



January 2019

# ALL SAINTS

*A Stewardship Parish*

*Volume 16, Issue 1*

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*Our Parish  
Newsletter:*

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

*A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator*

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Dear Saints,

**A**s we arrive at the New Year, it is customary that we make resolutions, which hopefully will be carried out during the course of the year. So many times these resolutions pertain to our physical lives — we resolve to exercise more, build a healthier diet, become more organized, etc. These resolutions may also involve the mental aspect of our lives — reading more, attending more cultural events, and so forth.

Too often we forget about the spiritual part of our lives. Our souls need to be tended to, and we need to make sure that we are deepening our relationship with God throughout the entire year.

I would like to give you a list of possible spiritual resolutions. While it might seem difficult for one person to undertake *all* of these, hopefully anyone can try several of these resolutions at one time or a number of them throughout the year.

- Attend Mass once a week over and above weekend liturgies.
- Spend a hour (or any amount of time) in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament once a week.
- Pray the *Liturgy of the Hours* (the *Divine Office*) at least once a day.
- Read and meditate on a chapter of Scripture a day.
- Take up a devotion of the Church (e.g. Rosary, Stations, novena, other prayers, etc.) and pray it daily.
- Read a spiritual book once a month.
- Make a morning offering as you begin your day, then an examination of conscience as you end your day.
- Offer a prayer of blessing/thanksgiving before/after a meal.
- Take time to pray daily with your spouse/family.



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## Embracing the Wonderful Opportunities to Give and Receive this New Year

**T**his is the time of year when we traditionally commit ourselves to new resolutions and goals. We look back upon the past and make new plans to do things like commit to a healthier diet or develop a new exercise regime, all in the hopes of increasing our overall wellbeing and happiness. Similarly, says Parish Administrator Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro, the New Year is the ideal time to reflect anew upon our stewardship calling, while recalling ways we've given of ourselves in the past and opening our hearts anew to avenues of growth and service.

"When you think about it, New Year's resolutions are all about us trying to be happy, trying to be happier with who we are," Fr. Alfonse says. "And, yes, there's a physical aspect to that. But more importantly, there is a spiritual aspect to all this — the ability to be able to look beyond ourselves, to know that the more we give the more we receive. Otherwise, our plans and resolution remain kind of flat."

Assisting parishioners in this process, Fr. Alfonse hopes to continue growing our parish's ministry offerings this year, paying particular attention to the needs identified through recent surveys. Following the hiring of a parish young adult minister, Fr. Alfonse hopes to better engage and include young adults in the life of the community. Plans have also been made to revamp the Faith Formation program so as to better impart the faith to our younger members. And lastly, Fr. Alfonse

hopes to offer more frequent opportunities for parish fellowship and formation.

"The more we can connect and draw together as a parish, the stronger we will be in serving the faith community," he says.

An important part of this as well, adds Fr. Alfonse, is personally inviting others to join in one or more of All Saints' many ministries. This helps bring new life into the parish and reminds parishioners that their particular talents and skills are needed.

"We're really trying to get away from simply getting up in the podium and making a general call for help," Fr. Alfonse says. "We're trying to take greater advantage of the network that we have and to personally invite people to become part of our ministries — to remind them that their talent, their hobbies, their work, what they do can truly benefit a great deal more than just themselves and their families."

So as we welcome and make our plans for the New Year, let us also consider what new spiritual commitments we're being called to make in 2019 and beyond. How are we being called to grow and serve others?

"Though it's good to have personal resolutions, this is the time for each to consider how we are being called to change and grow spiritually," Fr. Alfonse says. "How can I make a greater impact, which will in turn make me happier and healthier? For it really is true that the more we give, the more we receive."



*An Important and Exciting Announcement for our All Saints Catholic School Community*

## Mrs. Shana Druffner Selected as Principal

Dear Families in Christ,

According to the mission of our school, "All Saints Catholic School exists to instill the values of faith, family, and education in a challenging academic environment with the Catholic Church as the foundation and Christ as the model." In order to fulfill the mission, All Saints needs a transformational, innovative, and faith-filled servant leader who, along with the Pastor, will bring vision to this mission.

It is my pleasure to announce the Principal Search Committee and School Advisory Council unanimously selected Mrs. Shana Druffner as our new principal. I have participated in many principal search committees. This is the first time I have witnessed all committee members supporting one candidate.

I know she will continue to do an outstanding job as the leader of our school. Her work ethic is unparalleled. In just six months, she has implemented programs and policies that have helped advance our commitment to excellence for our students. In a short period, Shana has demonstrated that she is always willing to listen and appreciate the concerns of our families, especially those of our students. As a lifelong member of our parish, she is wholeheartedly committed to our community.

One member of our Principal Search Committee said it best, "Shana is smart, humble, able to prioritize, diligent, hard-working and very relatable to all the constituents she will be serving in the capacity of school principal." Thank you so much for your patience, trust and unwavering support during these months of transition.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse

Fr. Alfonse  
Pastoral Administrator  
All Saints Catholic Community

Dear All Saints Family,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the good wishes, emails, gifts and flowers that I received in the past few days. It is my privilege to serve as the principal of All Saints Catholic School. I am truly humbled by this honor and pledge to serve our students, faculty, staff and community to the best of my ability every day. My door is always open.

All Saints Catholic School is a special place that I have called home for the last 20 years. At the staff party, I told my colleagues that it is our shared commitment to developing excellence in each of our students that makes the journey wonderful. We love your children as if they were our own. We want each child to be the person that our Lord intended him or her to be. It is a special gift to watch these children mature, learn, and grow in the love of God, His creation, and one another.

I wish each of you the love and peace of the Christ Child. May 2019 be filled with much happiness, joy, good health and prosperity.

Yours in Christ,

Shana Druffner  
Principal  
All Saints Catholic School







## *A Time of Gratitude and Service:* CELEBRATING CATHOLIC



As the holidays have wound down and things begin to go back to life “as usual,” there is one more celebration that we’re preparing for here at All Saints Catholic School.

“Catholic Schools Week is a time for our students to celebrate the fact that they are privileged to go to a Catholic school,” says school principal Shana Druffner. “It’s a time to pause and think, ‘I’m so lucky to go here,’ to thank our teachers and parents and volunteers who make it possible, and to give back to the community.”

This year, Catholic Schools Week will take place January 28 through February 2. The week kicks off with a special Mass, on Sunday, January 27, at 11 a.m. in the church.

“The school kids are involved in pretty much every aspect of the Mass,” Mrs. Druffner says. “Our entire orchestra plays for the Mass, our students serve as lectors and gift bearers, ushers and cantors. It’s really neat for our kids to be involved, and we also get alumni involved in the Mass.”

Student ambassadors will also serve as greeters outside of Mass, and following Mass, they will serve breakfast to the parishioners in the Fellowship Hall.

The week itself is filled with fun activities, honoring various groups within the school.

“Every day we pick a different group and we celebrate them,” Mrs. Druffner says, explaining that there’s a day for students, a day for parents and volunteers, and a day for teachers.

Service is also an important pillar of All Saints Catholic School, and during Catholic Schools Week, the whole school is united in service.

“We tell the kids that the aim of the Christian life is service,” Mrs. Druffner says. “For Catholic Schools Week, we’re looking at partnering with Feed My Starving Children, donating lots of dried goods and assembling them into huge bins of food that get shipped overseas. It’s a great way for a lot of kids to participate at once.”

Mrs. Druffner emphasizes that Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate what is at the heart of the school all year long.



# SCHOOLS WEEK AT ALL SAINTS

“Christ is at the center, and we tell the kids that the whole point of going to school here is to enter into a personal relationship with Christ,” says Mrs. Druffner, who has been part of the All Saints community for the past 20 years — first as a parent, then as a teacher, as Director of School and now as School Principal.

“I love our school,” she adds. “It’s a really special place, because the aim for us is the development of the whole child. The human formation that the kids

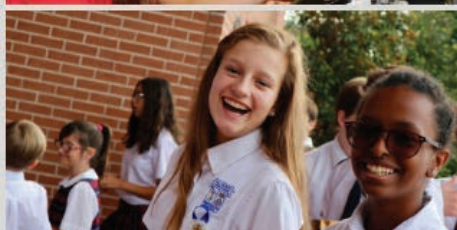
get here from the time they’re Pre-K3 through when they leave at 14, it’s really comprehensive. I love that the kids and families are growing together and the center is Christ. We’re just so grateful to God to be able to have a Catholic school and to provide a Catholic education.”

Interested families are encouraged to attend our Open House, held on Wednesday, January 23 at 8:30 a.m.

“Come check out what a difference Catholic education can make in the life of a young person,” Mrs. Druffner says.



If you would like more information on admissions, or to schedule a private tour, please contact Admissions Coordinator Viviana Stanford at 214-217-3303.



All Saints Catholic School  
*Act Honorably. Live Virtuously. Seek Truth.*

Join us for an  
informational Open House  
and experience the  
All Saints Difference

Wednesday, January 23,  
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

All Saints Catholic School  
7777 Osage Plaza Parkway  
Dallas, TX 75252

[www.AllSaintsPreK8.org](http://www.AllSaintsPreK8.org)





# FAITH AND SCIENCE

## *Can They Mix?*

There have long been scientists who claimed that their work was “incompatible” with faith in God. But as our world has become increasingly polarized, more and more people seem to believe that there must be a disconnect between faith and reason. For many scientists — and secular scholars in other fields, as well — religion and academics are deemed mutually exclusive. If something cannot be proven empirically, they posit, it is foolhardy to stake one’s life on it. And yet, this is exactly what we as Catholic Christians do — every time we say the word “amen,” in fact, we are declaring that we believe Church teachings to be an absolute truth.

So is all this to say that the Church really is “anti-science,” as some of its detractors claim? Certainly not! In fact, most people — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — would probably be very surprised to know just how many Catholic thinkers have played a major role in the development of modern scientific thought.

Most of us are familiar with some of the earliest scientific advances made by famous Catholic scholars like Copernicus, Galileo, Descartes, and Leonardo da Vinci. But fast-forward to the 19<sup>th</sup> century — when countless innovations in modern science began kicking into high gear — and the contributions made by Catholic scientists are astounding! For example, the Mercalli scale used to measure earthquakes was developed by an Italian Catholic volcanologist, Giuseppe Mercalli, at the turn of the last century. You may also remember some of the laws of Mendelian inheritance from your high school biology class — Augustinian friar and botanist Gregor Mendel first discovered these recessive

and dominant “factors” (which would later come to be called genes) in the 1800s, becoming the founder of genetics.

Of course, these are just a few of the more widely known examples. Those who work in the specific fields of physics and cosmology have several priests to thank for the incredible advances made in this area of study over the last century. Fr. Georges Lemaître was a Catholic priest living in Belgium during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A professor of astronomy and physics at the Catholic University of Leuven, Fr. Lemaître was the first scientist to propose the Big Bang theory — which he referred to as the “primeval atom” or the “Cosmic Egg” — and the theory of the expansion of the universe. Fr. Lemaître’s brilliant and meticulous research won over even the most skeptical scientists in his field — reportedly, upon hearing Fr. Lemaître present his theories at a conference in California, Albert Einstein declared, “This is the most beautiful and satisfactory explanation of creation to which I have ever listened.”

For Fr. Lemaître, who served as president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences from 1960 until his death in 1966, balancing the worlds of priesthood and cosmology research was not always easy. Sometimes, Catholic believers misunderstood his quest to discover the origin of the universe as a desire to put limits on God. On the other side, secular scientists questioned his ability to formulate theories of the universe objectively, suspecting that he was seeking to manipulate his scientific finds to fit them within Church teaching. In reality, Fr. Lemaître always advocated for a strict separation between science and faith, claiming that the Bible was not intended to be read as a science textbook and that “God



## Faith and Science *continued from previous page*

could not be reduced to a scientific hypothesis.” For this Catholic scientist, although faith and science may have each answered separate questions, they were certainly not incompatible.

In contrast to Lemaître’s careful separation of questions of science and faith, another famous physicist priest takes the opposite approach. Fr. Michal Heller, professor of philosophy at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Poland, and member of the Vatican Observatory staff, seeks to bring together the fields of science, philosophy, and theology. In an interview with *The New York Times* upon his receipt of the acclaimed Templeton Prize for science and religion in 2008, Heller explained: “I always wanted to do the most important things, and what can be more important than science and religion? Science gives us knowledge, and religion gives us meaning. Both are prerequisites of the decent existence.” Fr. Heller, whose current research focuses on general relativity and quantum mechanics, strives to study the known elements of science within the context of a universe that has an (empirically) unknowable God as its creator.

In a similar way, yet another scientist priest of the past century successfully reconciled science and faith in his life’s work. Fr.

Stanley Jaki (1924-2009) was a Hungarian Benedictine priest who held doctorates in theology and physics, and authored over 40 books in these fields —and in the history of science — during his lifetime. Fr. Jaki is perhaps best known for his claim that modern science and cosmology were only made possible through the Christian understanding of creation that took root in medieval Europe. Fr. Jaki believed that faith and science must work together, and he warned against the tendency of modern society to seek omniscience through scientific study, thus letting science take the place of God.

Certainly, the list of Catholic scientists who have deservedly become renowned in their fields of study is longer than most people probably imagine. Still today, scientists like astronomer Fr. George Coyne, former director of the Vatican Observatory and current professor at Le Moyne College in New York, continue to make significant contributions to the study of modern science worldwide. Contrary to those who may try to claim that faith and science are incompatible, the Church has proven over the centuries that understanding the science behind how our world works absolutely can — and *should* — go hand in hand with the pursuit of fully knowing and serving our God.

Are you interested in learning about the Church’s teachings on the relationship between faith and reason? The papal encyclicals *Humani Generis* and *Fides et Ratio* provide in-depth explorations of this important topic.

## Domestic Violence and the Faith Community

*More than 800 Texas women were killed by their current or former husbands or boyfriends from 1998 to 2006. Domestic violence shelters in Texas housed more than 38,000 adults and children per year between 1999 and 2006. All too often, domestic violence goes unreported, so the actual number of victims is probably much higher. In times of crisis, faith leaders and their communities are often the first to be contacted by an abused person or concerned family member. It is important to know the resources that are available to serve those who seek help.*

The above paragraph was taken from the Domestic and Family Violence Training available on our website — <http://www.allsaintsdallas.org/about-us/safe-environment/annual-update-options/> — as a Safe Environment update training option.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please call the Local 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline for resources at 972-423-7233 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. In an emergency, call 911.



# ALL SAINTS

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5231 Meadowcreek Drive  
Dallas, TX 75248  
(972) 661-9282

**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.*

**Weekday Liturgy:**

*Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, 9:00 a.m.*

Address Service Requested

## New Year's Resolutions *continued from front cover*

- As an individual or a family, take time once a week to do some form of charitable work — visiting those who are homebound or in a nursing home, do some work for an elderly friend or neighbor, bring food to someone in need, etc.

This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully it gives you an idea that the small things done with great love can make a world of difference — both in your life and the lives of others.

Do not try to overdo any of these, but build up to doing them on a regular basis, thus laying a reasonable foundation upon which to build. Enjoy doing these resolutions, and see what a blessing they are for you and others.

Let us pray that 2019 will be a year of grace and favor from God. I wish you and yours a very happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro  
Pastoral Administrator

