

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



In the Footsteps of St. Stephen Deacon Jim Lavin Reflects on Life in the Diaconate

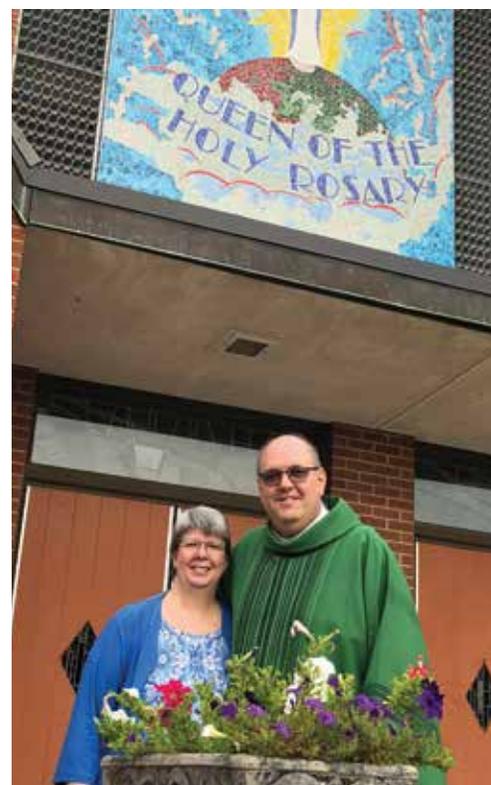
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Offering Support and Fellowship on the Journey of Faith

Sit down with Deacon Jim Lavin for a chat about life as an ordained permanent deacon, husband and father, and you will hear the name “Stephen” come up more than once. In chapter six of the Book of Acts, St. Stephen is the first of seven men listed whom the Church considers to be the first deacons. While the 12 apostles were busy spreading the Gospel far and wide, they realized that they needed additional ministers who could dedicate themselves to caring for the poor and vulnerable, and chose the seven men to fulfill that mission. Serving and caring for God’s people remains one of the most important roles of an ordained deacon to this day, and one that is especially close to Deacon Jim’s heart.

Ordained in 2011, Deacon Jim began life in the diaconate at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where he was a longtime parishioner. He became interested in our parish two years ago after hearing about Fr. Bill Bruning’s initiative to make individuals with special needs feel at home worshipping here.

“Fr. Bill was starting up the iCare [Inclusive Catholic Activities and Religious Experiences] Mass, and I got involved with that because I have a son with developmental disabilities, and we wanted to give our son the opportunity to experience Mass in a different way,” Deacon Jim



Deacon Jim Lavin and his wife, D'Lise



Deacon Jim Lavin Reflects on Life in the Diaconate

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Deacon Jim Lavin with his oldest son, Steven

says. “So I was attracted to Queen of the Holy Rosary, and then I heard that Fr. Bill was wanting a deacon.”

With the needs at Holy Spirit changing and Queen of the Holy Rosary in search of a deacon, Deacon Jim talked to the archdiocese about transferring. In July 2017, he was officially assigned to our parish. Now, Deacon Jim and his wife, D’Lise, attend Mass at both churches and feel blessed to have made meaningful connections with parishioners in both congregations.

While Deacon Jim spent years teaching computer classes at Holy Spirit Catholic School and then working as the archdiocesan webmaster, he always made time for diaconal work. Soon, he found that the type of pastoral care we see St. Stephen called to in the Book of Acts — visiting people in their homes, in the hospital, or in nursing homes — was his true passion.

“I felt a calling to go into full-time ministry and helping people, so I wound up applying and becoming the chaplain for Catholic Community Hospice,” Deacon Jim says. “Now I’m assisting those who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, helping them and their loved ones prepare for the end of life. It’s challenging, but very rewarding.”

Deacon Jim credits his wife, D’Lise, with providing the encouragement, support, and prayers — as well as income — that allow him to carry out his pastoral ministry on a daily basis. The couple has two sons — Steven, 27, and Kyle, 22. Kyle spent the two years following his high school graduation serving with NET — National Evangelization Teams — Ministries before beginning his studies at John Paul the Great Catholic University in California.

Deacon Jim is grateful for the strong faith that has always been the guidepost of family life for the Lavins.

“I’m very blessed and inspired by both my wife and sons,” Deacon Jim says. “Steven is autistic and non-verbal. He is a sweet kid, and his condition makes him kind of a saint in my eyes. He’s not able to commit mortal sin, so in my eyes he’s a walking saint. I’ve encountered people who have raised children with special needs, and one of two things usually happens — one is that they grow in their faith and wonderful things come from it, or they implode. I’m grateful that it drew all of us closer to the faith and made us trust God even more.”

Deacon Jim draws on that faith and gratitude for blessings received as he works to serve God’s people both at hospice and here at Queen of the Holy Rosary. Currently, he is working with Fr. Bill and parishioner John Audley to establish Stephen Ministry — a pastoral ministry named for St. Stephen — here in our parish.

“Stephen Ministry is a formal way of training parishioners how to be present to others and how to be Christ to others, particularly when they are dealing with losses,” Deacon Jim says.

Reflecting on life as an ordained permanent deacon, Deacon Jim feels incredibly blessed to have discerned and followed God’s call to the diaconate, and he marvels at the many graces God has showered upon his family in return.

“God really has provided,” he says. “Sometimes we worry about what will happen next, but we trust that God prevails. We do what we have to do, but ultimately, it is just us going along for the ride. God takes care of the big picture, and we’ve been very blessed.”



A Letter From Our Pastor

This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action

Dear Parishioners,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries — within our community and beyond — and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what you are supposed to do when you share your faith with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to “share our faith”? Well, it is exactly what parents — as the “domestic church” — are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach religion classes in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

“Sharing the faith” also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, “An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life” (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

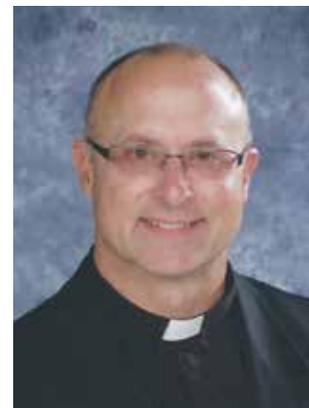
In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives — and also be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year — thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





Basic Questions About Our Stewardship Renewal

What is a Stewardship Renewal?

This isn't a parish fundraiser – far from it. Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will grow closer to Christ in the coming year.

Why should I fill out a commitment card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving, or what we at Queen of the Holy Rosary call "time, talent, and treasure." There's a two-fold reason to complete your card. First, it is an excellent opportunity to move forward spiritually and personally. Second, when you fill out a card, our parish is much better able to manage our many volunteers and make budgeting decisions.

How many parish ministries are there at Queen of the Holy Rosary?

"Ministry" is a general term for any parish group, organization, or regular activity. There are dozens of ministries in our parish. You can sign up for certain ministries, or re-commit yourself if you're already involved.

What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I'm not very interested?

You are not making a solemn promise to participate in a particular ministry when you mark it on your commitment card. If you find that the parish group is different than you thought, or simply that their meeting time doesn't fit your schedule, you can change your mind. There are plenty of other ministries to consider.

I'm hesitant to make a firm financial pledge.

What if I lose my job?

Your commitment card isn't a legal contract. If your circumstances change, your gift will change. In Scripture, we are asked to "give according to our means." So if you



QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Stewardship

*NOT A PROGRAM
NOT A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
NOT AN EMPTY BUZZWORD
A WAY OF LIFE*

lose your job, you may be unable to give at the level you pledged. Likewise, if you get a promotion, you may be able to give more. That is why at Queen of the Holy Rosary, our standard of giving is based upon a percentage of income.

What happens if I don't fill out a commitment card?

Returning a card is an important part of being an active member of Queen of the Holy Rosary. If for some reason you lose your card, we'll send you a reminder letter with an extra commitment card. Please make every effort to return it!



Time, Talent and Treasure

Stewardship of Time

Our definition of Stewardship of Time: Using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones.

The bottom line about prayer: Without prayer, we cannot thrive spiritually. As Catholic Christians, it is a necessity to spend time each day speaking to God. This includes reading Scripture and saying prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, but even more importantly, it should include a heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus. He wants us to bring him all our fears, longings, needs, and desires.

What kind of Time commitments should I make? Your commitment card lists several suggestions for how to spend time with God in prayer. Review your current prayer life and take a step forward. For instance, start having daily prayers with your children or spouse. Commit to praying the rosary on the way to work or reading scripture before bed each night.

Stewardship of Talent

Our definition of Stewardship of Talent: Using my God-given abilities to strengthen the Church and help others, especially through parish ministries and activities.

The bottom line about parish ministry: No Catholic Christian exists in a vacuum. Scripture makes it clear that we must function within the wider faith community, putting our gifts in the service of others. It's not enough to go to Sunday Mass; we need to be involved in parish life and ministry.

What kind of Talent commitments should I make? If you're not involved in anything in our parish, now is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. Check out our commitment card for a list of ministries. If you're already involved, re-commit yourself to the important work you do. And if you feel God is calling you forward – sign up for something new!

Stewardship of Treasure

Our definition of Stewardship of Treasure: The wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish.

The bottom line about financial support: We need to take seriously the Biblical concept of the tithe, and start giving based on a percentage of income. It's our responsibility to support the Church with our personal involvement *and* our financial support.

What kind of Treasure commitments should I make? Our goal at Queen of the Holy Rosary is to give five percent of income to the offertory. Grab a calculator and figure out your target gift based on your total household income. Then make a plan for increasing your gift incrementally to reach five percent. During our Stewardship Renewal, choose a weekly or monthly gift to the parish, and be faithful to it for the next year.



QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2018 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse: First & Last Name _____

Spouse: Phone _____

Spouse: Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on **OCT. 20/21**, or mail using the envelope provided.
Thank you and God bless you!

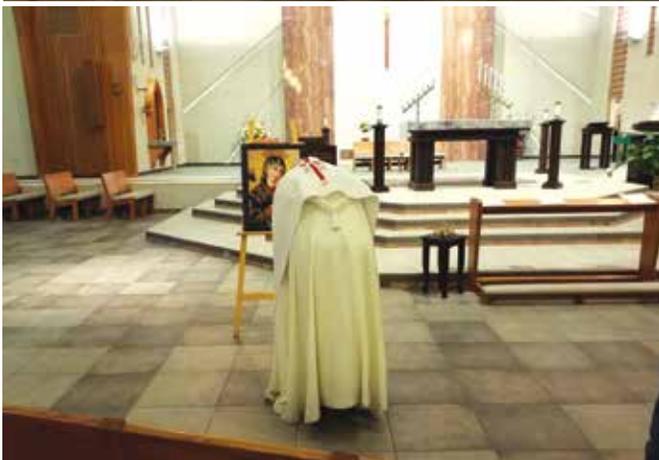
Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on Commitment Sunday, October 20-21. How will you use your time, talent & treasure in our parish?



Calling Upon the Blessed Mother with Faith Our Lady of Perpetual Help Benediction and Novena

For the last 40 years, a number of faithful parishioners have called upon the Blessed Mother with profound faith and hope at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Benediction and Novena service. By taking her as their heavenly mother and source of consolation, they have found deep peace in their hearts, and an uplifting joy in their souls.

Currently, the devotion takes place on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at our parish. First, the novena is led by John Lacy or Kevin Caldwell. Then, after a brief exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Deacon Pham leads everyone in the praying of the Divine Praises. He then blesses everyone with the monstrance, and the devotion concludes with the singing of “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name.”



Overall, the devotion is coordinated by Martin Perez, whose wife, Angelina, initiated the novena service 40 years ago. Angelina, who passed away six years ago, was greatly devoted to the Blessed Mother, and had made several pilgrimages to Marian shrines.

Since Kevin started coming to the novena about 10 years ago, he has seen his faith flourish, and his love for Mary grow in beautiful ways.

“Since I retired, I have had a great passion to volunteer, so when I was invited to help with this novena, I really wanted to,” he says. “I love the Rosary — it just lights me up! And I love the Blessed Mother, and I have a very special devotion to her. The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Benediction definitely works for me!”

He has also found that the novena gives its attendees a meaningful way to thank Our Lady for the compassionate ear she lends to their prayers.

“There are so many miracles that have happened through the intercession of the Blessed Mother,” Kevin says. “There are several miracles that have happened in my own life as well. Those who come to the novena and plea to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for a special intention often see answers to their prayers. The novena is also a wonderful way to thank her for all she has done for us.”

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a sacred tradition that runs deeply throughout the history of Catholicism, and all throughout the world. When asked if he feels that public devotions such as this one are preeminent in today’s world, Kevin offers a faithful perspective.

“Many prayers and devotions are available these days, but people need to seek them out for themselves,” he says. “With the state of our nation as-is, we should all be seeking to do so.”

Let us all consider attending this beautiful devotion. For more information, please contact Kevin Caldwell at 816-225-1172.



Meet the Men of Queen

Offering Support and Fellowship on the Journey of Faith

Just over two years ago, a group of men came together, realizing their need for ongoing formation and support. A number of the men had begun to experience growth in their faith through ministries such as Christ Renews His Parish and Cursillo, but had hopes of going deeper, and inviting other men along the journey. Thus was born, the Men of Queen.

“I’m strengthened every time I’m around this group, because they’re all strong men of faith and we all grow together,” says parishioner Will Miller. “We share our lives and it’s a constant growing process. I’d missed that previously in my life. A lot of guys didn’t grow up this way — we were more isolated and it wasn’t the ‘manly’ thing to do, to sit around and talk about personal things in your life. But the last five years of my life have been drastically changed. Being around a group of men of faith and hearing them articulate their faith, it is really powerful.”

Among those who initiated the group, Will has been involved with Men of Queen since the beginning, and is grateful for the blessing of the group in his life.

“I get a lot out of being around other similar men who are willing to open their lives up a little bit,” Will says. “It continues bringing me closer to Christ in my journey. It’s really good.”

Men of Queen meet every Saturday morning for fellowship and discussion over coffee and donuts. The discussion is centered on the topics of piety, study and action, as men are encouraged to share their journey toward God through prayer, learning about the faith, and living and sharing it with others. Sometimes, the meetings also include guest speakers.

“It’s designed to promote discussion about one’s personal experiences with God,” Will says. “People will talk about little ‘God moments.’ Usually they’re positive, but a guy may also say, ‘I feel like I had a hard time with this particular one and struggled with it.’ People share their own thoughts and ideas about their growth process.”

These weekly meetings and opportunities for fellowship are at the heart of the group, as its mission statement proclaims: “Men of Queen meet weekly for



The group meets early Saturday morning to grow in faith and build a community of Christian support for the men of the parish.

fellowship and conversation to grow our spiritual connection with the Holy Spirit. This is to strengthen our faith foundation so as to become better men of Christ; better husbands, fathers, family members and servants in Christ’s Christian Community.”

Along with the weekly meetings, Men of Queen seek to find ways to serve the parish community.

“I see us as being a group of men who are available for our pastor as a ministry group to do things to enhance the growth and viability of the parish,” Will says. “We have been asked to do little tasks or projects going on in the parish. We want to be a part of the activities of the parish and the things that go on.”

“I think it’s what Christ intended when He formed the Church — Christian community,” he adds. “This

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7023 W. 71st Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66204
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is strengthening and transforming and growing and evangelizing through Christian community.”

Will encourages the men of the parish to join the Men of Queen on a Saturday morning.

“Come and see,” he says. “Nobody is forced to talk — you can come and just listen. Just come and see if you can enhance your spiritual growth and walk of life. Come and check it out and give it a chance. Who knows, you might like it. It’s a great way to start a Saturday morning.”



Men of Queen is an opportunity for men to find fellowship with others.

If you would like more information on Men of Queen, please contact Will Miller at 913-384-4644 or themillers711@att.net. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend the weekly meetings, which take place at 6:45 a.m. every Saturday morning in the parish hall.

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.