



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 16, Issue 8

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

Excitement Abounds as New Year Begins at All Saints School

When our All Saints students return on August 13 for their first day of class, they will find two, new exciting additions at the school.

"We will be opening our Innovation Lab," says Principal Shana Druffner. "It's an amazing new center for coding, robotics and graphic design. We're also unveiling our new Library. These are two exciting new things for our first day! We'll be welcoming back our returning families, and our new families."

The Innovation Lab has been a year and a half in the planning. It will be utilized by all the students from PreK through eighth grade.

Of course, everyone — students and staff alike — will work together under our ongoing theme of "Excellence in Faith, Academics, Service, and Character."

As the school year begins, Mrs. Druffner, the faculty and staff will be looking to reach several goals. One is to integrate coding into the core curriculum. Another is the addition of Mandarin as a foreign language.

"We will enlarge our honors program and expand our writing program," Mrs.



Druffner says. "We've also expanded our Student Ambassador Program – a group of middle school students selected to represent the school at special school and parish events. They wear special gray blazers at these functions."

The Ambassadors are selected through an application process that includes an essay and an interview. Sixty students applied for 17 slots.

Another goal for the year will be to have all the grades split, with two classes for each grade. Currently, second through fifth grades are split.

"We had a tremendous increase in enrollment last year," Mrs. Druffner

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ALL SAINTS

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Living According to God's Will

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code

As Christians, it is important that we recognize the difference between right and wrong — both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward in accordance with God's will.

So, how do we work through these moral conundrums?

One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed" (1777, 1778).

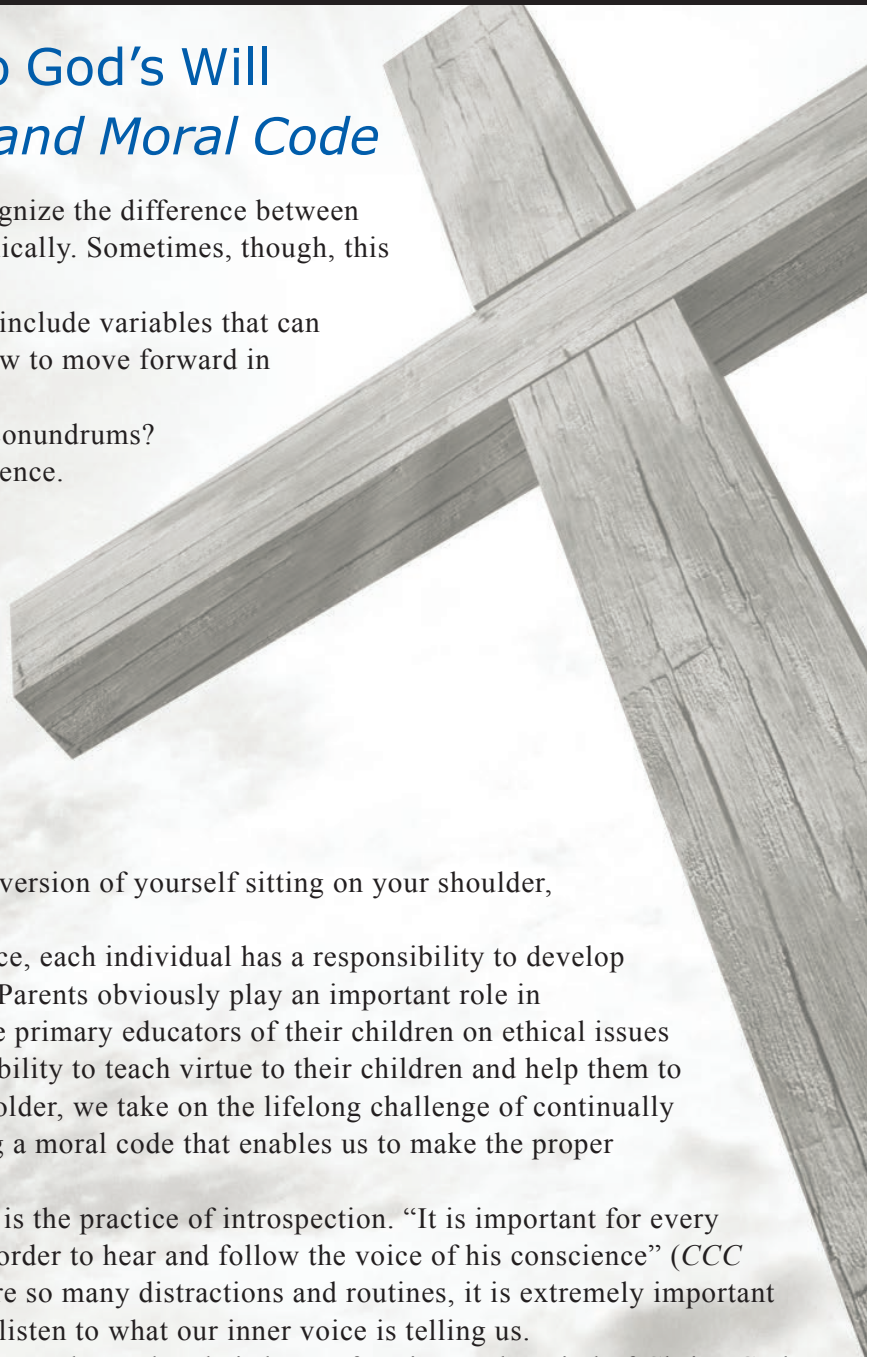
Think of your conscience as the "angelic" version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

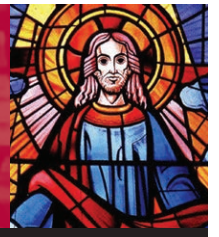
While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help them to avoid fear, selfishness and pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience" (CCC 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. In turn, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.





A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

Dear Saints,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the return to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.



Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass.

If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — August 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Alfonse".

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator





Bringing God's Grace to Married Couples Through the

For couples like Curtis and Penni James, the All Saints Marriage Enrichment program, or ASME, has been an amazing source of hope, encouragement and fellowship.

“We first got involved with the ministry several years ago, and we have really enjoyed it,” Penni says. “We especially appreciate spending time with like-minded people who want to work to improve their marriages, just as we do. We have developed some great friendships through this program.”

The program is meant to help couples who are in any stage of their relationship, whether newly married or married for many years. It can be helpful for couples with either hurting marriages or healthy marriages. Currently, it is led by the following five couples — Patrick and Irma Palacios, Thomas and Norma Merket, Dave and Christi Mora, Curtis and Penni James, and Bob and Rita Reis.

“The goal of the program is to help energize, strengthen and enrich marriages,” Penni says. “We all have strong suits and weak points in our marriages that we need to work through — and we need to work through them for the next 70 years!”

The ASME program holds regular meetings that include faith formation activities. This upcoming 2019-2020 year, the program will be utilizing a video series titled *10 Great Dates*, which its producers call, “An opportunity for couples to explore and share what is really important to them.”

“During a typical evening meeting, we say a prayer, then eat a potluck dinner, during which we socialize with the other couples,” Patrick and Irma Palacios say. “Then, we watch a video program about marriage — sometimes during dinner — and then discuss the video afterwards as a group. After that, the couples break away to spend some ‘alone time’ together for about 15 to 20 minutes. This alone time is important so that the couple can discuss the video and/or spend some time together, even if it just for a few minutes.”

Through prayerful communication, the couples who participate in this powerful ministry find consolation and much-needed support.

“It is so helpful to hear what other couples do in their own marriages that works, and share little tidbits with each other,” Penni says. “It’s so neat when someone says



ASME organizes a number of enriching social activities, such as a mixer, a Christmas party, a Zumba dance class, a St. Valentine's Day dance, and a game night.



All Saints Marriage Enrichment Program

something that gives you an ‘ah-ha’ moment and you realize you have never seen it that way before. You can capitalize on what other couples say and strengthen your own marriage through their experiences.”

In addition to the video series, ASME organizes a number of enriching social activities, such as a mixer, a Christmas party, a Zumba dance class, a St. Valentine’s Day dance, and a game night.

“We really enjoyed one of the game nights which we coordinated with the Moras,” Patrick says. “It consisted of a ‘not-so’ *Newlywed Game*, which mimicked the game show that was famous in the 1970s and ‘80s! Irma and I generated the questions and dressed up in ‘70s outfits for the evening. There was even a prize for the winner! The evening was full of laughter and fun, as the couples answered questions to see how well they know each other. It made some great memories! We have planned this game night once a year, and would like to continue this tradition, whether it’s the *Newlywed Game*, or another game.”

Overall, the ministry is a wonderful source of faith-building fellowship in the midst of a troubled world. Moving forward, there are great things in store for the ASME program, thanks to the help of God’s grace and mercy. God is the “author of marriage,” and He knows just what couples need to carry through.

“All in all, we are happy to lead the ASME program,” Patrick and Irma say. “By doing so, not only will we help married couples, but we will also help our own marriage as well. Any maintenance for our marriage will help it last forever — just like what was promised when we took our vows. We feel that, with God’s help, we have the capability to lead this group for the foreseeable future!”



Upcoming meetings will take place on the following dates throughout 2019-2020 — September 28, October 19, November 23, December 14, January 25, February 15, March 28, April 25, and May 30. Each meeting will occur from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — in October, it will take place in the St. Theresa Room. For more information about this program, please contact Patrick and Irma Palacios at 214-315-6828.



There Will be Plenty of “New” to Enjoy

FALL FEST

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Fr. Jovita displays one of the silent auction baskets during the 2018 Fall Festival. There will be dozens of baskets up for auction during our 2019 festival.

There’s lots of “new” coming in our 17th Fall Festival, so mark your calendars for the weekend of September 21 and 22, because you won’t want to miss a thing!

Anne Connally and Garice Schneider are co-chairing the festival that will raise money for our parish. The festival will open with prayer at 10:45 a.m. Saturday and close at 10:00 p.m.

“We’re a committee for the church,” Anne says. “We let the church decide however it needs to use the money in a meaningful way for the church. Last year, at the end of October, the air conditioner in the church died. The church paid \$100,000 to replace the unit. A large portion of the funds were provided by net proceeds from our Fall Festival.

One of the new features in this year’s festival is a raffle for a \$2,500 gift card. The tickets are \$20 each and the goal is to raise \$25,000.

“We have revamped the auctions — live and silent — and we’ll have a professional auctioneer,” Anne says. “The auctions will be online so those who can’t come can bid and be able to buy items online. We’re trying to step up a bit.”

Another new addition to the festival this year is Sunday morning breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

“You can go to 7:15 a.m. Mass and have breakfast afterward at the festival,” Anne says. “The festival opens at 10:00 a.m. Sunday and closes at 4:00 p.m. Right before the closing we’ll announce the winner of the raffle.”

There will be new games this year and the traditional great food and drink. There also will be a dance band and a dance floor.

“During the day we will have all sorts of entertainment,” Anne says. “There will be Irish step dancing, a drill team, mom and dad solo acts, and different acts throughout the day. There is free admission, but there will be tickets for different activities. T-shirts with the new festival logo will be on sale. Food, drink and game tickets will go on sale after all the Masses beginning August 24, and also will be on sale at the school.”



at Our Upcoming *Fall Festival*

Fun is definitely a big part of the festival, but it also offers a chance for us to build community in our parish.

“Through being a volunteer, it’s a great way to meet others while you are working,” Anne says. “It’s a great way to meet other parishioners, even if you’re in a ministry. The kids will bond over the games. It’s a very good fellowship activity for the church and it’s all for a good cause.”

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend over the full weekend, with at least 300 to 400 attending at any given time. The festival extends hospitality to all, with everyone welcoming others warmly!



There is always a long line for face painting during our Fall Festival, and these two young parishioners show the results!

Interested in volunteering for the Fall Fest?
Please contact Brandee Nelson at 214-912-4820 or bnelson1974@msn.com.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP OF THE MONTH *Warning Signs*

Do you know how to spot a child predator? Offenders come from all different backgrounds, come from all different ages, and can be male or female. The Children’s Advocacy Center of Collin County suggests the following red flags to look for:

- Provides unwarranted gifts, trips, affection, and excessive attention to a specific child or group of children
- Seeks isolated access to children
- Gets along with children better than adults
- Offers special privileges or leniency to a particular child
- Asks a child to keep secrets from parents about what they do when alone with one another
- Engages the child in activities that are not age-appropriate
- Encourages “play” that involves excessive or inappropriate bodily contact

More information can be found at www.caccollincounty.org.



ALL SAINTS

Welcome the New Faculty Members at All Saints Catholic School!



Art Heller
6th-8th Grade
English Literature
Teacher



David Shanabrook
6th-8th Grade
Math Teacher



Emily Welch
Counselor



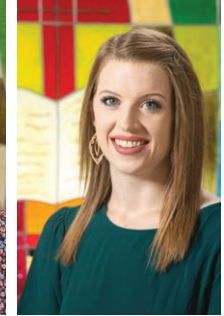
Jackie Milligan
Pre-K 3
Teacher



Jamie Nystrom
Nurse



Jordan Abide
Pre-K 4
Teacher



Jordan Hale
Art Teacher



Jordan Rayfield
Director of The
Innovation Lab



Ken Steponaitis
Director of
Technology



Lesley DeHoyos
Kindergarten
Teacher



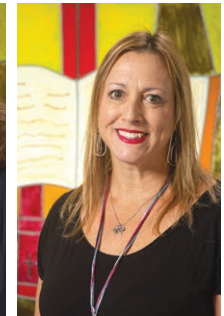
Luke Malone
6th-8th Grade
Religion Teacher



Martha Lamberti
Media Specialist



Mary Nell Doyle
Pre-K 4
Teacher



Susan Jones
Third Grade
Teacher

All Saints School *continued from front cover*

says. “We want to continue to grow next year. We’re anticipating enrollment to start at 300 in August. Our goal for them is our theme ‘always excellence,’ and it really starts with the students. They’re building their relationship with Jesus Christ and using their talents to glorify God. We partner with the parents to discern their

talents and expand them so they can know the glory of God. It’s a wonderful joy watching the children unfold, and amazing to see the children grow up. It’s really special as they go through the year and mature.”

“There are a lot of changes coming up,” Mrs. Druffner says. “I’m very excited about that.”

Parents who have not yet enrolled their children at All Saints Catholic School may do so before school opens. Please call the admissions office at 214-217-3303 to make an appointment with Viviana Stanford, admissions coordinator.

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Weekend Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. | Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Liturgy: Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. | Saturday, 9:00 a.m.