

Queen of the Holy Rosary



CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Weekend of Fellowship and Renewal *Christ Renews His Parish*

INSIDE

- 2 Got Talent? Bring It to the Spotlight!
- 3 Surrounded by Saints and Good Stewards
- 4 Queen of the Holy Rosary Children Celebrate their First Communion
- 6 A Significant Moment in Our Prayer *The Presentation of the Gifts*
- 7 Parishioners Supporting Needy through Food Kitchen's Efforts

Since attending for the first time this past March, Christ Renews His Parish has become one of parishioner Cara Mahon's favorite topics to discuss with others. Revitalized by her own experience, Cara says that she loves talking about the retreat as a means of encouraging others to go ahead and give it a try.

"People are very curious about my experience there and it's wonderful to be able to share with them about how great of an experience it was," Cara says. "I just have nothing but good things to say about it."

Already interested in the retreat because of her cousin's recommendation, Cara decided to attend Queen of the Holy Rosary's spring session as a means of reviving her relationship with Christ during the Lenten season. She was also hopeful that the retreat would further connect her to the parish, helping her to get to know other women of the faith community better.

And so, despite some pre-retreat jitters, Cara embarked on what she describes as a weekend "filled with surprises." Detached from the pressures of life for the weekend, Cara and her fellow retreat participants were able to dive into our Catholic faith in an entirely new way. She was able to see how truly applicable Christ's Word is to everyday life — to understand more fully the meaning and lasting impact of the sacraments.

"I think it was so powerful how we really dove into the Bible," Cara says. "In every session, there were a lot of Bible verses that we discussed together. You know, we listen to these readings over and over again each Sunday, but it was great to see how the Scriptures could relate to all these different topics and experiences in our actual lives. The Mass, too, with Fr. Bill was also really eye opening. He took the time to pause and really explain parts



The female retreat participants from Queen of the Holy Rosary's spring session of Christ Renews His Parish.



Got Talent? Bring It to the Spotlight!

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians. “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at the thought of a classroom full of

5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadows behind a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.



A Letter From Our Pastor

Surrounded by Saints and Good Stewards

Dear Parishioners,

It is June — not quite into the heart of the summer, but certainly a time when everything seems to be wrapping up. From school and religious education, to many of our ministries, much is winding down and going on hiatus.

Last month, we celebrated the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. This month, I would like to turn our attention to the idea of stewardship, although that concept is important every month and every day throughout the year.

We do not have to look far to find good stewards. They are all around us. They may be sitting near us at Mass. They may be part of our own families and households. Pay attention at our liturgies as they are always there, serving in a variety of ways. I suppose the big question is, “Do people look at us and see a good steward?” We are talking about more than our parish and the Church here. There are people in our communities and neighborhoods who show us what it means to be a good steward, and they do not have to be Catholic.

In June, we celebrate Father’s Day. St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may seem to be overlooked, but we do need to look at him always and especially on Father’s Day. He humbly accepted his role much in the same way that St. Mary did. He does not have much to say in the Bible, indicative of his humility and understanding. Yet he, like Mary, was obedient. He was selfless. He was a worker, and in his own quiet way he was a leader — an example to all of us.



St. Joseph is, as you know, the patron saint of fathers, workers and the universal Church. If we could all emulate Joseph in some small part each day, we would be closer to being the disciples Christ has called us to be.

Sometimes, we Catholics are criticized for using statues, and some may be under the misguided impression that we worship statues. Our country and our lives are filled with statues — for instance, look at Washington, D.C. and its various monuments. Think of Mount Rushmore. People go to see

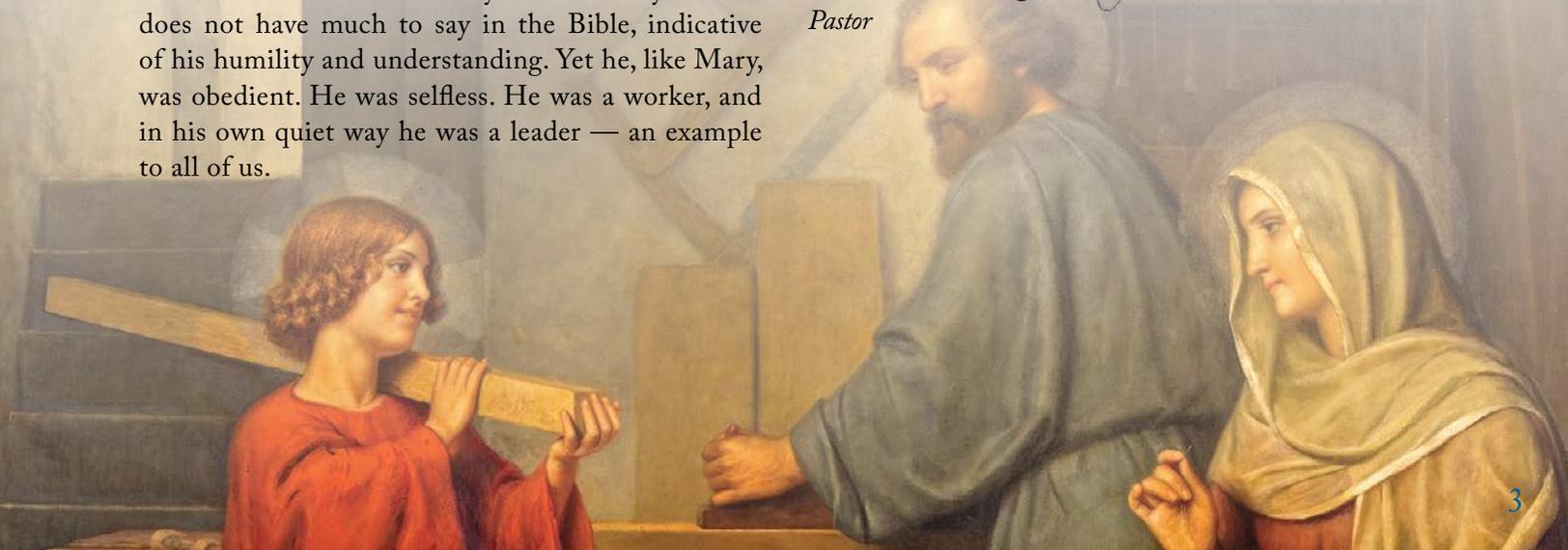
these statues and stand in front of them, sometimes bowing their heads in prayer, or looking at the statue or piece of marble in awe. Does this mean these people are worshipping these statues? Absolutely not.

Let us be proud of our Catholic heritage and let us not be afraid to honor and respect our saints and the saints in our midst, the good stewards all around us. In fact, we must each try to be more like them.

God bless you in all you do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





Queen of the Holy Rosary Children C



The children received Jesus in the Eucharist on Sunday, April 15, at a special 2 p.m. Mass.

Over the past year, 21 children from both the parish School of Religion and John Paul II Catholic School have been eagerly preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. After sacramental preparation classes, further preparation with their families and a retreat, the children received Jesus in the Eucharist on Sunday, April 15, at a special 2 p.m. Mass.

“The Mass is God’s family celebration meal and the children are included at the table,” says Denise Godinez, Director of the School of Religion. “Their excitement captures everyone. The wonderment and awe of their

baptismal innocence reminds us all of the beautiful grace of God’s love.”

Throughout the time of preparation for the sacrament, the School of Religion and parish school groups attended their respective religion classes but shared the same learning materials. They also came together for various activities, such as sacrament meetings with their parents and Fr. William Bruning. Parental involvement is a very important aspect of the preparation process.

“Parents are the primary faith educators for their child,” Denise says. “They have already given them the gift of Baptism, and it’s very important that they continue to flow that gift of Baptism throughout the faith journey of their child. As they find out what we are doing in terms of preparation, they support them by continuing to bring them to Mass every Sunday, helping them learn about our Catholic faith, and teaching them respectful and reverent behavior. It’s really important that they assist and guide their children in the relationship they have with Jesus.”

The children also came together for the all-day Jesus Day retreat, a fun Saturday where the children learned about their relationship with Christ.

“They came in the morning, and we began by walking through the different parts of the Mass and talking about Baptism,” Denise says. “Then, Father came in and spoke to the kids and practiced receiving Communion with them.”

Towards the end of the retreat, the parents came in and they helped the children make their First Communion banners. Then, all of the children went upstairs to finish their retreat with the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass.

“At the retreat, they also created their Sacrament Class Candle, which symbolizes the uniqueness of each child within the one Body in Christ as a class,” Denise says. “As we moved through the year, they began to get to know one another and care for one another. They realized that even though they attend many different schools, they are all children of the parish — this is their family.



celebrate their *First Communion*

“It is very family involved — we want the children to understand that coming to the table is very family-oriented. We wanted to demonstrate this at their Mass. By this time, the children really started to take ownership of the sacrament, and of the day itself. It’s been wonderful to watch them grow and change leading up to this special day.”

— Denise Godinez,
Director of the School of Religion

So, the class candle was created using different colors of sand, and every child picked whatever color they wanted to add. We added a baptismal candle to symbolize the beginning of their relationship with Christ.”

The children also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation together, which further prepared them to receive the Eucharist.

“It is so fun to watch them grow and mature throughout the year,” Denise says. “The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings an uplifting spirit within them and adds that touch of confidence and peace. When they come out of Reconciliation, they are standing taller and look so much happier! They are learning that, before long, they will be able to receive Jesus.”

Each year, the First Communion Mass is held at a special time on the second Sunday after Easter. The children received the Eucharist accompanied by the sounds of the full parish choir, and teachers, parents and family members all participate as liturgical ministers at the Mass. The Mass is followed by a punch and cookies reception for their families.

“It is very family involved — we want the children to understand that coming to the table is very family-oriented,” Denise says. “We wanted to demonstrate this at their Mass. By this time, the children really started to take ownership of the sacrament, and of the day itself. It’s been wonderful to watch them grow and change leading up to this special day.”



“The children really started to take ownership of the sacrament, and of the day itself,” says Denise Godinez, Director of the School of Religion



A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR PRAYER

The Presentation of the Gifts

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an op-

portunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!



Parishioners Supporting Needy Through Food Kitchen's Efforts

Meals are served to the homeless, unemployed and under employed. According to St. Mary's Food Kitchen organizers, for most people who utilize their services, it is the only hot meal of the day and for others, it is the only meal of the day at all. In 2017, QHR volunteers served approximately 3,000 meals just by assisting one day each month.

Sometimes, a meal is more than just something to eat. Sometimes, it symbolizes the efforts of many people coming together to create something out of love.

Parishioners are offered that opportunity each month when they participate in cooking or serving for the St. Mary's Food Kitchen. On the second Thursday of each month, Queen of the Holy Rosary provides a hot meal to those most in need within our community. Parishioners who volunteer do their part by preparing casseroles to help those who enjoy the meal feel more at home.

The St. Mary's Food Kitchen is located in the Wilhelmina Gill Multi-Service Center at 645 Nebraska Avenue in Kansas City. To date, nearly five million meals have been served and on average 200 meals are served daily every day of the year. This tremendous feat

is accomplished by 39 churches and one synagogue who share the responsibility of providing and serving meals.

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The Food Kitchen was started by the Center's namesake, Wilhelmina "Willa" Gill, who worked at Catholic Social Services from 1970 to 1987 and served as Director of Emergency Assistance services for Wyandotte County. The original Food Kitchen was located in the basement of the historically marked St. Mary's Catholic Church. The first free lunch was served there Feb. 11, 1982, and it operated continuously until it was moved to the current location in 1997. While the center took on Willa's name in honor of her efforts, the food program continued to be called St. Mary's Food Kitchen.

There are a variety of ways that parishioners can help including preparing a casserole and bringing it to church by 9 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, or by collecting the casseroles and other donated foods at church and delivering them to the Center. Parishioners are also invited to stay and help serve the lunch, as well as clean the kitchen afterward. Cash donations are also welcomed to help pay QHR's share of the Food Kitchen operating expenses, and to buy casserole pans, fruit, vegetables, milk and fruit juice.

Parishioners who would like more information about the St. Mary's Food Kitchen or who wish to help may contact Maureen Kies at 816-547-2250.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Christ Renews His Parish *continued from front cover*

of the liturgy which was truly incredible. I attended Catholic schools all the way through high school, and yet, I still learned so much about the Mass and our faith in general.”

Cara also felt deeply encouraged by the example of the retreat volunteers, who generously gave of their time to put on the retreat. As a young, single woman, it helped make her feel so much more connected and desirous to become part of our faith community.

“The women who ran the retreat were so generous in giving of their time and it was just really encouraging to see all that they were giving to other parishioners,” Cara says. “I feel like the retreat as a whole really helped me connect with women of all backgrounds. There were people there from ages 26 all the way to 80. It was neat how even though we came from

all different places in life, we could still connect because of our common spiritual ground.”

Now several months later, Cara remains on something of a spiritual high as she continues delving into her new Bible and notebook of resources received from her retreat weekend. Cara is so thankful that she decided to take that initial leap, breaking free from the busyness of life in order to more fully focus on her relationship with Christ and His Church.

“It may seem like a lot of time because it is a weekend, but the retreat is very renewing not only because of how it revives your faith life, but also because it gives you a kind of break from life,” Cara says. “And although it can feel scary at first, it is definitely so worth it.”

Queen of the Holy Rosary's next Christ Renews His Parish retreats are scheduled in early fall, with the men's session being Sept. 15-16 and the women's session on Sept. 29-30. Please look to the parish bulletin for future advertisements or visit our parish website at <http://www.queenoftheholYROsary.org/Christ-Renews-His-Parish>.

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.