



# *Alive in Christ*

Get to know Leann Plant!

Leann is our Homebound Ministry Coordinator. She oversees the volunteers who take Holy Communion to the sick and the homebound and those in assisted living/nursing homes. This ministry is an outreach branch of the Social Justice Ministry of St. Thomas the Apostle.

We caught up with Leann and asked her some questions about her faith and family practices. Every family is different in their expression of living out the Catholic faith. This is one of the beautiful aspects that makes Catholicism diverse and rich. There is no one right way to express your devotion.

Leann informed us that she was “born into a solid Catholic family. It was a unified upbringing with both of my parents active in our parish”. Leann explained that the example of her parents “made it easy for me to follow in their footsteps as I was growing up and building my own faith foundation.” Later in life, she found that she is “lucky to have extended family and friends that are Catholic as well, which has enhanced and supported my faith journey.”

Leann said her favorite liturgical season is Advent. “It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ,” she explained, “It is easy to get the family involved with this season. Kids are so excited for Christmas and eager to help set up the Nativity scene, which reflects the whole meaning of the season of Advent.”

Many people have deep devotions to particular saints. Looking to the saints helps to remind us that we are all connected in the Mystic Body of Christ. Some saints seemed to have an easy time achieving holiness, while others struggled with daily life. While there are many people who are not recognized saints, we can look to the ones that we have recognized and find one or two that speak to us. We can let them become our Patron Saint and look for guidance from their lives.

Leann prayed “a lot of novenas to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus.” Her other go-to saint is St. Michael, especially for his “intercession when I need help in fighting battles.” Leann leans on the saints because, “there are many beautiful saints available to hear our prayers and requests for their intercession.”

Many Catholics decorate their home to reflect their spirituality and Leann is no different. If you were to walk into her home, you would know you stepped into a Catholic household. After walking through the front door, “you are met by a large face of Jesus that I have had since high school.” There is a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, crucifixes above all the doorways and decorating “during the various liturgical seasons, so my family is mindful of which seasons we are celebrating”.

With the depth and width of Catholic prayers available to say and the different methods of praying, each family will find their own rhythm that fits their style. Leann ensured that her children were “taught

many prayers, as well as the rosary while they were growing up, instilling in them the importance of saying their prayers daily.”

All of these questions lead to the final question: Have you ever experienced a Jesus moment? Leann has had plenty of Jesus moments. She says “they come at a perfect time when I need a comforting reminder that Jesus is in control of my life.” She further explained that “the memories of these moments provide peace and reinforce my trust during times of aridity.” For Leann, “Jesus moments strengthen us to help others when they need their faith nourished during their own trials,” and she believes this “creates a community of faith-filled believers.”

Leann is a shining example of living the Call to Discipleship. We thank Leann for her wonderful example and dedication to being a Dynamic Disciple who truly is Alive in Christ!

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