

YOUTH NEWS

March* www.stpatricksmauston.com * (608)847-6054

Holy Crap: The Unholy Art of Outdoing Another

by MARK HART

Lent is here again, which obviously means one thing: It's time for the holiest people to shine. That's right, it's a foot race and I'm in it to win it, baby! I'm going to kick your tail from here to Gehenna; ain't no one gonna "out-sacrifice" me this Lent. I'm going to go over and above and beyond plus infinity... and beyond. What's that you say? You don't believe me? Well, try this running sandal on for size, doubting Thomas: You're giving up meat for Lent? Well, I'm giving up solid foods. You're giving up profanity? Well, I'm going to run a mile every time I say "crap." You're gonna pray a rosary every day? Well, I'm praying three a day... in Latin. I'm giving away my mattress this Lent and sleeping on the floor. I'm giving up coffee, too. Yes, my family will just have to deal with the horrid, half-asleep monster I will become. Oh, and there will be no music, no television or movies, and ultimately, no joy. Yep, that's my goal... to identify every small source of earthly joy I can and snuff it out like an altar candle after Mass. I'll be doing all of these things not because of my great love for God but because of my desire to leave no doubt to anyone just how holy I am. Of course, **trying to "out-holy" anyone is the anti-gospel**; it is un-holy crap (and now I have to run a mile). Maybe, just maybe, what I should "give up" this Lent is stupid, judgmental, self-focused competitiveness in holiness and "add on" gratitude for any soul who is sincerely trying to grow closer to Christ. Rather than asking what others are giving up or adding on, maybe I'll just ask them how I can pray for them — and then actually do it. Maybe I'll even have the courage to stop and pray with them. Sure, I'll still give things up and add things on but what I do, I'll do in secret because "the Father who sees in secret will repay [me]" (Matthew 6:6). Here's the thing about Lent: **Your thing is your thing. What you give up and what you add on is between you and God, not you and your friends.** If you want to bring them into it, asking them to walk with you or hold you accountable, all power to you. If you don't want anyone but God to know, that's okay, too. If, however, you take every opportunity (consciously or unconsciously) to share just how much you're giving up or how much you're doing, it's not holiness you're seeking — it's attention. The Catechism tells us that, "Pride sets oneself in competition with God" (CCC, Glossary). Pride, also, sets us in competition with one another, and since Christ is in the other, it's a double-whammy of sin. Now, don't get too down on yourself. It's a common trap amongst Christians. Even the apostles debated over who was the holiest and who deserved the most recognition. Pride contorts the simple until it seems complex, as we learned in the Garden of Eden. Pride disfigures beauty, as we witnessed during Christ's passion. Pride destroys the Kingdom rather than building it, as we've seen countless times throughout history. Pride is the root of all sin, which is why it cannot be allowed to flourish, especially amongst Christians. Truthfully, we shouldn't "swallow our pride" — it's even more poisonous than aspartame. We must carry our pride into the confessional and leave it there, frequently. We must bring our pride forward and place it on the altar... to die. Pride takes on many different forms and reveals itself in different ways. For instance, pride in the form of false humility is even more dangerous. Acting as though we're not really great and downplaying what makes us special and unique in the eyes of the Father? Yeah, that's just false humility. Talking about how "un-special" and "un-holy" we are when we really don't believe it, and hoping that someone else will build us up and affirm us? Absolute false humility — and false humility is true pride. You are incredible. You are a son or daughter of God. His Spirit lives within you; His very life (grace) sustains you. You are gifted, you are talented, and you are His. That is cause for celebration not solely for how great you are but rather, for how great God is (within you)! So, to sum up, if you're going to boast, "boast of the things that show your weakness" ([2 Corinthians 11:30](#)). Love the Lord your God with everything you have ([Mark 12:30](#)), and cheer on others for trying to do the same. Life is a marathon. Heaven is the finish line — it's about how many cross it, not what their time was getting there. Lent is here, run hard.

March

- 3rd ~ RE Class / 6pm Mass
- 5th ~ First Friday Adoration
Noon-6pm
- 10th ~ RE Class/6pm Mass
- 17th ~ RE Class/6pm Mass
- 25th ~ Communal Penance @ 7pm

Stations of the Cross

will be
Tuesdays
following the
5:30pm Mass.
All are welcome
to join!



Solemnity of Saint Joseph

March 19th
Saint
Joseph
pray for us!



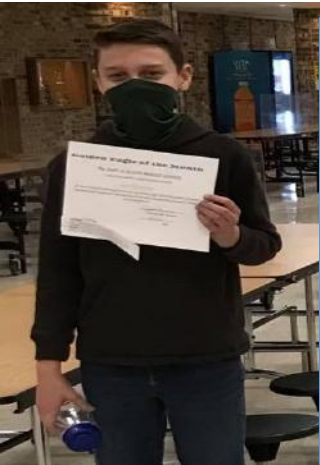


A FAMILY OF FAITH

Family Catechesis
for Our Parish

This month's theme focuses on the New Commandment and the Works of Mercy. Along with the Works of Mercy our families are learning about the 1st through the 4th Beatitudes, and about the Saint of the Month: St. Katharine Drexel. *"If we wish to serve God and Love our neighbor, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them."*

~ St. Katharine Drexel



Congratulations to Hart Kobylski on receiving January's Student of the Month! He was nominated by staff as being a great example of someone who exhibits safe, responsible, and respectful behavior.



Religious Ed Students in the News:

Congratulations Luke Kattenbraker!! Luke was one of 3 from the 2021 Class to enter into the ACT 30 Plus Club. The ACT is a standardized test that measures a student's skills in five core areas: English, math, reading, science, and writing (optional). In order to be eligible for the 30 Plus Club, a student must earn a 30 or above on the ACT. When a student reaches this level of achievement, the score places them in the top 93rd percentile nationally or above out of the 2 million or more test takers of the ACT entrance exam. Amazing job!

Check out Lydia Chapman, Kendall Laridaen, and Brooke Clark, 3 National Honor Society members who helped organized valentines created by themselves and Golden Eagle elementary students to send to nursing homes in the area.



Way to go Trey Laridaen and the rest of the RWD Boys Hockey Team for beating Middleton 4-1 in the first round of WIAA Regional action on February 2nd! Trey, as a freshman, saw lots of ice time and played extremely well.



Congrats Brandon Dolata (160#) on your 2nd Place finish at WIAA Regional's.

Congrats Drake Gosda (106#) on your 1st Place finish at WIAA Regional's.

Congratulations Brock Massey on being recognized as a 2nd Team All South Central Conference Player this year as a freshman. He started 22 of 23 games for varsity, averaging 11.5 pts, 3.9 Rebounds and 3 assists per game.



The Mauston Wrestling team finished out their conference schedule, going 4-1 and taking second in conference, as a team. Congratulations to Drake Gosda, Austin Manning, and Jackson Whitney, who made up 3 out of the 5 1st Team SCC Honors!