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## MEET PARISHIONERS MICHAEL AND CLAIRE OCHOA

*Walking in Faith Together, Day by Day*

Living the faith doesn't necessarily have to mean doing something massive or transformative. The faith is so often lived out in some of the smallest moments, every day. Parishioners Michael and Claire Ochoa understand this, as they are living the faith one day at a time.

Michael is the Director of Youth Ministry and Catechesis here at the parish. Claire takes care of the catechesis for children. They point out that Michael takes over with our youth at the point where their formation with Claire has concluded — she coordinates catechesis for kindergarten to fifth grade, while he takes care of sixth to 12th grade. The couple has been at St. Patrick's for just over a year. They have one son, Samson, who is 6 months old.

You probably don't hear of many couples drawn together over philosophy. But that's exactly how the Ochoas met — while taking master's classes at Boston College.



*Michael and Claire Ochoa with their son, Samson*

"Michael likes to say we met online," Claire says. "We met during an online class on St. Thomas Aquinas during the pandemic."

Michael grew up in Colorado Springs, so this is home. His family belonged to St. Dominic's. Claire was raised in Idaho. The couple feels blessed to be part of the St. Patrick's community. They are thankful that parishioners have been so welcoming. Last semester, they hosted young family nights, during which newly married

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# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

### OUR STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

### *Giving of Our Time, Talent, and Treasure*

*Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on Commitment Sunday, October 28-29. How will you use your time, talent, and treasure in our parish?*

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

**Our definition of Stewardship of Time:** Using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones.

**The bottom line about prayer:** Without prayer, we cannot thrive spiritually. As Catholic Christians, it is a necessity to spend time each day speaking to God. This includes reading Scripture and saying prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, but even more importantly, it should include a heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus. He wants us to bring him all our fears, longings, needs, and desires.

**What kind of Time commitments should I make?** Your commitment card lists several suggestions for how to spend time with God in prayer. Review your current prayer life and take a step forward. For instance, start having daily prayers with your children or spouse. Commit to praying the rosary on the way to work or reading scripture before bed each night.

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

**Our definition of Stewardship of Talent:** Using my God-given abilities to strengthen the Church and help others, especially through parish ministries and activities.

**The bottom line about parish ministry:** No Catholic Christian exists in a vacuum. Scripture makes it clear that we must function within the wider faith community, putting our gifts in the service of others. It's not enough to go to Sunday Mass; we need to be involved in parish life and ministry.

#### What kind of Talent

#### commitments should I

**make?** If you're not involved in anything in our parish, now is the perfect opportunity to take a step forward. Check out our commitment card for a list of ministries. If you're already involved, re-commit yourself to the important work you do. And if you feel God is calling you forward – sign up for something new!

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

**Our definition of Stewardship of Treasure:** The wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish.

**The bottom line about financial support:** We need to take seriously the Biblical concept of the tithe, and start giving based on a percentage of income. It's our responsibility to support the Church with our personal involvement and our financial support.

**What kind of Treasure commitments should I make?** Our goal at St. Patrick is to give five percent of income to the offertory. Grab a calculator and figure out your target gift based on your total household income. Then make a plan for increasing your gift incrementally to reach five percent. During our Stewardship Renewal, choose a weekly or monthly gift to the parish, and be faithful to it for the next year.





A Letter From Our Pastor

# NURTURING THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP THROUGH THE ROSARY

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With Fall in full swing and October upon us, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the opportunity to share with you the profound significance of this month as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. October is a time when we, as faithful Catholics, are called to deepen our commitment to living out the principles of stewardship and discipleship, guided by the beautiful devotion of the Rosary.



The Month of the Most Holy Rosary holds a special place in our hearts and our Church calendar. It is a time when we are invited to meditate upon the mysteries of our faith through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Just as the beads of the Rosary are intricately woven together, so too are our lives woven into the fabric of God's plan for each of us. By contemplating the joyful, sorrowful, luminous, and glorious mysteries, we are drawn closer to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship is a concept deeply rooted in our Catholic faith, reminding us that all we have is a gift from God, and it is our responsibility to use these gifts wisely for the service of others and the glory of God. The Rosary, a prayer that encompasses the entirety of Christ's life, is a perfect tool for nurturing the spirit of stewardship within us.

As we reflect on the joyful mysteries, we are reminded of the gift of the Annunciation and the humility of Mary's "yes" to God's plan. This encourages us to be open and receptive to God's will in our lives, just as Mary was.

The sorrowful mysteries teach us the importance of self-sacrifice and compassion, as we meditate on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. This prompts us to

consider the ways we can alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need.

The luminous mysteries remind us of Christ's public ministry and the importance of sharing the Gospel with others, motivating us to be active disciples who spread the message of love and salvation.

Finally, the glorious mysteries inspire us to look forward to the eternal rewards that await us, motivating us to live lives of faithful

stewardship in anticipation of God's heavenly kingdom.

In this Month of the Most Holy Rosary, I encourage each of you to take up this powerful devotion as a means of deepening your stewardship and discipleship. Set aside time each day to meditate on the mysteries, allowing Mary to guide you in embracing your role as stewards of God's gifts and as dedicated followers of Jesus. As we offer our intentions through the Rosary, let us also pray for the grace to live lives that reflect the love and mercy of Christ, reaching out to those in need and shining His light in a world often filled with darkness.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us as we embark on this journey of stewardship and discipleship through the Rosary. May her example inspire us to live lives that bear witness to the transformative power of faith and prayer. And may our commitment to the Rosary lead us closer to Christ, guiding us in our mission to be faithful stewards and devoted disciples.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Francisco Quezada, *Pastor*



# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



# RESPECT

## *Upholding the Dignity*

As a stewardship people, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God. Most often, when we speak of the gifts God has given us, we specify our time, our talent, and our treasure as how we understand our God-given gifts. Yet, beyond the “three Ts of stewardship,” at a deeper and more innate level, we must begin by recognizing our very lives as gifts from God. In turn, we must use our lives for His glory and defend the rights of every human life – from conception to natural death.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explains it this way: “As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every human person must be respected and protected at every age.”

This is a reality that the Church seeks to emphasize throughout October, but it is a reality we must defend day in and day out with our words and our actions, right here in Colorado Springs.

“This is an area wherein I feel like many Catholics fall short,” says Ron Krom. “It’s not just a matter of what we say we believe or what we do in church. How we live in the public square – where we take action – is going to make a difference in the world. If every Catholic in the world was out there defending the right to life, we would have a different world.”

Ron got involved in pro-life work here at St. Patrick

*Ron and Fran Krom*



when he joined the Knights of Columbus many years ago. He and his wife, Fran, had moved around a lot before settling here, as Fran served as a nurse in the

Army. When they came to St. Patrick, the pro-life movement was something near and dear to their hearts. So, it was a natural fit for Ron to help the Knights with their pro-life efforts.

“Herman Jasper was Grand Knight at the time, and he asked me if I would help with the respect life activities they were doing,” Ron says.

It was as simple as that. Ron stepped up to the plate and has been helping the Knights of Columbus with efforts such as placing crosses in the front yard of the church every October, helping with the drives to collect necessities for mothers and babies in need, assisting with the Roses for Life function the Knights hold every year, and more.

Fran, too, is passionate that every one of us should step up and take action, and she is quick to call us on it!

“As people, it is important for us to act on the faith we profess,” Fran says.

Fran’s passion for the pro-life movement was borne



# RESPECT LIFE MONTH

## *Respect and Sanctity of Life Now and Always*

out of personal experience. She has stood on the front lines and seen the devastation caused by the culture of death that permeates our world. She believes that each one of us needs to face the reality of what is going on in our world today and speak out for the right to life — from conception to natural death.

“As a nurse, I have seen a post-abortive baby with a still-beating heart,” Fran says. “I have seen the products of what is happening, and as a nurse, I have had to stand up and speak out against it. It has not been easy, but I believe it is so important. It was clear it was a baby!”

Fran firmly believes it was her responsibility to stand up to the hospital staff when she saw abortions being done and accepted as appropriate medical care, and she remains firm in her resolve that we all ought to speak out for the rights of all human beings! It is vital to our lives of faith. It is vital to our ability to impact the world!

“Things have only gotten worse as the years have

gone on,” Fran says. “The political climate of our day continues to grow so accepting of the things that are against God’s plan.”

We see not only abortion, but physician-assisted suicide and other such atrocities being touted as virtuous, and we need to do our part!

There is currently no coordinator for the Respect Life Apostolate here at St. Patrick, and there is so much more we could do if we had one. If you are passionate about proclaiming the Gospel of Life to the world today — in word and deed— please consider serving the Respect Life Apostolate.

“Be open to the Holy Spirit,” Fran says. “If you are open, He will call you. All you have to do is listen. And if He does call you to serve this ministry, know you will not do it alone. The coordinator serves as the mouthpiece for the ministry, communicating the information that needs put out. This position does not need to be overwhelming.”

*“How we live in the public square — where we take action — is going to make a difference in the world. If every Catholic in the world was out there defending the right to life, we would have a different world.”*

— RON KROM

*If you are interested in being a part of our Respect Life Apostolate,  
contact the parish office at 719-598-3595.*



# St. Patrick

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: *Beautiful Peace Offered in the*

**T**oday's Catholics are bombarded daily with overwhelming news of everything going on throughout the world. From the endless news cycle to perpetually scrolling social media, we see so much stress and frustration with society and our culture. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI gave us an antidote to this anxiety when he said, "In the world there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host... It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering."

Spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful gift that is offered here at St. Patrick's Parish. This effort to offer adoration frequently in the parish began in 2019 when Fr. Michael Goodyear felt a strong call to grow the offering of adoration in the parish. He asked several parishioners to form a committee to find a space to put a chapel in the existing facility. One of those committee members was Jim Pierson.

Just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the committee decided on the library area of the parish. The pandemic slowed the start of this project but didn't stop it. With the celebration of Corpus Christi Sunday in 2020, the parish dedicated that weekend specially to kickstart the opening of the adoration chapel.

"We would have loved to have perpetual adoration from the start, but we weren't able to do that," Jim says. "So it began immediately after morning Mass and ended at 7 p.m. Here we are, three years later and those are still the same hours. From that initial energy at the start until now, we have hit a bit of a plateau."

As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. As we are currently celebrating the Eucharistic Revival, taking advantage of spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament is a special

way to revitalize this vital part of our faith. While it is true that we can pray anywhere, we are reminded of His Presence when sitting in front of the Eucharist. The inscription on the altar in the adoration chapel is the motto of St. John Henry Newman, "cor ad cor loquitur" — "heart to heart."

"There are stories of people who have life-changing experiences in adoration," Jim says. "For me, it has always been more gradual. I feel such a closeness and intimacy with Him when I sit in adoration. The small space of the chapel means that you are physically so close to the Blessed Sacrament.

"When we are traveling in the mountains, I experience God's majesty in the mountains and the beauty of the earth," he adds. "But in adoration, the closeness to His Presence in the Eucharist and the heart-to-heart conversation is such a wonderful thing to experience."

Those who commit to this Holy Hour fill their time with prayers such as Lectio Divina, the Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Some might write in a prayer journal or read spiritual books. It is also a time to quiet our minds and our hearts so we can hear God's voice in our own hearts.

"I have felt a push from the Holy Spirit to grow the Eucharistic Adoration past our current plateau to truly be perpetual — a full 24 hours a day," Jim says. "From the time that I approached Fr. Quezada about it and when we did a weeklong perpetual adoration in June, I leaned on the Holy Spirit and He came through. We did this in honor of the first year of the Eucharistic Revival. We began on Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass and had adoration around the clock for the week leading up to Corpus Christi Sunday.

"Our parishioners really stepped up to support this," he adds. "We would like to make that leap to have this available for our community all the time."



# *Presence of Christ*

Committing one hour of your week to spending time in the presence of God is something from which everyone can benefit. Those who have committed this hour to our Lord have found it to be such a blessing in their lives. They have dedicated that time to quiet their hearts and minds, slow down from the rush of this busy life and, in that time, find peace and a deeper relationship with Christ.

“When I first began this, I didn’t have much experience with adoration, but I embraced this calling to help lead the adoration efforts here and my life has truly been blessed by it,” Jim says. “I like to think that it has changed me. I have become more Christ-centered in my life and I have certainly been strengthened by it. It has helped with my spiritual maturity as well.”

*“I feel such a closeness and intimacy with Him when I sit in adoration. The small space of the chapel means that you are physically so close to the Blessed Sacrament.”* — JIM PIERSON

*To sign up for an hour, or to help extend our offering of perpetual adoration, contact Jim Pierson at [jimpie4@comcast.net](mailto:jimpie4@comcast.net) or 719-964-6792 (call/text), or Anne French at [frenchfries.supersized@gmail.com](mailto:frenchfries.supersized@gmail.com) or 719-243-1422.*



# 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

## Michael and Claire Ochoa *continued from front cover*

couples and their young children were invited for a potluck and fellowship.

“Michael has been good about inviting people over so we can get to know them better,” Claire says.

“We’ve had to learn a lot of new names really fast to get to know people,” Michael says.

Claire also works at the Thomas MacLaren School, while Michael has been settling into his role. He has enjoyed building relationships with young parishioners through youth ministry gatherings, while Claire has enjoyed getting to know the youth and their families as well. They see their work as part of their ministry — Michael even relates stewardship to taking care of their home.

“A home is a gift from God that you have to steward,” Michael says. “You should treasure it well and be hospitable. We like to have people over to start to form small communities.”

The day the couple signed on for their home, they

were doing some work with those who are homeless — this served as a valuable reminder to them to always honor and steward their blessings.

Another blessing they want to live out stewardship is in raising their son, Samson. He has given them a new appreciation for the beauty of life.

“Becoming a father has changed my life,” Michael says. “It’s making me remember that for this little guy, I want to do what is best. I want him to see a model of Christ, and I have to be that. It’s making me take my faith life more seriously.”

Both Claire and Michael are thankful for their faith which has brought them to this point.

“Life is meaningless without God,” Claire says. “He created us for everlasting life with Him. He wants a relationship with us, and church is an opportunity to fall more in love with the person who created us.”

In their free time, the couple also enjoys playing tennis and board games.