



# ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

*Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches*

## THE POWER OF THE *Prayer Network*

Sometimes, God's plans are much bigger than our own.

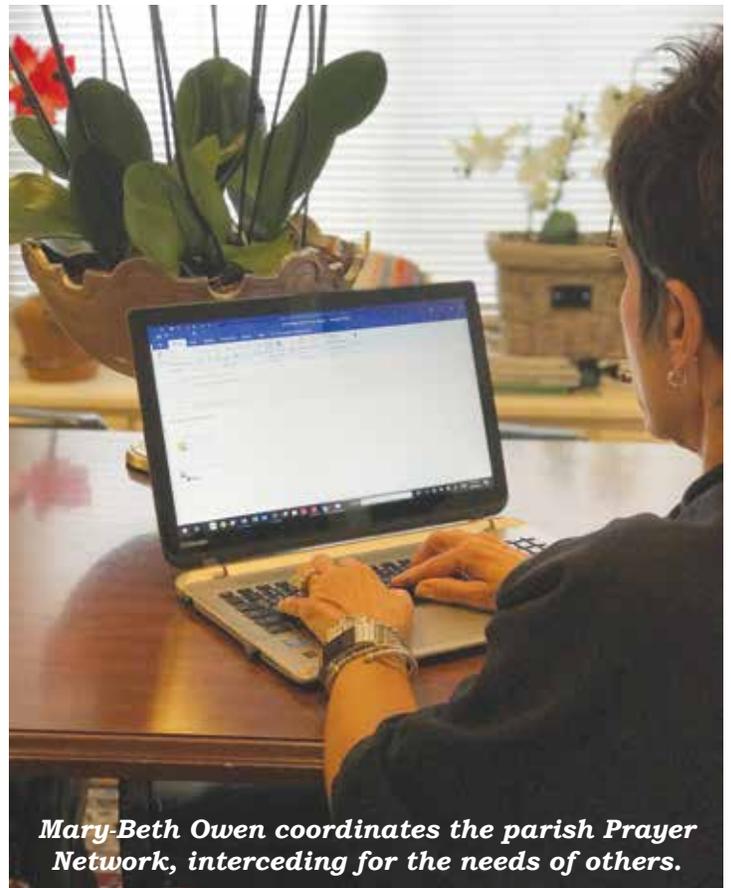
It was the season of Lent, nearly 20 years ago, when several couples decided to join together in a small Bible study group.

"At that time, every single couple had someone in their family who was fighting a life-threatening illness," says Mary-Beth Owen, who hosted the group in her home. "We would talk about it, and ask each other for prayers. When the group would depart every evening, we would say, 'We'll keep you in our prayers.' It was very comforting to think there were other people praying for us, and for our family members who were ill. The more we talked about it, we said, 'Wouldn't it be neat to start something like this with our entire parish?' It just evolved."

From its humble beginnings, the Annunciation Prayer Network now includes over 80 people who commit to interceding for the needs of others.

"It's a group of people who have volunteered to pray for the spiritual needs of people in our parish and their family and friends," Mary-Beth says.

Mary-Beth coordinates the Prayer Network, sending out prayer requests by email anytime  
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***Mary-Beth Owen coordinates the parish Prayer Network, interceding for the needs of others.***



## *The Power of the Prayer Network* continued from front cover

she receives them. There are no formal “meetings” of the group — everyone prays on their own, whenever they receive the request.

The Prayer Network serves to build the sense of “family” in the parish, helping people to feel connected, knowing that there are others who care about their needs.

“There are many times when the person who requested the prayers will email and say, ‘Thank you for your prayers, our prayers have been answered,’” Mary-Beth says. “There are other times when their prayers may not have been answered in the way they had hoped, but God had a plan. I believe that it’s a great way to really increase camaraderie and it’s a great feeling to know that people are praying for your specific needs, that there are people who care.”

Not only is the Prayer Network a blessing to the people being prayed for, but Mary-Beth also finds that it helps her own faith.

“When [the prayer request] comes in — to my phone, my computer, wherever — it makes me, in this crazy, fast-paced world, stop and center myself in prayer,” she says. “It’s a way for all of us to slow down and stop and pray.”

It’s Mary-Beth’s hope that people will not hesitate to reach out for prayer, in times of need.

“There’s no need that’s too small or too large,” she says. “There’s a group of really caring parishioners who want to help you. We are there for you. Never feel like, ‘I’m embarrassed to send this in.’ Just send in a ‘special intention.’”

Mary-Beth encourages parishioners to become part of the Prayer Network, especially if they are unable to physically serve the parish in other ways.

“It’s for someone who not only believes in

***“It’s for someone who not only believes in the power of prayer, but also wants to help in some small way. It’s a really good way for people to get involved, especially if they feel they’re too busy to serve on other committees, or they’re elderly and cannot get out of their home. It’s people who want to serve the spiritual needs of the parish.” — Mary-Beth Owen***

the power of prayer, but also wants to help in some small way,” says Mary-Beth of the people who are part of the Prayer Network. “It’s a really good way for people to get involved, especially if they feel they’re too busy to serve on other committees, or they’re elderly and cannot get out of their home. It’s people who want to serve the spiritual needs of the parish.

“It’s just a really good way to feel like you’re part of the parish,” she adds. “It’s something you can do so easily from your home, your workplace, your car, wherever you are — it’s a way for you to make a difference in your parish. It’s very rewarding because you feel like you’re doing your small part for someone. It’s rewarding for the person who requested it to know people are praying for them and it’s also rewarding to know we can make a difference through prayer.”

**To become part of the Prayer Network, or if you have a prayer request that you would like others to pray for, please contact Mary-Beth Owen at [marybeth@adceterapromotions.com](mailto:marybeth@adceterapromotions.com). If you would like to join the group or send a prayer request, but don’t have email, you can contact Diana Braun, our Parish Secretary, at 812-476-3061, ext. 111.**

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

# *November: A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks*

Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look forward to the turkey and afternoon nap — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of witnesses now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. We are also strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are



being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, we also are thankful for the love they gave us and for the faith they passed on to us. Let's also not forget that the first week of November is Vocation Awareness Week, when we focus on discerning who God is calling us to be and living that call with courage!

Then comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday that invites us to celebrate all that we've been given. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn

reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is why we celebrate the Eucharist with our neighbor parish, Holy Rosary on Thanksgiving Day. It's a time for us to gather as brothers and sisters with hearts full of gratitude.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings-on in our country, we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Alex Zenthoef'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'Z'.

Fr. Alex Zenthoef  
Pastor



# ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

## BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR

### What is a Stewardship Renewal?

This isn't a parish fundraiser – far from it. Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will support our Annunciation faith community.

### Why should I fill out a commitment card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving, or what we at Annunciation call "time, talent, and treasure." There's a two-fold reason to complete your card. First, it is an excellent opportunity to move forward spiritually and personally. Second, when you fill out a card, our parish is much better able to manage our many volunteers and make budgeting decisions.

### How many parish ministries are there in our parishes?

"Ministry" is a general term for any parish group, organization, or regular activity. There are dozens of ministries in our Annunciation community. You can sign up for certain ministries, or re-commit yourself if you're already involved.

### What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I'm not very interested?

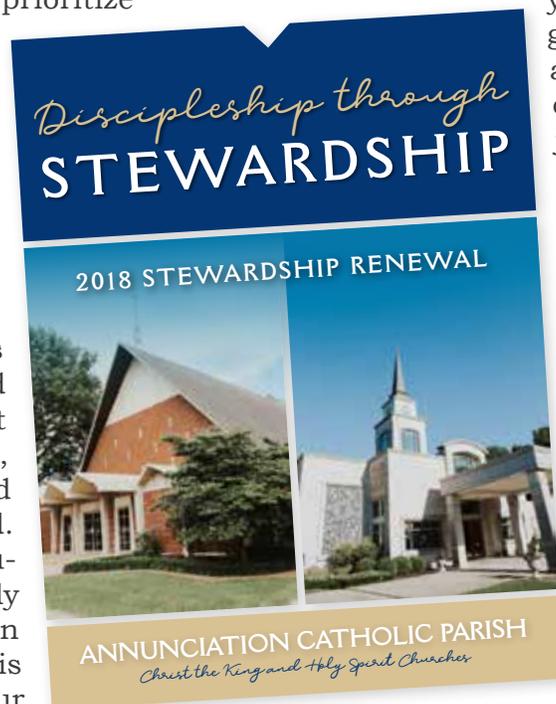
You are not making a solemn promise to participate in a particular ministry when you mark it on your commitment card. If you find that the parish group is different than you thought, or simply that their meeting time doesn't fit your schedule, you can change your mind. There are plenty of other ministries to consider.

### I'm hesitant to make a firm financial pledge. What if I lose my job?

Your commitment card isn't a legal contract. If your circumstances change, your gift will change. In Scripture, we are asked to "give according to our means." So if you lose your job, you may be unable to give at the level you pledged. Likewise, if you get a promotion, you may be able to give more. That is why at Annunciation, our standard of giving is based upon a percentage of income.

### What happens if I don't fill out a commitment card?

Returning a card is an important part of being an active member of our faith community. If for some reason you lose your card, we'll send you a reminder letter with an extra commitment card. Please make every effort to return it!



## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on Commitment Sunday, November 17-18. How will you use your time, talent & treasure in our parish?

### STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

**Our definition of Stewardship of Time:** Using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones.

**The bottom line about prayer:** Without prayer, we cannot thrive spiritually. As Catholic Christians, it is a necessity to spend time each day speaking to God. This includes reading Scripture and saying prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, but even more importantly, it should include a

# Stewardship Renewal

heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus. He wants us to bring Him all our fears, longings, needs, and desires.

**What kind of Time commitments should I make?** Your commitment card lists several suggestions for how to spend time with God in prayer. Review your current prayer life and take a step forward. For instance, start having daily prayers with your children or spouse. Commit to praying the rosary on the way to work or reading scripture before bed each night.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

**Our definition of Stewardship of Talent:** Using my God-given abilities to strengthen the Church and help others, especially through parish ministries and activities.

**The bottom line about parish ministry:** No Catholic Christian exists in a vacuum. Scripture makes it clear that we must function within the wider faith community, putting our gifts in the service of others. It's not enough to go to Sunday Mass; we need to be involved in parish life and ministry.

**What kind of Talent commitments should I make?** If you're not involved in anything in our parish, now is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. Check out our commitment card for a list of ministries. If you're already involved, re-commit yourself to the important work you do. And if you feel God is calling you forward – sign up for something new!

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

**Our definition of Stewardship of Treasure:** The wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish.

**The bottom line about financial support:** We need to take seriously the Biblical concept of the tithe, and start giving based on a percentage of income. It's our responsibility to support the Church with our personal involvement *and* our financial support.

**What kind of Treasure commitments should I make?** Our goal at Annunciation is to give five percent of income to the offertory. Grab a calculator and figure out your target gift based on your total household income. Then make a plan for increasing your gift incrementally to reach five percent. During our Stewardship Renewal, choose a weekly or monthly gift to the parish, and be faithful to it for the next year.



Discipleship through  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

2018 COMMITMENT CARD

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on **November 17/18**, or mail using the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you!



## TAKING THE NEXT STEP OF DISCIPLESHIP

*Parish Offers FORMED Anima Series Beginning in Late November*

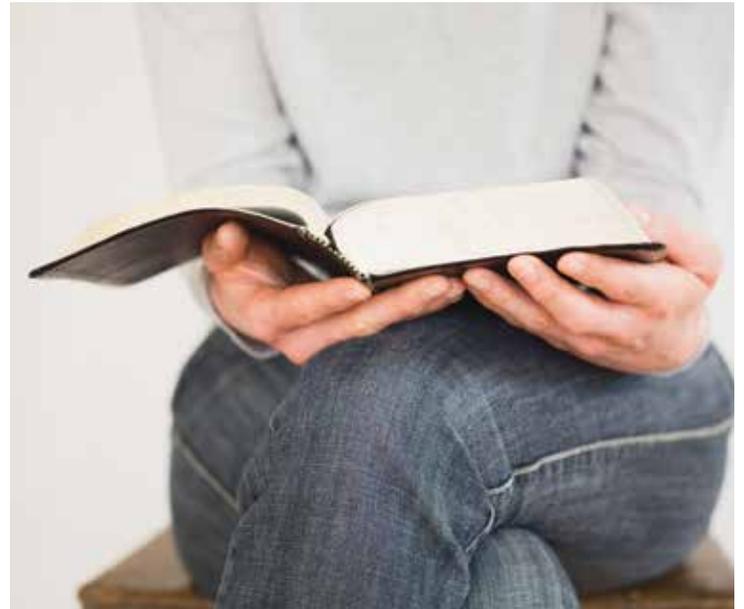
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During his papacy, Pope St. John Paul II spoke often of the “new evangelization” which would bring about a renewed springtime to Christianity. In his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, he wrote, “Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!” And yet, added the late Holy Father, the first step to embracing this missionary lifestyle is becoming a witness. For, he writes, “People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers.”

Through these words St. John Paul II reminds us how essential it is for us to take time for our own prayer life and spiritual enrichment. For the more fully we come to know the Person of Jesus Christ, the better we can commit our lives to Him and His Church. This is why parish Evangelization Coordinator Julie Rosario is so excited about the Anima Series which will be offered here at Annunciation in late November. Part of our parish’s FORMED subscription, this weekly study helps lead participants to Christ through an enlightening account of God’s plan for both us and the world.

“It will enable us to discover together what each one of us is given by God, as well as the needs present within our families and community,” Julie says. “We can hear how the Holy Spirit prompts people very close to us to live normal lives with courageous faith.”

The study is divided into three core parts — Crux, Kenosis, and Blaze. Crux, Julie says, is all about the “essential questions of life,” such as who are we and what were we created for? Having pondered man’s beginnings and purpose, Kenosis then moves on to explore the Person of Jesus Christ and how He “emptied Himself” for



us. This section of the series allows individuals to really see how God is present in their lives, even in the most vulnerable or difficult situations. Finally, Blaze is where we learn more fully about our roles as Christ bearers — about our personal calling to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel” (Mark 16:15).

Julie says that the Anima Series is a great outlet for parishioners desiring to take the next step in their discipleship journey — for those looking for some spiritual encouragement and inspiration.

“I highly suggest this series for those who may feel as though they need something inspiring, motivating and encouraging to take the next step of a disciple,” Julie says. This is an opportunity to return to the simple fact that God loves us. Sometimes we need to hear that message in a new way.

**Anima is completely free and will be offered weekly on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings starting Nov. 28 and ending Dec. 15. Scheduled during the heart of Advent, this program is a great way for parishioners to further encounter Jesus as they prepare for His birth on Christmas morning. Those interested or seeking additional information can contact Julie Rosario at [jrosario@evdio.org](mailto:jrosario@evdio.org).**

## LECTORS CARRY OUT WORK OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE LITURGY AS THEY PROCLAIM THE WORD

We are blessed to have many ministries as part of our Annunciation Catholic Parish — Christ the King and Holy Spirit. These ministries follow the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship, meaning they are built on some combination of Prayer, Hospitality, Formation or Service. Dependent upon the ministry, some are more obvious and visible than others. We are most certainly aware of those ministries which are part of our liturgies — our Masses and prayer services — and within that group is our Lectors Ministry.

As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states, “When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God Himself speaks to His people. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy” (29).

The coordinators of our Lectors Ministries are Diana Braun at Christ the King and Diana Dewig at Holy Spirit.

“We feel it is an honor and a privilege to be able to speak and proclaim the Word of the Lord,” Diana says. “Our lectors take their role very seriously.”

Who can be a lector? Lectors are fully initiated Catholics who are commissioned to be ministers of the Word of God at Mass and other services.

“Stewards called to this ministry proclaim the Word of God at Mass and other prayer gatherings where the Word is read,” Diana says. “Due to the nature of this ministry being a part of our liturgical celebration, certain requirements need to be met by the candidate. This

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*Lector Bev Williamson at Christ the King*



*Lector John Replinger at Holy Spirit*



*Lector Mary Greenwell at Christ the King*

***“A lector must have a desire to minister in this capacity at the Eucharistic liturgy. This ministry in the Church requires a person who is of excellent character, and serious about the practice of their faith. The lector must believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God and have a deep respect for God’s presence in that Word.” — Diana Braun***



# ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

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## *Lectors continued from page 7*

includes a clear voice and a commitment to serve when scheduled.”

There are currently more than 40 participating lectors between our two churches. Between the two churches, there is a total of five Masses — three at Christ the King and two at Holy Spirit.

“We need two lectors at all Masses on the weekend. This includes the vigil Mass at Holy Spirit when we often only have one,” Diana says. “Thus, we need ten lectors each weekend.”

“When someone expresses an interest or

signs up to be a lector, we arrange and hold a training session,” Diana says. “A lector is the person who proclaims the first or second reading at Mass. This person also may lead the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. A lector must have a desire to minister in this capacity at the Eucharistic liturgy. This ministry in the Church requires a person who is of excellent character, and serious about the practice of their faith. The lector must believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God and have a deep respect for God’s presence in that Word.”

**If you would like more information, or to express an interest in the Lectors Ministry, please contact Diana Dewig (Holy Spirit) at 812-477-1738 or Diana Braun (Christ the King) at 812-476-3061.**

### 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