



CHURCH OF

Saint Mary

MEET PARISHIONERS **DAVE AND CINDY HEMMESCH**

Growing in Faith, Engaging in Service

Sometimes, it takes a small nudge from others to help us realize how much we have to offer to our parish community. A wonderful example of this is the Hemmesch family. Dave and Cindy Hemmesch had only been married for a few years when two different couples suggested to them that they should become a sponsor couple for the marriage preparation program.

"The first time it came up, we said, 'No, we have too much going on,'" Cindy says. "The second time it happened, we thought, 'Maybe we should look into this a little bit.' We decided to give it a shot."

Dave and Cindy have since found that being a sponsor couple is more than just mentoring another couple. The process helps them grow in their marriage, as well.

"It's fun to work with these young couples that are getting to know each other better and walk them through what the Church believes and how that can still be important in our lives today," Cindy says. "Every time we go through the questions, it refreshes our marriage."

In a similar way, Dave was encouraged to become an usher. Since he worked every other weekend, he hesitated, but soon realized that it was better to offer what he could than not to serve at all.

Cindy and Dave have three kids – Agnes, 7; Lucy, 5; and Marcus, 3. Agnes and Lucy attend St. Mary's School, so Cindy and Dave have become involved in parish life from all angles. Cindy is on the school board and they both are part of the Action for Education Raffle



(From left) Cindy, Agnes, Lucy, Marcus and Dave Hemmesch

Church of Saint Mary
755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (English)

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. (English) & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

DAILY MASS:

Monday: 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.

VER AL DORSO
PARA ESPAÑOL



(320) 256-4207

www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys

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KEEPING OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS IN THE SUMMERTIME

The kids are out of school and our fast-paced lives centered on school and youth sports activities have slowed down. Our own internal clocks are now on summer time. We're ready for a break from our hectic lives.

And while we take vacations and enjoy the leisurely pace of the season, we need to remember that summer is not the time to take a vacation from God. In fact, summer can serve as the perfect opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, especially since most of us have considerably more free time.

So, instead of neglecting our faith due to busy days and late nights, try these simple steps to embrace God during the quieter summer months and during your vacation.

Get More Active in a Parish Ministry

The summer is actually a perfect time to get more involved in a parish ministry. Because we no longer have to get the kids to and from school, or get them to sporting events or other activities that normally occur during the school year, our schedules are a bit less cluttered. Summer is indeed a perfect time to fill some downtime with service to God through ministry and giving of your talents. Take a look through the parish ministries to find something that suits your particular interest or talent.

Vacation Bible School, for Kids and Adults

Vacation Bible School is a great way for younger children to learn about God through songs, activities and fellowship. The fun-filled lessons build upon Gospel teachings while keeping kids' attention. For older children, it is a great opportunity to offer service by being a team leader or assistant. Adults can also help plan, decorate, organize and teach during the week. It's a wonderful activity for the entire family!

Give Thanks for the Sun

Praise God for the sun, time off from school and easygoing days by visiting the adoration chapel to say a quick prayer. Bring a journal or rosary along to help stay focused. Little children can even bring a religious coloring book to give thanks to God on their terms. Or, before heading to the pool, why not attend daily Mass with the kids? It's a perfect way to start the day and set the tone that — vacation or not — God is still an important part of your family life.

Don't Take a Vacation from Mass

Often while on a vacation away from our parish family, we are not familiar with where to attend Mass. Don't let that be an obstacle for you. Check out masstimes.org in order to find out where and when to go to Mass. In addition, if you are lodging at a hotel, the concierge will assist you with directions to the nearest Catholic Church.

Summertime Stewardship of Treasure

The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

So, enjoy the warmer temperatures and the relaxed atmosphere. Just don't forget Who provides the sun and the sand! And most importantly, remember to take God with you wherever you go on vacation!

Embrace the Holy Spirit

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You've all heard homilies about Pentecost, which comes on June 5 this year. Pentecost was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles while they were gathered for prayer in Jerusalem.

Coming 10 days after Jesus' Ascension into heaven, the descent of the Holy Spirit turned the apostles from a collection of fearful followers looking for some direction into a band of courageous witnesses ready to declare their faith in Christ to the whole world.

You've heard that Pentecost is the birthday of the Church because that was the day when newly filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter preached the first Christian sermon, inviting his hearers to turn to Jesus as their Savior and their Lord. Those who accepted the invitation were baptized and "were added" to the Church (Acts 2:41). That day marked the beginning of the Church's public mission, which continues to the present.

But the Holy Spirit's actions in the Church were not limited to the apostles in an ancient time. The Spirit remains active down to the present, guiding the pope and the bishops as they go about their work of sanctifying, teaching and ruling in the Church. The Holy Spirit acts in the sacraments to make them effective signs of grace. We see the Holy Spirit's work in the witness of the saints through whom He continues the work of salvation.

The Spirit, moreover, acts not only in the Church as a corporate body, but also in the lives of individual Christians. We become temples of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism. Then at Confirmation, which is our own personal Pentecost, we receive the seal of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit unites us more closely to Christ, increases the spiritual gifts we have been given, and strengthens us to spread and defend the faith.

Ultimately, Pentecost is more than simply a feast celebrating something that happened a long time ago. Of course, the coming of the Spirit we read about in Acts 2 took place just once. But the Holy Spirit remains active today, guiding the Church as a whole,



but also working in the life of each individual Christian to make us holy.

Maybe you don't feel as if the Holy Spirit is working in your life. Well, God the Father gave us free will, so we can choose whether or not we'll obey Him. And God the Holy Spirit, being united in the one Godhead with the Father and the Son, honors that freedom. The Spirit will never force us to turn away from sin or compel us to obey God's commandments. The Spirit offers us grace. The Spirit will beckon us toward heaven, and occasionally we may feel the Spirit nudging us along, but we always have the freedom to choose God or to reject Him.

Perhaps you've made a commitment to worship at Mass at least weekly and spend some time each day in prayer. Maybe you have promised to use some of your talents in parish ministries and service to the community. You may even have turned in a card at our last renewal to indicate your pledge of a portion of your treasure to be used in God's service.

I hope you've done all of these. If so, both the Holy Spirit's grace and your response were involved in your decision. And the Holy Spirit will give you the strength to fulfill your commitments.

This Pentecost, make the verse we'll sing just before the Gospel your personal prayer:

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

If you do, you'll find the Holy Spirit working even more strongly in your life. You'll be happier, and the world, at least your little corner of it, will be a better place.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. Marvin Enneking". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Marvin Enneking
Pastor

Technology That Keeps Us Connected to Our Faith: *There's an App for That!*



Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square — nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church — led by our Holy Fathers, from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis — strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which featured quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings. Having since been relaunched as the *Vatican News App*, it continues to offer the latest news and

information from Pope Francis and the Holy See.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists have taken the technological gifts at their fingertips and are utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.

Independent Catholic bloggers and internet-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Throughout America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences — those entirely new to the faith, fallen-away Catholics and active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources our parish and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!

Children's Liturgy of the Word *Brings Gospel Alive for Our Youngest Parishioners*

Every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Mass, the Children's Liturgy of the Word program is offered for children ranging from preschool age until they make their First Communion. Through this program, the children to step out of the church for a short time during Mass to have the Gospel reading at a level they understanding. This allows the children to engage more with the faith and to feel as if the faith is for them.

Amanda Maus, who leads Children's Liturgy of the Word, switches every week with about eight other volunteers to teach the kids.

"About 90 percent of the time, they get the same Gospel as the rest of the church and there are always lessons they can learn from it," Amanda

says. "We just have to offer a little more guidance."

Right before the first reading, the priest offers a blessing for the children and then they are taken out until right after the petitions. This allows the children to still be present for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Children's Liturgy of the Word is divided into smaller increments, and the children are not necessarily sitting the whole time, thus helping them engage further. This is a time for children to hear the Gospel and work on a corresponding activity, and it is also a time to stretch and sing before entering back into the presence of the Eucharist. In turn, parents may be more present during the Mass readings and the homily.

For Amanda, this is an important ministry and

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Children's Liturgy of the Word continued from page 5

an important way that her family is involved in the parish. Her two daughters, in sixth and ninth grade, both help her. Living a life of stewardship is important to them and that is why Amanda encourages everyone to get involved in the parish in some way.

"If you are nervous about what to do or how to get involved, reach out to anyone in the church," Amanda says. "Find somebody at church that you know and see if they can help you get involved. Maybe do it together with a friend or your family. Do little things. There are so many different ministries and a lot of things that happen in the church that people don't always see. No matter your personality, there is something for you."

"About 90 percent of the time, they get the same Gospel as the rest of the church and there are always lessons they can learn from it. We just have to offer a little more guidance."

— AMANDA MAUS

If you are interested in volunteering with the Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry, or if you have any questions about the program, please contact Amanda Maus at 320-290-5860.

Meet Parishioners Dave and Cindy Hemmesch

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Committee.

"The more you're involved, the more it opens your eyes to all that goes on behind the scenes," Cindy says. "A lot of people work together to get things accomplished."

Cindy and Dave are grateful for all the ways they can get their kids more involved with their faith. While they pray together and learn their faith at home, they love seeing their kids participate in their faith at school and at church.

"A lot of times when I usher, we get our kids involved in bringing up the gifts and offering," Dave says. "They get involved and are part of the parish community."

Giving their time and gifts to the parish, even in

unexpected ways, builds up Dave and Cindy's own faith.

"It helps me to have a closer relationship with God when I'm actively living it out," Cindy says.

Getting involved has also made Dave and Cindy more appreciative of the work everyone puts towards cultivating a vibrant faith community.

"If everyone could help out a little bit, it wouldn't be too much for the those that do a lot right now," Dave says.

Dave and Cindy have no regrets about going out of their comfort zone at the encouragement of others. Getting involved has helped them grow.

"If there's something that someone has talked to you about and you're not sure about it, know that there's a reason they are asking you," Cindy says.