



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 14, Issue 11

Inside

- 2 The Challenge of Discipleship
- 3 The All Saints Difference
- 4 A "Bridge" in Our Catholic Faith: Meet Your Deacons
- 6 A Significant Moment in Our Prayer *The Presentation of the Gifts*
- 7 Sacrament of Baptism Supported by Village of Believers

Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

November is a Time for *Thanksgiving*

Dear Saints,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints and our parish feast day. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

If your life is like mine, it is filled with people who had a profound effect on me – people I like to think of as my own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our life.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863, and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. "To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God," Lincoln said. In other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3.



continued on back cover



The Challenge of Discipleship

God calls us to give Him everything – our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. This is the challenge of discipleship – a lifelong process of more fully placing our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The reason that God can ask such complete service from us is that He made us. Everything we have belongs to Him! This includes our intelligence, our physical ability, our artistic talent, our family, our finances, our government – anything we may typically think of as “ours.”

It takes courage to recognize that we are not the masters of our possessions and ourselves. Furthermore, as Christians, we believe that because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to give Him thanks. We express our thanks by using our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. This is the basis for our understanding of stewardship.

We refer to “time,” “talent,” and “treasure” in order to differentiate between the various parts of our life that belong to God. “Time” is the duration of life that God has given us. “Talent” includes the special gifts or strengths God has nurtured in us. “Treasure” is what we have earned through our time and talent.

Even though we identify these three aspects of stewardship, they are still part of the same Gospel-based concept. And even when we focus separately on these parts, it should not signal that one is more important than

the other. Instead, focusing on each aspect one at a time helps us to better concentrate on that area in our lives.

Stewardship is, after all, an attitude. If our goal is to become better stewards, we must have a reason in our minds to do so. Here are the basics of a stewardship attitude:

“God made everything!”

A wholehearted trust that God made all things is essential to understanding stewardship. Recognizing God as the Creator is one of the most basic, profound beliefs of Christianity.

“I am truly blessed!”

It takes humility in order to truly acknowledge God’s goodness. Every great triumph and every little pleasure is a blessing from above, and every strong character trait we possess is a gift from God.

“I believe I am to use God’s gifts for His glory!”

What better way to thank God for His goodness than by using our personal gifts to glorify Him? We are not the owners of our time, talent or treasure. But we are caretakers given the responsibility of spreading God’s kingdom on earth.





The All Saints Difference

By Gabe Moreno

ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

After almost two decades at All Saints Catholic School, people often ask me if Catholic education makes a difference. My once enthusiastic “yes” has been transformed into a much quieter nod over the years. Perhaps it’s because as a parent of two college-aged daughters, one high school daughter, and a lone eighth-grader at ASCS, I just know – just like I know that All Saints is a special place. It’s hard to quantify. It’s not something you can put a price tag on, though I confess there have been many times especially around tax season when we attempted. It’s been a journey and a sacrifice. So how do you know that All Saints makes a difference? You just know.

All Saints Catholic School is a unique place. It’s a family. When parents and children come through the doors, they are part of our family. Our teachers are mentors and role models for our students. Our small class size allows for a personal, collaborative approach to learning. Our goal is to develop each child into the person that God has called them to be – to be the best that they can in all areas of their life – spiritual, academic, artistic, and athletic. Eventually, they will become the men and women that God created them to be, the young men and women we imagined them to be when we first cradled them in our arms.

Not too long ago, a terrific group of moms was volunteering



for Fellowship Day. We were at the Church cracking 800 eggs for the Fellowship Day breakfast. One of the moms was new to our All Saints family, having previously been at a nearby public elementary school. I asked her if there were any differences.

“Oh yes,” she replied, “Now my daughter can pray in school. Before, kids were always asking her why she was praying before lunch. She didn’t like it. It was awkward. Now she can pray with her class.”

It’s the small things. Prayer before lunch – something I have taken for granted for 19 years. The day after our conversation, at the preK-5 Mass in the chapel, that same student was selected by her teacher to do the first

reading. Her parents sat quietly in the back of the chapel. The whole family is part of the All Saints family now. She proclaimed the Word of God from the ambo with confidence and poise. As I listened to her, I thought, that’s the All Saints Difference. You can’t put a price tag on it. Or perhaps you can. Priceless.

Our goal is to develop each child into the person that God has called them to be – to be the best that they can in all areas of their life – spiritual, academic, artistic, and athletic. Eventually, they will become the men and women that God created them to be, the young men and women we imagined them to be when we first cradled them in our arms.



A “Bridge” in Our Catholic Faith:

It's been said that Catholic deacons have their feet in two worlds. They're men who have jobs in traditional fields, are married, with children – yet, they give back to their communities as ordained members of the clergy. Sometimes, you see their acts of service, up front and visible, assisting the priest on the altar. Other times, their humble work is quiet and “behind the scenes.” They've studied the truths of the faith, but they're also quite experienced when it comes to the day-to-day struggles of living as a Catholic in the world.

Meet our deacons.

Deacon Denis Simon has been a parishioner at All Saints for the past 40 years, serving as a deacon for 30 years. Originally hailing from Ohio, Deacon Denis and his wife of 45 years, Denise, have five adult children – four sons named after the writers of the Gospels, and a daughter named after the Blessed Mother. They are currently expecting their 11th grandchild.

Deacon Denis is the Senior Executive Vice President for Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., a firm that specializes in human resource consulting. Deacon Denis' favorite parts of being a deacon are



Deacon Denis Simon

preaching and serving at Mass, and celebrating Baptisms. He also serves to represent the Church on a number of boards, which he enjoys.

“What I like most is taking the Church out into the world,” Deacon Denis says. “I represent the Church and clergy on a number of boards in the area. These kinds of things take the Church out into the community.”

He hopes that his example inspires parishioners to grow in their faith.

“Hopefully, I can help them be better Catholics, to witness to the risen Lord as best as they can,”

Deacon Denis says. “It's all about being supportive and being of service, that's what being a deacon is all about.”

Deacon Michael Bolesta was ordained a deacon in 2006 and has served the community of All Saints since he was assigned here in 2013. Although he moved around quite a bit in his early years, Deacon Michael, his wife of 36 years, Shari, and their adult son have been in Texas since the early 1990s.

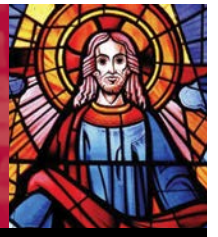
An orthopedic surgeon by trade, Deacon Michael currently works for the diocese as a hospital chaplain, serving the Catholic patients at Baylor University Medical Center.

“It's a blessing to be able to walk with people, sometimes in happy moments, other times in very sad moments, to just be with them and experience together with them the presence of Jesus Christ,” Deacon Michael says.

He also enjoys helping teach RCIA classes, working with married couples, supporting the Christ Renews His Parish teams, serving UTD students, and meeting one-on-one with parishioners at All Saints.

“You just kind of fill in wherever there's a need,” Deacon Michael

“I really hope that through my efforts, people come to a deeper and fuller relationship with Christ. The deacon is like a bridge. A bridge is a unique structure – it has two foundations, not one. On one side is the clergy, and on the other side, the laity. The deacon is like a bridge between the two, the laity and the clergy. If either foundation fails, the bridge fails.” — Deacon Richard Nelson



Meet Your Deacons

says. “The image or theology of the deacon is that you’re conformed to Christ the servant. You’re open to whatever comes up. We have our feet in both worlds – we’re clergy, but we’re not priests. We’re sometimes running in the circles that the priest can’t because of time or other issues. We can kind of be the bridge between the larger community and the priests and the bishops.”

Deacon Michael’s hope is that he would be able to encourage people in their relationship with Christ.

“My desire for each person is that they would have a true encounter, develop a true relationship, individually, with the Lord Jesus Christ – that they would not see their Catholicism as a set of rules or something they were just born into, but rather that the living God wants to



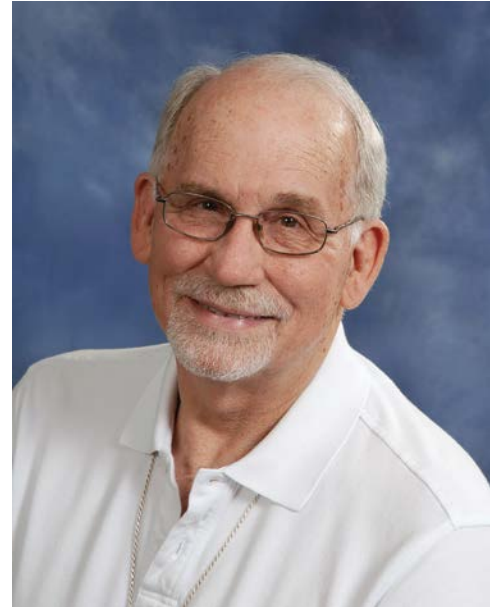
Deacon Michael Bolesta

relate to them personally and have a relationship with them that will go on, beyond this life, into eternity,” he says.

Deacon Richard Nelson is the most recent addition to our All Saints deacons, having been ordained in 2013. He has been a parishioner for the past 18 years, a Louisiana native who has spent most of his adult life in Texas. Married to his wife, Sherry, for the past 46 years, the couple has two adult daughters. Deacon Richard has spent his career in the commercial construction business.

As a deacon, he enjoys teaching the Baptism preparation class, giving one-day retreats for groups within the parish, helping teach RCIA, having a monthly Communion service at Catholic Charities, and working with UTD students at the Newman Catholic Ministry. He also helps with Baptisms, house blessings, and occasionally funerals. Deacon Richard and Sherry also serve as a mentor couple for those who will be ordained to the diaconate in 2020.

“I really hope that through my efforts, people come to a deeper and fuller relationship with Christ,” Deacon Richard says. “The deacon is like a bridge. A bridge is a unique structure – it has two foundations, not one. On one side is the clergy, and on the other side, the laity. The deacon is like a bridge between the two, the laity and the clergy. If either foundation fails, the bridge fails.”



Deacon Richard Nelson

Deacon Richard, who also serves as the chaplain for the Men’s Club, is grateful for how his life experience has shaped his ability to serve.

“A lot of times, you’re living the same life those guys are living, so you can talk about certain things and they know you’re going through the same experiences they’re going through – you’ve got the kids, the wife, the job, the realities of the world you’re dealing with,” he says. “One of the main things I’d like [parishioners] to understand is that our role is the role of a servant, we are there for them. It’s a great privilege for us to serve the people of our parish, and we probably get a lot more from them than they get from us.”

Thank you to our deacons for their tremendous gifts of service to our community. Please be sure to introduce yourself, greet and thank them when you see them at Mass!



A Significant Moment in Our Prayer

The Presentation of the Gifts

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”



The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!



ALL SAINTS

SACRAMENT SERIES: *Infant Baptism*

Sacrament of Baptism Supported by Village of Believers



In July, All Saints welcomed a new member in Kieran Moreno, held by his mom, Stephanie. Kieran, who had just discovered his tongue at the time, is seen with Fr. Tom Cloherty (center) and dad Brandon Moreno (right). Stephanie says she and Brandon see Kieran's Baptism as an entrance into a community of supportive believers.

There is something magical about a warm welcome. Whether it's being welcomed home after a long journey or being embraced by a new community of friends, that feeling of genuine love and acceptance gives us a palpable glimpse of what our reunion with Jesus in heaven might feel like some day.

For new Catholics, the Church provides a warm welcome in the Sacrament of Baptism. Stephanie and Brandon Moreno recently helped their infant son, Kieran, complete this sacrament at All Saints. As the then-3-month-old was initiated into the Roman Catholic Church, Stephanie says she also saw Kieran's Baptism as an entrance into a community of believers.

"I'm hoping that having him as part of the All Saints family and the Catholic community – giving him that village, more or less – will help him have support growing up," she says. "It's not easy having faith in today's world and among the younger generation."

As a lifelong member of All Saints, Stephanie says having Kieran baptized at the parish by Fr. Tom Cloherty – who returned to All Saints for the occasion – was a beautiful continuation of family tradition.

"I grew up at All Saints and I've had every sacrament here at this point," she says, adding that Fr. Tom also officiated she and Brandon's wedding. "Even before we got married we always knew that our kiddo would be raised in faith. I've always known that I wanted my kids raised in the Catholic Church."

As a tradition in the Church, infant Baptism is a practice that dates to the earliest of Christians. In the Book of Luke, we see Jesus welcoming the youngest of children to Him, saying, "to such as these belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:15-16).

In light of this, it is important to note that believers who have aged past infancy aren't excluded from the Sacrament of Baptism. Christians of any age who choose to become Catholics are welcomed with open arms through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. Both types of Baptism touch upon one of the most important aspects of our salvation – we are baptized into One Body, a community of faithful who support one another in love.

Stephanie says she witnessed this at Kieran's Baptism in the form of the many loved ones who traveled from as far as Washington state to take part in the event. With her best friend, Amelia Lupton, and brother, Charles Ryan Fitzpatrick, serving as godparents, Stephanie says she felt her family's tradition of receiving sacraments at All Saints has been continued.

"To have so many people willing to be there as witnesses for his Baptism was especially meaningful," she says.

Families or individuals who are interested in becoming baptized or having a child baptized should contact the parish office at 972-661-9282.



ALL SAINTS

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DALLAS, TX
PERMIT 1922

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

Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,
11:00 a.m.*

LifeTeen 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

November is a Time for *Thanksgiving*

continued from front cover

From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonso

Fr. Alfonso Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator

