

Holy Family Area

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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MAY
2019

St. Clara Maintenance Committee Offers Care and Attention to the House of God

Just like the human body, the house of God requires care and attention to keep it running in top condition.

At St. Clara, the Maintenance Committee serves to improve the physical body of our church so that the clergy and staff can spend time focusing on the church's spiritual body. After taking some time off, coordinator Brian Harguth explains that the committee is regrouping to focus on building projects both large and small.

"We're not starting from scratch, but it's a pretty new group," he says. "What we're going to try to do is just kind of identify things in the church or in the buildings that we need to work on."

The goal of the group is to tackle many of those projects through the efforts of volunteers. For other larger projects, the group will arrange for assistance from a professional contractor.

"We're creating a priority list," Brian says. "There are things that really need to be looked at. We're going to look at fixing the ceiling in church. There are some pretty good cracks that are developing. We're really thinking that we would like to have a spring clean-up, just inviting people to



At St. Clara, the Maintenance Committee serves to improve the physical body of our church so that the clergy and staff can spend time focusing on the church's spiritual body.

come help us do some minor maintenance, like painting."

Beyond those two immediate things, the Maintenance Committee will also spend time addressing ways to keep the pipes from freezing. While that may be a wintertime

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2019 Stewardship Renewal

Earlier this year, our Holy Family Area Catholic Community leadership conducted the 2019 Stewardship Renewal. This renewal gave parishioners the opportunities to discern how they are living out stewardship, and to make commitments of time, talent and treasure to God, their parish and community.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2019 Stewardship Renewal.

- There were 144 commitment cards received from 36 percent of active parish households.
- There were 882 commitments to prayer — the stewardship of time — from 78 percent of participating households.
- Some of the prayer commitments included: “Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day,” 101 commitments; “Pray for the sick, the lonely and the deceased,” 81 commitments; “Spend at least 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 74 commitments.
- There were 736 commitments to ministry — the stewardship of talent — from 92 percent of participating households. Of these, 269 were new ministry commitments, while 467 were parish ministry re-commitments.
- Some of the ministry commitments included: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), 43 commitments; Funeral Luncheon Volunteer - St. Joseph, 29 commitments; Funeral Luncheon Volunteer - St. Clara, 28 commitments; Gift Bearers - St. Joseph, 23 commitments; Altar Servers, 20 commitments.
- There were 96 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 67 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$1,741.

We thank all those who participated in the 2019 Stewardship Renewal. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to discern the ways you might share your stewardship gifts with God, your parish and your community. After all, there is no time like the present to begin living out the stewardship way of life!



**Discipleship through
Stewardship**

Holy Family Area
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2019 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

A Letter From Our Pastor

Honoring Our Lady in May



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over

sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. Paul Timmerman". The signature is written over a faint, light blue background image of a cross and a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Fr. Paul Timmerman,
Pastor

Youth Hospitality Ministry Growing

Sometimes, it can seem as if there just aren't enough hours in the day. That's true for many of the families in our parish. Faith Formation and Confirmation for sixth to 11th-grade students is Wednesday nights at St. Joseph's — and with school, sports and youth group, the evening goes fast. This is where the Youth Hospitality Ministry fills a need, providing a time for youth to enjoy a healthy meal and fellowship with friends, Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Coordinator Ann Voller and the other teachers.

"So many of us are tired and time-worn, and just one night is easy and allows us time to minister to the

youth," Ann says. "Often, our youth get overlooked and this is something for them."

Before Faith Formation class, students can gather to enjoy a meal that has been prepared by parents or parish volunteers. Thanks to the planning done by Ann and Youth Hospitality Coordinator Alicia Roelike, the meals have been a big hit, drawing 25 to 30 students. Montevideo Knights of Columbus also donate funds toward this ministry.

"We have parishioners that don't have a student in the program, but they feel like they need to reach out to our youth," Ann says. "The meal time gives us more time to visit with the youth, and get to know them better."

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Youth group students created "kindness rocks" during a recent youth ministry evening. After the event, students gathered to share a meal thanks to the volunteers who support the Youth Hospitality Ministry.

ng Relationships, One Plate at a Time

From discussing local and professional sports or school, the goal of the meal is not only to feed the hungry youth, but to provide an opportunity outside of Faith Formation class for students and catechists to get to know one another.

"This is a beautiful ministry to build relationships with the youth," Ann says.

With about two-thirds of students attending the meals, Ann feels this is a successful ministry. She has even seen an increase in youth group attendance, which occurs monthly from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. They have had no trouble organizing families and parishioners to step up and help, utilizing the SignUpGenius.com site to coordinate volunteers.

"If youth just roll in for class and roll out when it's done, we don't ever get a chance to get to know them," Ann says. "We can use this time to reach their hearts."

It's not only the youth that benefit from the meal, says Ann. She has seen time and time again the benefit to those who provide the meals.

"They see the kids being gracious and thankful, and that it makes a difference to them," Ann says. "It's beautiful to see people volunteering to serve this Corporal Work of Mercy, feeding the hungry."

Families and volunteers are always needed to provide Wednesday meals to our youth or help by providing baked goods for fish fries and parent meetings, including First Reconciliation and Confirmation.

If you are interested in helping or learning more, please contact Ann Voller at 320-226-5205 or sjocoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org.



Youth group students play cards during last summer's Totus Tuus program.

THIS MONTH, WE REFLECT ON

Mothers and Stewardship



We celebrate the month of Mary during May, and during this month, we also celebrate Mother's Day. It seems fitting that we honor our mothers during May, since Mary is given to us by God as the example of true Christian motherhood.

Those who are called to be mothers have been blessed by God and called to fulfill a very important responsibility. Mothers are the vehicle through which God brings new life into this world. When we talk about Christian stewardship, we talk about sacrificially returning to God what we have been given. What can more clearly be a demonstration of complete sacrifice than the relationship between mother and child during the nine months of growth in the womb? During these nine months, the child's life depends on the actions of the mother as her energy and nourishment goes directly to the growing baby.

Although this relationship may change to some extent after the child is born, a mother's sacrifice for her child is far from over after the birth. The role of the mother is critical in the child's development — both

spiritually and physically — throughout life. Mothers provide the comfort, nurture and support necessary for their children to become productive citizens and responsible Christians.

The job of a mother is not an easy one. This is a fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew very well. She worried when her young Son appeared to be lost, only to find Him later in His Father's House. She was probably concerned as Jesus began His public ministry — not knowing what difficulties and rejections He would encounter along the way. And Mary must have experienced great anguish as she watched her Son's body being crucified to a cross.

May all mothers look to Mary as their model for motherhood and ask her intercession as they strive to fulfill their God-given role in their children's lives. During the month of May, let us all take some time to express our appreciation to our mothers for allowing us to come into this world, for loving us, and for serving as an example of what it means to be a steward for life.

THE SACRED ORDER OF THE

DIACONATE

Shawn Polman • John Hayes

Saturday, June 1, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm



Growing in Faith Through the Sacrament of Confirmation

Allie Virnig of St. Andrew Parish will be graduating from Yellow Medicine East High School on May 31, with plans in line to major in early childhood education at California State University-Fullerton. It will certainly be an exciting journey with challenges along the way, but Allie's recent Confirmation has strengthened her spiritually to meet whatever comes her way.

Confirmation was held March 30 at St. Joseph Parish with 17 candidates from three other churches. Allie's uncle, Mike McManus, served as her sponsor.

Allie attended preparation classes for the past two years at the St. Andrew Parish Center. One of the preparation requirements was to take homily notes during Mass.

"We had to listen to the homily and summarize in four sentences what it was about," she says. "We had to talk about what particular thing struck us in the homily and the readings."

Throughout the preparation classes, Allie was excited about the actual Confirmation ceremony with the bishop. She also was moved by the sight of many St. Andrew's members who attended the ceremony.

Allie chose St. Joan of Arc for her Confirmation

saint, as well as her Confirmation name.

"I think her story inspired me," she says. "She led so many people and even though she had people against her, she never denied God and always kept Him with her. She didn't dial down her devotion and led as a believer of Christ. She didn't care about others' opinions."

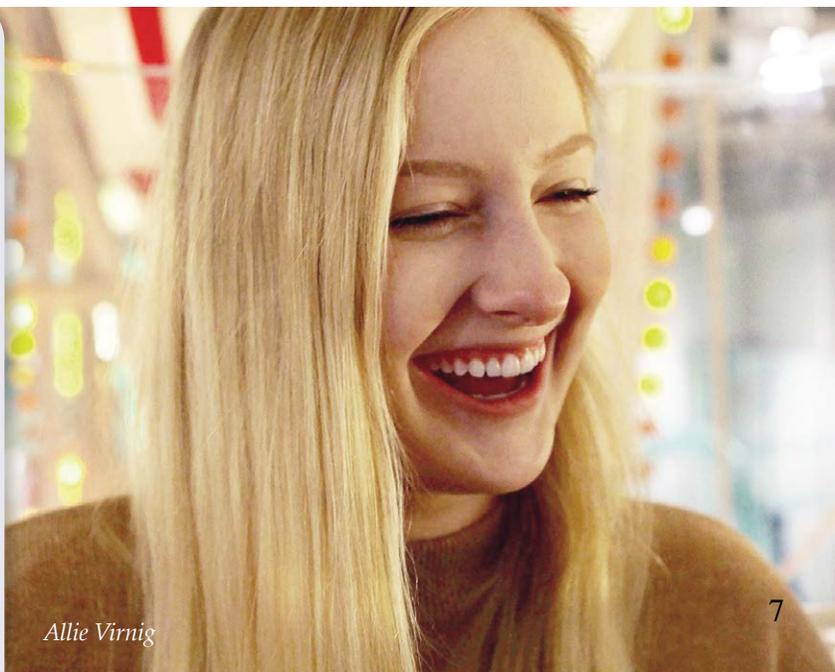
Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation has helped Allie grow in her faith.

"We had to take a test at the end of classes and we learned about a lot of things that people don't really pay attention to, like the Beatitudes," she says. "We learned all the Commandments in order and a number of prayers. We also studied the seven Sacraments. We dived deep into each subject, and it was nice to learn about them."

As Allie prepares for her college years that are just around the corner, she is grateful that she has her faith and her understanding of the Church to accompany her.

"Now, since I know so much about the Catholic Church, I can't imagine going anywhere else," Allie says. "It's all the same everywhere, the same Mass. I feel more comfortable going there and having Communion there."

"I think [the story of St. Joan of Arc] inspired me. She led so many people and even though she had people against her, she never denied God and always kept Him with her. She didn't dial down her devotion and led as a believer of Christ. She didn't care about others' opinions."
— Allie Virnig, St. Andrew Parish



Allie Virnig

HOLY FAMILY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

512 Black Oak Ave.
Montevideo, MN 56265

www.holyfamilyarea.org

MASS TIMES:

Sunday

8:30 a.m. — St. Clara, Clara City

10:30 a.m. — St. Andrew, Granite Falls

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. — Luther Haven, Montevideo

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. — Clara City Care Center, Clara City

Thursday

Noon — St. Joseph, Montevideo

Friday

10 a.m. — Granite Falls Manor, Granite Falls

Saturday

5:30 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

7 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo in Spanish

CONFESSION TIMES:

Sunday

8 a.m. — St. Clara, Clara City

Thursday

11:30 a.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

Saturday

9-9:30 a.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

4:45 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

St. Clara Maintenance Committee

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problem, the group wants to use the warm weather to identify what's creating the problem and fix it before next winter.

Brian says the committee is happy to welcome any parishioner or parish family who wants to take part in helping. For those who want to lend their time and talent to the parish but prefer to stay behind the scenes, the Maintenance Committee can represent the perfect volunteering opportunity.

"I think it makes me feel closer to the church, closer to the parish itself," Brian says. "For me personally, it's stewardship. It's something that I can give back. It's not just sitting in church on a Sunday and participating at Mass — it's doing some of the behind-the-scenes work to make the Mass more meaningful. You need to care as much about the building space and make it welcoming to people."

In addition to Brian, other committee members include Joe Thissen, Vic Sparks, Ginnie Donner, Dan Croenen, Brian Priebe and Don Theisen.

If the Maintenance Committee sounds like your kind of ministry, you may contact Brian Harguth for more information at 320-905-2124.