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The Compass IN THE Bulletin

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Smell of success: Bear Creek parish's sauerkraut festival marks 55 years

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

BEAR CREEK — Food, music and games are all essentials for a successful parish festival. At St. Mary Parish, another ingredient is the smell and taste of sauerkraut.

Since 1965, this farming community has been home to St. Mary's Sauerkraut Festival. It's become more than a parish fundraiser, say organizers and volunteers. It's a gathering of life-long friends.

"I just like the hometown feeling. Everybody from my childhood comes home," said Barb Havnen, chairperson of the 55th annual sauerkraut festival, held Aug. 3 and 4. "Our little community comes together, whether they are part of our parish or not. We've got a lot of non-parish members up here helping. The community all pitches in and makes it a good day."

Bear Creek is home to GLK Foods, the world's largest producer of sauerkraut. According to GLK, it processes around 130,000 tons of cabbage a year. Sauerkraut (German for "sour



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St. Mary parishioner Ali Norder dishes a spoonful of sauerkraut onto Norbertine Fr. Tim Shillcox's plate during the Bear Creek parish's 55th annual sauerkraut festival Aug. 4. Also pictured from left are Haley Behnke, Joan Christensen and Mary Ann Young.

cabbage") is made by pickling finely shredded cabbage.

Norbertine Fr. Tim Shillcox, who was appointed pastor of St. Mary (along with St. Rose in Clintonville) in July, said the festival is "unlike anything I've ever been at" in previous parish assignments.

"They are tapping into their local heritage and they are so

proud" of being home to the largest sauerkraut producer, he said. "The church is 150 years old. The village is only 450 people and this is their big fundraiser. I think last year they cleared \$20,000 and they just seem to have a lot of fun doing it."

Our full story appears in the Aug. 16 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In addition to being the religious centre, the Temple was also a place for economic and financial exchange. The prophets and Jesus himself had often lashed out against this abasement (cf. Lk 19:45-46). How often I think of this when I see parishes that think money is more important than the sacraments! Please! A poor church: Let us ask the Lord for this. In meeting the apostles, that beggar does not find money but he finds the name that saves man: Jesus Christ, the Nazarene. Peter invokes Jesus' name, he commands the paralyzed man to stand upright like the living; standing, and he touches this ill person, that is, he takes him by the hand and raises him up, a gesture in which St. John Chrysostom sees "an image of Resurrection" (Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles, 8).

+ Pope Francis,
August 7, 2019

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Goats help Appleton Catholic cemetery control its invasive species of shrubs

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

APPLETON — Goats tend to get a bad rap in church traditions — with the devil often portrayed with goat horns and hoofs, and Jesus speaking of separating goats from sheep (Mt 25:41). But at St. Mary Cemetery in Appleton, goats are getting positive reviews.

On July 8, five goats arrived in the cemetery

from a Black Creek farm. They came to tackle the cemetery's problem with buckthorn, an aggressive, invasive species of shrub that had overtaken the cemetery's riverbank.

"We had been working, the last couple of years, to clean up the riverbank, to give a little better view of the river," explained Brian Dresang, St. Mary Cemetery's director. "We ran into an issue of buckthorn. We had a couple of trees

down, or with branches down, and we wanted to get that cleaned up. And right under those trees is buckthorn. Obviously, that was trouble."

The cemetery considered using herbicides to kill the buckthorn. "Herbicide is quicker," Dresang said, "but we thought it was better to do it naturally."

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5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About St. Matthew

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The feast of St. Matthew the Evangelist is Sept. 21. His name in Hebrew was probably *Mattija*, meaning "gift of the Lord."
- 2 In the New Testament, Matthew appears five times. The earliest Gospel, Mark, names him "Levi, the son of Alphaeus" (13-17).
- 3 While the other three evangelists' Gospels are represented by animals on Gospel books — eagle, lion and ox — Matthew's is represented by a human. This is because he wrote of Jesus as "a new Moses."
- 4 Matthew's saint symbol is three money bags, because he was said to have been a tax collector.
- 5 By tradition, Matthew preached in Ethiopia on the Caspian Sea, Persia and Syria.

A heart that is burning with love for you

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Over the past year, I have used this column to teach about what it means to be a disciple of Christ. In my last column, I encouraged you to surrender your life into Christ's hands and receive the love he literally died to offer you.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

The Catholic spiritual tradition is filled with historical events which teach us in different ways how much Christ desires to be a part of our lives. The devotion to the Sacred Heart is an example of Jesus reaching out personally to a young French woman, Margaret Mary Alacoque. This invitation came at a time in the history of the church that the love of God had been replaced by a more rigoristic interpretation of holiness, in which people must earn God's love. In a series of visions, Jesus told Margaret that he is bursting with love for mankind. He is searching for the lost and he wants to make known his massive love for each person.

The process of accepting this love is called devotion to the Sacred Heart, a tradition that has been a part of the church since the 17th century. While this devotion is just one of many ways to pray, many people since that time have found a great deal of spiritual benefit in it. I would especially recommend it for anyone who struggles to feel God's love for them.

The point is that the Holy Spirit is reaching out to people of our time, one by one, through

the work and example of others, to help people to open their minds and hearts to Jesus, who is knocking at the door.

Let me repeat that beautiful quote of St. Mother Teresa again so that you might read it anew. "The personal love Christ has for you is infinite. You are special to God. He is waiting for you to come to him in prayer. He wants to honor you with his presence. Jesus loves you tenderly, you are precious to him, turn to Jesus with great trust and allow yourself to be loved by him."

Perhaps you are reading these words, and think that God could not love you that way. Perhaps you think that you have made too many mistakes in your past or that you are not "holy enough." Perhaps you think that you must earn God's love and that God will only accept you once you get your life in order.

If you believe those things, please read the following words slowly and carefully. God doesn't expect you to be perfect to be in relationship with him. God wants to be in relationship with you so that he can love you into glory. God sees your mistakes and weaknesses and loves you in spite of them. And the heart of Jesus, which drove him to accept the cross out of love for you, burns with that same love for you, and desires to bring healing and relief to your soul.

Jesus cries out to each of us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." May we all cling to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that burns with love for each and every one of us!

Follow Bishop Ricken on Twitter at @BpDavidRicken.

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Parish SNAPSHOT



Catechist Kristal Antholt helps Braylen Voeks balance a tray with full water glasses for a dexterity game during Vacation Bible School at St. Joseph Church in Sturgeon Bay. The Aug. 5-9 Bible school included a virtue and a prayer of the day.

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