



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 18, Issue 4

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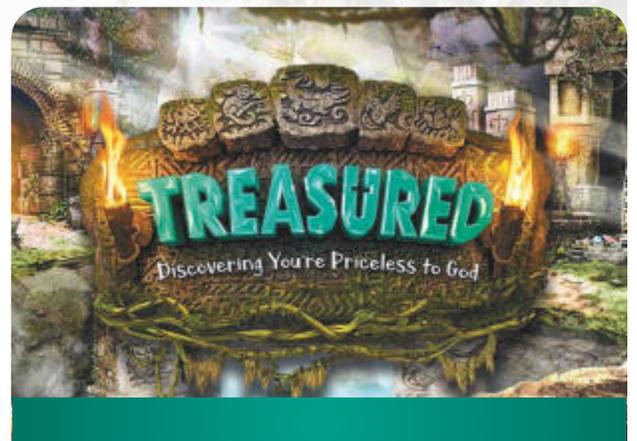
Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

VBS PROGRAM

to Offer Prime Family Time on Campus and Online

Even as we continue to navigate the difficult “terrain” of the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities to share and grow in our faith remain ever-abundant here at All Saints. In order to make one such opportunity available, our Vacation Bible School program will once again follow the “hybrid” model of last year, and it promises to offer families the perfect chance to grow in their love of God, all while experiencing the loving embrace of our parish community.



“Treasured – Discovering You’re Priceless to God” will be this year’s theme for VBS, which runs from June 21-25. Families will have options to participate. Activities will be offered outdoors Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - noon, allotting plenty of space for more families to take part with everyone masked and practicing social distancing. Families also have the choice of taking part in virtual activities at home or during special evening hours on Tuesday and Thursday 6-8 p.m.

The pandemic compelled the hybrid model last year with families taking part together either on campus, or at home. This led to a wonderful realization for all — by having that special family time, parents were further able to fulfill their role as their children’s first catechists.

“The feedback from last year was it was the ‘best ever,’” says Kathy McDermott, Parish Director of Faith Formation. “Families got to spend time together.”

Lisa Leyendecker, VBS volunteer coordinator, has long known the value of Vacation Bible School, which she first discovered when her children took part.

“I fell in love with the spirituality and community building during Vacation Bible School week,” she says. “I saw it from the youngest kids, to teens and adults, and the



VBS PROGRAM

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grandparents volunteering. It was wonderful to see such a community-building experience. All worked to help teach about Jesus and about our Church.”

Taking part in Vacation Bible School also is a perfect way to follow stewardship through giving of one’s time and talent under the Stewardship Pillar of Service. The Pillar of Hospitality also comes into play, as families are welcomed to learn more about their faith.

Not only do the children attending grow spiritually, but the teen and adult volunteers do, as well.

“When you volunteer as an adult, you get to hear Bible verses each day and the kids share those,” Lisa says. “You get to look into each theme of the prayer stations and you see the kids interacting with each activity that goes with them. It’s wonderful to see the kids learn about God and the saints, and what makes the Church special — all during Vacation Bible School.”

Kathy McDermott echoes Lisa’s observation with her own.

“The more we expose children to community, Bible stories and songs, they will grow in wisdom, friendships, and their relationship with God.” Kathy says. “Simply, they are surrounded by and discover God’s amazing love.”

One way the children will share God’s love with others is a service project held during Vacation Bible School. Last year, they collected food for local food pantries.

“We don’t know what they will be doing yet this year, but the kids will see their connection with the outside community,” Kathy says. “Vacation Bible School creates long-lasting memories. I had a teen write to me that he had so much fun. ‘Do what you can to keep it!’ he wrote. ‘I have good memories.’ What a testimony that VBS is not only for God’s children, but teens and adults find through their own increased spiritual strength, that they are able to share their faith with their children. Our Catholic family grows in spiritually.”



With our VBS activities being held outdoors this year, there is a particular need for volunteers. Not only will adults be needed to decorate the activity areas, but also to help keep activities running smoothly. Parent/Teen teams are needed to assist with the Frog Pond, Butterfly Garden, and “Living Saints” stations around the campus. Whether it is one hour, or one day, those wishing to share their faith and time with the children of All Saints may do so on “Sign Up Genius” <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4EABAF28A2FC1-vbs2021> or contact Kathy McDermott at 972-778-0328 or kmcdermott@allsaintsdallas.org.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Celebrating CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Dear Saints,

How did you feel at the end of the Palm Sunday Mass? You may not have noticed, but there was an abrupt shift of tone in that liturgy. It began with great joy, as we celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the acclamation of the crowds. But then the mood shifted to sorrow, despair even, when the Passion Gospel was read, for we heard the shouts of "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" from those same crowds a few days later.

Palm Sunday, of course, was the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the Christian year. The confusion of conflicting moods is spread through the week, especially during the Easter Triduum — from sundown Holy Thursday to sundown Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday offers us the glorious Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrating the institution of the Eucharist before we pass to the sadness of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The next day brings us the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion with our recognition of what our sins did to the Incarnate Son of God. Then, after a day of waiting as we mourn Jesus' burial and repose in the tomb, we celebrate His victory over sin, Satan and death at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night or at the Masses the next day. If we have participated in all the main services of the Triduum, we arrive at Sunday evening exhausted but joyful.

This year, Palm Sunday fell on the final Sunday of March, and we observe Holy Week and Easter Sunday early in April. That means we will spend most of April in the Easter Season, a period filled with joy and thanksgiving. Our gladness comes not only because Christ rose from the dead, but also because we benefit from it. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (§654) puts it, "The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life."

In other words, Christ's Resurrection is the source of our own future resurrection. St. Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words (Rom 6:5): "For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection."

Eternal life in union with Christ — a hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven — is the result of Jesus' Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope? We should sing with joy about this promise from God!

What's more, Paul also wrote (Col 3:1-2): "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

Jesus' Resurrection and His promise of a new life for us mean that we need to live in conformity with our status as adopted children of God.

And how do we show our joy and our gratitude to God for this amazing gift He has given us? We join in worship and praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus' victory over death with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us. Yes, the Easter message that we share in the benefits of Christ's Resurrection is the ultimate foundation for all Christian stewardship.

The Lord is risen, alleluia.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator



HOW IS YOUR QUILL?

By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

Over the course of the past few years, I have had the fortune to meet many parishioners and parents to discuss our school. During these conversations, I ask about perceptions, how their student/alumnus is doing now, and perceptions of how our school prepares students to act honorably, live virtuously and seek truth.

Through these conversations, I have been treated to many stories of our students' successes, growth and accolades. I have heard about students not liking school until they came to All Saints and experienced a small classroom where they could really shine. I have heard about alumni skipping entry-level courses at high school so they can further their academic studies. And, I have heard of the National Merit Scholar Finalists and Valedictorians and Salutatorians that our little school has produced. These are only a few of the many success stories that are in our school building each day. When I tell these stories to people outside of our community, the one question I am always asked is, "How does All Saints do it?" My answer is simple, "An unwavering commitment to excellence in faith, academics, character and service, and an intentional philosophy of education that provides for all of our students.

Attending a Catholic school should be much more than attending Mass on a weekly basis, and All Saints is committed to doing much more. A strong Catholic atmosphere permeates our school. It is seen and felt in the hallways in the way students treat each other and the faculty and staff. It is seen in Mr. Malone's religion class

when he challenges the students to know and defend the faith. And it is seen when the students are honored for being an example of the Virtue of the Month.

Just like the Catholic atmosphere in our school, the academic program is strong as well. Mrs. Druffner, our Principal, is committed to hiring and retaining the best teachers available. She has created a culture in which teachers and students are always looking for ways to bring the material to life for our students. One such example is the addition of our science gardens that our first-grade teacher, Mrs. Ramirez, spearheaded. The gardens provide a place for students to experience life science instead of just reading it in a book or seeing it on a screen. The students know and feel how much each and every teacher in our building loves them. This leads to a great amount of trust between the student, teacher and parent, which only leads to increased student achievement.

And it is not only the academic program that shapes a young person into a mature and confident adult. All Saints provides various activities so our students can learn the values of teamwork and collaboration. The small school size also allows our students to try new activities in a safe place and take on leadership roles within the school. We are also able to expose students to new and fun activities in which they may not otherwise be able to participate. Activities in the new Innovation Lab expose our students to the world of coding, robotics, and how we can use them to solve social problems. This develops our students' empathy, curiosity, and problem-

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HOW IS YOUR QUILL? *continued from page 4*

solving skills. Students are also exposed to Mandarin and Spanish language instruction. This helps them explore different cultures and develop an appreciation for cultural differences while understanding our faith is a global faith. Students can participate in Orchestra, Band, Choir, and/or art so they can learn to appreciate the beautiful world God has made.

As a Catholic school, All Saints takes seriously its charge to prepare young Catholic men and women who will not only learn the faith, but live it as well. Our students learn that we make Christ known and present through the service that we do for others.

All Saints has much to be proud of. Our graduates have gone on to achieve and succeed in various areas. But more importantly, our graduates are well-rounded leaders in the community that are highly sought after by the local Catholic high schools. As the Director of Admissions at Ursuline Academy told me, "All Saints students are respectful and respected."

We are very proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved at All Saints, and our students are the living embodiment of what we do as a school. I invite you to explore our school website and learn about the All Saints difference. I promise you will not be disappointed. And if you are considering a Catholic education for your child or grandchild, visit us for a personal tour.

"As a Catholic school, All Saints takes seriously its charge to prepare young Catholic men and women who will not only learn the faith, but live it as well. Our students learn that we make Christ known and present through the service that we do for others."

Congratulations to these ASCS Eagles!



Andrew D. won first place in the Mathematics competition at the Beta Club Convention.



Amy N. earned Honorable Mention honors in the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Chemistry.



Gabriel M. won second place in the English/Language Arts competition at the Beta Club Convention.



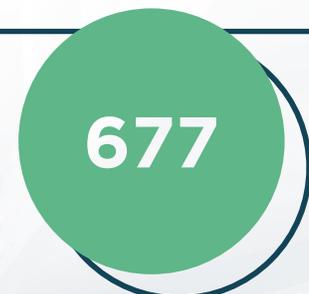
Highlights of Our 2020 Stewardship Renewal

This past autumn, our parish leadership at All Saints 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 Stewardship Renewal.



Commitment Cards Received

There were 677 commitment cards received from 38 percent of active households.



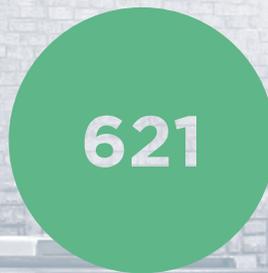
Prayer Commitments

There were 4,658 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 76 percent of participating households.



Ministry Commitments

There were 1,601 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 68 percent of participating households. Of these, 339 were new ministry commitments, while 1,262 were re-commitments to parish ministries.



Offertory Commitments

There were 621 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 92 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$2,958.



We thank all those who participated in our 2020 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!



YOUNG ADULT *Ministry:* Bringing the Faith Alive and Building *REAL RELATIONSHIPS*

It seems to happen naturally in parishes — there’s the youth group for the youth, and then a Bible study group that mostly appeals to those who are middle-aged and older. So, we don’t want to miss the chance of ministering to young adults — those we define at All Saints between the ages of 18 to 39, which remains an important time to build a faith community. This is why we are so thankful and happy to welcome Erika Winland to All Saints as the Director of Young Adult Ministry, which kicked off with its first event on Jan. 21. Erika hails from Katy, Texas and also works as a professional photographer.

“We focus not on how you came to be in the ministry, but where you are now and where you want to go,” Erika says.

The ministry follows the verse from Matthew 20:7, “You too go into my vineyard.”

“Much like the workers in the vineyard, whether you were ‘first’ and born into the faith, or ‘last’ and are now discovering it, God’s promise to each of us is exactly the same,” Erika says.

The group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. bi-weekly on Thursdays on the All Saints church campus, as well as weekly in men’s and women’s small groups. The nights are structured as either a Formation Night or Fellowship Night. The group will tackle a topic with some discussion on Formation Nights, or play a game or watch a movie on Fellowship Nights. It’s natural for people to attend and sit with friends, but Erika



Attendees enjoyed the Young Adult Ministry kickoff event on Jan. 21, 2021.

wants to use this ministry to build relationships outside of friend groups and to grow in faith, too.

Erika says the kickoff night was a success. The night included a meal and an introduction from Erika.

“Overall, it was so good to bring together new people and show that whether we’re college students, new graduates, single or married, we share similar experiences as young adults and are all seeking our own spiritual wellness,” she says.

Erika is committed to in-person meetings in a safe way. She understands the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on the mental health of young people.

“During a time where we have felt unique loneliness or lack of faith, it is important to me to bring people

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together in-person and build real relationships through intellectual conversation, laughs and shared experiences,” Erika says.

Being a young adult herself, Erika can’t wait to see this ministry grow and evolve. For everything that has happened to get her to this place in her life, Erika is thankful. Director

of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Paul Bianchi called and told Erika about her current position, and she just knew she was being called to this work.

“I feel so supported and cared for, and we have a lot of fun,” she says. “I can’t wait to see this ministry flourish more and more.”

Updates on the Young Adult Ministry are shared via email, or by following social media on Instagram and Facebook at @ascyam.

Tickets No Longer Required for Sunday Masses

Effective April 5, 2021 (highlights):

- **Tickets will no longer be utilized for Sunday Masses.**
- The Weekend Mass schedule will remain
- Saturday Vigil at 5 p.m. Saturday
- Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Weekday Masses are 9 a.m., Monday through Saturday
- **All attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing when on the church campus, when in the church sanctuary and during the Celebration of the Eucharist.**

General Mass information:

- Church sanctuary attendance is currently capped at 275 parishioners. Parishioners will seat themselves on a “first come, first served” basis. The doors will be closed when capacity limits have been met. Therefore, it is IMPERATIVE that you arrive early if you would like to increase your chances of being seated in the sanctuary.

- When capacity limits have been met in the sanctuary, Mass attendees will have the opportunity to join in the Celebration of the Eucharist from our new overflow area in the Fellowship Hall. The Mass will be livestreamed to the Fellowship Hall with the Blessed Sacrament or Blessing offered to all parishioners present there.
- Everyone must always wear a mask covering their nose and mouth. Face shields alone are NOT an acceptable alternative.
- We will not have any worship aids, hymnals or prayer cards. You may bring your own personal aids (printed or electronic).
- The collection baskets will not be passed. You may place contributions in the collection boxes located inside the entrance to the church. There is also a mail slot in the Narthex for envelopes. Please consider setting up recurring donations online at www.allsaintsdallas.org/give.

Out of concern for the health and welfare of our entire congregation, our Pastoral Administrator requires masks on our parish campus and at the Celebration of the Eucharist. We pray that our parishioners COMPLY out of charity and concern for others that may be more susceptible to the effects of this pandemic. All those attending Mass do so by their own choice. It is important for individuals and families to take responsibility for protecting themselves and others. If you are sick, please stay home. If you are in doubt, please stay home.

The full update can be found on our website at <https://www.allsaintsdallas.org/update20210331>.

5231 MEADOWCREEK DRIVE • DALLAS, TX 75248 • (972) 661-9282
Current Mass Schedule

Weekday Liturgy: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Weekend Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. | Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.