



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 17, Issue 3

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*Our Parish Newsletter:
Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.*

HOUSEKEEPERS FOR THE LORD: *The Sacristy Care Ministry*

Have you ever sat in the pew during Sunday Mass and thought about the preparation involved beforehand? Who makes sure that there are enough hosts and wine for each liturgical celebration? Who readies the altar for the liturgy, ensuring that every necessary item is prepared and in place? The truth is, it's likely that many of us haven't given much thought to these details, which seem to almost happen by themselves. Yet, each of these tasks has been quietly performed by one of our parish Sacristy Care ministers — the

hidden housekeepers of our church.

"These are faithful volunteers who work 'behind the scenes' to make sure that the people can worship reverently, performing tasks that enable us to celebrate the Mass and worship our Lord," says Deacon Michael Bolesta.

Giving of their time, talent and even occasionally treasure, these faithful men and women help ensure that each liturgical item is ready and in place for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This is done through numerous small tasks divided amongst them, such as setting up the altar and caring for the sacred

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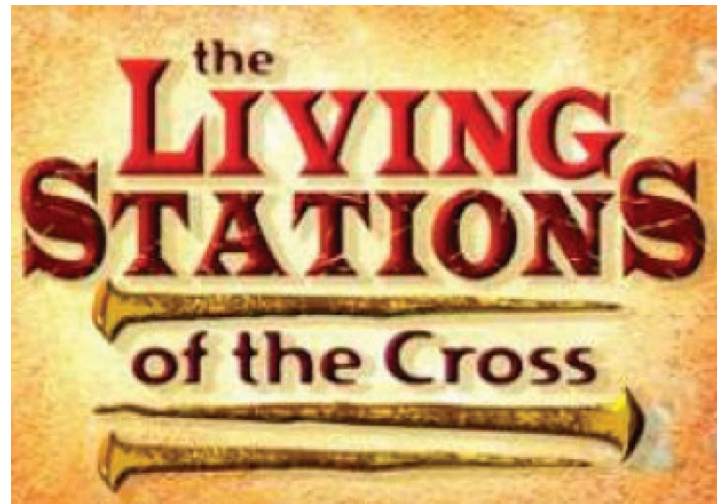
A LENTEN REFLECTION

By GABE MORENO, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

Lent is an important time in our church calendar. It allows us to take the time to contemplate our sins and failures as Christians. It is a time completely dedicated to self-reflection, acknowledgment of shortcomings, and surrender to the cross.

Lent is and always has been a tough time for me. I suppose not many people enjoy reflecting on what they may have done wrong or the pain we go through in order to grow. No change happens without a little pain first. The pain reminds us that we are meant for more. We have to go through this life, making mistakes along the way, so we can learn about and grow closer to Christ. Lent reminds us of our humanity and more importantly, the humanity of Jesus Christ. It is easy to forget that Jesus walked and lived among us. He, too, felt temptation. He, too, felt anger, disappointment, sadness and pain. And He endured all of these for us. His love is so intense that He endured all things for our salvation. We are comforted by the knowledge that Christ has come to redeem us and that He rose from the dead and gave us New Life.

During Lent at All Saints School, we have contemplative mornings at drop-off and the students are given the opportunity to confess their sins through



the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The entire season is full of discussions about our humanity and imagining ourselves at the passion of Christ. The season culminates with a school-wide presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross, performed by our eighth-grade students. And this year, ASCS students will once again perform the Living Stations of the Cross at the parish for all who would like to come. I hope to see you there on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.





A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

A STEWARD'S GUIDE TO *Lenten Commitments*

Dear Saints,

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. Keeping it is the difficult part! The Lenten commitments we make ourselves are frequently a lot like New Year's resolutions — they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as Lent continues, our enthusiasm may wane, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way — perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lenten commitment and give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, **don't do it!** Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us, and we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training, a musician practicing or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline and even frustration will be part of the



process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work, discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we must reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently failing in some way, we may need to modify how we approach our commitment. Above all, the key to success is our steady, day-to-day

observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving all through the season.

But when we do fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But "coming to his senses," he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. When he arrives home, he is welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Begin our observance again, and keep up our Lenten journey, eventually arriving at the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator



CARING FOR EVERYONE:

In a healthy family, it's important to make sure that all members feel seen and heard. It makes a difference when each person knows that they are valuable, loved and cherished by those closest to them. And as Catholics, we place a special priority on caring for those who may often go unnoticed, or be more vulnerable, especially in our own family. It was with this in mind that, about 15 years ago, the All Saints Ministry for Persons with Disabilities, Special Needs, and Caregivers was formed.

This ministry came to be with the goal of ensuring that the needs of everyone in our parish were being recognized and met.

"We want to recognize all parishioners so they can participate more fully in Mass and church functions," says parishioner Barbara Rusk, who has served as the Chairperson of the ministry for the past seven years. "We want each person to feel welcome in all parish activities, whether liturgy and worship, religious education, or social activities."

The group has worked to identify and raise funds in order to make necessary adaptations to our parish buildings and grounds, in order to ensure that they are safe and accessible to all our parishioners. This has initiated several changes around the parish over the years, including the automatic doors, the ramps up to the altar, auditory aids, and more.

Providing care and support for caregivers is also an important part of this ministry. In order to help with this, our group has partnered with several organizations, such as Seniors Helping Seniors, which help to provide a variety of services and assistance.

"We want to provide assistance that will enable caregivers to take better care of their loved ones and themselves," Barbara says. "We recognize that being a caregiver is a labor of love and can be isolating and exhausting. We try to provide assistance and support."

The ministry also sponsors a Mental Health Support Group, which is hosted by Evelyn and Justine Thompson. The group



All Saints Ministry for Persons with Disabilities, Special Needs, and Caregivers works to ensure that all our parishioners feel welcome and at home in our church.



Ministry for Persons with Disabilities, Special Needs, and Caregivers

meets monthly and provides a place for those experiencing mental health conditions, ranging from bipolar to schizophrenia, and more, to find others with whom to connect and grow. The group often hosts speakers and other social events.

“A lot of times these people isolate themselves, so this group encompasses people who don’t want to be isolated anymore, but feel more comfortable with people who have similar issues,” Barbara says.

Throughout the year, the group participates in special events, such as diocese-sponsored Disability Awareness Masses, an annual mini-conference hosted at the parish each October, a fundraising booth at the Fall Festival, and more. Many of the group’s events are sparked by the ideas, suggestions and needs of those involved. This year, the ministry hopes to expand the

opportunities for those with disabilities and their families and caregivers to find community, support and fellowship, with regular social gatherings. The first event will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the parish fellowship hall.

“I want them to have a feeling of total acceptance,” Barbara says. “We’re all children of God. In my mind, people don’t have disabilities, they have different abilities. I want them to all feel acceptance, no matter what. You are a part of this Church, you’re a part of this community.”

Barbara also encourages those who feel called to serve in this ministry, to contact her to identify an area where their gifts and heart might be best used.

“Anybody who has anything that would benefit what we do, our arms are open wide,” Barbara says.

If you would like more information on the Ministry for Persons with Disabilities, Special Needs, and Caregivers, please contact Barbara Rusk at 972-814-8227 or barusk1@att.net. The group meets once a month, on the third Wednesday. However, there are also additional opportunities to serve or become involved — please contact Barbara for more information.

The Sacristy Care Ministry *continued from front cover*

vessels, the laundering and caring of priestly vestments, altar linens and altar server cassocks, and the maintenance of altar candles. This is a great service particularly to the priests and deacons whose time is already limited.

“The clergy simply doesn’t have time to perform these duties,” Deacon Michael says. “This frees them up to perform their other responsibilities, whether it’s sacramental life, pastoral care of souls, or planning the various liturgical celebrations.”

And in the process of performing these simple tasks, Deacon Michael adds, volunteers have a unique

opportunity to draw closer to the Lord, turning their service into humble offerings of love.

“It allows them to each use their individual gifts for the Body of Christ,” Deacon Michael says. “And while they are performing these duties, they can be in a prayerful mode. They can pray, for example, while rearranging things in the pews or while laundering the various items. Anything can be offered to God in service. As St. Therese of Lisieux once said, even picking up a pen from the floor can become a spiritual act — an act of love.”

The Sacristy Care Ministry welcomes any parishioner interested in becoming involved. There are many ways to serve within this ministry, allowing parishioners choose what fits best within their schedules and abilities. For more information, please contact Deacon Michael Bolesta at 972-778-0369 or mbolesta@allsaintsdallas.org.



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Stewardship



of the Cross

The liturgical year is such a gift to us. As we turn the pages of the calendar, reflecting on the life of Christ, we have the opportunity to consider the most sublime events in the history of mankind. Of these events, perhaps none is more beautiful and worthy of contemplation than the one we are about to commemorate — Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for us on the Cross.

It is fitting and, at the same time, paradoxical. It is fitting that God should do it, because only an infinite God could rid us of the infinite debt we owed by our sin. It is paradoxical that He not only did it, but wanted to do it out of pure love for us, His lowly creatures. What is Jesus trying to show us? Even more staggering, what is He really asking when He exhorts us, in turn, to take up our cross and follow Him?

Jesus freely gave His life for the Church, and He calls us to do the same. Some of us may, in fact, give our entire lives for the Church. But for most of us, this giving takes place by a series of daily actions, both large and small, of Christ-like, sacrificial love — specifically, by giving our time, talent and treasure for the good of the Church. Yet, by joining these actions with His, we have the chance to participate in that very same sacrifice. This month, let us take the time to examine our hearts and actions in light of Jesus' as we journey with Him toward the Cross.

Jesus gave Himself unselfishly and excessively.

Consider the manner of His sacrifice — one drop of Christ's blood would have been more than sufficient to save

the entire human race, and yet Our Lord Jesus chose to shed every last bit. From start to finish, Jesus showed us by His passion that He wanted to do more than what was merely sufficient. If there was more He could give, He gave it. He never stopped to count the cost or to look for what He could get in return.

Jesus made His sacrifice a supreme act of love for the Church.

Counter-cultural even to this day, Jesus actually upheld sacrifice as desirable — the most perfect way to show our love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15:13). In His infinite wisdom, Jesus now offers this path to us as the way to holiness: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk. 9:23).

Jesus gave Himself willingly and even joyfully.

"No one takes [My life] from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again" (Jn. 10:18). At the first Eucharist, Jesus even went so far as to say, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you" (Lk. 22:15). Needless to say, the Passover sacrifice to which Jesus referred was not a symbolic one, but was in fact His very Body and Blood He would give for us through the sacrifice of the Cross.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts more like Yours.

A LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

"O my God, teach me to be generous: to serve You as You deserve to be served; to give without counting the cost; to fight without fear of being wounded; to work without seeking rest; and to spend myself without expecting any reward, but the knowledge that I am doing Your Holy will."

— St. Ignatius of Loyola



Beyond Stranger Danger

Over the last 40 years, children have learned not to approach unknown cars, take candy or gifts from unknown sources, and especially not to speak to strangers. But here's the issue — Darkness to Light estimates that only around 10 percent of victims of child sexual abuse are abused by a previously unknown adult. Approximately 90 percent of child sexual abuse victims know — and trust — their abuser.

Statistically speaking, if a child is going to be sexually abused, the abuser is more likely to ingratiate themselves to the family in some way. By doing this, they stand to gain unsupervised access to the child. Experts refer to this process as *grooming*. Grooming provides a safety net for the abuser — as a trusted member of the child's community, it's hard to imagine (or perhaps admit) that they would be capable of doing harm. The abuser is often someone with

easy access to children, maybe through youth sports, schools, other extra-curricular programs, or even the family.

So how do you keep your kids safe when the threat could be a familiar face? Teach them to trust their gut when something about a situation doesn't seem right, even when that situation might include someone they know. Rather than simply instructing, "don't talk to strangers," teach them to recognize inappropriate behavior. This might be an uncomfortable or unwanted touch, overly personal interactions, or asking to keep secrets. Encourage them to share with you when someone has displayed these behaviors or made them feel uncomfortable. When you and your children can recognize these behaviors, you'll be able to make smart, informed decisions that keep your kids safe.

For more information, please visit www.d2l.org.

Highlights of Our 2020 Stewardship Renewal

This past autumn, our All Saints parish leadership conducted the 2020 Stewardship Renewal. The Stewardship Renewal gave our parish community the opportunity to discern how we are using our gifts of time, talent and treasure in service to the parish and in return to God.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of the 2020 Stewardship Renewal.

- There were 764 commitment cards received from 41 percent of active households.
- There were 5,369 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 80 percent of participating households.
- There were 2,092 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 72 percent of participating households. Of these, 386 were new ministry commitments, while 1,706 were re-commitments to parish ministries.
- There were 681 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 89 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$2,908.

We thank all those who participated in our Stewardship Renewal. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you may share your gifts of time, talent and treasure with God and the parish community!

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
2020 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.



ALL SAINTS

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on April 1 and 8

The Diocese of Dallas will once again offer The Light is On for You — two special evenings set aside for a diocesan-wide celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On **Wednesday, April 1** and **Wednesday, April 8**, parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Dallas will have their “**Lights On**” for the diocesan-wide evenings for Reconciliation. At All Saints, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

As Pope Francis reminds us, “*Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and the poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.*”

For information on parish resources, please visit The Light is ON For You at www.cathdal.org/lightison.

Note: The diocesan-wide celebration of the sacrament replaces our regular Thursday reconciliation times — no reconciliation on Thursday, April 2 and Thursday, April 9.



Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday Schedule:

HOLY THURSDAY | April 9, 2020

9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer Service*
7:00 p.m. *Mass of the Lord's Supper*

GOOD FRIDAY | April 10, 2020

9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer Service*
3:00 p.m. *Solemn Stations of the Cross*
7:00 p.m. *Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord*

HOLY SATURDAY | April 11, 2020

9:00 a.m. *Morning Prayer Service*
8:30 p.m. *Easter Vigil Mass*

EASTER SUNDAY | April 12, 2020

7:15 a.m. (Church) with Cantor
9:15 a.m. (Church) with St. Raphael Choir
9:30 a.m. (Gym) with Children's Choir
11:15 a.m. (Church) with St. Gregory Choir
11:30 a.m. (Gym) with Teen Mass Band



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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.