

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parishioner Profile

Lora Hudson:

GRATEFUL TO BE CATHOLIC

A Note From Our Pastor

Shortly after this article was written, Lora Hudson was diagnosed with a brain tumor. In late October, she underwent surgery to remove as much of the tumor as possible and has since begun her cancer treatment and recovery. Please join me in praying for Lora and her family during this difficult time. — Fr. Bill

When Lora Hudson's daughter, Samantha, was going through a tough time in life, she turned to the right Person, and went to the right place. She came to Jesus and His Church for help, and she received everything she needed to "weather the storm."

"She met someone who began bringing her to Catholic liturgies, and it helped her get through her difficult situation in life," Lora says. "I noticed that no matter how busy my daughter was, she would still make time to find a Catholic church and go there. She started putting God first in her life, and entered the Catholic Church in 2019."

Lora was amazed at how generous and giving Samantha had become.

"Samantha started helping Catholic religious sisters downtown with their soup kitchens and other charities," Lora says. "I began to see such a wonderful change in my daughter, and I loved witnessing how involved she was getting with her faith."

One thing led to another, and God gently began to open Lora's heart to the beauty of Catholicism as well.

"Samantha didn't want to keep going to church alone, so I said I would go with her," Lora says. "It soon occurred to me that I needed the spirituality that Mass had to offer as well. I sensed such a profound peace in the various Catholic churches we

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Lora Hudson *continued from front cover*

visited. Even though there were usually many people at the Catholic Mass, I felt I could just hone into God's presence and not worry about everyone around me. The Catholic Mass was more reverent, traditional, and prayerful than the Protestant services with bands that I had been to, and I loved it!"

A couple of years ago, Lora began the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process at our parish.

"I really enjoyed going through RCIA," Lora says. "I especially appreciated learning about the additional books of the Bible that most Protestants do not acknowledge [the Deuterocanonical books]."

I was also really impressed about how accepting the people in the RCIA class were. They were very open to questions, loving and understanding. I never felt pushed to become Catholic at all. I had some extra questions so I stayed in RCIA for two years, and they were very patient with me. My sponsor was so supportive of me, as well."

Finally, the long-anticipated moment arrived, and Lora came into full communion with the Catholic Church this summer at our parish.

"I thought that receiving my First Reconciliation was going to be really hard, but it wasn't," she says. "I felt very comfortable with Fr. Bill. He was so kind and accepting. It was also amazing to receive Holy Communion for the first time. It was something I had wanted so badly, and I really looked forward to it. I just kept feeling that I was where I needed to be!"



Lora Hudson with sponsor, Virginia Meeker

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If you would like further information about how to join the RCIA process, please contact Coordinator of RCIA Connie Crutchfield at the parish office at 913-432-4616 or at 913-492-5697.



A Letter From Our Pastor

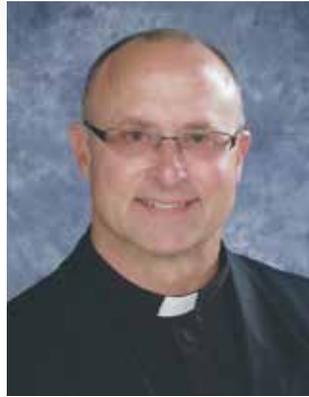
Unwrapping the *Gift* of Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

Most people associate stewardship with giving. Some think it is a desperate plea by the church asking parishioners to give some of your time, talent, and treasure to a worthy cause. Some think it is a noble gesture that identifies a faithful steward, a common occurrence this time of year. And for some, it is an understanding that the stewardship way of life brings joy and blessings to the giver by returning a portion of the gifts he or she has received from God.

At Christmas, when it is most common to give or receive gifts, should this not also be a time when the stewardship way of life becomes the gift that is unwrapped by our consciousness and treasured by our faith? After all, the first gift of Christmas was the gift of God's own Son. For those who may still be struggling to truly understand the stewardship way of life, that may be a concept that is difficult to accept, even at this time of year. But by living the stewardship way of life, it makes perfect sense to me. And during this season of faith, the gift of stewardship remains one of the blessings of my life as a Catholic, as a priest, and as a pastor.

Before fully embracing a life of stewardship, I could justify wasting my time with less-than-worthwhile activities. I could rationalize withholding my talents because I often thought somebody else would always step up and take care of things instead of me. I restricted or limited sharing my material resources, thinking it wouldn't make a difference — or worse yet, I thought others could afford to give more than me because I believed I had already given enough. As each day passes, I remind myself often of how wrong I was in what I did with my time, talent, and treasure. But the days for regretting my misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life are over.



Stewardship conversion changes all of that, and the reverse is now true. The more time, talent, and treasure that I can give, the more content and joyful I truly am. When is the last time you unwrapped a gift that gave you so much peace of mind and heart? Maybe you have never been aware of receiving such a gift, or maybe God is just waiting for you to unwrap what He has always wanted you to have. Perhaps it is the gift God wants you to have this year for Christmas.

The catalyst for stewardship is gratitude. And, as we recognize that all we have is a gift from God, it lights up our gratitude as if it were a large Christmas tree with too many lights on it to be counted. All we can do is look at it with wonder and awe, thankful for what we see, what we have, and the opportunity to give back something in gratitude. It is more than just a spirit of "holiday stewardship" that seems to be so common this time of year. It is the core of the stewardship way of life, and once that gift is unwrapped, our conversion takes hold and our lives are transformed into faithful stewardship intended by our God.

I hope and pray that you and your family will be blessed during this season of God's grace, unwrapping the gift of stewardship in your lives and finding joy and peace — both during this season of grace and all year long.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor



iCARE Ministries *Make Mass and*



The Christmas Mass and live Nativity scene are highlights of the iCare program.



iCare board members gathering with Santa

One important aspect of attending Mass is the opportunity to form valuable relationships with our fellow parishioners. As we gather around the table to worship and receive the Eucharist, building on our faith community can be so beautiful.

Perhaps the most beautiful community being built at Queen of the Holy Rosary is through the Inclusive Catholic Activities and Religious Experiences Ministry, or iCARE. This ministry is for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kevin Hill helped found this ministry, which recently celebrated its fourth anniversary with a September drive-in Mass.

“There were a lot of tears,” Kevin says. “For many, it was the first time receiving the Eucharist since the pandemic started in March.”

The Mass was followed by a social event, albeit a bit different than pre-pandemic Bingo games or dances. Kona Ice was on hand to distribute treats and attendees enjoyed some socially distanced visiting.

The mission of iCARE follows that of the REACH program, which began in Topeka for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That program was in operation from the 1970s until 2000. Kevin has two sisters with developmental disabilities and the REACH program had been a big part of their lives.

“When the program disbanded, it was a big void in their lives,” he says.

Kevin also has a daughter, Lauren, with developmental disabilities. With Lauren and his sisters in mind, Kevin and three friends and classmates from Savior of the World Seminary in Kansas City, with the blessing of Fr. Bill Bruning, decided to start iCARE four years ago.

“Fr. Bill was also involved with REACH in Topeka,” Kevin says. “He got tears in his eyes talking about how meaningful the program was to him in his early years as a priest.”

The iCARE Masses are held twice a month on Saturdays at 6 p.m. The beauty of these Masses is that the iCARE members perform all the ministry tasks, except for that of the Eucharistic Minister. The ministry also allows for the needs



Opportunities for Fellowship Accessible to All

of the intellectually and developmentally disabled, whether that means walking around or making noise.

“Father encourages everyone to participate in whatever way that means for them,” Kevin says.

These Masses offer families, who may have been attending Mass in “split shifts,” the chance to attend and participate in the liturgy together. Once a month, Mass is followed by a social. Before Mass, iCARE participants have religious education or sacramental preparations. There is also a special Mass for Christmas.

“Christmas Mass is the highlight of the year,” Kevin says. “The iCARE participants dress up for a live nativity. Santa Claus actually comes and bows before Mary and Joseph.”

The sacramental preparation is another important part of this ministry since many of the participants can’t attend mainstream religious education classes. Kevin’s daughter, Lauren, was recently confirmed. It was a very special celebration for her and all the others who received the sacrament.

For the participants, who range in age from 6 to mid-70s, COVID-19 precautions have been a challenge, with many missing their community of iCARE friends. For several months, the iCARE team used the Zoom video conferencing platform to allow participants to view Mass, socialize, and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

“At iCARE, special needs are not a distraction, they are celebrated,” Kevin says. “This is a place where everyone can come and not feel like they are making people uncomfortable at Mass.”

Kevin is so thankful he had the opportunity to help start a ministry like iCARE.

“Growing up with REACH, I always saw the impact it had on my sisters,” Kevin says. “It’s been so overwhelming, the number of participants we have had since day one.”



The Live Nativity Christmas Mass



The iCare Board receives the Community Angel award from the Kansas City Down Syndrome Guild

Volunteers are always needed to be a Mass “buddy,” to help during social time and for religious education and sacramental preparation. All are welcome to attend Mass.

Please visit icare-ministries.org for more information and to get in touch with someone.



Begin the Journey Home for *Christmas*

Christ was born the son of a poor carpenter. This was by no means an accident. His birth was the culmination of salvation history, as it profoundly revealed the glory of God. Infinite power and wisdom took the form “of a servant, coming in human likeness” (Phil 2:7) — not as a warrior, but a poor and vulnerable babe.

Every aspect of Christ’s birth, from the three kings to the swaddling clothes, carries meaning. The proclamation of the angel, therefore, is also important: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Lk 2:10). This message, meant to be for “all the people,” was announced to a group of shepherds in a field out in the middle of nowhere. Was this accidental? Not at all.

The shepherds, who received a personal invitation to greet Christ at the manger, reveal that God’s love extends beyond boundaries of distance and transcends social classes. Unlike persons of this world who yearn to gain recognition with those of influence, wealth or beauty, Christ cries out to the lowly in society — to the shepherds in the distance. He reaches out in love, desiring a relationship with every single person, no matter their

status. This is the “good news of great joy for *all people*” — Christ was born for us all.

Christmas is the perfect time for distant shepherds to begin the journey home. The angel’s greeting extends to all those who feel estranged from the Church or numb to God’s love. Those who have fallen away from the faith can be comforted by these words: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for *you* who is Messiah and Lord” (Lk 2:10-11).

Be not afraid. The Christ Child awaits your arrival. Begin the journey back to Christ by drawing near to His body, the Church. Through prayer and the sacraments, you will discover the great joy that accompanies a relationship with God. Take a moment to ask the Lord to bring peace to your heart and guide you in love towards Him. Please join our parish family for the final preparations of Advent, as well as the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

You have read this entire article and have received a personal invitation to begin the journey. Accidental? Not a chance.

Unlike persons of this world who yearn to gain recognition with those of influence, wealth or beauty, Christ cries out to the lowly in society — to the shepherds in the distance. He reaches out in love, desiring a relationship with every single person, no matter their status.





PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:

Embracing the Power of Intercession

For most Catholics, “spending time in prayer” may mean several different things — from praying the Rosary, to reading and reflecting on Scripture, to asking God to provide for their needs or the needs of others in their family. However, for a dedicated group of parishioners at Queen of the Holy Rosary, prayer also means taking time to intercede specifically for the needs of others, sometimes even strangers.

For the past 30 years, members of the Prayer Chain Ministry have been praying for the needs of others, big and small, both within and beyond the walls of our parish. The ministry began when a parishioner enlisted her friends’ help when her granddaughter and grandson were in a serious car accident. However, it wasn’t long before the small group was interceding for a variety of other needs that came to their attention.

“They felt they were led by the Holy Spirit to start this Prayer Chain Ministry,” says parishioner Doris Kapsch, who has been involved with the group for nearly two decades and currently serves as its coordinator, along with fellow parishioner Carolyn Pate.

Today, the group of intercessors has grown to over 60, and rather than a literal “phone chain,” the requests are mainly shared via email. People reach out to the group for prayers in all types of situations — from physical or mental illness to financial struggles, or other concerns. People are free to share as many or as few details as they’d like — or even remain anonymous. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Sometimes, those who have requested prayers will reach out to the



Parishioner Carolyn Pate helps to coordinate the Prayer Chain Ministry and emails prayer requests to members of the group.

group to share an update and prayers of thanksgiving, as well.

“It’s heartwarming and shows us the good Lord hears our prayers,” Doris says. “I feel that prayer is the key to God’s heart.”

Doris encourages parishioners to call or email if they have a prayer request for which they would like the Prayer Chain Ministry to intercede. Over the years, Doris has seen the power of prayer in her own life and family and hopes other parishioners will consider reaching out when they have a need.

“Faith and prayer have worked miracles in our lives,” Doris says.

“There’s no need too small and the power of prayer is unbelievable. Just give us your prayer, even if it’s a small need. We’ve got all these people praying

for you. Just think about it and give us a call if you want us to pray. You’ll have 60-some people praying for you and whatever your need is.”

For those looking for a way to be involved in service — especially in times when many of our ministries are on hiatus due to COVID-19 — the Prayer Chain Ministry may be a great way to give back and stay connected to the parish community. Members can take time to pray based on their schedule and can intercede with whatever prayers they choose.

“Just do it,” Doris says. “It’s a very powerful ministry and we have so many individuals who need prayers. It’s very simple — anyone can do it.”

“Prayer is a beautiful way to approach God and ask for His help,” she adds. “It makes me feel good that we can be a small part of that.”

If you would like more info about joining the Prayer Chain or to submit a prayer request, please contact Doris Kapsch at 913-642-0410 or Carolyn Pate at 913-492-7612.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Advent and Christmas 2020

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Confessions

Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturdays 2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

**Queen of the Holy Rosary will NOT have a
Communal Penance Service*

Holy Hour Adoration/Benediction

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning Dec. 2

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

(Holy Days of Obligation)

Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday, Dec. 24

4 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

Friday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.

New Year's Day Masses

Friday, Jan. 1 at 8:15 and 10 a.m.

**All Masses will be streamed to the parish
hall to allow for social distancing**

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.