



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

MUSIC MINISTRY

Deepening Faith and Parish Involvement

Music has a way of affecting our heart and soul. It can bring on tears, fill us with energy, or express emotions that we might not be able to put into words. When we use music to worship the Lord, we touch His heart as well.

At both Christ the King and Holy Spirit, we are fortunate to have several opportunities to worship God through our Music Ministry. Christ the King Music Director Jeff Holden says the ministry is open to parishioners of all musical abilities and backgrounds who want to deepen their faith by sharing their talents.

"I have a group of eight people that cantor together," Jeff says. "On the third Saturday of the month, we have what we call 'the group,' where we try to get some extra instrumentalists and some extra singers and we try to branch out a little more in terms of the music we do."

On the first Saturday of each month, Gail Wolking works with high school-age musicians to give our youth a chance to lend their talents to the church. While Jeff says he'd like to see Christ the King have a choir in the future, the current roster of cantors and instrumentalists bring much to the parish.

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Music is a vital part of our worship experience. Here, the choir lends their talent to a recent Mass.



HOSPITALITY:

The Cornerstone of Stewardship

The dictionary defines “hospitality” as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.”

A Christian worldview can refer to hospitality as “Christian kindness.”

We see the effects of hospitality – or the lack thereof – time and time again throughout the Bible. Christ speaks of hospitality in Matthew’s Gospel when He says, “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Old Testament told of the Israelites, as they wandered the desert for 40 years in search of hospitable environs. Even the Holy Family spent ample time searching for shelter before the birth of Our Lord.

It is safe to say that hospitality is, and most likely has always been, of great importance to people everywhere. Modern hotels and hostels often use the image of a pineapple to advertise their special brand of hospitality. There is no doubt that in ancient times, the distant lights of an inn or tavern struck a chord of hope within weary travelers’ hearts.

Indeed, hospitality’s meaning has not diminished at all over the years, decades and millennia.

Christians view the presence of hospitality as meaning the difference between calling others “guests” and “strangers.” Guests are welcomed with open arms and warm smiles, but strangers aren’t. Guests feel the genuine love present in a hearty welcome, but strangers don’t. Guests often return for second or third visits, while strangers don’t.

As a parish, do we find ourselves surrounded by guests, or burdened by strangers?

Hospitality is, in many respects, a mindset. The same person may be treated as guest at the church just down the road, but as a stranger here.

Matthew’s Gospel tells of Christ as He reveals a profound truth about hospitality: “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” That is, “I used to be a stranger, but you fixed that when you welcomed me.” It’s a classic example of before-and-after. All it took was a change of heart.

Stewardship holds hospitality as an immensely important concept. Remember the “three Ts” of stewardship – Time, Talent, and Treasure? Well, there are also “four Ps,” the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Hospitality is mentioned first. Why? If not for hospitality, none of the other pillars will ever take hold. Hospitality is the cornerstone of stewardship, because it opens the door to a person’s heart and allows them to receive joy, grace, and love.

Hospitality must become second nature, if stewardship is to truly take hold within a parish. So, when a stranger visits our parish, welcome them as a guest. Perhaps one day, they’ll pay us a second visit.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Celebrating Easter with Gratitude

Dear Parishioners,

Easter Sunday arrives later this year – April 21. The method for determining the date of Easter was settled by the Church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD using a formula that allows it to fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

The fact that Easter falls at the later end of that spectrum this year offers us a dramatic contrast from what we have experienced in the winter months – the days will be noticeably longer.

As a matter of fact, the English word “Lent” is related to the Anglo-Saxon word meaning “to lengthen,” for spring is the season when the days grow longer. Even though most Americans do not live in rural settings or agricultural environments like our ancestors did, I think we can all appreciate a bit more sunshine than those dark days of winter. So when Lent is over and Easter arrives, we can experience even in nature the delight of leaving darkness behind and embracing the light.

The central theme of Easter is clear: we celebrate what happened once for all over 2,000 years ago, when Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross and left the darkness of the tomb to restore the light of life to all humanity. The greatest sign of the Resurrection is this light that finds its way through even the tiniest cracks to offer hope and joy.

To celebrate Easter, then, is to welcome this light into our own lives and to break through the darkness by the witness of our lives.

In its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A*



Disciple's Response, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a definition of who a Christian steward is. It has several parts, but the first noted aspect is that a Christian steward is “one who receives God’s gifts gratefully” (9). The bishops don’t distinguish between gifts from God that are spiritual and ones that are material.

After all, “God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). The first step in becoming a good steward is to receive what God gives, to recognize that these gifts come from God, and to be grateful

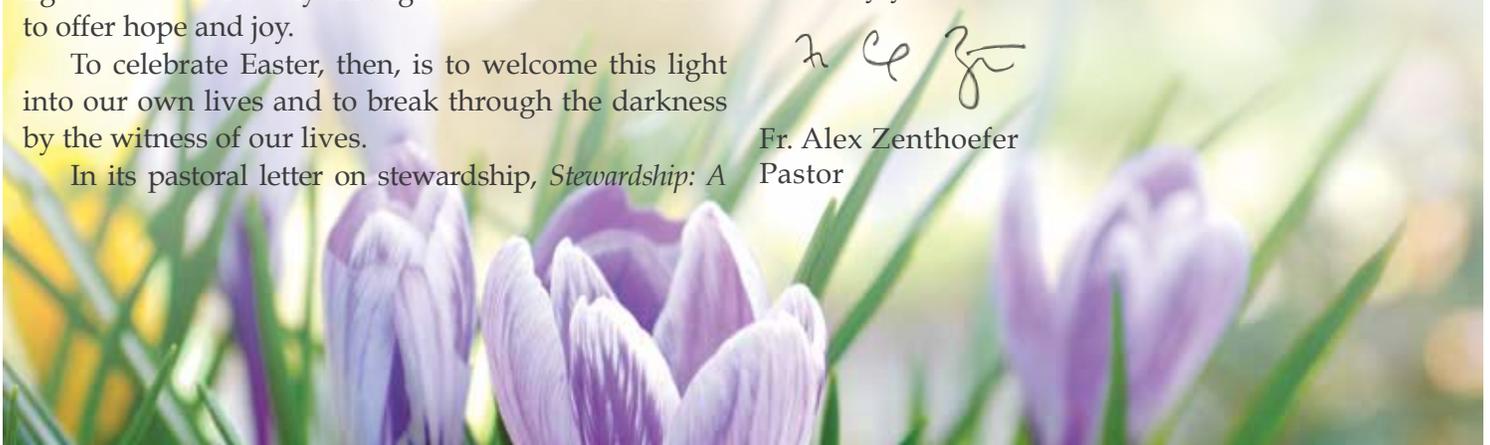
for them. As Fr. Jim Sichko reminded us during our Parish Mission back in February, “Stewardship is about organizing yourself so that God can give you.”

So then, as we celebrate Easter with gratitude for what God continues to do for us in both the material and spiritual spheres, we can resolve to use all we have received – the time, the talent and the treasure entrusted to us, the beauty of the natural world, and the hope of eternal life – as stewards who use them for God’s glory and the welfare of His people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Zenthoefer'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fr. Alex Zenthoefer
Pastor





ALTAR LINENS MINISTRY CARING

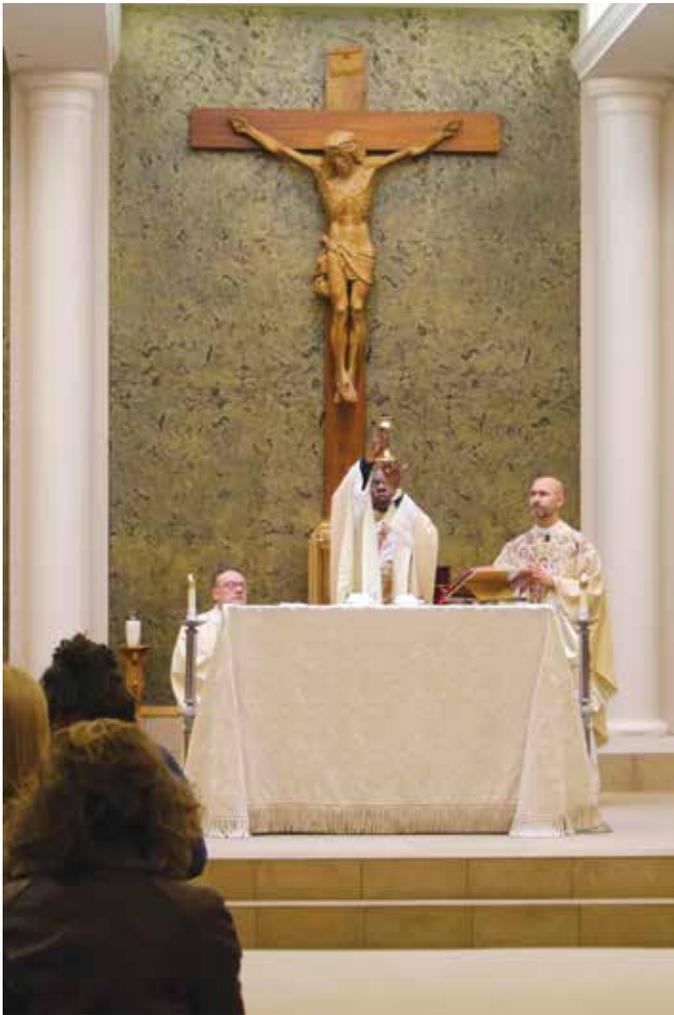
Sometimes when we perform an act of service, we find ourselves receiving as well. For those who serve our parish by caring for the altar linens, a simple act of service can represent deep caring for God's house.

"I personally love doing them and so do the volunteers," says Holy Spirit staff member and Altar Linens Ministry volunteer Elizabeth Casteel. "It somehow brings a sense of peace and a feeling of touching the hand of Jesus."

At Holy Spirit, volunteers for the Altar Linens

Ministry carefully launder each linen item that touches the Eucharist, such as purificators, corporals, hand towels, and those used during special Masses. At Christ the King, the ministry also takes care of the scarves and clothes that cover the altar.

Michelle Weisman recently left the ministry at Christ the King after 11 years and says the Altar Linens Ministry is important not only for the care of items on the altar but shows respect for our fellow congregants in the form of hospitality.



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Taking care to make each item clean and treat it as sacred is what the ministry is all about, ensuring that no contaminates ruin the celebration of the Eucharist.

FOR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

“We change the altar’s look to follow different liturgical seasons and special Masses,” she says. “We maintain the wear of purificators, corporals and hand towels used at each Mass. This is to preserve dignity and reverence during the consecration of the host and chalice.”

The tasks involved in cleaning the cloths are simple. Volunteers take the altar clothes home and wash them in a specific way on their own time.

“We have a wonderful group of people who take a monthly turn,” Elizabeth says. “That means that all of

the items mentioned have to be taken home by them, washed in a certain way specified by Fr. Alex and returned to the Church.”

The linens are also steamed as needed to remove any wrinkles, ensuring they’re looking their best for Mass. Michelle says taking care to make each item clean and treat it as sacred is what the ministry is all about.

“This glorifies God by providing purified and sterilized clothes so that we show proper respect to the gift of the Eucharist,” she says. Everything matters during the Liturgy. We want to give God our best.

Parishioners at Holy Spirit who believe they could lend their talents to the Altar Linens Ministry can call the parish office or email ecasteel@evdio.org. “Anyone who feels called to do this special work can contact me at the office, at Mass, or by email,” Elizabeth Casteel says.

At Christ the King, Susan Ford now serves as the parish’s laundress and Michelle Weisman says volunteers are always welcome. Please call the church office at 812-476-3061 to learn more.

Music Ministry continued from front cover

“We’re up there to assist the congregation to participate fully in the Mass,” he says. “We’ve got a great bunch of singers here, but the more people the better.”

Over at Holy Spirit, Music Director Elizabeth Casteel says both the church’s choir and cantors are dedicated to worship.

“It’s a group of people who love the Lord first and music second,” she says. “They give so freely of their time and always appear to enjoy doing so. They are a blessing to the parish and to me.”

The current choir has been in place for the past 16 years. In that time, Elizabeth says it’s been a joy to

see the members grow both spiritually and musically.

“They would say to you, ‘We love to sing together, and it does deepen our faith because we are singing the Word of God and Praising Him,’” she says.

Jeff agrees, saying those who sing might have different reasons to lend their talents, but the outcome of praising God is always the same.

“There’s the joy of singing, a desire to be a worship leader of some sort, and then for some it’s a way to give back to the congregation,” he says. “For some, it’s just what they do, that’s their thing. For others, it’s that pure joy of getting in front of people to share and participate at a greater level.”

Musicians and singers of all ages are welcome to share their talents with our parish community. At Holy Spirit, contact Elizabeth Casteel at 812-477-1738, ext. 256, for more information or stop by and see her after Mass. For Christ the King, Jeff Holden can be reached at 812-476-1792 or jholden@evdio.org.



DRAWING FROM THE TRADITIONS OF SPIRITUALITY IN OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH

If you knew that the person who loves you most in the world was longing to spend some time with you, would you want to meet with them? What if this person was also the only one capable of saving your soul for all eternity, not to mention blessing you abundantly on earth?

It would seem ridiculous to say “no” to getting to know them just a little better, right?

That being said, you may wonder how you can best go about getting to know this particular person. To do just that, as Catholics, it is important that we seek out and read things from our Catholic Christian tradition – immersing ourselves in the spiritual works of those who have found Christ in a very deep way in accordance with the Church.

Indeed, there are many great saints who have flowered out of the community of believers, and we can turn to them to get to know God better.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has been profoundly touched, enriched and enlightened by spiritual masters whose works are powerful enough to convert souls. It is also important to recognize that the spiritual traditions in the Church express many of the same ideas but in different ways, bearing witness to the ineffable, mosaic-like beauty of Catholicism.

St. Benedict began the first formal monastic tradition in the western Catholic Church, basing it on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. To this day, Benedictine spirituality is centered around the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, simplicity and the appreciation of the Holy Eucharist.

The Franciscan spiritual tradition began with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. These saints brought about the Counter-Reformation that still marks the Church with splendor today. St. Francis is widely known for his Gospel-centered living, love of poverty, devotion to Christ Crucified, and mercy for all men and

creatures. *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, as well as *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* both help one to learn more about this magnificent saint.

Similar to St. Francis, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila also sparked a critical reformation within the Carmelite Order, which later influenced the entire Church in a positive way. Carmelite spirituality is a desert spirituality, which bases itself on silence, deep contemplative prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, outstanding penance, and various traditional Catholic devotions. *The Story of a Soul*, which is the autobiography of renowned Carmelite St. Therese of Lisieux, the *Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, and the works of St. John of the Cross all capture the essence of Carmelite spirituality.

Furthermore, Salesian spirituality stems from the great life and work of St. Francis de Sales. *The Introduction to the Devout Life* is a fantastic primer for those desiring to enter more profoundly into a life of union with Christ.

Ignatian spirituality is known for educating people on the discernment of spirits. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, as well as *The Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher are excellent resources for learning more about this powerful spiritual tradition.

Last but not least, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin is modern-day spiritual work that can help those who are seeking Christ, to find Him.

The rich variety of spiritual traditions we have in the Catholic Church are an indication of how diverse our Church is. There are so many different ways of following Christ and praying – and to do so, we can draw from the spiritual “greats.” But of course, we must always pray in the way that God is leading us, in a way that we can truly encounter God in conversation.



OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL

Living out Active and Faithful Discipleship

While our parish's Knights of Columbus Council 15092 may consider themselves a smaller council by numbers, the good work they do on behalf of the parish and the community would befit a much larger group.

Tom Loveridge is Grand Knight of the council that has 45 members. They meet for the Rosary at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Holy Spirit Church meeting room. The business meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.

"Being a Knight gives you a fulfillment of self through charity," Tom says. "Of the four principles of the Knights, charity is number one."

The Knights also follow the principles of unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Backpacks for Kids is the main charity for Council 15092. Each July, the members put out baskets for donations of school supplies. Tom asks the schools for the number of children who need supplies. The council buys the backpacks and stuffs them with the donations.

"We leave them in the rooms at the schools so the parents don't have to get supplies," Tom says. "We usually have between 45 to 55 kids each year in the three years we've done it."

Another project is Pumpkins in the City, during which the members sell pumpkins for two to three weeks in the church parking lot to raise funds.

"We have a couple other activities," Tom says. "We

have the St. Nick Breakfast and we assist the Parish Council with the Advent Lunch. We also have the Tootsie Roll Drive. We hand out books during Christmas Mass as a Christmas gift to the parish. That's a neat thing to do."

For Tom and his fellow Knights, belonging to the organization leads to a deepening of personal faith and closeness to Christ.

"Being around other men of the same faith, who see Christ the same way I do, and the way we react to the community, that grows your faith," Tom says.

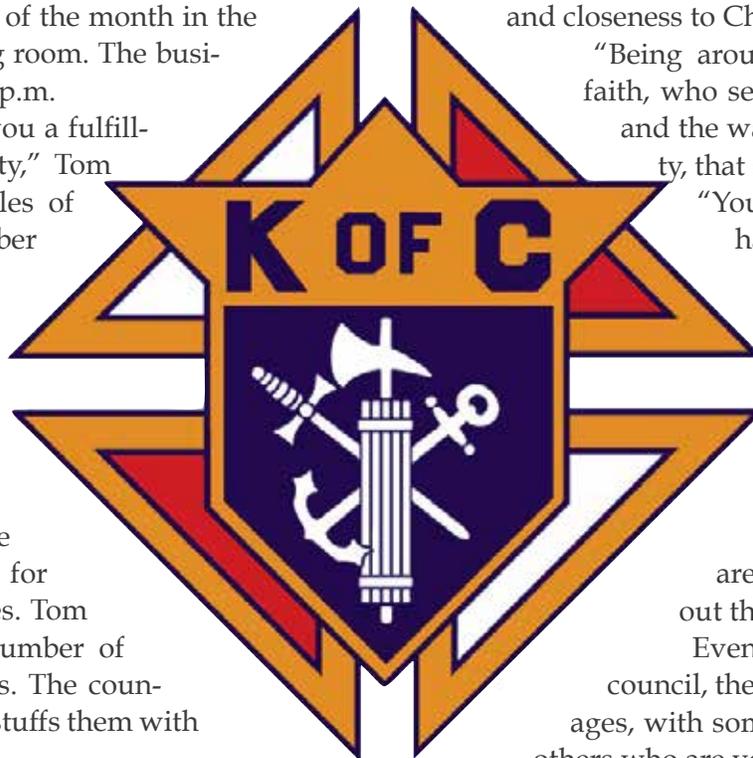
"You see it in other people. We have a district-wide Knights' project, a Habitat for Humanity house, and all the councils work on it. We have people who cook at church and [take food] to soup kitchens. A lot of men do things on their own, but they are still Knights when they are out there."

Even with the smaller size of the council, the membership runs a range in ages, with some members in their 70s and others who are young fathers in their 20s.

"During the last meeting we had, I said we're a small council but we do so much," Tom says. "I'm so proud of what we do. The strength is in our hearts, not in our numbers."

As in all groups, there is a core that takes part in most of the activities, and others who take part when they can.

"Not all can always help, but [when you do] you're standing for what the Knights are," Tom says.



Anyone interested in joining the Knights of Columbus may call the parish center at 812-476-3061, or contact Tom Loveridge at 812-473-4073 or by email at tloveridge8123@att.net. Members must be at least 18 years of age and a practicing Catholic.



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

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Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 18
7 p.m. at Christ the King

Good Friday, April 19
7 p.m. at Holy Spirit

Holy Saturday, April 20
8 p.m. at Christ the King

Easter Sunday, April 21
7:30 a.m. at Christ the King
9 a.m. at Holy Spirit
11 a.m. at Christ the King

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Holy Spirit: Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 9:00 a.m. | Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. | Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.

Christ the King: Saturday: 5:30 p.m. | Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Monday: 7:45 a.m. | Tuesday: 7:45 a.m. | Thursday: 8:30 a.m. | Friday: 7:45 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. at Holy Spirit | Saturday: 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. at Christ the King