Sebald.

We moved to Alpena in 1952 and joined St. Mary's Parish. In 1956 we moved to Long Lake Park Road where we still reside. Dave worked at the power house at National Gypsum for 28 years and Eleanore is a homemaker. In the winter, we go to Holiday, FL.

Dave was a scoutmaster for 4 years with the St. Mary's troop. We went on camping trips in the summer and winter. The Klondike campout lasted for 1 week at Camp Grayling. Now I love to fish and do crossword puzzles and watch sports.

Eleanore loves to cook and make quilts for her family. I do volunteer work at St. Mary's and enjoy the prayer meetings, visiting and praying with my friends. We also enjoy having our family gather every year for Fathers' Day.

Submitted by David and Eleanore Buszka.



Dave's 88th birthday at Epcot

We have 4 children: Greg & Karen, Val (Rob) Golding, Connie (Joe) Sobczak, and Wayne (Dorothy). We have 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Thomas & Rita Cook

Thomas H. Cook married Rita S. Tadajewski on February 27, 1965 at St. Mary Church. Rita has been a member since 1929. They have 2 children: Denise R. Wekwert and Jacqueline A. Piwowarski. Thomas is retired from Alpena Community College and Rita enjoys knitting, crocheting, and any crafts.

Thomas is the son of John and Violet Cook. Rita is the daughter of Leo and Gertrude Tadajewski.

Submitted by Rita Cook

James J. & Virginia Dault Family



*Top l to r: Robert, Virginia, John, Amy, Debbie, Doreen, Jim
Bottom l to r: Jimmy, Larry, Chuck*

We moved from our Ossineke home November 19, 1966 to the corner of Merchant and Hamilton in Alpena. It was a large house for our 7 children, the oldest 9 years and the youngest 1 year old, and a new baby expected in

January. Of course, that meant giving up the parish Jim and I had attended and also married in, where our children had been baptized and Jimmy had made his First Communion.

One of our new neighbors advised us to join St. Anne's because we were French and wouldn't fit in with Polish people. However, being the practical young parents we were, we thought that a silly idea since St. Mary's was so close and besides I had a bit of Irish blood and Jim had Indian blood. So we joined St. Mary's. The people were friendly and welcoming. We felt at home with our large family because there were other young couples with large families.

We have many memories of family events at St. Mary's, happy and sad and even one embarrassing event when one of our grandchildren was baptized. Six month old Angela Marie began crying when her parents walked into the vestibule and she cried all during the baptism. Neither pacifier nor bottle would stop her crying. After the baptism, when we all walked out the door, she stopped crying. Angela Marie was no angel that day.

Jim and I were married at St. Catherine's in Ossineke on December 1, 1956. Our children are: James J. Jr. (Jim), Lawrence (Larry), Amy Heading, Charles (Chuck), John (Bro. Gabriel), Debra Weiland, Robert (Rob), and Doreen. Jim died September 11, 2006.

I have 21 grandchildren, 1 deceased grandchild, and 3 great grandchildren. In my spare time, I enjoy listening to music and reading.

Submitted by Virginia Dault

Virginia is the daughter of Alby and Lorene Rouleau; James was the son of Charles and Mary Dault.

Irwin & Esther Dean

My parents were married at St. Mary Parish on July 6, 1935. My father, a convert to Catholicism, was a devout Christian with a special dedication to Our Lady. He prayed the Rosary as fervently as my mother did.

Their children Donna, Pat, Mary and Norbie were all baptized at St. Mary's and the 3 older children attended our parish grade school. Norbie, the youngest child, died of leukemia in 1953 at the age of 3. In his memory, my parents purchased a large statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. This statue stood on a pedestal in the convent chapel. I remember visiting the chapel often and noticing the beautiful dresses on this "Baby." The sisters made all the clothes. Every Christmas we visited the chapel and it was a very special time for us.

Some of the Felician sisters living at the convent when I was a child were teaching at Catholic Central.

Because they had no car, they would call my mother for transportation. I never remember my mother saying no to these requests. Sister Valentia was a favorite. One day my father took her to the "Dumping Grounds" so she could dispose of some material from the chemistry lab. There were a couple of fellows that lived in a make-shift home out there. Sr. Valentia was so concerned about their living conditions that, I believe, she notified the city fathers. She never did dump anything for fear of it getting into the wrong hands.

As I grew into a pre-teen, I visited the convent with neighborhood friends: Pat Januchowski, Jane Witkowski, Susan Orlowski, Joyce Konczak and Shirley Dzieszinski. Saturday mornings we would be put to work cleaning the sisters' home and the church. Old wax was removed from candle holders, the sacristy and basement steps were swept, the convent entrance and 3 visitor rooms were cleaned and dusted. I remember using a lot of steel wool. For our

reward, we got soda pop, chips and candy downstairs in the convent.

My father was a member of The Holy Name Society which later became the Ushers Club. He also was a 4th Degree K of C. He died in October 1992 and had a Mass of Christian burial at St. Mary.



My mother was busy with CCD after the death of her baby. She, under the guidance of Msgr. Gatzke, took

literature and small medals to families with new borns. She participated in Pedro Club, Christmas Bazaars, Rosary Society, CCHS Fish Fry's, Afternoon Card Club, and Daughters of Isabella.

At the age of 97, my mother passed away. On May 12, 2007, Fr. Greg and a cousin, Bruce Michaud (pastor of Trinity Episcopal) officiated at a Mass of Christian burial.

She entered the world, was baptized at St. Mary Parish, and after a full life, went to be with her Lord. The last words I said to my mother were, "God bless you. You will see the Lord today. Your baby and your mother are waiting for you." A full circle for Esther Julia.

Submitted by Mary Winton

Chester & Doris Donajkowski

Chet and I were both shy country kids when we started high school at St. Anne's. We rode the same bus. We went to St. Anne's for 3 years and were in the first graduating class from Catholic Central. We started dating when we were seniors in high school.

I worked as a cashier at Woolworth's Department Store; Chet went to Bay City for a while. In 1952 he enlisted in the Air Force for 4 years but was discharged after 2 years due to the illness of his father. We were married June 12, 1954 at St. Anne's where my family had been lifelong members. We then joined St. Mary's where we have been members since. When we talked to Msgr Gatzke, he told us, "A man goes to a woman's house and marries her. Then he takes her to his home (church)." All 6 of our children were baptized and received the sacraments here.

In the fall of 1965, we moved into a farm house on the farm where we still live. On May 13, 1966, a Friday, our home was destroyed by fire. We had 6 children ages 1 to 11. Eventually we rebuilt our home and still reside there.

They say the most devastating thing is the death of a child. On September 29, 1992, our third son, Sam, was killed in a fall in Alaska where he was living. His body was never recovered. But life does go on. We thank God every day for the time

we had with him and for our other 5 children and our 11 grandchildren and 2 precious great grandchildren.

Submitted by Doris Donajkowski

Chester is the son of Henry and Florence Donajkowski. Doris is the daughter of Ernest and Katherine Robinette. Their children are: Joseph, Thomas, Samuel (deceased), Timothy, Sandra (Holzman), and Patrick.

Henry & Florence Donajkowski



Top l to r: Florence, Harry, John, Chester, James, Theresa. Bottom l to r: Margaret, Florence, Henry, Kathryn

When Florence Smigelski married Henry Donajkowski in October, 1925, she was 17 and he was 26. He had been born and raised on a farm near Posen. She lived a few miles north of Bolton. When Florence was 16, she worked for less than a year for a wealthy family in Detroit.

For the first few years of their marriage, Henry and Florence lived in Alpena. He worked at the Fletcher Paper Mill and helped his brother, Tony, with his butcher shop. When their second child, Margaret, was born, Henry's new steam engine was delivered to Posen. That ended his work in Alpena.

After son Chester was born and another child was on the way, Florence insisted on a place of their own. They settled in Bolton and decided to become storekeepers. A store with living quarters in back was erected and a new life began. Jim, Kathryn, John, Florence and Charlotte joined Harry, Margaret and Chet.

Henry had a great deal of charm and loved to dance and sing. In his younger days he was often the "caller" at local square dances. He was generous to a fault, loyal to his Polish roots and deeply sentimental. He died at the age of 67 after a series of strokes.

Florence was baptized and married at St. Mary's and was a member all of her life. She and Henry were among the first supporters of Catholic Central High School and their son Chet was part of the first graduating class.

Life for the Donajkowskis held a number of sorrows. When he was 35, their oldest son, Harry, died in an automobile accident in Germany. He was stationed there with the Army. Two years later, their youngest daughter, Theresa Charlotte drowned while working with the Papal Volunteers in what is now Belize. After Henry's death, Florence also withstood the death of her son John from a brain aneurysm at the age of 39. With her faith never faltering, she suffered the deaths of 3 grandsons, all sudden deaths, and all very dear to her.

After Henry's death, Florence lived alone on the small farm in Orchard Hill where they had retired. Grandchildren spent many overnights or weekends at Grandma's house. When she was 80, she became seriously ill and went to live in Bolton again with her daughter, Margaret. She recovered from that illness and was fairly active and mentally alert until her death at 92. While at the farm, Florence became an avid gardener and spent long hours in her flower gardens. She also took numerous trips, mostly to Belize but she also traveled to Rome, Poland, the Holy Land and to Canada. On one of her trips to Rome, Florence was one of thousands at the funeral of Pope John XXIII, an event she never forgot.

She became a real benefactor to the people of Belize, helping in any way she could. She became "Grandma D" to everyone who met her. *Submitted by Margaret Alexander*

Leonard Donajkowski Family

Mary and Leonard were married at St. Mary's on September 15, 2001. Mary had been a parishioner since 1962 and Leonard joined in 2002.

Mary's beloved husband, Alvin, died October 8, 1984 and she also lost a precious daughter, Roxann, on January 12, 1998. Leonard's beloved wife, Maureen, died December 12, 1993.



Len and Mary Donajkowski

We met at a wedding in Hamburg, Michigan. We were married by our nephew, Fr. Charles Donajkowski, and Fr. Raymond Pilarski. We sure love our children and our 18 grandchildren. It is nice to see them come to church in their best. We love our church and our precious pastor, Fr. Greg.

We both graduated from Catholic Central High School. We now enjoy bowling, golfing and playing cards.



Alvin and Mary Losinski



Leonard and Maureen Donajkowski

Submitted by Leonard and Mary Donajkowski

Robert & Barbara Donajkowski

We both grew up in the Alpena area about 6-8 miles apart. Bob was best friends with my brother Carl for years. He said he had to wait for me to grow up. I always tease him that he saw I was a good worker and thought I would make a good maid so he asked me to marry him and he has had it made ever since.

Both of us were raised in Catholic families. Our families, both being farmers, always went to church for 6:15 AM Mass because the barn chores had to be done when we got home. During hunting season, we went to the special 5 AM Mass. After we got married we followed that tradition. We had 5 children under 5 years of age and we would wake them up and go. One time we got in church and noticed that one of the girls was missing a very important piece of under clothing. Another time, we got the kids all dressed and I was carrying one of them and was pregnant so I just slipped on a pair of shoes. When going up the steps at church, I noticed I had 2 different colored shoes on, one black and one brown. We stayed in church until everyone was gone, hoping no one noticed.

We became more involved or active in the parish when Fr. Ray Pilarski became our pastor. He never took no for an answer. He said he was having a work bee to scrape and paint the rectory windows. Bob said, "Father, if I work at the rectory every day after work and on Saturday, I'll have to do my work at home on Sunday." Father said, "The Lord would forgive you if you work for Him on Saturday." I guess he really wanted it done.

A few of us got started on Saturday and Father grilled Kielbasa for us for lunch. Also, when Father wasn't feeling well, he would have his cook, Mrs. Witucki, call me and ask if I could bring some walleye fish in. This must have cured him. We were also instrumental in getting the shrine built at the Knights of Columbus Hall. This is where all our volunteer work began. It was hard, but it was fun.

We feel we can't thank the Lord enough for being able to have all 7 of our children attend St. Mary's School. It was worth the sacrifice. As one of our boys said, "Sister Edwardine was strict but she always disciplined us in a good way."

We feel we have been truly blessed by our Blessed Mother and Our Lord throughout our life and our 48 years of marriage. We received all the sacraments at St. Mary's including our marriage on April 30, 1960.

We also want to thank our Lord for all the wonderful pastors we have had throughout the years, including Fr. Greg.

Submitted by Barb Donajkowski

Robert is the son of Steve and Della Donajkowski. Barbara is the daughter of Anthony and Genevieve Losinski. Their children are: Belinda, Geri, Jeffrey, Toby, Steven, James, and Lori. They have 11 grandchildren.

Steve and Della Donajkowski



Steve and Della Donajkowski were married at St. Casimir's Church in Posen on October 29, 1923. They joined St. Mary's in Alpena in 1924. Mom and Dad lived on a farm they bought and there they raised all 12 of us. Plus, Dad's Mom, Catherine, lived with us for many years.

We always prayed morning and evening prayers daily and said the Rosary, all in Polish. On Sundays, as many of us that could fit into the Whippit car went to Mass. The rest of us prayed at home. We always knew God was present in our family. Mom and Dad were blessed with a grandson becoming a priest, Fr. Charles Donajkowski, pastor of St. Ignatius' in Rogers City.

My parents were farmers all their lives and Dad enjoyed fishing and hunting.

At present, there are 5 sons and their wives who are parishioners of St. Mary's: Louis and Clara, Leonard and Mary, Robert and Barbara, Raymond and Michelle, David and Maxine.

Submitted by Leonard and Mary Donajkowski

Steve and Della's children are: Martha, Clemence, Virginia, Rose, Louis, Leonard, Rita, Robert, Barbara, Raymond, David, and Mary. They have 47 grandchildren.

Theresa Donajkowski

Theresa Charlotte Donajkowski was born on October 15, 1941 in Bolton. She was the youngest of the eight children of Henry and Florence Donajkowski. Theresa was always called "Butch" by her family, probably because of her stolid appearance and attitude. However, she was a precocious and happy child and delighted in telling stories.

When she was 3 years old, Butch survived a near fatal bout with pneumonia. At the age of ten she was diagnosed with TB and was sent to a hospital in Howell, MI. After a two year stay and lung surgery, she returned home and went back to school. She finished the eighth grade at the Bolton one room school and went on to Catholic Central High School. After graduation, she attended Alpena Community College and then decided to finish her studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

While in college, Butch became "Terry" to all who knew her there. She became a member of St. Augustine Church and was involved in a number of church related activities. When she learned that the Papal Volunteers were looking for teachers to be sent to foreign places, she felt the need to contribute. She

was assigned to teach in British Honduras in Central America. In Belize City, Butch was to teach History, Doctrine, Scripture and Public Speaking in a school in Cayo.

British Honduras was still quite primitive at that time and life was a challenge but Terry loved it. She enjoyed her students and became well liked by all the people she met. She celebrated her 23rd birthday on the 15th of October and their cook baked a special cake using coconut which, of course, had to be scraped from the shell.

On October 25th, Terry and friends went on a picnic to Pine Ridge, a place on the water with a turbulent water fall. While walking on some rocks with others, Terry reached out



to a companion whom she thought was falling. At the same time another reached for her and all three fell into the water. The others surfaced but

Terry did not. It was learned days later when her body was found that she had struck her head on a rock and suffered a fractured skull.

It was not feasible that her body be returned to Alpena and her parents granted permission that she be buried in Cayo. A Requiem High Mass was sung for Terry in the church at San Ignacio. Many priests were present and almost everyone in the district attended the funeral. Later a memorial Mass was held in Alpena at St. Mary Church with Fr. Raymond Mulka officiating along with Fr. John Troester and many others from local churches and the Kalamazoo area.

The following April, Terry's parents traveled to Belize to visit her grave. The inscription on her grave reads; In grateful memory of Papal Volunteer Theresa C. Donajkowski born October 15, 1941 died October 25, 1964. "She only lives who lives for others."

Almost forty years later, in February of 2002, a library was added to the remodeled school where Terry had taught. The library was named in her honor. Members of the Donajkowski family attended the ceremony in Cayo, Belize C.A.

Submitted by: Margaret Alexander

John & Mary Durecki

My parents were married at St. Mary Church on April 30, 1923. They had 10 children, 2 of whom died at an early age. All the rest attended St. Mary School. One daughter, Sr. M. Richardine, became a Felician nun. She passed away in 2007. Sr. M. Maximilian was my second grade teacher. Something about her just sticks in my mind. *Submitted by Evelyn Klein*

Chester & Irene Dziesinski

Chester and Irene Dziesinski have been a part of St. Mary Parish since they were married here in 1947. Their 3 children, Kenneth, Alan and Judy were baptized, made their First Communion and were confirmed here. Judy was also married here.

Irene is the daughter of the late Walter and Martha Grzelak of Leer. Irene became a Catholic before her marriage and surprised Chester who was in the Air Force during WWII.

Chester (Chet) worked as a millwright and carpenter and has been an usher here for 45 years. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree, he was an honor guard for the first time at the funeral of Msgr. Gatzke. In the past, Irene worked on the Paczki Party, played in the Ladies Pedro Club, and was chairperson of the holiday bazaar many times.

They both worked Bingo when it started at St. Mary's. Back then, it was card Bingo but later it became the traditional Bingo. They were Bingo workers until it ended.

Still parishioners after 60 years, Irene and Chet say they "liked working for our church." They also like walking, bike riding, and playing cards.

Submitted by Chester and Irene Dziesinski

Chet is the son of Frank and Blanche Dziesinski. Irene is the daughter of Walter and Martha Grzelak. Their grandchildren are: Tray and Tyler Diersma; Leandra, Jamie, Amberly, Adam, Lucas Dziesinski.

Jim & Ann Florip



John, Jim, Ann, Tom, Dan,

The "Florip" family connection with St. Mary's is relatively brief. Ann and Jim were married at St. Mary's on May 25, 1980 by Rev. Chester J. Pilarski, a former associate pastor and a longtime friend of the Nowak families. One unique aspect of Jim and Ann's wedding was that it occurred on a Sunday (the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend).

Through Ann, our family's connection to St. Mary's crosses 4 generations, with each of them attending St. Mary School. Ann's grandparents were Stephen (Jasper) and Celia (nee Filipiak) Nowak. As a young man, Jasper was a member of St. Mary's and attended St. Mary School. Jasper and Celia's sons Gerald (married Gayle Reynolds) and Thomas (married Jeanne Kollien) were and are members of St. Mary's and attended St. Mary School. Gerald and Gayle's children, Jay, Ann, Paul, Sue, Jon and Peter attended St. Mary School, as did Thomas and Jeanne's children, Mark, Kevin and Brian.

Jim and Ann have 3 sons who, in their younger years, were Altar Servers, most often for the early Sunday morning Mass, along with many weddings and countless funerals. They were baptized here and graduated from St. Mary School.

While Jim Florip was born and raised in Rogers City, he is no stranger to the names and families of St. Mary's and Alpena. His mother, Margaret Florip, is a Smolinski, and her mother, Agnes, was a Wcisel. Jim's dad, Jack Florip, had family with Alpena roots: Jack's mother, Ella, was a Martinson from Alpena.

It has always been fun over the years trying to pick out our relatives, no matter how close or distant they may be. And, over the years, this

contributes to the Florips really considering St. Mary's a true family parish and a true family school.

St. Mary School provided an excellent education and contributed mightily to the success of 4 generations of Nowak-Florips.

Our 3 sons graduated from the University of Michigan. In fact, being less than 4 years apart in age, they were all at U-M together for the 2002-03 school year. Dan went on to Ave Maria School of Law and returned to Alpena to practice law. Tom also graduated from Ave Maria and will be a civilian attorney for the Navy at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland. John teaches Civics and Social Studies at a junior high school in Fredericksburg, Virginia along with coaching a golf team for a nearby high school.

Submitted by Jim and Ann Florip

John Joseph Garant

I was born in June of 1960 and baptized at St. Mary's with Uncle Dick and Aunt Mary Ann Garant as my godparents. Growing up on the North Side, St. Mary's became a very important part of my life. I had the opportunity to make the sacraments of Confession, Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage there as well.

I wasn't one of the lucky ones to attend St. Mary School, but I was very lucky to attend CCD. Each year, I became stronger in my Catholic faith. I am very active in the church today as a result of my wonderful experience and teaching as a child at St. Mary's in Alpena.

My father would always sing very loud from his heart. I do the same today.

Forty years ago I received my 1st Holy Communion. It was such a great experience. I also have fond memories of my Communion party. Not only did I receive some nice gifts of money totaling \$23, I also got my very own bike. Wow! The next day

my dad opened my very own bank account.

One of my most memorable days was the making of my Confirmation. My good friend, Mark Allen Kacorowski made his Confirmation the same day. I helped him pick his Confirmation name - Robert. Now if you take his initials, they spell his first name (M.A.R.K.). This was really cool. I chose James so my initials were J.J.J.G.

Not only was St. Mary's a pillar in my faith, it was a great place to rest. It was the half way point between downtown Alpena and where we lived. The Church steps wrapped around its front and they were the best steps to sit on each time we went to town.

I remember St. Mary's steeple stood high and was visible from MacRae Park where we spent many hours of each day. I was flying a kite at MacRae Park with our neighbors and it appeared we had enough kite string that the kite was above the church (about 1 mile from where we were). The steeple was a key landmark and is etched in my memories.

I love to sing in church. I was always proud of my parents with their participation in the Mass. My father would always sing very loud from his heart. I do the same today. After my marriage ceremony, the choir director said, "This is the first wedding I've seen where the groom has sung every song without having a hymnal." This made me feel very good.

St. Mary's has been very good to our family and gave us many opportunities to be part of the community. As a family without much money but full of love, St. Mary's always helped us financially when needed. We received help with the cost of our CCD books. These kind gifts of charity have gone a long way in my life.

Submitted by John Garant

John resides with his wife, Jeannine, in Poughkeepsie, NY. They have 3 grown children.

Robert Garant Family

In 1955 our parents, Robert and Frances Garant, moved from Miller Street to 146 East Hueber Street with

5 kids in tow. As former members of St. Anne's, they joined St. Mary's since it was closer. Seven more children came along and as we became school age, they enrolled us in St. Mary School. At that time, classes were held in the old building and most of the teachers were Sisters. We walked to school in the morning, home and back for lunch and home again in the afternoon. As more kids came along, the enrollment grew. In all, 7 kids attended the old school on Miller Street.

I remember there being 8 classrooms in the old school. The bathrooms were in the basement, where the annual Christmas bazaar took place. This is where my brother, Bob, bought mom a cactus plant, which my little brother Charles bit the top off. That cactus seeded many, many, baby cacti which Mom shared with many friends and neighbors, but the original always remained tip-less.

Another fond memory was when we left for school, we would meet our

neighbor Ann Olson on the corner of Bosley and Second. She said if we were there by 7:45, she would give us a ride. Well, one of us would get there and more of us would come flying around the corner and by the time we all piled in her car, she was probably late for work. Ann is still living in the same house behind Mom and is one of the best neighbors in the world.

In 2006, my brother Mark died at the age of 47. That was the first death in our large family and was devastating to all of us. Many Masses were given at church in Mark's name. On August 3, 2007 Dad went to be with the Lord and his funeral was held on August 6. He was 80. At his funeral Mass, one whole middle section was packed full of his children, their spouses, and nearly all of their grandchildren and spouses, and great-grandchildren, nearly 100 in all. The rest of the church was full of friends and extended family. His six surviving sons served as pallbearers

as the five daughters laid the pall on the casket.

Dad and Mom have always attended St. Mary's and tried to help out with funerals, dinners, and fund raisers. Anyone who knows them will tell you they went no place without their St. Mary Tickets. After Dad passed away, Mom continued to carry the pouch of tickets, making her purse weigh about 25 pounds. When Dad was in Tendercare Greenview, she had to compete with Choker Syzmanski for those sales because his wife was also a resident and both were there everyday to visit.

Now all 12 of us have graduated, married, and have many children and grandchildren. Some of us have moved away and some have joined other congregations; but our home will always be at 520 N. Second.

Submitted by: Jane (Garant) Degen

Jane and her husband, Ed, were married at St. Mary on December 11, 1971. They have 3 grown sons and 7 grandchildren.

Delphine Gatzke

I met my husband, Anthony Gatzke, when we were singing in the choir at St. Ignatius Church in Rogers City. He was the youngest of 8 children and I was the youngest of 6. We were married at St. Ignatius on May 19, 1949. In 1950 we moved to Alpena and joined St. Mary Church where Tony previously belonged. He was a nephew of Msgr. Gatzke and was a long-time K of C member. I joined the choir (sang alto) and was a member for 40 years. I also joined the Rosary Society and am still a member.

When my daughter was in elementary school, she got an assignment to write Haiku. We worked together and came up with a suitable one. That piqued my interest and was the start of my poetry writing. My husband worked at Huron Portland Cement for 26 years and I worked at Burg Pharmacy.

I currently enjoy crocheting and knitting. I have received 6 of the 7 sacrament, five of them at St. Ignatius Church. My husband died on September 27, 2000. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed thru the mercy of God rest in peace, together with all the relatives, and parish members. God bless all!

We have 2 children: Edward and Linda, and 3 grandchildren. My parents were Frank & Rose Netkowski. Tony's parents were Catherine & Edward Gatzke.

Submitted by Delphine Gatzke

Patrick & Patricia Glomski



Marrying Patrick on November 24, 1982 brought Patricia from St. Bernard's to St. Mary's. Patrick has been a lifetime member.

We first met while ice skating at Mich-e-ke-wis Park when we were in the eighth grade. But, it wasn't until 1982 that we began dating and subsequently got

married. Our Church is the core of our life. We are proud to be available to work on the events, especially paczki making, and to contribute to our parish.

Patricia is the seventh of 10 children and remembers big family dinners after church on Sunday. In the afternoon the children played games and sometimes the younger ones would go for a ride with their Dad.

We enjoy hosting our children or grandchildren for the holidays or will travel to be with our grandchildren on Christmas. We both go camping and are active with the Scrap Quilters. Patricia also does crafts and crocheting. For entertainment, Patricia enjoyed the TV show "Touched by an Angel" for its positive message and liked listening to Elvis Presley and Brenda Lee.

Submitted by Patrick and Patricia Glomski

Patrick is the son of John and Emily Glomski. Patricia is the daughter of Richard and Norma Tovey.

Their children are Brenda (Lee) VanWagner, Jeanette (Mark) Aldrich, James Glomski, and Scott Glomski who is deceased. They are grandparents of 3.

Deacon Bob & Judy Goetz



Judy Goetz was born in Monroe, Michigan, daughter of Ora and Frances (Will) Stiffler. Bob Goetz was born in Toledo, Ohio, son of Dominic and Mary (Pavlik) Goetz. Bob moved with his parents to Monroe when he was 14. Bob and Judy were married on May 23, 1959 in St. Michael's Church, Monroe. They were blessed with 5 children, Theresa, Christine, Karen, Gregory and Brian. They were joined by wonderful sons-in-law, Andre and Kevin and daughters-in-law, Denise and Sandy. Today they share their lives with 12 grandchildren.

Judy and Bob have enjoyed traveling over the years, both as a part of work and for recreation. They have been together to Alaska, France, Luxembourg, Italy, England, Mexico, and Germany, in addition to living in Canada for over 3 years. Their most memorable trip was to Italy during the gathering of deacons and wives for Jubilee Year of 2000. Time was spent in Florence, Pisa, Orvieto, Assisi, and Rome. There was a special audience with Pope John Paul II and a renewal of vows in the original church of St. Francis of Assisi. We enjoy many trips traveling around the U.S., having visited most of the states. Additionally, Bob has benefited from experiencing other cultures through his work related travel to Korea, Japan, Argentina, Thailand, England, France and Mexico.

When Bob retired from Ford Motor Company in 1997, we moved to Hubbard Lake. Since then Bob has served as deacon at the parishes of St. Bernard, St. Anne, St. Rose of Lima, and St. Mary.

Submitted by Deacon Bob and Judy Goetz

Valerie & Rob Golding

I was baptized at St. Mary Church in 1953. I attended St. Mary School from 1959 through 1967. After the 8th grade, I transferred into the public school system. After graduation from high school, I attended one year of college, went to work at GTE and married Norm Jaskolski in 1974. We had 3 children: Brandon, Aron, and Malori who also attended St. Mary School from 1980 through 1995, each attending through the 6th grade. I must say, I did enjoy my school years at St. Mary. The same friends for 8 years are people you will never forget. The memories are the best.

In 1991, Norm passed away and I married Rob Golding in 1997. We now have 2 grandchildren who are children of Brandon and live in Alpena. Brandon graduated from Madonna University in 1998 and was married in 2003. His wife is named Erica and their children are Natalie and Bryce.

Aron graduated from Michigan State University and is living in Memphis, Mi. Malori graduated from Alpena

Community College and went to work for Flagstar Bank in Alpena. She transferred to Flagstar in Lansing in 2003 and is currently working for Flagstar in Cumming, GA. She will be married in August of 2008 at St. Anne Church in Alpena.

I know God is present in my life because even though I had a tragedy early in my first marriage, He was there to guide me, and He led me to another wonderful man to enjoy the rest of my life with. Rob and I knew while we were dating, if we left our relationship in God's hands, He would decide if we were meant for each other. Obviously, He knew.

Rob is a Financial Services Representative and I am employed as a clerk. I enjoy reading, cross stitch and golf.

Some good advice I received in my life was found while reading a Christian book. "If God brings you to it, He will lead you through it." Believe that and life will be simple.

Submitted by Valerie Golding

Anthony & Julia Grochowski

Anthony Grochowski was born in Hagensville, MI on December 6, 1886. Julia Klein was born March 11, 1892 in Pulaski Twp., MI.

The couple was married at St. Casimir Church in Posen on August 30, 1916. They lived in Rogers City for a short time and then moved to Alpena at 215 Dawson Street. They joined St. Mary Parish and belonged there for the rest of their days.

Tony earned his living as a laborer and Julia was a homemaker. They both enjoyed working in the garden and produced great vegetables. Tony also raised rabbits and chickens and took great delight in giving the young grandchildren the first pullet eggs in Spring.

Julia was an excellent knitter and made booties and dozens of mittens for all the babies. She was pleased that her booties were made so that they never fell off the babies' feet. She also made braided rag rugs and spent hours baking on a wood stove and preserving fruits and vegetables.

The family enjoyed berry picking. An all day outing always included a picnic lunch when they went to Hillman, Metke's Marsh or Atlanta for all the wild berries they could gather to preserve for the year ahead.

Sunday was always a day of rest, attend Mass in your best clothes and then spend the day with family and friends (Grandpa, Grandma, etc.).

Anthony died on January 23, 1970, followed by Julia on January 12, 1985. They were survived by all six of their children, 32 grandchildren, and 46 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by Lillian Grochowski

Anthony and Julia had six children: Edwin, Anthony Jr., Chester, Helen, Genevieve, and David.



Dave & Lillian Grochowski

Lillian, her 7 sisters and 2 brothers, were born and raised in Detroit. Dave's first cousin was a good friend of Lillian and that's how we met. We were married in Detroit at St. John the Evangelist Church on October 14, 1957 and moved to Alpena immediately after the wedding. Dave was born and raised in Alpena and baptized at St. Mary's and has been a member here except for a few years when we belonged to St. John's in Alpena. The diocese divided the city into parish zones when St. John's was established. We stayed there until the Catholic school closed and then returned to St. Mary's.

We have 5 children; Jane, Kathy, Bill (wife Diane), Paul, and Jack (wife Basak). We also have 2 grandchildren named Alex and Justine Schultz. When we were raising our family, we did some traveling; the first and most memorable being a trip to WI and riding across Lake Michigan on a ferry.

Dave worked at Huron Portland Cement, retiring in 1992. Lillian worked at Wickes Lumber and retired in



Top l to r: Diane, Kathy, Lillian, Dave. Bottom l to r: Bill, Jack, Jane, Basak, Beth, Paul

1995. We spend some time doing volunteer work for both St. Mary's and Alpena Regional Medical Center. We make frequent trips to Montana and Maryland to see our daughters and grandchildren. We have traveled 49 of the 50 states. We haven't been to Hawaii and our favorite is Alaska. We traveled the AL-CAN highway in a minivan.

Submitted by Dave and Lillian Grochowski

Dave is the son of Anthony and Julia Grochowski who were married in Posen. Lillian is the daughter of Joseph and Lucille Saynay.

Holzman, Odusky, Skatzka Families



Joseph Skatzka, baby Elaine, Mary Skatzka, Rose Skatzka, Bernard Odusky, Jacob Samp July 6, 1926

We are the third and fourth generation members of St. Mary's Parish. My grandparents were Joseph and Mary (Samp) Skatzka. Grandpa arrived in the United States at the Port of Philadelphia, PA from West Prussia, Germany in 1897, at the age of 24. He married Mary Samp of the Metz area and set up home on Mill Street, now Ford Avenue. There they raised seven children: Rose (my mother), Catherine, Helen, Florence, Frank, Agnes, and Elaine. All their children attended the old St. Mary School.

I remember Grandpa and Granny as very devout Catholics who attended Mass daily. At home, grandpa could be heard praying or

singing in Polish while sitting in his favorite chair.

Their oldest daughter Rose married Bernard Odusky at St Mary's by the Rev. John Gatzke and raised 2 children, Louis and Barbara. Both of their children attended St Mary's School and Catholic Central.

Barbara married Thomas Holzman at St Mary's by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Gatzke, the same who married my parents. We remember when the town was divided up into four Catholic parishes. We attended St. John's since we lived in that area, after our marriage, until Tom was granted base housing for his family.

Yes, I married a fly boy and we spent his last 9 years in the Air Force being transferred to Pease AFB, NH and Sheppard AFB, TX. In 1969, when Tom retired from active duty, we moved back to Alpena. We raised four children: Pat, Mike, Mary, and Jim. All our children attended St. Mary's School. The boys were altar servers. Pat and Mike are also members of the parish.

Tom was an usher, enjoyed helping the parish Boy Scout troop, and now assists as a collection counter on Mondays. Barbara has enjoyed working on the Planning and Service Committees as well as at the annual bazaars. She is also a member of the Rosary Society.

Although there have been many changes throughout the years, St. Mary's will always be very special to our family, hopefully, for years to come.



Barbara and Thomas Holzman

Submitted by Barbara Holzman

Jim & Fran Homant

Fran Laundry and Jim Homant both grew up in Alpena. Fran remembers that as a child she came to St. Mary's Church. "If you didn't get to Mass early enough, you had to stand in the back because it was so crowded." She also recalls when Monsignor Gatzke was ending his time here that he would sometimes lose his place during Mass and start over. "You never knew how long Mass would take."



Fran and Jim Homant

Jim served with the Air Force in Korea from November 1948 to October 1952. While he was in Korea, his parents moved downstate to Huntington Woods. During this time, Fran also moved to Detroit to attend nursing school. They met again while Jim was driving for Wonder Bread. He was making a vacation delivery when who was to pull up next to him in a convertible, but Fran. She gave him her phone number. They dated and were married in Detroit in 1954.

Jim was a metal pattern apprentice at Ford, and became a journeyman. Fran was a R.N. They lived in California for about 20 years, and then decided to spend their retirement back in Alpena.

They have seven children: Danielle, Amy, Doug, Cheryl, Sam, Jim, and Judy. They also have eleven grandchildren.

Jim and Fran love to travel. Together they have been to all 50 states. They have also traveled to Europe three times.

Submitted by Fran and Jim Homant.

Fran is the daughter of John and Rose (Kraft) Laundry. Jim is the son of Louis and Yvonne (Seguin) Homant.

Eugene & Leona Hoppe

My name is Eugene Hoppe and I was born March 13, 1922 in Alpena. I was baptized, made my First Holy Communion and Confirmation, all at St. Mary Church.

My maternal grandparents, Ignace and Mary Antkowiak, were married in Poland and came to New York on a steam ship. Around 1912, they bought a farm in the Bolton area. They joined St. Mary Church. My paternal grandparents, Louis and

Anna Hoppe, were members of St. Casimer Church in Posen.

My parents, Florian and Josephine Hoppe, were married in St. Mary Church in 1921 and they were life long parishioners.

I attended Poland School in Maple Ridge Twp. and helped my parents on their farm in Cathro, MI. I worked in Detroit in a factory for 1 ½ years. In 1942, I was drafted into the US Army. In 1946, I returned home from Europe after WWII. I returned to Detroit and worked for a year before deciding to move back to Alpena.



My parents were ready to retire from farming so I bought the farm in 1947. I didn't have time to cook much, so sometimes, I would cook a kettle of oatmeal and that was it for the day. The dog and I were getting skinny. I decided there was a need for a good wife.

On a Saturday evening, a neighbor and I went to the Penguin Restaurant on River St. in Alpena and ordered a hamburger. The gal that waited on us was Leona Kasubowski. I asked her if she would go to see a movie with me. She refused. A couple of weeks later, I asked her again. She refused. The third time she said, "Yes!" We went to the Lyric Theater to see a Roy Rogers movie. After the movie, we went to "Push Em Up Tony's" on State St. and had a hamburger.

Leona lived with her parents on a farm in the Bolton area. They also were members of St. Mary Church. We dated for about a year and then were married at St. Mary's on August 28, 1948. We had 5 children: 3 girls and 2 boys. They all were baptized, made their First Communion and Confirmation at St. Mary's. We have

8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

When we married, we didn't go on a honeymoon because farm work came first. Seventeen years later, our 3 daughters who were the oldest, said they could handle the farm chores. We packed up and went to Canada fishing. A week later when we arrived home, there was a sign by our driveway which read, "Farm for Sale - Including Dog."

I retired from farming and working at Huron Portland Cement and National Gypsum. I belong to the V.F.W. 2496, Alpena Knights of Columbus 3rd and 4th degree. I had been on the Board of Directors of the Alpena Soil and Water Conservation District for 19 years.

Submitted by Eugene Hoppe

Ed & Irene Jarmuzewski



*Top l to r: Gary, Donna, Ken, Carol
Bottom l to r: Irene, Ed*

Ed and Irene were married for 66 years, living their entire life in Alpena and belonging to St. Mary Church. They raised 4 children who attended St. Mary School and Catholic Central High School.

Ed's first job was at the Owl Café, but he retired from Fletcher Paper Co. after many years of employment. During his lifetime, he enjoyed building a hunting camp on Lake Huron, 2 cottages on Grand Lake, and his house in 1950 on Pine Street. He traveled to Hawaii, Germany, Alaska, Las Vegas, California, and Oregon.

Irene died in 2005 and Ed recently moved to the Turning Brook Assisted Living quarters.

Submitted by Donna Sepull

Ed is the son of Frank and Mary Jarmuzewski; Irene was the daughter of Stanley and Marie Fanslow. Ed and Irene have 4 children: daughters Carol (Bob) Bobola (Carol is deceased), and Donna (Phil) Sepull from McMinnville, OR; sons Ken (Mary), and Gary of Alpena.

Germaine Kaiser

Germaine (Bronikowski) Kaiser is the daughter of Joseph and Sally (Lewandowski) Bronikowski and has been a member of St. Mary Catholic Church where she was baptized and confirmed. As a child, she attended St. Mary School for a short time, then St. Anne's Elementary School due to the fact that the family lived on W. Chisholm near Garant's store. No bus service was available.

She has three grown children who all attended St. Mary's School: Kathryn (Kathy) Kaiser, who is a school teacher in Orlando, FL; Thomas J. Kaiser who is married to LeeAnn, is a construction worker living in Atlanta, MI; William J. Kaiser who attended college and

received a master's degree and is presently a mental health counselor in Alpena. She also has 2 granddaughters: Elizabeth and Jessica Kaiser.

Germaine was previously employed by Giantway and is presently working at the St. Vincent DePaul Store. She has served as a St. Mary volunteer in numerous capacities and has belonged to: Handmaids of the Altar, Rosary Society (Group 19 Captain), and the Daughters of Isabella. She enjoys flower gardening as well as bingo.

Submitted by Germaine Kaiser

Gladys Lucille Kelsey

I was baptized at St. Mary's in 1923 and so began my faith journey. Msgr. Gatzke was a primary mentor and director along the way.

The Holy Name Society used to have a breakfast meeting once a month on the second floor of the school. Since the kitchen was in the basement, young legs were needed to

bring coffee upstairs. Fr. John sent someone to our house to ask if I would do this. I was 15 years old and made one dollar plus tips.

Msgr. Gatzke used to head the Rosary Society and he called on me to find 14 other women and form Group 22 in our parish. He was also there to guide me when I was teaching at Wilson Township School and was required to read the Bible twice a week to the students. To this day I have the Bible he suggested I buy.

My husband, Joseph, and I were married on August 17, 1946 at St. Mary's. He was a fireman and A-1 mechanic. I am a retired public school library aid. We have 6 children: Alan, Claudia, Ronald, Diane, Karen and Paul. We also have 7 grandchildren and 3 step grandchildren. My husband's parents were Joseph and Agnes Kusyjeski, changed to Kelsey. My parents were Natalie and Stanley Greskowiak.

I enjoy reading, games and puzzles, and family visits.

Submitted by Gladys Kelsey

Andrew and Nellie Kolson

Nellie Szlachta and Andrew Kolson (Kolcun) emigrated from Poland to the U.S. in 1903. They met and married in Philadelphia, PA in 1904 and moved to Endicott, NY where Andrew worked in a tannery. Andrew II and Julia were born in Endicott. In 1907, the Kolsons moved to Alpena where Helen (Pinky), Florence and Irene were born. Andrew worked briefly at the tannery before his employment at Wyandotte Chemicals, from which he retired at age 70. After his "retirement" he worked at Holy Cross Cemetery until age 85.

We (the Kolson children) all attended St. Mary's School. Nellie kept her Christmas and Easter traditions all of her life. At Easter, our neighborhood ladies took turns hosting "The Blessing of Food." Beautifully decorated baskets of sausage, ham, eggs, butter and braided bread were placed on a linen cloth covered table, and Fr. Gatzke came and blessed them. In later years, the baskets were taken to the church for blessing. On Christmas Eve, we had Wigilia with traditional Polish food and oplatki was shared. Dinner was at first star.

Our parents both enjoyed gardening and our mother braided hundreds of wool rugs.

Andrew and Nellie were married for 72 years. Dad died in 1977 just short of 95, and Mom died in 1982 at almost 100 years of age. They remained members of St. Mary's until their deaths.

Submitted by Irene Grochowski

Andrew was the son of Theodorus and Mariae Kolcun. Nellie was the daughter of Josef and Maria (Cisek) Szlachta. Andrew and Nellie had 7 children: Andrew, Julia Keller, Helen Nettleton, Florence Snyder, and Irene Grohowski. They have 13 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.



Joe & Julia Koseba

Julie Anna (Julia) Pilarski joined St. Mary's when she was 20 years old. She married Joseph Koseba at St. Mary's on June 1, 1946. The couple raised 4 children: Linda (Wayne) Neuman, Bob (Laura Lyons), Barbara (Mel) Oswald, and Jackie Bluemeyer. All of their children were baptized and attended school here.

Julia is currently a member of the Rosary Society. In the past she participated in the afternoon Card Club, worked on Paczki Parties, Christmas Bazaars, and funeral luncheons. Last December she helped mend angel costumes for the All Saints Christmas Program. A good Christian, a good seamstress, and a proud member of St. Mary Parish.

Joe (deceased) and Julia have 6 grandchildren.

Submitted by Julia Koseba

Chester & Florence Kowalski



I never played the organ before I was 40 years old. I had been playing the piano for family enjoyment for much of my life and played at Catholic Central school dances to benefit the band program there.

In 1953 my boys Jack and Jerry heard that Fr. Chet Pilarski was looking for an organist at St. Mary's. They told him that I could play the piano. He contacted me and said he would appreciate my help and I could remain a St. Anne's parishioner. I took organ lessons for three weeks from Mrs. Fred Steele and I took a crash course in Latin from Fr. John Gatzke. I offered this up for the poor souls and must have saved a lot of them in those three weeks.

The first time I played at Mass I was so nervous and wet from perspiring that I nearly slid off the organ bench. I knew I could play the organ and I could sing in Latin but could I do both at the same time? It was a struggle but I persevered and played the organ and directed the choirs here for 30 years. My husband Chet was still singing in the choir at St. Anne's when I first started playing the organ and our children thought it was funny that their Polish father was singing at the French church and their French mother was playing the organ at the Polish Church. We joined St. Mary's 53 years ago and Chet sang in the choir here.

I played and sang at two Masses every morning, three times on Sunday. Then there were the funerals, weddings and wedding rehearsals. Our choirs were large and we sang four part harmony. At the

time of my retirement on Easter Sunday of 1982, many members of the youth choir were the children of members of my choir 30 years earlier. The church and the school gym were decorated so beautifully that Easter day and the parish gift of a trip to Rome and the Holy Land was overwhelming.

My starting salary was \$600 per year and it was \$2,000 per year when I retired. I loved the job and it didn't matter what I was paid.

Chet and I lived on Fletcher Street for 71 years. We raised six children: Dolores, Robert, John, Gerald, James and Linda.

Submitted by Florence Kowalski

Florence is the daughter of Fred & Georgina (Correveau) Robinette. Chet was the son of John and Martha (Krajnik) Kowalski. They have 20 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.

Dianne Kowalski

With the approaching 125th Anniversary, I look back on many fond memories from my childhood to the present time. I have been a proud member of this parish for 65 years!

I can remember attending the old St. Mary's School which was located on the site of the present parking lot. It was a 2 story brick building with 4 classrooms on the lower level and four on the upper with a common area in the center on each floor. I especially remember the wood floors. The Felician Sisters were in charge of teaching and many times they taught well into their 80's or 90's (when you're young, anyone past 30 looks ancient). These poor nuns had way too many students in their class rooms - 50 to 60 were not uncommon, as I recall.

During this time, I remember an elaborate celebration to mark Msgr. Gatzke's 50th Anniversary of his ordination. Each girl in the 8th grade wore a gold dress with white polka dots. My mother spent lots of time making it.

I then moved on to Catholic Central where I started to date my husband whose family were also faithful members of St. Mary's, so when it was time to "tie the knot," we didn't have to discuss in whose

church the wedding would take place. When our boys were born, they were baptized and received the sacraments at good old St. Mary's. Even though we bought a home on the "other side of town," we continued to attend the church that means so much to both of us. Both our boys were married at St. Mary's, too.

It was during my boys' elementary years that Jeanne Nowak and I were approached to take over the Childrens Choir. Clarence and Willieoma Roznowski were retiring. I believe that we worked with this choir for about 8 years. It was a very memorable time for Jeanne and me. We also did a youth choir during the same period.

St. Mary's Church has been and will continue to be our Church. Happy Anniversary to all the members!

Submitted by Dianne (Konczak) Kowalski

John (Jack) S. Kowalski

Jack is the son of Chester and Florence (Robinette) Kowalski. He has 5 siblings. He attended St. Anne Church and School. When he was a senior at Catholic Central, his mother took the job as organist at St. Mary Parish. Other than being away from Alpena while he was in college, St. Mary's has been his parish ever since high school. Jack enjoys singing and has sung in the choir since he was a teenager. He and his brother Jerry often sang for weddings, funerals, or other special events.

He was president of St. Mary's first parish council, chairman of the first CSA drive, and was a member of the finance council. He taught high school CCD for many years and has been a Eucharistic Minister and a Lector. He also helped his wife, Julie, present during the 25 years she coordinated Pre-Marriage Programs for the northeast region of the Diocese. They were both actively involved in team training and served on the Northeast Michigan National Marriage Encounter Board for the first 15 years after they encountered in 1977.

Jack served as Circuit Judge for the last 18 years and practiced law for 27 years before that, the first 5 years

as Prosecuting Attorney. He will retire at the end of this year. He and Julie both have had Hospice training. Jack hopes to volunteer more with Hospice after he retires.

Submitted by Julie Kowalski



Julie and Jack Kowalski

Julie Kowalski

I was born on January 29, 1948 and grew up on the family farm. I attended Brown School, a one room schoolhouse on M-65. Every Saturday, my 3 brothers: Lawrence, John, Tom, and I attended catechism while our mom grocery shopped. I loved coming to the "big" old St. Mary School, seeing my Saturday friends and learning about God from

the Baltimore Catechism. The afternoons were sometimes spent visiting relatives, delivering eggs, or going to confession. Sunday was the highlight of my week when my family would attend Mass. I loved the solemnity of the Latin Mass and the challenge of trying to understand and connect the English translations.

Throughout the years I have been given so much and have had so many wonderful role models. My first and most important role models were my parents who had many trials in their life but because of their strong faith, persistence, and hard work were able to get through those trials with the help and grace of God. I also witnessed neighbor helping neighbor with barn raisings, haying and thrashing bees. I remember my dad getting up in the middle of the night to help a neighbor with a difficult delivery of a newborn calf. Witnessing all these things helped me grow in my faith.

I was also strongly influenced by my parish family. Our strong tradition of ceremony and rituals captured my attention as a child. I loved the processions, the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the incense, the holy water, and the bells. All of that inspired me to imitate those people I saw praying and to take a more active part in the parish.

The generosity, hard work and devoutness of the people of St. Mary's helped me to recognize at a

very young age, that we not only need to have a relationship with God but we also have to be of service to others. I have served on many committees and functions in our parish and have also been involved in several ministries and service organizations in the community and diocese. I am currently a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, member of the Rosary Society, and Prayer Chain.

My love for working with children led me to teaching. I taught in the public school for 14 years, and I taught pre-school and 2nd grade at St. Mary School. I also taught catechism for over 30 years and especially enjoyed working with 2nd and 3rd grade students preparing to receive the sacraments.

I met my husband John (Jack) Kowalski in 1968. We were married by Fr. Raymond Mulka at St. Mary's in 1969. We have 5 children: Amy (Kevin) Doyle, Maria, Jeffrey, Matthew, and Andrew (Kristin Darga). We feel fortunate that all of our children were able to attend St. Mary Grade School. We have 3 grandchildren: Allyson, Alex, and Katherine Doyle. My paternal grandparents were John and Martha (Andreas) Losinski and my maternal grandparents were Andrew and Cora (Cunegunda Tadjewski) Smigelski.

Submitted by Julie Kowalski

SHARING GIFTS

Count your blessings every day,
Precious gifts along life's way.
Smiling is a way to start,
Coming from a loving heart!

Let's start out from one to ten,
What we give comes back again.
Love is what we first received,
The gift of faith helps us believe.

Hope is always deep within
Giving strength to help begin.
The gift of joy is ours to share,
Knowing it is always there!

Search for knowledge as you live,
Sharing thoughts that you may give.
Strive for wisdom thru the years,
Knowing it will calm your fears.

Trust will give you peace of mind
Of a rich and lasting kind.
Reaching out - to understand
Hand in hand, throughout the land.

Use your fortitude each day
As you work and think and play.
Patience and courage are here to stay
Live all your blessings every day.

Each lifetime is a sacred pilgrimage,
Carry out your richest heritage.
Receive these gifts, so freely given,
Share them on your way to heaven!



Poem by Delphine Gatzke

James (Jim) & Eileen Kuchnicki



Jim is a life member of the St. Mary community except for the four years he served in the US Navy. I joined him at St. Mary Parish after our marriage in 1959 at St. Casimir Church in Posen.

We have 4 daughters. They are Mary Beth (Paul) Kuehl of Lake Orion, Carleen Wagner of Alpena, Kathleen (Tom) Mudry of Alpharetta, Georgia and Marcie (Geoff) Shaughnessy of Royal Palm Beach, Florida.

Our family is blessed with six grandchildren: Andrew Kuehl (a third year midshipman at the US Naval Academy), Matthew Kuehl (a junior at Lake Orion High School), Chelsea Wagner (a Senior at Jeffersonville High School in Indiana), Sarah Shaughnessy (a junior at Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, Florida), and Anna and Alex Mudry (fourth and second graders at Queen of Angels School, Alpharetta, Georgia.)

In our earlier and healthier years, we were active in church and school activities. Jim was a member of the School Board when the present school was built and later was on the Parish Council. Eileen spent 10 years as a CCD teacher and was active in the Ladies Planning Committee, which at that time sponsored the Christmas Bazaar.

Jim is now retired from Clark Oil Company and Inland Lakes Management while Eileen is retired from Alpena Public Schools.

We feel honored and blessed to have been a part of the St. Mary community all these years.

Submitted by Jim and Eileen Kuchnicki

Ralph Lasecki

It was 1966-1967 shortly after Vatican II. During that time the celebrant began to face the congregation and the Mass was said in English and not Latin.

Father Mulka called seven men to attend a meeting in the back of church. They were: Ray Dembny, Harry Wisniewski, Gene Boyk, Dave Stoppa, Ted Nowaczewski, Tom Kaminski, and Ralph Lasecki. During that meeting we were told that we were the new Commentators. Someone asked Fr. Ray if we could back out. His response with his contagious smile was, "No, you're it." He said we would be trained in our new positions. Our job would be to sit in the front seat on the left hand side of church and lead the people in their readings and announce the hymns. We also read the First Reading, the Psalm, and the Second Reading. This was the beginning of Mass participation by the people.

As time passed, we became Lectors and stood in front of the podium all during the Mass and announced hymns and led the congregation for their parts of the Mass. It was also our job to announce the family name whose turn it was to bring the Offertory Gifts to the altar. There was someone selected to call the parishioners and ask them to take up the Offertory.

I was born in Alpena and baptized at St. Mary's by Rev. Stephan Kozak who also performed the marriage ceremony for my wife, Geri, and me at St. Casimir's in Posen on May 17, 1958.

Submitted by Ralph Lasecki

John & Frances Lasek



50th Wedding Anniversary 1971

John Lasek came to America at the age of 15 while under the care of his brother-in-law. He arrived in New York aboard the ship, Klest, on April 21, 1913. He gradually made his way to Detroit, Michigan and worked for Scoten Dillon Company. He worked many jobs but eventually came to Posen, Michigan to help his sister, Mary Kozdron, on her farm.

John was born on June 2, 1897 in Plaza Galicia, Poland. John's parents were Joseph and Sophia (Warzeha) Lasek. John's father, Joseph, was a blacksmith by trade. Joseph made several trips back and forth to America trying to persuade his wife to leave Poland, but she never would. He ended up staying in Poland with her. He died of stomach cancer and she died later from a beating while resisting Nazi soldiers.

John met Frances Przeslawski and married her on June 30, 1925 at St. Mary Church in Alpena, Michigan. They remained life long members and all 3 of their children attended St. Mary School. Their daughter Mary (Jerome Kaczorowski) was born in 1926, daughter Margaret was born in April of 1928 and died in May of 1945, and a son Alvin (Diane Mausolf) was born December 1938 and died in July of 2003.

Frances was born November 26, 1901 to Stanley and Mary (Ludwiczak) Przeslawski. She was a very hard working woman but always had a smile for everyone and was very gracious. She was a dressmaker and could look at a garment or person and make a pattern to fit. She made clothing for her family and took orders from neighborhood clients. As a youth, she worked at the Bean Factory and later in life at the Alpena County Home.

John and Frances lived in several residences but the most memorable was at 923 Chisholm St. above the Welding and Machine Shop which they owned. John was known for his capability to manufacture specialty items and to repair metal items including those at St. Mary Church and School. He was a master of his trade.

After retiring, the couple moved to 3299 Piper Rd. to be near their son, Alvin, and his family. Francis loved to sit in her sun porch and visit with family, friends, and neighbors over a

cup of coffee and some delicious homemade treats. John filled his time with picking mushrooms, making his home remedy healing salve, playing cribbage, and even manufacturing lawn sprinklers on a small scale.

John and Frances were blessed with 3 grandchildren: Michael born in 1960, Karen born in 1962, and Joseph born in 1969. They have 2 great grandchildren: Andrew born in 1984, and Christopher born in 1985.

Andrew and Christopher attended St. Mary School for several years before moving.

John passed away in May of 1985 at age 88. Frances had a major stroke four months short of her 95th birthday and passed away July 1996.

*Submitted with love by daughter-in-law
Diane (Mausolf) Lasek*

Clara Lewandowski



Picture only

John C. & Anna Losinski



Anna was born the youngest of seven children to Andrew and Cora (Tadajewski) Smigelski in 1919 on the family farm near Cathro. She attended Poland School on Cathro Rd. and during winter often went to and from school on skis. Anna remembers coming to St. Mary's on the second Saturday of each month for Catechism.

After graduating from the 8th grade, Anna moved in with her sister Florence (Donajkowski) for 3 years after which she moved to the Globe Hotel in Alpena and worked as a housekeeper for 2 years. On September 19, 1936, Anna married John Losinski at St. Mary's Church. They first resided in Rogers City where they had 2 children, Lawrence and John. John Sr. worked for the Presque Isle Road Commission. After 4-5 years, the family moved to John's parent's farm on Long Lake Rd. where Thomas was born. John and Ann bought their own farm on Losinski Road in 1946. They joined St. Mary's Church that same year.

Early in 1946, Ann was diagnosed and treated for cancer in her shoulder. The treatment was unsuccessful and in November 1946 her left arm and shoulder were amputated. Ann considers herself very fortunate because the cancer had not spread and she went on to lead a very long and productive life. To pay medical expenses, John was forced to leave his family and take a job in Royal Oak, MI. After their daughter, Julie (Kowalski), was born in 1948, John returned to the farm and gained employment at Thunder Bay Manufacturing.

Anna courageously and aggressively met the challenges of caring for a new baby, raising a family and helping meet the demands of the farm. Most years she canned hundreds of quarts of peaches, dill pickles, red beets, and sauerkraut. She tightened caps on jars by holding the jars between her feet. Electricity came to their farm in July, 1948 and the first electrical appliance the family bought was a freezer.

At St. Mary's, John served on the Finance Council, was an Usher and bingo worker. He was also a proud Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Ann is a member of the Rosary Society, Daughters of Isabella, and enjoys going to AARP meetings and playing bingo.

Submitted by Julie Kowalski

John V. and Martha (Andreus) Losinski

John and Martha originally were members of St. Casimir Church where, according to the St. Casimir 125th Anniversary Paper, Lawrence Woloszyk and John Losinski were the builders of the first log cabin church. Prior to that, the Masses were celebrated in homes. The first Mass was celebrated in John's father's, Valentine Losinski's home. John and Martha moved to Alpena in 1946 and joined St. Mary Parish. They celebrated their 50th Anniversary at St. Mary Church. They had 13 children: Walter, Rose, Florence (Kraft-Krum), Anthony, Frank, Floyd, John C., Leonard, Helen (Kowalski), and Edward. Harry, Donald and Catherine died at birth.

Submitted by Julie Kowalski



WE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

1883 – 2008

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Unpublished Corrections and Additions

Page 103, John and Frances Lasek. Correction and addition to first and second column at top of page. Eliminate paragraph starting John and Frances were blessed with 3 grandchildren etc. and replace with the following.

John and Frances were blessed with 6 grandchildren; Theresa, Margaret and Annette Kaczorowski, Michael, Karen and Joseph Laseck. 10 Great grandchildren; Joel, William, Christine, and Michael Clendenin, Richard and Jeremy Clendenin, Travis Haselhuhn and Steven Loudenslager, Andrew and Christopher Laseck, and 4 Great great grandchildren; Timothy and Matthew Clendenin, Richie and Tyler Clendenin. Andrew and Christopher Laseck attended St. Mary's School several years before moving to Ossineke Michigan.

John passed away in May of 1985 at age 88. Frances had a major stroke four months short of her 95th birthday and passed away July 1996.

Submitted by, Diane Mausolf (Lasek) Laseck

Benedict Maciejewski Family



Ben and Celia Maciejewski

Ben and Celia were proud members of St. Mary's Parish for 70 and 92 years respectively. They were married on Monday, Sept 8, 1924 by the Rev. John Gatzke. Most weddings took place on weekdays during that period.

An article in the Society column of The Alpena News reported that the bride was charming in a simple gown of white satin with pearl trimmings with which was worn a full-length veil held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of sweet peas and roses. The wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents. Ben and Celia left that afternoon on a train for their wedding trip to Detroit and other points in southern Michigan.

Ben was employed as a machinist for the D&M Railroad. He and Celia had 3 children in a span of 18 years. They are Robert (deceased), Emmet, and Janice. Janice remembers that her dad would let her hop on the train cars as they were being turned in the round house. Some days as he was leaving for work, he'd tell her, "I'm gonna take that train on the trestle and blow the whistle like hell as I go around the cement plant." She would wait and listen.

At Christmas time, Ben and Celia would drive down to Detroit, with Janice in the back seat, to let her see the colorful displays in the windows at Hudson's Department Store. They would drive back as far as Bay City for the night, then continue on home in the morning before Ben went to work.

Their son, Robert, went to St. Mary School when lessons were taught in English for half of the day and Polish for the other half. While Emmet was there, Polish was being phased out. There were no classes in Polish when Janice attended. The basic education they got from the nuns served all of them well. Emmet managed Kroger stores in various parts of the country and Janice worked as a court clerk and then administrator under Judges Mack and Mandenberg. Emmet now lives in Houston, TX.

Submitted by Janice Kell

Donald & Blanche MacNall

Donald MacNall and Blanche Pilarski were married at St. Casimir Church in Posen on August 13, 1960. They attended St. Bernard Church from 1960 to 1986 but then chose St. Mary Church because of its Polish heritage. Their daughter Julie and her husband Brian Coleman were married at St. Mary's having a Civil War themed ceremony. Their daughter Kathleen and husband Tim Shield were married at St. Bernard Church.

Don is a member of the Ushers Club, Knights of Columbus and 4th degree color guard. He graduated from Catholic Central High School and attended Alpena Community College, completing the Class A millwright program. He served in the Army in Germany from 1955-1958. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

Blanche is a member of the Rosary Society, Church Finance Council, Board of Directors at the Alpena Senior Citizens Center, and Thunder Bay Water Shed Council. She earned a Master in Business Administration from Lake Superior State University, B.S. Degree in Education from Central Michigan University, and an Associate in Commerce and Associate in Accounting from Alpena Community College. Her hobbies include dancing and fishing.

Submitted by Donald and Blanche MacNall

Blanche is the daughter of George and Theresa (Woloszyk) Pilarski; Don is the

son of Don and Eleanor (Neubert) and Don McNall, and the stepson of Leo Kaiser.

Francis & Lauriene Marzean

My husband Francis and I were both born here in Alpena. His parents were Frank and Anna Marzean and mine were Stanley and Mildred Zamenski. My family consisted of 1 brother and 2 sisters while Francis had 5 brothers and 4 sisters. We were both baptized, confirmed and made our First Communion's here at St. Mary's. We were married here in 1956 by Msgr. John E. Gatzke. Our marriage produced 4 wonderful children, Lynn Kelsey, Lee Marzean, Laurie Standen, and Gale Hamann. We were so blessed that all four of the children attended and completed classes at St. Mary's. We now have 5 grandchildren and the entire family belongs to St. Mary's which holds a special place in all our hearts.

While the kids were in school, I was pretty much a fixture here volunteering for one thing or another. I taught Title One for 2 years under Sr. Edwardine whose devotion to the rosary has my daughter still clutching the rosary when she goes to bed. I was a CCD teacher for a number of years, belonged to the former St. Elizabeth's Society, was secretary a number of times for the Rosary Society, am a Eucharistic Minister and belong to the Prayer Partners and Scrap Quilters. I enjoy reading and quilting as hobbies.

My husband has been an active usher for all his adult life and participates in any and all projects that the ushers are involved in. He is especially interested in setting up for the blood drives and decorating the church for holidays. At home, he does small engine repair.

Our parish, our St. Mary's Parish, is our life. Our faith and all the priests and nuns whom we have been blessed to have here have gotten us through some very painful and some very joyful times. God bless St. Mary's Parish.

Submitted by Lauriene Marzean

John D. & M. Kati Meek

We are a family of converts, individually and collectively. John was converted and baptized in 1962. He joined the Church while in the Navy in the Pacific. Kati joined the Church here in Alpena, and she and John were confirmed together at St. Anne Church. Juanita, our daughter, joined the Church later that year at St. Mary's in Marshall, MI.

Our life together began in Kalamazoo. We married in 1963 at St. Barnabas Church in Portage, MI while Kati was still at University and John was in his second year of teaching. We have lived in Kalamazoo, Southeastern Ohio (three places, all in the Appalachian chain), back in Michigan (Marshall), back in Ohio (Columbus), in Michigan again (Kalamazoo), and finally in Alpena.

In that time, Kati raised kids while John taught school. We have both been in sales and marketing since the kids grew up, while John worked at various jobs for an insurance company for seventeen years, then taught again – first for the Navy, then in the schools here in Alpena – and then once again for the Navy.

Kati has written two well-accepted books about handweaving, and frequently travels to teach weaving techniques and strategies. We came to Alpena St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in the autumn of 1997 to be in a church – and found home.

Conversation is ongoing. We plan to stay.

Submitted by John D. and Kati Meek

John and Kati are the parents of Juanita E. Armstrong and John E. Meek. Their parents are: John C. and Juanita Meek, Norman W. and Barbara Reeder (all deceased).

Mark & Deborah Milostan

Deborah Hautau met her future husband during a job interview at Alpena Community College. Mark Milostan was on the interview committee. They married on September 24, 1994 at Vogler's Park in Rogers City. They are both currently instructors at ACC.

As children, Debbie attended Evergreen Lutheran School in Detroit and Mark attended St Ignatius School in Rogers City.

They have two children, Megan and Matthew, who both attend All Saints Catholic School. Matthew admires police officers.

The family was looking for a somewhat "kid friendly" church to attend and was impressed with the upstairs seating at St. Mary's. They attend Mass every Sunday morning.

Family traditions at Christmas include visiting Mark's family on Christmas Eve and Deborah's on Christmas Day. On Memorial Day, Debbie makes a point to attend a plant sale at Belle Isle. The family does a lot of activities together: camping every Labor Day weekend, Boy and Girl Scout activities (both parents are leaders), and Science Olympiad (Debbie is Regional Director).

Both Mark and Debbie enjoy gardening, camping, and collecting Star War memorabilia. Mark also enjoys hunting and Debbie is into crafts.

Debbie is a member of the Social Service Commission, Treasurer for All Saints Home and School Association, and she volunteers for various other school and church functions.

Submitted by Debbie Milostan

Florian & Geraldine Orban

We were married 58 years ago, on November 18 of 1950, at St. Casimir Church in Posen. Our two oldest children were born in Detroit and baptized at St. Hyacinth Church there. We joined St. Mary's in 1957 and the younger five children were all baptized at St. Mary's in Alpena and all seven children received their First Holy Communion here.

We kept our kids busy working in the summer picking berries and cucumbers. We let them keep the money they earned for their own purposes. Our oldest daughter looked after the younger ones and the rest went to the berry patch. One of my sons recently mentioned that he never wants to find himself in a berry patch again. I guess it wasn't his fondest activity.

On Sunday afternoons we'd go to Grandmother's and Grandfather's house on the farm and the children would play ball with the other cousins. When we didn't go to the farm, we would take food and a lot of towels and go to Maple Ridge Park and play ball or swim. Families would gather and there would be a lot of kids.

We picked cucumbers at Orville Herron's in Spratt. We had to wear gloves, flip the plants to pick one side and flop the plants to pick the other side. I still remember that the cukes couldn't be longer than the length of your middle finger to the end of your thumb.

Now the children are all grown and gone. We are happy to be part of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Submitted by Geraldine Orban

In addition to their 7 children, Florian and Geraldine have 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Left to right: Pat, Myron, Keith, Tim, Geraldine, Florian, Gerald, Arnold, Marcia Hundley

Melvin & Theresa Orban



I attended St. Mary's School from the first through the fourth grades. One of my more memorable experiences happened in third grade which was in the former rectory behind the church. The building had been converted to hold second grade downstairs and third grade upstairs. One winter day the fire bell rang. Thinking it was only a drill, we filed outside where we were told there was really a fire. We were taken across the street where we had to stay, with no coats or snow pants, until we were picked up. When we eventually got our snow clothes, they just smelled from smoke and even after being washed or cleaned it was a long time before they were clear of the smell. The fire was in 1941.

After my parents moved to the country, the buses wouldn't transport students to a Catholic school so I completed grade school in the country. I was in the last full class to graduate from St. Anne's High School as then Catholic Central was built.

I married my husband, Melvin Orban, at St. Mary's on August 1, 1953. Melvin died March 8, 2002.

Submitted by Theresa Orban

Theresa is the daughter of Anthony and Genevieve Losinski. Melvin was the son of Leo and Celia Orban.

Percy & Mary Pelleran

We are writing this article in loving memory of our parents, Percy and Mary Pelleran. Our mom and dad went to St. Mary's all their lives, attending Mass every Sunday.

Our mother was a member of the Rosary Society for many years. She sang in the choir from around 7 years of age until she was 87 years old. She was recognized and received a Certificate of Dedication from Bishop Cooney for her 80 years of participation in the choir. Mom would never miss practice. When the weather was bad, my dad drove her so that she would not miss the session. Mrs. Florence Kowalski was the organist through most of this time. We know the 2 of them particularly loved singing and playing for the Polish Masses.

Mom made a special effort to sing at all funeral Masses whether she knew the family or not. We think that was her way of comforting grieving families, making the send off as beautiful as she could. She had a beautiful voice. Even at home, we could hear her sing as she went about her day. She absolutely loved singing.

Dad would take us to church every Sunday when mom would be singing in the balcony. We would always sit in the same pew and received a few pinches when we would occasionally misbehave.

Mom was part of the first kitchen crew for the Paczki Sales. Working all day, staying until all work was done. When she was done, they would deliver dozens to the family.

She was also involved with the famous St. Mary's Bazaar every year, making her very special home made bread. She worked in many different booths, always willing to help in any way she could. She absolutely loved volunteering for her church. She kept us supplied with home made mittens and scarves.



We particularly remember one year when our mom played Santa Claus at the Bazaar. Dave was around 6 years old and Tom was around 9. Of course, we were not privy to what

mom was doing. All Santa would say was, "Ho, Ho, Ho." When we saw dad's slippers on Santa's feet, we asked, "Are you our mom?" Santa only said, Ho, Ho, Ho."

Our parents were married at St. Mary's Church by Msgr. Gatzke in October of 1949. They were married for 50 years when dad died at the age of 89 in 1999. Mom died of Ahlziemers Disease at age 90 in 2000. They exemplified all qualities of Christian marriage and loved each other very much. They died 5 months apart.

They both loved the church and had many happy and fond memories of St. Mary's. To this day, we think they are both looking down from heaven at "their" church with great love and pride. May they rest in peace!



Submitted by Tom & Dave Pelleran

Ed & Irene Przeslawski

Edward Przeslawski and Irene Tadajewski were both the eldest in families of nine children. Edward left St. Mary School after the third grade to help support his family. He was a newspaper carrier and worked with his father in the woods cutting cedar timber and making cedar shingles. In the summer, he worked on a relative's farm and was rewarded at summer's end with a young hog to take home. He became an expert at hunting rabbit and small game and had a built-in radar for detecting where the perch would be biting.

Ed was also a fireman, chauffeur, mason, and factory worker. Mostly, he was a carpenter. He and wood had chemistry. He could bend it, shape it, carve it, and finish it with an artisan's loving hand. He worked for Floyd Gagnon Construction on many of the homes and commercial buildings in Alpena. He and his father built the

wood lookout that stood for many years on Manning Hill.



Ed & Irene Przeslawski

Irene Tadajewski grew up on a farm on the Alpena/Presque Isle County line. She was the "second mother" to her eight younger siblings. When she was 11, her mother was bedridden for a year. Irene took over the care and feeding of the children. At the time she only knew how to cook chicken and pork chops so that's what the family ate. When she was 16, she moved into town and worked as a maid for several families including the Carl Henry family.

Irene and Ed met through mutual friends while they were standing in line waiting to get into the Maltz Theatre. They were married at St. Casimir Church in Posen on October 23, 1938. Except for a year spent in Bay City, they resided on Long Lake Avenue in Alpena and were members of St. Mary Church.

Irene learned to cook a lot more than chicken and pork chops. She served her family home style meals, cooked at both Catholic Central and St. Mary Schools, and prepared thousands of meals for area weddings and other functions. She was well known for her homemade pies. She also cooked for Shriner functions and donated her wages to the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

Her youngest grandson brought the dinner table to a dead silence one holiday by announcing, "This food isn't very good." And after a dramatic pause, "It's terrific." His parents were then able to resume breathing.

Ed and Irene left their daughters an inheritance. They doled it out

throughout their childhoods and into adult life. It consisted in equal measures of familial ties, strict discipline, hard work, honesty, and a spirit of generosity. They viewed education as the best insurance policy they could leave them so they sacrificed to send their girls to Madonna College.

Family and Church formed the core of their lives.

Submitted by Ruth Richard

Irene and Ed had two daughters: Geraldine and Ruth. Ed was the son of John and Salomea (Sydlowski) Przeslawski. Irene was the daughter of Michael and Mary (Mandock) Tadajewski.



John & Clara Przeslawski

Clara Andrzejewski grew up on a farm in Posen. She was the ninth child of 12 children in the family of Andrew and Julia Andrzejewski. She attended Minton School.

John Przeslawski grew up in Alpena, the eighth of the nine children of John and Salomea Przeslawski. He attended St. Mary School and recalled that it was his job to cut the wood for the home's heating when he got back from school. John completed his 8th grade education while participating in a CCC area work camp.

John and Clara met when John's sister, Alice, asked her friend Clara to go for a ride with her. John just happened to be along. They dated for a short time before John entered the service during WWII. They wrote each other "all the time." They were married at St. Casimir's Church in Posen on February 23, 1946 after John returned from the war. John was a life long member of St. Mary's and

Clara joined immediately after their marriage.

John worked for a time as a truck driver for Howard Taracks Brewing Company, then for many years at Huron Portland Cement. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards and traveling. He was a member of the DAV and a life member of the VFW. He died on June 14, 2007.

Clara was a homemaker and cared for their 4 children: Daniel, Gerald, Andrew and Kathleen. She also enjoyed card playing and traveling with her husband. She belongs to the Rosary Society, and Daughters of Isabella. She worked for many years with St. Mary's Funeral Cooks and enjoyed working with her sister-in-law, Irene Przeslawski, cooking for weddings.

Clara has 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Submitted by Clara Przeslawski

John & Salomea Przeslawski

John and Salomea "Sadie" (Sydlowski) Przeslawski's back yard on Beebe Street was filled with vegetable gardens. Along the alley fence was a row of horseradish. The bench that sat just outside their back door must have had little use except to sit for a bit while cleaning the garden produce.

John owned some land near Squaw Bay and felled the cedar on it to make



hand hewn shingles. He made his living as a carpenter.

Sadie was an excellent cook who could season ragged bits of fish and sprouting potatoes and make them into a gourmet soup. She turned out

loaves of delicious hard crusted bread from her wood stove. Over the stove hung rings of home made sausages and hams going through a "cure," as well as strings of onions and garlic. Her window sills were always packed with plants.

Her sometime cheerful outlook on life led her to comment that if there were "3 or more people in a room, it was enough for a party."

John and Sadie were life long members of St. Mary's. They had 9 children: Edward, Regina, Ida, Irene, Margaret, Grace, Louis, John, and Alice.

Submitted by Ruth Richard & Gerry Przeslawski

Stanley & Mary Przeslawski



Stanley Przeslawski was born December 6, 1878 in Posen, Poland. His parents, Valentine and Frances (Budnik) immigrated to America in 1880 per the 1900 census. Stanley's other four siblings, Mary, John, Catherine, and Joseph were born in Michigan. Valentine and Frances settled on a farm in Alpena on the Sand Rd., sometimes called the Old Ossineke Rd., and now known as the Dean Tree Farm on Piper Road.

Stanley met and married Mary Ludwiczak on May 2, 1899 at St. Mary Church in Alpena. Mary was born on August 10, 1880 in Poland. She immigrated to the United States with her parents Luke and Elizabeth (Chojnacki) Ludwiczak at the age of five. When Luke died, Elizabeth married John Grzesiak. Mary worked as a domestic laborer at an early age, leaving home at age fourteen. She continued working as a housekeeper until she married Stanley.

Stanley was a carpenter by trade and worked for himself plus did some farming. After Stanley and Mary

were married, they moved to a log house on the Piper Rd. next to the farm his father Valentine owned. Three children, a son Joseph, a daughter Frances (Lasek), and a son Ignatius were born there.

Stanley and Mary moved into town and rented a house while they built their first home at 105 Potter St. A daughter, Clara was born during that time. After they moved into the home on Potter Street, Angus, Alex, Florence, Elizabeth, and Leo were born.

Stanley and Mary moved again and this time to a farm on Indian Reserve Rd. where they farmed for fourteen years. As the children got older, Stanley and Mary made another move back to the city where Stanley built another home at 205 Potter St. and a barn that faced Garfield St. and would become a wood workshop. They farmed the back of the property and kept pigs, a cow and a horse. The property was filled with fruit trees and a vegetable garden. Mary loved gardening and spent much of her time doing so.

As a carpenter, Stanley worked on many major jobs in Alpena, some of which were: the Gilchrist Lodge on Lake Winyah Road with its hand hewn timbers, the Fletcher home on State St., and the remodeling of the State Theatre (then called Maltz). He worked for contractors Domical Gagnon, Stratton Brown, and Andrew DeLodge, building homes throughout the Alpena area.

Stanley became ill and died August 16, 1954 while still working as a carpenter. Mary died on November 2, 1968.

Submitted by Diane Lasek

David Richard



l to r: Roy Brigman, David Richard, therapist

It was not a good month. In fact, it was the worst month of my life. I was lying in James Decker Munson Hospital in Traverse City on September 1953. Earlier, Dr. Wienczewski had diagnosed me with polio. I couldn't move much as the paralysis extended from head to toe. I needed assistance to do anything. However, the good news was that I could breathe normally. I did not have bulbar polio that landed so many into iron lung machines to keep them breathing.

After ten days in isolation, I was transferred to a ward of ten beds for male children aged eight to mid teens. The change from isolation was refreshing. The medical treatment was frightening. The Sister Kenney "hot pack" treatment involved bringing rawhide chamois to a high temperature in steam pressure cookers and then placing the chamois on the naked body from the neck to the heels. The heat was to relax atrophied muscles. Very soon, I was sent to the Physical Therapy Department with great trepidation, as my ward mates referred to it as the "Torture Chamber."

Located in the basement of the hospital, its entrance was guarded by two metal doors painted bright red. I was rolled through those doors and met a man who would change my life. Roy E. Brigman was a Physical Therapist of average height, short military haircut, trim and athletic body and was ALL BUSINESS!

He placed me on a table with my feet flat on a foot board and strapped down my knees. He placed his hands under my shoulders and slowly lifted until I could no longer endure the pain. At that point my shoulders were only two to three inches above the table. To give me a goal, Mr. Brigman told me I could go home the day I touched my nose to my knees on that table. There was much work to be done.

Every day I had Sister Kenney "hot pack" applications and 2 hours of physical therapy. Mr. Brigman became an expert on the limits of my endurance. Small improvements in range of motion motivated both of us. The pain was extreme. Mr Brigman became my ardent cheerleader and wise coach. He knew how to get the most from me and go one step further.

Our relationship was filled with complex emotions as our time together was packed with motivation, advice, humor when appropriate, pain, exhaustion and a fatherly like love. He fought to keep braces off my legs when they were ordered. He knew I would grow dependent on them.

Progress was slow but sure. Then one day, after 72 days in the hospital, I touched my nose to my knees on that same table of my first session. Mr. Brigman immediately said, "You can go home now." He kept his promise.

At that time in my life, Roy E. Brigman was God's greatest gift to me. He will never be forgotten.

Submitted by David Richard

David is the husband of Ruth Richard and the son of Eugene & Evelyn (Homant) Richard

Ruth Richard

The year was 1957. The place was Catholic Central High School. As a newly minted graduate of St. Mary's Grade school, I found myself in a mix of the few familiar faces I'd seen for the past eight years and many unfamiliar faces. The building itself seemed to be a large and intimidating presence. No less intimidating were some of the instructors.

Mid-afternoon I made my way to the physics lab for "Freshman Algebra." Sister Mary Valencia began the roll call. This Felician nun who proved to be most likeable outside the classroom was, nonetheless, a stern taskmaster in the classroom. She read down her list of names and came to a dark haired boy from St. Anne's. "Not another Richard!" she cried as she bounced an eraser off his forehead and sent him to the back table of the lab. Being a third brother has its drawbacks.

A few months later, I was sent to the chalkboard to solve a math problem. As I wrote figures on the board, my eyes furtively glanced from side to side looking for errant erasers. Sister Valencia questioned my "shifty" eyes and banished me to the back table as well. "Not another Richard" and "shifty eyes" found each other kind of cute. A friendship developed and over time, romance bloomed. It seems the combination of sibling association, fear of flying objects, and an unwitting cupid (in the guise of Sister

Valencia) conspired to form our eventual union. As the 1957 hit song by Mickey and Sylvia went, "Love is Strange."



Ruth Przeslawski & David Richard – CCHS graduation 1961

We left Alpena in our teens for schooling and employment and were married in August of 1966 at St. Mary Church. Returning to the area in 2001, we can only say, "It's great to be back!"

Submitted by Ruth Richard

Wife of David Richard; mother of Patrick, Amy and Keith; grandmother to 3; daughter of Edward and Irene (Tadajewski) Przeslawski.

Michael & Helen Roznowski

Michael Clarence Roznowski and Helen (Parteka) Roznowski are descendants from early St. Mary's members.

Mike's paternal grandparents were John Victor and Eleanor (Zapczynski) Roznowski. Helen's were John and Catherine (Chrzyn) Parteka. These unions produced 17 children.

Mike's maternal grandparents were Joseph and Mabel (Johnson) Bleau. They had 13 children. Helen's grandfather, Gerald French, married Mabel Hewitt. They had 8 children. After Gerald died, Mabel married Walter Kissack.

Mike's father, Clarence John Roznowski, married Willieoma Bleau on February 15, 1947 at St. Anne

Parish. They were members of St. Mary's while raising their children. Clarence and Willie taught beginners Polish to children of the parish in the late 70's. They formed a children's polka dance troupe, "The Polka Dots," which lasted several years. They also formed a children's choir with Florence Kowalski as the organist. Clarence died in 2002. He was buried from St. Mary's.

Willie and Clarence had 8 children, 7 surviving. Mike and his sister, Sally Wong, are currently living in the Alpena area. Michael graduated from the University of Michigan in 1970. Mike is a CPA with past practices at Boldrey & Roznowski, C.F. Reitz, and Ernst & Ernst CPA's. He has also worked with J.D. Phillips in Alpena and Great

Lakes Tissue in Cheboygan. Sally is an English teacher at AHS. The remaining Roznowski children, Dr. Daniel, Mary Lou Roznowski, Nancy Dulebohn, Art and Clarence all live away from Alpena.

Helen's father, Walter Joseph Parteka, married Marjorie Mae French on May, 31, 1933. They had 3 children: Donald, Judith Nordstrand, and Helen Roznowski, all of Alpena. Donald, better known as "Donnie," worked at the Alpena Electric Garage, then for more than 30 years at WATZ. He was a member of St. Mary's. It was not unusual to find Donnie functioning as "Altar Boy," a role he loved. Judy is retired and teaches yoga in the area. Helen, a RN with a Masters of Science in Nursing is retired. She worked at ARMC for

27 years, was their Diabetes Nurse Educator and ER/ICU Nurse Manager. She currently works at Alcona Health Center.

Mike and Helen married at St. Mary's on November 4, 1967. Their wedding day started out sunny and 68 degrees. Snow started falling right after the ceremony and continued all day. Father Robert Davey was worried about the newlyweds driving

to their honeymoon destination in the 7 inches of snow. Father Davey offered the use of a room in the priest's residence for the night. The newlyweds declined the offer.

Helen and Mike have 3 sons. Richard, his wife Brenda and daughter Lauren live in Dallas, TX. Robert married Vickie in 1998; they have 3 children, TJ, Amber and Breanna, and a grandson Jaydon.

Joshua married Keely in 2004; they have 3 girls, Nicole, Sara, and Karlye.

The newest member of the Roznowski family is, "Daisy," a 2 ½ year old dog who has the run of the house. Daisy was rescued from the Huron Humane Society on Valentine's Day.

Submitted by Helen Roznowski

Salacata Family

Abraham and Ana were married in the Phillipines on December 10, 1992. When our family moved to Alpena in 1997, we first went to church at St. John the Baptist since we lived in that area. But when Lorenzo started kindergarten at St. Mary's School, we made St. Mary's our home parish and we have been members since 1999.

Being Asians, we initially felt out-of-place in Alpena. How few brown people! Having lived on both coasts and later Detroit, we never stood out during Mass since there were many parishioners of Asian or African descent. But speaking of culture shock! Alpena is quite different!

However, our initial concerns were quickly put to rest when we saw how we were welcomed by our parish priests and the parishioners of St. Mary Church and later the school families of St. Mary School and All Saints Catholic School. An added benefit of being in St. Mary's is now we know how to pronounce many Polish names and even participated in *Kolendy*! Now if we can teach a few Filipino Christmas songs to our friends in the parish, the circle of cultural exchange will be complete.

No matter what color we are, we all worship our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ and firmly believe in the blessedness of the Holy Trinity and the gracious love of Mother Mary. We are proud to be members of St. Mary's and hope it lasts hundreds of years more!

Our family consists of Abraham, Ana, Lorenzo, and Angela. We enjoy reading, playing games, watching movies, family vacations, cooking, and eating.

Submitted by the Salacata Family

Donald & Phyllis Schultz

Don was one of 52 students who graduated from St. Mary's Grade School in 1945. One nun was responsible for all of the class. He went to high school at St. Bernard's and worked at Voss Flower Shop doing everything from planting to delivering to making bouquets. Following graduation, he worked at Dick's Superette. In 1955 he bought Kowalski's Grocery on the corner of Alfred and Adams. That same year he married Phyllis McNeill on

September 10 at St. Mary's. Phyllis had become a member of the Church the year before. She worked at Vaughn's and later joined Don in working at their store.

There was a young man named Harry Nestle who spent a lot of time just hanging around the store. The Schultz's put him to work and Harry would kid that they couldn't fire him because they never hired him. Don was the best man at Harry's wedding and the Nestle family is included in family gatherings.

When their son Philip was in college, Phyllis would put out a big spread on Christmas day and the kids from school would come over and stay and eat all day. Don's favorite meal is Phyllis' mashed potatoes and gravy with cube steak.

Don and Phyllis have been active parishioners. Don has the longest service record of any of the current ushers. Phyllis is in the Rosary Society, was chairman of the Christmas bazaar when Fr. Ray Mulka was here, and spent a lot of time at St. Mary's School as a volunteer when her children attended.

In his spare time, Don goes bowling and fishing and both he and Phyllis love taking care of the grandkids. They pick up 2 of them from school every day and follow the children's sporting events. Phyllis used to knit and work with ceramics but the grandkids take precedence now.

Submitted by Don and Phyllis Schultz

Don is the son of Theodore and Anna Schultz. Phyllis is the daughter of Philip and Winifred McNeill. They have 5 children: Nancy, Philip, Donald, Donna (deceased), and Amy. They have 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Phil & Rosanne Schultz

We are proud to say that St. Mary's has been the center of many activities in our lives. Both of our parents, Don and Phyllis Schultz and Mitt and Rosalie Paquette, were married at St. Mary's as were we by Fr. Sitar on August 22, 1981. We felt very honored when our son Christopher and his wife Gina (Ventimiglia) also chose to be married here.

Our children received all of their sacraments at St. Mary's and attended religious education here. Phil attended elementary school at St. Mary's where he was known as "Sr. Edwardine's sweetheart." Both Phil and Philip were altar servers and ushers here. Rosanne has been a religious

education teacher in the past and currently serves as a Eucharistic Minister.

Fr. Greg and the parishioners were extremely supportive when we lost our home to a house fire. We were overwhelmed with everyone's generosity and will be forever grateful.

Phil is a Special Education teacher at Alpena High School and I am a Personal Health Nursing Director for the District Health Department. We enjoy camping and water activities.

We feel very blessed to be a part of this parish family.

Submitted by Rosanne Schultz

Phil and Rosanne are the parents of Philip, Christopher, Darrin, and Michelle.

Theodore and Anna Schultz

My parents, Theodore Schultz and Anna Buczowski, were married at St. Mary's Church on October 18, 1922. Mother worked at Montgomery Wards and Dad was employed by Huron Portland Cement. They had 4 children: Alice, Kenneth, Donald and Theodore.

My father's parents had migrated here from Poland. Grandpa worked at Huron Portland and lost his leg to a train after falling onto the tracks at the plant. I remember he had a wooden leg. When we visited them, my grandmother wouldn't give us a cookie unless we asked for one in Polish. After my grandmother died, the kids drifted away when they reached about 14 years of age. Grandpa later remarried.

Grandpa Buczowski also worked at the cement plant. He and his wife Julia had four daughters: Francis, Lillian, Anna and Ester. Julia died in 1948 and Grandpa remarried as well.

My mother served our family mostly mashed potatoes and meat. It was a rare vegetable that made it to the table. She would have made a terrible vegetarian.

At Christmas, the tree never went up until Christmas Eve. My brother and I would go into the woods to get a tree which my parents decorated after the kids went to bed. The tree lights they had then, when one went out they all went out. All the aunts and uncles were in the area and a lot of visiting went on.



I remember an Easter Monday tradition called *dyngus*. The boys would go to their sisters' bedrooms and hit their ankles with a switch (small branch). Then the girls would go to the kitchen and get some hard boiled colored eggs to give to the boys. I'm not sure just what that was all about.

Submitted by Don Schultz

Theodore was the son of Mr. & Mrs. George Schultz. Anna was the daughter of Joseph and Julia Buczkowski.

Tony & Agnes Skiba

Mother and Dad, Agnes and Tony Skiba, became members of St. Mary's about 1925 following the footsteps of Dad's parents, Michael and Anna Skiba.

There were 14 children of Agnes and Tony: Daniel, Gerald, Alice, Albert, Arlene, Loretta, Thomas, Helen, Charles, Tony, Peter, Patrick, Deborah, and Richard. All but one were baptized at St. Mary's. We all attended St. Mary Elementary School for 8 years, as did many of our children. Dad and all nine of the boys were altar boys.



Tony Skiba Family 1957

Helen taught school for 2 years at St. Mary's. Because of the strong faith life, my brother Jerry was encouraged to attend seminary school. Eight of us were married at St. Mary's Church.

The Skiba family had a number of family reunions which began with the celebration of Mass.

Dad was 93 when he passed away and Mother was 99. Both were buried from St. Mary's with a great celebration of their lives.

St. Mary's has been the center of our faith life and continues in the lives of the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Submitted by Helen Campbell

Andrew and Cora Smigelski

Andrew was born in Cathro on May 27, 1880. Cora (Cunegunda Tadajewski) was born in Alpena on March 3, 1890. Both of their families were members of St. Mary Parish from the time it was built. On August 3, 1908 Andrew and Cora were married at St. Mary Parish. They had 7 children: Florence (Donajkowski), Stanley, Joseph, Anthony, Chester, Anna (Losinski), and Evangeline (Yarch-Evans).

Submitted by Julie Kowalski



Tom & Irene Smigelski



Dad died when I was 14 and Mom still had 5 of her 12 children to raise. She went to work at McRae Hospital as a housekeeper and I stayed home to take care of the younger ones. I cried when I heard I couldn't go to high school. When I was 16, I told my mother I wanted to work in a factory. I was hired at Alpena Garment Factory at 18 cents an hour, working 6 days a week. Every check went on the dining room table and my mother used it for expenses.

The factory made seat covers for Chrysler, Ford and Dodge; during World War II it made leggings, duffel bags and tarps. Jim O'Neil asked me to work on Sundays for 35 cents an hour and I told him, "Only if I can go to Holy Mass first." I didn't want to be reprimanded for coming late if Fr. Simon talked too long. We worked 3 out of 4 Sundays and I stayed there for 48 years.

I met my future husband, Tom, when he and his brother Edward came to the house to visit my brothers. Edward was "full of the devil" and Tom was the "quiet one." My older brother, Ed, was manager of a baseball team. When the team won the pennant, Mrs. Dehring had a party for them. Tom asked me to go. I must have been 18 or 19 at the time. My mother couldn't believe that the young man who only said hello and

goodbye had asked me out. I had the best time at that party.

Tom enlisted in the army March of '42. After basic training, he spent over three years in Germany. When he came back, he worked as a kiln burner at Huron Portland Cement for 30 years. We both took care of our parents when they got older. We married in the Felician Sisters' Convent Chapel here at St. Mary's in 1971 and moved into Tom's family home where I still live today. Tom died January 23, 1975.

I was a sacristan at St. Mary's for 8 years and a captain in the Rosary Society for the same amount of time. I also sang in the choir and was a Eucharistic Minister.

Submitted by Irene Smigelski

Tom & Linda Splitt



St. Mary Church records dated before 1888 were destroyed by fire – so the earliest record of my paternal grandfather, Joseph Kieliszewski, is his First Communion on October 20, 1875. There is no birth or Baptism date for him. He died in December, 1949 on his way to St. Mary Church. It was two months before my birth.

My paternal grandmother, Catherine Kieliszewski, was born May 8, 1889 and baptized on May 12, 1889. She died in 1972. Alpena

names Jarmuzewski and Kotwicki are in my grandmother's ancestral background.

My grandfather sang in the alto section of the St. Mary Church choir, according to Chet Kowalski who sang in the choir with him. My husband Tom and I sing in the current St. Mary choir. That seems like a common thread. Another shared historical item is that my father and Tom's father both attended St. Mary's School from 1927 to 1935 where they learned all subjects in the Polish language. When my father was asked to be a godparent for a nephew's Baptism, my mother, a convert to Catholicism, had to teach him the Our Father in English.

My entire life and the lives of my family are wrapped up in our St. Mary's Church. There were six children in my family and five of us attended St. Mary's School. Before we attended the first grade, we were taught kindergarten at the Avery School, a former public school on the north side of Alpena. We went to church every weekend. We joined the Brownie troop and the Girl Scouts. Our leaders were Marilyn Milostan, Natalie Szczukowski and Leona Wisniewski. I have a list of all my instructors at St. Mary's from first grade to eighth grade. We loved school and enjoyed homework. Couldn't get enough.

Tom and I married at St. Mary's on May 31, 1997. I've served on the Parish Council for several years and enjoy that special service. Tom and I are lectors and enjoy serving the church community in that way. The scriptures speak to us in new ways each time we read them. When I'm in church, I feel my father's presence. I also feel the presence of my ancestors. The Kolendi (Polish carols) at Christmas are my favorite

tradition. Pope John Paul II seems like a close relative and I have a special bond with him. As times got hard, my faith has helped me cope. Having my husband share my faith and worship life has been precious to me. My life revolves around my church.

Submitted by Linda Splitt

Linda is the daughter of Arthur Vincent and Margaret (Baird) Kieliszewski. Her grandparents are Joseph and Catherine (Filarski) Kieliszewski and James and Maude Baird. Tom is the son of Stanley and Marion (Hanson) Splitt. His grandparents are Anthony and Della (Ruczynski) Splitt and Carl and Selena Hanson. Their children are Alisa Kowalski and Jason Splitt.

Sister Mary Edwardine Stoppa



I am the tenth of 12 children and I knew from the first grade that I wanted to be a nun. One week after graduating from St. Mary's Grade School, I went to the Felician Academy in Detroit, Michigan. Four of us girls went together: Germaine Stoppa, Dorothy Durecki, Elsie Milostan, and Virginia Gapinski. From the academy, I went to the Novitiate in Livonia and made my profession of vows on August 12, 1946. I was sent to teach third grade at St. Michael's in Livonia for 2 years, but since I hadn't graduated from college, I continued to live at the motherhouse and took classes on Saturdays.

I taught in schools in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. I was the principal at St. Stanislas in Bay City but I liked teaching better, especially first grade. I liked the children's innocence; they'd tell you everything. When I was teaching in Flint, a little guy got

on my lap and put his hands under my veil and said, "She's not lying. She really does have hair." People always told me I had a good sense of humor.

After rules at the motherhouse began to change, I was the first nun allowed to come to her own home town to minister in 1970. I was the school principal and originated the first preschool and kindergarten at St. Mary's in September of 1976. Claudia Kelsey was the first kindergarten teacher. I was reassigned after that but returned later.

At Easter, Sr. Pius and I used to make a grotto for the church out of the nuns' old grey tunics from their habits. We spray painted them in the sand under the church.

On Wednesday evenings I teach first grade catechism. The children always want to start with a Bible story. By the end of the year they know the Our Father, Hail Mary, Angel of God, and a special Lenten prayer. They have no concept of guardian angels. In May, we sing at least one verse of Immaculate Mary and participate in the procession for the May crowning.

Submitted by Sr. Edwardine Stoppa

Sr. Edwardine is the daughter of Joseph and Cecelia Stoppa.

Andrew and Matthew Suszek St. Mary School Memories

Our great grandfather, Joseph S. Zolnieriek, attended St. Mary Elementary School through the 8th grade in 1904-1912. Grandfather Joseph A. followed from 1932-1940. He and Sr. Edwardine were classmates in a class of 50 students. WOW! Mother, Helen, and many aunts and uncles attended from 1958 through 1981.

We came into the education age in 1991 through 2002. We were in the new school with its cafeteria, library, gym, sports, playground and equipment. Dad volunteered for noon playground duty. We wore uniforms; the boys were in light blue shirts, navy trousers, tie, socks and black shoes. Girls wore navy plaid pleated jumpers, white blouses, navy socks, black shoes. We looked pretty sharp!

The field trips were fun and educational. Parents car pooled. It was a time away from school. We held monthly bake sales to raise funds for special projects and trips. Grandma would bake and decorate cookies, cupcakes, pretzel rods, candy, etc. for the holiday of each month.

Science projects were a big challenge, followed by an Open House, showing off our skills. We had Christmas plays, portrayed the Saints in the Bible and then there was Halloween. Mom and grandma would design and sew our costumes.

Never to be forgotten, a part of being in a Catholic School, Fr. Jerry Hunko greeted us every morning as we arrived for class, joining us for lunch, spending time on the playground and sending us off on the bus at the end of each day with his blessings. Incredible!

All the extra preparations, special prayers, music, decorations for First Communion and Confirmation made our big church events ever so special. During International Activities Week, I, Matthew, asked grandma Z if she would teach our 3rd grade the Polish language. We learned the basics. What was to be an hour, interestingly filled the afternoon. Each student went home with a red construction heart which read, "Ja Cie Kocham," translated means "I love you." Our teacher, Trisha Udell, asked grandma to stay after school for another lesson.



L to r: Andrew and Matthew Suszek

We attended Mass 3 times a week. Being altar servers, I, Andrew, on a given occasion assisted Bishop Patrick Cooney under the instructions

and guidance of Fr. Walt Derylo. AWESOME! We served through high school years, volunteering for early Sunday Mass each week. If work or sports interfered as we got to be seniors, we found our substitutes, namely Mr. Florip or Mr. Wisniewski – who willingly came forth and we were very appreciative.

Our elementary years were fun filled with lifetime friends, sound strong learning tools taking us through high school and on to college. I, Andrew, am in my last year at Lake Superior State University, pursuing a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management.

I, Matthew, graduated from Alpena Community College with a

degree in the Concrete Tech Program and now am employed at LaFarge Corp. as a Lab Technician.

**PROUD TO BE COUNTED
AMONG ST. MARY'S ANGELS.
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!**

Submitted by Andrew & Matthew Suszek

David & Gladys Suszek



David Suszek and Gladys LaCombe were married on May 10, 1958 at St. Mary Catholic Church by the Rev. Bernard Skornia. We recently celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary by having our marriage blessed by Rev. Greg McCallum. Our children then hosted a dinner at the Alpena Holiday Inn.

Our children are: Alvin and Jewel Nowicki, Kenneth and Laurie Suszek, Wayne Suszek, and Tina Paul. Our son, Tim Suszek, is deceased. We also have five grandchildren: Stephanie Suszek of Lachine, David and Penny Heinz of Albuquerque, NM, Terri Nowicki of Alpena, and Tammi Nowicki of Alpena.

Submitted by David & Gladys Suszek

Chester J. Szymanski

I was born in a log cabin in Krakow Twp., baptized in Posen and then came to Alpena. I went to school at St. Mary's and became a member in 1950. My Dad had been a member for many years.

I married Anne Elizabeth Lindsay at St. Ignatius Church in Rogers City on May 15, 1954. We had 2 sons, Thomas and Paul. I used to skeet shoot and go trout fishing but then my wife died of breast cancer in September of 1970 and I gave up my sports to care for my 2 boys. We were a close family.



L to r: Paul and Thomas

I made a living as a rural postal carrier and every summer took the boys on a trip. We went many places but often went to Seattle to visit relatives and because I was familiar with the area from when I was stationed at Fort Lewis during World War II. We also went to Florida and all the way out to Key West. I took my boys fishing on Lake Huron and the Thunder Bay River.

Thomas and Paul both went to kindergarten at the Lincoln School and then spent grades 1-8 at St. Mary's. They graduated from Alpena High and went to Alpena Community College for two years. From ACC, Paul went to Ferris State University and Tom went to the University of Michigan where each achieved their Bachelor Degrees.

In 1997 tragedy struck again when son Paul died after a long fight with leukemia. Paul's passing was very difficult and the hurt does not fade with time. I now walk with Paul every day.

This year, for my 85th birthday I bought myself a nice new light weight bicycle. I ride it throughout the Alpena area for exercise and fresh air.

Submitted by Chester Szymanski

*Chester is the son of Felix and Martha (Kieliszewski) Szymanski
He and Anne had 2 sons, Thomas J. and Paul B. (deceased).*



L to r: Chester and Paul

Clarence & June Szymanski

Clarence "Choker" and June Szymanski had six children who all attended St. Mary's School. They included Tom, Jim, Bill, Bob, Dan, and Jane.



Front l to r: June, Choker, Jane; back l to r – Bob, Tom, Jim, Dan, Bill

June is now deceased and left behind a truly devoted family. Choker has been a member of St. Mary's for 84 years. He has always devoted his time selling tickets for the 50/50, and has helped out with the Christmas Bazaar, Wild Game Dinner and Parish Festival. He served 3 years in WWII as a Navy Gunner.

Choker would shake your hand with one hand and sell you tickets with the other. At 84 years young, he still attends Mass almost daily.

Submitted by Choker Szymanski



Daniel & Jeanne Szymanski



Daniel John Szymanski and Jeanne Lucille Frantz were married on June 7, 1958 in St. Mary Church in front of the communion rail by Fr. Bernard Skornia. Jeanne was non-Catholic at that time and did not turn

Catholic until one year later. Previously, mixed marriages were performed in the Rectory.

Dan and Jeanne met in the old Owl Restaurant and Saloon in 1957. In those days, Jeanne did a lot of dancing to various music groups at the Owl. Even though they went to Alpena High School together, they never really knew each other at that time. Dan graduated with the Class of 1951 and Jeanne graduated with the Class of 1953.

They raised 3 children: Bryon Paul, D Jan, and Kenneth Daniel. They lived on Werth Road for 11 years then built a home on Long Rapids Rd. and moved into the basement in 1970 until their home was completed a year later. Their children attended CCD classes at St. Mary's School, as it was a real hassle at that time to bus students to private schools.

The family remained members of St. Mary Church even after St. John's opened. Dan refused to change! St. Mary's was their family church! Jeanne worked part-time and full-time during their marriage and retired from Mich Con Gas Company in 1990. Dan worked for Abitibi-Price for 34 years, retiring in 1991.

Jeanne and Dan celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 7, 2008, and had their vows renewed by Fr. Greg McCallum.

Dan is the son of the late Felix Julian and Martha (Kieliszewski) Szymanski. Jeanne is the daughter of the late Charles James and Myrtle May (Smith) Frantz.

Submitted by Jeanne Szymanski

Felix & Martha Szymanski

Felix Julian Szymanski and Martha (Kieliszewski) Szymanski were married in Posen, MI in January 1923. They were members of St. Mary's, however, Martha walked regularly to St. Anne's as they lived only a block away at 311 S. Ninth Street. They raised 5 children: Chester, James, Doris, Daniel, and Richard.

Chet and Jim attended St. Mary's School and Doris, Dan and Dick attended St. Anne's Elementary School due to the fact that it was just a block from their home.

Chester married Anne Lindsay of Rogers City. James married Margaret Wisniewski of Alpena. Doris married Bernard Stafford of Alpena. Daniel married Jeanne Frantz of Alpena. Richard married Joyce Kitter of Alpena (whom he later divorced).

Felix retired from the Huron Portland Cement Quarry and was a proud WWI veteran. Martha remained a homemaker and made the best bread and baked goods. Felix was the son of John and Bernice (Dziesinski) Szymanski. Martha was the daughter of Michael and Agnes (Nowicki) Kieliszewski of Posen, MI.

Submitted by Jeanne Szymanski

John & Bernice Szymanski

John Anthony Szymanski was born in Prussia/Poland in December 1865. Bernice (Dziesinski) Szymanski was born in February 1874 in Poland/Russia. They were married in October 1888 in Posen, MI.

For several years, they lived on a Long Rapids Township farm located on Ohlrich Road. There they raised 9 children: Nell, Laura, Clarence, Felix, Edward, Blondine, Lucille, Clara, and Leota. Later on, John built 3 homes in Alpena on Ninth Street.

Bernice moved to Alpena with their daughters while John and the boys worked on the farm and in the woods. They became members of St Mary Church but attended St. Anne's regularly as it was only a block from their home – and they never had a car! They also walked downtown or to one of the local corner grocery stores.

Back in 1958, when John was 95 years of age, he was still tending a large backyard garden, sawing wood by hand in a shirt and tie, had his own teeth, only had to wear glasses to read, and attended and received Holy Communion daily at 8 AM Mass. He spent 3 hours of his day in religious meditation which included the recitation of the Rosary. He also read the scriptures and newspapers in English and Polish.

John Szymanski's father, Maciej "Matthias" Szymanski, was born in Poland in 1830 and died January 20, 1889 in Posen, MI from a falling tree in a logging accident. Bernice's father and mother were Peter and Julia (Zabrecz) Dziesinski and they raised 3 children: Bernice, John, and Helen.

Submitted by Jeanne Szymanski

Michael & Mary Tadajewski



My grandparents early years are mostly a mystery. They were hard working people who spoke little and questions weren't asked. Mary Anna Mandock reportedly went to St. Mary's Grade School for three years. She married Michael A. Tadajewski, the second of seventeen children, at St. Mary's Church on July 4, 1906.

They settled into married life on a farm that straddled the Alpena/Presque Isle County line. There they sustained a family of nine children by raising potatoes as a cash crop. Chickens provided eggs to sell to merchants in Alpena, dairy cattle provided cream, and each year 2 hogs were slaughtered for family eating, one at Easter and one at Christmas. The family attended St. Casimir's Church in Posen but Michael and Mary returned to Alpena and St. Mary's before celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Through the difficult winter months, my grandfather sometimes worked in lumber camps as far north as Marquette. He took his horse and went by boat to St. Ignace and rode the trains inland. Man and beast shared not only the same train car but the same cabin in the woods. Food

was scarce and accommodations were Spartan. Josephine O'Leary, his daughter, remembers her father telling of a small wooden cabin with a door so low the horses couldn't fit through. The men cut a hole in the wall above to enlarge the entrance. Inside, they found only flour for food so they mixed it with water and baked loaves that were hard as a rock. In the camps, my grandfather learned to speak French and German in addition to his English and Polish.

My grandmother was an energetic woman who could and did fry anything in lard until it resembled dried autumn leaves. But she knew how to bake big round sour cream or oatmeal cookies that she produced by the dishpan full and put out on shelves in the back entry. She pretended not to notice when hungry grandchildren "stole" them by the handfuls.

At family gatherings, my grandmother was always in the center of things with her children and grandchildren swirling about like candy chips added to the cookie dough. My grandfather always sat in a straight backed chair in the corner, smoking his pipe and taking it all in. The evening ritual was for the adults to retire to the living room while the skies darkened and the lamps remained unlit. There they sat in Zen-like silence just happy to be in each others' company.

My grandmother died when I was a teenager and my grandfather died on Good Friday in 1970, just days before the birth of my husband's and my daughter. It made me reflect on the circle of life, the circle of love. Which I did, quietly.

Submitted by Ruth Richard

Michael and Mary Tadajewski were the parents of Irene, Theresa, Clara, Clarence, Martha, Josephine, Virginia, Helen, and Michael; grandparents of 14; Mary was the daughter of Frank and Dorothea Mandock; Michael was the son of Louis and Anna Tadajewski.

Tadajewski - Smigelski Families



Gerald & Antonia (Tadajewski) DeRosia

As I've been working at this parish, I am reminded of my connection to the people as I continue to learn about how many people I am related to through my *busia's* (grandmother) family. I couldn't let the chance go to give a nod to my family (mother's side) who were so involved at this parish: Tadajewski, - Smigelski - DeRosia. I am thankful for the following stories that my Great Aunt Rosalie (Tadajewski) Newhouse told me.

My great Aunt Rosalie was the youngest of 7 children born to Alouise and Rose (Smigelski) Tadajewski. Their children included: Leo, Antonia Rose "Tillie" (my *busia*), Mary, Mike, Dr. Alfred, Joseph, and Rosalie.

My great Aunt remembers many happy times spent with her close-knit family. She recalls when her brother Mike would play the banjo, her

brother Alfred would play the violin and she would play the piano. Neighbors would come out unto their porches in the evenings to hear them play.

Growing up on Minor St., there were many happy times with her family but there were also painful times. Most notably, the day that my Great Uncle Joe had drowned at the bridge that spans the Thunder Bay River near the hospital. My Great Aunt Rosalie recounted, "I'll NEVER forget that day...I was in the 5th grade and my brother Joe was in the 7th grade. I can remember being with my mom the moment we learned of the accident. Mom passed out with anxiety and grief at the news. It was a terrible accident but God decided to call Joseph home early."

The Tadajewski children attended St. Mary school and Great Aunt Rosalie remembers being in school after the accident. "Sister Amelia, my 5th grade teacher, felt so badly for me and my family at the loss of my brother. Moved by her compassion,

she gave me her own, personal prayer book as a way to console me. To this day, I still hold dear that prayer book. It is tattered and shows the signs of use and age, but it meant so much to me that she wanted to help me as much as she could in that time of great grief."

Great Aunt Rosalie's memories include cleaning the convent and chapel and going with her niece, Esther (Tadajewski) Gerszewski (daughter of Leo and Gertrude Tadajewski), to the store to pick up groceries for the sisters at the convent. She especially remembers helping out with these tasks in 8th grade when Sr. Maxima broke her arm. "We got paid with holy cards."

She went on to tell me about the family going to church together. How the church pews used to have name plates on them that were permanently reserved for the different families who attended there. She also admires the deep faith of her parents and how her father used to always bring a large, black rosary with him to Mass

every weekend and he would kneel down and pray the rosary faithfully. Upon hearing this and thinking about my own *busia*, I remember her deep faith and her untiring Christian will. So I am happy to see the many connections my family from the past had to this church and their deep faith. May those who have been called home by God rest in peace and may the family of St. Mary Parish continue to be rooted in their faith in both good times and bad.



Joseph Tadajewski

Submitted by Maria Standen, daughter of James & Geraldine "Jeri Jo" (DeRosia Standen); and by Rosalie (Tadajewski) Newhouse

Ford & Mary Tracey

Ford Tracey was born in Hillman, MI and later moved with his family to Alpena. Mary Piontkowski was born in Alpena and baptized at St. Mary's in 1910. She was a life time member of the parish. Ford converted to the Catholic faith when he married Mary on July 8, 1929.



Ford worked at the Wyandotte Quarry and the Cement Plant. In his leisure time, he loved to fish. Mary was employed by the Garment Factory and, for a short time, at Frasers. She enjoyed sewing clothes for her daughter.

Both had a love for sports and followed their grandson's activities in football, basketball, and baseball. They also loved the Detroit Pistons and would wear Pistons sweatshirts for every game on TV.

Dad passed away July 17, 1996 at the age of 93, and Mom passed away March 7, 2008 at the age of 97. They had been married 67 years just before Dad died. *Submitted by Darlene MacArthur*

Ford was the son of Sam and Ida (McLeod) Tracey. Mary was the daughter of Frank and Pelagia (Kotwicki) Piontkowski. They have one daughter, Darlene MacArthur, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Harriet VanDusen

I moved to Alpena from Posen in 1938 and became a member of St. Mary's Church. My husband, Leonard, had been a member his whole life. We were married at St. Casimir's in Posen on June 8, 1940.

While serving in France during WWII, my husband recalled that many of the French priests couldn't speak English so a list of sins were

assigned numbers and printed on cards. One side was in English, the other in French. A soldier just had to give the correct number of his sin to the priest and all was forgiven.

We had 7 children, all of whom went to St. Mary School. They are: Joseph, Thomas (Kathy), Francis (deceased), Edward (deceased), Julie

Ann (Ed) Scott, Geraldine (Tom) Lacross, and Michael (deceased).

I joined the Rosary Society when I first joined the parish and am still a member. I have worked on funeral luncheons and bazaars and been a Girl Scout helper. I enjoy crocheting things for the various raffles related to church events.

Submitted by Harriet VanDusen

Robert & MaryAnn Wikaryasz

Both my parents were born and raised in the country, namely Bolton, MI. MaryAnn was the daughter of Leo and Celia Wisniewski; Robert was the son of Stanley and Cecelia Wikaryasz.

As a young woman, my mother worked at the Fox Store in Bolton. She often recalled the days of rationing; customers could redeem their coupons for a limited amount of groceries and gasoline. Many of the food items were sold in bulk from bins, even penny candy. Mom went to the Bolton Elementary School and graduated from St. Anne High School in 1948. Dad always called her his "secretary" and she worked on the farm. Later, she was the Long Rapids Township Supervisor and Tax Assessor.

As a young man, Dad went to the Hinton Elementary School in Bolton. Later, he worked on his father's farm until he and my mother married on November 27, 1948. With that, he became a trucker and hauled potatoes for Louis Purol. His route went from Posen to Dearborn, MI. In 1949 he purchased his first dump truck and worked construction wherever he could find a job. Dad talked often about donating his time and truck to put in the first driveways and parking lots at the local hospital. In 1953, he



and my mother purchased the family farm in Long Rapids. They grew potatoes and beans, raised cattle, pigs and chickens, and it was home to raising their eight children: Delphine, Darlene, DeLynn, Darwin, Doreen, and Daryl. Marvin and Adrian died in a tragic house fire in 1955. My parents rebuilt the family home and never lost their faith in God.

In their early days of farming, everything was done by horse. Gradually, the farm turned towards technology. When they first started, potatoes were picked by hand into wire baskets. The baskets gave way to wooden crates, then burlap bags. Finally, a machine helped pick the potatoes and then packaged them into paper or plastic bags.

My parents took great pride in doing things together and as a family. They created many opportunities for family get-togethers and annual celebrations. When they were not on the farm, they enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Canada to visit extended family and friends. Highlights for my parents were going to Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland as well as Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. My parents enjoyed going to Alaska, British Columbia and Idaho with 11 of their children and grandchildren.

The great grandchildren were very special to my Mom and Dad. They enjoyed their visits, especially my father after my mother died on April 4, 2006. Dad died 2 years later on June 9, 2008.

Robert and MaryAnn were life long members of St. Mary's Parish and were very generous to the church and church community not only in talent but also in time. My mother was on the Parish Council and the Finance Council; she was a Eucharistic Minister and took the time to take Eucharist to the sick and home bound. Their faith was an important part of their lives.

Submitted by Delphine Lewis.

Mary Winton

My name is Mary (Dean) Winton. I am the daughter of Irwin and Esther Dean. We lived at 225 W. Miller. I was baptized, made my First Communion and my Confirmation at St. Mary Parish.

My family participated in church activities. My sister, Donna, and I belonged to the Young Ladies Sodality. As a child, I remember my mother preparing a basket of food to be blessed for Easter, an old Polish tradition. We always made a trip to see the Nativity and got as close to it as we could.

I married Jerry Kasubowski in 1966 at St. Mary's. We had 4 children: Norm, Lisa, Tim, and Steve. They attended St. Mary School and received the sacraments here. Tim and Steve were altar servers. Lisa was active in Childrens Choir and Polka Dancers. The dance group was led by Clarence and Willieoma (sic) Roznowski.

Lisa was married at St. Mary's and her children, Nathan, Kayla, and Dane received their sacraments at St. Mary's. Nathan and Kayla attended St. Mary's School.

I continue to be active at my parish. I am a co-chair of the paczki sale, a member of the Rosary Society, as my mother was, and I truly enjoy working on the Chinese raffles. My greatest contribution is using my talents as a floral designer to create wreaths and arrangements which I donate to the raffles. For the last two Fall Festivals, I decorated and donated two 5 foot Christmas trees.

St. Mary's is my home. I am so proud of my parish and my Polish heritage.

Submitted by Mary Winton

Jerry Kasubowski was the son of Phil and Sophie (Pokorzynski) Kasubowski. He died on December 29, 2000.

Harry & Gladys Wisniewski

I was born on a farm in Maple Ridge Township which my parents, Leonard and Eva (Green) bought from my grandfather, Stanley Stepanski. The house still stands in the same spot.

We attended St. Mary Church all our lives. In the winter, our old car would not start so my Dad or one of my brothers would harness the horse and we'd all get into the car. The horse would pull the car until the car started; then dad would send the horse to the barn and we'd continue on to church.

My older brother Raymond, my younger sister Kathleen, and I attended religion classes on Saturdays – driving 12 miles for instruction. We attended classes during the winter and made our First Communion in May of 1946. I studied the Baltimore Catechism and have experienced all the changes in the church.

Harvesting hay on the farm used to be a man's job, but when my brothers went off to war, we girls were pressed to do the job. I helped dad by trying to keep the hay level on the wagon. My younger sister, Kathleen, drove the horses and later the tractor. When I grew older, I started flirting with the neighbor boy, Harry.

Harry Wisniewski grew up about 1 ½ miles from me. He worked on his father's relatives' farms. He took the train to the Catholic school in Posen, staying with an aunt and uncle and coming home by train for the weekend. Harry became a teacher at a one-room school house on Cathro Road, known as Spain School. After several years of dating and being apart during the Korean War, we were married on September 4, 1954. We moved to the big city of Alpena and built our home on Brentwood Drive. We raised 4 children: Bryan, Myron, Colleen and Sally.

The children and Harry enjoyed water skiing and fishing on the Thunder Bay River and Long Lake. They also have many fond memories of family picnics at Ossineke Beach and Long Lake Park.

Harry retired from Abitibi after 30 years. We both enjoy hunting, our grandchildren, and our log cabin.

I have been on various committees from the Parish Council to the Social Commission. I have worked on all the Festivals and Bazaars and am presently the Treasurer of the Rosary Society. I also volunteer in the Parish office when needed.

Submitted by Gladys Wisniewski

Joseph & Clare Wojda Family

Joe Wojda and Clare Kulpinski met in Detroit after WWII where Joe worked as a barber and Clare had a bridal shop on Chene Street in the heart of Poletown. They were married at St. Hyacinth's Church in 1950. Joe was the son of Chester and Mary Wojda of Hawks and Clare was the daughter of Walter and Michelina Kulpinski of Detroit. They moved to Alpena in 1962 with their children Maryanne, Michael, and John. Another son, Joseph Jr., was born in Alpena in 1964. They joined St. Mary's Church and all their children attended St. Mary's School where their sons were all altar boys.

They owned the Second Street Deli which specialized in Kowalski sausage and other products. When that business closed, Joe went back to barbering and Clare worked at the Kresge store as a clerk. Later, Clare worked as a switchboard operator and receptionist at Alpena Community College where she made numerous friends among the students and staff. Joe enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening while Clare was an avid supporter of whatever team her children or grandchildren happened to be playing for. She also enjoyed the theater and reading.

Holidays were celebrated in the Polish tradition by the Wojda family. Joe and Clare often made their own Polish sausage for both Christmas and Easter. On Christmas Eve they had Wigilia with relatives where traditional Polish food was served and oplatki was shared. For Easter the family colored eggs, usually coloring some with natural dyes such as onion skins as well as various food coloring. The "Easter basket" included butter in the shape of a lamb, pumpernickel bread, colored eggs, and sausage. The basket was then taken to church on the Saturday before Easter to be blessed.

Joe died on August 2, 1986 and Clare died on May 3, 2003. Of their children, only Mike still lives in Alpena with his wife Debbie. They have 2 sons, Matt and Mark. Maryanne lives in Gladstone, MI with her husband Jim McLeod and daughters Meghan and Amanda. John lives in Queens, NY and is single. Joe Jr. lives in Lansing, MI with his wife Diane and daughters Alarie and Francesca and son Joseph III.

Submitted by Maryanne McLeod

Anthony J. Wojt



Dzia Dzia (Grandpa) Wojt was born May 23, 1881 in Posen, Michigan. His father, Michael Rompecki, was born in Bydgoszcz, Poland in September, 1836. Great grandpa came to the USA sometime in the 1850's. At customs, his name was changed to Michael Wojt. (In the rural areas of Poland, the chief officer of a group of *gmina* (villages) is known by the title *Wojt*.)

Anthony married Frances Szydłowski, the daughter of Andrew and Zuzanna, in 1903. While living in Posen, they had two daughters, Rose and Celia, and one son, Julius. They moved to Alpena, 323 Avery St. about 1910. They lived there for the

next 50 years. The fourth child, my father Leonard, was born in Alpena.

Rose (9/14/04-9/21/93) married Anthony Donakowski. They had four children: William, Dorothy, Joan, and Carol. Celia (12/24/05-9/24/94) married Charles Beste. They had three children: Charlotte, David, and Frances. Julius (11/19/07-10/10/46) married Bernice Muszynski. They had three children: Charles, John, and Donna. Leonard (4/23/11-1/27/68) married Vivian Gougeon. They had three children: Joseph, Suzanne, and Julie.

Dzia Dzia started to work for St. Mary's shortly after coming to Alpena. I was born to Leonard and Vivian in 1939. We lived with dzia dzia and busia for 10 years. It was during this time that I learned about grandpa's duties at the church. He rode his bike to work each day, weather permitting. He had to ring the church bell for the Angelus at 6

AM, noon and 6 PM every day. This was the easy part of being a caretaker. He once told me that he was the "jack of all trades and the master of none."

There was a large school (two story brick on Miller St.), two frame houses for the nuns across the street, the rectory, and the church. All of these buildings needed maintenance, housekeeping, and heat in the colder months. There were 14 furnaces that were coal fired which required hand feeding and ashes to be removed. During the summer months the grass needed mowing. There were 3 vacant lots where the new school is now located. The grass there would be cut with a sickle and the grass (hay) was carried home for the chickens.

Grandpa made a small wooden seat for his bike, and sometimes, he would take me to work. What a treat! His bike was the skinny wheel type. He would put a clip on his pant leg to keep it out of the sprocket, put the

wooden seat on the cross bar, and away we would go. It was about 8 city blocks from home to church, and as a 4 or 5 year old, it was the trip of a life time. At the church, the nuns always made a big fuss over me. Sometimes they were making bread (hosts) for the Mass. There were little pieces they would break off of the edges and give me as a treat.

It's been over sixty years; there were many other stories. Pigeons in the belfry, lightening strikes to the steeple, blizzards on Saturdays, snow to shovel before Sunday Masses (first Mass was at 6:15 AM), and hunting and fishing with Fr. John Gatzke. This all brings back warm and fond memories.

The "Jack of All Trades" retired in May of 1951 at the age of 70.

Submitted by Joe Wojt

Edward & Phyllis Wyman



Edward and Phyllis (Bronikowski) Wyman were married in 1953 at St. Mary's by Fr. Chester Pilarski. They raised 3 children: Paul, Kenneth, and Mark. Paul and Mark are presently members of St. Mary's. Phyllis has been a member all her life! Edward was an usher at St. Mary's and was an active member of the K of C's. He passed away September 14, 2000.

Phyllis used to walk to St. Mary's School even though it was a long way from W. Chisholm Street. She did not want to change schools because of her friends at St. Mary's. The school used to have a one hour lunch period and Phyllis walked home then as well.

Phyllis enjoys cards and has been a volunteer at bingo, 50-50, and the Bazaar for years. She also owned and operated Wyman's Bridal Shoppe on W. Chisholm Street. She enjoys her family and has 4 grandchildren: Troy, Eric, Sara, and Kaden. She also has 3 great grandchildren: Braiden, Alexandra, and Adam Jr. She has 2 sisters: Margaret Ruth Keller and Germaine Kaiser.

Four generations of Phyllis' family have been parishioners of St. Mary Church: Joseph & Catherine (Centala) Lewandowski (grandparents); Joseph & Sally (Lewandowski) Bronikowski (parents) who served for many years as an usher and bazaar worker respectively; Edward & Phyllis Wyman; Paul Wyman & Mark Wyman (sons). *Submitted by Phyllis Wyman*

Edmund & Frances Wysocki Family

On September 15th, 1919, Edmund and Frances (Zielinski) Wysocki were married by the Rev. John E. Gatzke at St. Mary Church.

Their parents, Leo and Frances Wysocki and Anthony and Theresa Zielinski, had been members at the beginning of this Polish St. Mary Church.

Edmund and Frances had six children: Robert, Gladys (Mrs. Elmer Beyer), Patrick, Marvin, Thomas and Donald. All of the children attended and graduated from St. Mary School, at that time - 8 grades. During their school years, they all received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The three younger boys, Marvin, Thomas and Donald were altar boys serving Masses daily and on Sundays.



*40th Wedding Anniversary September 15, 1959
Front row: Frances, Edmund, Gladys
Back row: Marvin, Patrick, Robert, Thomas, Donald*

Two of the children were married at St. Mary's: Patrick and Joan (Kinsel) on September 5, 1953, and Gladys and Elmer Beyer on September 7, 1957.

Edmund and Frances, along with Gladys, Patrick and Donald were life members of the parish. Today, Marvin still continues his life membership, approaching 80 years. Patrick's wife, Joan Wysocki, continues her support and membership, now over 55 years.

Besides the school years and the Sacraments, another memorable event was the yearly attending by the whole family of Midnight Mass at St. Mary's. Afterwards, we gathered at our residence on 1109 River Street and had lunch and exchanged Christmas gifts.

Submitted by Marvin L. Wysocki



**Melvin and Phyllis
Yachcik**

We are third generation members of St. Mary's Church and attended school here as did our three sons (fourth generation) and our grandsons (fifth generation). We were married by Melvin's first cousin, Bishop Kenneth J. Povish, on August 11, 1951 at St. Mary's. We have 3 children named Kenneth, Jerry, and Dennis. Our 3 grandchildren are Kris, Dan and Katie.

Melvin was one grade ahead of me at St. Mary's School and we both went to Alpena High School. It wasn't until after high school that we started dating and it wasn't until after our marriage that Melvin confessed he'd "had his eye on me ever since grade school."

Melvin was a sheet metal operator for National Gypsum and I've been a homemaker. We had a cottage at Grand Lake for 28 years and enjoyed fishing there in both summer and winter. We did everything together but we had to sell the place when the upkeep became too difficult.

For hobbies we collect sports cars, Marvin plays the accordion, and I like to work on the computer and read. At one time we owned 5 antique cars but now we have a '64 Chevy Supersport that belonged to my mother and dad, and a white '61 Chevy Corvette that's the "eyecatcher."

Melvin's grandparents migrated here from Poland when his mother was 7 years old. Both his grandfather and father worked at Alkali.

Submitted by Phyllis Yachcik

Phyllis is the daughter of Theodore and Mildred Suszek. Melvin is the son of Frank and Gladys Yachcik

Andrew and Frances Zolnierrek

The Zolnierrek name was among the first to appear in the parish roster in the early beginning of St. Mary Parish. Andrew and Frances became members soon after their arrival from Poland and their settling in Alpena.

Andrew was born October 31, 1854 in Wagrowiec northeast of Poznan, Poland. Due to the oppressive Prussians that invaded their clan ancestral land, at age 22 on June 14, 1876

Andrew enrolled in the substitute army reserve, thus avoiding the draft. His certificate entitled him to go on journeys without restrictions, but he had to make arrangements that an order to report for duty could always reach him. That same year he and his wife, Frances (Buza)



Andrew Zolnierrek Family

age 19, fled Poland along with many other

Polanders. They migrated to America, having heard about the State of Michigan and the early settlers to the Metz area.

They traveled by boat taking approximately a month in bad winter weather, arriving February 1877 at the dock of the Thunder Bay Minor area, now the Ninth Street Dam sight (sic). Unable to continue on their planned destination, they were offered housing by a relative to Frances (Harry and Mary Halupniczak) who too experienced the same dilemma in years prior. Andrew sought work at the logging camps on the river bank, in time moving into the mill of Minor Logging Mill Company. On October 30, 1886, upon acquiring a parcel of land from his employer, he built a house at 222 Minor.

Recorded at Alpena County Court House on November 25, 1892, Andrew and Frances were granted citizenship. They had seven children all born in Alpena: John born 1880 died 1934, married Frances Wisniewski born 1882 died 1970; George born 1883 and Anthony born 1885 both died in infancy; Stanley born 1889 died 1899 of pneumonia at

age 9; Michael born 1892 died 1961 married Josephine Rucinski born 1894 died 1957; Mary born 1895 died 1979 married Stanley Fanslow born 1893 died 1981; Joseph born 1898 died 1992 married Thelma Szymanowicz born 1905 died 1989.

Andrew and Frances lived out their life in Alpena. The Minor Street home Andrew built was sold in 1969, slightly remodeled, is still occupied today. They also witnessed their 3 sons' addition of Zolnierrek Hardware, Mike's Hardware, and Zolnierrek's General Store to the development of the West End Shopping to the city and in their homestead area.

Their children were all baptized and living members of St. Mary Church. John, Michael, Mary, and Joseph attended St. Mary School, married, and became parishioners – as did their children, their children's' children, taking us into the 5th generation and hopefully, more to come. St. Mary's was, is, and will continue to be our Great House of Worship.

Andrew died at the age of 74 on August 6, 1928. Frances died at the age of 80 on August 14, 1937.

Submitted by Bernice Zolnierrek

Leonard Zolnierrek

Having been a member of St. Mary's for the majority of my 70+ years, I thought some of you would enjoy the two year story of St. Mary's basketball team.

Many of you may not even recall that we had a team, and frankly, there was some question back then. There may have been one prior to 1951, but my memory fails me.

Starting in the 7th grade, we had a "team," first coached by Fr. Chet Pilarski. We had Pat Filarski at Center (I just jumped center after every score), myself, Jack Snyder and Dan Filipiak at forwards, and Tom Nowak, and Phil Wienczewski at guards. Also, as I recall Dave Idalski, Ralph Skiba, Jim Werda, and Norm Smolinski were team mates.

Games were first played at the public school gyms, even when we played St. Anne's or St. Bernard's. When CCHS opened its gym, we played our home games there.

This was the era of the two-hand set-shot and the underhand free throw. Games ended with scores of 8 to 5, 10 to 4 etc. We were always on the low end and when we went against the public school powerhouses, such as Lincoln, Bingham, McPhee, we would be on the low end like 25-30, 8 to 9.

There was one game that I still "glow" about. It was the day that I first received a front partial plate. (Remember, my Dad sold candy in our grocery store.)

Dave Nowak (the barber) was now our coach and when he noticed the plate, he told me to take it out. Amazingly, I scored 28 or 29 points! At half time, Coach Nowak chewed the team out, but when he looked at me, he said something to the effect that he did not know what I was doing – but to keep it up! Frankly, I wasn't sure what I was doing either, but what ever I put back up or shot, went in.

Problem was, we still lost about 43 to 41 to St. Bernard's. Sad to say, we lost every game we played in the 2 years.

In about our last game, we went to East Tawas. We put up a tremendous defensive effort, but got beat because some little kid could shoot from mid court with no arc on the ball. Since the ceiling was so low, he killed us.

On the way back, we stopped in Harrisville and Coach Nowak knocked a parking lot post down, or he may have finished knocking it off. Anyway, when we came out, I picked it up and said that we were going to have "some" trophy for the trip.

When we got back to school in the morning, with white post, Sister Angela asked for the story. When we told our tale, she told us to all sign the post and put it in our St. Mary trophy case. Since she was also the principal, who were we to argue.

I wonder whatever happened to that white post?

Submitted by Leonard Zolnierrek

Jacob & Margaret Soltysiak Family c.a. 1900



Picture only

Joseph & Catherine Lewandowski



Picture only

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It's been 11 months from concept to completion. The 125th Anniversary Book Committee has spent hundreds of hours interviewing, researching, photographing and fundraising for this book. Many more hours were spent in the writing, final layout and proofing.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered their stories and pictures as well as those who sponsored the book with cash donation or items for the 2 major fundraisers (garage sale and soup/salad/dessert dinner). It has truly been a collaborative effort.

There wasn't room to print all the pictures submitted but they have been recorded for archival purposes and will be stored at the parish office. Special thanks are given to Dale Goupell, Robert Kujawa, and Leonard Zolnierrek for giving us access to their personal photo collections.

Input on organizations and church restoration was received from Gladys Kelsey, Helen Kreft and Jane Melville.

While not officially a part of the book committee, Maxine Donajkowski, Maria Standen, and Gladys Wisniewski provided invaluable assistance with research and correspondence. Special thanks are also

due Gerry Przeslawski who made 2 trips from down state to help with layout and editing.

We gave it our best effort and we hope you enjoy the results.

125th Anniversary Book Committee
Ruth Richard, Editor
David Richard, Chief Photographer



Pictured l to r: Leona Wisniewski, Jeanne Szymanski, Mary Winton, Kristin Carriveau, Ruth Richard, Linda Bicksler, David Richard. Not pictured: Bob Martinez, Linda Splitt, Monica Weaver and Bernice Zolnierrek.

*With Love and gratitude, we acknowledge Dave and Ruth Richard
for their hard work and dedication in making this book a reality.*

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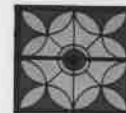
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Our son, Rev. Gregory McCallum

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Bernice Zolnierrek – Seasonal baked goods valued at \$120

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



"WE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD"
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