



The Grateful Heart

Living Stewardship as a Way of Life

April 2016

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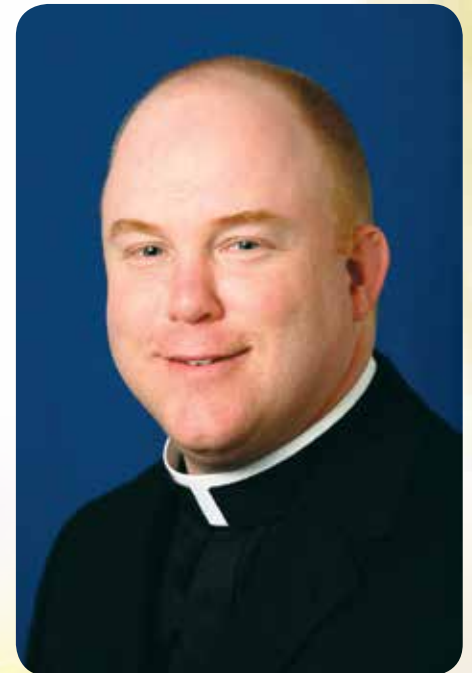
Dear Sacred Heart Families,

We associate the Easter season with springtime — a time of new life and new beginnings — and Holy Scripture addresses this idea of newness many times. In one of our readings during April, God declares, "Behold, I make all things new."

This idea of being "new" is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We need to strive to do this on a regular basis — even on a *daily* basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new.

During this ongoing Easter season, we need to retain that idea of being "new." And being "new" means conversion, and we have often pointed out that conversion is at the heart of a life of stewardship.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§654) puts it, "The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resur-



rection, he opens for us the way to a new life."

In other words, Christ's Resurrection is the source of our new life — our own future resurrection. St. Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words (Rom 6:5): "For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection."

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Brown Bottle Serving Up Fun for Funds

Did you get your tickets yet? If not, don't wait any longer!

Sacred Heart's 46th Annual Brown Bottle Dinner & Auction...and Dance is set for Saturday, April 30, in the Parish MPC and School. The theme for this year's event is "Prom."

Dan Janatello, Theresa Schuman and their committee have decided to mix things up a bit. The great food will be served, as always – but this year, guests will circulate to food stations around the room.

"With the food stations, guests can socialize as they make their selections," Dan says. "We're also going to have the live auction, but we'll condense it this year and have a dance afterward – a Prom-themed dance, at 9 p.m. Once the auction ends, guests are encouraged to dance the night away – or at least keep an eye on the dance floor from a safer distance!"

As guests partake of their meal, they are enjoying food donated by our parishioners.

"Everything ends up being donated," Dan says. "Very generous parishioners have been doing this for a number of years."

Brown Bottle is the largest parish fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the evening will be going toward targeted parish improvements.

"That's our goal," Dan says. "We want to identify areas for improvement. Brown Bottle is no longer part of the annual operating budget, so the proceeds are freed up for these improvements."

As always, the auction items are being donated.

"We have had tremendous support from parish families and local businesses," Dan says. "We have some parishioners who donate handmade items to the silent auction. In the past, we've had things like trips, concerts, and a favorite, a puppy – I won one! – and there's a lot of drama. We've had barbecue grills, and services, such as the group of parishioners who do handyman tasks."



Parishioners and members of the community are encouraged to attend Brown Bottle. Tickets are on sale both after Masses and online. Tickets will also be sold at the door, based on available seating.

"Buying them in advance is recommended," Dan says. "We usually have about 400 attending, but we have had as many as 750."

Dan lauds the work Theresa has done over the years for Brown Bottle that has played an important role in making it such a successful event.

"She's been doing it a long time," he says. "You have to recognize the hours and hours she and others have put in that made it happen. Her father was part of the founding group for Brown Bottle."

This year, the committee has been expanded to provide additional help.

"And as always, we will be looking for volunteers, donation items and helpful suggestions," Dan says. "Anyone wishing to participate can reach out to me for a role on the committee going forward."

"With the food stations, guests can socialize as they make their selections. We're also going to have the live auction, but we'll condense it this year and have a dance afterward – a Prom-themed dance, at 9 p.m. Once the auction ends, guests are encouraged to dance the night away – or at least keep an eye on the dance floor from a safer distance!" – Dan Janatello

Single, general reserve seating is available for \$40 per ticket, which includes dinner and beverage. Brown Bottle will begin after the Saturday evening Mass, with doors to open at 5:30 p.m. For more information on the event, or if you would like participate as a volunteer or make any donations, please contact the committee members at brown.bottle@shoj.org.

“So Many Opportunities to Learn and to Reach Out and Meet People”

The Janatello Family

Family. It’s what the community at Sacred Heart has become for Colleen Janatello, her husband Dan, and their three children.

“We’ve really been blessed to have so many great friends and so much support through Sacred Heart,” Colleen says. “We consider it extended family because we don’t have family here and we’ve had to reach out for help, as other people have, and there’s always somebody to lend a hand and support.”

Dan and Colleen began attending Sacred Heart when they moved to the area in 1998, during a time when Mass was still being celebrated in the Saviour Pastoral Center. The parish grew and changed along with their family, and as time went on, the community of Sacred Heart fixed itself into their hearts.

Their three children – Alexis, a sophomore at St. James Academy, and Anthony and Aiden, eighth and sixth grade students at Sacred Heart, respectively – have all attended the parish school from their earliest years. According to Colleen, both the school and parish community have taught them invaluable lessons about the value of community.

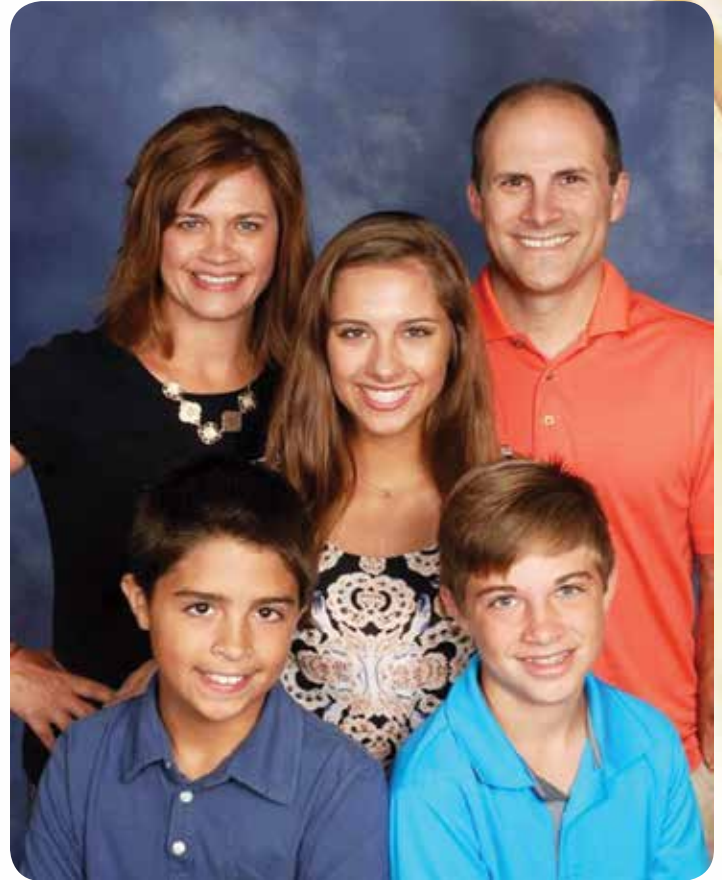
“It’s been great for our kids,” she says, “They are required through their school to do service hours, which is great – they get different experiences from that. But I also think my kids will see an ingrained stewardship, through the things that they have seen friends and other people in the church and community do for us, such as bringing meals over.

“It’s a really loving group of people and it’s been a great example for my kids,” Colleen continues.

For Colleen, who grew up Catholic, Sacred Heart is different than any other parish she’s experienced. Many of the ways she sees stewardship most clearly throughout the community isn’t just in “organized” service, but in the way the members of the parish love and care for each other, as a family.

“We’ve had experiences of deaths in the family and support, of anything from meals to giving kids rides,” says Colleen of how people reached out to them. “I have seen parishioners and friends who have cancer and people pull together to go clean a house. It’s just so touching, the support that is out there. You don’t expect certain things to happen in your life, and when they do, to know there’s people there and you don’t even have to reach out, people come to you.”

This kind of “family” dynamic has encouraged the



Janatellos to get involved in other ways as well, especially after attending a CRHP weekend.

“It was a very inspiring weekend and that led me to become a Eucharistic Minister, and I also bring Communion to the homebound,” Colleen says.

They’ve also become members of the Finance Council, with Dan serving as the council chairperson and both of them working on the Brown Bottle Campaign.

They encourage others who want to feel more connected to the parish to get involved through service.

“I think there’s so many benefits to [serving],” Colleen says. “We’re a pretty large parish and it can be a little overwhelming when you’re new. But [serving] is the best way to get to know people. Sacred Heart has so many great ministries, so many great opportunities. I feel really fortunate to be part of a parish that has so many opportunities to learn and to reach out and meet people.

“The more opportunities you have to get out there and volunteer, the more people you’ll meet and the better experience you’ll have,” she adds.

Dan, Colleen, Alexis, Anthony and Aiden – we’re so glad you’re part of our family at Sacred Heart!



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
welcomes the following
Catechumens and Candidates:



Nicholas Nickell

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sarah Nyp

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Jessica Pham

is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Shannon Pfeiffer

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Teresa Pokos

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Kelly Prestia

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Savana Sanchez

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Rebecca Schwartz

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Lori Sosna

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.

Kimberly Tharp

is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.



Kris & Jeff Vince

Jeff is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. Kris is a candidate for Confirmation.

Alexis Schulte

is a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Sacred Heart Welcomes the Newest Members of the Church on Easter

Over the last several months, 26 members of our parish community prepared to fully enter the Catholic Church at Easter through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults – or RCIA – process. Through RCIA, adults are able to discern and begin their initiation into the Church. The program is open both to those who have not been baptized (catechumens), as well as or those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition, or who were baptized Catholic but did not receive catechesis or other sacraments afterwards (candidates).

RCIA involves the phases of Inquiry, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Initiation itself. The final phase, Mystagoga, is a time for the initiates to deepen their Christian experience, especially in the context of the sacramental life.

“Mystagoga’ comes from a Greek word meaning, ‘To lead through the mysteries,’” says RCIA Director Mary Lambrechts. “This is a time for them to enter more fully into the Catholic community, and participate fully in all the sacraments. Unlike the other three periods of the RCIA process, there is no

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Sacred Heart Welcomes the Newest Members of the Church on Easter

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concluding rite, because it is now a lifelong journey. There's so much richness and tradition in the Catholic Church, so there is so much they can still learn."

The candidates' and catechumens' first year in the Church is known as the "neophyte year," and they will need the full support of our entire parish community throughout.

"Neophyte' also comes from a Greek word, this one meaning, 'new plant,'" Mary says. "These 'new plants' will need a lot of support, prayer and example from the community to mature in their Christian lives, and develop a Catholic worldview. This will help their 'roots' to deepen!

"Sometimes it can be hard to be a newcomer, especially if you are coming from another religious tradition – so be sure to give our newcomers a word of welcome, and to include them in parish life," she adds. "We can also help by being a good example of what a Catholic should be, and of course, by praying for them!"

We welcome all of our catechumens and candidates to our parish and Church, and pray that they continue to grow in faith!



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
welcomes the following
Catechumens and Candidates:



Joy Baskind

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Robert Blatcher

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Jonathan & Cindy Brancato

Jonathan is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Cindy is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation



Heather Brulez

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Joe Chick

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Geoffrey Chow

is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.



Andrea DeWees

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Ray Fuller

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



Kelly Hawkins

is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.



Amber Kresha

was recently Baptized and Confirmed and is a candidate for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.



Jennifer Lyster

is a catechumen seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.



Frank Macias

is a candidate for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.

A Look Back on the Vocations Pilgrimage

Saturday, Feb. 27

Our Sacred Heart Vocations Pilgrimage in February to Conception Abbey and the Sister Servants of Mary was a huge success, and was another great step toward building a culture of vocations in our community. With over 65 attendees, we had a beautiful representation of the one Body of Christ at Sacred Heart. Pope Francis reminds us that to be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone. This culture of vocations is only possible to the extent that we all do our part, beginning with prayer.

Please join us the first Saturday of each month beginning at 7:45 a.m. to consecrate ourselves to Mary by praying the Rosary, followed by Mass at 8:15 a.m.



“I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me” *Sacred Heart’s New Parishioner Welcome Committee*

For many Catholics, moving to a new place and a new parish can seem daunting at first. Fortunately, at Sacred Heart of Jesus, the New Parishioner Welcome Committee is here to help guide new parishioners through this process. By extending the hand of friendship and hospitality, the ministry strives to make newcomers feel comfortable and at home.

“When a beloved family member comes to your home for a special meal, you prepare your home to welcome them,” says ministry lead Tamara Juenger. “You make it inviting, warm and comfortable so that the event is remembered. It is the same with our church.”

As soon as a new parishioner or parish family registers at Sacred Heart, a member of the committee will reach out to them. Members meet with newcomers either at their homes or after Mass, and deliver a welcome packet, which contains information about parish ministries, the school, faith groups and outreach programs. This is also an opportunity for committee members to add a personal touch, sharing a little bit about themselves and their faith journeys. In turn, they are able to establish a relationship with the newcomers, allowing the newcomers an opportunity to share their own stories while helping them get plugged into parish life.

“I was meeting one new parishioner family after Mass, and I happened to see the lead of another ministry walk past,” Tamara says. “I said, ‘Come on over, I’d like to introduce you to our new parishioners!’ and she came over with her husband and daughter. It was a really nice time – none of us had met before, but we were all sharing and learning about each other. It only took about 10 minutes, but after that, every time we saw those parishioners at Mass or even Starbucks or the grocery store, we didn’t just recognize a face – we knew each other and we knew each other’s stories. We all have our own stories, and we should all take the time to learn about the individuals that make up the body of our Church.”

The ministry also holds four to five New Parishioners Luncheons each year. New parishioners who have arrived over the past few months are able to have a sit-down meal, which is donated by individual parishioners as well as parish ministries. These luncheons give newcomers a chance to get to know each other, other parishioners and ministry leads, and the parish clergy.

“This is a time for them to have some one-on-one time with Fr. Dan and Fr. Pat – a chance to introduce themselves, and ask any questions they may have,” Tamara says. “We often invite ministry leads to the luncheons, so they have a chance to share information about their ministries and their individual faith journeys. In the past, we’ve had people from the Mom’s Circle, Sacred Heart School, SOR (School of Religion), Knights of Columbus and the Hospitality Committee, to name a few.



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“I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”

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“It’s really nice time, very low-key and relaxed,” she adds. “I’m really proud that our parish offers this, and that these people volunteer their time in order to welcome our new members. I think it says a lot about the generosity of our parish.”

It is always important to reach out to our brothers and sisters in faith – and an especially wonderful way to live out the spirit of this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

“We have all been called to share the Good News of Jesus,” Tamara says. “What better way than to welcome our new members into their new church? In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has asked each of us to reach out to our fellow man/woman. By participating in this ministry, we are answering the pope’s call to serve.”

Within the New Parishioner Welcome Committee,

there are many ways to volunteer.

“One of the nice things about our ministry is that people can get involved, even if they don’t have a lot of time,” Tamara says. “For example, someone could just make food and drop it off for our luncheons. They could meet someone after Mass, which only takes about 10 minutes. There’s not a huge time commitment, but you get to know so many people just by participating.”

And as Tamara emphasizes, parishioners and parish families are invited to participate in this wonderful ministry!

“Everyone who enters our church is a member of our church family,” Tamara says. “They deserve all the warmth and welcome we can give them. Each time I meet a new parishioner, it’s like greeting Jesus at our doors!”

If you would like to get involved in the New Parishioner Welcome Committee, please contact Tamara Juenger at tjuenger1@kc.rr.com.

All Things and All People Are Made New

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Hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven is the result of Jesus’ Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope? We should sing with joy about God’s promise to us: “Behold, I make all things new!” (Rev 21:5).

St. Paul also wrote (Col 3:1-2): “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” Jesus’ Resurrection and His promise of a new life for us means that we need to live in conformity with our status as adopted children of God.

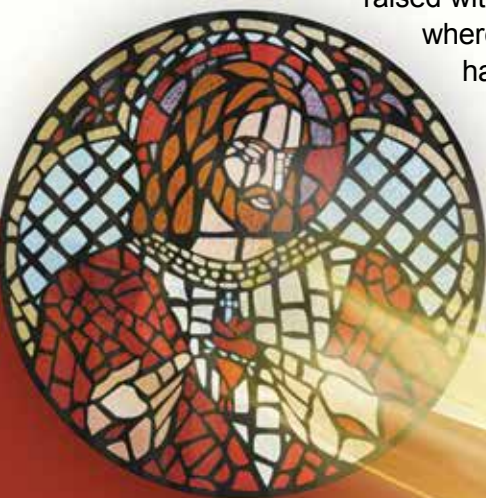
How do we show our joy and our gratitude to God for this amazing gift He has given us? We join in worship, and praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus’ victory over death with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us.

Yes, the Easter message that we share in the benefits of Christ’s Resurrection indeed makes all things new — the ultimate foundation for all Christian stewardship.

The Lord is risen, alleluia.

Peace,

Fr. Pat



With humble hearts, the following contributions have also been made — Photography: Jennifer Mullinax Photography & John Beal; Graphics: Rhodelander Graphic Design

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