



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

A Lifeline for Those in Need

About 40 percent of Indiana public school children qualify for and receive free school lunch.

This statistic comes from the 2015 letter *Poverty at the Crossroads*, written by the Catholic Bishops of Indiana. In this letter, they lay out a call to action for Catholics and all those in Indiana to begin to work to “understand the many challenges facing our brothers and sisters here in Indiana and consider with you how our church should respond.”

For Ginny Cook, who coordinates our parish food drives, the reason is simple.

“It’s to help people who need assistance,” she says.

Ginny delivers the items collected at the weekend Masses to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Mondays.

“One time, they served 2,000 clients in just one month,” she says.

According to their website, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry serves as an important lifeline for struggling families. “Many families with low income struggle to pay all their bills. This leaves them ‘food insecure.’”

“I asked one time if this is ever taken advantage of,” Ginny says. “They told me ‘no.’ These are people who are working minimum wage jobs — they just can’t make it. They are maybe single with kids or have a large family.”

About 10 years ago, a casual conversation while waiting to have directory photos taken led to Ginny formulating a plan for this ministry.

“Poverty came up — we said we need to start a program,”



Ginny Cook brings a delivery to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Ginny says. “We came up with, ‘If you can, bring a can.’”

The non-perishable food items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, laundry detergent and toilet paper are collected for four weeks during Advent, six weeks during Lent and six weeks in the summer. There is also a collection each October at the school, and this has brought in multiple vehicle loads in past years.

Ginny is pleased that the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in a consortium with seven other local food pantries, so they can share information on who has visited to ensure people don’t visit multiple food pantries in the same time period. The pantry is the largest in Evansville, and is managed by

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STEWARDSHIP'S "SUPREME TEACHER"

Following Christ's Example

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head — that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship — the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us — is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

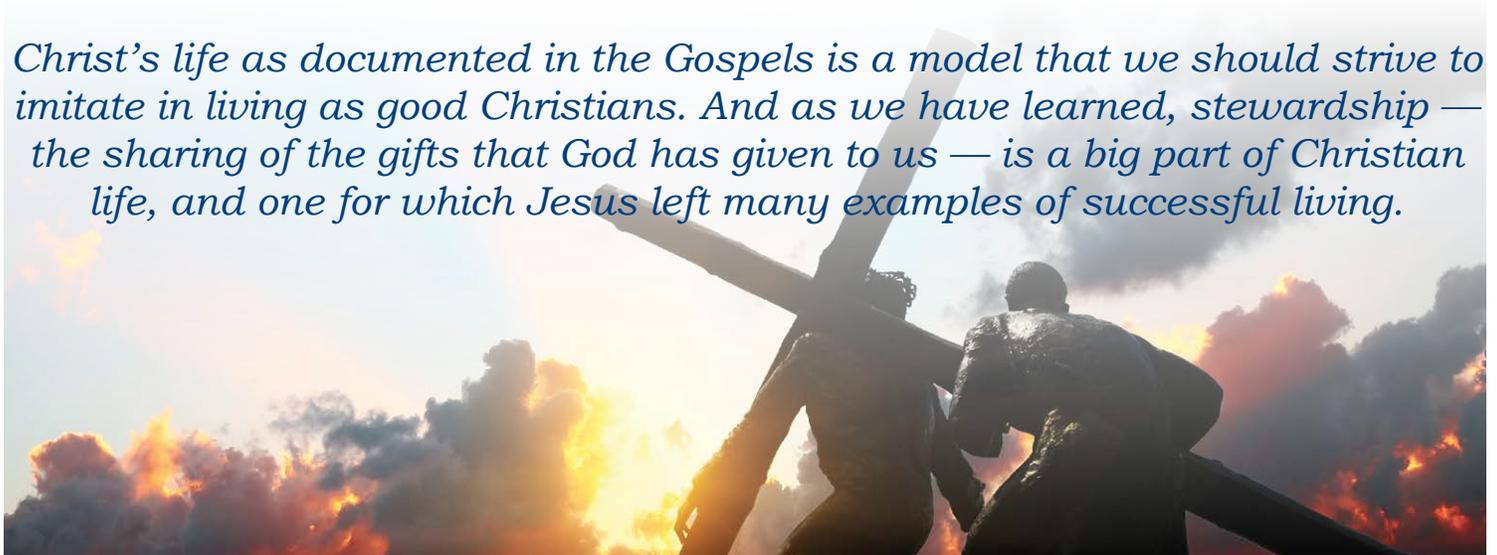
Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus'

teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the returns to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month – Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church – and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”



Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation – we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.

Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship – how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the

Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days – Aug. 15, for example – to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Alex Zenthoef
Pastor



A LEGACY OF FAITH AND SERVICE:



Mary Kay and Jim Muehlbauer are longtime parishioners at Annunciation who prioritize serving their community and passing the faith on to the next generation, by their example.

There are all sorts of things that run in families. From physical traits, to career paths, to funny habits or quirks, some things just get passed from one generation to the next. For the Muehlbauer family, long-time parishioners at Annunciation, it's the legacy of faith and service that's being passed along.

"We were both born and raised Catholic, went to Catholic grade schools, Catholic high schools – we

were both fortunate to have that background," says Jim Muehlbauer of himself and his wife, Mary Kay. "We came from families that volunteered and did work and believed in helping out the things they believed in. We were just brought up that way."

Originally from Evansville, the couple spent a few years away from the area and became members at Christ the King when they returned in 1966.

Over the years, they've been involved in just about everything, from Jim serving on the Parish Council, School Board, Finance Council, and as a lector, and Mary Kay becoming a permanent fixture at the school over the years through the PTA and other roles.

"We've probably been involved in about everything at one time or another," Jim says, with a smile.

"With five children who went through [Catholic school], we were there quite a few years," Mary Kay adds. "We've done just a little bit of everything."

Catholic education has been an important part of their family – something that Jim and Mary Kay experienced, passed on to their five children, and now, see even more benefits as they have grandchildren at both the Christ the King and Holy Spirit school campuses.

"Parents are the primary teachers of the children, but there are so many things that we don't know in depth, particularly regarding the faith and I think Catholic schools do a good job in instilling basic principles of the faith," Jim says.

The couple also believes that prioritizing Sunday Mass with their children was an important part of passing on the faith.

"We've had our ups and downs, but we did not give up on [our kids] at any point and we've just stood by our beliefs," Mary Kay says. "We're very proud to say they are all members of Annunciation Parish and our grandkids are going through the Catholic school. We're really fortunate and we think they had a great foundation. And when you put the time in with your kids

Meet the Muehlbauer Family

“You don’t really know and understand your parish until you get involved. It changes your attitude. It’s easy to look from the outside and find fault with all kinds of things, but until you get in there and help, you don’t realize there’s more to it than what you thought. I feel like I need to do my part — I can’t just sit on the sidelines.” — Jim Muehlbauer

and get them to Mass, you grow with them at the same time.”

Whether at the parish, or at the school, Jim and Mary Kay have found their service to bring a sense of meaning and connection to the community.

“You don’t really know and understand your parish until you get involved,” Jim says. “It changes your attitude. It’s easy to look from the outside and find fault with all kinds of things, but until you get in there and help, you don’t realize there’s more to it than what you thought. I feel like I need to do my part — I can’t just sit on the sidelines.”

“We knew if we wanted things to change in any way or improve, we needed to stay involved,” Mary Kay adds. “We were sticking around through thick and thin, and we wanted to keep everything improving.”

Jim and Mary Kay encourage new families to get involved in the life of the parish, and those who have been active for a long time to be open and welcoming to others.

“Some people might feel hesitant or shy and feel like, ‘All these people have this closed club and they’re doing all this work and they don’t want me,’” Jim says. “I think all of us need to be sure we’re inclusive and welcoming to people. And people need to realize, if you want the parish and the school to succeed, it’s up to you! I always liked the Nike slogan — ‘Just do it!’”

Thank you, Jim and Mary Kay for your legacy of faith and service. Our parish and school are stronger because of your presence.



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LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code

As Christians, it is important that we recognize the difference between right and wrong – both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward in accordance with God's will.

So, how do we work through these moral conundrums? One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed" (1777, 1778).

Think of your conscience as the "angelic" version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help them to avoid fear, selfishness and pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience" (CCC 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate

example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. In turn, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet, reflective time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings – the ultimate examples of behaving according to God's Will. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

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HELPING MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY IN NEED THROUGH THE MEAL MINISTRY

“Our mission is really to try and help people feel more a part of our parish community. So even if the person ends up declining our offer, at least we’ve reached out to them and let them know that we care. It also allows people to meet new parishioners and make new friends within the parish.” — Linda Becker

When a person has recently experienced a loss, is recovering from a crisis, or is in the midst of one of life’s many transitions, it can be difficult for others to know how to help. Afraid to invade a person’s privacy or to inadvertently make matters worse, we may be tempted to leave the person alone and await a request for help. Yet, these are moments in life when people are often in the most need of support and tangible reminders that they aren’t alone. This, says parishioner and longtime ministry coordinator Linda Becker, is something Annunciation’s Meal Ministry aims to address by providing home-cooked meals for families and individuals in need.

“It all started years ago when I was part of a committee called the Sense of Belonging Committee,” Linda says. “There, we brainstormed ways that we could help make people feel more welcome at and part of our parish family. That’s when we came up with this idea of the Meal Ministry, which was to provide meals for people recovering from surgeries, recent deliveries, or crisis situations. We felt like this is what family members would do.”

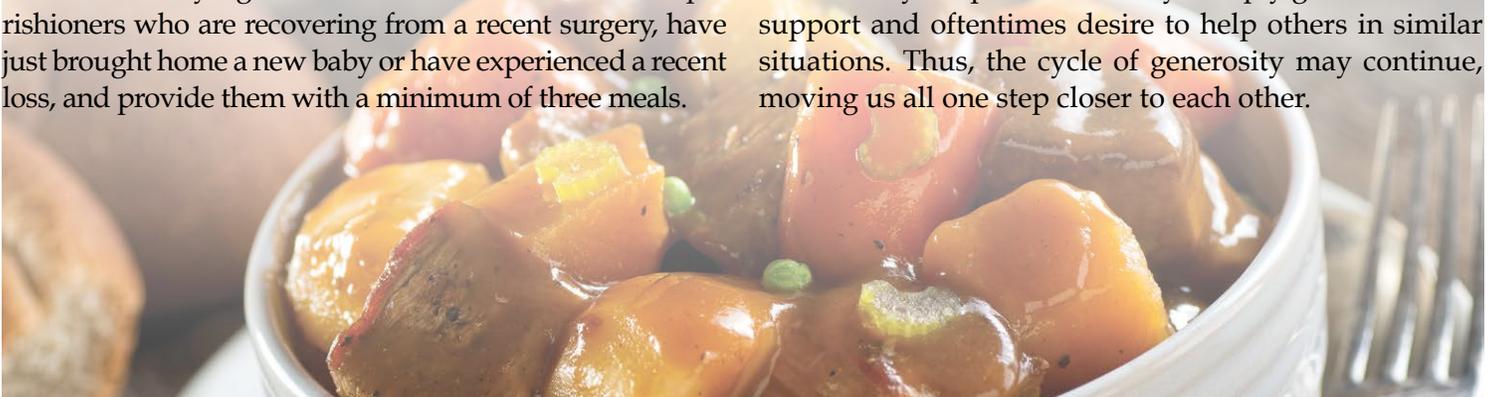
The ministry’s goal is to reach out to Annunciation parishioners who are recovering from a recent surgery, have just brought home a new baby or have experienced a recent loss, and provide them with a minimum of three meals.

“We reach out to these people by phone once we are made aware of their situation and offer to bring them some meals,” Linda says. “Sometimes people can use a little more help than just three meals, and so we evaluate the situation as we go.”

Once the individual or family agrees, Linda begins contacting ministry volunteers in a rotating fashion, finding people who can commit to delivering a meal on the designated dates. Volunteers then cook or purchase a meal for their assigned day and deliver it, bringing with them a palpable reminder of the support and love of the parish family. In the process, our faith community becomes a bit more connected as new bonds of friendship are formed.

“Our mission is really to try and help people feel more a part of our parish community,” Linda says. “So even if the person ends up declining our offer, at least we’ve reached out to them and let them know that we care. It also allows people to meet new parishioners and make new friends within the parish.”

Ministry recipients are always deeply grateful for the support and oftentimes desire to help others in similar situations. Thus, the cycle of generosity may continue, moving us all one step closer to each other.



If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving meals or are interested in joining the Meal Ministry team, please contact Linda Becker at 812-867-5211 or the parish office at 812-476-3061.



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

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FOOD PANTRY *continued from front cover*

Sister Donna Marie Herr, a Benedictine nun.

"It's so clean you could eat off the floor," Ginny says. "It's very neatly stocked."

The pantry always takes volunteers and there are several from our parish who help out with unloading and stocking shelves.

Ginny sees this work as her personal mission. She has always had a heart for serving the poor, spending much of her life volunteering, from Habitat for Humanity to the Haiti mission. She says God calls each of us to serve those in need.

"We are here to help those in need," she says. "If we are available, we should do so."

Ginny is thankful for the parishioners' response to the food and toiletry drives. She encourages everyone who can to give either non-perishables, toiletry items or money — checks can be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Those interested in donating may refer to the bulletin for the items needed most each week at the pantry.

"My philosophy is if you have the time or resources, you should give," Ginny says. "You have the responsibility to do so. You receive so many blessings when you give."

If you would like more information about donating to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, please contact Ginny Cook at 812-477-9160 or dandgc@twc.com.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. at Christ the King | 9:00 a.m. at Holy Spirit | 11:00 a.m. at Christ the King

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: No Mass | **Tuesday:** 7:45 a.m. at Christ the King | **Wednesday:** 7:45 a.m. at Christ the King (Summer), 8:30 a.m. at Holy Spirit (School year) |

Thursday: 7:45 a.m. at Christ the King (Summer), 8:30 a.m. at Christ the King (School year) | **Friday:** 7:45 a.m. at Christ the King

Confessions:

Tuesday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. at Christ the King |
Wednesday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. at Christ the King (Summer); 5:30-6:20 p.m. (during adoration once it begins on August 7) | Thursday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. at Christ the King (Summer); 8-8:15 a.m. at Christ the King (School year) | Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. at Christ the King | Saturday: 3-3:45 p.m. at Holy Spirit

Adoration:

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Christ the King. This will begin on the first Wednesday of August (Aug. 7).
First Fridays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Christ the King