



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 17, Issue 10

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

All Saints Women's Organization

Forging Valuable Connections Through Faith and Fellowship

Since the very beginning of our parish's existence, the All Saints Women's Organization (ASWO) has been there, quietly working "behind the scenes" to ensure the long-term success of our faith community — spiritually, financially, and socially.



"Our purpose is to foster faith and community amongst the women of our parish," says President Lori Millwee. "We want to foster faith and to provide things that provide fellowship amongst the women of our community."

Lori says the ministry is meant for all women of the parish — be they old or young, single or married. Its purpose is to unite the female members of our faith community in a wide variety of ways, allowing them to form bonds with each other and to strengthen our faith and larger community through acts of service and financial aid. This includes pro-life activism, quilting baby blankets, supporting our sister parish, and, of course, the annual Hearts and Hands Bazaar.

"Hearts and Hands is our biggest fundraiser," Lori says. "We generally make \$15,000 to \$18,000. We have a committee that then decides where the money goes, supporting needs in our parish and community. In the past, we have reupholstered cushions for the benches in the narthex, bought albs for the altar servers, and donated money for scholarships at All Saints Parish School and Youth Ministry. Ladies are also

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Safe Environment-Cleared Volunteers Needed

Our community relies on its volunteers to do all the great ministry work that we do. While we continue to hold our volunteers to high standards, it is now easier than ever to become a Safe Environment-cleared volunteer. Safe Environment is our system of vetting and training volunteers. All volunteers who work with minors or vulnerable adults, all liturgical volunteers, and all ministry heads must be cleared. We encourage all our volunteers to be cleared as it helps to protect our community.

Step one is to fill out the online screening form here: <https://dallas.setanet.org/screening.php>. The screening form gives us the information we need to run a background check — completed by a professional background check company — and check personal references. Paper copies of the screening form are available at the church pastoral office.

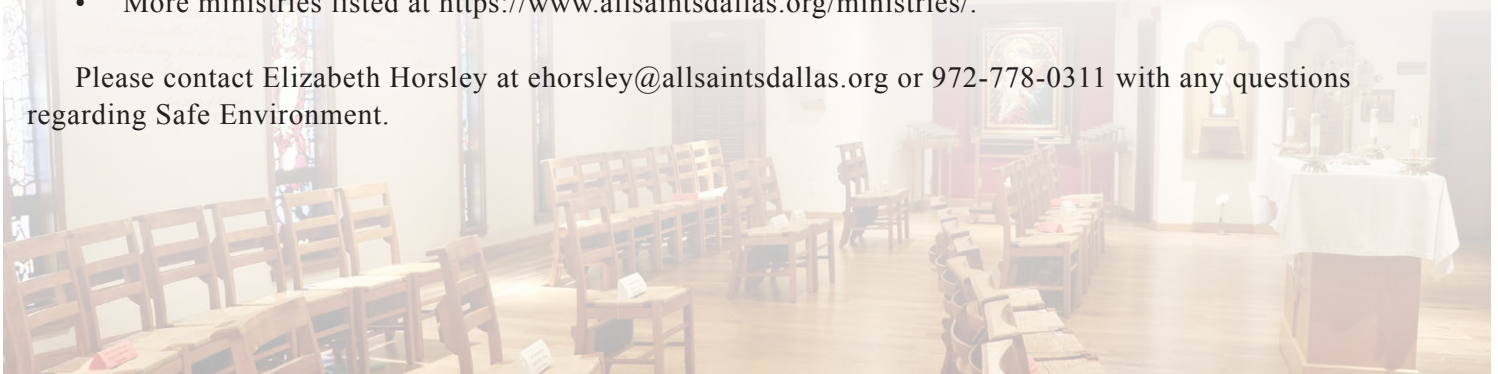
Step two is to complete the online training module which can be found here: <https://dallas.setanet.org/obligations.php>. This class launched in August of 2020 and is required for anyone who needs to update their training this year as well. In the future, we plan to offer the class in person for those who do not have computer access.

Step three is to complete a phone interview. You can sign up for a phone interview appointment here: <https://calendly.com/safe-environment/interview>. We will also need a picture to use for your badge.

Here are some of our ongoing volunteer needs that require safe environment clearance:

- RCIA sponsors help guide new Catholics into the church (contact Sr. Mary Paul — mhaase@allsaintsdallas.org, 972-778-0326).
- Ushers are needed more than ever to help meet social distancing requirements at Mass (contact Brian Ralston — globri96@gmail.com, 214-537-7325).
- Disabilities Ministry ministers to those with disabilities and their families in our community (contact Barbara Rusk — barusk1@att.net, 972-814-8227).
- Stephen Ministers meet with those in our community who are suffering (contact Deacon Michael Bolesta — stephenministry@allsaintsdallas.org, 972-661-9288).
- Legion of Mary is currently meeting virtually for prayer, but will resume taking Communion to nursing home residents in the future (contact Lydia Longoria — longoria.lydia@gmail.com).
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides emergency assistance to people living within our parish boundaries — their work has greatly increased this year (contact David Adamson — david.adamson@nm.com, 972-480-5362).
- More ministries listed at <https://www.allsaintsdallas.org/ministries/>.

Please contact Elizabeth Horsley at ehorsley@allsaintsdallas.org or 972-778-0311 with any questions regarding Safe Environment.





PASSIONATE FOR THE *Stewardship Way of Life*

Dear Saints,

Often when reading the Acts of the Apostles and Epistles in the New Testament, I recognize that the writers were genuinely passionate about having an opportunity to put into words an expression of the faith they have in Jesus Christ. I am inspired by the passion expressed by those who live what they believe. Having the courage and the enthusiasm to express their thoughts, and to embrace and cherish it as if it were the most important thing in the world, translates into a passion for Christ and a passion to be His disciple.



I ask myself on a regular basis, do I have that same passion as Jesus' disciples? I pray that I do. But if I don't, I have to wonder why, and must reflect upon what is keeping me from being passionate about my faith. Without being genuinely passionate about our faith, can any of us genuinely embrace the stewardship way of life?

The Food Network broadcasts a program called *Chopped*, which features professional chefs who are challenged to use designated ingredients to prepare a dish. Using the time they have been given, and the skills and talents they possess, they must compete against each other while attempting to impress a panel of judges. In what they say and do, their passion for who they are and what they can do with all that has been given them is more than obvious. They demonstrate confidence, enthusiasm, creativity and a desire to use their talent. Even if they get eliminated, they know they have done their best — and will continue to do so, with an ongoing passion.

Should we not have the same kind of passion for being a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Stewardship is the best way to passionately express and live out our call to be a disciple of Christ. The New Testament is filled with passages that confirm the stewardship way of life. How passionate are we about being those faithful stewards using the gifts given to us by God, and using our precious time to use those gifts for the greater glory of God?

How do we move from merely thinking that stewardship is something others do, to being passionate about it enough to live our lives as a committed disciple of Christ? It isn't possible to be truly passionate about something unless we are genuinely convinced it is God's will, and we know it and feel it in our hearts. Genuine passion begins in the heart. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are ignited to believe that the Word of God is calling each of us to express our love and devotion to Him — and we can do this by living out the stewardship life. Do you think

we are up to that? Well, to do so is to be passionate about it.

I pray and hope that we all become better and more passionate about being disciples of the Lord. I believe there is great potential for all of us. If we trust God enough to do what it takes to be passionate about the stewardship way of life, our lives will become the truest expression of discipleship. While the world tries to convince us there are other things to be passionate about, our hearts should be telling us loud and clear that the stewardship way of life is the most important. It always has been, and it always will be.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator





Meet Parishioner **Chris Parsons**

For thousands of years, before scrolls, and even before the written word, there were stories. For all of human history, people have listened to and passed on the legends of their families —the excitement, the challenges, and the narrative of a culture. For Christians, this love of stories is rooted in the truth that we were meant to play a role in the greatest story of all time — the story of God’s love for humanity. Even Jesus Himself shared His message in stories — parables — to help people embrace the Gospel. And for artists who dedicate their lives to sharing stories, they know

the power of this gift.

Parishioner Chris Parsons has been sharing stories for years and listening to stories for even longer.

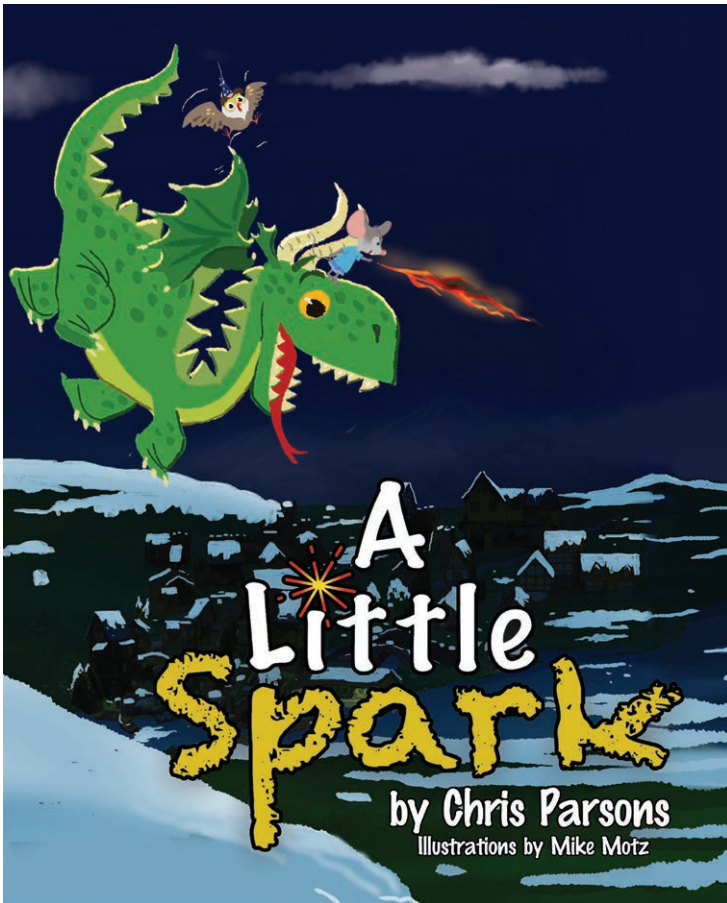
“Starting way back when, the stories that I listened to as a kid were good stories, with a good message, and they were entertaining,” says Chris, whose love of narrative was developed at a young age. “So, when my kids came along, we read all the classics, but then I started creating these stories. I found it was a way to provide a good message, a way to entertain them, and engage them in something.”

But even once his children were grown, Chris still found himself drawn to creating stories. And several years ago, a particular story came and stuck with him. This month, that story will see release as Chris’ book, *A Little Spark*.

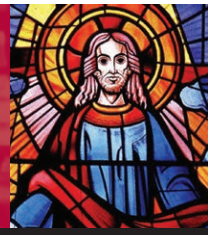
“The story is appealing, it’s interactive, and at its core is a very strong message,” Chris says. “Kids really learn by example, and the whole idea is to provide a framework and examples that they can relate to because they can look at the characters in the book and relate to them.”

The book is filled with themes such as forgiveness, friendship, and believing in the gifts that God has given you. In addition to the book itself, there are also several resources that go along with it — everything from discussion guides and an audiobook, including one with the school choir, to an entire album of songs. First-grade students from All Saints Catholic School played an important role in being the pilot audience for the book last year and helped to contribute to several aspects of the finished product.

“That’s core to what this is all about, the message,” Chris says. “It’s about capturing those kids at an early age and showing them examples, through the lessons. It’s something kids can really relate to and hopefully [the book] will instill these character traits that align with stewardship and giving back. This was an opportunity to do more than just create a book, but to create a movement around the concept of ‘Be That Spark.’”



Parishioner and children’s author Chris Parsons releases his book, *A Little Spark*, this month. Already a Moms Choice Award Gold Medal recipient.



Author of "A Little Spark" — Shares *Wonderful Gift of Storytelling*

The book is perfect for a variety of settings, from reading at home with your young children or grandchildren to classroom settings, or sending a middle-grade child off on their own literary adventure.

"What I wanted to do was create something with a broad appeal," Chris says. "It's targeted at parents who can engage with kids, it's targeted at kids who read themselves and adults who can leverage it in their lives, as well as with their grandkids."

In addition to sharing a powerful message through its story, each purchase of *A Little Spark* also contributes to helping people bring light into the world, making a difference through Heifer International. A charity close to Chris' heart, Heifer International helps support small family farms in the U.S. become more efficient and helps provide families around the world with the life-changing gift of a goat.

"[Heifer International] is an organization that exemplifies what *Be That Spark* is all about," Chris says. "Heifer International exemplifies the idea of making a spark and making a difference."

Chris, who is also involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society at our parish, with his wife Kathleen, hopes that people of all ages will enjoy the adventures of *A Little Spark* and be inspired to bring a spark to their own lives, communities, and our parish, through service.

"Once you believe in yourself and what you could do, you step up to do it," Chris says. "It's fine to sit in the pew and say 'I could do better,' but you have to get to the point where you believe and then you take that first step."



First-graders from All Saints Catholic School helped as the pilot audience for the book.



A Little Spark recently received the prestigious Mom's Choice Award Gold Medal for "best in family-friendly media, products and services."

You can learn more about A Little Spark, or preview and purchase the book — and other resources — at www.bethatspark.com. You can also follow Be That Spark on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. To learn more about Heifer International, please visit www.heifer.org.



All Saints Catholic School:

Over the past few years, I have had the fortune to meet many parishioners and parents to discuss our school. During these conversations, I ask about perceptions, how their student/alumnus is doing now, and how our school prepares students to act honorably, live virtuously, and seek truth.

Through these conversations, I have heard many stories of our students' successes, growth, and accolades. I have heard about students not liking school until they came to All Saints and experienced a small classroom where they could shine. Parents have told me about alumni skipping entry-level courses at high school so they can further their academic studies. And, I have heard of the National Merit Scholar Finalists and seven Valedictorians and Salutatorians in five years that our school has produced. These are only a few of the many success stories that are in our school building each day. When I tell these stories to people outside of our community, I am always asked the same question, "How does All Saints do it?" My answer is simple, "An unwavering commitment to excellence in faith, academics, character, and service, and an intentional philosophy of education that provides for all of our students.

Attending a Catholic school should be much more than attending Mass every week, and All Saints is committed to doing much more. A strong Catholic atmosphere permeates our school. It is seen and felt in the hallways in the way students treat each other and the faculty and staff. It is seen in Mr. Malone's religion class when he challenges the students to know and defend the faith. And it is seen when students are recognized for being an example of the Virtue of the Month.

Just like the Catholic atmosphere in our school, the academic program is strong as well. Mrs. Druffner, our principal, is committed to hiring and retaining the best teachers available. She has also created a culture in which teachers are always looking for ways to bring the material to life. One such example is the addition of our science gardens that our first-grade teacher, Mrs. Ramirez, spearheaded. These gardens provide a place for students to experience life science instead of just reading it in a book or seeing it on a screen. The students know and feel how much every teacher in our building loves them. This love leads to an increased amount of trust between the student, teacher, and parent. This trust leads to increased student achievement.





A Model for Excellence

By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

And it is not only the academic program that shapes a young person into a mature and confident adult. All Saints provides various activities to teach our students the values of teamwork and collaboration. The small school size also allows our students to try new activities in a safe place and take on leadership roles within the school. We are also able to expose students to new and fun activities in which they may not otherwise be able to participate. Activities in the Innovation Lab expose our students to the world of coding, robotics, and how we can use them to solve social problems. These projects help develop our students' empathy, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. Students are also exposed to Mandarin and Spanish language classes. These classes help them explore different cultures and develop an appreciation for cultural differences while understanding our faith is a global faith. Students can participate in Orchestra, Band, Choir, or Art so they can learn to appreciate the beautiful world God has made.

As a Catholic school, All Saints is committed to preparing young Catholic men and women who will not only learn the faith, but live it as well. Our students learn that we make Christ known and present through the service that we do for others.

All Saints has much to be proud of. Our graduates have gone on to achieve and succeed in various areas. But more importantly, our graduates are leaders in the community that are highly sought after by the local Catholic high schools. As the Director of Admissions at Ursuline Academy told me, "All Saints students are respectful and respected."

We are very proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved at All Saints, and our students are the living embodiment of what we do as a school. I invite you to explore our school website and learn about the All Saints difference. I promise you will not be disappointed. And if you are considering a Catholic education for your child or grandchild, visit us for a personal tour.

All Saints Women's Organization

continued from front cover

invited to become part of smaller circles, focusing on their specific interests such as pro-life, quilting, etc."

Though the Bazaar has been canceled this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lori says the ASWO is excited to continue other traditions while starting new ones in the upcoming months. Their annual winter Day of Reflection, January Game Meeting, and May Fashion Show will still take place, for example, and the ladies are also considering a spring Tea Party, purchasing fancy teacups from local antique shops which could be given to guests.

Lori says that each of these gatherings is designed to further unite the women of the parish through faith, fellowship, and good works.

"You gain a real sense of community," Lori says. "It allows us to truly grow in the faith, and it helps us to become more Christ-like. You are able to help provide things for people in need while also sharing your faith with people who are like-minded. And, to see the good that we are able to accomplish together is really such a blessing."

Though current COVID-19 restrictions have paused in-person gatherings temporarily, Lori Millwee and her fellow board members look forward to bringing the women of our parish together again in the near future.

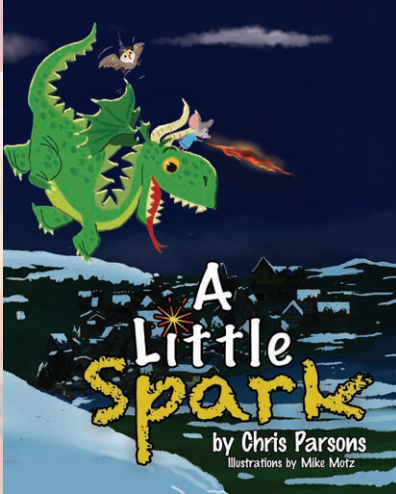
Please refer to the parish bulletin for information about upcoming ASWO events.

For more information, please contact Lori at 214-535-8620 or lorimillwee@yahoo.com.



ALL SAINTS

Chris Parsons' book, *A Little Spark*, is now available on Amazon and other online bookstores. Please consider starting all your future Amazon purchases by using Amazon Smile.




When you shop this year, please remember to start your shopping at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for All Saints Catholic parish. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Support our Parish by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Use our unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1516146>. Then, when you shop at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) your purchases will support All Saints Catholic Parish.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's stewardship renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
2021 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

First & Last Name _____ Envelope # _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____
 Email _____
 Occupation _____ Hobbies _____

Spouse: First & Last Name _____
 Spouse: Phone (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____
 Spouse: Email _____
 Spouse: Occupation _____ Hobbies _____

Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please check if you would like to receive the *Texas Catholic*.

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Current PHASE THREE Mass Schedule

Weekday Liturgy: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Weekend Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. | Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.