



# ALL SAINTS

*A Stewardship Parish*

*Volume 18, Issue 8*

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*Our Parish Newsletter:*

*Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.*

## All Saints Catholic School Ready for New Academic Year

### *Teaching the Whole Child For the Glory of God*

**A**s All Saints Catholic School Principal Shana Druffner puts it, our school is “the biggest and most important way to evangelize to the next generation. In faith and academics, every subject is taught with a Catholic worldview. It’s an outgrowth of the All Saints commitment to evangelization.”

Mrs. Druffner is ready for a new school year, along with all the promises and excitement it brings, and looks forward to opening the campus to visitors, parents, volunteers, and speakers.

“We can’t wait to have parents back on campus, experiencing all the things, like the plays and pageants, that we had to stream for them,” she says.

Although the last year certainly presented challenges, Mrs. Druffner is grateful for finding new ways to do some important things. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were staggered drop-off and pick-up times, as well as pre-recorded morning announcements. These revisions will continue for the upcoming school year. Students and staff will also continue the handwashing techniques they practiced last school year.

For the upcoming school year, there will not be a virtual learning option. The students will also be able to use the flexible seating options and move around the room for collaborative work, instead of being spread out.



*Students gather for playground fun during the 2020-2021 school year.*

# WHY AM I *HERE?*

AN INTRODUCTION FROM COLIN CAMPBELL



The addition of a President to the model of school leadership is one that many secondary schools have adopted for years, and recently, more and more primary/middle schools have begun to see the benefits. At its core, the President's role involves leading the school's Leadership Team, managing the business operations of the school, and growing the capacity (both financial and otherwise) of our school to serve our students. As the President, I report directly to Fr. Jovita and am charged with leading the school at the highest level, a role that I'm truly excited to take on. Shana and the entire team have done tremendous work. The mission of ASCS exists beautifully in the four pillars of Excellence in Academics, Faith, Character and Service; in the Profile of an All Saints Graduate; and in the student experience as it is today. Thank you to each and every member of the team.

The next step is to take this internal work and turn it external, ensuring that not only parents and parishioners are

united in this work, but that the support system diversifies and expands. I'm looking forward to taking the success stories from the core work of the school and channeling them towards improving marketing, growing enrollment, and actively fundraising outside of the school.

I would also like to ask for your help. First, I would ask for your prayers — we truly cannot do this work

alone. Secondly, I would ask for your patience as the fruit of this change may not come all at once. Lastly, I want to get to know you. Please come introduce yourself and come visit us at the school.

All Saints Catholic School is a phenomenal ministry of the Church and is changing the lives of students every day. Thank you for welcoming me into that mission.





*A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator*

## What Are You Going to Do With Your Life?

Dear Saints,

**W**e are called to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is our calling — stewardship is the way we are to live the life we have been given. I don't think we believers would or should argue the point. It begins with our Baptism and our new life as members of the Church. There are no questions about it, even though we may not always remember that we have been called to discipleship — it is a lifelong process, and we are all works in progress. But please remember, we are God's "works" that evolve moment by moment, day by day, and year after year.

To get more specific, we need to not only understand that stewardship is the expression of discipleship, but it is also the way in which we are to live our life. It is not a program — it is a way of life. I suppose at least once in our lifetime, we have been asked, "What are you going to do with your life?" Usually, that will happen at graduation, and how many of us have followed the path we thought we would at that time in our life? Perhaps we replied with a certain profession that may have interested us at the time. But there is always more to our answer than the title of a profession, just as there is more to our lives than just breathing. How do we use the gifts God has given to us? How we do so will define the life we live for God and the Church. That is our call to discipleship. It is how we should understand stewardship.

Many people ask me why I am so convinced that stewardship is a way of life. The simple answer I give is always the easy one and the most practical. My life as a faithful steward makes sense. The story of Christianity is filled with people like you and me who wonder and desire how to live as a disciple of Jesus



Christ. It is what we are to do with our lives. Our attitude must be formed to spend the time and the talents we have, to do our part for God's Church. When does that become our priority? When does it become our way of life? These are the questions any believer must ask themselves when we think about our relationship with God, His Church, and the people around us. But, throughout my time in life as a priest, stewardship as my way of life makes sense and is more than possible with what God has

given me to work with. It is the same with each of us. I am grateful for what God has given me and thankful I can live my life as His disciple. I say that not just as a priest, but as a baptized member of His family. I am thankful my parents brought me to be baptized a Christian and begin a life that would lead me, like all of us, to be the disciple we are called to be.

When we were baptized, no one asked us, "What are you going to do with your life?" If my parents and Godparents understood why we were all there, it should have been clear that we are all to be faithful stewards of all that God provides, beginning with the gift of life. That is why stewardship as a way of life is in my mind, heart and soul. That, too, was a gift from God for which I am most grateful. This is my calling, and "this" is what I am going to do with the rest of my life. What will you do with yours?

Remain Ever Blessed,

Fr. Jovita Okoli  
Pastoral Administrator



# ADULT BIBLE STUDIES: *Taking Up the*

When we turn to God's Word, we are radiated with the supernatural Light of Christ, armed with His weapons of grace, and bathed in His Divine Mercy.

"In Romans, we learn about the importance of being transformed by the renewal of your mind, and reflecting on the Word of God with others helps you expand your understanding," says RCIA Coordinator Sister Mary Paul Haase. Sometimes, we may not be trained on how to hear God speaking to us at Mass, and feel distant from it. However, if someone takes the time to study God's Word, they are more open to hear Him speaking to them. Then they can see what He may be leading them to do in their life."

Thanks to the Adult Bible Studies at All Saints, all of our parishioners have the opportunity to be inspired and uplifted by the power of God's Word. The studies are overseen by Sr. Mary Paul Haase, who looks out for parishioners who have shown interest in participating. She tries to let them know which studies are coming up,

especially if they have indicated their interest on their stewardship commitment card. The studies are facilitated by various parishioners at different times throughout the year. They can last anywhere from about eight to 24 weeks, and take place at our parish, usually in the St. Theresa Room.

The studies cover a wide variety of biblical themes and books, usually making use of materials from Ascension Press. For example, this past summer they offered an Ascension Press study called *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*, which featured a video with the dynamic speaker Jeff Cavins as well as an accompanying workbook. On July 29, Carol Potter began facilitating a study on the Letter to the Romans on Thursday evenings.

"We usually utilize Ascension Press materials because they are so easy to use," Sr. Mary Paul Haase says. "Because the materials include a workbook and videos they can access online, participants feel that they



*The Bible studies deepen understanding of our faith in community.*



*Parishioners study the Bible timeline in an eight-week course.*



*Study leader Frank Coy inspires the group discussion.*



## Powerful Sword of God's Word

can still do the study from home, even if they can't make every meeting. Each person who signs up for a course receives a digital workbook, as well as access to the videos that go with the course for an entire year. It is perfect for busy moms, and those who can't always get out or stay for long meetings."

Participants are asked to read the assigned chapters of the Bible and reflect on them at home in preparation for the upcoming meeting. At the meeting, they discuss the material and then watch the video together.

"They are supposed to spend time reading the Word of God themselves to see what God is saying to them personally,"

Sr. Mary Paul Haase says. "This helps them deepen their prayer life and become more confident in their understanding of the Catholic faith. They can also watch the videos with other members of their household. It is set up that way so they can share the Catholic faith with other people in their lives."

As our parish recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Adult Bible Studies continue to be a source of hope and peace.

"People have been telling me how rich these studies really are, and how nice it is to see people again," Sr. Mary Paul Haase says. "They say they didn't realize how much fellowship and the Word of God means to them."

Adults of all ages are more than welcome to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity to explore God's magnificent love letter to His people! To sign up for a study, please contact Sr. Mary Paul Haase at 972-778-0326 or [mhaase@allsaintsdallas.org](mailto:mhaase@allsaintsdallas.org). Terri Gorman will be offering a study called Matthew: The King and His Kingdom on Tuesday mornings beginning Sept. 7. For further information on the studies, visit <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/popular-studies>.



*Participants read, pray over and reflect upon the Word of God.*



*Participants reflect on the lessons of the study.*



*The course includes assigned Scripture readings with an accompanying workbook, as well as group sharing of reflections and a video component.*



## Newcomer Welcome Committee: *Helping New Parishioners Find*



**W**hen a family is new to a parish, they might think they are just numbers added to the list of parishioners. But here at All Saints Parish, our Newcomer Welcome Committee makes sure no one entertains that thought. The ministry reaches out to our new members to help them find their community at the parish and find a place to grow deeper in their faith.

Summer Brown, one of our Resource Management Staff members, is leading the committee and is working to continue the ministry's mission to be the first to make a connection with each new parishioner.

"Growing toward holiness is the primary goal of any Catholic Christian, but we are not intended to do this walk alone," Summer says. "So often with the hustle of life, it can be difficult to find a place to grow deeper in your faith. The purpose of the Newcomer Welcome Committee is to invite and introduce new parishioners to the groups appropriate

to their family's needs, so that they may find their community at the parish. We hope that All Saints will be more than a building to all our parishioners, but a home and a family."

The Newcomer Welcome Committee currently is made up of several staff members and volunteers. The committee makes the initial contacts with new families and helps with the logistics and tasks of holding the committee's quarterly receptions for new families.

"Anyone can be involved," Summer says. "Whether they would like to be more actively involved as a member of the committee, or take a moment of their time to say 'hello' to the new families at the reception, all parishioners can welcome newcomers."

With the concept that "home" is essentially a place of growth, the Newcomer Welcome Committee hopes to introduce new parishioners to different ministries and activities where they can feel at home and best achieve spiritual growth. The committee accomplishes this through the Newcomer Welcome Program. This consists of mailing a Welcome Packet to new parishioners, recognizing them in the bulletin, contacting them with a follow-up phone call, and inviting them to a quarterly breakfast reception after Mass where they can meet our staff, have questions answered, and enjoy fellowship.

Stewardship is woven firmly within the fabric of the Newcomer Welcome Committee.

"Stewardship in practice is each of us returning a portion of our time, talent, and treasure back to God and His community, in gratitude for the gifts He has given us," Summer says. "To build and sustain a community, every individual needs to feel a sense of trust and comfort, and for each person to know that they truly

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## Community and Home at Our Parish

belong. Implicit in stewardship is the act of caring. We can care for the well-being of our church by giving all who walk through our doors a welcoming embrace and showing kindness. Hospitality is the cornerstone for building the kingdom of God here on earth.”

One doesn't have to be a member of the committee to offer a welcome to newcomers. Summer asks us to show love and kindness.

“We are all children of God's family and called to love one another, as Jesus Christ instructed us to do,” Summer says.



Anyone with questions about the Newcomer Welcome Committee may call the parish office at 972-661-9282.

## Ready for New Academic Year

*continued from front cover*

“One thing we learned is that at this age level, it is important to be in the classroom, with a teacher, to be engaged,” Mrs. Druffner says.

What's more, the school will undergo the state accreditation process in February, and will also continue with the diocesan curriculum which has been followed for the past two school years. Many schools in the diocese are starting the new curriculum this year.

Along with all that is new this year, the quality education that students receive at All Saints Catholic School will remain uncompromised. Mrs. Druffner wants to invite everyone to get involved at the school — help is always welcome for tutoring or reading to students. In addition, parents often volunteer on the playground or in the lunchroom.

The year kicks off with Back to School Night and orientation on Aug. 4

for the upper grades and Aug. 5 for the lower grades. On Aug. 7, there will be a “welcome back” event with bounce houses, music, and a hot dog dinner.

Mrs. Druffner says she is excited and welcomes all new families, students, and staff to All Saints.

“This year, we will focus on the theme of a culture of belonging,” she says. “We want everyone who walks through our doors to know they belong.”

To learn more about All Saints Catholic School, please visit [www.allsaintsdallas.org/school](http://www.allsaintsdallas.org/school)



# ALL SAINTS

## Pope St. Pius X: A Modern Traditionalist

On Aug. 21, the Church commemorates the feast of a great saint — St. Pius X, the peasant boy who became the Vicar of Christ. St. Pius X is a wonderful saint for our times because he effectively and definitively worked for a balance between upholding the Tradition and Faith of the Church and adapting to the Modern Age.

St. Pius X — Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto — was born in 1835, one of eight children in an impoverished peasant family. He pursued God’s call on him to the priesthood from an early age. Even as a young priest, he possessed great personal and pastoral skills. In addition to his deep holiness and virtue, St. Pius had a passion for defending and preserving the truth of the faith, which he carried with him into his pontificate.

As pope, he gave as his motto: “*Instaurare Omnia in Christo*” — “to restore all things in Christ” — a mission proclaimed not a moment too soon.

Already in Europe, secular governments, social institutions, and the mass media were driving the faith out of public life and education, all the while upholding individual freedom — understood as unlimited license — as the ultimate good. Worst of all, these philosophies had made their way into the minds of many clergy and Catholic laity, who claimed that modern science had discredited many dogmas of the Church. They proposed a new Christianity based what they called the “religious experience,” a continually changing and evolving human experience that would in turn continually transform the meaning of Catholic teachings. The problem was that the new teachings proposed by these



modernists contradicted the very foundations of the faith established by Jesus Christ.

Fortunately, the Holy Father saw through the modern theories immediately and exposed the false doctrines, all the while acting with extreme discretion and pastoral charity. Pope Pius X reminded us that God, the Author of both faith and reason, and in Whom there is no contradiction, cannot allow science and true religion to contradict. Moreover, he declared that all the essential teachings of the Catholic faith and of Scripture could be defended rationally, and he

encouraged the faithful to study the faith and read the Scriptures daily.

While Pius X spent much of his pontificate defending Catholic dogma from the threat of Modernism, he recognized the need for legitimate modern reforms within the Church. For instance, he initiated the codification of Canon Law, because the laws of the Church had little organization up to that time. He reformed the administrative offices of the Church. He also reformed the Liturgical Calendar, giving precedence back to the Sunday liturgies, which were too often being trumped by celebration of the daily saint’s feast. Pius X initiated a renewal in liturgical music, as well, bringing back Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony to their primary place within the liturgy.

Two of this saint’s most noted acts are reassigning the time of First Communion of children to the age of reason (about 7 years), and advising and promoting daily Communion, saying, “Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven.”

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### 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.