



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

BUILDING FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY THROUGH OUR ANNUAL

Summer Social

Those lazy days of summer are just around the corner — and once again Annunciation’s annual Summer Social promises to provide food, fun and fellowship for all who volunteer or attend.

“It’s basically a way to bring the community all together — a time to be with old friends and to make new ones, too; a time to work together and have fun together,” says Diana Dewig, Summer Social Chair.

As in years past, this year’s Summer Social — scheduled for June 12 and 13 at Holy Spirit campus — promises two evenings of fun and entertainment. This includes delicious food, carnival games and inflatables for the children, an adult beer garden, a silent auction, theme basket raffles including a drawing for the big cash raffle for a total of \$4,000 in cash prizes, live music and much more.

“The grounds are open from 5-9 p.m. each day,” Diana says. “We have live entertainment. This year’s performers are the Shivvers one night and Keith Vincent the other.”

Fried chicken dinners are served in the air-conditioned cafeteria from 5-7 p.m., with adult plates costing \$10 and children’s plates — ages 8 and under — costing



Carnival games are run by volunteers to ensure fun for our youngest attendees.

\$5. This meal includes fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes and gravy, a vegetable, coleslaw, a roll, dessert and a drink. Outside food booths also serve traditional carnival food such as hamburgers, corn dogs, tenderloin sandwiches, fudge and cookies, Dippin’ Dots, and cotton candy.

All proceeds help benefit the parish and school, pro-

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ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

BUILDING FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY THROUGH OUR ANNUAL

Summer Social

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viding funding for special projects and programs as well as occasional maintenance needs of the parish.

“Last year we raised about \$29,000 which was a big increase from the year before,” Diana says. “This helps us raise money for our number-one mission, our Catholic schools — as well as to provide additional support for parish programs that help us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.”

Pulling this off, however, requires the support of the entire parish family. No matter who you are, your skills or availability, Diana says there is truly a part for everyone to play in ensuring the success of this year’s event.

“A parish is really a family, and in a family it takes everyone working together to get everything done,” Diana says. “Sometimes it’s fun, sometimes it’s work, but we all have to do our part. When it comes to the Summer Social, there truly is something for everyone. For some, that means helping to make it happen by physically working the event or helping with a donation of some sort. For our older folks who have given so much in the past but can’t physically do that anymore, they can offer their prayers which is also super important in ensuring the overall success. Even just coming and enjoying yourself is immensely important.”

Everyone coming together like that, Diana says, is the true beauty of the event. It helps make Annunciation Parish feel a bit more like home, opening the doors to new members and forming stronger relationships with the people we know.

“I think it’s good for everyone to get together again like that, to help us all get to know one another,” Diana says. “Whether you’re working, contributing a donation or simply coming, I think it makes you feel more a part of the parish family.”



Some of the Summer Social’s dedicated fryers and cooks share their time and talents for the event.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, dates and times for our Summer Social may change. Please see the parish bulletin for current updates. For further questions, please contact Diana Dewig at ddewig@evdio.org.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Are We *Truly* an Easter People?

Dear Parishioners,

During a visit to Croatia when he was pope, St. John Paul II proclaimed, “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Are we really the Easter people? I think we should be.

This is still the Easter season and it continues throughout this month until Pentecost Sunday, May 31. What does that mean, however, to be Easter people? Being an Easter person has much to do with how we view our faith and how we live it out. Stewardship people are Easter people.

Jesus is so alive for us on Easter Sunday morning. He needs to be alive for us and in us every day, and certainly in these days which follow Easter. At the time of His Resurrection, His followers did not whisper “He is risen” – they shouted it and rejoiced! That is how we need to approach our faith as well.

During Lent leading up to Easter, we did not use *Alleluia* in our liturgies. We put it away until Easter, and I missed it. But then, it made it even better when it came back over and over on Easter and throughout this Easter season. St. John Paul II

was telling us all that we are not just an Easter people, but we are also an *Alleluia* people. We are called to exemplify *Alleluia* in everything we do. Think about it. Who is an *Alleluia* person? Certainly, it’s someone who seems to just brim over with the Good News, constantly reflecting the joy of being a Christian and a Catholic. It is also possible to be an *Alleluia* person in quiet ways, but others do need to see that God is alive in us in everything we do.

Easter began with the Easter Vigil, but it did not end on Easter. That was the beginning. One indication to us that Easter is going on right now is a change in how we identify the Sundays throughout May. For many years, the Sundays that followed Easter during the Easter season were called the “Sunday after Easter.” When the Church adopted the new liturgical calendar, that was changed to “Sunday of Easter.” Thus, we are not winding down from Easter – we are in the midst of it.

We became Easter people at our Baptisms. We should be Easter people every day and every week and during every season. Being an Easter person is acknowledging



our call to discipleship and stewardship. We should begin and end everything with *Alleluia*. *Alleluia* – *Hallelujah* – means quite simply “Praise to God.” It is not just something we sing, chant or say. It is something we live. By living our lives in praise of God – stewardship is, after all, a way of life – we can be and are an Easter people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Alex Zenthoefer
Pastor



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

ANNUNCIATION PARISHIONERS FIND GREAT INSPIRATION IN

Our Sister Parish in Haiti

Annunciation is greatly blessed to have an inspiring relationship with a sister parish in the region of Sainte-Suzanne, Haiti. For over 30 years, our parish has been showing love to God's people in Sainte-Suzanne through prayer and financial support. In recent years, groups of parishioners have traveled twice to Haiti to make a personal connection with the people served through our sister parish relationship. On these trips, our parishioners witnessed just how much we have to learn about life — and faith — from some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Our sister parish relationship was initiated in the 1980s by one of Annunciation's former pastors and maintained for many years by parishioner Jenny Cook. Currently, Stacey Church is the main coordinator of this ministry. Stacey first got involved with the sister parish when she went on the first mission trip to Sainte-Suzanne and its outlying rural areas in 2015.

"It was so out of the box for me to make a trip like that," Stacey says. "But one of my older kids had gone on a mission trip the year before, and I thought, 'If she can, I can.' So one of my other daughters and I both went. It was a mission of presence — of being with the Haitian people, praying with them, and visiting their sick and homebound. I was really changed by it, just seeing the



stark comparison between their everyday life and mine."

Stacey was so affected by her experience in Haiti that she became the coordinator of our sister parish relationship and helped organize the 2017 mission trip. During both visits to Haiti, she has been deeply inspired by the incredible faith of the people in Sainte-Suzanne.

"It was really beautiful to see how central the Church is to all their individual lives," Stacey says. "It's not just something they do on Sunday — instead, their whole focus is on their faith. People walk for two miles or more to get to Mass, and these people who have literally close to nothing come to Mass dressed beautifully in suits and

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Annunciation hopes to plan another 10-person trip to Haiti in the summer of 2021. In the meantime, our sister parish relationship continues as a ministry of presence, supporting the priest who serves Sainte-Suzanne and its many outlying rural areas through prayer and financial contributions. Currently, donations collected in the monthly envelope for Sainte-Suzanne are going towards the construction of a chapel structure in one of its rural areas that lacks an indoor space for Mass.

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dresses. I was blown away by the enthusiasm with which they sang and prayed and responded. They weren't just going through the motions — they really felt it.

"The faith is such a critical part of their life," she adds. "That was a beautiful example for us."

While the mountainous terrain surrounding Sainte-Suzanne provides a beautiful backdrop to daily activities, life there is extremely difficult. Unpaved dirt roads are susceptible to flooding, there is no system for the disposal of trash, and homes are most often crude structures lacking proper floors, windows and doors. There is no electricity, and residents must travel long distances each day to reach a water supply.

Against all odds, however, the people of Sainte-Suzanne find a richness and joy in life that sustains them.

"The other thing that struck us was that there is so much joy among the people," Stacey says. "They have nothing, but their joy comes from their sense of community and their care for one another."

When we support the parish of Sainte-Suzanne, we are not only supporting the church in town, but also the parish school, the medical clinic, and the parish priest's travels to offer the Mass in numerous outlying villages.

As Stacey looks ahead to the projected 2021 mission trip to our sister parish in Haiti, she hopes that Annunciation parishioners will prayerfully consider making the trip and experiencing firsthand the blessings and inspiration that come from serving some of the most vulnerable of God's people.

"You really grow in community with the people you travel with, and the friendships that have come from these trips have been a blessing to me," Stacey says. "And you get to be with a people whose total dependence is on God. You can't help but grow in your own dependence on God, realizing that you're not in control and have to trust that God will provide. It was eye-opening for me to look outside myself and see the need of people in God's world."

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Keeping the Faith

DURING A CRISIS

Adversity is a part of life. We may face family strife or financial issues. We may experience a personal or family medical crisis. We may suffer the loss of a loved one.

The thought of not being able to attend Mass to receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord as a result of a crisis — such as the one we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 pandemic — is devastating.

Right now, it may seem challenging to remain a faithful steward. We may even question our faith and wonder how to find God during these turbulent times.

Where do we turn?

First and foremost, we must pray without ceasing. During a difficult time, you can always turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Take time each day to read the daily Scripture readings — they can be found at USC-CB.org, and then by selecting the date on the calendar on the home page. You can also use the many rich resources of our faith to engage in spiritual reflections each day as an individual and with your family. This can include simple prayers like an Our Father and Hail Mary a few times a day, as well as praying the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Stations of the Cross, among others. Many resources for these are easily found online.

It is also important to remember that at times when you cannot physically attend Mass, Sunday remains a holy day, and you are encouraged to pray. You can participate in prayer by way of televised or live-streamed Mass — one option for viewing daily Mass online can be found at www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass.

During times of crisis, we must also find ways to use our talents to serve God. If you are unable to participate in ministries and serve your parish community, you can still use your talents to serve your family and those closest to you. Something as simple as calling to check on

family and friends — or even doing a video call — can go a long way.

Finally, we must try to remain good stewards of our treasure. You may have lost your job or have seen a reduction in work hours and pay. But despite your hardships, a faithful steward must faithfully try his or her best to return a portion of your treasure to God however He is calling you to do so. Check the parish website for online giving opportunities and do what you can to return a portion of your treasure to God.

No matter the situation, God always remains faithful to us. Don't forget that everything God gives us is a gift, and the way in which we share our gifts with God and our neighbor is ultimately how we give Him glory.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things, and I
desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally, come
at least spiritually into my heart.**

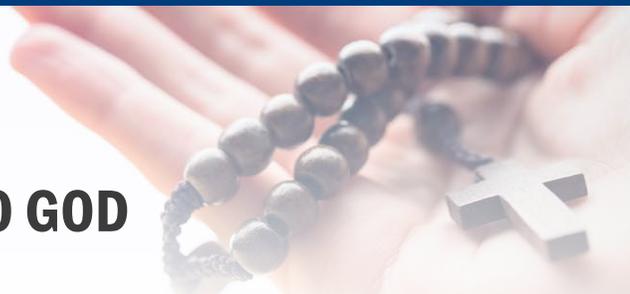
**I embrace You as if You were already
there and unite myself wholly to You.**

Never permit me to be separated from You.

AMEN.

Catholic In College:

KEEPING THE FAITH AND TURNING TO GOD

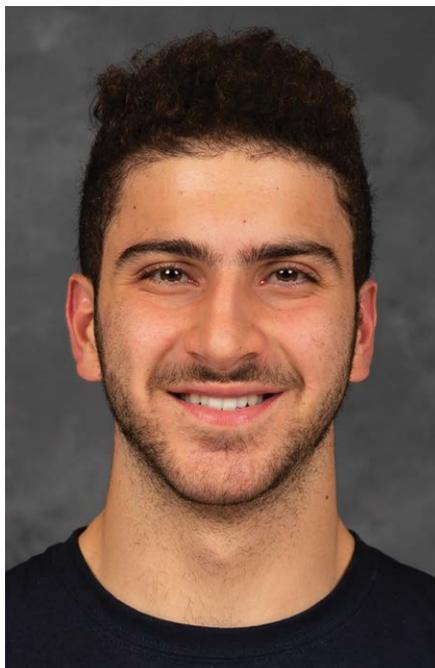


Young adulthood can be a challenging time of life. Especially for those in college, and perhaps away from home for the first time, it's often a time of transition and significant decisions as you discern the direction of your life and your faith. However, for parishioner Angelo Hawa, amidst the struggle, young adulthood has been an opportunity to go deeper in his relationship with God.

Angelo is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, studying Mechanical Engineering. He grew up in the faith, a parishioner at Annunciation, Christ the King campus, active as an altar server, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a lector, and in the choir and Youth Ministry. However, after being surrounded by many people who shared his faith for his entire life, transitioning to college was a challenge.

"In high school and middle school, I was connected with so many people of the same faith and beliefs," Angelo says. "I would go to Mass every week, I would pray every night and it was very easy for me to do that because it was a routine.

"Come college, it was a bit more difficult because [practicing my faith] wasn't just something I could do with my friends," he adds. "I had to go out there and do it myself. The things that helped me were the habits I formed of going to Mass, praying, reading the



Annunciation parishioner and college sophomore Angelo Hawa is learning how to embrace the faith for himself.

Scriptures — those habits helped me, even when I didn't have the support of all my peers."

For Angelo, finding community and support — both from those who share his faith, as well as those who are respectful of it — was key to living the faith at college. He became involved in the Catholic Student Center shortly after arriving at his university, and found friends with similar views.

"I aim for being friends with people who are respectful of my beliefs or even better, practice my beliefs," Angelo says. "Being a leader here takes different forms. Maybe it's asking some of my non-Catholic friends if they would want to come to an event at the Catholic Student Center.

"I think it's very important to lead by example," he adds. "We show people we are Christians by how we

act, leading that Christian lifestyle and having Christian values. I think that really shows people that you are a leader in your faith."

Being away at college has also helped Angelo learn to rely on God in ways that perhaps he hadn't before. In a world where most of his social circle is made up of other young adults in a similar boat, God is often the most certain and stable Person in your life.

"Whenever I'm stressed out and I don't know who to turn to, and I'm surrounded by a bunch of people

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If you or a loved one is heading off to college next year, take time over the summer break to research what options are available to further their faith, whether on campus or in the surrounding community. Contact the Student Life Department to see what Catholic presence exists at your particular school!



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

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Catholic In College

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like me – all stressed out – there’s only one Person you want to turn to, and that’s God,” Angelo says. “In those moments where no one else has the answers to my problems, I know I can turn to God for support.”

Angelo is grateful for the role that the Catholic community at Annunciation played in his spiritual growth, and he encourages his fellow parishioners to pray for him and other college students they know.

“Those values that I grew up with at Christ the King really formed the way that I live here, and interact with others, and show people that I’m a Catholic,” Angelo says.

“As a college student, it’s been tough,” he adds. “Your whole life, your faith has been given to you and you accepted it, but once you get to college, no one’s going to feed you Scripture or take you to Mass – you have to do these things yourself. Living the Catholic lifestyle in college, it’s increasingly harder. Keep college students close in mind because they’re going through a lot.”

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. |
First Fridays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Christ the King