

# Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH




## Ushers Provide Hospitality to All Who Enter Our Doors

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They're often the first faces you see when you walk in the church doors on a Sunday. Their smiles and assistance give you a feeling of warmth and welcome as you enter Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, to gather with your brothers and sisters for Mass. Although their presence isn't often front and center, their service is an important one — it's a service of humble hospitality. Seeking to greet every person they encounter as if it were Christ Himself, they are our ushers.



*Our ushers serve to make parishioners and visitors alike feel welcome and comfortable as they gather to pray at Mass.*

"I hope that when people come to Mass it's a good experience, that they receive kindness and compassion and they really don't have to worry about anything and are able to attend Mass, enjoy it and have a good spiritual experience," says Ken Huffman, who has served as an usher for the past six years, and currently serves on the Liturgy Committee as the coordinator of the ushers.

Each and every week, our ushers work diligently to create an environment that invites both faithful parishioners and visitors to participate in our celebration of the liturgy. From greeting people and guiding them to their seats, to facilitating the collection, and passing out bulletins, the ushers are busy before Mass and continue to serve throughout. Ushers also stay after Mass to ensure that the church is orderly and prepared for the next Mass.

"We're part of the hospitality ministry," Ken says.

In the case of an emergency, ushers are often the first to respond, offering assistance to those in need.

"If we have a medical event or emergency, we maintain the person's dignity and privacy by getting them into an area where they can be comfortable," says Ken, explaining that the ushers will call 911 and work with emergency services. "We're always looking around, seeing what's going on, noticing anything out of the ordinary. The most important thing is to keep the congregation safe."



## *Stewardship* **Hannah, the Good Steward**

**W**hat should we do when our prayers are answered?

Is there anything left to do after we have sincerely thanked God for His favors? If God were a human peer, we would probably try to reciprocate by granting Him a favor in return. But the truth is that God cannot be made greater by anything that we do for Him. Instead, God receives our thanks and tells us to “go and do likewise.” That is, He tells us to share with others the good that He has bestowed on us. And in doing so, we are really sharing God Himself. That is the definition of stewardship!

The Old Testament Book of Samuel contains one of the most poignant examples of stewardship in the entire Bible. The first chapter teaches us of an unhappy, barren woman named Hannah. Desperate in her barrenness, Hannah prays that God will give her a son, vowing that she will raise him to be a man of God.

Imagine Hannah’s elation when she was granted her prayer! When Samuel was born, her heart’s desire had come true! Imagine further the pang of motherly sorrow, as Hannah kept her promise to God by taking Samuel at a young age to be the servant of Eli, the high priest. The Book of Samuel tells us that once Samuel became Eli’s servant, Hannah saw her young son just once a year.

Indeed, Hannah knew that Samuel was truly a gift from God – an answered prayer. Hannah’s response is that of the Good Steward – with an attitude of both gratitude and sacrifice, she gave up her son to honor God. One imagines that Hannah probably struggled with this sacrifice during those first years. She probably did not know what God had in store for her son. Yet, through her faithfulness, God used him as a gift to an

entire nation. Samuel would, in time, become one of the greatest prophets of Jewish history.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand the sacrifices we make in the name of stewardship, while the results may just be impossible to miss! However, He asks that we continue to be faithful in either case. God has undoubtedly bestowed gifts on all of us – at whatever the cost, we are to “go and do likewise.”



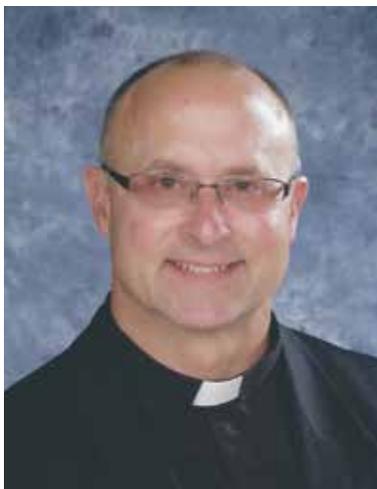


## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

# Christ Becomes One With Us Through the Eucharist

Dear Parishioners,

Any of us who are old enough to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, had to have been marked by that experience. As I reflect on this solemn date in our country's history, I faithfully reflect on how our celebration of the Eucharist is our way of marking Christ's last hours and his forgiveness of our sins nearly 2,000 years ago. As Catholics, through the Eucharist, we are called to consciously be the bread broken and the wine poured out for others each day of our lives. We are called to become what we receive.



ritual or a symbol. As Catholics, we know that it is Christ's real presence among us — we are to accept that gift and personally become Christ's presence everywhere we go and in everything we do.

The very word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." When we live a Eucharistic life, it has everything to do with gratitude. Let us be thankful for the Eucharist and thankful for one another, and let us demonstrate that through the love that pours out of us.

Throughout the calendar year, certain dates are commemorated to inspire us to remember and honor those who may have been lost. These kinds of days — like 9/11 — are testimony to the reality that we, as human beings, are consciously connected to one another. There are unfortunately some who would have us believe that we are independent, separated from those around us.

For us as Catholics, the reception of the Eucharist is the most intimate union with God Himself on this earth. It is through the Body of Christ that we are unified to God and one another.

We gather as a community around the table of the Eucharist. We receive the gift of Christ's Body and Blood so that we may become the embodiment of God's love among us. As we receive Christ, we should recommit ourselves to following in Jesus' footsteps and reaching out to those around us with mercy, encouragement and compassion. By doing that, we reaffirm our identity as disciples and our Baptismal commitment to be His Body and Blood given for others.

Unfortunately to some, the Eucharist has been diluted to the point that it is viewed as merely a

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning  
*Pastor*





## A New Year of Catholic Education in Our Parish *Helping Our Children Become t*



*Students at John Paul II Catholic School*

Denise Godinez describes our current society as an environment of “rapid-fire living.” Though this society values living in the moment above having a strong moral foundation, our young people can be a countercultural force rooted in their faith.

“It is imperative that the youth of today have a constant in their life that is based on a solid moral foundation,” says Denise, the Director of Religious Education. “As adults, we are responsible for guiding the youth as they develop their Catholic Christian Character and moral compass.”

This year, our School of Religion (SOR) will continue its collaboration with John Paul II School and with all the families of the parish to provide this solid moral foundation for our young people.

“Our first and foremost vision is that the children know the wonderment and love of God within their lives,” Denise says. “We want them and their family units to become stronger and more confident in their relationship with God. Secondly, we are called to extend that love to all others through our thoughts, words and actions.”

As in years past, SOR and John Paul II School will share a theme for the year, “Become the Saint God made you to be,” which is inspired by a tweet from Pope Francis: “To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone.”

“There is such a good relationship between the parish and the school,” says principal Jenny Yankovich. “We are united in theme, which is displayed on our bulletin boards and in our hallways. The children will receive the same message throughout the year.”

Through the Religious Education Office, the students from John Paul II School and SOR prepare together for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. They use the same textbooks, and all the students in the parish work together in service and hospitality.

“This year, we will continue to study and learn about the wonderment of our Catholic faith and



# School of Religion and John Paul II School

## *Be Saints God Made Them to Be*

the beauty of the Mass, prayer, sacramental life, the Creed and the fundamental Teachings of the Church,” Denise says.

Mrs. Yankovich, a self-described product of Catholic education, shares that the school faculty and staff are always looking for ways to further integrate faith formation into all aspects of the students’ education.

“An immersion in the Catholic faith is part of our everyday lives here,” Mrs. Yankovich says. “If there is an issue on the playground, we turn to the virtues. If there is a crisis, we turn to pray together.”

One example of how the school brings the faith into the daily lives of the students is through their “faith families.”

“I am making a conscious effort to organize the faith families this year and get that momentum going from the beginning,” Mrs. Yankovich says. “They are small groups of students and teachers from all the different grades who come together for prayer.”

As we begin a new year of educating our young people in the faith, Mrs. Yankovich would like to thank all the families who have chosen to send their children to John Paul II School. We also hope that parishioners will continue to support all the youth of our parish, no matter what educational process they go through, as they strive to become saints.

“Parents and students, strive to be walking saints,” Denise says. “Make your life important, noble and strong by bearing witness to what God has called us to do — to love one another!”

*If you would like more information about John Paul II School, please reach out to Jenny Yankovich at [jyankovich@archkcks.org](mailto:jyankovich@archkcks.org) or 913-432-6350. If you would like more information about the School of Education, please reach out to Denise Godinez at 913-722-2206 or [denisegodinez@qbr-opks.org](mailto:denisegodinez@qbr-opks.org).*



*Gathering for the School of Religion’s Advent service*



*The School of Religion students bringing our light to Christ*



*Closing the year ceremony for the School of Religion — eighth-grade students bring the prayer intention tablecloth to cover the cross*



## “Transformed by the Sacred Liturgy” The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery

In a limited way, the liturgy can be compared to a story or a film — upon a first reading or viewing, we might understand the basic outline of the narrative, yet through every subsequent encounter, the story further unfolds before us, becoming richer and more complex.

Often, inquisitive children teach us about how to understand a story or the Mass. As a child inquires about the priest’s green vestments, the foregrounded wreath or the presence of palm branches, we might pause to recall the symbolism undergirding the rich rituals of the liturgy.

There is a sense of the sacred in the liturgy, but its rituals and ceremonies can appear as empty pantomimes when divorced from their meaning. Far from empty signs, the liturgy is the celebration of the Paschal mystery, of Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and glorification by which He “accomplished the work of our salvation” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1067).

From the Greek *leitourgia*, meaning public service or worship, liturgy in the Christian tradition refers to the communal participation of the people in the work of God, and God is always present and at work in the liturgy, acting in and with the Church through the sacraments.

Annually, the Church’s liturgical year is structured around the Paschal mystery, which we observe every Sunday. We begin each year with a season of anticipating Christ’s birth, and following a celebration of Christ’s Incarnation, we gradually enter a period of preparation for the Easter Triduum, for His passion, death and Resurrection. The year closes with a period of ordinary time — a time to grow in our faith and in living out the Gospel.

Every day, the Liturgy of the Hours unifies the Church Militant in prayers said by the clergy and increasingly by the laity. As the liturgical calendar structures our year, the Liturgy of the Hours structures our day, offering us an opportunity to consecrate each present moment to Christ.



Ultimately, the liturgical life of the Church “revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments” (*CCC* 1113), for we receive God’s grace to fortify us in our spiritual lives and as His disciples through the sacraments, particularly the Holy Mass.

The Mass nurtures us spiritually, inviting us to reflect on the Paschal mystery and to lift our hearts to God as individuals and a community through spoken and sung prayer.

The Mass moves us corporeally, drawing us to sit as we listen to the Word, to stand as we unanimously profess our faith, and to kneel as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Mass inspires us apostolically, sending us out to proclaim the Gospel and to share Christ with our brothers and sisters.

Something in the simplicity of the child’s experience of the liturgy teaches us to return to what we might call the basics of the faith — meaning a love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the sacraments and the rituals of the Church. Only through the liturgy are we nurtured on our stewardship journey and inspired to proclaim the Gospel.

As Archbishop Alexander Sample from the Diocese of Portland, Ore., writes, “If we are transformed by the sacred liturgy, then we, as believers, can help transform the culture.”



# Knights of Columbus

## Actively and Faithfully Serving Our Communities

As the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, the Knights of Columbus has developed into a benefit society dedicated to providing a wide range of charitable services. Since its 1882 founding, the Knights of Columbus organization has actively defended Catholicism in various nations and promoted Catholic education.

Our own Knights of Columbus Council 10841, which serves our Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, carries out a multitude of important services in our community and parish. All of the good works carried out by the Knights of Columbus — in our Council and beyond — are based upon the four core principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

"We are there basically to help people, especially through service," says Dave Janner, the current Grand Knight and a member for more than 30 years. "Our members are involved in virtually all parish ministries and activities. Service and spirituality are at the heart of what we do. I must say, though, that I feel we are very strong on both — especially spirituality."

Our Council meets at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

"We begin with a Rosary, followed by our monthly meeting," Dave says. "As you will see, we do so much that there is always plenty to discuss and deal with. We have almost 100 members at present."

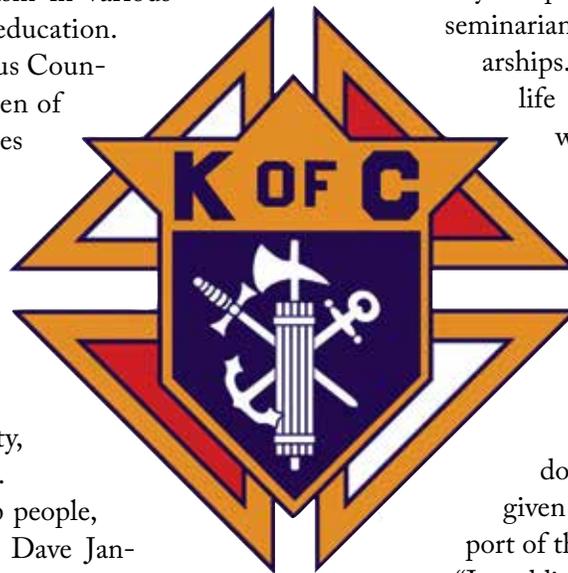
And as Dave points out, it is difficult to note absolutely everything the council does or has done!

"Nine months, out of the year we host a family breakfast called the Sunrise Breakfast, which includes pancakes, sausage and eggs," he says. "We ask for a free will offering, but one of the important reasons for doing it is associated with hospitality, as fellowship and charity are part of that effort. We support two seminarians and offer two high school scholarships. Our Council supports many pro-life activities. In January, for example, we hold a baby shower and collect needed baby items for a local pregnancy crisis center, and we are always involved in our local Walk for Life."

To be sure, charity and service are hallmarks of the Knights. In the past decade worldwide, the Knights have donated \$1.475 billion to charity and given almost 700 million hours in support of the Church and charitable works.

"In addition, we hold a golf tournament and we support vocations and our priest in many ways," Dave says. "From the beginning, we have liked to cook, and that is a valuable service that we offer in a variety of ways. We also give out flowers to mothers on Mother's Day."

Our people extend their gratitude to our Knights Council for all of the great work they do, and the faithful example they set forth to all. And this gratitude for the Knights of Columbus organization extends worldwide. As Pope Francis has expressed to the Knights for their faithful efforts, "May prayer, witness to the faith and concern for our brothers and sisters in need always be the pillars supporting your work, both individually and corporately."



*All practicing Catholic men over the age of 18 are welcome and encouraged to join.  
For more information, please contact Grand Knight Dave Janner at 913-302-0419  
or email him at ghrkofc@gmail.com.*



# Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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## Ushers *continued from front cover*

In everyday situations, the ushers work hard to make everyone who enters our church feel welcome, safe and comfortable, whether that means giving directions to the restroom or helping a latecomer find a seat. Ken hopes that the ushers' service will help people to be able to have a more prayerful experience at Mass.

"My hope is that it creates a more meaningful experience," he says. "If we can make things more comfortable — spiritually, physically and all around — so people have a better experience at Mass, that's what I hope for."

Ken has also found that his appreciation of the liturgy has increased since beginning to serve as an usher.

"Being an usher, I'm watching everything, I'm paying a lot more attention now to the flow," Ken says. "This has

given me a better understanding of the process and why things are done at Mass."

Ushers may serve based on their schedules, Mass preferences and availability. Ken encourages those who are interested to consider serving in this ministry.

"A good usher would have patience, kindness and be hospitable," Ken says. "You've got to be observant and be willing to do what needs to be done. It's just being there when we're needed."

"There's a lot of stuff we do that's in the background, and that's what it takes to make the church work," he adds. "It's our church and we are serving so we can help it be a good experience for anybody who walks in the door."

*If you would like more information, or to become involved serving as an usher, please reach out to any usher at Mass, and they will connect you to the head usher. You may also contact Ken Huffman at 913-638-4626 or [KWH0116@gmail.com](mailto:KWH0116@gmail.com) with additional questions.*

### 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.