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Birthday photos were
contributed by the families.
Thank you!

(Birthdays, continued from page 1)

Isaiah heard about the food drive through his mother, Annette, who knows the Gaviolas and works with Nikka as a pre-school catechist. He thought it was a grand idea, and set a goal of filling two Red Flyer wagons full of food at his October party.

The ultimate collection about doubled his goal, said his mother. Not only did Isaiah gather food for the food bank, but some folks also brought cash meant for him but spent on the needy.

The next day, to extend the teaching opportunity, Isaiah's grandparents, Donna and Pierre Wybo (who also are parishioners) invited him to go with them to Costco to participate in their monthly shopping for the food bank. "They wanted him to help choose the items that he felt would be the right thing for families and kids to enjoy," Colobong said.

Both mothers said their own parents taught them to be generous and sacrificing.

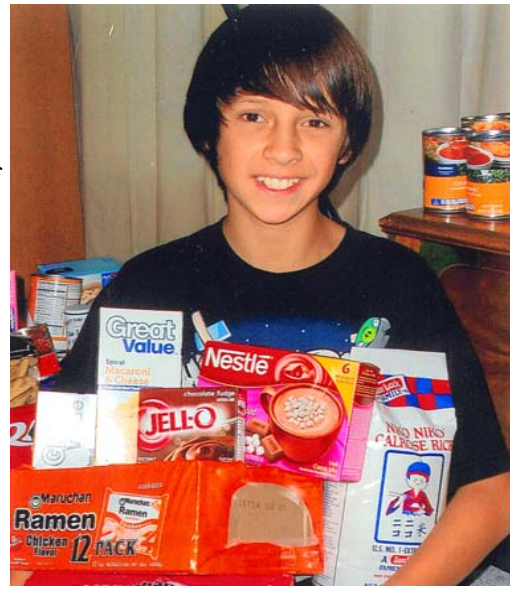
"We told (Isaiah) his efforts can make a difference for so many," Colobong said. Staying humble and focused on doing good for others was also a big lesson Isaiah was taught by his late grandfather, Bob Finlon. "We knew we didn't want him to hit his teenage years without this experience under his belt."

And it was Gaviola's mother, parishioner Shirley Bailey, who suggested making her girls' party some sort of donation drive.

For Gaviola and Colobong, getting the youngsters off to the right start in life is important. "It's better to shape their values," Gaviola said. "You don't want it to be just me, me, me."

Some of the parents who have attended birthday parties at the Gaviola household have said they loved idea and have incorporated a food drive in their own children's birthday celebrations, Nikka said.

"We'd love to keep it spreading," she added.



Isaiah



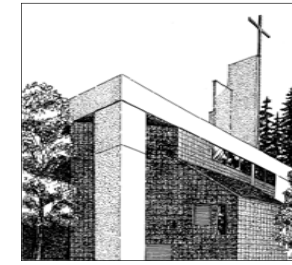
The Giving Tree 2012

Photo by Norbert Hertl

Holy Rosary Parish
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GIFTS & BLESSINGS

OUR
MISSION
*Led by the
Holy Spirit and
nourished by the
Eucharist,
Holy Rosary
Roman Catholic
Parish strives to be
a welcoming
servant community.
We celebrate the
goodness of God's
unconditional love
through worship,
education and
service.
The Pastoral Council
October 17, 2007*

Happy Birthday to You!

by Jim Haley

To be perfect, Jesus said, "Sell what you possess and give to the poor." Then follow Him.

Even singer Graham Nash admonished the world in 1970 to "teach your children well."

Well, there's a whole lot of teaching going on across a couple of generations in Edmonds. Some Holy Rosary parishioners have taken those kinds of messages to heart by teaching their kids that happiness is not found in piles of presents.

For example, there's a four-year tradition in Nikka Gaviola's household celebrating three girls' birthdays with a party on the same day. Twins Angela and Danielle, 7, and Maria, 5, have birthdays just four days apart. They all attend Westgate Elementary.

There is a celebratory party but instead of presents, guests are asked to bring food items. The food is collected and promptly delivered to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society's food bank.

"We had more than enough clothing and toys for the girls, and they didn't need to get more gifts times three," Gaviola said. "We also thought that it would make it very expensive for some of the girls' friends to come to their party if they felt they had to bring three presents rather than one." Guests always want to bring something, "so we tried to come up with an idea other than birthday presents," she said.

She went to the Holy Rosary bulletin to find out what kinds of items were in need and made suggestions on the invitations. When the cake and ice cream were cleared away after October's party, 235 items were collected for those in need.

Sound like a worthwhile idea?

Parishioner Isaiah Colobong, 12, who also attends Westgate Elementary, thought so.



The Gaviola girls with their birthday presents

(Continued at Birthdays on page 4)

Upcoming Events

Fr. Robert Barron
Holy Rosary Auction
Ash Wednesday
Lenten Soup Nights
Easter

January 28, 7:00 p.m., in the Church
March 9 in the Pastoral Center
February 13
Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. beginning February 20, School Hall
March 31

Christmas at Holy Rosary



The Claus Family (nee Taffera) at the K of C Santa breakfast. *Photo by Greg Hatch*



Eileen Niven, Carolyn Schmidt and Rosemary Gray prepare poinsettias for delivery to shut-ins. *Photo by Norbert Hertl*



The Holy Family at the Religious Education Christmas Pageant *Photo by Nettie Edmonds*



The shepherds wait to go on stage at the RE pageant. *Photo by Nettie Edmonds*



Sugar plum fairies and toy soldiers dance at the school concert. *Photo by Nettie Edmonds*



Eighth Grade Jingle Bells Hip-Hop Crew *Photo by Nettie Edmonds*

Quilting in Monroe

By Jim Haley

There is a Gospel lesson that consists of sewing together pieces of fabric into quilts, but it won't be found in the New Testament. You have to look a little closer to home, right here in Edmonds.

Two Holy Rosary parish members are immersed in a mission to get the necessary materials to inmates at the Twin Rivers Unit of the Monroe Prison Complex. There's a bit of instruction, a lot of labor by inmates, and all of a sudden there are finished quilts ready to be distributed to hospitals, shelters and other charitable organizations.

Helen met one prisoner who was making a beautiful quilt for his mother. "It was absolutely stunning and he was so proud of it."

The ministry? "We call it our quilting guys," said Dolly Haakenson, who with Helen Jolly works on the project.

Both women are quilters. Dolly once saw a television program about prisoners at Twin Rivers making quilts for kids. She looked around her sewing room and saw materials she could donate.

By the time she followed up, the program petered out, and so Dolly took charge. In 2010, she went through an exhaustive process to occasionally gain access to the prison and the volunteer inmates for some instruction and to deliver materials.

"These guys have actually chosen to do this," said Dolly of the inmates she met. The inmates' job, many who are looking ahead to release, is to not only do the work but also pass on sewing instruction to other inmates who continue with the program.

"It's one of the few programs (at the prison) where they give directly back to the community,"

The quilts started pouring out, and Dolly looked to Helen to help her distribute them where they are most needed.

The program was up and running full steam until the January 2011 murder of correction officer Jayme Biendl. After that, the quilting program, and a lot of others, was shut down during an internal prison investigation. A new administration allowed the quilting project to resume last fall.

Helen proudly showed off small and handsome quilts meant for premature babies at Swedish Medical Center/Edmonds. The women were getting ready to make another trip soon to the prison to deliver more fabric and batting and to collect any finished quilts.

"What's exciting for me is to see the excitement these guys have when they take ownership in what they have made," said Dolly. "They're giving this gift away to someone they don't even know but they are thinking of this person as they make this gift. This unselfish act may be the first time they've done something like this; have an opportunity to think beyond themselves," she said.

Mike Hathaway, Twin Rivers counselor, said the prisoners want to be in this program, even though there are a limited number of spots open because of the small work space available. "They're not paid. They get no credit. But they seem to love it," Hathaway said. "Very few leave the program once they come in."

Hathaway said the prison is slowly bringing back the quilting program after a long hiatus with about five participants now and a maximum of ten who eventually will become involved at one time. "It's one of the few programs (at the prison) where they give directly back to the community," Hathaway said.

The prison uses a lot of volunteers to offer a variety of social and religious programming for the offenders, according to the prison web site. The facility relies heavily on faith-based volunteers for "religious, cultural, personal accountability and reentry assistance" as a way to provide real-life skills for the inmates.

"The thing that's neat is they do these things for charity and they get points, credits," Helen said. After they accumulate enough credits they can work on quilts for their own purpose. Helen met one prisoner who was making a beautiful quilt for his mother. "It was absolutely stunning and he was so proud of it," Helen said.

Learning to sew is a valuable talent that can be turned into a trade, Dolly added. "If you know how to use a sewing machine, you have a vocation already," Dolly said. "You have a skill."

"Not only are they doing an unselfish act," Dolly said, "but they are learning a social grace of saying 'thank you.' I just want to encourage this more positive side of their life."



Helen, left, and Dolly, display the hand work of prisoners at Monroe. *Photo by Nettie Edmonds*