



## Personality Parade (*continued*)

Stella and Craig were both raised in the Roman Catholic church. They were accustomed to Sunday being “church day.” When they first moved to Michigan, they had no friends or family, no church home, and didn’t at first have a car, so it was hard to go church shopping. Stella found Sundays very lonely. Finally she went to Google and looked up all the churches she could walk to. One of them was St. John.

She still remembers the first time they walked in. “I could feel the warmth. People were so loving and caring.” She was pregnant at the time, and they felt sad to be so far from all their family at that special time. The second time they came to St. John, they were met with a huge baby shower! “We got so many gifts, I didn’t have to buy anything for Isabella in her first year.” She found it overwhelming that people would show so much love to a stranger. Craig and Stella joined St. John in 2011. Isabella was born that year and baptized on Christmas Eve.

Stella was hired in 2013 to be St. John’s first Director of Community Outreach. Her primary function is to reach out to the community on the part of St. John. She especially loves working with older people (“mostly they just want someone to listen to them”) and being our face to the local Indian community. Her “Senior Prom” event at Grand Court was a huge hit, and was featured on Fox2 News. Recent Trunk or Treat and Easter Egg Hunt events have brought lots of families from the neighborhood.

As for how she sees her job: “I love, love what I do. It keeps me going and happy. I don’t try to bring people to church. I try to relate them to my experience, and give them the love I’ve experienced here.”

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