



# ALL SAINTS

*A Stewardship Parish*

*Volume 18, Issue 5*

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



## THE FAMILY MINISTRY: Working to Build the Domestic Church in Our Parish and Beyond

**A**s Catholics worldwide enter into the celebration of the Year of the Family and St. Joseph, our new Family Ministry here at All Saints Parish takes as its model the Holy Family of St. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. The ministry looks to strengthen and support families in their most crucial role, as Pope St. John Paul II called "the Domestic Church."

The ministry originated more than a year ago when Fr. Alfonse and Paul Bianchi, then Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, realized that while our youth and young adults were being served in the parish, young families needed that same support.

"Our Religious Education program and Youth Ministries are healthy, so we knew that we wanted to look at how we serve parents and families in the parish," Paul says.

The two then looked at the number of ways our 80-plus ministries could be connected. They concluded that the youth were in Religious Education because their parents wanted them there. Most of the teens involved in Youth Ministry activities were there because their families have engaged in ministries in the parish. The conclusion was that the ministries were all connected through all of the families involved.

"We strategized and realized that if we are going to prioritize families in the Church, we need to give parents opportunities for fellowship, formation, and support to be able to serve as the primary catechists of their children," Paul says.

The answer was the official formation of the Family Ministry on March 1, 2020.

"On that day, my job title changed to include Family Ministry," Paul says.

Unfortunately, just 12 days later, parish life shut down due to COVID restrictions.

"We haven't fulfilled the entire vision we have for the ministry yet, but we were able to host outdoor Adoration and invited families to come and opened it up to the whole parish," Paul says.

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## THE BIBLE

*The Textbook of Stewardship*

**H**ave you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be!

Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there *is* such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, conveyed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have taken possession and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land the LORD, your God, is giving you; put them in a basket and go to the place which the LORD, your God, will choose as the dwelling place for his name... ‘Now, therefore, I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, LORD, have given me.’ You shall set them before the LORD, your God, and you shall bow down before the LORD, your God” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touched on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind

the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefitted from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church — St. Paul — preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of Who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.



*A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator*

## Pentecost: *The "Birth" of Stewardship*

Dear Saints,

**A**s we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on May 23, which is one of the most significant events in the life of the Church, I can't help but relate the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples as "the birth of stewardship."

As a stewardship parish, we have come to understand it in our personal lives and our parish life as the work of the Holy Spirit, active and inspiring us to be the disciples Jesus called us to be, just as He did those very first disciples. It just makes sense to once again realize and acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit in our decisions to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

As every parent knows, birth brings new life to every family, and the "birth of stewardship" here in our parish has brought new life to us, personally and communally, and continues to do so. We had a "Pentecost event" when the message of stewardship was first brought to our parish, and it hasn't been the same since. Many curious people of our parish and from around the country ask the question, "How did all of this begin?" The only answer is, "moved by conversion, we knew stewardship was going to be the 'plan' for our future as disciples and as a parish." It makes sense.

For some, like me, it took a conversion of sorts to move us from unbelievers to believers, and from fear or suspicion to courage and confidence in the values and ideals of stewardship. Reading the accounts of the Acts of the Apostles, it wasn't much different for them. Their experience is our experience and continues to encourage us to be open to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. That "Spirit" renews the "Pentecost event" in each of us, as we practice discipleship as we know it through the stewardship way of life.

Also, as with each new birth, the life that begins needs to be nourished, nurtured and loved. Through our understanding of the four pillars of parish stewardship — hospitality, prayer,



formation and service — we each are called to nourish, nurture and love our parish family with the gifts we bring to each other. And without ever really knowing how much of an impact we have on each other's spiritual lives, we trust the Holy Spirit to continue the "good work of faithful stewardship" in each of us and in those around us. Isn't that what the first Pentecost event started, and isn't that what you see in our parish, especially since our own "birth of stewardship"?

God has blessed our parish family and continues to do so, as the Holy Spirit continues to pour out gifts upon us and send us forth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we grow and mature in our stewardship efforts, how fortunate we are that the stewardship way of life has become our way of life. May we always give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit's gift to each of us — for, when we do, it seems only natural to be inspired to live discipleship as it was intended to be lived in the first disciples and in each of us.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Alfonse*

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro  
Pastoral Administrator





## Sharing the Mission: OUR ALL SAINTS

In a parish, there are many different ministries, serving many different purposes. Some of them are behind the scenes and some are more visible. Some are big and some are small. Some serve right here on our campus, and others bring God's love out into the world. However, at the heart of all these ministries is a desire to share God's love and fulfill the mission of All Saints in our community.

And although it might not always be the first "ministry" to come to mind — especially as it doesn't share a physical location with our parish — All Saints Catholic School is a significant outreach of our community, both regarding the number of people it serves, as well as the importance of its purpose of educating children in the faith. With this in mind, the School Advisory Council, or SAC, is a group of parents and sometimes other parishioners, who serve to ensure that our school is living its call to spread the beauty of our faith and the heart of All Saints' charism.

"[The school] is a ministry of the parish and we're trying to make sure we're aligned in how our ministry should be carried out," says Tony Lenhoff, who currently serves as the SAC President.

The parent of an All Saints graduate, as well as a current student, Tony has spent the past eight years serving on the School Advisory Council. Similar to the parish Pastoral Advisory Council, the School Advisory Council works alongside the school leadership to represent a variety of perspectives and expertise regarding the visioning and implementation of plans within the school community. Most members commit to a three-year term of service, to have members who can represent students of a variety of different grade levels. The Principal and Pastor are present at the SAC's monthly meetings, as well as a representative of the Parish Advisory Council.

From events and finances to facilities and curriculum, the SAC helps to make decisions that allow our school to flourish. Recently, the SAC was involved with bringing the new STEAM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math — lab to our school, as well as working to unify students from our school and religious education programs, in aspects of sacramental preparation. This past year, we were called upon to help ensure a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Next year, the School Advisory Council will also be involved with our re-accreditation process.





## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tony is grateful for how the parish has continually supported the mission of the school and hopes that parishioners will continue to take an active interest in how this important ministry seeks to form and invest in our youth, both academically and spiritually.

“This is a big ministry for the parish, and sometimes people don’t even know the school exists because we’re not physically on the site of the parish,” Tony says. “We have this awesome school — let’s all make sure we continue to get those benefits we signed up for when we built it.

“Please be comfortable to reach out to me or other council members to express thoughts or ideas of how we, at All Saints,

can make Catholic education stronger in our parish,” he adds. “Collectively, if we’re making sure we’re gathering as many interests as possible into these discussions, then we’re more likely to make better decisions for the school moving forward. We’re a ministry and we’re trying to make sure we’re not just delivering an education, but that we’re promoting the faith, as well.”

The School Advisory Council is currently soliciting new members to begin the new fiscal year in July. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to work with our school and parish staff to help guide and support the mission of the school.

If you would like more information on the All Saints School Advisory Council, or to find out how you can become involved in supporting our parish school, please contact President Tony Lenhoff at [sac@allsaintsprek8.org](mailto:sac@allsaintsprek8.org). For more information about All Saints Catholic School, please visit <https://www.allsaintsdallas.org/school/>.





## The May Crowning *Celebrating the Coronation of Mary*

For many Catholics, May Crownings of statues or icons of the Blessed Mother have become rites of spring. Like flowers blooming or Mother’s Day, this annual Marian devotion reminds us that the cold of winter is behind us, and it ushers in a month during which the Catholic Church pays special homage to Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God.

Generally taking place during the first weekend of the month, May Crownings bring children — often, recent First Communicants — out in their Sunday best to participate in processions and adorn statues of the Blessed Mother with crowns of flowers or actual gold crowns. Additionally, the children often place roses at her feet, and Catholics carry out similar practices in their homes by placing roses around statues of the Blessed Virgin, or even adding ornamentation to images of Mary. But where did this practice come from, and how did it develop into the tradition that we currently know and love?

The Coronation of Mary had been a popular subject in European art and literature for centuries, but the tradition of the May Crowning can be most accurately traced back to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps inspired by the practice of adding ornamentation to Marian icons that had been carried out by

some Eastern churches, Pope Clement VIII added two crowns to the icon of Mary with the Infant Jesus in the St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. The crowns were eventually lost, but were replaced by Gregory XVI in 1837 in a rite that was to become the standard practice for crowning.

While the May Crowning is not an official liturgical celebration on the Church calendar, it is an important practice in honoring Mary as the Queen of the Universe, and its imagery is especially influential in the faith formation of children. As Liz Kelly writes in *May Crowning, Mass, and Merton and Other Reasons I Love Being Catholic*, “One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. I favor no Marian celebration more highly than May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title, but to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown?”

This year, make a special effort to honor the coronation of Mary through participation in a personal or public May Crowning devotion.



### *Bring Flowers of the Rarest*

*Bring flow’rs of the fairest,  
Bring flow’rs of the rarest,  
From garden and woodland  
And hillside and vale;  
Our full hearts are swelling,  
Our glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest  
Rose of the vale.*

*O Mary! we crown thee  
with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels,  
Queen of the May,  
O Mary! we crown thee  
with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels,  
Queen of the May.*



## The Pastoral Advisory Council: *Serving as Christ's Hands in the World*

The Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC) is a small group of dynamic parishioners who work directly with Fr. Alfonse to determine how the parish can be most effective in carrying out its total mission of serving as Christ's hands in the world and spreading God's love.

This past September, PAC began its year with a session in which the members, with Fr. Alfonse's guidance, prayerfully discerned that its work should be focused on the relaunch of the parish as we navigate the post-COVID era. Specifically, this year's projects were directed to the design of a celebration event for the whole parish community once restrictions are lifted, and also on ways we can encourage parishioners to re-engage with their faith and parish community in the longer term. In its advisory role, PAC also generally provides and forwards observations about the parish community, serving as additional sets of "eyes and ears" on matters large and small. PAC also provides ex officio representatives to the Finance Council and the School Advisory Council.

PAC projects in previous years included a survey of our many ministries at the parish, introducing the Career Ministry and the Medical Ministry, improving the Sunday Mass experience, initiating the Father's Day Brunch (pre-COVID), and suggesting improvements for the Youth Ministry, among others.

Despite the difficulties that COVID and the February Freeze brought this year, PAC regularly met each month, whether in-person or virtually. As the current PAC year draws to a close, we recognize its members serving this past year: Rod Anderson (Chair), Andy Garcia (Vice Chair), Marissa Walton (Secretary), Alex Acuña, Anne Connally, Catherine Foxworth, John Furton, Bob Jansen, Ron Kwiat, David Leininger, Lucy Morantes, Rita Reis, and Garice Schneider.

The Pastoral Advisory Council is now seeking new members for its new term beginning in September 2021. As members of PAC serve rotating three-year terms, there will be up to five openings for the new term. Candidates for election to the Council must:

- Be enthusiastic and willing to actively serve on various strategic projects
- Have been a member of All Saints Catholic Community for at least one year
- Be Safe Environment cleared
- Be available to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Be willing to collaborate with a servant's heart and mind

Those with good skills in strategic planning, project planning, and communications are especially needed.

***"I was interested in joining the PAC last year to faithfully serve my community, as well as help ensure that All Saints Parish remains a thriving Catholic community for future generations. As a mother of young kids and a teenager, I wanted to have input on ways to appeal to families and remain relevant in an ever-changing environment."*** — MARISSA WALTON, CURRENT PAC SECRETARY

If you are interested in serving, please complete the application at [www.allsaintsdallas.org/PACApp](http://www.allsaintsdallas.org/PACApp) by June 4. If you have questions or wish to obtain more information, please email [PAC@allsaintsdallas.org](mailto:PAC@allsaintsdallas.org). For more information, or to bring something to the attention of the Pastoral Advisory Council, feel free to email us at [PAC@allsaintsdallas.org](mailto:PAC@allsaintsdallas.org), or leave a message at the Pastoral Office (972-661-9282) and a member of PAC will contact you.



# ALL SAINTS

## The Family Ministry *continued from front cover*

In the meantime, Paul and Kathy McDermott, Director of Religious Education, collaborated to develop a Family Catechesis program that was held once a month this past year and gives opportunities for families to come together for formation and fellowship.

Additionally, Paul and his ministry team have created video content resources and podcasts to offer parishioners access to different forms of worship, catechesis, and formation from home. The Sunday Reflections series, weekly Coffee Chats, and the *Lenten Return* podcast have all been very well received by parishioners.

“We’re currently working on our programming for this summer and the fall, and are excited to have more opportunities to connect with families in the parish,” Paul says.

As the Family Ministry activities are further developed and put into action, they will help our families strengthen their faith to live out their calling to be a domestic church. This support can come from families having the opportunity to meet together in small groups to share their struggles and blessings, and support each other.

“During Mass, we only get to see families for one hour a week,” Paul says. “So we have to find ways to help families celebrate the faith in the home the other hours of the week.”



While the parents’ role in a Christian family is to lead their children into a relationship with God and raise them to be saints, Paul also sees the role that children play in helping their parents grow in the faith.

“The whole family can lift each other to eventual sainthood,” Paul says.

This focus on support for the family is not limited to All Saints Parish — Pope Francis has also called for a World Meeting of Families at the Vatican in 2022, with the last held in Dublin in 2018. These meetings are held every three years, but the meeting slated for this year was postponed.

“We see this focus from the Church about how we can support families,” Paul says. “It’s not just at All Saints — there is a global Catholic movement to build the Domestic Church and support it.”

***“We see this focus from the Church about how we can support families. It’s not just at All Saints — there is a global Catholic movement to build the Domestic Church and support it.”***

— PAUL BIANCHI

Registration for Family Ministry activities should begin on May 23 on our website at [www.allsaintsdallas.org](http://www.allsaintsdallas.org). In the meantime, those wanting more information may email Paul Bianchi at [pbianchi@allsaintsdallas.org](mailto:pbianchi@allsaintsdallas.org).

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

Current Mass Schedule

**Weekday Liturgy:** Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. | 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.