

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sharing Hospitality and Exuding His Love: The *Discovering Christ* Series

Throughout Scripture, Christ makes it clear that discipleship isn't merely about our own personal belief in Jesus Christ. Our faith is meant to be shared, spreading the Good News to others (Mark 16:15) through intentional evangelization. Yet, for us Catholics this can sometimes be a challenge. How do we evangelize to the fallen away or nominal Catholic? How can we invite people to the richness of our faith in a way that they can understand and in which they can actually participate?

For Queen of the Holy Rosary parishioners, says Evangelization Coordinator Mike Brown, the parish's *Discovering Christ* series provides the perfect solution to our Catholic conundrum when it comes to evangelization. Its intentionally laid-back and hospitable environment creates an atmosphere where all can come and learn about Christ's love — no matter where they are in their discipleship journey.

"It's a way for Catholic parishes to increase the personal relationship with Christ amongst their own parishioners while also creating a very inviting way to reach out to people who maybe have questions about life and Jesus Christ," Mike says. "It's a program that we can truly invite anyone of any faith tradition to, or even people of no faith tradition at all."

The *Discovering Christ* series consists of seven completely free evenings where participants can enjoy a meal and fellowship together, watch an engaging video, and finally join in a small-group discussion regarding the video's material. In this open, non-judgmental atmosphere, parishioners and guests can engage in some of life's big questions, sharing and growing in the faith together.



The Discovering Christ display at Sunday Masses offers important information.

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Sharing Hospitality and Exuding His Love: The *Discovering Christ* Series *continued from front cover*

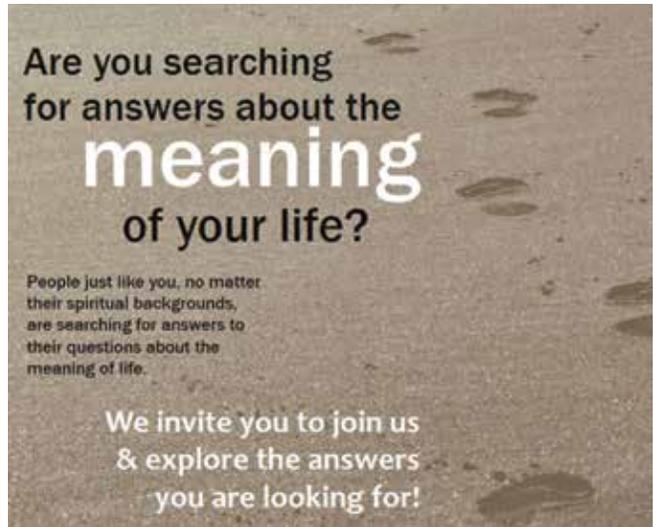
This is why Fr. Bill Bruning describes the program as his “number-one priority” here in the parish.

“I believe the best way to keep one’s faith is to share it,” Fr. Bill says. “It’s a paradox in that you keep what you have by giving it away. As a Church, we have not done a good job in helping Catholics to share their faith journey with others. By sharing a meal, watching a video, and having simple sharing at the table, my hope is that this program will cause us to grow in faith and intimacy with Christ and one another.”

The program launch will take place on Sunday, March 10, continuing the seven successive Sundays excluding Easter. Gatherings will occur from 5-7:30 p.m. and free babysitting is available for families with young children. The goal, says the program’s main leader Ralph Prunte, is to show “over-the-top hospitality” to every person who joins in the program so as to exude the love of Christ.

“As a parish, we’re trying to become very hospitable, warm and inviting,” Ralph says. “That’s what makes people want to stay — both the facilitators and the people participating at each table.”

“To be a vibrant community, we must be one that not only values hospitality but also lives out hospitality,” Fr. Bill adds. “If we value a friendship, we often invite that special person into our homes for a meal. We use nice linen cloths and decorate the table — serve our special guest the best of food and drink. Similarly, we want to extend our parish hospitality through this program. We would love to invite family members who have left the Church, friends who are not Catholic, and young families who just need a break.”



Discovering Christ promotional flyer



Just as you would spend time preparing the meal and setting the table at your home for a special guest, facilitators hope to share “over-the-top” hospitality through this new program.

*We encourage all parishioners to be a part of this exciting new program.
For more information on our October session, please visit
www.queenoftheholYROsary.org/discovering-christ, or contact leaders
Ralph and Susan Prunte at either 913-631 1115 or rprunte@sbsglobal.net.*



A Letter From Our Pastor

Answering the Call for Lent

Dear Parishioners,

This month, as we begin our Lenten journey to Easter, every one of us should ask ourselves, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ and how well am I living that out each day?”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed what it means to be a disciple when they wrote their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. “Who is a Christian disciple?” the USCCB asked and, in turn, they also provided the answer, “One who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ’s” (9). So, as disciples of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we consider the true meaning of that answer.

The first step in the Christian life is responding to Jesus’ call. Jesus invites every person to develop a relationship with Him. But obviously, not every person is a Christian disciple. Some people are too busy to even hear that invitation or don’t make the effort to recognize it. Others make a conscious decision to reject the call because it demands that they can no longer place themselves at the center of their lives.

On the other hand, for those of us who make an affirmative response to Christ’s call, the most meaningful life possible awaits us, both now and into eternity. However, saying “yes” to Jesus has consequences that affect the rest of our lives.

The first consequence of becoming a disciple is that we now follow Jesus. The Gospel accounts record that when He called His disciples, they left what they were doing and followed Him. The same is true for us today. Becoming a Christian disciple does not necessarily mean that all of us will leave our present job, or enter into the consecrated life, or serve as a missionary in another country — although that might be where the journey leads you. But it does mean that we offer our work — whether as a doctor, homemaker, mechanic, farmer or teacher — to build up the Kingdom of God.



In following Jesus as His disciples, we should strive to more fully absorb His teaching and then apply it to our daily lives. As we do, we find that we attempt to imitate Him, treating others with the same welcoming and generous spirit. St. Peter was direct when he described how Jesus acted: “He went about doing good... for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). That’s the model for how we must live.

Discipleship leads naturally to stewardship as a way of life. The time we offer in prayer and worship will give us the strength and guidance for serving Christ. Using the skills and gifts we have to build the Kingdom will direct our offering of talent. The support of all these endeavors with our treasure will ensure that our lives as disciples and stewards are genuine.

As a Christian steward this Lent, I encourage you to reflect on the changes you can make in growing as a disciple of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





Stacey Foster Finds Home in the



Stacey Foster (right) had the opportunity to go to the Holy Land with other parishioners.



Stacey Foster and her parents with their family attended Mass together at Queen of the Holy Rosary for many years before her parents' passing.

For parishioner Stacey Foster, the feeling was akin to that of being wrapped in a blanket — and she realized it was where she was truly supposed to be.

“You know how you have those moments in life that you’ll just never forget?” Stacey says. “That first time I was back in church, I was bawling, but I knew I was home.”

Born and raised Catholic, Stacey has been a member of Queen of the Holy Rosary since her family moved to the area in 1969. However, as the years went by, after graduating from Catholic high school, Stacey began to fall away from her faith.

“I really got mixed up with wrong crowds and got into drugs, and that altered my story and my faith journey,” Stacey says. “I would go to church on Christmas and Easter, but I didn’t even think about my faith life at that time.”

However, after years of being away from the Church, challenging life circumstances brought Stacey back.

“Nine years ago, my mom went through a serious illness,” Stacey says. “That’s what got me back to the Church. I kept going, ‘God, if Mom makes it through this, I’ll go back to church.’”

“He brought her through and I went back to church and cried every time I walked into church — cried at every Mass,” she adds. “But I knew the Holy Spirit was saying, ‘You’re where you’re supposed to be.’ I’ve never looked back and it’s just been life-changing in every sense of the word. I love being Catholic and now I can’t imagine my life without my faith.”

Not long after she started coming back to Mass, Stacey felt drawn to serving the parish.

“When I first got back, I didn’t know anybody,” she says. “But little by little, the Holy Spirit was there saying, ‘I think you need to be involved with this, this is going to bring you a deeper relationship with God’ — and it has! One thing led to the next thing. My life has bloomed.”



Church and Faith Community

Stacey initially dipped her toe into service after feeling drawn to become a Eucharistic Minister. Today, Stacey has found many ways to be involved in the parish and community. She serves as the Co-Chair of Queen's Ladies, is part of the Parish Council Evangelization Team, and is currently undergoing training to be part of our new Stephen Ministry. One of her favorite ways to serve is with the Franciscan Sisters, Poor of Jesus Christ. Once a month, she gathers with the sisters and other parishioners to make bag lunches and go out in the community, serving those in need.

"That's been really humbling, and I wish everyone had the chance to do that, to be amongst our brothers and sisters in their time of need — to be able to provide a hug or a kind word," Stacey says. "It's not just the food, but it's also about being able to provide food for the soul. I love that."

Over the years, as she has become more involved, Stacey has found the parish community to be like a family. Especially following the loss of both of her parents in recent years, Stacey has appreciated the support of the body of Christ.

"I love the relationships and friendships that I have developed," she says. "They're just phenomenal and I just have so much love for them. It's just been wonderful how God puts people in your life. They have truly stepped up to be my family."

Stacey hopes other parishioners will take a step of faith by becoming involved and, in turn, experience God's love in new and deeper ways.

"There are so many wonderful things that the church and parishioners and Fr. Bill will bring to



After being away from the Church for a number of years, parishioner Stacey Foster has found that there truly is "no place like home."

your life, not to mention what God will bring to your life," she says. "I am blessed every single day by His Presence.

"I truly came to the realization that there is nothing I can do where God won't love me," she adds. "He will always give me grace and love. Sometimes, I look at the cross and I think how it's almost beyond my comprehension that God gave His Son for us. He took on our sins so we could be with Him. I opened myself to let God in. I walked into His arms and said 'I'm here.' That was amazing. They're such loving arms."

"When I first got back, I didn't know anybody. But little by little, the Holy Spirit was there saying, 'I think you need to be involved with this, this is going to bring you a deeper relationship with God' — and it has! One thing led to the next thing. My life has bloomed." — STACEY FOSTER



Stewardship BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He *is* asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

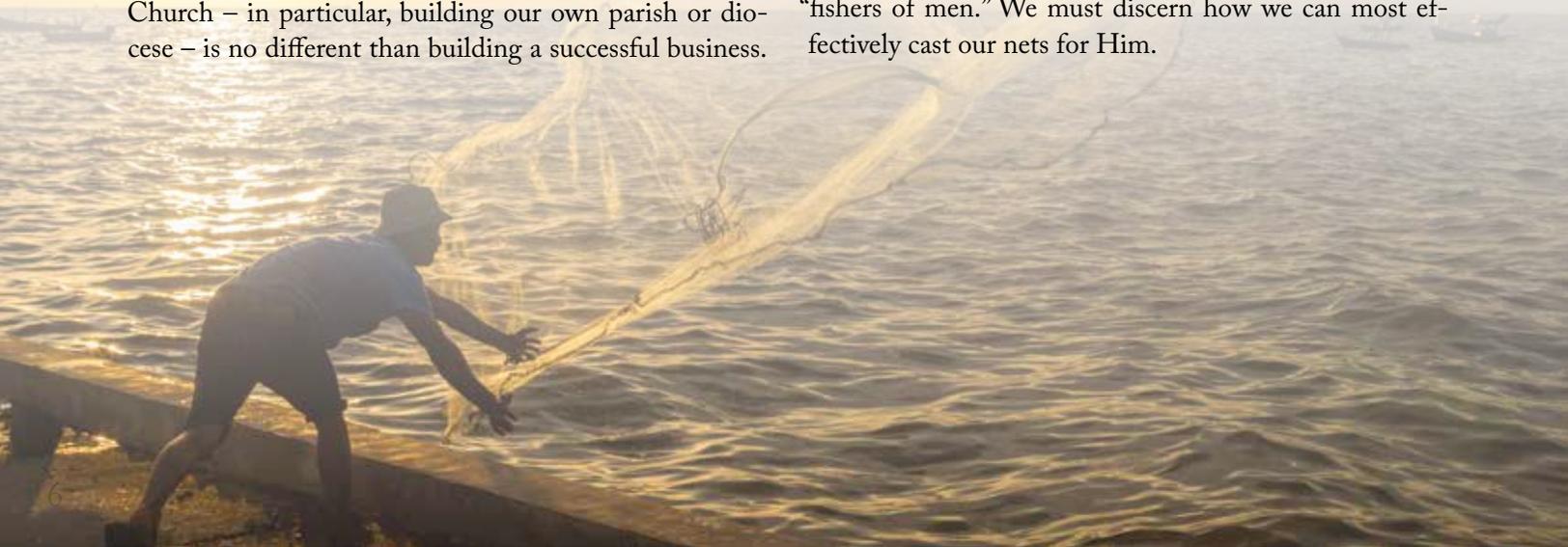
Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business.

Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.





Three Ways Your Family Can Prepare for Lent in a Meaningful Way

When you look at the calendar, 40 days can seem like a long time. But the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday often goes by quickly, with the daily routine of our lives pressing on in place of what could be a time of intentional preparation for the celebration of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

Fr. Bill Bruning wants you to know there are many ways you can make Lent more meaningful by taking advantages of services and events offered here at Queen of the Holy Rosary. Here are three ways to embrace the season of Lent in a mindful way:

Come to Stations of the Cross

"We'll have Stations here every Friday at 5:30 p.m.," Fr. Bill says. "Oftentimes the deacons will lead. Deacon Pham loves to lead Stations because he's so close to the cross because of the life that he's had and the resurrection he's experienced."

Fr. Bill adds that Deacon Jim Lavin has also experienced trials in his own life that make the experience of carrying the cross alongside Jesus meaningful.

"Many people see the passion, the death, the resurrection as just a theory, but I believe for many in our community that it's a powerful experience," Fr. Bill says. "These two deacons have experienced the cross and resurrection in a beautiful way."

Take on a New Habit

Lent is always a popular time to "give up" or abstain from a favorite food or activity, but it also presents a great time to make room in our lives for a deeper spiritual experience.

"I want people to participate in the *Discovering Christ* initiative," Fr. Bill says. "It's a natural time that people want to pray. We have our Four Pillars

of Stewardship — Prayer, Hospitality, Service and Formation. Lent is a time to embrace those. One of our focuses is evangelization and I've challenged people to come on Sundays at 5 p.m. to the *Discovering Christ* series, we're going to cater a meal and have free babysitting. Our encouragement is for people to personally invite millennials, families with children and people of other faiths."

Prepare Your Heart

Reconciliation will be offered every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the church. Fr. Bill says he would also like to invite people to spend time in Adoration in the Adoration Chapel.

"We try to encourage people to commit to an hour," he says. "That would be a really good Lenten discipline to have that prayer and formation with Christ."

Since the Adoration Chapel is kept locked, those interested in accessing it need only contact the parish office to receive the code for the lock.

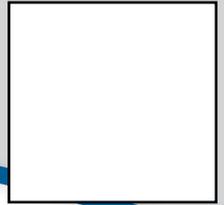


If you would like more information on *Discovering Christ*, Penance services, or Stations of the Cross, please visit the parish website at queenoftheholynosary.org or call 913-432-4616.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



7023 W. 71st Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66204
(913) 432-4616 | www.queenoftheholynosary.org

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 6
8:15 a.m.
12:10 and 7 p.m.

Discovering Christ

Sunday Evenings 5-7:30 p.m.

Lenten Dinners

Fridays 5-7 p.m.
(check bulletin for details)

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 5:30 p.m. in the church
(excluding Good Friday)

Confessions

Weekly—Saturday, 2:30-3:15 p.m.
Wednesday Evenings, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
(excluding Ash Wednesday)
Parish Penance Service
— Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m.



Holy Week

Holy Thursday Mass — April 18
at 7 p.m.
Good Friday Stations — April
19 at 12:10 p.m.
Good Friday Service — April 19
at 3 and 7 p.m.
Holy Saturday Vigil — April 20
at 8 p.m.

Easter Masses

Sunday, April 21
7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

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.