



April 2019

ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 16, Issue 4

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*Our Parish
Newsletter:*

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

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

Celebrating Easter with Gratitude

Dear Saints,

Easter Sunday arrives later this year — April 21. The method for determining the date of Easter was settled by the ancient Church according to a complicated formula that allows it to fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. However, most of us are content simply to look it up on a liturgical calendar!

One feature at this year's Easter celebration will be a dramatic contrast from what we have experienced in the winter months — the days will be noticeably longer.

As a matter of fact, the English word "Lent" is related to the Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to lengthen," for spring is the season when the days grow longer. Even though most Americans do not live in rural settings or agricultural environments like our ancestors did, we still find joy in the longer days that contrast with the early nightfall that we experienced at Christmas. So when Lent is over and Easter arrives, our spirits naturally delight as we leave the winter behind.

Don't get me wrong — I am not saying that Easter is some sort of spring festival. The central theme of the Christian festival of Easter is clear. It celebrates what happened over 2,000 years ago, when Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross and was raised back to life on the third day by God the Father. This event took place during the Jewish observance of Passover, which comes during the spring, which is why we celebrate Easter then.

So, then, we have two reasons to celebrate at Easter. Primary, of course, is our yearly remembrance of the victory of Jesus Christ over sin, Satan and death. But we can also rejoice in the coming of spring, which melts the snows of winter and brings us beautiful flowers in bloom.

In its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a definition of who a Christian steward is. It has several parts, but the first noted aspect is that a Christian steward is "one who receives God's gifts gratefully" (9). The bishops don't distinguish between gifts from God that are spiritual and ones that are material.



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Sharing God's Word with the Children of Our Parish at Vacation Bible School



All Saints is calling parishioners to gear up for a “wild” time this summer at our Vacation Bible School! This year’s VBS program, titled “ROAR! Life is Wild — God is Good,” introduces children to key Biblical concepts through a fun safari theme. And while VBS is offered for some of our youngest parishioners — from age 4 to rising fifth-graders — we welcome a diversity of volunteers, including teenagers and grandparents alike. As always, this year’s summer program promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience for all participants.

The leadership team bringing “ROAR!” to life at All Saints this year is made up of Kathy McDermott, Lisa Leyendecker, Jerilynn Putnam, Olivia Tanyadji and Lauren Tharpe.

Jerilynn, who has been a part of our summer VBS programs for about 10 years, loves the way that these programs bring all of our parish families together.

“In my heart, I call it the ‘extraordinary time,’ since in the summer it’s Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar, and for me VBS is *extraordinary* time,” Jerilynn says. “We are kind of in the summer doldrums, and then we have this great opportunity to get together — anyone from mothers with newborns to our 80-year-old senior who wants to be a part of it, too, as an adult volunteer.”

As in previous years, All Saints is using a Totally Catholic VBS program designed by *Our Sunday Visitor* that incorporates Biblical points and Catholic teachings. As always, a typical day is divided into several stations, or activities. Children will participate in the opening Sing and Play, Stampede Sports (gym games), Imagination Station (hands-on projects), Wild Bible Adventures (Bible story time), and Kid Vid Cinema, where they will watch short videos about the real lives of children living in different countries of Africa.

Following the program’s tagline, “Life is Wild — God is Good” each day will focus on God’s goodness as a constant in all life circumstances.



“We bring the Bible to life for the kids, and connect it to their everyday lives,” Jerilynn says. “Each Bible point we talk about is connected to a Bible verse, and to a song.”

The All Saints VBS can host up to 210 children, and typically involves about 150 volunteers sharing their time and talent with our parish to make this amazing program happen. VBS runs every morning for one week, from Monday through Thursday, with a family night on Thursday evening. There, the families of participants gather for dinner and experience together a modified version of day five of the VBS program.

Family night also features a speaker and a service project — for example, a food drive — which are tied in with the theme and mission of the week.

This year’s Vacation Bible School program takes place Monday through Thursday, June 24 to 27, from 9 a.m. until noon. Family night will be held on Thursday, June 27, from 6 to 8 p.m., and the closing Mass for the program will be on Sunday, June 30, at 9 a.m.

Are you interested in lending your time and talent to our Vacation Bible School program this summer? If so, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/ROARVBS> or contact Kathy McDermott (kmcdermott@allsaintsdallas.org or 972-778-0328). A nursery is offered for the children of volunteers ages 0 to 3 years. Stay tuned for more information in our church bulletins and on the All Saints website about registering your children for this year’s exciting Vacation Bible School program!



All Saints Catholic School Auction and Gala: A Successful Celebration!

By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

What a night! The All Saints Catholic School Auction and Gala was a great success raising over \$100,000 for our school. The celebration of everything All Saints was incredible and all the funds raised will go directly to supporting our students' education.

The planning and execution of an event of this scale is no small task, and I would like to recognize everyone who made this possible. Our Auction Co-Chairs Liz Greer and Gina Rauker worked tirelessly to ensure the event went well and organized a great team of volunteers. I would like to recognize the following people for their unending support of All Saints Catholic School and thank them for their part in making our auction successful.

AUCTION CO-CHAIRS

Elizabeth Greer and Gina Rauker

AUCTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Sylvia Windham, *Raffle Chair*

Colleen Marchetti, *Communication Chair*

Deirdre Williams, *Silent Auction Chair*

Lizanne Brandt, *Reservation Chair*

Mignon Finch and Jackie Ondracek,

Decoration Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Klingele and Christine Reynolds,
Invitation and Program Chairs

Thanks to the many people who donated and solicited items to make this auction a success and a special thank you to all of our sponsors, without whom we could not have held the event.

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Richard and Sylvia Windham

Celebrating Easter with Gratitude

continued from front cover

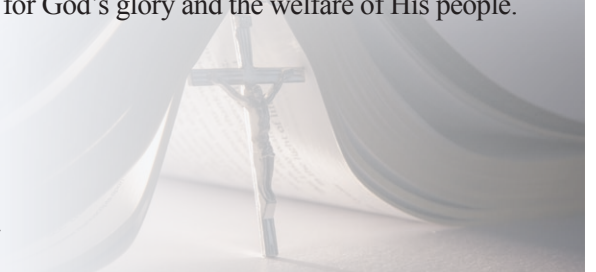
After all, "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). The first step in becoming a good steward is to receive what God gives, to recognize that these gifts come from God, and to be grateful for them.

So then, as we celebrate Easter with gratitude for what God continues to do for us in both the material and spiritual spheres, we can resolve to use all we have received — the time, the talent and the treasure entrusted to us, the beauty of the natural world, and the hope of eternal life — as stewards who use them for God's glory and the welfare of His people.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator





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EMBRACING OUR EASTER IDENTITY THIS

Our beloved St. John Paul II once proclaimed: “We are the Easter people and alleluia is our song!” While these profound words certainly hold true every day of our lives, no matter the particular liturgical season, this is never more fully felt than during Holy Week — for it is then that we are uniquely able to experience the drama of our salvation, to receive a small taste of what the Church patriarchs felt during the centuries of waiting for the promised Messiah, or how the disciples felt following the agony of Good Friday on that first Holy Saturday.

“It is truly such a special time in our Church,” says Parish Administrator Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro. “It reminds us that living the way that Christ did is the best way to live your life. That we need to embrace the crosses of life, rather than fleeing from them because only then will we find lasting joy and peace.”

Holy Week officially begins each year with Palm Sunday where, like the people of Jerusalem, we welcome Christ into the church with palm branches. Yet, only minutes later we respond, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” in the passion narrative, forcing us to recognize our own sinfulness, which resulted in Christ’s suffering and death. From there, the drama further unfolds with the Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies, taking us through the Last Supper,

Christ’s suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, and ultimately His suffering and death. And in spiritually reliving these moments with Christ, we simultaneously find hope and consolation in our own personal tribulations and sorrows.

“I think we all have our dark night of the soul — our personal moments of anguish and loneliness,” Fr. Alfonse says. “But as we try to model our life in the image and likeness of Christ we are able to know that this new day can dawn.”

Then finally, after months of preparation and penance the anticipated Easter season officially begins with the Easter Vigil Mass. Always beginning after sunset, this year’s All Saints Vigil will take place on Saturday, April 20 at 8:30 p.m.

“The liturgy beautifully begins in total darkness, symbolizing a world without faith, hope and love,” Fr. Alfonse says. “But all it takes is one light to break the darkness — this



The Easter Vigil always begins after sunset so that the liturgy can symbolically begin in darkness. Here, the Easter Candle is lit for the first time, symbolizing the light of Christ entering the world.



Holy Week

overwhelming sense of hopelessness. It's amazing how that one light can destroy the darkness. Then, as one light can break the darkness, so also it enlightens those around, represented by the gradual lighting of the parishioners' candles throughout the church."

The Mass then progresses to the Liturgy of the Word, using numerous Old and New Testament readings to help us more fully appreciate God's perfect plan for salvation. Shortly after, the congregation is able to see the continued fruits of that plan through the reception of new candidates and catechumens into the Church.

"The readings go through salvation history, almost like an invitation from the Lord for us to become part of this great story," Fr. Alfonse says. "And then it's always so wonderful to see people take that leap of faith, choosing to become Catholic. Each year there are the Baptisms, Confirmations and First Holy Communions for some individuals."

This also provides parishioners with a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal, recommitting themselves to their own Baptismal promises alongside the candidates and catechumens. Thus, the Easter Vigil quite literally becomes an opportunity for spiritual rebirth as we cast aside our former selves in favor of the new disciple we've chosen to become.

"The hope is that a new person has been born by the end of those 40 days of Lent," Fr. Alfonse says. "Easter is a celebration of this new life. For me personally, then, this is a celebration of a well-fought battle during Lent and a time of hope that after the Easter Vigil a new man, a better person has been resurrected — a person formed in the image of Christ."



It's a beautiful sight to witness the church come to life as the light of Christ is shared with the congregation.



One of last year's catechumens receives the Sacrament of Baptism during the Easter vigil.



A candidate receives the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We invite all parishioners to join in the Holy Week liturgies, so as to finish the Lenten journey together and more fully celebrate our Easter identity. If you would like more information on service times, please check the back page of this newsletter or refer to the parish bulletin or our website <http://www.allsaintsdallas.org/masstimes>.



All Saints Parishioners Honored with Bishop's Service Awards

For eight years, the Bishop of Dallas has been annually honoring hundreds of parishioners from throughout the Diocese for their dedicated service to Christ's Church. This year's award ceremony occurred within a special Mass on Saturday, March 30, when Bishop Edward J. Burns personally awarded each recipient with a bronze medal. It was a concrete way for the bishop, in unity with the pastors, to say "thank you" for the oftentimes unseen service that they have done for the good of their parishes, fellow parishioners and the community.

Though there is no doubt that being chosen is a great honor for anyone, it is perhaps especially meaningful when you come from such a vibrant parish as All Saints. That's certainly how this year's recipients Ann Murphy and Chris Parsons felt when they first received the news that they had been chosen.

"I just felt so shocked, surprised and humbled!" Ann says. "[I felt] so honored, especially knowing that there are many, many other people at All Saints who put in a lot of volunteer time."

"It was such a big surprise to receive that letter," Chris says. "There are so many incredible people in the parish who do so much and I'm so privileged to see their good work. I felt deeply honored to be chosen for this award."

Ann has been a parishioner of All Saints since its inception. And though she's been involved in many different ministries and parish events over the years, her biggest undertaking by far has been chairing the annual Christmas Caring Tree for the parish. Ann is also a faithful member of the Outreach Ministry, Funeral Reception Committee and the All Saints Women's Organization, currently serving as president of the St. Anne's Circle. She also belongs to the Empty Nesters' Group and the Golden Saints, helps straighten up the church each Monday following the weekend Masses, and joyfully pitches in with big parish events like the annual Fall Fest.

"I just love All Saints and I love being a Catholic," Ann says. "I truly enjoy everything that I'm able to do there. Christ

tells us repeatedly in Scripture to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. These are just some of the ways we are trying to do that here at All Saints and I feel honored to be part of it."

Chris, meanwhile, is still relatively new to the All Saints community. He and his wife joined approximately three and a half years ago following a move from northern



Parishioner Ann Murphy with Bishop Edward J. Burns



Bishop's Service Awards *continued from page 6*

Virginia. They chose All Saints because of its uniqueness, feeling certain that this was a parish where they could easily meet people and become involved.

"We knew this would be a place where we could easily become involved and engaged in the parish — that it would really be a great place for us to quickly become part of a community and start making a difference," Chris says. "It's really enabled us to meet so many wonderful people."

Not long after, Chris began doing just that by joining the St. Vincent de Paul Society and helping out with Vision Food Share. Yet, his real involvement didn't begin until he was asked by Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro to help create a parish strategy.

"I have a background in strategy over many years in my career and I was asked to come in to help the parish think through how they needed to evolve," Chris says. "One of the many things that came through that process was a parish-wide survey. Then we performed all of the necessary analysis to create a road map for what we wanted to do — how we would use that survey to dictate our actions as we moved forward."

A much bigger job than he initially anticipated, Chris says that he was deeply grateful for this unique

opportunity to serve. Not only did it allow him to use his professional expertise for the good of the parish, but it also helped him meet so many wonderful people from within the community. Their example has made a tremendous impact on his life.

"I look at their incredible generosity and I can't help but think that's how I want to live my life," Chris says. "Their wonderful example really just fuels me in life and in the faith journey."

***"I just love All Saints and I love being a Catholic. I truly enjoy everything that I'm able to do there. Christ tells us repeatedly in Scripture to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. These are just some of the ways we are trying to do that here at All Saints and I feel honored to be part of it."* — Ann Murphy**



Parishioner Chris Parsons with Bishop Edward J. Burns



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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

Our Holy Week and Easter Schedule

HOLY THURSDAY — April 18

Morning Prayer Service — 9 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper — 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY — April 19

Morning Prayer Service — 9 a.m.

Solemn Stations of the Cross — 3 p.m.

Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord — 7 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY — April 20

Morning Prayer Service — 9 a.m.

Easter Vigil Mass — **8:30 p.m.**

EASTER SUNDAY — April 21

7:30 a.m. — In the Church with Cantor

9:15 a.m. — In the Church with St. Raphael Choir

9:30 a.m. — in the Gym with Children's Choir

11:15 a.m. — in the Church with St. Gregory Choir

11:30 a.m. — in the Gym with Teen Mass Band