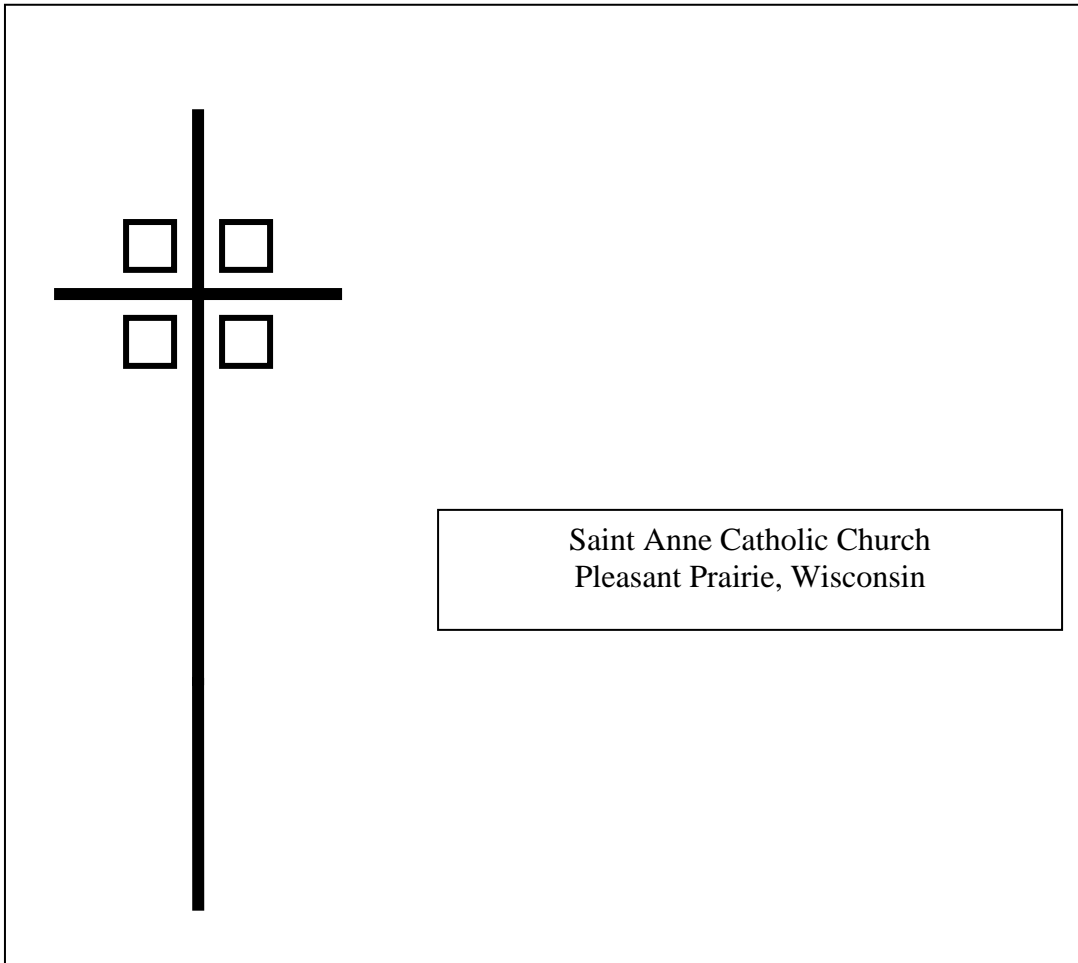


# A Faithful Journey...



...A Decade of Memories

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We, Ruth Hudson and Diane Sullivan, heard about a Mass being held at Pleasant Prairie School, so we decided to go and see. We were greeted so nicely and felt so welcome, we decided this is where we belong and that was in February of 1999. So then we joined the parish. We met so many wonderful people and it's a joy to come to St. Anne's and hear Father Don say Mass. Thank you, Father Don.**

## **How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**We, meaning Ruth Hudson and Diane Sullivan, usher and greet and are on the Funeral Ministry. We take the bulletins to Grand Prairie Rehab every Thursday morning, as we say the Rosary on the first and third Thursdays. We are there the second and fourth Thursdays as Father Don says Mass. We put out the parish donation envelopes where they are needed. We go to St. Catherine’s Hospital on Tuesdays as Father Don says Mass there. We thank God that we can take part in the services of our church.**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**An invitation from our pastor brought me to St. Anne Parish. When I stood up and turned around at intermission during St. Joseph High School's performance of CATS, I saw Father Don sitting behind me. We began an informal conversation during which I must have expressed some disappointment in the parish I was currently attending. Father responded with "Come pray with us." As I thought about his invitation afterwards, it struck me that he did not say, "Why don't you come to one of my Masses?" As I've gotten to know Father a little better, I realize he'd never say that. Instead he said simply, "Come pray with us." The words echoed Jesus' invitation, "Come follow me." As a result I am now a happy member, praying with the people and pastor at St. Anne's.**

**Sister Virginia Handrup**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My favorite memory as a parishioner occurred the first day I was at the parish for Mass. When I told someone who is not a member of St. Anne's Parish that I was considering joining St. Anne's', she cautioned me to check the parish out carefully before deciding to become a member. Although she had heard many good things about the parish, she had also heard people at St. Anne's had to do all kinds of things others do not have to do. I don't remember her whole list, but I do remember she said people had to tithe, frequently bring food for the poor, go to catechism classes and even cook meals for large groups of parishioners at times. Little of that proved to be true, and none of it fazed me too much except the last one, but then I decided once my limitations in that area were discovered, I'd be voted off the committee in a hurry anyway. So one Sunday morning I somewhat warily made my way to St. Anne's.**

**As I entered the church building, I was half expecting someone to nab me to have me sign up for one of those duties the lady had told me about. It was with some relief that I made it to the church doors without anything like that happening. As I approached the doors to the church, a large, rather imposing gentleman said to me "Hello! Here's a new face. I'm Dick Nabor and you are?" So I introduced myself as Sister Virginia Handrup. Dick's next sentences were "So you're a Sister. I adopted a Sister some years ago, and now she has become part of my family. We even went through a legal process." He added some other details about his relationship with this Sister while I was thinking to myself, "Oh no! Don't tell me now I have to be adopted by someone yet, too, to belong to this parish." In not the gentlest fashion, I'm afraid, I let Mr. Nabor know that I have a family and didn't need to be adopted. Luckily his wife came along at that moment, and we got off the topic of adoption.**

**Now that I have gotten to know Dick better, I realize that Sister is lucky to have him and his wife as family, so if I ever do need to be adopted, I'll know who to see about the matter, but that first Sunday morning, I must admit, I was a bit intimidated by the prospect of adoption by someone I didn't even know.**

**Sister Virginia Handrup**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne  
Parishioner?**

**The Children's First Communion Play.**

**Deb Lebbin**

**Have you experienced someone “reaching out to you in charity, compassion or justice?”**

**Heavenly Hugs!**

**In 2000, I attended sessions at St. Anne led by Pat Quinn Casper on Communion to the Sick. My parish St. Thomas had recently closed and I was attending St. Mary’s. It was a particularly low time in my life. My husband of 39 years had just died and a month later I lost my faith community with the closing of St. Thomas Church. At the end of one of the sessions as we were leaving, St. Anne parishioner, Claire Calligure gave me a hug. Her compassionate act was like receiving a hug from heaven. I joined St. Anne Parish about six months later. Claire and I continue to share a hug whenever we meet. Others have been added to the “hug” list. I hope the hugs that I give lift the spirits of the others as much as those I receive lift mine.**

**Florence Hammelev**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

- **The Choir Concerts with Kevin Burrow were awesome.**
- **The Dedication Picnic, where everyone came back (Pat Quinn-Casper, parishioner who had moved away, etc.) was very special.**
- **When Archbishop Dolan used so much incense, everyone in church started coughing.**

**The Harold Family**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Our daughter, Cynthia Oblein, invited us to attend the outdoor Mass and Celebration in July of 2000 and we attended Mass in the Gym several times before joining in the fall of 2000. The welcome feeling and the meaningful homilies were the reason we joined. We love the parish involvement in celebrating Mass.**

**When Roger was ill in 2007, we both felt the support of the St. Anne Community, especially Father Don and Beth Smith. When he was well enough to return to Mass on Sundays, he was warmly greeted with concern and well wishes. I felt support from the many parishioners who helped me deal with the stresses that come with a spouse's illness.**

**I enjoy baking for Hospitality on Sunday and bread making for Communion are the ministries I am able to be involved.**

**Roger and Mary Towle**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My First Communion – Alexis Miller**

**How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**We worked at the Shalom Center many times. We enjoyed it a lot. 😊**

**Alexis and Mana Miller**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Marilee Lehman invited us to church in the school. We were amazed at the friendship and love of Father Don. At our first Mass, Sandy Milligan brought me to Kevin Burrows and I joined the choir before we joined the church. We've been blessed ever since. God is good!**

**Judy Eckert**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My very first memory is when I attended the first Mass in the school cafeteria ten years ago. Father Don Thimm introduced himself and said "Welcome to St. Anne's today we are all visitors" and my experience began.**

**As I experienced the church "the people of God" in the school cafeteria and gym, I marveled how the space was transformed into a place of worship through the work of many on the set up and take down ministry. I remember our St. Anne's cross, the candle stands, the ambry for the holy oils and many other beautiful things made by John Rende, our talented woodworker.**

**Being on the first Parish Council, I witnessed how God's spirit worked through all the members. The Strategic Planning of Jean Werbie and Sam Johnson is now a reality, ten years later.**

**Father Don's leadership, his and Joan Cunningham's consistent service and adaptability as Parish staff came and went was amazing. They kept the Parish moving forward in a positive way.**

**I remember with joy, the talented and dedicated service of Kevin Burrows and Jeanette (Rantisi) Burrow as they created and developed our wonderful Music Ministry for seven years.**

**The intimate daily masses at the Parish Center were very important to me. That is where among many I met Vera. Vera Eagleson came to us after 51 years at St. Mary's. She has shared her faith, her life, and her wisdom with us. What a treasure!**

**Prentiss Beveridge, along with Sam Johnson were in charge of our first Money Counters Ministry. Pren's life was cut short by cancer. He was St. Anne's first funeral. I will never forget the scene of Father Don between Pat (his wife) and Pren (in the casket). Father Don had his right hand on the casket and his left hand in Pat's as we prayed the "Our Father" together.**

**So many wonderful people have come and gone in our Parish over the past ten years. I pray they are all blessed. They all helped to build St. Anne Church.**

**Thank you to all of you members of St. Anne Church.**

**Claire Calligure**

**How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**We are involved in the Greeter/Usher Ministry as a whole family.**

**I am also a cross bearer. I am the coordinator of the Cross Bearer Ministry.**

**I am actively on Ministry council.**

**Jerry, Connie and Zayne Fani**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**When I had a death in my family, how much compassion was given to me.**

**Lucy Terpstra**

**What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**When I moved from Kenosha to Pleasant Prairie, I am in walking distance. Also the beautiful place to worship.**

**Lucy Terpstra**

**Give an example of "Heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family.**

**When I joined Saint Anne I was treated with the utmost hospitality and kindness.**

**Lucy Terpstra**

**How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**I like to help when I’m needed in certain areas when I am asked.**

**Lucy Terpstra**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**"My husband and I joined St. Anne's at the end of 2000. From the beginning we were very impressed with the Sunday liturgy. One thing I really loved then and continue to love now, are the baptisms. The fact that all the parishioners participate, the music, Fr. asking the children if the water is warm enough for their brother or sister, etc. One of these baptisms will stay forever in my memory. It was a baptism that took place within the first year we were at St. Anne's. Two little baby girls were baptized. After Mass, just before the dismissal, we stood up, as usual, to bless the parents of the newly baptized. And then Fr. Don told us that the two babies had been adopted by these parishioners, and that the birth mothers were present and he talked about their generosity and selfless love for their children. Then he asked us to extend our hands and bless them also! I do not think there was a dry eye in the gym. This to me is the best lesson on "Pro Life" that I have ever had."**

**Cecilia and Dick Nabor**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**One of our fondest memories of St. Anne Catholic Church is the first mass. We never thought we'd be part of something so special as a new parish. After many meetings and decisions, to be part of the first mass celebration is very special to us. How very blessed we are to have Father Don as our pastor. He's been an inspiration to me!**

**Susan and Sam Johnson**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Jesus and Father Don brought my family and me to St. Anne parish.**

**Many years ago, we were present at a Mass at St. Mark's in Kenosha (where we were members at that time) and Father Don was filling in for one of the priests there. I remember being very impressed and drawn into his homily with his manner of preaching the Word of God. I also really enjoyed his sense of humor. I think my young sons did as well. I recall them being intrigued and listening to him.**

**I am very happy we joined St. Anne's parish. I know my faith as grown tremendously by becoming a member, and I feel a strong sense of being "home" and amongst family when I am worshiping at St. Anne's. I have met some wonderful new friends, got reacquainted with old ones and have proudly brought new members to our parish.**

**Nancy Barbion**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**I was actively searching for a new parish to call home. I had gone to several non-denominational churches in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Illinois and after each visit felt there was something missing. I had gone to St. Anne a few times when you were meeting at the school, but had not come to the "new church". Several members from our previous parish invited me to try St. Anne again and I did. I knew immediately this is where we needed to be. The hospitality and sincere welcome I received kept me coming back. My husband and I joined in May of 2007. I have met so many wonderful people through the ministries I quickly became involved in.**

**Jane Herbert**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My favorite memory at St. Anne was on September 11, 2004 - the day we celebrated our first mass in our new church building. The mass was wonderful, but what was most memorable was the simple prayer service before mass in the empty gym at Pleasant Prairie School. It was a beautiful reminder that it is the people of St. Anne who make us a church. Our new building was awesome, but it did not change who we were – a *community* devoted to *enthusiastic prayer and worship*. As we followed our cross in procession from the school to the church that day, we walked as one.**

**Sandy Milligan**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We were at a parish that just didn't fit us anymore.  
We decided to try St. Anne's one Easter and were hooked immediately.**

**The friendliness of everyone. Everyone is an equal, no one is better than anyone else and everyone is willing to help out. St. Anne's is a very social parish and we have met so many wonderful people that will be life long friends.**

**Thank you St. Anne's and Father Don.**

**Martin and Barb**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Prior to joining St. Anne's my husband and I visited several times for 2 yrs. Every time we came to the church we were welcomed and felt a sense of home. Over time we really could tell that the parishioners felt a great sense of ownership over this special parish and with that a responsibility for its well being, and that drew us to this place. Father's Don attitude of service towards the last, least, and forgotten is a very important concept to us and something that we hope to instill in our children, they must think of the people other people disregard.**

**One of our favorite memories is our daughter, Lily's, baptism. The service was beautiful and our parents were welcomed by the church in that same attitude of hospitality that impressed us from the beginning. I enjoy going to the website and seeing her picture there getting baptized in the font and all the children behind her smiling as Father Don is dipping her in the water. Every time that picture is seen a smile and great memory comes over me.**

**We are proud newer members of this church.**

**Sara Freund**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**I used to be a partner in a business here in Kenosha. 10 years ago, I had the privilege of hiring the man who had hired me 21 years before. Coincidentally, this was about the same time as St. Anne was celebrating its first Mass. This gentleman was not a church-goer---in fact, he was Jewish---but he WAS a music lover, and had a particular affinity for operatic divas. I used to tell him about St. Anne, the welcoming environment, and particularly the beautiful music selections put together by our (then) music director, Kevin Burrow. After a couple of years of my spouting off to him about the various merits of our church, he agreed to accompany me and my family to an Easter Mass. I remember Jeanette Burrow singing "Via Dolorosa", and her voice just soaring. I looked at my friend, and he had tears in his eyes. It was a very special moment that was made even more poignant after Mass when I introduced him to Jeanette. God must have smiled when he saw this Son of Abraham shaking hands with this Palestinian Christian woman. The irony and the beauty of that moment will stay with me always. Sadly, my Jewish friend passed away a couple of years ago. When they prayed the Kaddish over his casket, it was in a Christian church. I remember thinking that in some way, St. Anne helped him end his journey in the right place...**

**Steve Fredriksson**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**In 2006, Katie's brother, Peter, was being confirmed at St. Mark but the ceremony was at St. Anne. At the time, Katie and I were engaged and Peter asked if I would be his sponsor. Peter's confirmation was the first time we went to service at St. Anne. When we meet Fr. Don after mass, to comment on the nice service and how beautiful the church was, he gave us an invitation to come back and pray with St. Anne. So we did. As we walked into St. Anne for the second time, we were a little reserved. Within minutes of finding a seat, people started greeting us. Those who noticed we did not have name tags were asking if this was our first time at St. Anne and made an extra effort to welcome us. We were also lucky to have come on a day with a baptism. We had never seen a baptism where the entire community was involved. We were also pleasantly surprised by how much St. Anne interacted with the children. By the time mass was over, we knew we wanted to join.**

**Since we joined, we went through marriage training and coaching, which we must add that Fr. Don was very gracious with his time to help us even though we were under a time constraint and getting married in the Dominican Republic. We have also participated in different ministries. We are now expecting our first child and look forward to his addition to our and St. Anne's family.**

**Danny and Katie Carlson**

**Give a specific time you felt "Enthusiastic prayer and worship."**

**My best example of a time of "ENTHUSIASTIC prayer and WORSHIP" was when Father Don came to my home to give my Husband the "LAST RIGHT'S" before he died, and at the church when they had the candles and little wooden cross for all the people who had passed away. It was a very special time for myself and my family.**

**Thank you Mary Kramzar**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**I met Sister Gertrude at St. Joseph High School where I taught Business classes. She found out that I wanted to baptize Heather, my daughter before my dad passed away from colon cancer. She talked to father, and the next thing that happened, was Father Thimm called me to invite me to register and said he could baptize Heather quickly so my father could be there for the mass. The baptism was a great experience and my father was able to attend. Sister Gertrude was a wonderful woman and Father Thimm is a great man. We as a family are lucky to have people like these from St. Anne's in our life!**

**Donna Hellquist Murray**

## **How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**My involvement at St. Anne’s has been in a variety of activities from 9/10 grade CCD Teacher for 5 years, Parish Council 3 years Vice-Chair of Parish Council 1 year, Relay for Life committee member 2 yrs Faith in our Future Young Adult/High School coordinator 1 yr. I’ve been a Faith fill parishioner attending the 5:15 pm Mass on a regular basis. I've enjoyed participating at all the St. Anne’s activities and listening to Fr. Don's Homilies, I'll glad we are celebrating our 10th with a nice party.**

**Richard Mich**

## **How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

Rosalee and I joined St. Anne Parish while it was located in the Pleasant Prairie gym. We were impressed with Father Don and with the friendliness of his parishioners. We soon became ushers/greeters and assisted with the setting up and putting away chairs. As usher and greeters we met more and more of the parishioners and became more of a family.

When we moved to the new building we expanded our involvement by becoming Funeral Ministers, working with the funeral directors and with the family and friends of the deceased. We enjoyed working with them to ensure that they know about St. Anne's, where things were in the building such as the wheel chair, hearing aides, the special chairs, the defiberator, rest rooms, etc.

Rosalee then became a communion minister – both bread and wine and Ron became a Team Leader for the ushers and greeters, assigning them duties, ensuring they knew their responsibilities and ensured that each week we worked as a team their duties changed. . For a period of time Ron was a money counter and a member of the Finance Committee.

Rosalee joined the plant watering team and the Hospitality team and Ron became a Cross Bearer, leading the procession at the beginning and end of Mass.

Overall we feel that our circle of friends at St. Anne's expanded as the parish grew.

Bottom line: Rosalee and I bless the day Christine Lewis suggested we join St. Anne parish. Our lives have become more enriched and we look forward to Saturday evening Mass and special events.

Rosalee and Ron Lueck

## **How are you “actively involved” in St. Anne's Parish?**

**If you should call the Parish Office on Monday and hear someone say, "St. Anne Catholic Church. Mary Ann speaking" that's me!! When my husband Chuck and I had joined St. Anne in 2004, we came from a very inactive parish in the county. I hoped this church would be more welcoming. I knew if that was to happen, I had to volunteer to get to know people. I also became an acolyte, a communion minister, joined CUSH and the theology discussion group. It's been really wonderful getting to know so many people and to feel that they have become friends. Chuck and I know that we have come home. Thank you St. Anne.**

**Mary Ann Schumann**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We were drawn to St. Anne's because of the progressive thinking, acceptance of children and compassion displayed for those less fortunate.**

**Mark and Nancy Salerno**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**I came to St. Anne via an invitation from Diane Jurasewicz. I had stepped back from any sort of spiritual support due to some personal issues in my life. But the invitation was so sincere and I figured a church meeting in a gym was worth checking out.**

**Well, I certainly never expected to gain a church home by that one visit! The new member registration was held less than a month after that first visit and I was there.**

**Roughly five years down the road from that first visit - SO MUCH HAS CHANGED!**

**I have gained a sense of prayer like no other time in my life. I am active as a reader, cantor, and usher. Aidan is an usher and made his first communion this year at St. Anne's.**

**It is not just my church home; St. Anne is a member of my family.**

**Happy 10 year Anniversary St. Anne.**

**Grateful members of St. Anne**

**- Nancy Cushman and Aidan Kiely.**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Shortly after Lisa and I were married in 1999, we decided to search for a parish that would best fit us. We proceeded to attend 6 different parishes over a 2 month period and always discussed on the drive home what we liked and/or disliked about each. We attended St. Anne's for the first time after Lisa had heard great things about the parish from a co-worker. We attended one Sunday and knew it was the place for us. Although mass was conducted in the gym and it was not the traditional mass I was used to, we loved the music and the enthusiasm that everyone there brought to the service. While we chuckled about being asked to put on nametags at that first mass, we soon realized that people wanted to know each other rather than simply attend mass together. We joined St. Anne's a month later and were amazed by the number of new friends that we found.**

**Lisa & Gregory J. Droessler**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner was the dedication mass with Archbishop Dolan and all of the area priests. As an acolyte I was able to participate in the dedication of the altar and rubbing holy oil onto it and lighting the candles in the back of the church. Not many people can say they have witnessed a dedication mass. It was a blessed event and one I will never forget.**

**The Hodge Family**

## **Give and Example of “Heartfelt Hospitality” extended to you and your family.**

**An example of “heartfelt hospitality” extended to our family was after our daughter Elizabeth passed away, the outpouring of love and support from this community was remarkable. People would not think an invitation to play softball would be a big deal, but the friendships we developed months after our loss, through this Friday night St. Anne group has been the best support network. Even though we all gave up softball, we still meet weekly and our friendships as well as our faith have strengthened.**

**The Hodge Family**

**Give a specific time you felt “Enthusiastic prayer and worship.”**

**A specific time we felt “Enthusiastic prayer and worship” was when Father Don was on vacation and Father Bill got the entire congregation to do the Alleluia Wave. To see an entire church standing up and cheering was inspiring but my children were energized. Church can be fun!!**

**The Hodge Family**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**What brought us to St. Anne was a calling to commit to a deeper level of prayer, stewardship, and contributing to a faith community that was passionate about their faith. Our faith was revitalized and our purpose as Catholics was redefined and we recommitted, as a family, to the mission statement of St. Anne and try to live by that daily.**

**The Hodge Family**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My favorite memory of St. Anne is and was when about 25 of us were invited by the archdiocese and Father Don to go to the Benedictine Abbey in Benet Lake and discern what the new parish would not only be like but also what was going to be done at each mass. What kind of music? How much? What would the procession be like? mission and vision statements etc. We put up every idea we had about parish life and after a day of reflection assisted by Bob Melchior from the Archdiocese we were given a certain amount of paste on dots{10 I think} and asked to put them in any amount on what was important to the parish as we saw it. Then we began working on the details. This was in early May of 1999. About 6 or so of that group have left the parish but many of us are still here.**

**Fondly remembering**

**Jay Woodbury**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Mike and I always go back to our first mass at St. Anne back in January, 2002. We were in the process of visiting Kenosha for a house hunting trip because we were moving to Kenosha. We had decided that our oldest son Brad would be going to Pleasant Prairie Elementary school so we wanted to show him the building. We also needed to find a church to go to Sunday mass while we were visiting. We found out that St. Anne had a mass at the Pleasant Prairie Elementary School gym. Even though we wondered how mass would be in a gym, we decided to give it a try. That day was a blessing for us because not only did Brad like what he saw at his new school, but we also found our new church home. We knew instantly that we wanted to be part of the St. Anne family and didn't even feel the need to go looking at any other churches.**

**Mike and Lisa Schultz**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**I came to St. Anne's to join my daughter and her family in their worship and "new Church".(to be noseey) I had lost my husband in January of 1998. We had belonged to St. Peter's Parish for 31 plus years. We were very, very involved as a couple and as a family at the church and school. I was always sad, crying, felt lost, and found no comfort with my memories or friends. As time went on, I met a man, who again helped me see the beauty of life. Life on earth is for the living. When I had decided to make a change in my personal life, I realized I needed a change in my spiritual life also. When I talked to Fr. Don, explaining to him my feelings of being lost at my current church, he suggested that perhaps St. Anne's could help me find a new life with the church, As long as my personal life was taking on a whole new meaning, it was time that my spiritual life also needed new meaning. I joined St. Anne's in 2001 as a "whole new person", not in just my last name, or my marital status, but that as a new revived catholic with a new approach to every day living.**

**Judith Lichter Summers**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**There are so many memorable times at St. Anne that it was hard to pick just one. Here are two that come to mind:**

**Our first favorite memory of Saint Anne's is when Archbishop Dolan was in church celebrating the new or present location of St. Anne. When Archbishop was entering the church with his long staff and tall mitre, our daughter Eevee said in a loud voice, just as Archbishop Dolan was about to pass, "He doesn't look like Santa Claus!". Archbishop Dolan smiled and bowed his head as he walked past. The Archbishop displayed the true meaning of St. Anne by showing how we really are a welcoming church.**

**Another favorite was having all four of our daughters celebrating their first Holy Communion on the 12th of April, 2008 which just happened to be Eden's, Eevee's and Easten's 7th birthday. Seeing all four girls dressed in their white finery was a sight to behold. Watching them come to the Lord's table for the first time accepting him in their hearts will always be etched into our memory.**

**We look forward to creating many new memories in our future with St. Anne's Parish.**

**The Wembers**

**Ed, Patty, Elise, Eden, Eevee, Easten**

## What brought you to St. Anne Parish?

My mom had not been to church for awhile and I stopped going to the church where my family belonged. We start going around to many churches and for one reason or another we did not "feel" connected. I had heard about St. Anne through my previous church so we tried this church. We walked in saw all these kids had some of their work displayed. People were gathering around boxes-now realizing that was the name tags. I remember looking around on the walls for the holy water. I also remember thinking how are we going to kneel on these floors. The phrase Father Don said at our first Sunday there was any building can be come the church due to the people that gather there. The lady who sung at mass that day gave me goose bumps she was so good. The music was not the same old music from the olden days it had a rock rhythm to it. I knew my husband would come back then also. After mass, the hospitality was a clincher. My mom loved it. There was a feeling of being connected. So we tried another week. We still felt part of the church. The other amazing thing my mom and saw was the baptismal of the babies being blessed with the whole body in the holy water. Oh, I forgot the quilt my mom thought that was wonderful. She had my dad's name put on it since he had died a few years prior. She would always have him in church with her.

Betty Norris (My Mom Lorraine Kozlowski)

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**I've been a member of St Anne for ~2 years, which is a relatively short time but my most significant memory so far has to be the friendships I've made. I went to Katrina twice and have been able to help with rebuilding projects. The individuals I was able to do these project with were open, genuinely wanted to know about me and were very open to sharing themselves. I have made some great friends through these projects and friendship is always a good memory.**

**A little over two years ago my father passed away, it still hurts to write about it. He was to me a great man, stern but its what I needed. He was also a very handy man and when I was twelve he started teaching me carpentry, cement work, and other helpful trade skills. Well I attended Mass at St Anne (not a member at the time) to see by friends Pete and Kim Emer blessed and sent off to the Dominican. This was right after Katrina and there was an announcement that St Anne was putting together a team of volunteers to go and help. Man would my dad be proud I used the skills he gave me to help others. I attended the first meeting and stated I don't go to you parish but would like to help with the Katrina Project. Well they all welcomed me with open arms, were very supportive and what can I say my wife Nanette and I became members. Thank you St Anne.**

**Knowing I am blessed to be at St Anne I am grateful for the opportunities it provides me to help the church and community. As stated I've been to Katrina twice and am looking to go again. I Acolyte, which I feel is so special I really feel connected to the Mass and it makes me think more about what is happening during Mass and why. I participate in Eucharistic Ministry and I head Building and**

**Grounds and the sub team maintenance and projects. This is my way of giving a little back to St Anne for all it provides.**

**When I was in Katrina there was so much devastation. Karen the lady that ran our work camp was desperate after the hurricane hit. She was standing in her leaking church and said God you have to help me. She had a church to fix and parishioners to help. A man from Michigan with a truckload of supplies and helps was lost and went to the church to turn-a-round. He met Karen and the rest is history. God answered her prayers. Well I've had several changes to talk with Karen and she offers this perspective Karen looks at all of us and says I see God in all these people. They are here from all over the country bonded in the realization that God lives and his people need help.**

**I am a blessed man. I met the love of my life over 30 years ago and we continue to grow in our love and our faith. I have two wonderful sons who are as different as night and day but are incredible men. I have friends, real friends, people who I can talk to about anything and are there for you no matter the circumstance. I found St Anne Parish, which helped me find my Catholic faith at a time when I questioned.**

**Mark Tyunaitis**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**Besides my mother pushing us . . . . .**

**I had a very sad experience happen at our last church. Our family was walking from the parking lot towards the front of our church when my daughter, then 3, fell on the cement. She had her hands in a muff so she hit the cement face first. As you could imagine there was blood everywhere!!**

**I remember holding my hands up to her face and trying to prevent the blood from getting all over her and the sidewalk. My husband ran into the church to get some paper towel. While I stood trying to comfort my daughter on the sidewalk, I can't tell you how many people walked past us. They would look at us and keep walking. Not once did someone say, "How can I help you?" or "Do you need help?" After the 3rd or 4th group walked by, I started to think. . . these people are walking by us but they do not know we are waiting for help to come back. A panic came over me. We were all going into church, yet these people did not even take a second to ask if we needed help. I knew then that we were in the wrong place.**

**The next day I wrote a letter to the priest of our church telling him this same story. I wrote that I was reminded of the Good Samaritan story and I wished there would have been one there for us the night. I never received a reply.**

**I look back at that memory and I don't have a doubt in my mind that if that same situation happened at St. Anne people passing us would have asked if we needed help. I also know Father Don would have responded to my complaint.**

**Justine Hammelev-Jones**

**Give a specific time you felt "Enthusiastic prayer and worship."**

**One time? How about EVERY TIME we walk through those lovely large wooden doors! That is the beauty of St. Anne. It really doesn't matter what day of the week it is, or what time of the year. Every time we walk into our church, there is a transformation that we go through. It's a truly unique sense of belonging....of coming home. We see the familiar faces and we look for the new to welcome. Together, we embrace life's joys and we console through life's challenges. We may not know each other outside of church, but when we are here, we know we are members of a caring, loving family. How very lucky we are.**

**The Alfredson Family  
Dave, Ruthann, Hannah, Abbey and Max**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne  
parishioner?**

**The 1st time I visited St. Anne.**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

**Give an example of "heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family?**

**I remember the 1st time I worshipped at St, Anne several people helping me. Someone held the door for me when I was carrying the infant, another showed me which way to go, another helped me find a seat. I felt so welcomed.**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

**How are you "actively involved" at St. Anne Parish?**

**The hospitality ministry, 5K run, St. Anne festival and hopefully child formation.**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

**Give a specific time you felt "Enthusiastic prayer  
and worship."**

**The 1st time I visited St. Anne I remember how  
beautifully the soloist sang each song and how the  
congregation responded so powerfully.**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

**Have you experienced someone "reaching out to you  
in charity, compassion or justice?"**

**After giving birth to my 3rd daughter the meals ministry  
provided several meals to us which really helped our family.**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We were going to church in Illinois and wanted to start making connections in our own community. It took one visit to know that St. Anne would fit our family perfectly. Father Don, the people in the church, the beauty of the physical church, the spirit of all of these, brought us to St. Anne**

**Jennifer Erdmann**

**Give an example of "Heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family.**

**I was a relatively new member at St. Anne's when my former husband died. Jerry had struggled with his faith in his last years. He had never attended St. Anne's nor had he met Father Don. I hesitated and prayed about it and then asked Father Don to preside at Jerry's funeral service. He said "YES". Thank you Father Don.**

**Marianne Ironside**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Anthony was having his First Holy Communion. We were wavering on having a party or not as we have no immediate family in the area. Because it's such a special day, we decided to have a party and invite our "church family". That Saturday evening before mass started, I scanned the church to find it filled with "our family". Most of them attend Sunday morning service and there they were, surrounding us, specifically to celebrate Anthony's First Holy Communion. We had 68 people at our home that evening, most of whom we just met within our first two years in the area and at St. Anne's. I never felt as blessed as I did that evening to have found St. Anne's and these wonderful people. I still tear up just thinking of it.**

**Donald and Janet Lowe**

**Give an example of "Heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family.**

**One person's kindness can make a difference. We had just moved to Wisconsin and joined St. Anne's. We didn't know any people in the area and had attended St. Anne's for just about a month. One morning after mass, a woman by the name of LeAnn Rogan approached me and said, "Hi, my name is LeAnn and I see you have little children. I have a daughter, McKenna, who just passed her baby sitting course. She would be happy and eager to watch your children....A couple months later, she approached me again. This time with the question, "do you and Don play softball? Some members from St. Anne's play and we would love for you to join us." With this, a friendship was born! Because she took the time to introduce herself and talk to us, we met many wonderful people from St. Anne's. I believe we would have eventually fallen in love with this church and the people but her kindness and hospitality expedited the process.**

**Donald and Janet Lowe**

## **How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**As the Lowe family, we are actively involved in 9 various ministries, and Whole community catechism. Participating in these Ministries can be time consuming and difficult to schedule our time, although, it keeps Christ in our lives on a daily basis and not just on Sundays.**

- 1. INNS Ministry**
- 2. Bread Ministry**
- 3. Health Ministry**
- 4. Eucharistic Ministry**
- 5. Reading**
- 6. Greeting**
- 7. Hospitality**
- 8. Youth Choir**
- 9. Christmas Ministry**
- 10. Whole community catechism**

**Donald and Janet Lowe**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**My most happy memory of early Saint Anne's is sitting in the lower level of the parish center in early fall rehearsing music for mass. The late afternoon sun and wildflowers outside of the windows along with Kevin's music made this a magical place.**

**I also remember the excitement of singing the Star Spangled Banner at a Brewers game with the choir.**

**Sandy Barry - Woodbury**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**A fifteen year-old friend of our son attended the 2007 Easter Mass at St. Anne and said he had never heard a better homily in a Catholic Church. My family was ready for a change, so the following week we drove "over the border" to see for ourselves. We registered a short time later, and I wrote a pleasant note to our former pastor explaining that we had moved to St. Anne, even after 27 years there. I never heard from the pastor or anyone else.**

**The bowing helps me realize the importance of communal reverence and prayer. The music is very uplifting. We like the name tags and the seating arrangement. The simple touches of flowers add beauty. Each Sunday we wonder if another gorgeous baby will be baptized. The children placing envelopes in the baskets and ushering the rows for communion seems meaningful to involve them early on.**

**Most of all, we find Father Don to be an extraordinary and holy priest. He embodies the example of what God's People should be: prayerful, joyful, thoughtful, and kind. After only a few weeks, our son attended Mass earlier than we, and when he was leaving, Fr. Don called him by name and said, "Flying solo today, Kevin?" Fr. Don certainly leaves a strong impression on young people, the future of the Church.**

**Joe Tobin**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**My youngest daughter was leaving for college and I decided I needed something or somewhere to fill the empty space in my life. I taught Religious Education at St. Mary's for several years while my daughters were in grade school. Although I belonged to St Mary's for almost 20 years, I never felt a part of the parish community. My husband is not Catholic so I was going to be going to church alone. I heard that there was going to be a new Catholic Church meeting at the Pleasant Prairie Grade School. I just couldn't imagine praying in a cafeteria! I was also very interested in joining the choir. I love to sing and was very inspired by hymns sung at Mass. I felt a little intimidated trying out for the choir. My daughter, Amanda, was in choir with Kevin in high school and I was very aware of his talent! I decided I would join the choir and give this new church a try. Believe it or not, I never felt like I was praying in the cafeteria or a gym. I felt and still feel like I am at home at St. Anne's. I really feel that this is where I belong and where I was meant to be. Father Don (Don also my father's name) has made everyone at St. Anne's feel welcome and a part of the Parish. He is an inspiration to all of us and I think he makes all of us better people by caring for our community and those not as privileged as we are. I am honored to be a part of St. Anne's.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jane Clemons**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**We have been touched by St. Anne's parish in so many ways! As the first coordinators for the Marriage Prep Ministry, we had the opportunity to meet many couples as we helped them prepare for their wedding. Many have become good friends. We were asked by usher Charlie Sichmeller to bring up the gifts for the first mass in the new church building. Helen, Terrie's mom, held the wine as she sat in her wheelchair. She was so emotionally moved by being involved in such a special way. Many parishioners have shared how moved they were seeing her tears of joy. Kathy Meyer, serving on the bereavement committee, kept regular contact with us after Helen's death. She called to see if we were attending the mass of remembrance and came and sat with us that evening. Her empathy and caring are a hallmark of St. Anne's parishioners' spirit!! There are just too many more examples to share!! We thank Father Don for his inspirational leadership throughout the years.**

**Terrie Gogola and John Herbrechtsmeier**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Our favorite memories were watching St. Anne Church being built and the dedication mass on Oct. 3rd, which was also our wedding anniversary. We have made some wonderful new friends.**

**Don & Sandy Kirschbaum**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Walking from the school to the new church with everyone, groundbreaking, and being in the children's choir**

**Michael Larson**

**Going to Good Shepherd**

**Emily Larson**

**How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**By helping out as an usher and helping deliver Meals on Wheels.**

**Michael Larson**

**Give an example of “Heartfelt Hospitality” extended to you and your family.**

**When my mom fell and broke her ankle in 2007, we received phone calls asking if my Dad would need help with meals during her recuperation. They also offered to help with getting a wheelchair ramp built so she could come home. We are fortunate that our immediate family is all centrally located so we were able to take care of everything, but the fact that the calls and offers were made was wonderful.**

**Lori Larson**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**During the 8 ½ years that our family had the privilege of being part of this wonderful faith community, there were so many wonderful memories. It would be unfair to say that there was only one favorite, so here are the top 5 (in no specific order):**

- Each year's Triduum celebration**
- The Dedication Mass with Bishop Dolan (a dream come true for many)**
- Our first Mass in the Church**
- The first St. Anne Mass in the cafeteria at Pleasant Prairie School**
- Each and every Baptism (an opportunity to reflect on our own Baptism)**

**Congratulations, St. Anne, on your 10 year anniversary. Despite the time and distance, you continue to be an important part of our lives and we are blessed for having been a part of yours.**

**Peace,**

**Susan & Paul Zeeck**

**Meridian, Idaho**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**One of my most memorable experiences as a member of St. Anne's is my involvement with the hospitality ministry. I have been a part of it since those first months when we held hospitality in the Pleasant Prairie elementary cafeteria. It's been particularly rewarding meeting and working with many wonderful parishioners.**

**Jackie Smith**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Our favorite memory at St. Anne's is our wedding day on July 1, 2006. We felt like the ceremony was custom tailored to our family and friends and Fr. Don shared a lot of things we had discussed with him in our meetings prior to the ceremony. We received several compliments on how warm and overall amazing our ceremony was, especially Fr. Don's homily where he really expressed everything we wanted our guests to know about us, our love, and our love for all of them. We certainly felt God's presence that day and will never forget it. Thank you for such a wonderful memory.**

**Dave and Jessica Williams**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

We have so many memories of St. Anne from the past 10 years; we can't possibly narrow it down to one. There was the very first mass in the school cafeteria, the big move to the gym telling us that this was another giant step towards a permanent home, meeting Don and Mary Johnson and sharing hospitality, the kindness and support of the Ramsdells to our grandchildren who were living with us, listening to Jeanette sing *Via Dolorosa* on Good Friday, the first fundraiser for the new church, the archbishop saying mass, blessing the church, the soup afterwards and bringing the bowls home to use, our first trip to La Sagrada Familia with Sandy Rende inviting them to join us in a sister parish relationship, other memories too numerous to mention and, last but not least, Fr. Don's guidance in becoming the parish we are today.

Pat and Mike Stanczak

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**It was my son Tyler's baptism day, and afterward we were greeting the other parishioners when my cousin looked at me and said, "Are we going to be taking pictures with Fr. Don soon?" I replied, "Yes, but he is outside right now." He said, "What? Smoking?" Too funny.**

**Rick Berland**

**Give an example of "Heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family.**

**By far it was the first day we came to St. Anne's. We felt so welcomed and part of the parish. From day one we felt needed.**

**Rick Berland**

**How are you "actively involved" at St. Anne Parish?**

**I am currently the Laundry Ministry coordinator and part of the "10th Anniversary food planning committee"**

**Rick Berland**

**Give a specific time you felt "Enthusiastic prayer and  
worship."**

**Each and every Sunday.**

**Rick Berland**

**What brought you to St. Anne's parish?**

**The internet. When we moved to Kenosha, we were looking online for Catholic churches in the area, and St. Anne's was the first we stumbled upon....the rest is history.**

**Rick Berland**

## What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?

"Membership of St. Anne Parish has brought us many blessings and memories as a family. From the heartfelt hospitality of the people we sit near in church to the compelling opportunities to be involved, we've never felt a stronger connection to our church. Probably one of the most moving moments for us as parents was when our oldest child received the sacrament of First Eucharist. To be reminded of this most precious gift of our Lord Jesus through the experience of our child was truly miraculous. To see Matthew accept this gift with the utmost reverence and true understanding taught us the significance of child-like faith. The sheer joy on his face as he walked back to his chair was a moment we'll never forget. Another fond memory was the baptism of our newest addition -- Gianna -- to our family. At St. Anne, celebrating the sacrament of baptism didn't feel like we were simply 'checking the box' as Catholic parents. Rather, it truly felt as if we were bringing a child into the Church...into God's larger family. That celebration -- and the warmth of everyone there -- will always be a vivid memory for us. Finally, there are small memories, perhaps daily ones that cause us to pause and be thankful for the gift of St. Anne. When our middle child -- Elliana -- cheerfully hums throughout the house, not Hanna Montana songs, but the Alle, Alle, Alleluia, we are thankful for the uplifting, spirit-filled prayer and worship opportunities. Today, our children look forward to going to Mass each week. We hope that feeling will always remain in them. For that feeling, we are grateful to be part of St. Anne."

Sincerely,  
Margie and Mark Mandli  
Matthew, 8; Elliana, 6; Gianna, 11 months

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**There are so many, they include: signing the incorporation papers to create the St. Anne Parish, moving a house down Highway 50 in the middle of a cold spring night in 1998 for our the Parish Center, celebrating the first mass together as a parish in the Pleasant Prairie School cafeteria, sharing a special blessing, meal and conversation with Archbishop Weakland, Father Don, Sam Johnson and others at the new Parish Center, working to develop and signing our Parish Mission Statement, celebrating our first outdoor mass and picnic at Prairie Springs Park and being amazed every week by seeing so many people wanting to come and pray together.**

**Jean Werbie**

**Give an example of "Heartfelt Hospitality" extended to you and your family?**

**Several St. Anne parish members and now dear friends that I met through St. Anne over the years planned, coordinated, made food, set up and cleaned up for a special funeral luncheon for 100 family, friends and guests following the funeral mass for my father last year. They committed an entire Saturday and traveled to St. Margaret Mary Parish in Milwaukee to extend this gift to me and my family and we were overwhelmed by their heartfelt hospitality.**

**Jean Werbie**

**How are you “actively involved” at St. Anne Parish?**

**I had been actively involved as a Parish Trustee and had served on the St. Anne Parish Council for the first seven years. I served as the Ministry Coordinator for Strategic Planning for seven years. Over the past 10 years, I was also a member of the Hospitality, Eucharistic, Relay for Life, and Shalom Center Ministries and Administration Commission.**

**Jean Werbie**

**Give a specific time that you felt “Enthusiastic prayer and worship”.**

**During the first and every Triduum Celebration – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday the days before Easter Sunday. These are the most prayerful and moving experiences that I have ever felt. The emotions were strong. The music was so uplifting. The powerful traditions that we have established with this parish are very memorable. Kevin, Jeanette and the St. Anne Choir created the most beautiful music and the “St. Anne’s Alleluia” that everyone remembers, sways to, sings and enjoys.**

**Jean Werbie**

**Have you experienced someone “reaching out to you  
in charity, compassion or justice?”**

**The most memorable faith-filled experiences of compassion and faith sharing occurred at the St. Anne Parish Council retreats. I will never forget how those experiences and prayerful gatherings with other parishioners, and now good friends, changed my life.**

**Jean Werbie**

## **What brought you to St. Anne parish?**

**Planning for a new Catholic church in the Pleasant Prairie/Kenosha area was always a dream of mine as our community began to grow since the early 1990's. As the Pleasant Prairie Community Development Director, I worked for several years with the Milwaukee Archdiocese tracking growth and development in the area and where the needs would be for a new Catholic church. In 1997, the decision was made to site a new church in Pleasant Prairie in the Prairie Ridge Development to serve the community. After attending several meetings in the fall of that year with Father Don and area residents, both Sam Johnson and I were asked to serve as the first Trustees to work with Father Don and the Archdiocese to incorporate and create the St. Anne Parish, to help locate a site for our Parish Center and for a place for use to gather and pray – Pleasant Prairie School.**

**Jean Werbie**

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**One of the most precious memories we have as a family was the baptism of our daughter Emily in September 2005. We chose the "dunk" and it was quite possibly the most beautiful thing we have ever witnessed. We loved the fact that the whole congregation was invited to come to the font and be a part of bringing Emily into the Church family. The sense of community and family on that special day made her baptism so much larger and loving than just having our immediate family there with us and Fr. Don. Every time another child is baptized by immersion, the memories of that day just come flooding back and remind us of the community/family we are a part of.**

**Just this past spring, our son Christopher received his First Communion. The preparation for this very important day was provided to us by Mr. Duncklee. His guidance and patience through this sacrament were comforts to stressed out parents like us. The family activities and materials really helped us to share our faith with Christopher and teach him who we are as Catholics. It also helped us to open up and share with Chris more than what was needed for his preparation and created amazing dialogues between us and this awesome 8 year old boy. When his special day came, he was all dressed up and ready to go to mass. I'll never forget the look in his eye when we returned from receiving and he said, "Mom, this is just the coolest. I feel like I am really part of Jesus."**

**Craig and I were simply amazed by the generosity of the St. Anne Family when the pastor from La Sagrada Familia visited during Lent and came and spoke at the masses the weekend he was here. He made a simple request from the St. Anne**

families of a small donation to assist him in achieving a goal for the families in the La Sagrada Familia communities; proper bathrooms. We, like many that weekend gave what we had with us and when we found out the following weekend how much was given by the St. Anne families, it touched us both with how truly giving St. Anne is and that we made a difference. The different outreach programs and support of our sister parish helps us as parents teach or children how important it is to give to those in need and the many blessings that are returned!!

Carrie Calandrelli

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**When we were still worshiping in the school gym, 2 families brought children to be baptized. Both families had gone through the baptism preparation class together and it just happened to work out that they would be having their children baptized on the same day. Coincidentally, both children had been adopted. Both families had utilized open adoption and had invited the birth mothers to attend the baptism. This had not been planned it had just worked out that way. The double baptism went as wonderfully as all baptisms do at St. Anne's. At the end of mass after Fr. Don blessed the parents of the children, he invited the birth mothers to come forward and blessed them as well. Thanking them for their generosity and courage. I have tears rolling down my face as I type. It was one of the most moving, prayerful, gracious moments I've ever experienced.**

**Again, we were still worshiping in the school gym, it was Holy Thursday Mass. During the foot washing an elderly couple came forward to have their feet washed. She was in a wheel chair. He got down on his knees before her, removed her shoes, socks and proceeded to wash her feet in the most loving and gentle manner. After he put back on her shoes and socks, I assumed that he would wheel her back to their seats. Instead, he lifted her out of her wheel chair, placed her gently on the floor where she washed his feet. I feel honored to have witnessed the love that these two shared and graced that I have a blessed example of God's work.**

**I'm very grateful to have St. Anne's in mine and my family's life. Our lives are fuller for it.  
Thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude.**

**Carol Seitz**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We came to St. Anne's the first time for my niece's baptism 4 years ago. My husband and I were currently in the process of "church shopping". The priest at the church that we had attended had left to go to another parish. When we came to St. Anne's that first day, it immediately felt right. Fr. Don reminded us so much of our previous priest in the way that he delivered the homily and her personality in general. When we stayed after for hospitality, we realized how many other families were members that we knew. It had a very comfortable feeling right from the beginning. As we continued to come to mass at St. Anne's a few weeks, we decided to join. It was very nice to see how easy it was to get involved in some of the ministries and what a great way it was for us to meet many of the parish members. I still find it incredible that Fr. Don has taken the time to really meet each parishioner after mass and how he knows the names of almost all of the members, including the kids. My son had cornered Fr. Don at another parishioner's First Communion party and talked with him over an hour about his trip to Disney World. I think it truly shows the type of priest that Fr. Don is and why St. Anne's parish is continuing to grow.**

**The LaFonds**

**Ron, Marcy, Morghan and Cade**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**The reason I joined St. Anne's and continue to be a part of the parish is because of the heartfelt hospitality one family showed me when I was still fairly new to the parish. Four years ago I relocated to Kenosha from Elgin, Illinois. People were very welcoming and after attending my first mass I decided I didn't even have to visit any other churches in the area, St. Anne's was a place I could call home. The first spring I was part of the parish the Rogan's invited me to join the parish softball team. I have met many of my close friends through being a part of the softball team. These friends welcomed and accepted my now husband into their lives. It is because of the friendships created through the softball team that my husband and I want to stay in the Kenosha area when we purchase our first home.**

**Karen Tejes-Selby**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

A little over 11 years ago I read that a new parish was coming to Pleasant Prairie. I was ecstatic that it would be so close to our home. Growing up in a city that had a Catholic Church about every 5 blocks, it was odd to us to have no choice but to drive to church. A few months passed, I was not very happy with my job at the time and while thinking about it on my way to sleep one night thought to myself, "I think I'll get a job at that new church." The ad for an Administrative Assistant was in the paper the next morning! Don't ask me to pick any lottery numbers for you, that has never happened again. Fr. Don and Sue Johnson interviewed me shortly after Christmas of 1997 and by the end of January I was looking forward to a very new experience awaiting me in the summer of 1998. I arrived ready and dressed for work on July 22, 1998. Within a couple of hours I called my husband to bring me some jeans. I didn't realize there was quite a bit of housekeeping to do at the Parish Center before we would be open for "business". But the computers and phones finally arrived and I will celebrate my 10th anniversary of association with St. Anne this week.

Our children were 9 and 13 when we attended our first mass in the cafeteria. They have grown up here during some very formative years and I am so happy they have had the opportunity to know Fr. Don, and each and every staff member and catechist who has touched their lives. St. Anne will always hold a special place in my heart. Our boys were confirmed here, (one in the gym and one in the church). My husband, Greg and I celebrated our 25th anniversary by renewing our vows here 2 years ago. The parish wrapped their arms around me and my family when my brother died shortly after the Dedication of the church. I have made some very special friends here without a doubt. Most importantly our faith has grown so much during these years. I am humbled to have served the parish not only as an employee but through the ministries my family and I have participated in.

Happy Anniversary St. Anne!

Joan Cunningham

## **What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne's parishioner?**

Ten years seems like such a long time on the one hand and just a heart beat on the other. When we first met Father Don and started at St. Anne we had two little boys, now we know two young men.

We have been around an awful lot of the time and the memories are many:

The first gathering in the cafeteria with the faces of so many people I did not know; the physical move of the parish center building and the settling in (I hung a bunch of blinds); the needed move to the gym (with Michael Jordan's ever watchful eye); Sean's First Reconciliation (and my going to confession after way too many years); the point where I actually knew who everybody was in the parish (through no particular fault of my own but rather due to my wife Joan); the small, special Masses in the lower level of the Parish Center (most notably 9/11); the way too many meetings for things I really don't remember; the preparation and planning for the future; the anticipation; the excitement; the move itself (where I had the privilege to lead the way with the cross - not to complain but it was an action that irritated the arthritis/bursitis in my shoulders to the point that I still can not easily carry the cross); the services where it seemed like we were few in number and those where there was standing room only; the joy of celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with the community; every baptism I have witnessed; both the occasional nap and the inspiration that I got from a homily (I do try to listen); the honor to serve God through our service to those around me both through immediate parish activities and by the reaching out of the parish community to the larger world around us.

I could probably go on, but even a moment's time is sometimes too much to try to remember.

Greg Cunningham

## What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?

My favorite memory of St. Anne has to be when both of my children were brought into the faith community. My son was 10 and had been baptized but had never made his first communion or been involved in the church. My daughter had not been baptized yet and she was 7. We had been coming to St. Anne for a while and were amazed at how welcomed we felt. My husband and I had both been away from the Church for some time and we decided to go through with this journey at St. Anne. Because Eric was older than Rachelle and hadn't made his First Communion yet, Father decided they would both go through the Catechism classes together. Watching the two of them go through the classes together, walking through the church during lent and preparing for their big day was amazing. When Holy Saturday came along the entire day was filled with so much meaning. Both the kids were able to help make the bread that would be used for their first communion that day and then of course there was the amazing mass of celebration. Watching Rachelle be submerged in the "fountain" and baptized, and then both of them at the Lord's Table receiving their First Communion and finally having them both confirmed. I think it is pretty safe to say that Rachelle will never forget being baptized and both of them will always remember their First Communion and Confirmation. It is difficult to describe the feelings of that day other than being very proud and happy. St. Anne's and Father Don have been a God send to our community and I'm very grateful to both.

*Jenny Merlin*

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**What brought my husband Bob and I to St. Anne's parish was the fact that it was so close to home, only a couple blocks. But why we stayed is because of Father Don. He kind of just drew us in with his warm personal ways. The first time we met him was in Pleasant Prairie school and we introduced our selves and he never forgot who we were. Father Don even went so far as to call us and wish us happy anniversary, it made us feel so good inside. We knew this was our parish. And the warm and kindness spreads though out the church, everybody feels comfortable talking and getting to know others.**

**Bob and Debbie Ludwig**

**What is your favorite memory as a St. Anne parishioner?**

**Two years ago our family was welcomed into Saint Anne's. Since then, being involved in Saint Anne's both as a family ...from hospitality to faith formation and as individuals ...from the finance ministry to the 5K run has been rewarding and inspiring. As a family, Nick's First Communion...from preparation with activities involving his siblings, Elizabeth & Andrew, to the big day --- is a memory that tops our list.**

**Gino & Vicki Alia**

## **What brought you to St. Anne Parish?**

**We actually attended the first Mass in the cafeteria at Pleasant Prairie School ten years ago. But it took us four years to come back on a regular basis. We were looking for a change so we spent the our Sundays one summer at St. Anne's. Our oldest daughter wanted to be confirmed at our former parish so we decided we would wait one more year before becoming members of St. Anne. Then one day she decided she was ready for the change and ended up being confirmed at St. Anne's.**

**We have enjoyed being members of St. Anne because of the inspiring homilies of Father Don and the beautiful music that is part of each liturgy. We have also formed many new friendships through committees we have been part of.**

**It was definitely the right decision for us as we have found a wonderful place to worship and grow in faith.**

**Kathy Holtz**

**What is your favorite memory as a member of St.  
Anne Parish?**

**One of the most memorable St. Anne mass experiences for me was a baptism that took place several years ago when we were still worshipping at Pleasant Prairie Elementary school. It was a baptism for two adopted babies of parish members. Both were apparently children given up for adoption by teen mothers who weren't ready to raise them, and the girls who'd given them up were somehow strong enough and confident enough in their choice that they came to mass for the baptism. I don't remember who the children or families were, but that baptism touched me on many levels. It was truly impressive. I still tear up just thinking about it.**

**Lisa Droessler**