



ALL SAINTS

November 2011

A Stewardship Parish

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

A Letter from Our Pastor

All Saints Parish 35th Anniversary *Saints and Souls I've Known*

Dear Saints,

No saint day will ever be declared for Ed and Gladys Gill or Edward and Monica Seitz. Their sanctity will never be officially proclaimed as a model for all Christians in elaborate ceremonies of canonization. But I trust they are with God. These grandparents of mine who have died are part of my heritage of faith. They were models for me. None of them were free of human frailties, but their example of love and their firm believing are the foundation of the Faith I have received.



Msgr. Rafael Kamel

My grandparents are part of a long line of great people of faith like them stretching back to Jesus Himself.

Msgr. Rafael Kamel was a person like that; a good, humble and holy man who radiated peace and whose life was given to the service of God. He is one of many who have also been part of the genealogy of our Catholic Faith which we call to mind with an even greater awareness as we mark 35 years since the founding of this parish community.

A parish is nothing more than a gathering place for those who are seeking God and are hoping to find the help they need to develop their relationship with God in the Catholic Church. In 1976, a special group of people came together with Msgr. Kamel with a dream and the willpower and the Faith to give the people of this part of Dallas and Richardson a home where they could live out their life as the holy People of God. When we look today at what they accomplished in so short a

time, we can only stand in wonder.

All of us who have received the gift of faith are participants in the legacy of this "cloud of witnesses" who now rejoice with God at the heavenly banquet. Whether faith has come to us through our family or through others, these human instruments are the pathway of God's revelation. We stand on their shoulders and there is still much we can learn from them.

So I invite you to join us on Nov. 1 at one of our Masses. Together, we can celebrate with joy the great men and women through whom we

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Lectors Honored to Proclaim Word of God

As the lector approaches the pulpit and opens the *Lectio* during the Liturgy of the Word, he or she prepares to perform one of the most sacred duties on earth – proclaiming the Word of God to the faithful assembled.

While not everyone feels called to serve as a lector, those who fill this role often feel a sense of awe about it.

“Participating so intimately in the Mass really elevates my experience of it,” says longtime lector Don Herzog. “But I feel that it’s really the Holy Spirit using me; for example, sometimes you get through a reading and just have this feeling like you totally nailed it and you know that the good Lord has worked through you. For quite a few years I did the part of Pilate on Good Friday when we proclaim the Passion – to participate in that role or to do one of the readings on Holy Saturday makes the Triduum just that much more special.”

Don has been lectoring ever since the opportunity came up after the Second Vatican Council. He says that having been an altar server as a young man, he was eager to stay active in liturgical ministry. But Don is not alone in esteeming this noble duty.

“We’re very blessed with a large group of lectors that perform their role beautifully,” says lector ministry coordinator Janet Toney. “We have people of all ages and from all over the country and around the world including folks from Africa, India and England.

There are presently 55 individuals actively serving as lectors at All Saints, including a few who have been doing so for several decades. There are always two lectors assigned to read at each weekend Mass, and most lectors serve about once a month.

New lectors are always welcomed to join the ministry. Each new lector goes through a thorough training before their first assignment.

“For the training we’ll have either the Liturgical Coordinator, Mary Davis, or one of the priests come in to give the liturgical background for the lectors,” Janet says. “Then we’ll

have two more sessions for practicum, during which we go through the procession and have each person read from the ambo so they can practice with the microphone. We give them feedback about the speed and volume of their delivery. Then when they’re ready, we’ll give them their first assignments; we pair them with experienced lectors to act as mentors for their first few times.”

Each lector is expected to prepare the readings in advance, studying the meaning of the passages and practicing the reading out loud. Each participant receives a workbook that contains all the Sunday readings for the year, along with a commentary and pronunciation guide.

“Our lectors are always very well prepared – we encourage them to put at least an hour into it and they are very dedicated to that,” Janet says. “We have a couple of longtime lectors in Paul and Carroll Malone that call those assigned to read every week to remind them and make sure they’re planning on attending Mass. There is also a great group of people that are always ready to step in if someone gets sick at the last minute or forgets to show up. We’re very blessed to have such dedicated participants!”

For those interested in joining this wonderful liturgical ministry, there are a number of ways to sign up. You can call the parish office, speak to a lector after Mass, or sign up on your annual Stewardship Renewal commitment card.





The Importance of Family Prayer

“**T**he family that prays together stays together.” It’s a catchy little slogan coined in the 1940s by Al Scalpone, a professional writer, and has been frequently referenced ever since. But it’s more than just a catchy saying. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talents and treasure. And we must begin by getting to know Him. After all, how can we follow in the footsteps of someone we don’t know? Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples in much the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “*Ecclesia domestica*,” or “the domestic church” (CCC 1656). It is in the family that children first witness the Faith lived out. Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day and making family prayer a regular practice. In doing so, they not only set an example for their children, but also provide them with a faith-filled foundation and bring them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. You can (and should) pray before meals, thanking God for the blessings He has given you – especially the food you are about to eat. You can pray some of the formal prayers of the Church – the *Our Father* and the *Hail Mary*, for example – or you can pray a family Rosary together every night. You can also spend time offering the Lord thanksgiving for His many blessings, thanking Him aloud, and then asking Him to answer your prayers – offering Him your daily petitions. One often-suggested format for prayer is the acronym ACTS (Adoration – praise the Lord for who He is; Contrition – ask the Lord’s forgiveness for all that you’ve done wrong throughout the day; Thanksgiving – thank the Lord for His immeasurable goodness; and Supplication – offer the Lord your daily petitions). You can also bring your family to church to kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament and offer your prayers in Christ’s presence.

The possibilities are seemingly endless, and how you pray as a family is dependent on the personalities and the dynamic of your own individual family. But no matter how you do, be sure to take time to pray. Your relationship with the Lord – individually and as a family unit – will be deeper, your commitment to the Lord as His disciple will be stronger, and your bonds as a family will surely be strengthened.

35th Anniversary *continued from cover*

have received so many blessings. Throughout the world, Catholic Christians will be gathering to reflect upon and to honor the many saints, both canonized and not, who have gone before us. Here at the parish named in their honor this celebration takes on a special meaning as we mark 35 years that we have called upon this great company of saints as a parish body. From their place in God’s Kingdom they pray for us still.

All Souls Day

Tuesday, Nov. 2, is All Souls Day. On this day, the Church gathers to pray for those who, having died, are not yet completely ready to share God’s heavenly reign. They experience a time of

waiting, a time of purgation, as they are prepared for the banquet of the Lord. Since their life on earth is ended, they now depend upon our intercession on their behalf. Please join us on Nov. 2 in prayer for our faithful departed.

In Christ,

Bishop Mark



Discerning His Life's Work *Seminarian Ross Busby*

Dallas native Ross Busby grew up in a faithful, Catholic family, and he attended Mass regularly and participated as an altar server at his home parish of St. Ann in Coppell as a child. But it wasn't until adulthood that Ross really began to take ownership of his own faith life.

"I was exposed to the Faith as a child, but it wasn't something I really jumped at and took hold of until my junior year," he recalls. "Growing up, you would go to Mass on Sunday and pray because mom and dad tell you to. But the community down at Texas A&M is incredibly vibrant and alive, and making a retreat with them kind of opened the door to me being very involved in the parish community and in community life."

Ross graduated from Texas A&M in 2009 with a degree in mechanical engineering, and returned to the Dallas area, where he began a job doing design engineering for a defense contractor. Ross was very happy in his career, but it was around this time that he felt that God might be calling him to a religious vocation.

"It was one of those things that I really did enjoy and was very difficult to leave, because I was passionate about it," he says. "I enjoyed the work and felt I was good at it, but ultimately, when God came knocking at the door, it was something I felt I couldn't say no to."

Upon graduating from A&M and moving back to Dallas, Ross decided to live on the East Side, and he began attending All Saints Parish. Before long, Ross' desire for ministry led him to become involved as a core team member with All Saints' high school youth ministry program, a decision that only further validated his discernment.

"It was one of those things I saw and just jumped at the opportunity to do," he recalls. "I really enjoyed teaching and sharing my faith with the younger kids who were still kind of questioning and searching. For me, the high schoolers are really at the age when they're making the decision for themselves to show up and be there. It's a very active group, and just the vibrancy of it was fantastic."

This fall, Ross made a commitment to actively pursue the priesthood when he entered Holy Trinity Seminary



here in Dallas, where he began his pre-theology classes in August. He says that seminary life has been great so far, and that the opportunities for daily Mass, confession, and Eucharistic Adoration have been especially fruitful blessings. However, moving from the world of mathematics and engineering to the academic discipline of philosophy has required an adjustment.

"Going from that rational, logical, problem-solving end of engineering to the open-ended field of philosophy has been a challenge," he says. "But I see the end goal: that I need to have a foundation in it before I get into theology, and I think it is something I will enjoy as I continue to move forward with it."

Please pray for Ross as he continues his journey towards religious life. All Saints Parish wishes him all of God's blessings as he continues to discern a life dedicated to Christ.



Serra Clubs of Dallas and Fort Worth

Serrans of the Dallas and Fr. Worth dioceses are members of the largest Catholic organization in the world strictly devoted to the promotion of vocations. Membership consists of both men and women who are actively involved in the Catholic Faith. The organization supports young men and women who are in the midst of their journey of discernment to enter the priesthood or consecrated life in the Catholic Church.

The Annual Vocations Awareness Program (VAP) is the Serra Clubs of DFW's largest project, and it is held in June each year at Holy Trinity Seminary. The organization supports the efforts of Fr. Rudy Garcia, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Dallas, and Fr. Kyle Walterscheid, Vocations Director of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, in fostering priestly and religious vocations for our area.

Young men and women who are invited to attend the VAP weekend, are given the opportunity to pray, attend daily Mass, contemplate, and visit one-on-one with religious – all to help them follow the Lord's will in their lives.

In order to cover the cost for room, board, and supplies for this three-day program, the Serra Clubs raise funds throughout the year. Anyone who is interested in seeing faithful young men and women enter the religious life is welcome to join the Serra Club's efforts. In fact, this past June the group hosted 17 young men and 13 young women who attended the VAP weekend. The group also covered the cost of room and board for visiting priests, nuns, and religious at the same event.

Other initiatives of the Serra Clubs include attending Mass regularly at Holy Trinity Seminary, visiting with the seminarians and reassuring them of the group's prayers. The Metro Serra Club also visits the Catholic high schools in the diocese to increase awareness of vocations, as well as offer support for those discerning the priesthood or religious life.



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Andrus at Holy Trinity Seminary with seminarians

Knights of Columbus Supports Seminarians

Knights of Columbus Lumen Christi Council #13520 has made seminarian support a priority in its service. Lumen Christi supports seven seminarians/novices through the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) program, four of whom have come from right here at All Saints. In addition, the council was responsible for sending five seminarians from the Redemptoris Mater Diocesan Missionary Seminary in the Diocese of Dallas home to visit their families before sending them to Madrid, Spain for World Youth Day, held this past summer.

Two aspirants to the Neo-Catechumenal Way were also transported through the generosity of council members to World Youth Day and then on to Porto San Giorgio, Italy, where they were selected to pursue this vocation and were assigned to seminaries throughout the world. Lumen Christi also started and continues to support the Chalice for Vocations program at All Saints. This program provides chalices to be taken home by parishioners and filled with prayers for vocations. With three new young men entering the seminary this year from All Saints, it appears the prayers are abundant and working.





Outreach Committee Brings Practice



When most of us think of stewardship, we think of putting our time, talent and treasure to use in the parish community – and rightly so. But for one parish ministry, it goes much further.

More than 30 years ago, at a time when organizations were sprouting up around the Metroplex to help meet social needs, a group of All Saints parishioners came together to assist wherever possible.

“From the very beginning the Outreach Committee had a two-pronged approach to working with ministries and agencies outside the parish,” says longtime outreach committee member and current president Fred Fink. “After we decide which agencies we are going to support, we support them with both manpower and monetary support. The idea is to back worthy causes by giving a faith-based presence in the community.”

Each year, the committee reevaluates each agency and decides whether or not to continue its support in the coming year. As the committee uses parish funds, it takes its role of analyzing recipient agencies very seriously. On average, the committee supports six to eight organizations each year. This year, the group has worked with the Austin Street Shelter, the Network for Community Ministries, the Family Gateway Center (pictured left), the Neighborhood Service Council, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Birth Choice of Dallas Counseling for Women, and Habitat for Humanity.

By working with a wide variety of agencies, the committee is able to offer the parish a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer according to each individual’s particu-

lar talents and interests.

“Outreach is built on the concept of stewardship of our time, talent and treasure,” Fred says. “Each of us is expected, as Catholic Christians, to consider and to live stewardship. Outreach provides splendid opportunities of living stewardship, whether it is by giving time for sorting clothes at Birth Choice, or using a talent working with hammers and saws at Habitat for Humanity, or contributing treasure through our Reverse Collection.

The Reverse Collection is perhaps the simplest way for new folks to get involved.

“We hold the Reverse Collection during the offertory collection,” Fred says. “The collection baskets are passed again, but they are filled with note cards, each with a particular item that is needed for the agencies. It might be jars of peanut butter for the Network of Community Ministries, so you bring a jar or two the next week; or for Birth Choice we’d ask for



of Stewardship into Community

infant diapers or baby wash, lotion or shampoo. It's an easy way for everyone to contribute their treasure by taking a few cards and bringing the items back."

This Advent the committee will also be hosting its annual "Christmas Caring Tree" drive. Two Christmas trees will be set up in the atrium of the church with tags giving the description of different gift items to purchase. These items will then be returned to the church and sent to the agencies that Outreach serves for distribution to needy children in the area. This beautiful charity has been operating at All Saints for more than 30 years and annually provides close to 2,000 individual gifts.

According to the bylaws of the Outreach Committee, everyone in the parish is a de facto member of the committee, but there are currently 8 to 10 core members, each responsible for representing one of the agencies served.

Meetings are held at the church every second Monday of the month.

While not everyone may be interested or able to take on the responsibility of serving as liaison between the parish and a particular ministry, there are always opportunities to volunteer, thanks to the efforts of the committee.

"We maintain a very large bulletin board off the atrium of the church, complete with a brochure about the agencies we serve, thank-you cards and pictures," Fred says. "Many people haven't ever noticed it, but I would encourage them to stop and take a look and remember that there is an organization that looks outside of the parish to help meet broader needs. All Saints is very generous in donations and the parishioners are always willing to step up and volunteer when asked, but opportunities are there."

Save the Date!

All Saints Seventh Annual International Night

Mark your calendars for Dec. 2 and make plans to attend All Saints' seventh annual International Night, located in the school cafetorium from 6-8 p.m. This gathering is open to all parishioners, school families and Little Saints families.

Satisfy your craving for international fare, as food and drink from several countries and cultures from around the globe will be present in abundance. In addition, enjoy live entertainment with a cultural flair, courtesy of parishioners and school families.

An added bonus – this event is free. The only requirement for entry to International Night is a dish to share representing your heritage, large enough for eight to 10 servings.

"We are one people throughout the earth," says parishioner and International Night coordinator Lupita Vega. "Celebrate the diversity of cultures and unity of faith!"

For more information, contact Lupita at ludeve@live.com.





ALL SAINTS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 30
ADDISON, TX

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

Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

The 2011 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your Commitment Card to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's Renewal. The more we strive to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!

