



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

THE MEN'S MINISTRY AT ANNUNCIATION: *Growing in Faith Through Fellowship*

Jon Golding and his family have been active members of Christ the King for decades, and Jon remembers his father encouraging his involvement in the Men's Club from an early age.

"I was a member of the Parish Council in 2013 when we decided to resurrect the Men's Club, which ended with Bingo stopping a few years earlier," Jon says. "We saw a need for a men's group to help keep the men of the parish involved."

Today, Annunciation's Men's Ministry promotes fellowship for the men of both parish campuses and offers opportunities for them to socialize and to serve the community.

"Our mission is to bring the men of the parish closer together through fellowship to create a synchronous and responsive entity with a common purpose to address the needs of the parish, school and community," says Jon, President of the Men's Ministry.

Together, these men support the

parish in many ways – from hosting fundraisers to tending the physical parish campuses.

"We cut the grass and rake the leaves at both Holy Spirit and Christ the King, and have a total campus clean-up in the spring and the fall," Jon says. "We also sponsor weekly pickleball at Christ the King and hope to expand it to Holy Spirit in 2019."

The ministry welcomes all men 18 years old and older, and its members

continued on back cover



Pickleball, hosted by the Men's Ministry.



Stewardship

HANNAH, THE GOOD STEWARD

What should we do when our prayers are answered? Is there anything left to do after we have sincerely thanked God for His favors? If God were a human peer, we would probably try to reciprocate by granting Him a favor in return. But the truth is that God cannot be made greater by anything that we do for Him. Instead, God receives our thanks and tells us to “go and do likewise.” That is, He tells us to share with others the good that He has bestowed on us. And in doing so, we are really sharing God Himself. That is the definition of stewardship!

The Old Testament Book of Samuel contains one of the most poignant examples of stewardship in the entire Bible. The first chapter teaches us of an unhappy, barren woman named Hannah. Desperate in her barrenness, Hannah prays that God will give her a son, vowing that she will raise him to be a man of God.

Imagine Hannah’s elation when she was granted her prayer! When Samuel was born, her heart’s desire had come true! Imagine further the pang of motherly sorrow, as Hannah kept her promise to God by taking Samuel at a young age to be the servant of Eli, the high priest. The Book of Samuel tells us that once Samuel became Eli’s servant, Hannah saw her young son just once a year.

Indeed, Hannah knew that Samuel was truly a gift from God – an answered prayer. Hannah’s response is that of the Good Steward – with an attitude of both gratitude and sacrifice, she gave up her son to honor God. One imagines that Hannah probably struggled with this sacrifice during those first years. She probably did not know what God had in store for her son. Yet, through her faithfulness, God used him as a gift to an entire nation. Samuel would, in time, become one of the greatest prophets of Jewish history.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand the sacrifices we make in the name of stewardship, while the results may just be impossible to miss! However, He asks that we continue to be faithful in either case. God has undoubtedly bestowed gifts on all of us – at whatever the cost, we are to “go and do likewise.”



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Celebrating God's Love

Dear Parishioners,

What is the most widely observed saint's day in February – the one that is kept even by those who aren't practicing Catholics? Undoubtedly, it would be St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

So who was St. Valentine? The saint we celebrate was a priest of Rome martyred in the late third century. But that doesn't explain how his feast came to be celebrated as the day for sending letters, cards and presents as expressions of romantic love.

The truth is that the custom of sending tokens of love comes not from any direct connection with St. Valentine, but from the ancient belief that birds begin to pair off on Feb. 14. And if courtship in the natural world occurred then, it must be appropriate for humans, as well. The association between St. Valentine and love notes is a later development.

Nevertheless, it's not wrong to connect the two. Love has many aspects, and our conception of it is richer if we keep more than one of them in mind. Martyrdom is the result of loving God more than our earthly life. St. Valentine was a martyr because of his love – his love for Jesus Christ and the Church. If he had not loved God so much, he could have repudiated his Lord and saved his life. We, in turn, express our love by sending cards and gifts on St. Valentine's Day.



But isn't that what stewardship as a way of life is, a little martyrdom? Not to push the image too far, but when we are faithful stewards, we give up a little portion of our lives out of our own love for Christ. Most Christians will not be called on to be martyrs, in the sense of forfeiting our physical lives for God. But we are called to give up some of our comforts, indulgences and riches because of our love for Him.

So then, as you prepare to celebrate and share your love with your valentine this month, remember St. Valentine and his love for Christ. As well, keep in mind that God loves us,

and return that love with your own toward Him. Loving God will be reflected in how you prioritize your use of the time, talent and treasure God has entrusted to you. As St. John wrote (1 Jn 4:19), "We love because he first loved us."

Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Fr. Alex Zenthoefer
Pastor





THE BLESSINGS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

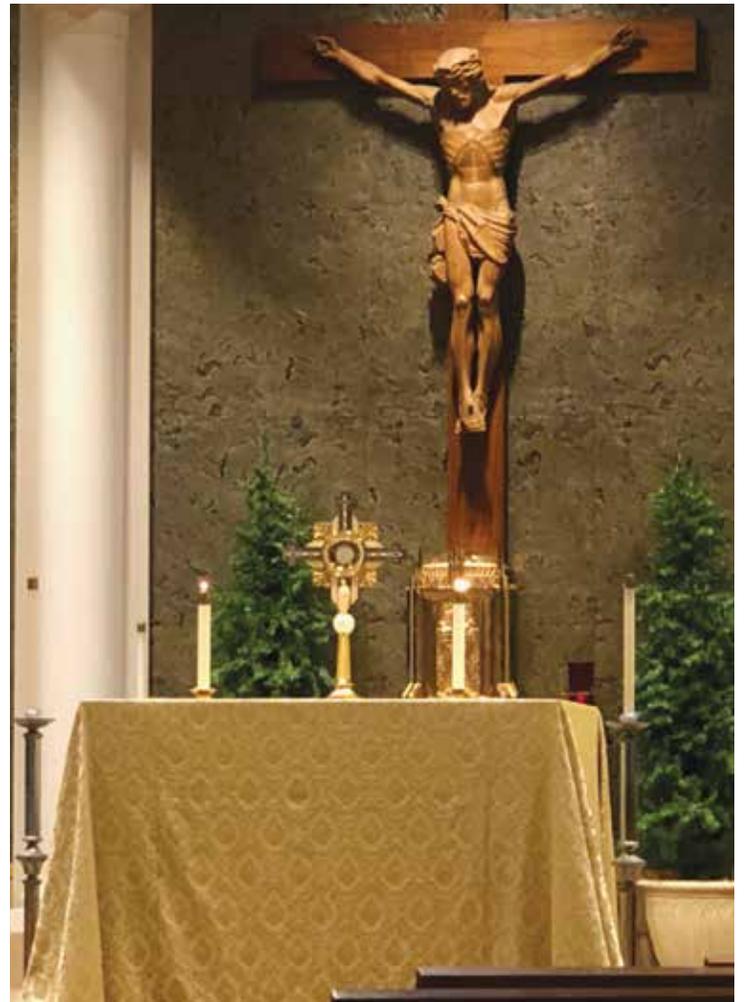
Imagine if the risen Christ were to appear to us right here in our parish – wouldn't we all go running to meet Him? More likely than not, millions of people would travel from around the world just to sit at His feet and soak in the incomparable graces of His presence. It may be hard for us to picture this scenario, and yet the reality is that we already are given the opportunity to rest in Christ's presence daily!

In the Catholic Church, we are blessed to have the real Presence of Jesus dwelling in our midst in the form of the Holy Eucharist during all Masses. And at both Holy Spirit and Christ the King, parishioners also have a special

opportunity to partake in one of the most sacred experiences our Catholic faith has to offer – Eucharistic Adoration.

At Holy Spirit, Eucharistic Adoration is offered on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May, beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding with a benediction just before the 6 p.m. Mass. Since the exposed Eucharist cannot be left alone, parishioners who serve as regular adorers volunteer to stay with the Blessed Sacrament for a set hour each month. Anyone who does not have a scheduled hour is welcome to come pray and meditate in the presence of Christ whenever they are able.

Whether someone is a regular adorer or just dropping



Parishioners of Annunciation participate in Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Spirit (left) and Christ the King (right).

DRAW US CLOSER TO

Jesus

in for a few minutes of adoration, the rewards of spending time in Eucharistic Adoration are great.

"It's very calming and relaxing just to be sitting in silent prayer, not thinking about anything else or worrying about anything else," says Diana Dewig, the coordinator of Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Spirit. "Everybody in their personal life has things they need to be praying for, so this just gives us that time to spend in quiet prayer and reflect on our mission."

While some parishioners may hesitate to commit to serving as a scheduled adorer, Diana encourages everyone to prayerfully consider making a personal commitment to spend time with our Lord in the Eucharist each month.

"With our busy lives, it's nice to take the time to focus on prayer and focus on God," she says. "We make appointments for everything else — from doctors to ball-games — so maybe we should think about making an appointment to spend time with the One who will give us eternal life! What you get out of it is more than you could ever ask for."

Mary Lou Schmidt coordinates Eucharistic Adoration at Christ the King, which takes place year-round on the first Friday of each month, beginning after the 7:45 a.m. Mass and concluding with a benediction at 5 p.m. Adoration is held in the chapel at the south entrance of the church, next to the school entrance.

For all those who participate in Eucharistic Adoration, there are many ways to sit in Christ's Presence. Mary Lou finds that she most often spends her hour of adoration in silent prayer, starting with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and remembering all of her friends and family members. Others may prefer to use some of the printed materials found on the pamphlet rack at the front of the church for guidance. Whether you decide to spend your time in adoration reading Scripture, saying a Rosary, or simply spending

"It's just a wonderful hour to spend with Jesus, and you feel like you have Him there listening to you. We know He's everywhere and listening to everybody, but you feel so close to Him when you're there in the chapel, talking to Him and asking Him to hear your prayers. It's just a special time."

— Mary Lou Schmidt

time in meditative prayer, the rewards of this time with the Lord are great!

Mary Lou and her husband, William, have been devoted to the practice of Eucharistic Adoration for many years, and even brought this sacred practice to St. Vincent Hospital back in the 1990s. Today, Mary Lou simply can't imagine life without this precious time spent with the Lord.

"It's just a wonderful hour to spend with Jesus, and you feel like you have Him there listening to you," she says. "We know He's everywhere and listening to everybody, but you feel so close to Him when you're there in the chapel, talking to Him and asking Him to hear your prayers. It's just a special time."

Here at Annunciation, we are blessed that our parish offers us an opportunity to experience the special graces God brings through the Adoration of the Presence of His Son in the form of the Holy Eucharist. In the words of Pope Paul VI in his *Credo of the People of God*, the Blessed Sacrament is "the 'Living Heart' of each of our churches... it is our very sweet duty to honor and adore the Blessed Host" (26). Let us embrace this truly precious gift and go now to sit and rest in His presence!

For more information or to become a scheduled adorer at Holy Spirit, contact Diana Dewig at ddewig@evdio.org or 812-476-3061. For more information or to become a scheduled adorer at Christ the King, contact Mary Lou Schmidt at 812-476-9741.



“TRANSFORMED BY THE SACRED LITURGY” *The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery*

In a limited way, the liturgy can be compared to a story or a film – upon a first reading or viewing, we might understand the basic outline of the narrative, yet through every subsequent encounter, the story further unfolds before us, becoming richer and more complex.

Often, inquisitive children teach us about how to understand a story or the Mass. As a child inquires about the priest’s green vestments, the foregrounded wreath or the presence of palm branches, we might pause to recall the symbolism undergirding the rich rituals of the liturgy.

There is a sense of the sacred in the liturgy, but its rituals and ceremonies can appear as empty pantomimes when divorced from their meaning. Far from empty signs, the liturgy is the celebration of the Paschal mystery, of Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and glorification by which He “accomplished the work of our salvation” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1067).

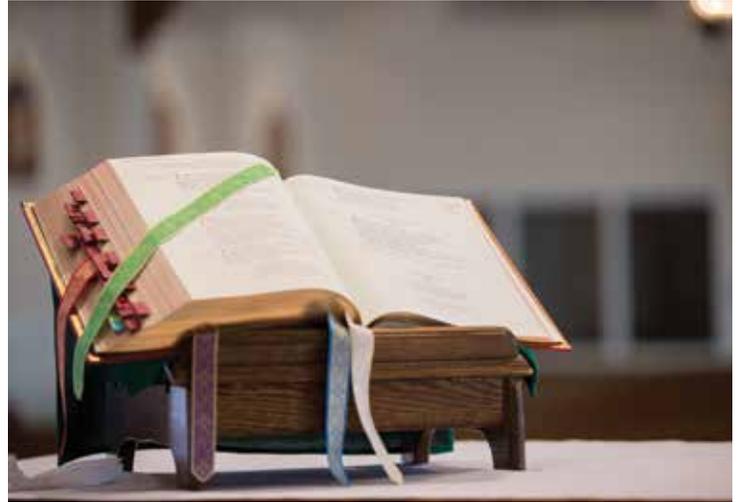
From the Greek *leitourgia*, meaning public service or worship, liturgy in the Christian tradition refers to the communal participation of the people in the work of God, and God is always present and at work in the liturgy, acting in and with the Church through the sacraments.

Annually, the Church’s liturgical year is structured around the Paschal mystery, which we observe every Sunday. We begin each year with a season of anticipating Christ’s birth, and following a celebration of Christ’s Incarnation, we gradually enter a period of preparation for the Easter Triduum, for His passion, death and Resurrection. The year closes with a period of ordinary time – a time to grow in our faith and in living out the Gospel.

Daily, the Liturgy of the Hours unifies the Church Militant in prayers said by the clergy and increasingly by the laity. As the liturgical calendar structures our year, the Liturgy of the Hours structures our day, offering us an opportunity to consecrate each present moment to Christ.

Ultimately, the liturgical life of the Church “revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments” (CCC 1113), for we receive God’s grace to fortify us in our spiritual lives and as His disciples through the sacraments, particularly the Holy Mass.

The Mass nurtures us spiritually, inviting us to reflect on the Paschal mystery and to lift our hearts to God as individuals and a community through spoken and sung prayer.



The Mass moves us corporeally, drawing us to sit as we listen to the Word, to stand as we unanimously profess our faith, and to kneel as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Mass inspires us apostolically, sending us out to proclaim the Gospel and to share Christ with our brothers and sisters.

Though the “source and center” of all prayer, the liturgy and a sense of the sacred has, in some ways, become marginalized in the American Church. Once robust parishes are seeking to rebuild, but they frequently overlook the connection between the empty pews and the decentralization of the liturgy, which was underscored by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

“I am convinced that the crisis in the Church that we are experiencing today is, to a large extent, due to the disintegration of the liturgy,” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his autobiography *Milestones*.

Something in the simplicity of the child’s experience of the liturgy teaches us to return to what we might call the basics of the faith – meaning a love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the sacraments and the rituals of the Church. Only through the liturgy are we nurtured on our stewardship journey and inspired to proclaim the Gospel.

As Archbishop Alexander Sample from the Diocese of Portland, Ore., writes, “If we are transformed by the sacred liturgy, then we, as believers, can help transform the culture.”

ANNUNCIATION'S SACRISTANS

Feeling a "Sense of Belonging and a True Joy"

Before anyone else arrives at church, a sacristan quietly begins preparing this sacred space for the liturgy. This steward completes a series of small but integral duties, from unlocking the doors and turning on the lights to reverently counting the hosts in the ciborium.

"I absolutely love being a sacristan," says Chris Loehr, coordinator of Christ the King's sacristans. "It gives me time to reflect on my faith, and I am always learning about the Mass."

The sacristan supports the celebrants in preparing for Mass and other liturgical services by setting up the necessary vessels and linens and coordinating with the other liturgical ministers as needed.

"It is very important to have these duties completed and the ministers ready so that the Mass flows smoothly without any distractions from prayer and worship," says Diana Dewig, coordinator of Holy Spirit's sacristans.

At Christ the King and Holy Spirit, sacristans support the clergy at all the Sunday liturgies, including those on Saturday evening, and occasionally at other services such as funerals and weddings.

New sacristans receive a short training manual and are invited to shadow current sacristans.

"We encourage shadowing because you have to grow into this role and become comfortable with it," Chris says. "Sometimes things will change right before the Mass, and you have to implement those changes if possible."

"The Mass is why we are here. As a sacristan, you are serving the Lord and His Church. It is not only interesting to learn about the parts of the Mass, but it is also essential for the worship experience." — Diana Dewig



Sacristan, Chris Loehr, setting up for Mass at Christ the King.

Any adult parishioner is welcome to begin training to be a sacristan at Christ the King or Holy Spirit. The parishes are particularly in need of substitute sacristans and additional support for Holy Days of Obligation and other feast days and special services.

"Having a few more sacristans would be a great help because of vacations, illness and other things that arise," Chris says. "During Holy Week it might be nice to have more than one sacristan because it can take over an hour to prepare for Mass."

The men and women who currently serve as Annunciation's sacristans find this ministry incredibly rewarding.

"It gives them a sense of belonging and a true joy," Diana says. "They feel a deeper connection to the Mass and take this role seriously."

Chris was already familiar with the Mass from serving as a Eucharistic Minister, and he finds that being a sacristan continuously teaches him more about his faith and the liturgy.

"If you want to learn more about the Mass, please sign up to be a sacristan," Chris says.

Consider joining Annunciation's quiet stewards who support our clergy in the preparation of the Mass.

"The Mass is why we are here," Diana says. "As a sacristan, you are serving the Lord and His Church. It is not only interesting to learn about the parts of the Mass, but it is also essential for the worship experience."

If you would like more information about Annunciation's sacristans, please contact Chris Loehr (Christ the King) at cloehr@att.net or 812-474-9634 or Diana Dewig (Holy Spirit) at ddewig@evdio.org.



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1746
Evansville IN

3010 E. Chandler Avenue | Evansville, IN 47714
(812) 476-3061 | www.annunciationevv.org

The Men's Ministry at Annunciation continued from front cover

meet monthly on the first Thursday in Christ the King's cafeteria.

"We hope to encourage men of the parish to become involved for the sake of the parish, and for their sake and their family's sake," Jon says. "It is nice to be able to discuss what is going on with your life and the life of your family, and share it with other men with similar interests."

Together, the men of our parish

discuss how to live Christ-centered lives and offer their children models of stewardship by their involvement in the faith community.

"I always think our children benefit the most when we show them by example how we live our faith, instead of simply lecturing them," Jon says. "We also make sure we begin and end each meeting with a prayer."

Jon's involvement in the Men's

Ministry has helped his faith grow through the inspiration of other men in the community.

"I always have admired the men who would go to work every day, spend time with their family, go to Mass weekly and then be involved with the church," Jon says. "These are the men I want to be like. We are fortunate to still have these men in our parish today."

If you would like more information about Annunciation's Men's Ministry, please reach out to Jon Golding at 812-479-0007 or jon_golding@cinfin.com.

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