

Queen of the Holy Rosary



CATHOLIC CHURCH

In Uncertain Times,

LIVESTREAMING MASS IS A POWERFUL WAY TO EVANGELIZE

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When churches were ordered to close at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this past March, Fr. Bill Bruning knew there needed to be a way to reach people and to connect. Even if we couldn't all be together, we could still be a part of the family of Queen of the Holy Rosary. Thus began our livestreamed Masses.

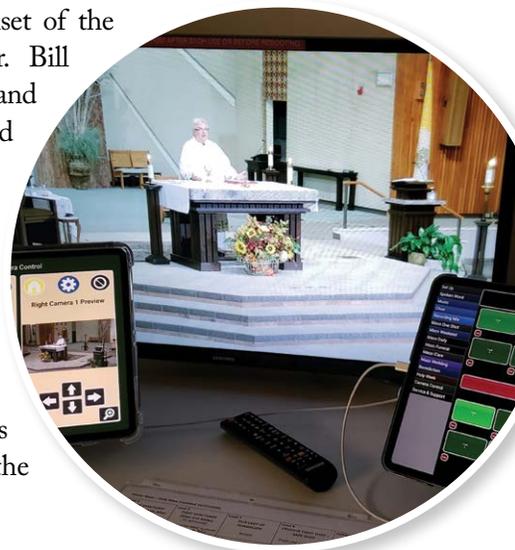
"When two or three are gathered, He is there with us," Fr. Bill says. "By watching the livestream Mass, a person can feel connected to the parish. They can hear the sermon and the Word of God, in their own home."

It all started with Mike Brown recording a series of videos with Fr. Bill, with messages that included the plan for closing.

With a cell phone and microphone, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Mass was recorded and posted online. Then, the week before Holy Week, daily Mass livestreams began, with Masses posted on the Facebook page.

"This all fits with the vision of evangelization," Mike says. "This is a way to fulfill that mission."

Now, the work has transitioned to a television-like production, with three cameras and a microphone system that is wired into the parish audio system. The livestream and recording, which is posted Sunday from the Saturday Vigil, offer viewers the full



The camera and audio setup will be used to record Mass, programs, and some weddings and funerals, even after the pandemic. The iCare Ministries Masses are also recorded and livestreamed.



In Uncertain Times, Livestreaming Mass is a Powerful Way to Evangelize *continued from front cover*

Mass experience. Of course, while parishioners are missing the Eucharist, they can still feel a part of the celebration.

“When the church was closed, the important goal was to make sure people knew we were keeping the doors open for them,” Fr. Bill says. “It was a signal. When we can open again, we will.”

The camera and audio setup will be used to record Mass, programs, and some weddings and funerals, even after the pandemic. The iCare Ministries Masses are also recorded and livestreamed. Mike says this is a way to continue to protect the most vulnerable who can't be at Mass.

“After it is safe to gather again, we want to continue this for many reasons,” Fr. Bill says. “One major reason is to keep the vulnerable safe. Also, we can do adult education, speakers and parish missions this way. It's another opportunity to be part of that.”

Fr. Bill has been so impressed with the impact of the ministry, thanks in part to Mike Brown and others who share their stewardship gifts through this ministry. Viewership of Masses and funerals has hailed from as far away as Ireland, Norway and New Zealand. Fr. Bill also says that people have continued their generosity during this challenging time.

“This has kept us in a good financial place,” Fr. Bill says. “Our people have wonderful hearts, and they want to help.”

If parishioners, especially the most vulnerable to illness, have felt connected to our parish through all of this, then Fr. Bill feels he has done his job as a spiritual father.

“I want to make sure all of God's children are listened to and feel communicated with,” Fr. Bill says. “This is an avenue to feel a part of the Body of Christ, even though some can't be there in person.”

Fr. Bill extends his utmost gratitude to Mike Brown and Paul Coquillette for all of their work in making these livestream Mass developments possible.



Masses, as well as some weddings and funerals, are being livestreamed on the Queen of the Holy Rosary Facebook page.

For anyone interested in serving through social media, help is needed with monitoring our media pages. Mike Brown says anyone can learn about the Mass livestreaming. Those who understand the flow of Mass, like former altar servers, would be a huge help. Please contact Mike at mike.brown@brainzooming.com or 816-509-5320 if you would like to learn more.

Tune into the daily livestream Mass and the novena and Adoration from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. To submit prayer intentions that are printed and prayed for before each Mass, please visit QueenoftheHolyRosary.org/prayer.



A Letter From Our Pastor

Forget the Resolutions... *Seize the Opportunities!*

Dear Parishioners,

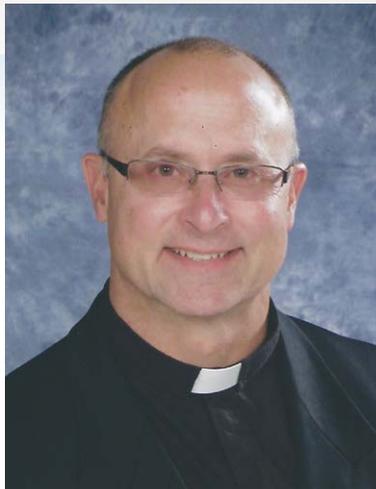
One of the most unforgettable years in our lifetimes is finally over and 2021 is here! With the new year, I recommend we forget the notion of making resolutions. This new year presents us with opportunities to practice faithful stewardship — that is, to view the start of 2021 as a time for opportunities instead of resolutions, and to choose to be the disciples we are called to be.

The choice is ours, as it always has been.

I know all too well that each New Year's Day on Jan. 1, we do more than just begin a new calendar year. We make all kinds of promises, articulate expectations, and express hopes, desires and dreams. I don't know who started that custom, but I do know I have spent years attempting with the best intentions to follow my own resolutions, only to become disappointed that most are forgotten all too soon. Therefore, it occurred to me that this year, I need a new and fresh approach to this. Perhaps we all need a new perspective. After all, isn't that what faithful stewards are best at?

The to-do list for 2021 should be seen as a list of opportunities to practice the discipleship intended by Jesus — not just at the beginning of each year, but each day throughout the year when presented with opportunities to be a Christian disciple. In doing so, we are practicing the stewardship way of life. Maybe this year, each of us will be open to embracing the connection between discipleship and stewardship.

Discipleship and stewardship are indeed closely linked, so much so that it clearly defines our Catholic spirituality and touches every aspect of the life of the Church. I hope that the same vision is clearly in your sight — the moment of discovery that stewardship



is a way of life, a defining moment presenting opportunities to live what we believe, using our time, talents and treasure to reach others around us.

Therefore, as we close out one of the most eventful years in modern history, and are at the start of a new year filled with promise and hopefulness, I ask you to join me in celebrating the opportunities that will present themselves during 2021. We need to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to them. They will be there when we least expect them. Our Lord's call to be faithful stewards of the gifts we have been

given is already echoing in our hearts as we have concluded a season of giving in which God's gift to us, Jesus Christ, remains the perfect gift that keeps on giving to each of us. If we continue to receive our Lord with grateful hearts, we can respond in our own way of giving time, talent and treasure back as opportunities to become Christ for others.

I know that 2021 will be a year of great interest in what will happen in the world around us, and new opportunities will abound. Wait for them. Look for them. Treasure them when they become known.

While resolutions always seem to be good ideas, opportunities are often what God has chosen for us to experience so that our lives may be more whole and fulfilling. Can you think of a better way to start a new year than to forget the resolutions, and instead seize the opportunities God has waiting for us?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor



Meet Retired Priest Fr. Harry Sch STAYING FOC

For many of us, the past year has marked one of the most tumultuous and challenging times of our age. However, Fr. Harry Schneider, a retired priest helping out here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, remembers when our nation was faced with an even more complicated period of confusion and change in the 1960s and 1970s. In the case of Fr. Harry, the wave of uncertainty that engulfed our culture during those years was the impetus for a lifelong vocation in the Church.

Fr. Harry grew up on a farm south of Emporia in Olpe, Kan. He graduated from high school and went to Emporia State University during a very unique time in our country's history.

"The late 1960s and early 1970s were a very confusing time for people," says Fr. Harry. "The Church was changing and the culture was changing. There were riots about the Vietnam War and civil rights protests were at their peak. I was a junior when Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated and traveled to a vigil that evening at the state capitol building with my friends. I remember sitting on the floor in my parents' house watching the moon landing."

With the world seeming to shift beneath everyone's feet, Fr. Harry experienced a life-changing moment with our Lord.

"In the midst of those scientific advancements and all the riots, one Sunday at Mass, I just had a powerful sense of God's presence and the meaning of the Eucharist," he says. "I had been reflecting at the time, 'What can I do with my life in the midst of all this?' Suddenly I had a sense of the Eucharist as being so central and how we needed to focus on Christ. I knew I needed that in my life, and began thinking about helping others with that, too."

After attending seminary in Colorado and Indiana, Fr. Harry was ordained in the Archdiocese of Kansas in 1974. He served parishes in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Shawnee counties before retiring on July 1, 2019.

Fr. Harry once heard the role of a diocesan priest likened to that of a general practitioner in the medical field. Serving on the "frontlines" of the Church, the parish priest is often the first person someone turns to for help or advice. In his 45 years of active ministry, Fr. Harry greatly enjoyed being able to care for his parishioners in this way.

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"I love the general parish ministry of a diocesan priest — all of it. I am asked to celebrate the funerals and weddings in families I have known for many, many years. Having ministered to families and staying in contact with them, you develop a lot of relationships and really get to know them. It's gratifying when a kid will call you and they are now 24 and getting married, and they remember positive experiences from when they were a kid and ask if you will do their wedding." — Fr. Harry Schneider





hneider USED ON CHRIST

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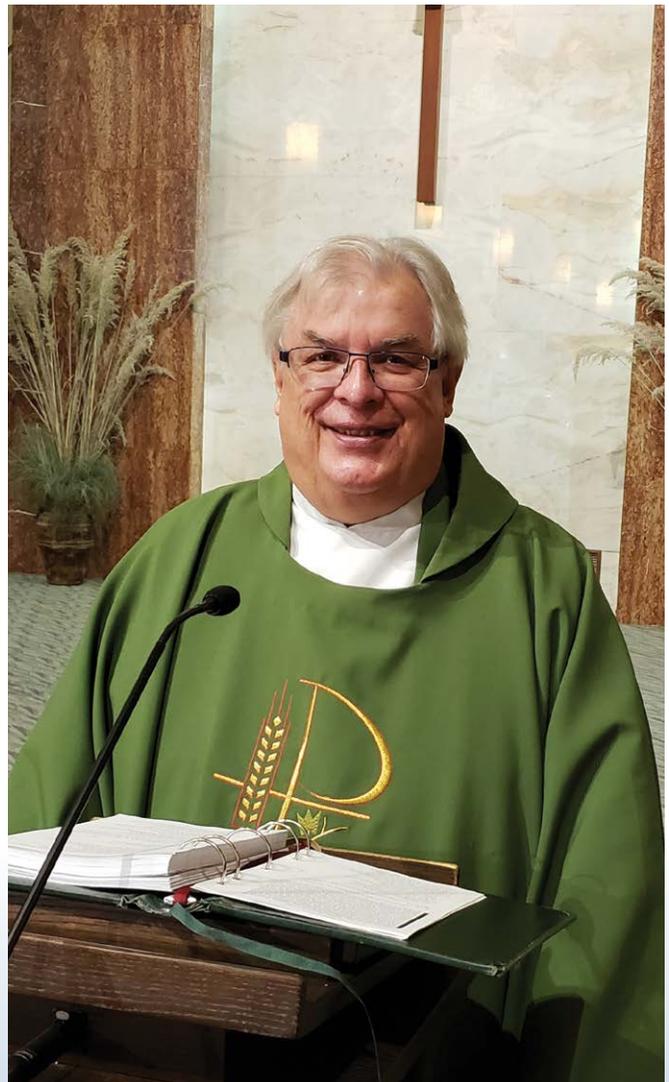
One family in the diocese that Fr. Harry has a connection with is that of our own Fr. Bill Bruning! Fr. Bill was just 8 years old when Fr. Harry was a young priest serving his home parish. The two connected once more when Fr. Bill was assigned to Fr. Harry’s parish for his first pastoral assignment as a seminarian. Last winter, Fr. Bill reached out to Fr. Harry and asked him to teach some RCIA classes here at Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Now, Fr. Harry celebrates two daily Masses and two weekend Masses here each week. While he continues to help out at other parishes as needed, he is happy to be a “regular” in our parish.

“I love helping at Queen,” he says. “The people who help with the liturgy are very friendly, very competent, very thoughtful and welcoming to me. Parishioners will wave and call out to me and say ‘hello’ when we see each other in the grocery store.”

Fr. Harry looks forward to the day we can all begin gathering in community once more and he can get to know everyone in the parish. In the meantime, when he is not saying Mass at Queen of the Holy Rosary, he is likely at his home in Wyandotte County, reading a book or watching the birds at the feeder outside his window. As someone who discovered his priestly vocation during a tumultuous season in our national history, Fr. Harry

has great faith that, even amid today’s new challenges, everything will come together in Christ once again!



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The Patron of Catholic Schools in America *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*



As the first American-born canonized saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton's entrance into history was guided by Divine Providence. Born on Aug. 28, 1774, just months after the Boston Tea Party, Elizabeth's childhood witnessed pivotal events in the formation of our country — the Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, and the American Revolution. At the time of the foundation of the new Republic, in a society predominately hostile toward Catholicism, a flower blossomed that would forever change the shape of education in the United States.

Elizabeth Seton was born into a wealthy Protestant family in New York City. Her life, although materially blessed, was not without suffering. Elizabeth's biological mother died when she was only 3, and her younger sister, Catherine Josephine, died at the age of 2. A spark of faith, however, was visible even in her early childhood. When questioned about her sadness concerning her sister's death, Elizabeth simply responded, "Kitty is gone up to heaven. I wish I could go there too."

Elizabeth grew into a beautiful woman, courted lavishly by handsome young men from prominent New York families. At the age of 19, she met a charming New York financier, William Seton, and the couple was wed in 1794. They remained in high society until her father-in-law's passing, which left them to care for William's seven younger siblings, along with three children of their own. Consequently, the Seton finances crashed.

The couple traveled to Italy — it was here that William's health failed him, and he died in December 1803. Providentially, Elizabeth was left in the company of a strong Catholic family where she witnessed the practice of the faith. In a letter to her sister, Elizabeth wrote, "My sister dear, how happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe, that they possess God in the Sacrament, and that He remains in their churches..."

After an eight-month stay, Elizabeth returned to America, and she began to investigate Catholicism more deeply. She was besought by Protestant friends who hoped to dissuade her. At this time, Elizabeth prayed repeatedly, "If I am right, Thy grace impart, still in the right to stay. If I am wrong, oh teach my heart to find the better way."

In 1805, after much interior struggle, Elizabeth became Catholic. Abandoned entirely by her family and friends, she resolved her financial difficulties through teaching.

In 1807, Elizabeth was invited to establish a Catholic school for girls in Baltimore. The task was daunting, and Elizabeth labored intensely, explaining how "from half past five in the morning until nine at night, every moment is full — no space even to be troubled." After winters spent in continual hardship and sacrifice, the school flourished and, within years, Mother Seton planted the seed from which sprang the parochial school system — along with hospitals and orphanages.

Before her death in January 1821, she was the spiritual mother of a full-fledged religious congregation known as the Sisters of Charity. She died at the age of 47 - it was quite remarkable to accomplish so much in that life span! She was canonized in 1975, and her feast day is celebrated on Jan. 4.

Thanks to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Catholic parochial school system remains vibrant and active. And as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we are thankful for the sacrifice of this loving wife, devoted mother, foundress and all-American saint.



SUPPORTING OUR PARISH SCHOOL FAMILY

THROUGH THE SCRIP PROGRAM

Imagine helping out our parish school just by making an ordinary trip to the supermarket. Thanks to the SCRIP program, buying simple groceries can take on a whole new meaning.

“The SCRIP program allows the school to purchase gift certificates from retailers at a discount, and turn around and sell them at full price,” says Mary Lou Richardson, who coordinates the SCRIP program. “In the end, a percentage of the proceeds from the sales go to our parish school. The thing I really appreciate about the program is that you don’t have to ask people to buy things they wouldn’t normally purchase, such as more chocolate or popcorn. They can just buy food at our local grocery stores — Price Chopper and Hy-Vee Supermarket — or purchase gifts online from Amazon.”

Each time a SCRIP card is used, many people reap the benefits.

“The merchants give us varying discounts, and they are happy to do so because it helps their business,” Mary Lou says. “The



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SCRIP program also helps our parishioners, because it gives them a way to support our school. It is a very practical program, and almost everyone can participate in it.”

Furthermore, school families are offered a bonus perk designed to meet their needs.

“Whatever percent we make on the gift cards that they sell is split between them and the school, and used as a tuition reimbursement,” Mary Lou says. “For example, we have a school family that buys numerous gift certificates for their family business. In turn, they make

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Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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THE SCRIP PROGRAM *continued from page 7*

over \$800 a year towards the tuition reimbursement program. I see a lot of value in using an incentive program such as this for our school families.”

Looking back over the years, Mary Lou is truly thankful for all of the blessings that the SCRIP program has made possible.

“I am very grateful that my children were able to go to the parish school,” Mary Lou says. “I had children in the school for 21 consecutive years! I helped bring the SCRIP program to our school about 25 years ago, and I have enjoyed being involved with it from the beginning. It is what I can do to help — it is my act of stewardship.”

By supporting the SCRIP program, its participants are also supporting Catholic education, and doing a great service to the Catholic Church in the long run.

“Fundraising is essential in order to provide Catholic education for our parish school students, meet the budget and buy necessary equipment,” Mary Lou says. “We definitely appreciate the parish’s involvement in this effort.”

SCRIP gift cards can be purchased at the parish school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, as well as a couple of weekends a month at the parish hall from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please refer to future parish bulletins for updates. For further information, please contact Mary Lou Richardson at 913-341-7894.

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.