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GET TO KNOW **ANDY ZINY,** *Longtime Parishioner and Our Parish Finance Officer*

Andy Ziny may already be a familiar face to many parishioners, having been a parishioner here at St. Patrick since 2006. One year ago, he began working as our receptionist and recently transitioned into the role of finance officer.

“The position includes preparing the budget, monitoring the execution of the budget, balancing the books, and related ancillary tasks,” he says.

Born in Chicago and raised in Grand Rapids, Mich., Andy spent 24 years on active duty in the United States Air Force and more than 14 years as an Air Force civilian employee.

“While I was assigned as an assistant professor of history at the Air Force Academy, in 1989 I became a lector, an usher, and joined a ministry that videotaped Vigil Masses for broadcasting to the inpatients at the hospital on the base,” Andy says. “As we moved to other assignments I volunteered at parishes as I was able.”

Since 2005, Andy and his family have lived in Colorado Springs. He and his wife, Michele, have two children and



Andy Ziny has been a parishioner here at St. Patrick since 2006. One year ago, he began working as our receptionist and recently transitioned into the role of finance officer.

one grandchild. In addition to serving in our parish office as a staff member, Andy is also very active in the parish through many different ministries.

“Since 2017 I’ve been involved in the Haven program of the Fostering Hope Foundation, working with young adults aging out or who are already out of foster care,” he says.

To name a few areas of involvement, Andy has been a lector for 16 years, a facilitator of Scripture studies



St. Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Stewardship of Treasure

Giving to God First

Have you ever wondered why no one really becomes uneasy when someone brings up the first two “Ts” of stewardship – giving of your time or talents – but when the third “T” comes up, many of us become uncomfortable?

That third “T” is treasure, and some people simply become so annoyed by the subject, they tune out the words from the pulpit.

Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

Our finances are such a personal subject. Discussing money issues with others is not easy, and having someone tell us what to do with our finances is even worse. We earn the money, after all. So shouldn't we decide what to do with it?

Of course, the answer is “yes” – we decide every day how to spend our hard-earned dollars. Indeed, the monetary choices we make will either keep our finances in check, or put us into the red. The average American family has about \$7,000 in credit card debt – so finances certainly represent a challenge to our current society. Tight budgets, trying to “keep up with the Joneses” or poor financial management may

be to blame for our tight resources. Does this mean we do not have anything left over for God?

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

This idea can be worrisome for many. If our finances are already strained, how will we ever find enough to give back to God? Or, if we do try to give God our “first fruits,” will there be enough left over to cover our required expenses?

Taking the correct financial steps toward good stewardship simply boils down to trust – believing that God, who takes care of all of His creation, will take care of us. Trust that in giving to God first, we are both acknowledging that our multitude of blessings come from Him, and that we are thankful He chose to give them to us. And finally, trust that if we give to Him first, that all else will fall into place – because He is in ultimate control.

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2024

A Letter From Our Pastor

EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP, THE DISCIPLE'S WAY OF LIFE, FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to each of you as we embark on a new year filled with hope, blessings, and opportunities for spiritual growth. As we stand at the threshold of 2024, I am inspired to share reflections on how we, as disciples of Christ, can embrace stewardship as a way of life at St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Stewardship is more than a mere duty; it is a disciple's way of life and a response to the abundant love that our Lord showers upon us. It encompasses the responsible management of the gifts God has entrusted to us — our time, talents, and treasure. To truly live stewardship as a disciple's way of life, we must integrate it into the very fabric of our daily existence.

First, let us consider the stewardship of time. Time is a precious gift, and how we spend it reflects our priorities. I continue to encourage each of you to dedicate time to prayer and reflection, nurturing your relationship with God. Attend Mass regularly, participate in the sacraments, and engage in personal and communal prayer. Our parish offers various opportunities for spiritual enrichment, such as Bible studies, prayer groups, and retreats.

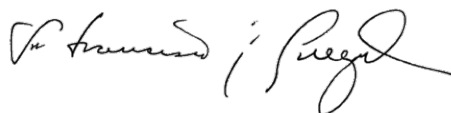
Stewardship of talent is another crucial aspect. Talents are special gifts granted to us that, in turn, enrich others around us. Each one of you possesses unique gifts bestowed by God. Identify your talents and discern how you can utilize them to serve others. Whether it's volunteering in ministries, sharing your skills, or mentoring others, your contributions make a profound impact. Our

parish thrives when each member actively participates and contributes their talents to build a community that reflects the love and mercy of Christ. Be sure to review the Ministry and Apostolate Catalog from our 2023 Stewardship Renewal for a complete listing of ways to become active in our parish or visit the ministries page on our website at www.stpatscs.org/new-page-5.

Lastly, the stewardship of treasure involves the responsible use of our material resources. Tithing is an intentional choice that glorifies God and tends to the family. As we embark on this new year, prayerfully consider how you can take a step forward in your giving back to God as a grateful response to His gifts to you. Your stewardship of treasure also supports the mission of our parish financially, enabling us to maintain our facilities, support charitable endeavors, and carry out the various ministries that enrich our community. Embrace a spirit of generosity, knowing that your financial stewardship contributes to the flourishing of our parish family.

Together, let us build a community that radiates the love of Christ and serves as a source of hope for all. To all, a Blessed and Christ-filled 2024!

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Quezada, *Pastor*



St. Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOSTERING

A Ministry of Caring and

The foster care system is a very complex framework — one that can demand a lot from those who are called to care for and support the children in situations outside of their control. These children often need extra care, meetings, and appointments to get caught up and make sure that they have the support in place to help them thrive. The Fostering Hope Foundation is a company that works to provide additional support to foster families so they can balance schedules, get regular household tasks done, and even have some time for themselves.

"We put together a team to work with each foster family," says Renee Babcock, one of the coordinators for Fostering Hope Foundation. "This team acts like an extended family to them. They are there to fill in the gaps. They have a lot of extra things that they have to do to get these kiddos caught up. With extra help needed for schooling, specialized plan meetings, tutoring sessions, and additional doctor's appointments, it can be a lot for the foster parents to balance in their busy schedules.

"Often, there are multiple kids in a home," Renee adds. "So having people there to babysit so they don't have to take everyone to the meetings or appointments, being able to run kids to activities, help with homework, and even basic household tasks like folding laundry or doing the dishes — it is such a blessing to the families to have support from them to help out."

Fostering Hope was founded in 2006. St. Patrick's was one of the first churches that put together a ministry to provide a support team for them. Currently, we have two teams that support two separate families.

"We are so incredibly grateful for the big hearts of the



A team from St. Patrick — Dan Hannarway, Kathy Hannarway, Joy Busekrus, Chelsea Buchanan, Renee Babcock

St. Patrick's parishioners who have served these families over the years," Renee says. "They are so generous with their time and it is special to get to see the impact that they have on these kids' lives."

For those who sign up to help these families, there is a three-hour training session that educates them on trauma-informed care. They learn about the rules that are in place and how to keep themselves and the children safe. Volunteers also have to pass a background check before they can work with the kids. Additionally, they sign a one-year commitment to serve in this way.

"So many of these kids have people in and out of their lives," Renee says. "They have many people that give up on them as well so we don't want to be contributing to that instability. The one-year commitment is just there to combat that, but most of the time, our volunteers continue after that one year."

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NG HOPE:

and Compassion for Others

Kathy and Dan Hannaway are going on their second year of serving in this ministry.

“We are so blessed in our lives and we felt that we could help here,” Kathy says. “It has been so rewarding. For a while, the family had three foster boys and a girl. So much of the struggle was just about the logistics of transportation. We would take one of the boys to speech therapy, which was at the same time as school pick-up for the other kids. Sometimes we help kids with homework or tutoring. Right now, the family has a baby, so it is fun to get to snuggle the baby now.”

The team meets with the family once a month to go over schedules to see how they can help out. Many of the team members will also provide a meal or two each month to help relieve some of the burden of care in that way as well.

“God has called us to help out,” Kathy says. “Because of my faith, I feel like the Lord is always there by my side and I can depend on Him. I want to give that back to other people so they know they can depend on Him too. He is putting people in their lives to help them. We are kind of like surrogate grandparents and it has been such a great experience.”

For more information, visit the Fostering Hope website — fosteringhopefoundation.org — or contact Renee Babcock at renee@fosteringhopefoundation.org.

GET TO KNOW ANDY ZINY *continued from front cover*

for 14 years, an Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion for 14 years (and a servant leader for six years), and has been an instituted acolyte for over five years. Previously, Andy has served as a sacristan, participated in the Finance Council, and was on the Pastoral Council from 2017 to 2020. Finally, Andy has coordinated the Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket programs since 2014.

“I’m also a hobbyist woodworker and I’ve completed some projects for St. Patrick and other parishes,” he says.

Serving in our parish community is something Andy feels is the right thing to do. He is glad to be a member of St. Patrick and says our priests have made it a joy for him to serve over the years.

“God blessed me with gifts and talents, and a lot of

people helped me to get where I am today — parents, teachers, co-workers, bosses — lots of people who have been in my life,” he says. “It’s not possible to repay them, so I try to pay it forward. And I try to appreciate the blessings God has provided — more than I can appreciate. The parish is the place to anchor my faith life.”

For those who might be hesitant about getting involved in parish life, Andy offers some helpful suggestions.

“The ‘world’ wants to suck the life out of your soul,” he says. “The Bible is where you find the truth. Take advantage of the opportunities made available by the parish to deepen your faith and preserve your salvation. Go at whatever pace suits you, your family, and your other responsibilities, but don’t let the ‘world’ conquer you.”



The Sign of the Cross: A Powerful Prayer Tradition in the Catholic Church

Since we say and make the Sign of the Cross so often, it may easily become a rote, perhaps even thoughtless, action. However, it is important to remember that the Sign of the Cross is much more than a simple gesture. Even in its most basic form, the Sign of the Cross — accompanied by the spoken or unspoken words “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” — is a prayer, a creed stating our belief in the Holy Trinity, the dual nature of Jesus Christ, and the dependence of our salvation on His crucifixion and resurrection.

In addition, making the Sign of the Cross is an indication of a willingness to take up our own cross and suffering for the sake of Christ. The prayer is considered one of the greatest weapons against Satan and all demons, and an added strength against the temptations of the flesh.

In the Roman Catholic Church today, the Sign of the Cross is typically made with either three fingers or an open hand touching first the forehead, then the chest, followed by the left shoulder and then the right (in the Eastern Church, the right shoulder is touched before the left). The concept of making a sign, or “setting a seal,” upon the forehead of those who place their faith in the Lord appears in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible — see Ezek. 9:4 and Rev. 7:3, 9:4, and 14:1.

Early versions of the Sign of the Cross were traced on just the forehead, using the thumb and forefinger held together in the shape of a tiny cross. We still see this version of the blessing performed during Baptisms (with the cross traced on the infant’s forehead) and on Ash Wednesday (with the cross traced in ashes on the foreheads of the faithful). Similarly, when the Gospel is read during the Liturgy of the Word, the priest or deacon leads the congregation in forming this small cross on the forehead, mouth, and chest, indicating a willingness to keep the Word of the Lord

in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

There is no doubt that our early Church fathers were strong believers in the sanctifying power of the Sign of the Cross. A second-century ecclesiastical scholar, Tertullian, and a third century saint, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, both wrote about the necessity of performing the Sign of the Cross at one’s waking and one’s lying down, at entering and leaving a room, at mealtimes, and more. St. Augustine also referenced the importance of marking the cross on the faithful’s forehead during the administration of the sacraments.

It is likely that the sign transformed from the tiny cross on the forehead to the larger, full-body cross used today sometime in the fifth century, when heretics began questioning both the dual nature of Jesus Christ — fully human and fully divine — and the unity of the Holy Trinity. Believers in these crucial Church doctrines began forming the cross with three extended fingers (representing the Trinity), keeping the ring finger and little finger pressed down into the palm (representing Christ’s dual nature), and tracing a cross on their entire upper body so there could be no mistaking the gesture.

Today, the Sign of the Cross still figures predominantly in our prayer life as Roman Catholics. We commonly perform it upon entering a church; at the beginning and end of the Catholic Mass, a Benediction, or the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; when opening and closing our personal prayers; at mealtimes; and when passing by a Catholic Church (in recognition of Christ, present in the tabernacle). As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, the frequent, intentional use of the Sign of the Cross can help the faithful dedicate each day to the glory of God and provide strength in the face of trial and temptation (2157).



COFFEE, DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP

A Place to Create Personal Relationships with Fellow Parishioners

Every Sunday, we gather as a parish family to celebrate the Holy Mass. This is arguably the most important thing that we do together as a parish. However, it is also important for us to get to know our fellow parishioners, to build relationships with them, in order to form a true community. These relationships are often built outside of Mass, and St. Patrick's offers a perfect opportunity to do just that – Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship.

Coffee and donuts are served after the 7:45 a.m. Mass, the 9:30 a.m. Mass, and the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the lower level of the Bonzel Hall. It provides a chance for parishioners to gather together, outside of Mass, to form more personal relationships. Leonor Marin, who has been involved with this ministry for about three months, helps organize the preparation and sometimes helps distribute the donuts after Mass. She got involved because she was struck by what a wonderful environment was created, simply by serving coffee and donuts, and she wanted to help create that same environment for other parishioners.

“It is important to host opportunities for fellowship amongst parishioners because it can create a deeper connection between the parishioners, and it also gives a chance to discuss the Gospel,” Leonor says. “It helps create a sense of community among parishioners by being able to create relationships within the church.”

This is a family-friendly event, with many parishioners and families staying 25-30 minutes after Holy Mass to



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“It is important to host opportunities for fellowship amongst parishioners because it can create a deeper connection between the parishioners, and it also gives a chance to discuss the Gospel.”

— Leonor Marin

St. Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Colorado Springs, CO 80918
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<https://stpatcs.org/>

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 7:45am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Friday: 7:00am
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 12:00pm

COFFEE, DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP *continued from page 7*

socialize and grow in fellowship with fellow members. In fact, creating a family environment is one of the things that the volunteers enjoy the most about being part of this ministry.

The church provides the items for Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship. There is a group of volunteers who help prepare and distribute the donuts. The only requirement is to have a smile on your face and to greet guests with a “good morning.” The time commitment to volunteer is about 30 minutes.

Leonor wants all parishioners to know that they are invited to gather to share coffee, donuts, and fellowship. She loves seeing parishioners come and get to know one another, as they build those relationships that make celebrating Holy Mass together all the more special.



If you have questions about this ministry or would like to serve, please contact Leonor Marin at leonormarin@live.com.