

Queen of the Holy Rosary



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Witnessing the Power of Prayer Through the Prayer Chain Ministry

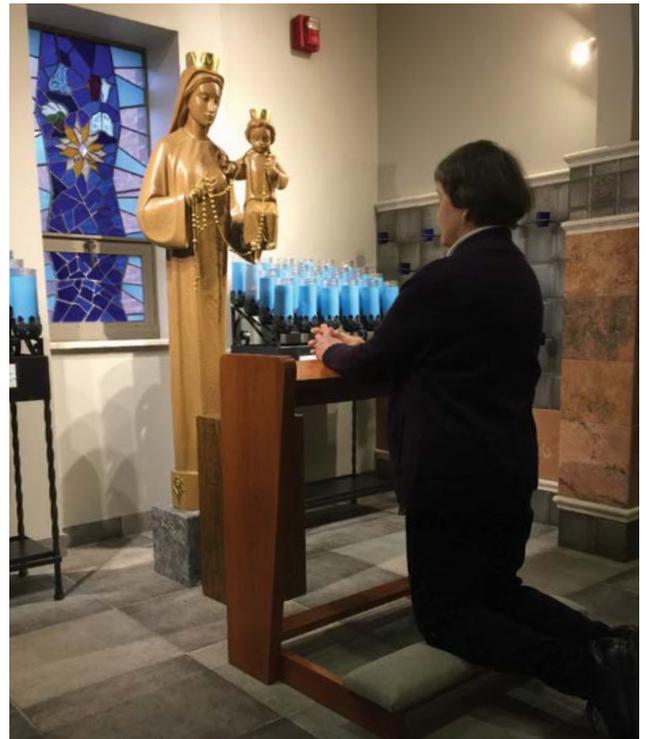
About 20 years ago, Mary Wills' granddaughter Megan, her brother Sean, and a foreign exchange student were involved in a car accident. The tragedy left Megan in a coma and the exchange student with serious and permanent injuries. Upon hearing of their condition, Mary and her friend, Therese Wilkes, felt led by the Holy Spirit to begin the Prayer Chain Ministry at our parish.

Thanks to God's grace, and the amazing intervention of the Prayer Chain Ministry, Megan was healed.

"It was felt that everyone's prayers contributed to her full recovery," says Carolyn Pate, who currently coordinates the Prayer Chain along with Doris Kapsch. "Today, she is a healthy mother of three children."

After prayer requests are submitted to the Prayer

Chain through either Carolyn or Doris, they then pass them down to other members of the chain, who then pass them along to more members, and so forth. There are currently about 30 members on the chain. The members pray in any way they choose, during the day or night, offering up the intentions with hearts full of hope. At times, Fr. Bill presents the petitions of the Prayer Chain Ministry



Prayer Chain member Karen Kosmicki kneeling before the statue of the Blessed Mother

INSIDE

- 2 Time: The Foundation of Stewardship
- 3 The Month of Mary: A Time for Celebration and Joy
- 4 Connecting in Fellowship Over Coffee and Donuts
- 6 The Blessings of the Catholic Mass
- 7 Duty to God and Country: Boy Scout Troop 295 at Queen of the Holy Rosary



Time: The Foundation of Stewardship

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has told us that stewardship is part of discipleship and is a way of responding to God's call in every aspect of our lives. We refer to the three facets of stewardship as "Time, Talent and Treasure," and when we consider the importance of these three Ts of stewardship, the "time" component comes first by design.

When we talk about stewardship of time, we are referring to prayer time. Prayer is of the utmost importance in a disciple's life, and it serves as the fertile ground from which the gifts of talent and treasure blossom. Only by spending time in prayer each day and receiving the sacraments are we able to consistently and generously donate our talent and treasure to the Church.

When looking for examples of how to live our lives as disciples of Christ and as stewards of God's gifts, we can always turn to the great saints of our Church to guide us. And when it comes to the Stewardship of Time, the life of St. Damien is just one example of how prayer, or "Time," is the foundation for our lives of stewardship.

Shortly after being ordained a priest, St. Damien volunteered to serve a colony of lepers isolated on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. From May 1873 until his death in 1889 (at the age of 49) St. Damien worked to restore within the lepers a sense of personal worth and dignity.

Although for some time St. Damien took the necessary precautions to ensure that he did not contract leprosy, he knew that physical touch was necessary to communicate his love and concern to those afflicted with the disease. He embraced the lepers, dined with them, cared for them, and anointed them in

the sacraments. With great humility and sacrifice, St. Damien offered his own life in order to save the lives of others.

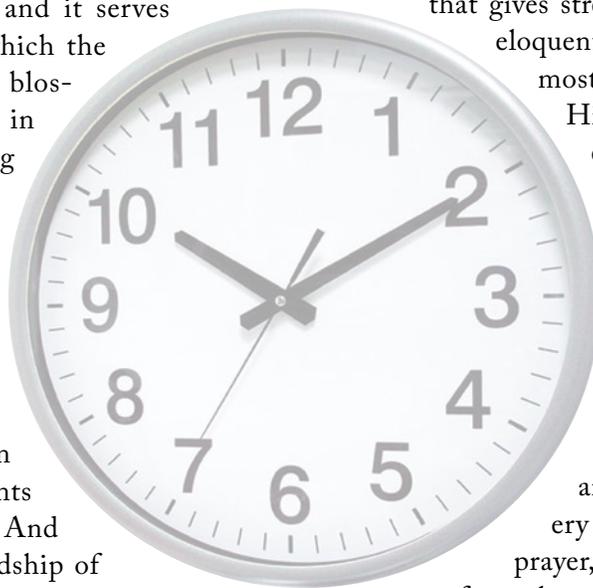
From where did St. Damien draw his strength? What was the source of his inspiration? "Were it not for the constant presence of our divine Master in our humble chapel, I would not have found it possible to persevere in sharing the lot of the lepers in Molokai," St. Damien wrote. "The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength... It is at once the most

eloquent proof of His love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us. He gives Himself every day so that our hearts as burning coals may set afire the hearts of the faithful."

St. Damien found his strength in the Mass, the greatest prayer of the Church. Prayer was the impetus behind the generosity of this faithful servant of God, and is the fuel that ignites every heart to flame in love. Without prayer, without the grace that flows from the sacraments, we are incapable of

leading lives of service and responding to God's call!

How much time do you dedicate to prayer each day? One hour? Fifteen minutes? None at all? Before you consider joining a parish ministry or volunteering your talents in service, and before you discern your gifts of treasure to the Church, be sure that prayer is your foundation. Identify a prayer schedule that is manageable. This may entail arising 20 minutes early each day to offer your work to the Lord, or attending daily Mass once a week. Every prayer commitment is unique and personal. Yet, no matter what, this time offering, this dedication to prayer, is the key to serving the Lord with faithfulness, generosity and joy.





A Letter From Our Pastor

The Month of Mary: *A Time for Celebration and Joy*

Dear Parishioners,

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month — and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine — which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and to our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form really made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was “assumed” into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

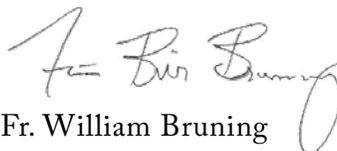
She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint and in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek — and we, too, must say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

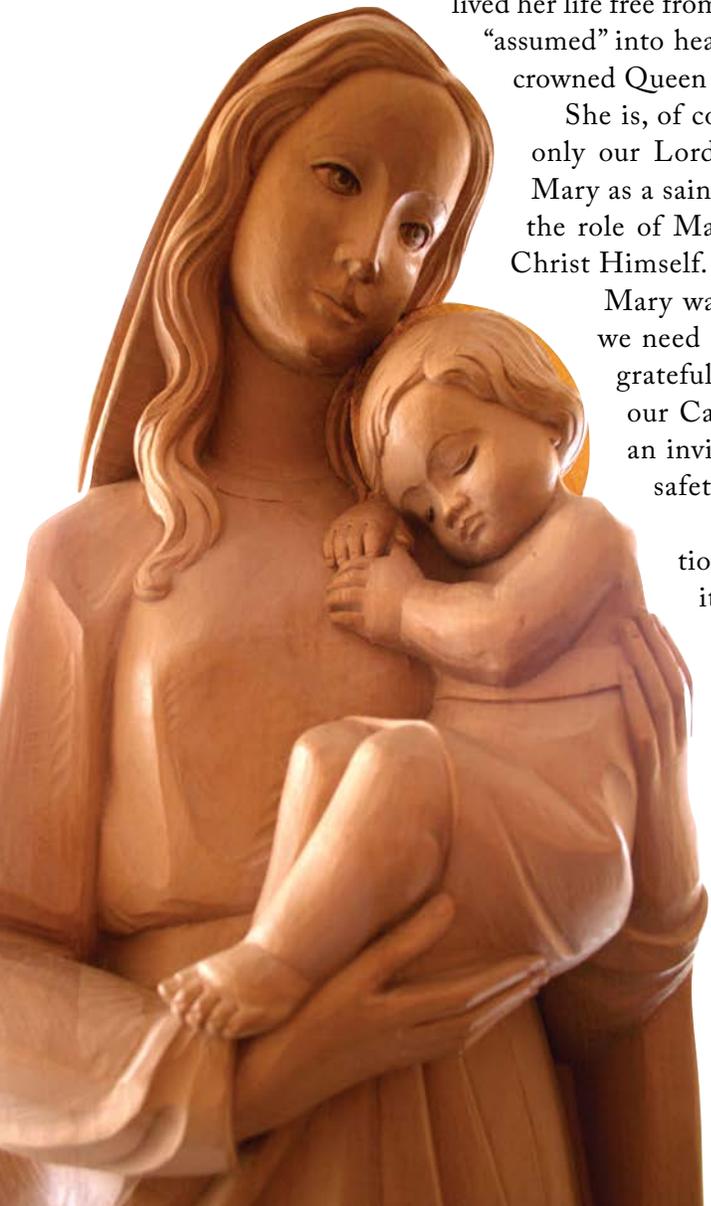
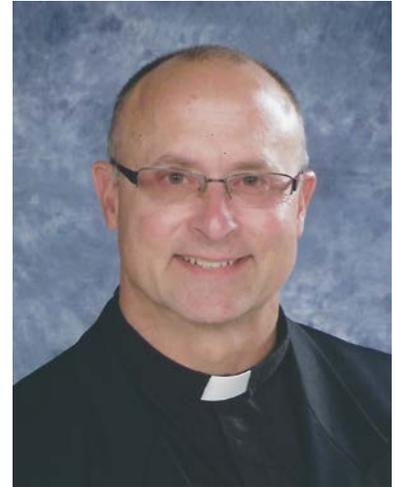
For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing, and serving all of you has made that blessing even more significant. I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





Connecting in Fellowship

You don't have to attend a parish for long before you start recognizing some of the people who sit near you during Sunday Mass. However, too often, in the midst of our busy schedules, we don't get to know the stories behind the people with whom we worship.

Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we hope our parishioners will begin to slow down, enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut, and take time to get to know their brothers and sisters in Christ, beyond just a wave or smile on the way out of church.

Coffee and Donuts is held nearly every weekend, after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 Sunday morning Masses, downstairs in the church hall. Typically, between 200 and 250 parishioners attend each weekend.

"The Donut Ministry has a loyal following of people who come every week and really look forward to it," says Paula Clayton, who has been one of the coordinators of Coffee and Donuts for the past four years.

Whether you have been part of the parish for a long time, or you just joined our community, Coffee and Donuts is a great way to meet and get to know others. For Paula, who moved to the area several years ago, it helped her become connected within the parish.

"I didn't know a soul when I got here," she says. "I noticed they had Coffee and Donuts and people were



From our youngest parishioners to our oldest, who doesn't enjoy a Sunday morning donut?

so welcoming and friendly. I got to know people and find out a little bit more about the history of the parish, and who was involved, and what they're known for, as well as the various opportunities to volunteer in the parish. It was a fun way to meet people. It definitely made me feel more a part of the community."

Spending time together outside of Sunday Mass can be a valuable way of building and strengthening relationships among our parish family.

"It's part of building the faith community, we don't walk this path alone," Paula says. "We fall back and rely on our faith community to strengthen us.

"It's good to be in fellowship with people who are of the same mind and same faith," she adds. "You feel like you know the people you're worshipping with every Sunday."

Paula encourages parishioners to consider serving as volunteers with Coffee and Donuts. For some, it's a ministry in which the whole family can be involved.

"We always welcome volunteers to set up, and serve donuts, and clean up," Paula says. "We have a couple



Each Sunday, parishioners gather to enjoy fellowship at Coffee and Donuts, after Mass



Over Coffee and Donuts

of families who sign up to serve. We don't let the kids pour coffee, but they keep the donut trays full and pour juice and restock supplies."

Paul also hopes that those who have not yet experienced Coffee and Donuts will come and see what it's all about.

"We're always happy to meet new people," she says. "It's something I appreciate about the regulars — if they notice someone they don't know, they really make an effort to say hello and welcome people. It's a great way to meet the people in the Queen of the Holy Rosary community. Just come on down and have some coffee and donuts."

"I think you'll find that the friendliest people at Queen of the Holy Rosary are at Coffee and Donuts," she adds, with a smile.



We hope that all parishioners will come and see what Coffee and Donuts is all about — and maybe make a new friend or two!

For more information, or to sign up as a volunteer for Coffee and Donuts, please contact Paula Clayton at 913-689-8888.

Witnessing the Power of Prayer Through the Prayer Chain Ministry *continued from front cover*

during Mass, as well. Those who submit the intentions can request to have the names of those being prayed for kept confidential.

"Once we put a petition on the chain, we never take it off," Carolyn says. "We just keep them in prayer, even if it doesn't seem that there is a need anymore. We pray for people who are undergoing surgery, have cancer or depression, or desire mental or physical healing. In some ways, it is an easy ministry to take part in, and it gives you a powerful way to serve the parish community."

And, thanks to the Heavenly Father's providence and loving kindness, many of the prayers are answered, strengthening the faith of all involved in beautiful ways.

"We definitely see results," Carolyn says. "Sometimes, we get feedback from people we have been praying for. They tell us how thankful they are for our prayers, and

they say they have made a real difference — for example, that their baby is now out of the hospital, etc. We can tell that being on the Prayer Chain has been very, very important to them. These reports of praise and gratitude show us all how powerful prayer can be, and how important it is in one's life. They are very uplifting!"

Those who would like to join the Prayer Chain Ministry or submit a prayer request may call Carolyn Pate at 913-492-7612 or Doris Kapsch at 913-642-0410. You may also indicate your interest in this ministry at the stewardship ministry fair.



The Blessings of the Catholic Mass

It is ironic that today, with all of the freedom of religion that we enjoy in the United States, many of us wonder why we must go to Mass on Sunday.

However, if we really understood what the Mass is and how we participate in the celebration, we would instead be asking why we are, as sinful human beings, blessed with the opportunity to participate in the holy Mass. If we simply understood and recognized that God's infinite goodness allows us to do so, we would be eager to go to Mass on Sunday and every other day of the week.

It is true, however, that all Catholics are obliged to "Keep holy the Lord's Day" by sharing in the Mass. But why are we obliged?

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the center of our faith. It is "the summit toward which all activity of the Church is directed" and it is "the font from which all her power flows" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 10). It does not exhaust the activity of the Church, but is most certainly her greatest work.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is literally represented to the Father during Mass, and Christ allows us to join with Him in offering that sacrifice. Imagine our Lord and Savior dying on the cross for us right up the street. Imagine knowing that Mary is sitting at the foot of the cross with St. John, witnessing her Son giving Himself to the Father for the sake of all of us. Would we not run to be there? Would we not desire to share in His sacrifice, just as Mary did?

Believe it or not, the sacrifice of Calvary is really, truly happening at our parish, every time the Mass is offered.

Our participation in Mass gives us the strength and the graces we need to live our lives as Christ's disciples. So, what does this mean for us?

This means we have a front row seat to the sacrifice of Calvary. Given such a gift, how can we not accept it?

We also have a chance to join in Jesus' sacrifice by offering our own prayers and petitions. As an example, what better gift could we give deceased loved ones than the offering of prayers for their souls in purgatory?

Most importantly, we have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist, followed by quiet time, when we offer sincere thanks and allow God's graces to fill us. Think of all you are missing when you do not properly prepare yourself to receive the Holy Eucharist.

We ought to joyfully head to Church each Sunday, eager to give God glory in the greatest way we can! Attending and actively participating in Mass every Sunday is our obligation as Catholics. But we should not allow the fact that our attendance is "required" to stop us from going. Nor should we allow our laziness to overshadow the amazing privilege and the many blessings that lay before us in the Mass.

The pope and the bishops direct us to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy every Sunday because they know there is no better way to keep holy the Lord's day — giving God thanks for all He has done for us in the most powerful way possible. They know that, through the Mass, we gain the grace necessary to live our lives in this world.

Our ability to participate in the Mass is a wonderful gift, not a great burden. May Christ enlighten our minds and hearts to clearly see the wonders of the celebration, and give us great enthusiasm and eagerness to participate.

Imagine our Lord and Savior dying on the cross for us right up the street. Imagine knowing that Mary is sitting at the foot of the cross with St. John, witnessing her Son giving Himself to the Father for the sake of all of us. Would we not run to be there? Would we not desire to share in His sacrifice, just as Mary did?



Duty to God and Country: Boy Scout Troop 295 at Queen of the Holy Rosary

If you have ever been a Cub Scout or a Boy Scout, you are most likely familiar with the Scout Oath: “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and to my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” This can be understood as a stewardship statement, since it represents how we as a Church also strive to use our gifts and serve others.

One of the factors that has provided our troop with faithful stability is current Scoutmaster Paul Cast, who has served in this position for over three decades.

“I have been privileged to serve as the Scoutmaster of Troop 295 here at Queen of the Holy Rosary for 32 years,” Paul says. “I think there are two reasons I have lasted so long. First, I have as much fun as the boys do, and also I love to camp, and that is such an important part of scouting.”

The Scout Law — mentioned in the Scout Oath above — has 12 parts, and these are the concepts and principles by which every Boy Scout is to live. They are “trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.” In particular, “reverent” focuses on what is expected from the scout in relation to his faith.

According to the official *Scout Handbook*, “A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.”

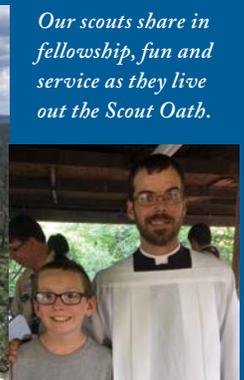
“For more than 50 years this parish has sponsored our troop,” Paul says. “The Church has always been incredibly

supportive of us. In fact, the whole nature of the Catholic Church is supportive of scouting in general. I grew up in this parish and it is great to be able to give something back to this troop and this parish for all that they did for me.”

Troop 295 is a member of the Heart of America Council headquartered in Kansas City. The Council describes the Boy Scouts organization as follows: “A program for boys 11 through 17 designed to develop character, citizenship, and fitness. Through the advancement program and peer group leadership, Scouting helps a boy develop into a well-rounded young man. The Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank in Scouting, is recognized around the world as a mark of excellence.”

“We have been honored to have more than 100 boys attain the rank of Eagle,” says Paul, an Eagle Scout himself. “I said that I love camping, and I really believe that is at the heart of scouting and of our success. I think we camp at least once a month, and one of the high points of our camping year is going to Theodore Naish Scout Reservation Boy Scout Camp for a week each summer.”

The camp mission of Theodore Naish Scout Reservation reinforces Paul’s enthusiasm about scouting and camping: “The Theodore Naish Scout Reservation provides opportunities for Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Teams, and Venturing Crews, from the Heart of America Council and beyond, to have fun, learn skills, and practice Scouting programs in the outdoors under their own leadership.”



Our scouts share in fellowship, fun and service as they live out the Scout Oath.

If you are interested in more information, or if you would like to get involved in scouting, please contact Scoutmaster Paul Cast at 913-909-9549.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Please Be Sure to Take Part in Our Parish Survey!

This spring, we are conducting a survey at Queen of the Holy Rosary so that we can better understand the perspectives and opinions on parish life within our community. Your voice is important, and we encourage you to participate and fill out the survey! You should have received this in the mail, so please take a few moments and let us know your thoughts.

Please return your completed survey by May 15. If you have any questions about the survey, please call the parish office at 913-432-4616.

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.