

June 2011



St. Mary's

Happenings

Parish Addresses Deficit

From Father T:

My Dear Friends at St. **Mary's,**

Thank you so much for all your prayers and concern for my Dad, my family and myself. I really do appreciate each of you.

My Dad's health is not good. The doctors have told us that he has stage four cancer. He is in a lot of pain, so please continue to pray for him. As I write this, he is in ICU.

Even though, as you receive this, I am far in miles, our parish, along with each of you, is still close to my heart.

At the weekend Masses on May 14 and 15, I told you that our parish was \$80,000 in the red for general operations year to date. I have been working with the Administrative Cabinet and Pastoral Staff to find ways to address this.

I would like to briefly cover some of what we

have come up with beginning July 1.

Most of the parish staff will have a 5% reduction in their hours. This will mean that office hours will be reduced and also that parishioners will be asked to help more with a variety of tasks.

We will need folks to help answer the phones, do mailings and various other office related tasks.

Since our custodial **staff's hours will be reduced**, we will ask parishioners to help out by cleaning the church each week. We will ask folks to pick up papers, tissues, and other trash from the floors and pews; to straighten the books and note any areas that might need maintenance. That way the custodians will be able to just go through and vacuum on Tuesday morning. We will have signups for this and I really encourage

anyone who is able to take a turn.. If enough folks volunteer, individuals may only need to do this two or three times a year.

We also want to start an HVAC team, who would change the furnace filters on a regular basis. This might not seem like much, but our parish has lots of furnaces! Currently we contract for this service to be done.

We will also encourage parishioners to work with the landscaping committee. This is a group of committed volunteers who help to maintain our parish grounds. They are doing a terrific job, and if we can increase the volunteer hours, it will **mean we won't have to** pay to have some of the jobs done.

We will eliminate the 11 AM Sunday morning nursery. There are generally just a few children there and this should be

Parish Addresses Deficit cont

a savings of over \$1000/year. We **will keep Children's Liturgy** during the 11 AM Mass, since so many children participate.

The parish will reduce its subsidy to the school by \$2000. Currently the parish gives the school \$88,000 each year from its regular collection. Next year it will be \$86,000.

Parish staff will be looking for ways to cut costs in programs and also participants will be asked to pay more of the direct costs of the programs they are involved in. We expect that all religious ed and sacramental prep fees will increase.

When we do a dinner or a reception, parishioners will be asked to volunteer more by working or bringing desserts etc. This works very well for our funeral reception ministry. We have this system partially in place right now and are pleased with the results.

We also are looking at ways to cut postage and printing costs by developing an email system that goes out to parish households. I know that **everyone doesn't have a computer**, so, of course, this would be on a limited basis. We could really use some help working on this!

In addition to cutting costs, we are also looking for ways to increase

revenues. For example, the parish recently received a \$10,000 safety grant to help make some improvements to lighting and the sidewalks.

We have also applied for a grant to help our Hispanic ministry and are waiting to hear more about that.

And, I am also asking parishioners to consider their giving to the parish. I know that many of you are already giving sacrificially and I sincerely thank you for that. However, if you are in a position to increase your giving to the parish, it would really help a lot.

Beginning in July we will have a column in the bulletin that shows the collection amounts for the prior week. Hopefully this will help all of us stay abreast of our parish finances.

We will also have a ministry fair in late Summer, to enlist volunteers for many of the things that need to be done. Usually each week in the **bulletin there is a "Save Yourself a Phone Call" that you can use to volunteer** also.

There is a sign up in this Happenings that you can look over to find ways that you might be able to volunteer to help our parish.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness!

The Administrative Cabinet and I will keep a close watch on how things are progressing, and will make adjustments as needed.

I encourage each and every one of you to be a partner in helping our **parish. St. Peter calls us all "living stones". We are the stones on which our St. Mary's Parish is built. Our gifts – yours and mine- of prayer, time and talent, and money will help our parish to be stable today and to grow into the future.**

Once again, I thank you for your kind wishes and prayers; and also for all you do to build up our parish.

Blessings and Peace,

Father T

Parish Office Hours

Closed Monday's

Tues, Weds & Thurs

8:30—noon

1:00—4 PM

Friday's

8:30—noon

(If you need attention and cannot come during our regular hours, please call so we can help arrange a time to meet you.)

St. Mary's School 8th Grade Grads

The month of June brings graduation and St. Mary's School is pleased and honored to announce our graduates for 2011! Pictured back row from left to right: Ben Delsman, Josh Julian, Andrew Kelley, Nicholas Graham, Damon Alley and Carson Silsby. Pictured front row from left to right: Emily Watson, Amethyst Dawson, Kylee Sprague, Mextli Palacios, Natalia Badger and Sierra Armstrong.

These students are responsible citizens who demonstrate self-confidence and act as conscientious stewards of the environment. As life-long learners, they strive for academic excellence, are problem-solvers and use critical thinking skills. Our graduating class of 2011 are self-aware individuals who are leaders, make responsible choices and develop their positive self-image through self discipline. They leave St. Mary's School well prepared for

mary educators of their children and St. Mary's School teachers and staff play the support role. Our graduates' families have spent hundreds of hours themselves at school, volunteering in the classroom, participating in events, working individually with their students to ensure the best possible educational outcome. Job well done!

A special acknowledgement goes to all the teachers at St. Mary's School



These twelve disciples are a stellar example of Catholic education at its finest. Each has achieved an excellent academic education but equally as important, as individuals, they exemplify the benefits that investment in Catholic education provides for life. They are each active Christians who respect and love God, life and creation and exhibit an understanding of Gospel values with their words and actions.

the challenges of secondary education with their eyes on the world and a faith that calls them to serve others.

Their parents and families deserve our thanks, congratulations and best wishes as well for their dedication and commitment to Catholic education. The sacrifices necessary to send their students to St. Mary's school cannot be measured only financially, but by time and energy spent as well. Parents are the pri-

who have touched these students as they have passed through the grades. When they arrive to Mrs. Gail Armstrong's 7/8th grade class, they are poised for her "finishing touches."

As we conclude another successful year of classes, St. Mary's School wishes to thank all those in our parish community for your generous participation and support during the past year. Have a safe and happy summer!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry Will
Begin 8th year!

Since 2004 the Prayer Shawl Ministry has grown from the dedicated hands of a few to a membership of over 35 members. In addition to women from **St. Mary's, women from other area churches have joined us at St. Mary's** to lend their hands to bring comfort and support to those in need.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides shawls for anyone in need of comfort, for the catechumens at the Easter Vigil, baptisms, angel covers for miscarriages or still births, and the newly **created "Hope in Your Hand" pocket shawls.**

The group meets twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. in the basement of the former parish house. The ministry has been self-supporting since its inception and no parish funds are used to provide these shawls. If you would like more information about this beautiful ministry, contact Carol Hawke at 541-926-2106, the parish office, or any prayer shawl minister.



Prayer Shawl Ministry Honors Evelyn Borthwick

Evelyn Borthwick was recently honored at the 11:00 mass on May 22 for her many years of devoted dedication to the service of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Evelyn dedicated her hands to the service of this ministry in 2004 when she wanted to learn how to crochet a shawl.

Every shawl that is created and given has a story connected to it. This is the **story of Evelyn's green shawl. It was completed and blessed after many**

hours of perfecting her craft of crocheting ultimately creating a beautiful green shawl. It was chosen to travel across the globe to become comfort and

support for an individual in England. The shawl wrapped him in his favorite color of forest green giving him added warmth and comfort. Within days of receiving his shawl, wrapped in its warmth he turned his face to God and in grace as he offered his soul and was welcomed into the arms of the Lord. Both the shawl maker and the shawl receiver were blessed!

Evelyn has made many lovely shawls since her very first shawl with each stitch dedicated to the comfort of the **one that will receive it. Evelyn's hands** are now retiring from the Prayer Shawl Ministry and are now dedicated to the tender loving care of her husband, Gene. We thank Evelyn for all of her dedication, prayers for those in need, and above all her support and love she has so graciously and generously given to each of us throughout these years as a shawl minister. The Prayer Shawl Ministry will miss her dearly finding comfort in the knowledge that her hands will always be dedicated to the service of the Lord.



Changes in the Mass

As you may be aware, there will be some changes in the Mass beginning the first weekend of Advent, 2012. These will be happening in all English speaking countries. Father T, along with our adult ed and liturgy committees will be providing opportunities to help make the transition easier. We will do educational pieces on the liturgy in general and also on the changes. Our WCC focus for 2011 / 2012 will be on the liturgy. We will have a few opportunities beginning this summer. Please see the box below.



“Guide to Changes in the Mass”

A Catholic Update Video Series

We will offer this series twice during the summer.

There are four sessions in the series:

Weds. Evenings July 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6:30 PM in the Our Lady of Peace House

Or

Weds. Mornings August 24, 31 & September 7 & 14

“The Lectionary” by Dr. Elaine Park, Mt. Angel Seminary Professor

Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 PM

The readings that we use at each mass are collected into a single book called the lectionary.

Dr. Park will help us better understand the lectionary and its use.

“The Gospel of Mark” by Dr. Elaine Park

Wednesday August 3 from 10 AM—3 PM

With the beginning of Advent, 2011, we will enter into a new liturgical year. It will be the year of

Mark. Dr. Park will offer us insights into this gospel.

More to come... watch the bulletin or the next edition of the Happenings!

SUMMER INQUIRY

- ✠ If you want to be baptized,
- ✠ To join the church,
- ✠ To return to the church
- ✠ Or just to learn more about your faith,

Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:50– 10:45 AM in the Our Lady of Peace House.

- June 19 - The Trinity
- July 10 - How Catholics Read the Bible
- July 24 - Prayer
- August 7 - Getting to Know St. Mary's
- August 21 - Living As a Follower of Jesus

Please feel free to invite family, friends or neighbors who might be interested. For more information call Kathy Reilly at 541-926-1449 or email: stmarys_albany@comcast.net.

I  St. Mary's
Our church, our youth, our future...

A Valentine weekend extravaganza...

Fun for all ages...

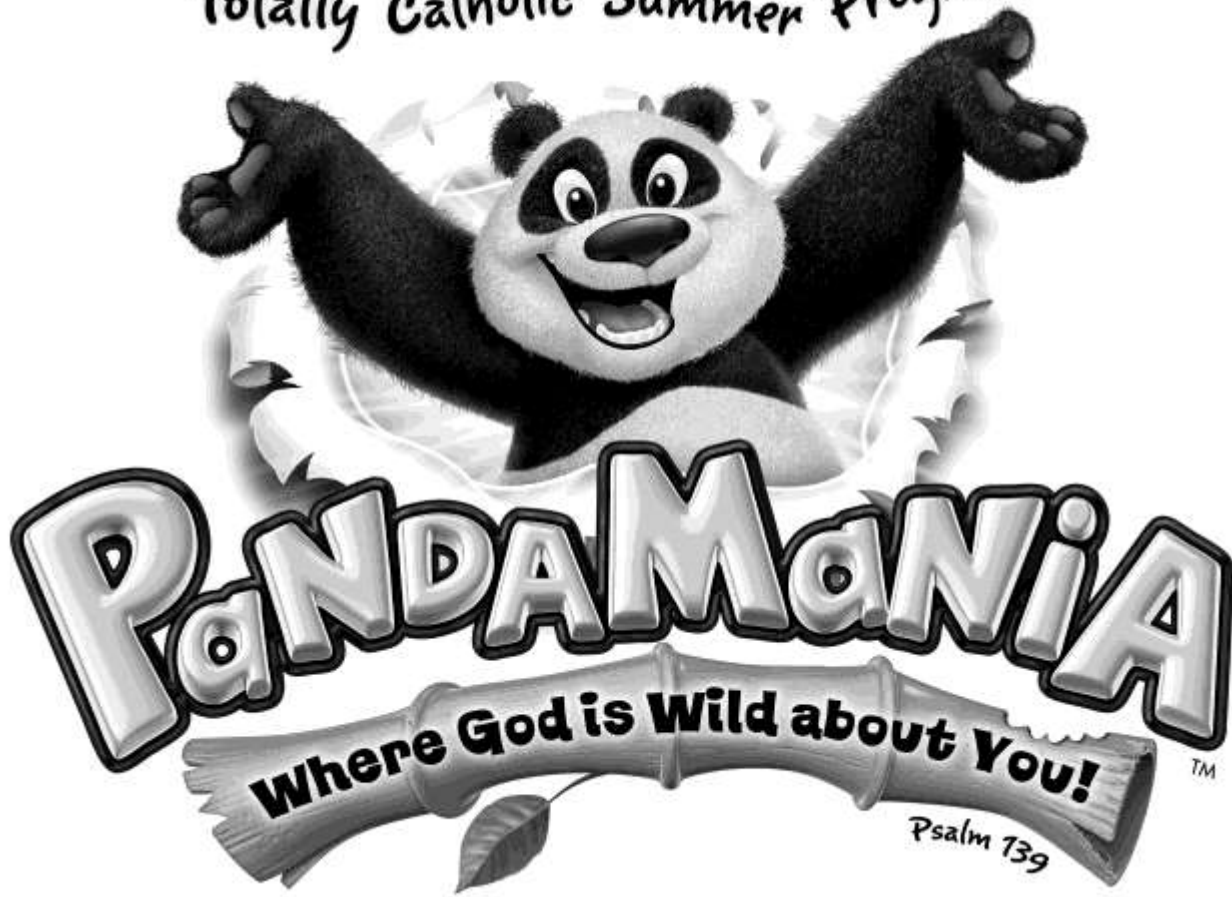
Parish & School fundraiser for our youth programs...

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, February 10-11-12, 2012

Save the dates!

The major fundraising event for 2012 will combine both parish and school. All proceeds of the three-day extravaganza will go to support youth programs at St. Mary's Parish and School. The event schedule includes a Friday evening dinner, Saturday silent auction and Sunday bingo. There are many opportunities for volunteers from all parish youth ministries to participate including St. Mary's School, Youth Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Music Ministry and Religious Education Ministry. Volunteers are currently being recruited for all aspects of the event. Please contact Ann Sirl, Development Coordinator at 541-928-7474 if you are interested in helping make this event the most successful fundraiser ever!

Totally Catholic Summer Program



Vacation Bible School

August 8—12

9 AM till noon

Preschool—5th grade

Helpers needed (6th grade—adult)

Cost is \$30 / child

To volunteer or to make a monetary donation to help this program, contact the parish office or email:

stmarys_albany@comcast.net Thanks!

Historic Home and Garden Tour

In celebration of St. Mary's 125th Anniversary, we will be the host for Albany's 34th Annual Historic Home and Garden Tour. The event is July 30th from 11am-5pm.

St. Mary's will have our newly renovated parish office open, which is the former historic Train House--our former parish house, which was the church's old rectory --and our church and sanctu-

ary. We will be displaying all of our church's historic artifacts.

This is an event that opens our doors to the community and shows how much St. Mary's has been a part of Albany and the downtown area for 125 years.

We have many opportunities for volunteers to help out with this event. We will need volunteers in

the houses and church to greet guests during the tour. Also we will need desserts for refreshments, along with servers. If you can help, please contact Sharon Konopa---541-926-6812 or email- sharonkonopa@juno.com or contact Shirley Kotara---541-967-8029 or email- shirlkot@aol.com

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Preparation for reconciliation and First Eucharist takes place within the parish community to which a person belongs. The reception of reconciliation happens before the reception of First Eucharist.

At St. Mary's the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist normally takes place during the second grade year. Children who are older may be prepared also. There is an additional parent component for those families. Our basic program has four components:

1. Grade level sessions

Children enrolled in St. Mary's School attend the grade level sessions during their regular religion classes.

Children enrolled in Religious Education attend the second grade class on the Sunday mornings that grade level RE is scheduled.

Older children attend a "sacraments" class.

As part of the grade level sessions, the children may be given assignments to work on at home. Parents should check for these assign-

ments on a regular basis.

Children should have at least one year of Religious Education before beginning preparation for the sacraments.

2. Whole Community sessions

All children and their families attend whole community catechesis (WCC) sessions. WCC is usually one Sunday a month in between the Masses. There is a repeat session on the following Tuesday at 5:30 PM.

There are six WCC sessions; families must attend at least four of the six sessions as well as our Pass-over celebration.

This year at WCC we will be studying the Mass.

3. Family Retreat Sessions

All children and their parents are asked to come to 3 Saturday morning retreats from 10 – noon. All three of these retreats are required. Family retreat sessions are: (Each retreat is from 10 AM - noon)

Saturday October 8

Saturday, January 28

Saturday, April 28 (this

will be a dress rehearsal for First Eucharist; the children should wear the clothing that they will wear for First Communion.)

4. Liturgical Celebrations

The Rite of Enrollment, the reception of First Reconciliation and the reception of First Eucharist all happen during regularly scheduled parish liturgies.

We believe that participation in each of these components will provide the child (and their families) the most complete experience of preparation for the sacraments.

Prior to enrolling a child in preparation for First Eucharist or Reconciliation, parents must attend a parent information session.

These parent sessions will be held in late August and early September.

Please watch the bulletin for the dates or call the office or email to be put on a mailing list to be notified.



You're invited to celebrate
126 Years of St. Mary's!



Our parish was established in 1885.

This September we will celebrate our 126th Anniversary
with a special Mass and picnic.

Mass will be Sunday, September 4 at 10 AM

Followed by a picnic with games and activities.

Mark your calendars now!!!

Our Parish Directories Have Arrived!!

**If you had your picture taken, but did not pick up your directory yet,
you can get it in the Gathering Space. It should have your name on it.**

Extra directories are available for \$5 each. Thanks!

Youth Ministry

It's hard to believe that it's June already! Where has the time gone? It's been an **AMAZING** year and our middle and high school youth continue to bless us and each other in so many wonderful ways!

We thank God for all that they bring to our lives and to our parish.

We thank Father T for his energy, enthusiasm and commitment. We thank you and all the dedicated volunteers who make our Youth Ministry Program possible.

With hearts full of joy and an abundance of gratitude, we reflect **back on some this past year's favorite youth group memories...**



Convention at Seaside



The Archdiocese hosts a youth convention at Seaside each year. This past year, several of our high school youth were able to attend.

The youth played, prayed and learned with other youth from across our Archdiocese.

Middle School Youth Group



Confirmation



Bishop Steiner was the celebrant for our Confirmation Mass. Youth from the parishes in Lebanon, Sweet Home and Brownsville joined us.





The Archdiocese of Portland and St. Mary's Parish are well on their way to achieving success in the \$50 million campaign for the Catholic Church of Western Oregon. As of April, total archdiocesan pledges and gifts have nearly surpassed \$15 Million! We have yet to receive an update from the archdiocese of our own parish total in the campaign **and will announce our progress as we receive information. Remember, St. Mary's Parish has been asked to participate** in the campaign with a goal of \$781,769 over five years. Twenty-five cents of every dollar raised comes back to our parish to be directed towards our most immediate needs.

If you have already made your sacrificial gift or pledge to the *Sharing Our Faith, Shaping Our Future* campaign, thank you for your timely response. For those in our parish who have not yet participated in the campaign, you will be able to find a campaign pledge card in the pews at church if you have lost or misplaced the one sent to you in April. In order to achieve our financial goal in this campaign, it is vital that we receive 100% participation from our parish community.

First and foremost, this campaign needs your prayers. If you are able to give financially to the campaign, that is what Archbishop Vlazny has asked of us. If at this time it is not possible to make a monetary contribution, remember that the campaign continues over the next five years, so consider re-evaluating your giving status along the way. When we ask for your participation, we ask for your prayers with as much appreciation as your financial gift.

It is important to understand that your pledge/gift to this campaign should not be confused with your regular giving to our parish. Your participation in the campaign is above and beyond your envelope giving – this is where the word “sacrificial” most often comes into play. **Our parish households already give generously to the many needs of St. Mary's Parish and School. So a campaign gift on top of that puts most parishioners in the sacrificial giving category.**

Remember that the funds from this campaign are to solidify the financial future of:

- seminary education
- priest retirement
- faith formation and Catholic education
- and our needs at St. Mary's Parish**

Our parish Campaign Leadership Team has been busy making calls and scheduling visits with many in our parish. Please take a moment to speak with them if they call on you. They are volunteers, giving of their time to make certain **our parishioner's questions are answered and that we are successful in reaching our parish goal. Please do not hesitate** to call Ann Sirl, Development Director, at 541-928-7474 with any questions you might have regarding the campaign. Other resources for your questions or comments are the Campaign Leadership Team members: Dick Carney, Cathy Coen, John Donovan, Mary Eusterman, Lynda Holt, Jon and Terri Keefer, Wally and Rene Ordeman and Harry and Jo Ann Yonemura.

Our Campaign Prayer:

Oh God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to be our Shepherd. At our baptism, you called us to follow the Good Shepherd who leads us on the path of life. With confidence, we look to you as we seek to follow Jesus, to share our faith and to shape the future of our Archdiocesan Church.

Renew in us the desire to remain faithful to our commitment to serve you and the Church. Inspire us to walk in Jesus' footsteps and to share our gifts in the service of your kingdom. As the good Shepherd protects and guides us on our journey, we are ever grateful for your constant care.

Amen

Together We Will Make a Difference

Please look over the list below. There are many, many ways that our parish can use your help. Check the ways that you might be willing to help. Be sure to give us your name, phone # and email (if you have one). You can also email a response to: stmarys_albany@comcast.net

Thank you and God Bless!!!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prayer Ministry

___ I will pray for our parish & school community.

Church Clean Up Ministry

___ I will help clean up the church on Sunday afternoons from about 12:30—1:30 (work with a group of folks to dust and **tidy the church each week**). **This will be a rotating ministry, so unless you really like to clean you shouldn't have to do it more often than once a month!**

Mailing Ministry

___ I will assist with periodic mailings in the parish office.

Reception Ministry

___ I will act as a receptionist for the parish by answering the phone and the door at the parish office.

Landscape Ministry

___ I will help with landscaping / yard work around the parish or school grounds.

Furnace Filter Ministry

___ I will work as part of a team to help change filters in the parish and school buildings.

Baking Ministry

___ Contact me when you need desserts; if I am able, I will help.

Food Prep Ministry

___ Contact me when you need food prepared; if I am able, I will help.

Email Ministry

___ Contact me to help get a parish wide email distribution system set up so that we can save mailing costs & be green!!!

Catechetical Ministry

___ I might be able to help as a catechist or aide for children, youth or adults. Please contact me with more information.

Fundraising Ministry

___ I might be able to help with some fundraising projects. Please contact me.

St. Mary's Parish
706 Ellsworth SW
Albany, OR

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
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Albany, OR 97321



In Loving Memory
Bob Thomas (Father T's Dad)
*As this Happenings was going to publication, Father T's Dad died.
Thank you for your prayers!*

Robert A. "Bob" Thomas, 79, of Liberty Boro, went home to be with our Lord, June 6, 2011, at UPMC Shadyside.
Born February 28, 1932, in Port Vue, he was the son of the late Andrew and Anna (Stash) Thomas and the husband of the late, Joan F. (Polak) Thomas.

Bob retired from Irvin Works where he was employed for 45 years as a Metallurgical Clerk. He was a member of St. Mark Church and served as a Port Vue fireman in addition to the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Bob belonged to Knights of Columbus 955 and was a Fourth Degree Knight 940 of the Stephen Barry Assembly, a member and officer for the Ladies First Catholic Slovak Union Lodge 168 and Ladies Junior Branch 98 of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, St. Mark Choir and Port Vue Seniors. After Bob retired, he worked as a crossing guard for Port Vue Borough where he met many friends. In his golden years, he spent most of his time to doing what he loved above all, spending time with family and friends, participating in church activities, and serving as a member and officer of the Knights of Columbus. For Bob, his family and his faith were of primary importance in his life. He lived his life as a man of integrity and died at peace with those around him and His God.

Bob's wife Joan died in 2003 after 42 years of marriage, he was preceded in death by brothers Wilbert and Richard Thomas. *He is survived by children, Teresa (James) Goetz of San Francisco, CA, Andrea (Tom) Betzner of Liberty Boro, Reverend Father Andrew Thomas of the Archdiocese of Portland, OR; grandchildren, Bernadette, Veronica, Erika, T.J., Taylor, Tina, Sonya; 2 great-grandchildren; sisters, Bernadine Ivory of Port Vue and Deanna Murray of Grafton, WI; many nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. in St. Mark Church with his son, Rev. Fr. Andrew Thomas celebrating. Memorial gifts can be made to the family, with which they will make a collective memorial gift.*



Bob Thomas with his grandchildren.

Cards or notes to Father T may be sent to our parish office.