



## November 2023

- 2 Stewardship of Time:  
*The Foundation of Our Faith Lives*
- 3 A Letter From Our Pastor
- 4 The Grief Support Ministry  
*A Place to Find Support and Encouragement*
- 6 Holiday Food Baskets:  
*Sharing Food and Love During This Season of Giving*
- 7 St. Charles Borromeo:  
*An Example of Living Completely for the Lord*

## MEET PARISHIONER DEB WILLIAMS

*Blessed to Serve God and Bring Happiness to Our Community*

To say that leading the Parish Life Committee is a calling for Deb Williams would probably be an understatement! Deb has been working to make hospitality events happen since she was 4 years old, cleaning off the tables after coffee and donuts at Holy Name Parish in Omaha, Neb. Her mother helped with the ministry, so it was only natural for Deb to help out too. When Deb and her husband, Herb, moved to the area and started attending Mass at St. Patrick's, she naturally found her way to coffee and donuts, then to the Parish Life Committee, where she has served for 30 years.

"I love just being here to help things come together," she says. "I love organizing and seeing people have fun. God has a plan for everyone. My plan from Him is to make people happy. That is why I enjoy doing this program."

Deb's most recent event was the picnic in August. She is thankful that parish-



*Deb Williams has enjoyed being involved in parish life since she joined in 1990.*

ioners always step forward to share their stewardship gifts and help at the events. But she'd love to build a committee to help bring in some fresh ideas.

Having joined our parish in 1990, Deb has been involved here ever since. She has one daughter, Katie, and her husband, Herb, passed away in 1996.



# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME: *The Foundation of Our Faith Lives*

A professor stood at the head of the class with a big glass jar. He put six big rocks in the jar with the rocks up to the edge and then asked his students, “Is the jar full?” They replied, “Yes.”

The professor told the students, “No, it’s not.” He then pulled out gravel and put it in the jar. He then asked, “Now is it full?” The students once again replied, “Yes.” The professor responded, “No, it’s not.” He reached down and pulled out sand, which he poured into the jar with the same responses. Then, he reached for a pitcher of water and poured it in, all the way to the brim. Then he asked, “Now is it full?” And the students replied, “Yes.”

The professor then asked, “OK, what did you learn from this?” One student responded, “No matter how many things you’ve got in the jar, there’s always room to put a little more in.” The professor told the class, “No, that’s not the lesson. The lesson is, if I didn’t put the big rocks in first, they would have never fit!”

Most Catholics may ask how this can apply to our own prayer lives. Essentially, every person must decide what the “big rocks” are in his or her life. And prayer should be one of those big rocks in the jar.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has told us stewardship is part of discipleship and is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives. We refer to the three facets of stewardship as “Time, Talent and Treasure,” and when we consider the importance of these three Ts of stewardship, the “time” component comes first by design.

Stewardship spirituality is about trying to become more generous with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. And there’s a reason why “Time” is first. We need to take time to talk to God and take time to be quiet and seek to listen as He expresses His love for us and wants us to know His inspiration in our life.

There are many different forms of prayer. From weekly prayer such as the Mass, to daily personal prayer, such as a daily Rosary. Morning and night prayer are also important disciplines to maintain. Set aside a comfortable place



in your home where you can find silence. Focus on a spiritual image and take time to center yourself with Scripture or other spiritual reading.

For many, spending large portions of the day in silent prayer is not possible. But make it a priority to find moments of quiet throughout the day, and find ways to incorporate prayer amid your busy schedule. When you get into a vehicle, pray — before a meal, after a meal, if you’re faced with a tough decision. Just pray!

Just as in any human relationship, communication is a central aspect of a vibrant relationship with God. Prayer is fostering this communion of love with God. He loved us into existence, and He wants us to enter into a loving conversation with Him. We’ve got to talk to Him. And we must listen to Him. He will take care of everything if you just trust Him. He’s knocking at the door and waiting for us to open it in prayer.



A Letter From Our Pastor

# CHRIST THE KING, *the Perfect Example of Stewardship*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*M*ay the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

With the liturgical year ending soon and Advent and Christmas close behind, I want to share with you the profound significance of the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 26. This feast holds a special place within the heart of the Catholic Church and shows us what true stewardship is all about.

The Solemnity of Christ the King, observed on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, invites us to reflect on Christ's universal kingship and reign over all creation. In a world often focused on power, control, and self-centeredness, this feast presents a countercultural message. It reminds us that Christ's kingship is marked by self-sacrifice, humility, and service. Our Lord's throne is not one of worldly grandeur but of the Cross, where He gave His life for our salvation.

This feast is a powerful reminder of the core values of Catholic stewardship. Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God — our time, talents, resources, and even our very lives. Just as Christ, the King, entrusted His life for our sake, we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has bestowed upon us. We are caretakers of His creation, called to use our resources wisely, generously, and in ways that bring about His kingdom on Earth.

Christ's kingship and stewardship are deeply intertwined. By recognizing His authority over our lives, we acknowledge that our role as stewards is to use our gifts in accordance with His will. This means serving others, working for justice, promoting human dignity, and caring for the Earth and its resources. Our actions as faithful stewards should reflect the self-giving love that Christ displayed during His earthly life.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is an important day in



the Catholic Church because it brings our focus back to the heart of our faith. It reminds us that Christ's reign extends beyond the confines of time and space, touching every aspect of our existence. This feast challenges us to evaluate our lives in light of His kingship and to ask ourselves whether our choices and actions align with His teachings.

As we approach this solemn feast, let us take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to Christ and the principles of stewardship. May we strive to be faithful stewards of His grace, using our gifts to build a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world. Let us remember that Christ, the King, calls us not to a life of privilege but to a life of service, solidarity, and sacrificial love.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Through our worship and reflection, may we be renewed in our dedication to Christ's reign and to the active stewardship and discipleship He calls us to embrace.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Quezada, *Pastor*







# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

## THE GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

### *A Place to Find Support*

Parishioner Olivia Espinosa remembers being a recipient of the Grief Support Ministry's compassionate support after her husband's passing seven years ago. Her experience with the ministry helped her to cope with her journey of grief — and now, as she leads the Grief Support Ministry, it is a positive way for her to help others who are also struggling with the loss of a loved one.

“One of the things I decided to do, after my husband's death, was help others who are going through similar loss,” Olivia says. “A large part of my grief journey has been helping others with their grief. Helping others is a big part of my own healing. If I can make this a little easier for another person, I will.”

The Grief Support Ministry follows a nine-week program called Walking Through Grief.

“It is a Christian-based program with many contributors who have lost their own loved ones,” Olivia says. “Many of the videos and discussions focus on helping people identify their grief triggers and provide tools and practical strategies to navigate their grief journey.”

The ministry meets every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the parish library. The meetings start with the week-specific video and end with a group discussion focused on the topic and theme of the video.

It is best for people to join the ministry at the beginning of the nine-week session. There are back-to-back sessions throughout the academic calendar with breaks in the summer and around Christmas. New sessions are advertised in the church bulletin, on the parish's social media accounts, and in the diocesan newsletter.

The program's content is organized in such a way that meets every participant where they are in the grieving process.

“My favorite week of the program is about how to handle holidays and special events,” Olivia says. “There are many days that can be particularly challenging after you lose a loved one, like the person's birthday or wedding anniversary. The week's video shares stories that participants relate to a lot and provides many ideas on how to honor our loved ones on these days and also cope with our own grief.”

*“A large part of my grief journey has been helping others with their grief. Helping others is a big part of my own healing. If I can make this a little easier for another person, I will.”*

— Olivia Espinosa





# PORT MINISTRY

## *Support and Encouragement*

In addition to the videos, the group discussions are also impactful.

“As people in the group get to know each other, they start to support and encourage one another,” Olivia says. “One of the most recurring transformations I see in people as they go through the program is often, they will start out feeling alienated and cut off from others, then by the end of the nine weeks they are checking in on the other group members, contributing to the discussions, smiling, and even making plans with friends that they have made in the group.”

All who are grieving are encouraged to attend the Grief Support Group. The best way to know when the next session is beginning is by reading the bulletins and staying up

to date with the parish’s social media.

Currently, Olivia is facilitating the ministry on her own. She could use the help of a few volunteers to help with making phone calls and doing the meeting set-up and take-down. One day she hopes to have a co-leader who can help facilitate the meetings and lead discussions.

*If you feel called to serve with this ministry or for more information, contact Olivia Espinosa at [oliviaespinosa@me.com](mailto:oliviaespinosa@me.com).*

## MEET PARISHIONER DEB WILLIAMS

*continued from front cover*

Three years before his passing, Herb went through the RCIA process and entered into the Catholic faith.

“Even before Herb became Catholic, he was helping me with things,” Deb says. “The priests at the time were surprised that he was not Catholic. It’s all because of St. Patrick’s that he became Catholic.”

Over the years, Deb has been involved with many ministries, from Religious Education to the Newcomers Committee. She also worked with the Building Renovation Committee and the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary. But the Parish Life Committee is where she has put most of her time and energy.

“Whatever idea Father comes up with, I do,” she says.

In the past, the parish has hosted a Valentine’s Day dance, a volunteer dinner, and a meal for St. Patrick’s Day.

She hopes to see more of these social events return now that the COVID-19 threat has waned.

“I love to see everything come together,” Deb says. “I feel I’m a good organizer. I enjoy seeing people having fun.”

Deb loves the community here at St. Patrick’s. To her, it truly feels like a family. She would encourage others to consider their talents and how they might use them to serve God and the parish. She has seen firsthand that being involved helps you get to know more people and widen your circle. You are part of the parish family all week — not just on Sundays.

“Because God gave you those abilities, you should use them,” Deb says.

In her free time, Deb enjoys bowling, making crafts, and crocheting.

*To get involved in the Parish Life Committee, contact Deb Williams at [drbby@msn.com](mailto:drbby@msn.com) or 719-264-7703*



# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

### HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS: *Sharing Food and Love During This Season of Giving*

“God sees the poor and has compassion on them to solve their problems. We, in this ministry, and all the ministries of the parish, are some of the ‘tools in His toolbox’ to fix problems in the world. We are grateful for the chance to help.” — Andy Ziny, Program Coordinator

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches us how we should serve others. He teaches us to respond to their physical needs with charity, as though we are helping Christ Himself. The Church calls these acts of service the Corporal Works of Mercy, the first of which is to “feed the hungry.” Feeding the hungry is exactly what the Holiday Food Assistance Ministry strives to do.

The Holiday Food Baskets are a collection of non-perishable groceries and a turkey (for Thanksgiving) or a ham (for Christmas). The bags are given to people from the community who are in need of assistance during the holiday season.

“The poor in our community are served directly,” says Andy Ziny, Program Coordinator. “We serve parishioners and non-parishioners alike, including foster families and young adults who have recently been emancipated from foster care. The poor will always be with us, so we must seek opportunities to serve them.”

This ministry provides parishioners an opportunity to share the blessings that God has given them with others. Anyone in the parish can volunteer to help. In the past people of all ages, and even families, have participated.

There are many ways to volunteer, including donating non-perishable groceries, sorting the donated groceries, setting up, and greeting the recipients on distribution days before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Serving as part of this ministry provides an opportunity



for parishioners to serve other members of the community directly. Participants have shared that they often come away from the holiday season feeling a little more fulfilled, as they have given of themselves to serve the poor.

“Participating in this food program gets me in touch with people who need the assistance,” Andy says. “I can see the face of the poor people in the community, and ‘helping the poor’ becomes not just an abstraction or a place to make a financial donation, but something we do with our hands, hearts, and voices.

“God sees the poor and has compassion on them to solve their problems,” he adds. “We, in this ministry, and all the ministries of the parish, are some of the ‘tools in His toolbox’ to fix problems in the world. We are grateful for the chance to help.”

*If you are interested in getting involved with the Holiday Food Assistance Ministry, contact Andy Ziny at 719-598-3595 or [aziny@stpatscs.org](mailto:aziny@stpatscs.org).*





## ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO: *An Example of Living Completely for the Lord*

*One important aspect of stewardship — of involvement in parish life and our community — is understanding our own personal vocation. One saint especially embodies this key aspect of stewardship. St. Charles was a model priest, and many priests and clergy-in-training look to his life as an example of how to live completely for the Lord. Let us look to his example as we serve our own faith family and community.*

When St. Charles Borromeo died at the age of 46, he had accomplished more than most clergy twice his age. St. Charles is credited with the continuation and completion of the Council of Trent in 1562, extensive reformation within the Archdiocese of Milan and beyond, and the creation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine — the forerunner of the modern Religious Education system. St. Charles possessed a fierce love for the Church, especially for the people under his spiritual care — the Archdiocese of Milan.

He was born in 1538 to the powerful noble family Borromeo. But rather than live the life of a noble, St. Charles chose instead to serve the Church.

As a young man, St. Charles received the clerical tonsure — a hairstyle where the top of the head is shaved, common among religious orders — and studied at a Benedictine abbey near his hometown of Arona, Italy. His uncle, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo de' Medici, was elected Pope in 1559, and took the name Pius IV. Shortly after becoming pope, Pius IV appointed St. Charles to serve as secretary of state, as well as cardinal and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time, St. Charles was still a layperson. While serving in these positions, he encouraged the pope to reconvene the Council of Trent, an ecumenical gathering during which Church leaders corrected various abuses and sought to more clearly define elements of Catholic doctrine.

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# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



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### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Sunday: 7:45am, 9:30am, 11:30am

### Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Friday: 7:00am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 12:00pm

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO *continued from page 7*

In 1563, St. Charles was ordained to the priesthood during a secret ordination ceremony. Following the death of his older brother, Count Federico Borromeo, St. Charles' family had urged him to marry and carry on the Borromeo name. However, St. Charles felt that God was calling him to serve the Church, and continued to fulfill his vocation.

Shortly after becoming a priest, St. Charles was appointed by Pope Pius IV as Archbishop of Milan. Historians say the people of Milan rejoiced under St. Charles' leadership and spiritual guidance — he was the first bishop in 80 years to actually live in Milan and minister to its people himself. Under his rule, Milan became a model diocese that was revered throughout the Catholic world.

Due to his great intellect, St. Charles was often called away from Milan to help the pope in various ways. However, despite his busy life, St. Charles continued to push ref-

ormation among clergy and sought to continually improve the ministry of the Church. He often encouraged clergy to spend time educating and spiritually renewing themselves. During a homily at a diocesan synod, St. Charles addressed the priests saying, "Are you in charge of a parish? If so, do not neglect the parish of your own soul, do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself. You have to be mindful of your people without becoming forgetful of yourself."

St. Charles was a true servant of the people. As the plague of 1576 ravaged much of Milan, he remained with his people, serving the sick and dying in hospitals throughout the archdiocese.

St. Charles Borromeo died Nov. 3, 1584. He was canonized in 1610, and his feast day is celebrated each year on Nov. 4.