

Queen of the Holy Rosary



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Greeters Ministry Serves to Help Parishioners Feel Welcome

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Sometimes, all it takes to set the tone for the day is one simple interaction. Positive or negative, we have all experienced how the simple actions of those we encounter in public can affect us. One ministry wants to make sure the first interaction you experience at Queen of the Holy Rosary is a happy and positive one.

The Greeters Ministry is

a group of about 35 parishioners of all ages who take pride in welcoming other parishioners and guests alike to each Mass. Renee Boling, Greeters Ministry coordinator, says being at the door to say “hello” each week is one of the easiest ways for parishioners to get engaged with helping out at church.

“My daughter, Olivia, just graduated this May, and she and I started greeting together when she was 10,” Renee says. “I thought of it as an opportunity for my daughter and I to get involved in ministry together. We just welcome and say ‘hello’ and ‘good morning’ as they come in. We try to be friendly and welcoming to start everybody’s morning off with a smile.”

As greeters post themselves at the main and south doors, they’re not only ensuring that each person gets a friendly ‘hello,’ but they also answer questions and help point visitors in the right direction.

“Older folks really appreciate it when you help them in with their canes or walkers, and being that first welcoming face coming into church,” Renee says.





Stewardship of Treasure

Giving to God First

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs.

Have you ever wondered why no one really becomes uneasy when someone brings up the first two “Ts” of stewardship – giving of your time or talents – but when the third “T” comes up, many of us become uncomfortable?

That third “T” is treasure, and some people simply become so annoyed by the subject, they tune out the words from the pulpit.

Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

Our finances are such a personal subject. Discussing money issues with others is not easy, and having someone tell us what to do with our finances is even worse. We earn the money, after all. So shouldn't we decide what to do with it?

Of course, the answer is “yes” – we decide every day how to spend our hard-earned dollars. Indeed, the monetary choices we make will either keep our finances in check, or put us into the red. The average American family has about \$7,000 in credit card debt – so finances certainly represent a challenge to our current society. Tight budgets, trying to “keep up with the Joneses” or

poor financial management may be to blame for our tight resources. Does this mean we do not have anything left over for God?

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

This idea can be worrisome for many. If our finances are already strained, how will we ever find enough to give back to God? Or, if we do try to give God our “first fruits,” will there be enough left over to cover our required expenses?

Taking the correct financial steps toward good stewardship simply boils down to trust – believing that God, who takes care of all of His creation, will take care of us. Trust that in giving to God first, we are both acknowledging that our multitude of blessings come from Him, and that we are thankful He chose to give them to us. And finally, trust that if we give to Him first, that all else will fall into place – because He is in ultimate control.



A Letter From Our Pastor

As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

August has traditionally been regarded as a summer month — a continuation of July with a few differences, namely back-to-school sales that arrive during the month. But now, many schools begin the academic year in August, with the ever-present back-to-school sales falling even earlier in July.

So do we regard August as “still summer” or “the beginning of fall”? While I don’t have an answer to that question, I do know that it’s a time when we should be thinking about how we’re going to serve as Christian disciples and stewards once the fall routines begin.

Even for adults long out of school, the concept of “summer vacation” has a strong hold on us. Sure, some take vacations in the fall to see the leaves, or in winter for skiing or to see family during the Christmas season — but we still think of the summer as the time for vacations. Many also have the preconceived notion that “nothing happens” in our parish over the summer. Yes, Mass is still regularly celebrated, and there are weddings and funerals. But otherwise, the parish is a quieter place during the summer months... isn’t it?

Of course, that is certainly not the case. In parishes across America, there are summer programs like Vacation Bible School for the children, and youth groups are attending conferences and sharing in service projects in areas of need. In addition, both



our staff and our volunteers are busy during the summer, as they prepare for all “normally scheduled” activities that resume after Labor Day.

That brings me to my main point — how are you preparing to serve as a steward once Labor Day is past? Have you thought of how you can best serve the Lord Jesus with the talent He has entrusted to you? Have you planned how you can arrange your schedule to offer Him more of your time in prayer, worship and study? Have you considered how your budget might be rear-

ranged to share more of the treasure in your care?

Maybe our Lord is inviting you to teach religious education, or to work with the youth, or to visit shut-ins, or to volunteer at a food bank, or to sing in the choir, or to attend weekday Mass, or... well, you get the idea. While we count down the days and wait for autumn to arrive, we can use our time to evaluate how we can be better disciples, better stewards and better Christians — this fall and throughout the rest of our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor



Being a Companion Stephen Ministry at Queen of the Holy Rosary

“God never gives up on us — God is always wanting to be present to people in their need. God is always there in our darkest times, and Stephen Ministers can help be that presence when the rest of the world is moving on. God is there and He knows what our needs are and we try, as Stephen Ministers, to let people know God still cares and they’re still loved.” — Deacon Jim Lavin

We all have those moments that change everything. Maybe it’s the death of a loved one, a surprise job loss, or the doctor’s words confirming your worst fears. Whether in moments of tragedy, or even “normal” transition, the journey of life can sometimes feel lonely.

Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we don’t want you to struggle on the journey alone. This year — with the support and inspiration of our Pastor, Fr. Bill — parishioner John Audley and Deacon Jim Lavin are working to institute a new ministry in our parish, Stephen Ministry. With a mission to provide one-on-one help and support for their fellow parishioners in difficult circumstances, Stephen Ministry will be a valuable resource in helping those suffering within our community to know that they are not abandoned or forgotten.

“The main purpose of Stephen Ministry is caring for people who are hurting,” John says. “A lot of people are hurting for various reasons and this is a way of letting them know that the people in the parish community, and Jesus, are with them on their journey and in their pain, to help them along that path.”

In general, a Stephen Minister meets once a week with a same-gendered “care receiver,” in a one-on-one, confidential setting. The goal and purpose of Stephen Ministry is to support people through difficult times, whether a loss, illness or other life transition, reminding them that even in challenging or sorrowful times, they are never alone.

“Stephen Ministers are the ones who will show up and be there to listen, when family members and friends stop calling,” Deacon Jim says. “When they need to talk, but the rest of the world is ready to move on, we’re here. We’ll show up and we’ll listen. We’re not there to fix things, or even offer advice, but we’re there to be a good listener. Stephen Ministers will be there as long as they are needed.”

Although they often play a significant role in another person’s healing, Stephen Ministers are not trained or licensed counselors, and both John and Deacon Jim emphasize that it’s God who is doing the work in people’s hearts.

“The whole goal of Stephen Ministry is to listen and show someone that you care,” John says. “We’re not trying to fix anything. That’s the beauty of the Stephen Ministry — we are the care givers but God is the Cure Giver.”

“It’s God Who is doing the healing and we’re just there to help facilitate that relationship with God, to be that conduit to the work of the Holy Spirit,” Deacon Jim adds.

John and Deacon Jim have recently attended training for Stephen Leaders, and are currently working to gather people interested in serving as Stephen Ministers. Those who want to serve in this ministry will go through training, with hopes to begin offering services and support early next year. They encourage parishioners who may feel drawn to this type of



on on the Journey: *Queen of the Holy Rosary*

service to pray and consider giving back to the parish as a Stephen Minister.

“The biggest thing is you have to be a good listener,” John says. “You have to trust that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are going to give you the tools you’re going to need to walk with that person. You have to be able to listen and not want to fix everything.”

“As Catholics, we often assume that if there’s a spiritual need, [the priest] will take care of it — and our Pastor is a great leader, but he’s just one man,” John adds. “We’re looking for people who can walk the path with these folks who are hurting and make sure they realize that Jesus hasn’t forgotten them.”

“God never gives up on us — God is always wanting to be present to people in their need,” Deacon Jim says. “God is always there in our darkest times, and Stephen Ministers can help be that presence when the rest of the world is moving on. God is there and He knows what our needs are and we try, as Stephen Ministers, to let people know God still cares and they’re still loved.”

If you would like more information, or to discuss the possibility of becoming trained to serve as a Stephen Minister at Queen of the Holy Rosary, please contact Stephen Leader John Audley at 913-645-4286 or jaudley@swbell.net. Training will begin this fall and continue through January, with Stephen Ministers being commissioned and beginning service shortly thereafter.



Deacon Jim Lavin and John Audley look forward to establishing the Stephen Ministry at our parish in the coming months.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation: *Returning to the Father*

Those of us who have children know what it's like when they come to us apologetically after having done something they know is wrong. As parents, it melts our hearts, and we can't help but forgive them freely, and take them into our arms – sometimes squeezing them with tears in our eyes! At times, we may even feel closer to them than we did before the event occurred.

This, we can assume, is how God feels, being our most clement Father. In His magnanimous love, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to redeem the world, freeing it from the haunting grips of sin and death. Christ instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation through His Church to offer sinners forgiveness for the offenses they committed against God.

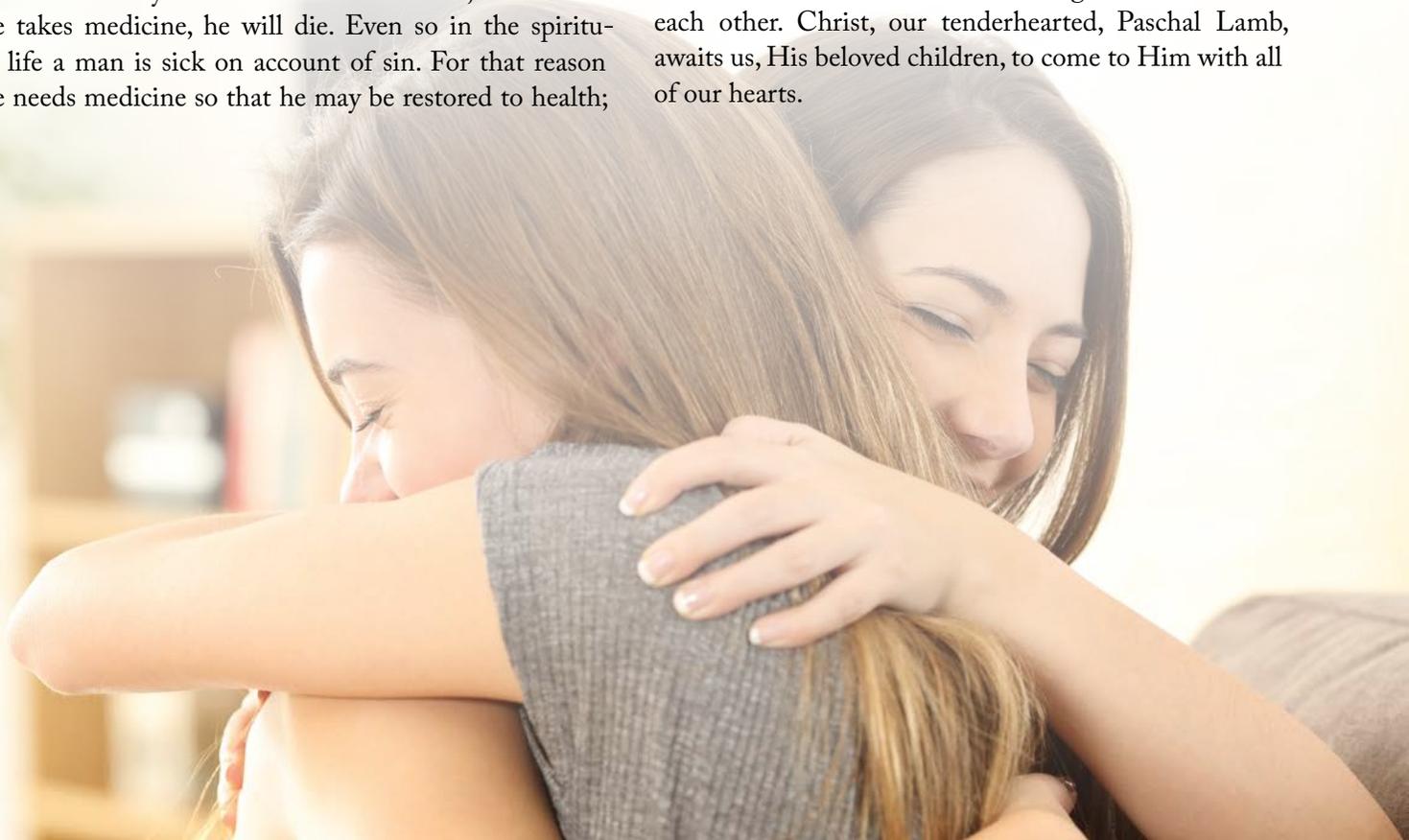
As the Angelic Doctor St. Thomas Aquinas wrote so beautifully, “[The Sacrament of Confession is a] sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after we have sinned. In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health;

and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.”

As far as the details for the reception of this sacrament are concerned, three conditions are necessary – contrition, which is genuine sorrow for sin, together with a purpose of amendment; confession of sins without any omission; and satisfaction by means of good works. A priest is gravely bound to keeping total confidentiality for all confessions they hear.

Church law requires Catholics to confess mortal sins – the most serious kind of sins – to a priest at least once per year, and to confess them before ever receiving Holy Communion, as well. However, this is by far the minimum; Catholics are encouraged to receive the sacrament freely and frequently since it is so extremely beneficial to the health of the mind, soul and spiritual life in general.

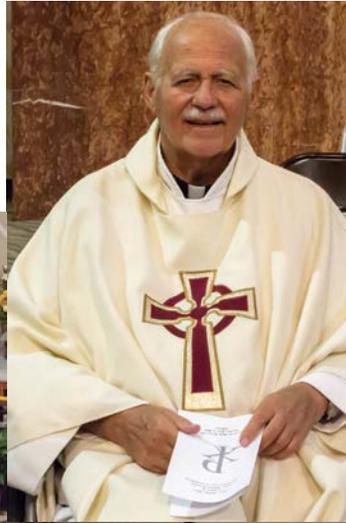
To honor the Sacraments is to honor God and the entire Christian community. To receive the Sacraments is to live in God's love and to strengthen our love for each other. Christ, our tenderhearted, Paschal Lamb, awaits us, His beloved children, to come to Him with all of our hearts.





Twenty-Five Years of Faithful Service: *Congratulations to Fr. Bill!*

On June 3, we celebrated Fr. Bill's 25th anniversary Mass. Upon this occasion, we extend our most heartfelt thanks to Fr. Bill for his faithful service to our parish family. Let us continue to pray for vocations — priestly, religious, married or single — in our Church!





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CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Greeters Ministry *continued from front cover*

Renee says the ministry was a great starting point for she and Olivia to find their way into other ministries. This easy introduction to stewardship requires only that greeters arrive 20 to 30 minutes prior to Mass, and Renee says she's happy to schedule volunteers as often or as little as they'd like.

"You don't have to be real outspoken or overly friendly," she says. "It really is just greeting every person with a smile and a good morning. When the Rosary is being said, the doors are closed and as soon as the

Rosary is over, we open the doors wide and we welcome everyone in."

As the ministry continues to grow, Renee says she hopes it helps all parishioners get a sense of warmth that touches on something unspoken that can only come when we let the Holy Spirit work through us in the name of stewardship.

"I've really enjoy getting to know parishioners," she says. "You start to recognize more people and they recognize you."

Families with children of all ages are welcome to get involved, and students in need of service project hours are also invited to sign up as a way of completing that time. Please contact Renee Boling directly at 816-213-5129 or rboling0403@hotmail.com to get started.

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday: 8:15 a.m. | First Saturday: 8:15 a.m.