



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 17, Issue 1

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

Getting Ready for a Celebration of Faith and Education During *Catholic Schools Week*

It's a special time for Catholic schools students, staff and administrators across the United States to truly celebrate what it means to have a Catholic education. And it's a special time to learn, have fun and grow in faith with the wide network of those involved in the school in some way.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated across the nation and at All Saints Catholic School from January 26 to February 1.

Principal Mrs. Shana Druffner says Catholic education is a privilege.

"To have our beautiful faith permeate every subject that is taught and every aspect of our students' lives is a great blessing, especially in today's culture where faith is undervalued," she says.

Mrs. Druffner can't wait for all the fun of Catholic Schools Week. The week-long celebration kicks off with the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at All Saints, where students take part in many of the ministries — from serving as lectors to bringing up the gifts. This is Mrs. Druffner's favorite part of Catholic Schools Week.

"To see the students fill these ministries, helps me know they are developing their personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ," she says.

A pancake breakfast follows Mass, and it is open to everyone. This is a special way to celebrate parishioners for their support of the school.

And speaking of pancakes — a favorite part of Catholic Schools Week for the students is the day they have breakfast food for lunch. Last year, a lot of pancakes were devoured!

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Mrs. Druffner would like to take this opportunity to thank All Saints for the opportunity to serve as our Principal, and she looks forward to celebrating our staff, volunteers and students during Catholic Schools Week. Please join in the celebration at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 26, with the pancake breakfast to follow!



ALL SAINTS

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All Saints Catholic School: Committed to Proclaiming the Kingdom of God

By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

Happy New Year! This time of year brings so much joy and anticipation for the things to come. Many of you have decided to make new year resolutions to make a positive change in your life like exercising, eating well, reading more, and perhaps spending a little more time with family or doing the things you love to do. At All Saints Catholic School, we have made a new year re-commitment.

Everyone knows the academic program here at All Saints is incredible and the teachers and administrators surround the students with support and love. But the most important thing we do is build the Catholic Church by following the example Paul provides in the Acts of the Apostles.

“He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ — with all boldness and without hindrance!” (Acts 28:31).

I absolutely love this Bible passage as it captures an important aspect of what it means to be a Catholic school. Firstly, Paul challenges us to simply “proclaim the kingdom of God.” Our school is a place where the kingdom of God is evident in all that we do. We strive to make this a reality in our world today by developing our students into people of God with strong moral fiber — people who care for all they encounter, and understand that it is through serving others that we become closer to God. Our role in that development cannot be underestimated. We are responsible for every child that is entrusted into our care. As a result, we as Catholic school teachers and administrators must model and teach the behaviors we want our students to embody.

Second, Paul tells us to “teach about the Lord Jesus Christ.” The school year is very short and our teachers are required to make sure they use best practices and cover a set amount of material before the end of the year. And teaching about Jesus Christ is not contained to the religion classroom. Rather, every teacher is a religion teacher. Teachers at All Saints allow the Holy Spirit to work through their teaching. They strive to be Christ-like in the classroom and provide a warm and inviting environment for students to learn. By being present to students, by praying before class, and by mentoring students, our teachers are “teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.” As the saying goes, “Preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words.”

Lastly, Paul says he preached and taught, “with all boldness and without hindrance.” What a wonderful phrase. We must be strong in our faith and be persistent. Our teachers are bold and hold nothing back when spreading the love of God — for it is only through being bold that we can truly enact change on our world and in the lives of our students.

This year, All Saints is recommitting itself to proclaim the kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ — with all boldness and without hindrance.

Be sure to join us at the Catholic Schools Week Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 26 as a thank you for all of your support. Also, save the date and spread the word for our admissions Open House on Jan. 22 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.



A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

Start a New Life, Not Just a New Year

Dear Saints,

It's January and that means it's time for New Year's resolutions — at least that's the widespread perception in our culture. So, I want us to reflect on resolutions for a few minutes.

Often, New Year's resolutions are intended simply to undo the harm we did to ourselves by overindulging in food and drink between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Some resolutions are changes we know we should make, but aren't really committed to making — thus, they don't last very long.

Reflecting on this in broader terms, when should we make a resolution to eliminate a sinful practice from our life? That question has a simple answer — the moment we realize we're engaging in a sinful practice. In other words, as soon as we realize we're doing something wrong, we should stop. It doesn't matter whether that sin is as "large" as cheating on your spouse or as "small" as sharing vicious gossip — we should stop immediately when we recognize it's a sinful behavior.

Now, I admit that making the changes we need in order to grow closer to Christ is easier said than done. All too often, we fool ourselves into thinking we can make all the changes we need under our own strength and on a convenient timetable. For real change, we need guidance and we need help — a new life, in fact. St. Paul addressed this when he wrote to the Romans (6:4), "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

In other words, we need a new life, not a new year. We find this new life in union with Christ within His Body,

the Church. The Church can provide you with guidance. She has 2,000 years of accumulated wisdom and experience, beginning with God's own revelation. The Ten Commandments provide a brief, incisive outline for ethical behavior. Help comes from God's grace, available to us in the sacraments and through prayer.



A new life means we have new priorities and a new viewpoint when we look at every aspect of the way we live. It impacts the use of the time we have, the talents God has given us, and the treasure with which He has blessed us. With God's grace and guidance, lived in union with the Church, we find that "in newness of life" we can "cease doing evil" and "learn to do good." That's a resolution worth making.

Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator





Sharing the Good News and Forming Disciples Through Christ Renews His Parish/Welcome

Parishioner Rosemary Greene first heard about Christ Renews His Parish — abbreviated as “CRHP” — from her daughter and son-in-law. Having just completed their own CRHP weekends in the Austin area, they were both on fire with love for the Lord — eager to share about their experiences. So when Rosemary later learned that the retreat program was coming here to All Saints, she felt that she had to go and experience it for herself.

“I came in with great expectations because of their experiences, but even still I was blown away by how much I got out of it — much more than I ever expected,” Rosemary says. “It helped me feel the presence of God in my life so much more than I had before. It created a greater awareness that God is there and that He is helping me through life, and gave me the comfort of knowing I had other people from the parish I could go to for support on this spiritual journey.”

Rosemary says that she was so transformed by her CRHP experience that she has remained involved ever since, currently serving as the chairperson for the Continuation Committee. Together, she and her fellow Committee members have helped share the CRHP retreat experience with over 300 people from our All Saints community over the past four years.

“I just wanted to share it with others — to help others experience God in their lives the way I had,” Rosemary says. “It’s a retreat where people go for a weekend and share their journeys. You pray together and become so much more aware



The seventh men’s Christ Renews His Parish retreat.

of the presence of God. It helps you to know that there are other people who are struggling with the same things — it helps you connect with others who truly want to build their relationship with God too. It’s just an amazing experience that works.”

Recently purchased by Dynamic Catholic, Christ Renews His Parish has been retitled Welcome. While the name has changed and the materials have been updated, the core program remains unchanged, consisting of a threefold process. First, parishioners are invited to attend

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“You know how the apostles were all so close to Jesus and each other, but then they went out into the world to share the Good News? That’s what happens with CRHP. You just have a tremendous desire to share the love of Christ with everyone else. So if you look at all of the ministries within All Saints, you probably have someone in every organization who has been to CRHP. So then our members are really helping the Church grow and flourish.” — Rosemary Greene



Christ Renews His Parish/Welcome *continued from page 4*

one of the bi-annual weekend retreats offered by All Saints in the spring and fall each year. There, they will listen to parishioner testimonies, participate in discussions and small-group sharing, benefit from the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and ultimately encounter God in a powerful and personal way.

Afterwards, participants continue to gather regularly for five to six months for continued formation and fellowship. This culminates with the final step — them sharing the Good News by hosting the next CRHP/Welcome retreat.

“You become part of a continuing formation process with all of the people who completed the retreat with you,” Rosemary says. “This allows people to delve further into various religious topics and share with one another. Through that, people develop a really great sense of community. Then they finish up their faith-sharing journey by becoming the presenters of the next retreat.”

This process allows parishioners to imitate the apostles who, after their period of formation with Christ, were sent out to preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15). That’s why Rosemary says you’ll find someone who has attended a CRHP/Welcome gathering on nearly every parish ministry and outreach — for once the love of Christ is received, you can’t help but desire to share it with others.

“You know how the apostles were all so close to Jesus and each other, but then they went out into the world to share the Good News?” Rosemary says. “That’s what happens with CRHP. You just have a tremendous desire to share the love of Christ with everyone else. So if you look at all of the ministries within All Saints, you probably have someone in every organization who has been to CRHP. So then our members are really helping the Church grow and flourish.”



Women gather at a Christ Renews His Parish weekend.

We invite parishioners to come and experience a CRHP/Welcome weekend for themselves. The next women’s retreat will be offered April 25-26, while the men’s will take place sometime in June at a date yet to be determined. Retreats always occur from 8 a.m. Saturday until 3:00 p.m. Sunday at the school and there is no cost. To learn more or to register for an upcoming retreat, please contact Barbara Hammond at 972-778-0325 or Rosemary Greene at 214-616-5309.



Teaching Children to Live a *Life of Stewardship*

How old do you have to be to practice stewardship? Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children — even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

Sharing Your Time

Young children can share of their time in a variety of ways appropriate to their ability. For example, during the day, they can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with their parents or siblings. They can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from their day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous — such as being patient, generous and kind — is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

Sharing Your Talent

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. Elementary school-age children can easily clean their room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are

sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents — such as playing a musical instrument or football — to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

Sharing Your Treasure

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

If they receive an allowance, they can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If they get money for their birthday, they can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

The Most Important Lesson

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is why we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.

Active Shooter Situations: How to Respond

Do you know what to do if you are ever in an active shooter situation? Even the thought of it can be scary. However, educating yourself on what to do might save your life and the lives of others. If you are ever threatened by an active shooter, follow these steps taken from FEMA's active shooter training:

1. Run — If you can safely get away from the situation, do so.
2. Hide — If there is not a safe way to remove yourself from the situation, find a safe place to hide.
3. Fight — As a last resort, be prepared to fight back against an active shooter.

To learn more about how you can respond if you ever find yourself in an active shooter situation, visit this training course on the FEMA website: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907>. This course can be used as Safe Environment update training.



The Patron of Catholic Schools in America

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

As the first American-born canonized saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton's entrance into history was guided by Divine Providence. Born on Aug. 28, 1774, just months after the Boston Tea Party, Elizabeth's childhood witnessed pivotal events in the formation of our country — the Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, and the American Revolution. At the time of the foundation of the new Republic, in a society predominately hostile toward Catholicism, a flower blossomed that would forever change the shape of education in the United States.

Elizabeth Seton was born into a wealthy Protestant family in New York City. Her life, although materially blessed, was not without suffering. Elizabeth's biological mother died when she was only 3, and her younger sister, Catherine Josephine, died at the age of 2. A spark of faith, however, was visible even in her early childhood. When questioned about her sadness concerning her sister's death, Elizabeth simply responded, "Kitty is gone up to heaven. I wish I could go there too."

Elizabeth grew into a beautiful woman, courted lavishly by handsome young men from prominent New York families. At the age of 19, she met a charming New York financier, William Seton, and the couple was wed in 1794. They remained in high society until her father-in-law's passing, which left them to care for William's seven younger siblings, along with three children of their own. Consequently, the Seton finances crashed.

The couple traveled to Italy — it was here that William's health failed him, and he died in December 1803. Providentially, Elizabeth was left in the company of a strong Catholic family where she witnessed the practice of the faith.



In a letter to her sister, Elizabeth wrote, "My sister dear, how happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe, that they possess God in the Sacrament, and that He remains in their churches..."

After an eight-month stay, Elizabeth returned to America, and she began to investigate Catholicism more deeply. She was besought by Protestant friends who hoped to dissuade her. At this time, Elizabeth prayed repeatedly, "If I am right, Thy grace impart, still in the right to stay. If I am wrong, oh teach my heart to find the better way."

In 1805, after much interior struggle, Elizabeth became Catholic. Abandoned entirely by her family and friends, she resolved her financial difficulties through teaching.

In 1807, Elizabeth was invited to establish a Catholic school for girls in Baltimore. The task was daunting, and Elizabeth labored intensely, explaining how "from half past five in the morning until nine at night, every moment is full — no space even to be troubled." After winters spent in continual hardship and sacrifice, the school flourished and, within years, Mother Seton planted the seed from which sprang the parochial school system — along with hospitals and orphanages.

Before her death in January 1821, she was the active mother of five — although two of her daughters died young — and the spiritual mother of a full-fledged religious congregation known as the Sisters of Charity. She was canonized in 1975, and her feast day is celebrated on Jan. 4.

Thanks to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Catholic parochial school system remains vibrant and active. And as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we are thankful for the sacrifice of this loving wife, devoted mother, foundress and all-American saint.



ALL SAINTS

Catholic Schools Week

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Importantly, a key part of Catholic Schools Week at All Saints is celebrating the Catholic faith, volunteers, teachers and students.

Students can enjoy a teacher versus students game of dodgeball and popcorn with a movie. Teachers receive treats throughout the week and volunteers are honored with a special lunch. Students and staff extend their gratitude to the community by collecting food for Catholic Charities. The whole school will also pray an Angelus each day at noon and a living Rosary at some point during the week.

Mrs. Druffner can't wait to celebrate all that is beautiful about All Saints Catholic School!

"We are not only a learning environment where academic instruction is given by incredible educators, but we exist to help each student develop their talents for the glory of God," she says. "That's special."



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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.