



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

Summer Social

OFFERING FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD TO OUR COMMUNITY

Our Annunciation Parish Summer Social — set for June 14 and 15 at the Holy Spirit campus — promises to be two days of fun for everyone, delicious food and a wonderful opportunity to grow friendships with our fellow parishioners at both parish campuses.

Diana Dewig, Holy Spirit Campus Liaison, is chairing the Summer Social that runs from 5 to 10 p.m. each night.

“The Summer Social is a time for everyone to get together,” she says. “There are dinners, games for the kids, inflatables, a dessert tent, and outdoor food with tenderloin sandwiches, hamburgers, corn dogs, and French fries, a beer garden with live music, a silent auction and live auction, a big cash raffle, and a quilt raffle.”

Students at Christ the King campus and Holy Spirit campus schools have been busy creating their theme baskets for the silent auction that will be held both nights. The drawing for the cash raffle and quilt raffle will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday.

“If parishioners want to donate a basket, that is wonderful,” Diana says.

The dinners begin at 5 p.m. each day in the air-conditioned cafeteria, and the inflatables will be set up in the air-conditioned gym. There will be carnival



Attendees share in the fun and games at the Summer Social.

games for the youngsters outside, and the smallest children can enjoy the Kiddie Carnival games.

“The dessert tent will feature lemon shake-ups, Dippin’ Dots, homemade fudge, cookies and Rice Krispies treats,” Diana says. “There is a lot to do and something for everyone.”

The social is being promoted outside the parish, as well, and is open to all.

“The Summer Social can help connect parishioners, especially if you are new to the parish,

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THE EUCHARIST AND STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

More than 20 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. This document was an invitation to follow Christ Who gave of Himself for us. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation and of all that has been entrusted to us. However, to truly understand stewardship, we must look to the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Stewardship is our response to that gift.

Even the word "Eucharist" implies stewardship. The word "Eucharist" finds its roots in the Latin word *eucharistia*, which in turn came from the Greek word *eukaristos*, which meant, quite simply, "gratitude" or "thanksgiving." How fitting that we, who are called to be a stewardship people, celebrate at the focal point of every Mass an act of thanksgiving and gratitude — namely, the reception of Jesus' gift to us — the Eucharist.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the bishops speak of the Eucharist in this way: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity... we enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love — indeed, His very Self — flows into us as disciples and, through us and our practice of stewardship to the entire human race."

When we receive Christ's Body in the Holy Eucharist, we hear the minister say, "The Body of Christ." To this, we respond, "Amen" — which means in Hebrew, "Yes; it is so." This is the essence of stewardship. We should enter the Church for Mass out of "gratitude."

We recognize the presence of the Lord in Holy Communion, and then we truly receive the Lord. What is left for us to do is the fulfillment of stewardship — that is, sharing what we have received in love of God and neighbor. Our entire experience speaks to stewardship — we are grateful; we recognize the real presence of the Lord; we receive the Lord; and then we share what we have received.

Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation to us. We are called to give beyond what is convenient or what may be comfortable. We are called to forgive even when forgiveness may not be deserved; we are called to love even when that love is not returned. We are called to love as God loves us.

The Eucharist is stewardship celebrated. The Mass is more than a ritual. It is an actual encounter with God, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We need to respond to the Eucharist with our complete selves. What we experience in the Eucharist should, in turn, translate into our daily lives. We are committed to the Church, which is Christ's body. We show our love for His body by acts of charity and generosity. We spend time in prayer, expressing our gratitude and our love.

God's greatest gift to us is Christ's great love for us — this was shown when He was crucified on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. God's love for us is without limit, and He offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Stewardship is how we respond to that gift.

"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' 'The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and the works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church.'" — Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Honoring Our Lady in May



Dear Parishioners,

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 which 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,

Fr. Alex Zenthoefler
Pastor



Kevin and Maury Reising **REFLECT ON**

“I got involved with the Prayer Chain because other people saying they will pray for me means so much. If I tell someone I’m going to pray for them, then I’m going to pray for them. It now has a more intense meaning. It’s nice to be able to do that for other people and to know who needs prayers.” — Maury Reising

Kevin and Maury Reising have been parishioners at Holy Spirit Church for over 20 years, and they couldn’t imagine facing life’s challenges without the stronghold of their faith to sustain them. Both Kevin and Maury have been active participants in our faith community over the last two decades, making parish ministries and activities a central part of their life together. By cultivating a vibrant faith life, the Reising’s have come to experience joy in even the most difficult circumstances.

Both of the Reising’s enjoy the opportunity to extend this joy to parishioners and visitors at Holy Spirit by serving as greeters.

“Just being able to welcome people when they arrive, and then after Mass while collecting the books and things, you have a little more time with people and talk with them and get to know them,” Maury says.

Kevin likes the sense of belonging that the church greeters help to encourage in the parish. He also experiences this feeling of unity when he distributes Holy Communion as a Eucharistic Minister.

“I always notice the type of hands people present to me when they come for Communion,” he says. “It ranges from the children who have just received First Communion, to workers with calloused hands, to the hands of older parishioners. It



For Maury and Kevin Reising, a big part of appreciating and living each moment to the fullest means continuing to keep their faith and their involvement in parish life at the forefront.

represents to me the whole gamut of believers, and that has always been important to me. It reminds me that all of us come to the same altar to be renewed and to be fed.”

When Maury served as a Eucharistic Minister, she often wondered what each person who came to the altar was going through that day. Have they recently been widowed? Are they facing a struggle? Do they have an illness? Like Kevin, she perceived a unity among the parishioners and their individual lives and struggles as they all approached the Lord’s Table together. Little did she know that one day she, too, would be among those facing a serious illness.

Last June, Maury was diagnosed with cancer. Following a surgery over the summer, she began receiving chemo treatments. While she had to take a medical leave from serving as a Eucharistic Minister, she was inspired to join another parish ministry — the Prayer Chain.

“I got involved with the Prayer Chain because other people saying they will pray for me means so much,” Maury says. “If I tell someone I’m going to pray for them, then I’m going to pray for them. It now has a more intense meaning. It’s nice to be able to do that for other people and to know who needs prayers.”

Both of the Reising’s have found themselves to become more prayerful people as they have faced

“EXPERIENCING JOY” IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

Maury’s illness. In addition to increasing their individual prayer time, they now pray a daily Rosary together as well.

Despite all of the hardships and unknowns she is facing, Maury considers herself blessed.

“It’s been an amazing experience,” she says. “Very shortly after being diagnosed, I was really raising prayer and those kinds of things, and I said to Kevin, ‘I’m experiencing joy.’ I’m just so grateful because God has done so much for us, and this experience changes your whole perspective on what is important in your life. Your faith becomes so strengthened.”

Kevin echoes his wife’s sentiments on the blessing of perspective in the difficult times.

“We don’t know what’s going to happen, but I

try to notice those little things that we do have together and with other people,” he says. “During the day, I try to notice them and appreciate them more. I think God decorates our life with little miracles that we’re too busy to notice most of the time, so I’m trying to pay more attention to those things.”

For Kevin and Maury, a big part of appreciating and living each moment to the fullest means continuing to keep their faith and their involvement in parish life at the forefront.

“I think life and spiritual life are supposed to be a participation,” Kevin says. “I think we’re supposed to share what we have, whether that’s our money or time or energy. There is a Scripture that says God cannot be outdone in generosity. When we give, God gives back to us.”

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because this is a perfect way to get involved,” Diana says. “Maybe you are a longtime parishioner, but you don’t know how to meet others. You can sign up to volunteer. It’s a good way to get to know people by spending time with them. Once you get to know people, you have more of a sense of belonging.”

Volunteers are certainly needed to make the Social a success.

“We need help for everything,” Diana says. “It takes probably about 380 spots that can be filled to help with set up, running the games, serving the food, manning the inflatables, helping with the auctions, selling tickets or tearing down. Tear-down takes place after it is over Saturday night. Everything is torn down by Mass on Sunday. Donations of all kinds are needed, such as drinks, desserts or cash. There are all kinds of ways to help.”

All parishioners will receive a raffle ticket packet to either sell or purchase.

“The raffle is a huge money maker in the whole event,” Diana says. “The community participation is amazing, but we need people to sell the tickets. The packets, each marked with a parishioner’s name, will be available in the back of each church. Additional tickets will be available at the social or at the Parish Center.”

The first cash raffle prize is \$2,500; second is \$750; third is \$500; fourth is \$250. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

There is no admission fee, but there is a charge for the dinners and inflatables. The games require a ticket.

The proceeds will go to the Annunciation Parish general fund for needs as they arise.

Diana Dewig has created a link on the parish website at www.AnnunciationEW.org for volunteer sign-ups and donations. Diana can also be contacted by email at ddewig@evdio.org.



A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR PRAYER

The Presentation of the Gifts

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very Self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!

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FOSTERING A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST AND HIS MOTHER THROUGH THE LEGION OF MARY

For Kendra Delgman, joining the Legion of Mary was a powerful way to discover how awesome it truly is to be Catholic.

“Even though I had been Catholic since the late 1980s, I didn’t devote as much time as I wanted to my faith,” she says. “About 10 years ago, however, I felt a calling to get into it much more deeply. I was looking for something special to do at church, and I saw the Legion of Mary mentioned in the bulletin, so I tried going to one of their meetings.”

“I was surprised at how small the group was, but they were very welcoming to me,” Kendra adds. “I really liked the prayers they said and the wonderful discussion we had on religious topics. I also loved hearing about their various apostolates.”

She soon opened her heart to God’s grace and joined the Legion of Mary in 2013, becoming president in 2014.

“Over the years, the Legion of Mary has been a true support to my faith, and has deepened my relationship with Christ and Mary,” Kendra says. “It has been a great joy for me, as well as for everyone else in our group.”

Legion of Mary members are Catholics who belong to this worldwide lay apostolic association, serving the Church and their neighbors on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries. According to their official website, “The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary’s and the Church’s work... The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.”

Our parish’s Legion of Mary *praesidium*, or group, currently has about four dedicated members, or “legionaries.” Their meetings take



Legion of Mary Members — Mary Lou Schmidt, Kendra Delgman, Nelly Rivera and Mary Helen Laval

place at Christ the King Parish Center at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, year-round but weather permitting. Each legionary is committed to saying a set of daily prayers which is called the *Catena Legionis*. They are also required to carry out about two hours of apostolic work each week in the spirit of faith. In imitation of Mary, Mother of Charity, they currently visit about 43 people who are homebound or in nursing homes.

“We visit Catholic residents at several local nursing homes and bring them Holy Communion,” Kendra says. “We pray with them, befriend them, and see if they want us to notify a priest of their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick. They are so grateful for us coming.”

By walking in Mary’s footsteps, they touch and heal souls in beautiful ways.

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“Our ultimate goal is to be like the Blessed Mother — though I know I fall short of that a lot of times,” Kendra says. “Mary would minister to people in need, pray for them and care for them when they were sick. The spirituality of the Legion of Mary encourages us to live like Mary, act like Mary and pray like Mary.”

A key cornerstone of the Legion of Mary’s spirituality is the Holy Rosary, which each legionary is encouraged to pray regularly. Time and time again, they find it to be a tremendous source of hope and consolation along the journey of life.

“The Rosary brings us closer to Our Lord, and helps us meditate on Our Lord’s life,” Kendra says. “Our Mother told us at Fatima that we need to pray the Rosary every day. I know it is hard for some to do it every single day, but even if they can try to, it can really help to bring peace into their heart.”

Those who are interested in joining the Legion of Mary may visit a meeting or contact Kendra Delgman at 812-853-3783.

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