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## Calling All Women of the Parish St. Anthony of Padua's Ladies Society

When it comes to getting involved in parish life, sometimes we are held back by preconceived notions on who "belongs" in certain ministries. Jackie Dreyer, current president of St. Anthony of Padua's Ladies Society, admits that she once fell into this pitfall, viewing the Ladies Society as a ministry exclusively for "older" women of the parish. It wasn't until she actually began speaking with ministry members, learning about the important work that the women do and receiving personal invitations to join, that things began to change.

"The more I spoke with them, the more I heard that the older women really needed and wanted younger members to step in, serving with them so that we could take over the leadership," Jackie says. "They need us to step up and continue the good work they have been doing over the years."

Now having been involved for three years, Jackie has come to realize that the Ladies Society is a ministry for all women of the parish, allowing them to become unified in a common purpose while "stepping in wherever they are needed."

"It is for anybody and everybody that wants to be part of it," Jackie says. "It really strengthens the community among the women of the parish. No matter their age or circumstance, all the ladies are there working together for one purpose."

The Ladies Society generally meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Quilting Room. Their mission is to help the parish community and Church at large in whatever capacity needed. As such, services vary from

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*Jackie Dreyer, current Ladies Society President, during the one of the ministry's monthly gatherings.*



*Meetings include opportunities for refreshments and fellowship, as well as planning for upcoming fundraisers and service projects.*

# Stewardship

## *Don't Take a Vacation From Stewardship This Summer*



Everyone deserves a vacation. After nine grueling months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway. And of course, holidays like Easter and Christmas offer us the opportunity to slow down, share time with family and friends, and celebrate our faith more fully.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

Taking a break from some things, however, is not a possibility.

Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, “Well, this month I think I will not pray, not share any of my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure.” What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn’t feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn’t make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available.

Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, don’t stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Or, if you enjoy writing, keep a summer spiritual journal and write in it somewhere peaceful like in your backyard at dusk.

Maybe, if you like to read, you could brush up on your favorite saint while on a road trip.

Or, if you have never given it a chance, why not pick up a rosary and say one decade each day until it becomes natural to say the whole thing?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ – everything He did on Earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

If you like working with kids, you can volunteer at the Vacation Bible School by helping to decorate, organize or being a team leader for the younger children.

If you are handy with tools, you may call Habitat for Humanity to see how you can help build a home for a family in need.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you can share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen. If so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

No matter what gift God has given you, there is a way to share it.

Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you’ll get a paycheck for sure. Have you ever taken an opportunity to think about sharing the first fruits of your check?

As a young adult, returning a portion of your paycheck to God is an important thing to consider. After all, without Him, you wouldn’t even have the talent to accomplish the job in the first place. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say “thanks.” Remember, the collection basket is not just for parents.

Whatever you do this summer, don’t take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it – whether on vacation or not – is meant to give Him glory. Why not use the extra time off to do just that?

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

A LETTER FROM OUR PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR



## Prayer – By Us and For Us

Dear Parishioners,

Pope Francis has certainly had an impact on our Church, and maybe even on each of us individually. Do you recall his first words to the world and to us when he appeared on the balcony following his election as pope? He said quite simply, “Pray for me.” That is a feeling I share sometimes when I consider what needs to be done, and what I personally need to do. It may be a feeling each of us has – not just now and then, but relatively consistently.

Prayer – one of the four Pillars of Stewardship – is foundational to our faith and the practice of it. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we prepare ourselves to accept God’s plentiful gifts and blessings.

Each of us needs to develop a consistent prayer life. We should set time aside each day to pray. It is through prayer that we cultivate our personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We provide many opportunities for prayer as part of our parish life. This includes time for us to pray as individuals and time to pray as a community.

Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other

three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

This is a time of year when we enjoy numerous opportunities to kick back and relax. One of the best ways to spend time is in prayer. In both our individual and communal prayer, we turn to God to perceive our gifts and talents – and then, as stewards, we need to place those gifts at the service of one another, and especially of the Lord.

You and I are on a journey together – a journey toward holiness. That journey involves an existence of daily conversion and an awareness of how grateful we need to be. Through prayer, we can better see ourselves as God sees us, and we can seek to find who God is calling us to be.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers for you. Like the Holy Father, however, I also must admit that I need you to “pray for me.” I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be your administrator.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan



# Summer Picnics Offer the Perfect Blend of Stewardship and Fun

*"I think being hospitable, especially when you're volunteering, is a huge thing. It really makes a statement about our church and our school. We have a great variety of personalities that help out and the hospitality allows all who come to feel welcomed at our parish." – Kelley Hummel*



While we often view our call to a life of stewardship in the form of charitable actions, part of the beauty of this calling is that God takes into account our individual needs, as well. Our lives of stewardship are deeply rooted within our community – and for good reason, since we are by nature social beings who benefit from a healthy community life. As a community, we are not only called to give to each other and to pray together, but also to “play” together.

Here at St. Anthony's, there are two major opportunities for parishioners and guests alike to come together for fun and fellowship. They are the annual St. Dominic School Junefest Picnic and the annual St. Anthony's Parish Picnic.

“I think it's important for parishioners and school families to get involved in events together because then they can really see where the church's money is going and how the church supports the school,” says Cassie Mefford, Junefest Committee member. “It helps all of us, parish families and school families alike, to come together, meet new people, and to make that connection with the school.”

Each summer, Junefest traditionally takes place on a Saturday and functions as St. Dominic's largest fundraiser. The event is filled with food tents, a band, local dance groups and pom squads, as well as a kiddy land and various games for kids. There is also a silent auction, basket raffle and Bingo tent. The summer setting is a perfect blend of stewardship and fun, allowing people of all ages to come together for fun and fellowship while also financially supporting the parish. This year's Junefest is on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 5 p.m. and lasting until midnight.

“It's just a different setting than being in church or being at Mass with each other,” Cassie says. “Since it's a different setting,

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we find that people loosen up a bit more and have fun together. It brings us closer together because we get to visit in a different setting and really talk to each other and find out about each other's lives."

Similarly, the St. Anthony's Parish Picnic is a unique opportunity for parishioners to live out stewardship, creating fellowship among parishioners while also raising funds for parish life. Picnic Committee member Kelley Hummel describes the event as an opportunity for all to experience the hospitality of the parish.

"I think being hospitable, especially when you're volunteering, is a huge thing," Kelley says. "It really makes a statement about our church and our school. We have a great variety of personalities that help out and the hospitality allows all who come to feel welcomed at our parish."

There is a large Mass for the community that kicks off the event, followed by the picnic that includes a variety of foods and pies, a band, multiple games for kids, face painting, and train rides. The Parish Picnic this year is on Saturday, July 16, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m.

"I think it's highly important for everybody to get involved either by attending or helping," Kelley says. "It doesn't just bring people together, but it creates memories for our children and really builds relationships. We try to have events that are for both church families and school families because we're all in this together and we're all in it for the right reason – for the kids."



*Both Cassie Mefford and Kelley Hummel  
are happy to hear from volunteers  
who would like to get involved!*

*Cassie can be contacted at 217-257-3315 or  
cassider06@yahoo.com.*

*Kelley can be reached at 217-242-4168.*

# Fr. Irenaeus Kimminau

## *“You Ought to Be a Priest”*



*Fr. Irenaeus was ordained into the priesthood June 24, 1949. He has been a priest for 67 years and this past April celebrated his 95th birthday.*

Growing up in a family with two brothers and five sisters, life was never dull for Fr. Irenaeus Kimminau. But anchoring all the comings and goings of the Kimminau family was their deep Catholic faith, and it was in the midst of this family who lived and practiced their faith that Fr. Irenaeus' mother planted the seeds that would one day lead Father to discern a vocation to the priesthood, and his sister to join the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

“My mother would always call me her ‘little priest,’” Fr. Irenaeus says. “I’m not really sure why, because I was by no means a saint, but she would leave me copies of the Sacred Heart Messenger around and tell me stories about different missionaries that she had read about. Then, the summer after I graduated from grade school, we were working in the park when a seminarian came over to talk to us and at one point he turned to me and said, ‘You ought to be a priest.’ And that got me thinking on what I needed to do next. I talked to our parish priest, and we worked it out so I would attend high school seminary.”

Of course, seminary is the best place to be when discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

The years spent in formation offer the gift of time to fully explore the idea. Indeed, it’s an opportunity to pull away from the world to discern full-time and find out one way or the other whether

you are being called to the seminary. But while some young men can discern right up until the day they are ordained, Fr. Irenaeus says that once he made the decision to attend seminary, he no longer struggled with discerning because he always knew that the priesthood was what he was meant to do with his life. He says that, in many ways, not having that internal struggle was a gift.

“I remember early in my formation, a priest pointedly asked me, ‘Are you sure?’” Father remembers. “And that time, and any time afterward, when the question was asked as to whether or not I wanted to be a priest, my answer was always ‘yes.’ In discerning, you should consider what you like to do and how you want to spend your life – and being a priest was how I wanted to live my life.”

Father was ordained on June 24, 1949, and in thinking back on his 67 years as a priest, Father says his favorite part was being able to serve in a parish setting. He loved parish life, especially the times he was able to teach religion class at the grade school or counsel couples before marriage. He also is grateful for the pilgrimage he was able to take to Assisi and Rome. But what was the most difficult part of being a priest? Many would be surprised to hear that preparing and giving homilies was always difficult for him.

“I love people, but I’m really an introvert and can be shy,” Father says. “So to have that responsibility of not only having to prepare a homily every week, but to deliver it, was hard for me. Of course, now that I have trouble with my hearing, confessions can be a real penance for me, but I guess I still manage OK.”

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## Fr. Irenaeus *continued from page 6*

He does better than OK. This past April, Father celebrated his 95th birthday, and while there have been some health issues that have slowed him down, he still manages to find plenty to do. He drives, he celebrates the 7:30 a.m. Mass every Tuesday in our parish, he gardens when he can (mostly in containers), he likes to read but is wary of sitting down with a book for fear he'll fall asleep – "I've developed a real talent for sleeping" – he likes to watch quiz shows like *Jeopardy* and *Wheel of Fortune*, and he still keeps track of the birthdays of all 32 nieces and nephews and makes sure to send them cards. Yes, Father is still busy and, most importantly, he still has that keen sense of humor.

"It may seem as if I'm always busy," Father says. "But that's just because I'm slow – it takes me longer to finish a task which then backs things up and thus makes it look like I'm always doing something."

Finally, when Fr. Irenaeus' mother used to call her son a priest when he was still a young boy, little did she know that her words would set her son on a path in which, today, we are blessed to call Fr. Irenaeus our priest. And just as his mother was open to the idea of a religious vocation for her children, Father always – whether praying publicly or privately – asks for one thing.

"I always pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life," Father says. "That's how I end each and every prayer."

*"I remember early in my formation, a priest pointedly asked me, 'Are you sure?' And that time, and any time afterward, when the question was asked as to whether or not I wanted to be a priest, my answer was always 'yes.' In discerning, you should consider what you like to do and how you want to spend your life – and being a priest was how I wanted to live my life." – Fr. Irenaeus Kimminau*

## Ladies Society *continued from front cover*

cleaning the church on a monthly basis, providing funeral meals for grieving parishioners, cutting and serving pies for the Lenten Fish Fry, and hosting various fundraisers throughout the year.

In the process, says Jackie, the women are blessed by a deep sense of camaraderie as they work together on the journey toward holiness.

"We welcome anyone who wants to get involved and help in any way," Jackie says. "The fellowship received has been such a great blessing, getting to know the ladies on a more personal basis. It also makes service much easier."

Becoming part of the Ladies Society has encouraged Jackie in her own stewardship journey, "increasing her



*The Ladies Society provides a close sense of camaraderie among the women of the parish while also enabling them to live out their stewardship calling.*

confidence" to serve in other capacities such as assisting with the decorating of the church for special liturgies and serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

If you are a woman looking for a way to further serve our faith community while also receiving fellowship and support, then the Ladies Society is for you – no matter your age or place in life.

"We need you to help us continue our mission," Jackie says. "And if you are thinking this ministry isn't for you, come talk to me on a personal basis, because I was once in your shoes. I have truly been blessed by this ministry, being able to do things in the parish and helping out where I am needed."

*If you would like more information on the Ladies Society, please contact Jackie Dreyer at 217-222-8049.*

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

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## DID *you* KNOW?

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- *St. Anthony Parish was the second oldest parish in the Quincy area until the closing of St. Boniface Parish. Now, St. Anthony is the oldest parish.*
- *Minstrels were held in the old Parish Hall into the 1950s.*
- *St. Joseph's Church in Palmyra, Mo., resembles St. Anthony Parish's original Church.*

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact  
the Stewardship Committee at [stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com).