

Queen of the Holy Rosary



CATHOLIC CHURCH

CYO Building Strong Character and Faith for Our Youth

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The young people of our parish have the opportunity to strengthen their bodies through a variety of sports, all while strengthening their Catholic faith by joining the Catholic Youth Organization, or CYO.

Cathy Sutherlin is Athletic Director/President of the CYO at John Paul II School that covers both our parish and St. Pius X. The CYO program is authorized through the Archdiocese of Kansas.

“The goals of CYO are to provide a healthy level of competition for today’s youth, and at the same time extend and demonstrate Catholic values to our kids when they play sports,” Cathy says. “We teach kids how to work together, we teach time management — how to get along and work together with the team. I feel, as a coach, I teach them how to win and lose, and how to be gracious and thankful.”

The sports that are available to youngsters in third through ninth grades are football, flag football, volleyball, basketball, cross country, track, golf and soccer. A baseball clinic and some golf matches have been held, and a baseball program is in development.

“We’re really proud of the amount of sports we offer the kids,” Cathy says.

Each time the children get together for practice or a game, the event is opened with a prayer. Although some of the participants are not Catholic, they join the CYO teams because they want to play with others they know.

“It’s been interesting to watch them adopt the prayer,” Cathy says. “We hope by good practice we demonstrate our values. They are accepting of the differences and they learn forgiveness for the times when they can get angry. We mainly want to teach them how to work together. We tell them, ‘the other players may not be your best friends, but



Members of the seventh-grade volleyball team celebrate their trophy win. The CYO program aims to not only help students develop physical strength and sportsmanship, but also to help them acquire strong Catholic values they can carry through their lives.



Stewardship: The Four Pillars

You've heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

Hospitality

Christian Kindness

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let's try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

Prayer

Heart-to-Heart with God

“Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work,” a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and

family prayer. The two biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

Formation

Continuous Conversion

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or “toy” that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

Service

Love in Action

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone.”

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you'll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?



A Letter From Our Pastor

Stewardship Possibilities are Endless at Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

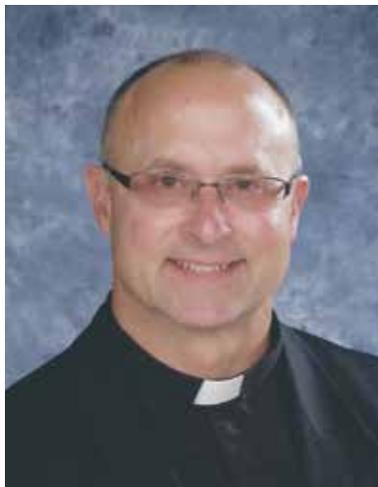
When I think of December, the first thing that comes to mind is Christmas. While that may seem to be the obvious topic, there really are a number of other possibilities. I could think of *Advent*, a season of preparation. I could think of the *Immaculate Conception*, as we celebrate God's gift to the world in Mary. I could think of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, whose popularity has spread far beyond the Hispanic community. Of course, December also holds the first day of *winter*. And because December marks the end of the civil year, I might be developing my resolutions for the New Year!

But instead, I think about Christmas. It is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Babe in the manger in Bethlehem, who is the eternal Son of God made man.

The basic truth of Christmas — celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah, God Incarnate — is plenty of reason for us all to rejoice and worship. But we've piled such an additional load onto our Christmas observance that worship may be lost in the shuffle.

Think about what weight Christmas has to bear. We have to put up the decorations, or make travel plans to visit relatives. There is also the Christmas dinner to plan and cook. And then, we still have Christmas presents to buy. No wonder the Christ Mass becomes an afterthought!

Yet, we still have a wonderful opportunity this season — an opportunity to combine our Christmas activities with our stewardship commitments. Treasure, although challenging, is the simplest. Shouldn't the most expensive Christmas present



we give be the one to Jesus, Whose birthday we're celebrating? Risen and glorified, He needs nothing we have. But His Body, the Church, continues Jesus' mission here on earth and always needs additional resources.

Time and Talent may be a little more complicated, but can't we spend a little more of our time in worship and prayer? Maybe you can attend Mass each day of the Christmas Octave. Have your family gather for prayers together in the morning or at dinner, in preparation for Christmas Day and

through the Christmas season.

And there are so many opportunities to share our Talent! Sing in the choir for the Christmas Masses. Help decorate the Church. Cook or bake for someone who is shut-in. Invite someone who will be alone to share Christmas dinner with your family. Offer to work in a soup kitchen. The possibilities are endless.

With a little planning, we can make this hectic time one of real blessing both for ourselves and others. Pray for me that I can keep Christmas properly, and I'll pray for you. And by the way, have a merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor



Phyllis and Joe Strobl S *Unexpected, Y*

“When you think about how God the Father gave His only Son to die on the cross for us, whatever we do in return is nothing in comparison. I’m only too grateful to be able to give back in some way.” — Joe Strobl

Though storms in life are inevitable, God never leaves us alone or unequipped. In His perfect timing, He provides us with all the graces needed to not only survive but thrive — if we let Him. Parishioners Phyllis and Joe Strobl experienced this personally 20 years ago when Joe received a life-altering injury. An iron worker by trade, Joe was electrocuted and thrown, resulting in a major spinal injury. What followed were six weeks of intensive care, many hours of rehab, permanent confinement to a wheelchair, and a move for the entire family to a handicap-accessible home. While these were easily some of the most difficult moments of their marriage, Phyllis and Joe unquestioningly identify it as a pivotal moment in their stewardship journey.

“I was in intensive care for six weeks after my accident and was really close to death,” Joe says. “And when you go through something like that, it just changes you. I’m a much better person now than I was then. And so, as far as giving back, it just makes sense.”

“It’s something you hope no one ever has to go through, but when you do, you can’t help but see how God leads you through it,” Phyllis adds. “As a family, we just became closer. Joe has never looked back and he’s always taught us to do the same thing. We just dealt with it as best we could and carried on.”

Though the accident was certainly a catalyst for the Strobl family, in truth the journey had already begun long before. The couple says that it first began with their own parents who truly modeled the importance of faith and giving back. So when they later met and married, they knew this was something they wanted to bring into their new family, even though at the time they were from differing faiths.

“Joe was raised Catholic while I was raised Presbyterian,” Phyllis says. “Yet, the fact that we were from



Phyllis and Joe Strobl with their two sons

different faith upbringings really wasn’t an issue for us. We knew that Jesus had brought us together and that he would lead us in our marriage.”

Not too long after, their two sons were born, causing Joe to desire to become more active in the Catholic Church. In turn, this prompted Phyllis to begin a lengthy process of questioning and discernment before finally coming into the Church several years later.

“It took God working on my heart for a while so that I could really get to know and understand the Catholic faith,” Phyllis says. “To have our family united in one faith together became increasingly important. So I started learning and seeking answers to my questions about what the Catholic Church was truly about. Joe was very patient with me throughout the process, just waiting for God to do the work.”



Share an Yet Truly Blessed Journey

Though the road may have been long, those years of questioning and discerning the faith together helped lay the foundation that would keep Phyllis and Joe anchored during the weeks and months following his accident.

“Our faith friends just truly carried us in prayer in a season of life when we were truly just taking things one day at time,” Phyllis says.

So when Joe and Phyllis joined Queen of the Holy Rosary shortly after Joe’s accident, they knew it was essential for them to begin serving and becoming even more involved in their faith community — to build up their support system once again and to begin giving back out of thanksgiving for their many blessings.

Over the years this has included involvement in Christ Renews His Parish, cooking for the Food Kitchen, serving as Eucharistic Ministers, Prayer Chains and, more recently, joining Senior Saints. Joe has been a committed adorer at the Adoration Chapel since it was built, belongs to Men of Queen, and is a devoted member of the First Saturday Ministry. Phyllis, meanwhile, also brings Communion to the sick and homebound, serves on the board of Queen’s Ladies Group, helps with the Coffee and Donut Ministry, and helped start a Saturday morning Rosary Walk. The couple is also deeply committed to the Serra Club, a ministry that spiritually supports priestly and religious vocations, particularly since the ordination of their oldest son, Fr. Andrew Strobl.

Yet “the beauty of Queen,” says Phyllis, is that she and Joe are never alone in these endeavors. Rather, they’re just a piece in the puzzle, all working together to create a masterpiece of love, service, and fun. Offering their humble gifts, Joe adds, to a God who has already given them so much.

“We see over and over again that we’re not doing these things alone,” Phyllis says. “We’re there serving with other people, rotating in, and that’s the fun of it.”

“When you think about how God the Father gave His only Son to die on the cross for us, whatever we do in return is nothing in comparison,” Joe says. “I’m only too grateful to be able to give back in some way.”

Though the journey hasn’t always been easy and has taken them in directions they never anticipated or wished

to go, both Joe and Phyllis are deeply grateful for the life they’ve been given together. Their hope is to keep listening to the Holy Spirit so that they can continue serving in whatever ways they are called.

“Part of stewardship is just trying to maintain an openness to what God might be calling us to,” Phyllis says. “The needs are ever-changing in our Church, and we just pray that as a couple we can continue being open to God’s call.”



The Strobl family in Rome, Italy



Advent and Christmas Schedule

Advent Penance Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 9 — 3 p.m.
Queen of the Holy Rosary-Overland Park
St. Agnes Cure of Ars

Sunday, Dec. 9 — 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul (Spanish)

Monday, Dec. 10 — 7 p.m.
Holy Trinity Holy Spirit
Holy Cross St. Michael

Tuesday, Dec. 11 — 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Prince of Peace

Wednesday, Dec. 12 — 7 p.m.
Good Shepherd-Shawnee (Spanish)

Thursday, Dec. 13 — 7 p.m.
Ascension Divine Mercy
St. Pius X St. John Paul II

Sunday, Dec. 16 — 3 p.m.
Queen of the Holy Rosary-Wea
St. Ann

Sunday, Dec. 16 — 7 p.m.
Nativity

Feast of the Immaculate Conception *(Holy Day of Obligation)*

Friday, Dec. 7 — 7 p.m. (Vigil)
Saturday, Dec. 8 — 8:15 a.m.

Parish Communal Penance Service Sunday, Dec. 9 — 3 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday, Dec. 12 — 6 p.m.

Mass Schedule for Dec. 24-25, 2018

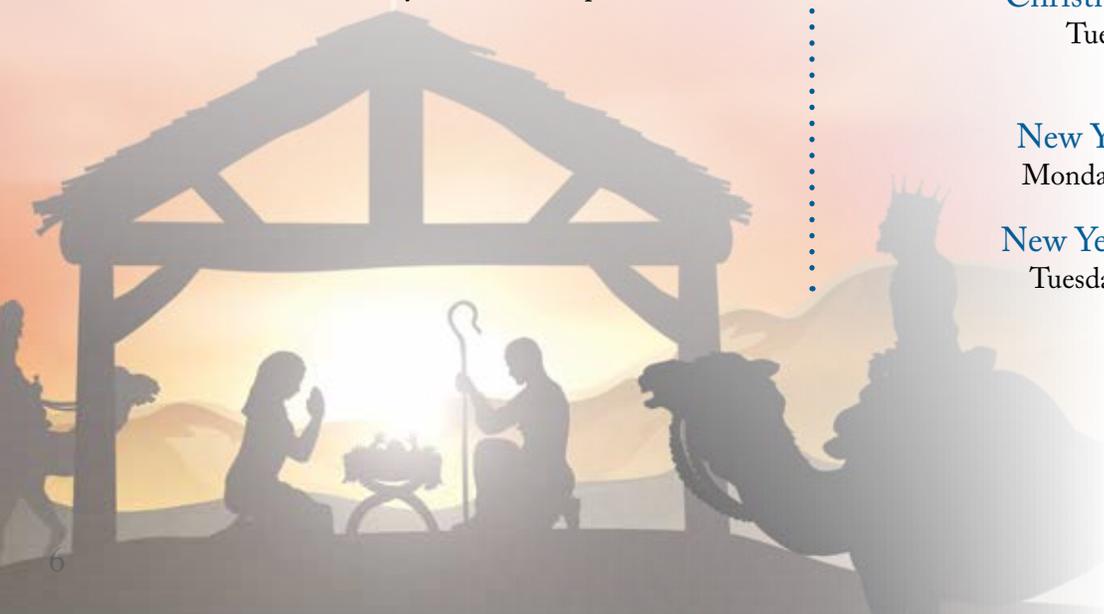
(Holy Days of Obligation)

Christmas Eve Masses
Monday, Dec. 24
4 p.m., Parish Hall
4 p.m., 7 p.m., Church

Christmas Day Masses
Tuesday, Dec. 25
10 a.m.

New Year's Eve Mass
Monday, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.

New Year's Day Masses
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m.





Sacristans Helping Mass Stay on Track and Finding Peace in Time Spent with God

“For me, it has brought me closer to Jesus and the Eucharist, and the whole understanding of how it goes from being just bread and wine to the Holy Sacrament, and the essence of how special and precious that is. The ritual we go through at the end of Mass to get every last particle and drop into the special drain, it just really puts it all together for you and makes it so real. It’s a very meaningful thing for me and I think it’s brought me closer in my faith and increased how I feel about the Eucharist.” — Sheryl Brown

If you’ve ever been involved in any kind of performance, you know how important the stage manager’s job can be. The stage manager must know every line that’s being spoken, know who is supposed to be where and when, and makes sure the people on stage always have what they need.

At our parish, we are also privileged to have our own “stage managers” of sorts. They’re called sacristans. This special group of people is charged with making sure every Mass at Queen of the Holy Rosary is celebrated seamlessly, in a way befitting of the extremely special task being carried out on the altar.

“We’re the host of the party,” says Sheryl Brown who, along with her husband, Kevin, serves as Head Sacristan. “We make sure everyone can come in and the table is set and we make sure everything goes smoothly.”

“We’re a part of a larger team that includes the Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, greeters, and ushers,” Kevin says. “We’re pretty darn important but we’re behind the scenes.”

The sacristans’ tasks vary depending on the time of day they serve Mass. The first Mass of the day might mean opening the church doors and turning on the lights, while the last might mean locking everything up. Otherwise, the sacristans will make sure the altar has the appropriate linens, and prepare the chalices, wine and hosts. Sacristans also make sure everyone involved with Mass is present including lectors, altar servers, and the appropriate number of Eucharistic Ministers.



Sacristan coordinator Sheryl Brown arranges the altar linens and ciborium. Sheryl says serving as a sacristan has strengthened her faith and helped her get to know the clergy better.

“We have a group of about 15 sacristans,” Kevin says. “We have at least one whole family that serves together.”

The service a sacristan or sacristans can provide takes the responsibility off the clergy and leaves priests free to welcome parishioners and prayerfully prepare for Mass.

“One of our priests was amazed that we have sacristans because a lot of the parishes don’t have them and the priest has to do it,” Sheryl says. “All he has to do is get dressed.”

For the sacristan, the opportunity to spend time on the altar, carefully preparing everything needed for the Supper of the Lord, can be the chance to draw closer to Jesus in ways most lay people might miss.

“For me, it has brought me closer to Jesus and the Eucharist, and the whole understanding of how it goes from being just

bread and wine to the Holy Sacrament, and the essence of how special and precious that is,” Sheryl says. “The ritual we go through at the end of Mass to get every last particle and drop into the special drain, it just really puts it all together for you and makes it so real. It’s a very meaningful thing for me and I think it’s brought me closer in my faith and increased how I feel about the Eucharist.”

“It makes you feel closer to the Mass as a result of having a hand in getting it ready,” Kevin says. “Sometimes when we’re sacristans, I’m going through everything mentally to know everything is in order. You feel a connection to the Mass itself.”

Parishioners who would like to learn more about becoming a sacristan are invited to call the Browns at 913-492-4982. Sacristans are needed for all Masses, including daily Mass and the iCare Mass.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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CYO Building Strong Character and Faith for Our Youth

continued from front cover

you're friendly and accepting of each other.' We want them to grow spiritually and get healthy.

"I think the fact that the kids see regular prayer at something they might not expect to see prayer is extremely important," she adds. "To see all of the kids, parents, friends, and grandparents stop and pray makes a powerful statement. I still love all the life skills that youth sports teach, but to see and feel the strength of the Catholic community in prayer is remarkable."

An important part of the CYO program is for the adults involved to serve as role models, demonstrating positive values

and showing the youngsters how to act. The aim is to help build self-confidence and self-worth. The children are encouraged to keep trying, but at the same time understand that everyone is not supposed to be good at everything. Through the demonstrating of positive values and acting as role models, the adults can help guide the children to a relationship with Christ.

The CYO program is also welcoming students from our School of Religion.

"They are encouraged to join," Cathy says. "There will be a push across the diocese."

If you would like to learn more about our CYO program, please contact Cathy Sutherlin at 816-589-0014, or visit the CYO website at cyojwa.org. There is also a need for adult coaches in the CYO program, so please contact Cathy or visit the website if you would like to learn more about serving in this way.

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.