

# St. Mary

PARISH NEWSLETTER

# Queen of the Universe

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## Parish Picnic

### *Stewardship and Hospitality in Action*

**T**he Parish Picnic is coming up this month, and it's all for you.

"The picnic is the parish's way to say 'thank you' to the parishioners for giving of your time, talent and treasure as we travel down the stewardship way of life," says Pastoral Assistant Nancy Sherffius.

The picnic will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, and truly is focused on community. There is no cost to attend, and no need to bring anything. Sylvia Neuman, the food service director at Sacred Heart High School, will be preparing food, and the Knights of Columbus will also be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs.

Because our parish is so large, it can be difficult to meet and connect with many of the people in our parish family. The picnic provides a venue for meeting some of those we don't know.

"It's a sense of expanding our church family and getting to know each other, and realizing that as church family, we're all in this together," Nancy says. "We couldn't do this without their time, talent and treasure and they couldn't do it without the priest. It's a way for us to share our community."



Along with the Knights of Columbus, the Pastoral Council and the Stewardship Committee will also be involved in serving the food, welcoming parishioners and helping out in other areas.

"The Knights of Columbus is always very concerned about helping others, so this comes natural to them," Nancy says. "The Pastoral Council organizes the event and is concerned about the overall well being of the parish. The Stewardship Committee is really trying to reach out and be hospitable, so they've joined in with this event to help give back to people that have given us so much."

The meal isn't the only part of the picnic, however. There also will be a children's area set up with games and activities. The Family Life Com-

*continued on back cover*

# The Importance of Family Prayer

“**T**he family that prays together stays together.” It’s a catchy little slogan coined in the 1940s by Al Scalpone, a professional writer, and has been frequently referenced ever since. But it’s more than just a catchy saying. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talents and treasure. And we must begin by getting to know Him. After all, how can we follow in the footsteps of someone we don’t know? Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples in much the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “*Ecclesia domestica*,” or “the domestic church” (CCC 1656). It is in the family that children first witness the Faith lived out. Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day and making family prayer a regular practice. In doing so, they not only set an example for their children, but also provide them with a faith-filled foundation and bring them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. You can (and should) pray before meals, thanking God for the blessings He has given you – especially the food you are about to eat. You can pray some of the formal prayers of the Church – the Our Father and the Hail Mary, for example – or you can pray a family Rosary together every night. You can also spend time offering the Lord thanksgiving for His many blessings, thanking Him aloud, and then asking Him to answer your prayers – offering Him your daily petitions. One often-suggested format for prayer is the acronym ACTS (Adoration – praise the Lord for who He is; Contrition – ask the Lord’s forgiveness for all that you’ve done wrong throughout the day; Thanksgiving – thank the Lord for His immeasurable goodness; and Supplication – offer the Lord your daily petitions). You can also bring your family to church to kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament and offer your prayers in Christ’s presence.

The possibilities are seemingly endless, and how you pray as a family is dependant on the personalities and the dynamic of your own individual family. But no matter how you do, be sure to take time to pray. Your relationship with the Lord – individually and as a family unit – will be deeper, your commitment to the Lord as His disciple will be stronger, and your bonds as a family will surely be strengthened.

## PRAYER FOR PARENTS:

God, our Father, I thank you for the gift of my children and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent, for this is my way of holiness.

May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me.

Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures – faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness, love in Your name for all.

I entrust my children to Your loving care. Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness.

Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another. Teach us never to be ashamed

that we are, in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus, Who is head of our home.

Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life and let the circle of our family be unbroken in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## *A Letter from Our Pastor*

# Thank You!

Dear Parishioners,

**T**he St. Mary's Parish fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the next year. We have just finished the fiscal year of 2010-2011. At the end of a fiscal year, each parish must send a report to the diocese concerning its activity of the previous year, especially noting parishioner units, baptisms and other sacramental numbers, financial reports, etc.

I am happy to report that we have had a good year. Presently, we are maintaining the same number of parish units as in previous years (around 1,550). Since we focused on other aspects of stewardship earlier in the year, I am going to report on our financial situation with this letter.

Our total budget for the previous year was \$1,003,000. Our total income was \$25,000 short of that amount, but expenses were also \$25,000 less than budgeted. Thus, we finished the year at a break-even point. (We are truly a non-profit organization!).

The Finance Council is truly appreciative in light of other monies that were raised: our parish's amazing \$1,130,000 commitment to the Diocese's Capital Campaign, \$24,000 to date to pay for the Church tuck pointing and window repair, other maintenance repair on the grounds and at the school, \$5,300 for our sister parish in Joplin, Mo., and the ongoing generous response to the requests from our local charities. Along with the Finance Council, all we can say is: THANK YOU (and we are blessed to belong to this parish).

The budget for the coming year is \$1,016,000 or a 1.5 percent increase. If you can help us in this regard in any way, we are most grateful. If not, we know that many, many parishioners have sacrificed a great deal to help us arrive at the point we are. Let us move forward continuing to pray for each other.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Kerry Ninemire



## The Importance of Service *Darrell and Audrey Genereux*

**L**eadng the congregation in song at Mass, assisting the celebrant at the altar, or even administering the Body and Blood of Christ during Communion requires lay parishioners to step outside of their comfort zones. While many perform these duties with seemingly effortless grace, that's not to say that such service isn't nerve-racking at times. After all, when serving at Mass it can feel as though all eyes are on you.

Parishioner Audrey Genereux understands that feeling all too well and offers a suggestion for those who may feel uncomfortable serving at Mass.

"Though it may be frightening to some to minister at church, there are other ways: the Knights of Columbus, funeral dinners, teaching, volunteering at school, and more," she says. "It will make one's religion more meaningful and makes you feel better about your spiritual life."

Audrey points out that one form of service isn't necessarily better than another – the important thing is to simply serve in the first place. And while serving God is the primary reason one should get involved in parish ministries, Audrey says there is a positive side-effect that can also become a blessing in one's life: friendship.

"To become a part of the body of Christ, one needs to get to know others and participate in multiple ways in the parish community," Audrey says. "We like to attend social events to meet others as well as attend special programs, such as Bible studies."

Currently, Audrey serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, while her husband, Darrell, serves as a lector.



Reading as a lector has been a ministry of Darrell's for many years. Audrey says he's served in this capacity for approximately 30 years. For the Genereux's, getting involved began as a way to teach their children the importance of participating in one's faith community. And judging from their now-grown children's involvement in their own Catholic parishes – one plays the organ at Mass, two read as lectors and teach religious education, and one is a member of the Knights of Columbus – the message was well-received.

"All of our children are still practicing Catholics, and continue to see that their children receive religious formation," Audrey

says. "Several have enrolled their kids in Catholic schools. A daughter-in-law – a convert – even will begin teaching in a Catholic school this fall."

Darrell and Audrey, who were married in 1971, moved to Salina and joined St. Mary's in 2008. The couple chose Salina as their retirement destination, mostly due to its proximity to their children, many of which live in cities nearby. Joining St. Mary's, Audrey says, was largely due to the priests, whose personalities quickly captured the Genereux's hearts. Joining a community with a school was also important to Darrell and Audrey, as Darrell's professional background was in public school administration.

Regardless of their reasons for coming to St. Mary's, our community is most certainly blessed to have them. Commitment to their faith community is important to Darrell and Audrey, and they show proof of this each time they serve at Mass or participate in a parish activity.

Darrell and Audrey, thank you for your witness to our Parish community. We are truly blessed by your life of stewardship!



## Prayer & Action

### *A Mission Experience in Our Own Backyard*

There are many different kinds of mission trips. Some take us to impoverished areas far away, others to foreign countries where we don't speak the language. While these trips can bear great fruit in their participants, our diocese is fortunate to have a youth mission program that gives our kids the experience of a lifetime without having to leave the state — Prayer & Action.

"Everyone is so focused on seeing Christ everywhere," says Renee Thompson, who coordinates the Catholic Youth Organization at our parish with her husband, Chris. "It's like they're in their own little world for a week and there's no distractions. I think that's the most important part, and I think that's what the kids get out of it."

Each day of the Prayer & Action trips is filled with work, prayer and fellowship. The youth start every morning with the Rosary and Mass, then they are out on the work sites until mid-afternoon, and finally they return for more prayer and fellowship.

The work sites are often people's homes, where the youth serve them by helping with repairs, yard work, painting, cleaning, and many other tasks.

"While the work is important," Renee says, "when I look back on the weeks that I've been to Prayer & Action, that little bit of work pales in comparison to the rest of it. That is a small part of what Prayer & Action is and what the kids get out of it."

But if community service isn't the main reason for the trips, what is? As it turns out, the greater part of Prayer & Action is the spiritual growth that the youth experience through the combination of their work, prayer and interaction with each other and those they serve.

"They all have to turn in their cell phones as soon as they get there," Renee says. "There's no TV, no Internet, no elec-



tronics at all. They give that all up just to interact with people all week long. They pray probably seven or eight times a day. They are able to focus on what they're doing — focus on the prayer, and focus on the interaction with the other kids."

For many teenagers, these concepts are less than attractive. In this day and age, it has become difficult for many of us to imagine being separated from all the social technology we use everyday. However, as those who have experienced Prayer & Action, the results are well worth the separation.

"If I had the power, I would make every kid my age go, because I know they would love it," says Tate Richards, who attended his first Prayer &

Action trip in July. "Everyone is so accepting there. I would definitely recommend that everybody my age go."

Even those who aren't hesitant about the trips are still surprised by their power.

"The first day I got there, I was pretty excited," says Tracie Thibault, who also experienced Prayer & Action for the first time this summer. "I'd been counting down the days with my friend until we got to go. I wasn't sure what to expect, and I had high expectations because of what people were saying. It was incredible. All the team members were so great, everyone was so accepting. Getting to know the homeowners — they are so grateful. It was so great to see."

The homeowners and other community members who were served by the youth are not the only ones who are grateful for their experience with Prayer & Action.

"To the team members that give up their whole summer, and Deacon Gale Hammerschmidt, who started the whole thing, I just want to say thank you to them and let them know how much what they do means to me," Tracie says. "And the parent sponsors, I want to thank them, because we wouldn't be able to go if we didn't have them."

## Understanding the New Roman Missal The Liturgy of the Eucharist

**A**s we continue to prepare for the implementation of the new English translation of the Roman Missal in November, we will focus this month on changes to the Liturgy of the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic Faith.

Much of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is led by the celebrant, and primarily requires the congregation to listen and pray in silence. The majority of the changes to this part of the Mass will revolve around what we hear the priest say, rather than what we will say ourselves. However, there are a few small changes to some of the congregation's acclamations and responses during the Liturgy of the Eucharist that this article will focus on.

The first of these changes will come during the Preparation of the Gifts, when the priest invites us to prayer after washing his hands. Whereas the congregation has traditionally responded by saying, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands/ for the praise and glory of his name, / for our good/ and the good of all his Church," we will now respond in kind, but with the addition of the word "holy" before "Church." The word "holy" appears in the Latin text, and this will also more closely correspond to the description of the Church in the Nicene Creed. As Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, "The reason that the Lord will hear the prayer and accept the sacrifice of the humble priest has to do with the holiness of the Church, which benefits from his prayer" (26).

Another noticeable change will take place during the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you," we will now respond by saying, "And with your spirit," as we have to this greeting in earlier parts of the Mass. And when the priest gives the instruction, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," we will now say the words, "It is right and just," instead of "it is right to give him thanks and praise." This is simply a case of the translation being a lot closer to the Latin text – "just a declarative statement without explanation" (Turner 31).

Perhaps the most significant and prevalently utilized change to what we say during the Liturgy of the Eucharist will take place just before the distribution of Holy Com-



munion. Traditionally, when the priest has entered into the "Lamb of God" dialogue, we have responded by saying, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." We will now respond to a revised introduction by the priest by saying, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

The first part of this response will now more clearly correspond to the story in Matthew 8:8 and Luke 7:6, where a Gentile Centurion has asked Jesus to heal his servant. Because Jesus talks directly to the Centurion in Matthew's account, and talks to the Centurion's delegates in Luke's version of the story, the word "enter" was chosen because it works for both accounts of this event (Turner 45-46).

The change in text from the word "I" to "my soul" is meant to more specifically address the type of healing for which we are asking as part of this response. As Fr. Turner says, "In this context, it shows we are not asking for a generic healing or even a physical healing, which could be understood by the word 'I.' Instead, we are asking for the spiritual healing that alone can cure 'my soul'" (46).

In addition to these modifications, there will be changes in our response during one of the four versions of the Acclamation of Faith, as well as a slight change to the "Holy, Holy, Holy." For more information on these and other changes to the new English translation of the *Missale Romanum*, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).



## Parish to Host Annual Grade School Extravaganza

**A**n evening out, sharing wonderful food and drink with friends all in support of quality Catholic education — what's not to like?

In recent years, the Grade School Extravaganza at St. Mary has become a focal point on the parish calendar. With a catered cocktail dinner and first-rate auctions, it is a night that many in the parish community look forward to attending every year.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the parents, staff and other parishioners to have a great time and share a very nice dinner together," says event coordinator Courtney Turpin. "It's also a wonderful way for parents to give back to their children's education while having a lot of fun at the same time."

The Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15, in the school gymnasium. Doors are set to open around 6 p.m. with dinner being served by 7 p.m.

"After a number of years in the parish hall, last year was the first year hosting it over at the school," Courtney says. "I think that holding it there helped everyone focus more on the central purpose of the event. We also had a great turnout last year, with 124 people in total. Year to year, most of our attendees are parents, faculty, grandparents and other parishioners; it would be great to set the record this year!"

As in the past, the evening will include both silent and live auctions. Donations are being accepted for each.

"We need donations of every type," Courtney emphasizes. "They can be just about anything; silent auction items tend to consist of things like sports memorabilia and tickets, handmade

crafts, spa packages, gift certificates, etc. While the live auction items generally range from themed parties to piano lessons and student art projects."

In the past, the Extravaganza was put on by a handful of volunteers. This year, the school decided to ask the sixth grade parents to be responsible for the event.

"Normally people would volunteer to be the chair and co-chair and other positions and in the end, about 10 people or so would do most of the work," Courtney says. "The thought is that by having one class lead it, we'll have more volunteers and be able to spread the work around a little more evenly. If the parents of the whole class pitch in, less people will be overwhelmed by it. Plus, each class will be able to use this opportunity as a kind of gift back to the school."

Committees have been formed to cover all facets of the event, from food, beverages, and entertainment, to auctions, decorations, and clean up. Preparations are well underway for making this year's Extravaganza as extravagant as any!

Tickets for the event, which includes drinks and dinner, are now available for purchase at the school office. All parishioners and friends of the parish age 21 and older are invited to attend this wonderful event.

Please stay tuned to the bulletin and parish Web site for more information. To submit donations, please contact Courtney by e-mail at [kccturpin@yahoo.com](mailto:kccturpin@yahoo.com), or drop them by the school office.





# St. Mary Queen of the Universe

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## Parish Picnic *continued from front cover*

mission will be helping out with the children's area, supervised by parishioners Rob and Peggy Hague.

What's more, the picnic offers all parishioners another opportunity to serve one another. There is a lot of work that needs to be done on the day of the event to ensure this year's picnic is as successful as the last. We encourage all St. Mary's parishioners to participate.

"There are lots of volunteer opportunities," Nancy says. "We need people to serve the food, to clean up from the dinner, and more."

Ultimately, the picnic is about enjoying the blessings God showers upon us through our families, friends and faith. It is a prime example of hospitality, which is a cornerstone of the stewardship way of life, and one of the essential pillars for building a stewardship parish.

If you are interested in helping to make the picnic a success by offering your time and talent, please contact Nancy Sherffius at 785-827-5575.



*"It's a sense of expanding our church family and getting to know each other, and realizing that as church family, we're all in this together. We couldn't do this without their time, talent and treasure and they couldn't do it without the priest."*

*It's a way for us to share our community."*

*-Nancy Sherffius, Pastoral Assistant*

Daily Mass: 8:05 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturday 4:00 p.m. until done