



# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

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## Assisting Parents in Their Role as Religious Instructors

As we strive to raise well-rounded and happy children, we parents spend countless hours assisting our children with homework, attending sporting events, and sitting through dance recitals. And yet, sometimes, caught up in the whirlwind of activity that defines modern-day living, we lose sight of our most important job as Catholic parents – namely, raising our children in the faith.

“If we truly believe what our faith teaches – that the most important thing in life is our relationship with God – then we must also understand that educating our children in the faith is crucial,” says Director of Religious Education Bonnie Nytes. “Teaching our kids math, reading, how to play soccer or piano – these things are all wonderful parts of being parents. Yet, we could give our children the best education in everything except a relationship with God, and it is all empty. Meaningless. It is so important that our children learn about their Catholic faith, building their relationship with God through Jesus Christ, from an early age.”

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*Our PSR staff*

*PSR classes occur weekly on Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 a.m. Religious education classes are available for children between first and eighth grades, teaching them about morality, Church doctrine, and preparing them for the sacraments. Registration for the new school year officially begins Aug. 1, and closes Aug. 27, when all forms must be either mailed or dropped off at the parish office. To learn more about St. Anthony's PSR program, or to get involved as a volunteer, please contact Bonnie Nytes at 217-222-5996.*

# The Spirituality of Stewardship

## *Following in the Footsteps of the Saints*

***Stewardship is about how we respond to God's call to discipleship, and there are many different ways we can respond to His call. We can, in turn, live the stewardship way of life simply by making small choices in our daily lives, under normal, everyday circumstances.***

The word “stewardship” has long carried with it the association of a financial obligation to the Church. Many believe that stewardship means “giving my time and money to the Church in support of its work, lest it is unable to survive and thrive.”

Indeed, stewardship does often require sacrifice of some kind. But the reality is that stewardship is not simply a guilt-laden obligation, or a “bill.” Nor is stewardship in any way comparable to a tax payment or a charitable networking opportunity at work. Instead, stewardship is a spiritual way of life – an active response to Christ's invitation to unreservedly “come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

Stewardship is about how we respond to God's call to discipleship, and there are many different ways we can respond to His call. We can, in turn, live the stewardship way of life simply by making small choices in our daily lives, under normal, everyday circumstances.

Nowhere in Christian history is there a more archetypal example of the variety of ways we can respond to God's call, than in the lives of the saints. The saints represent a wide

cross-section of individuals – old and young, rich and poor – living in different times in human history. Some were called to the religious life, focusing their lives on spirituality and material simplicity through prayer, and helping to form the tenets of faith. Others were individuals focused on charitable outreach, dedicating their whole lives to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Still, others faced great adversity and challenges to their faith, and ultimately suffered death and martyrdom in loyalty to Christ and His Church.

However, the commonality that all of these individuals share is that they responded to God's call to discipleship by utilizing the unique talents that God had given them. They did so in ways that were conducive to their individual personalities, and that actively influenced the circumstances presented to them in their respective days and times. Contemplative spirituality, charitable giving, great courage – all of these roads have led to canonization and, ultimately, eternal life with God in His glory. We are all called to do the same.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral

letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, “The challenge, then, is to understand our role – our vocation – and to respond generously to this call from God” (43). When thinking about the spirituality of stewardship, take some time to discern your talents, and how you can best respond to God's call by naturally and effectively using the gifts He has given you. If you are a gregarious person, this might mean reaching out to a co-worker you don't know very well, thus helping to create a hospitable work environment. If you are an individual who is often “on the go,” perhaps this means praying the Rosary while you are driving from place to place. If you have recently experienced a financial windfall or unexpected increase in income, this might mean sponsoring a little league team in your community by paying for their uniforms.

God has provided many roads to the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the saints, we see examples of the many roads that have been taken. Choosing the one that is best for us means that we can live stewardship as a spiritual practice and a way of life, and that we may answer His call to discipleship.



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## Summer Vacations Are Coming to an End... Now What?

Dear Parishioners,

**T**he month of August really does seem to return us to reality, doesn't it? Summer is coming to an end – maybe not officially on the calendar, but in terms of our lives and the life of the Church, it does. The children may view it as the end of something appealing – the start of summer vacation seems like a long time ago – and their parents may be breathing sighs of relief. For those involved in parish ministries, it might be a time when we say, “Now, it's time to work.”

Perhaps this is a time when we get back into the routine of things. However, we all know the truth – that faith and the Church are not seasonal. For that matter, stewardship is not seasonal, and it's not something that is done a few times a year. Rather, stewardship is something we should be thinking about each and every day.

There are many definitions of stewardship, but at its very basis, it means using the gifts God has given us to do the things God asks – calls, expects – us to do. Stewardship is discipleship. We may tend to think of stewardship as a question: “What is mine and what is God's?” The truth is that all that we have and all that we are belongs to and comes from God – absolutely everything!

We may hear that stewardship is using and sharing our time, our talent, and our treasure. In terms of time, the

secret is not learning how to use it or how to get more of it – the secret is knowing how best to use it. Talent and treasure are given to each of us in different amounts. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that we have to trust God before we really share those things. Relying on God and living a God-centered life are fundamental to a relationship with Him – and, for that matter, with one another. Being contented is not the fulfillment of what you may want. Rather, it is the realization of what you already have.

So, we are back to the reality of this time of year. You may have heard the statement that stewardship people are grateful people. Perhaps this is a time to be grateful for the summer that has passed. But it is a time for us to recommit ourselves to doing better, especially as we enter a time of year that provides a return to routine. Importantly, it is also a time filled with celebrations, thanksgiving, hope, and maybe even better stewardship on each of our parts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan  
Pastor



# An Exciting Year Ahead at St. Dominic School!

Summer break is flying by! We hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful, relaxing summer. Now that it is August, the 2017-2018 school year is fast approaching. For many, it is time to prepare to go “back-to-school.”

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, our hallways will be bursting with energy and excitement as we welcome our St. Dominic students to a brand-new school year, and to the many wonderful learning experiences that this year will bring. Our faculty and staff have been busy getting everything ready for the big day. Our cleaners have been hard at work cleaning the rooms and hallways, washing windows, waxing floors, and cleaning carpets. Our teachers are busy preparing their classrooms and lessons for their students. Books and supplies have been ordered and received. Handbooks and forms have been updated and assembled for distribution. Everything will be ready for the first day of school!

Our dedicated teachers and staff are all returning for the new school year, and we are looking forward to having students back in our school again to begin our journey into an exciting school year. It is our mission to help our students grow spiritually and academically, as we challenge them to lead and to serve. It is also our goal to help every student feel welcomed, connected, and a valued member of



*(First row, from left) Mollie Ozment (teacher aide), Donna Richmiller (eighth-grade teacher), Katie O'Neal (seventh-grade teacher), Sharon Phillips (second-grade teacher), Leah Waters (kindergarten teacher), Molly Stroot (first-grade teacher), Tabitha Surowiec (cafeteria manager and cook) Diane Dabney (cook), and Nam Wood (music and computer teacher); (Second row, from left) Jamie Parrott (sixth-grade teacher), Joann Ellerman (fifth-grade teacher), Sueanne Spencer (secretary), Joan Kroeter (fourth-grade teacher), Gary Clayton (IT director), Sue Kelley (principal), Suzy Mating (preschool teacher), Kelly Klauser (teacher aide), and Carla Churchill Lentz (academic support teacher).*

our St. Dominic School family. Our school-wide theme for the year is “Soaring on Eagles’ Wings.” We are committed to helping each of our students “soar” as they learn and grow this year.

We look forward to partnering with our school parents and parish community as we work together to make this year a positive and productive one for our students. We

extend a special, yearlong invitation to our school and parish families to join us at school activities and events whenever possible. We value your involvement and support in our students’ education!

May God bless us as we embark on the journey of this new school year together. May this year be successful and rewarding for everyone.



*(From left) Linda Rodemich (Reading Recovery and Title I teacher), Betty Boling (After School Care Provider), John Wyss (P.E. teacher), Karen Wellman (Before/After School Care Provider), and Meg Benner (third-grade teacher).*



# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## St. Dominic School 2017-2018 School Calendar

Wednesday, Aug. 9 – Back to School Business Day in Gym from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 16 – **First Day of School for K-8** with 11:30 a.m. dismissal. NO BUS SERVICE

Thursday, Aug. 17 – Grades 1-8 dismiss at 2:30 p.m. Buses will be running.

**Kindergarten** has ½ day only with 11:30 a.m. dismissal and no dismissal busing.

**3-Year-Old Preschool** Begins

Friday, Aug. 18 – **Kindergarten** has ½ day only with 11:30 a.m. dismissal and no dismissal busing.

Grades 1-8 dismiss at 2:30 p.m. Buses will be running.

Monday, Aug. 21 – First Full Day for Kindergarten

**4-Year-Old Preschool** Begins

Friday, Sept. 1 – NO SCHOOL – Fall Regional for Faculty followed by an Inservice

Monday, Sept. 4 – NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 26 – City-Wide Catholic Schools Mass at QND

Tuesday, Oct. 3 – Fall Portraits Taken

Thursday, Oct. 5 and Friday, Oct. 6 – NO SCHOOL – Faculty attends the Quincy Conference and Reading Conference

Monday, Oct. 9 – Columbus Day – **School in Session** (No bus service due to public schools not in session.)

Wednesday, Oct. 18 – Grandparents Day

Wednesday, Oct. 25 – Parent Teacher Conferences in Evening

Thursday, Oct. 26 – ½ Day School with 11:30 dismissal with full bus service. - Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, Oct. 28 – NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, Nov. 22 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, Nov. 23 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Nov. 25 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break continues

Wed., Dec. 20 – Jan. 2 Christmas Break

Wednesday, Jan. 3 – School Resumes – FULL BUS SERVICE

Monday, Jan. 15 – No School - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Jan. 28 – Feb. 4 – Catholic Schools Week

Feb. 5 –Feb. 16 – ACRE Religion Assessment for grades 5 and 8

Friday, Feb. 10 – ½ Day School – 11:30 dismissal with full bus service.

Parent Teacher Conferences in afternoon, as needed.

Monday, Feb. 19 – NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day

March 5-16 – IOWA ASSESSMENTS Standardized Testing, Grades 2-8

Mon., Mar. 26-Mon., Apr. 2 – Spring Break/Easter Vacation

Sunday, May 6 – First Communion – 12 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, May 22 – Graduation

Thursday, May 24 – Last Day for K-7 if **NO** snow/emergency days are used

Monday, May 28 – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

Friday, June 1 – Last Day **if** 5 snow/emergency days are used.

(5 Emergency Days are built in this calendar. If no emergency days are used, the last day could be Thursday, May 24.)

185 Total Days = 176 days, 4 teacher inservice days, 5 snow/emergency days

### MIDTERM/QUARTER/REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DATES

<u>Midterm Date</u>	<u>Midterms Distributed</u>	<u>Quarter Ends</u>	<u>Report Cards</u>
Sept. 15, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017	First – Oct. 13, 2017	Oct. 26, 2017
Nov. 17, 2017	Nov. 21, 2017	Second – Dec. 19, 2017	Jan. 5, 2018
Feb. 2, 2018	Feb. 9, 2018	Third - March 9, 2018	March 16, 2018
April 20, 2018	April 27, 2018	Fourth – Last day of School	Last day of School

**NOTE: We will dismiss 30 minutes early (2:30 p.m.) every Wednesday in order to use the Quincy Public Schools bus service.**



# Catholic Parenting Tips as Our Kids Head Back to School



*Where do we begin? First and foremost, we must start with prayer and ask the Holy Family to guide our efforts in the spiritual education of our children. Bless the food before meals. Establish a simple routine of family morning and night prayer — a recitation of the “Morning Offering” upon waking, and an “Act of Contrition” at night is a sufficient starting point.*

It's back-to-school time again! Parents are scrambling to unearth last year's backpack, purchase a mountain of school supplies, and find the perfect lunchbox that won't become a fading fad a few weeks after school begins.

Yet, these seemingly menial tasks are important — the role of parents in education is vital to classroom success. Studies reveal that increased parental involvement directly correlates to increased academic achievement.

Our role as parents, therefore, is crucial. We take the education of our children seriously and don't hesitate to drop everything to review spelling words, check homework or explain a math concept — not to mention the high volume of energy we exert washing uniforms, finding school shoes, making lunches, and carting children back and forth.

All of this is done in hopes of academic success and future security.

However, in light of these efforts, it is also important to examine what we as parents do for our children's spiritual formation. Many years ago, as we held our children at the baptismal font, we promised to “accept the responsibilities of Christian parenthood” by teaching our children through “word and example.”

All too often, however, the spiritual formation of our children is lost in a sea of homework and extracurricular activities. We placate ourselves

with the notion that they receive adequate spiritual education during religion class at school or through the parish religious education program.

Yet, we are exceedingly misled! Religious education is intended to merely reinforce what is taught at home. Parents are the primary educators of their children and are expected to pass on the faith through “word and example.”

“Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents,” explains

*continued on back cover*

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## *A Look at What is Coming Up for PSR in 2017-18*

**C**lasses for PSR – Parish School of Religion – at St. Anthony of Padua meet throughout the school year on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15 a.m. We average about 60 children in our program with 8-10 volunteer teachers and aides. Of course, Sacramental Preparation is a primary goal of this ministry. The students prepare through first and second grade to receive First Reconciliation and then First Communion. Their journey then continues through the classes until the end of eighth grade, when they receive Confirmation.

Above and beyond the Sacramental Preparation is the mission of our program to instruct our young people in the doctrine and tenets of their Catholic Christian faith. We use a Lectionary-based curriculum, which helps the children tie their lessons together with their weekend Mass experience. We also incorporate teaching about the Catholic saints, the Holy Days and rituals of our church, the History of our faith, and most importantly, we work together to build our personal faith. We strive to help each person involved in the program to grow closer to God through a real relationship with Jesus.

The 2017-2018 PSR school year begins on Sunday morning, Sept. 10. Registration for classes takes place in mid to late August. For more information about this ministry, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Bonnie Nytes, at 217-222-5996.

### **2017-2018 PSR Schedule**

Sept. 10	Jan. 14
Sept. 17	Jan. 21
Sept. 24	Jan. 28
Oct. 1	Feb. 4
Oct. 8	Feb. 11
Oct. 15	Feb. 25
Oct. 22	Mar. 4
Oct. 29	Mar. 11
Nov. 5	Mar. 18
Nov. 12	Mar. 25
Nov. 19	Apr. 8
Dec. 3	Apr. 15
Dec. 10	Apr. 22
Dec. 17	Apr. 29

## **Assisting Parents in Their Role as Religious Instructors** *continued from front cover*

St. Anthony of Padua's Parish School of Religion – PSR – is here to assist parents in this essential role. Its mission is to teach the parish children who are not enrolled in Catholic schools about the Church's teachings and, more importantly, help them form a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is important to note, however, that PSR is not intended to take over the

parents' role as their child's primary religious educator. Rather, its mission is to work with parents by enriching each child's religious understanding.

"Whether our children attend Catholic school or our Parish School of Religion, parents will always be the most important teachers of the faith for their children," Bonnie says.



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

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

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

## Catholic Parenting *continued from page 6*

the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. "Their role in the formation of Christian values is irreplaceable. They should speak naturally and simply about God and their faith, as they do about other matters they want their children to understand and appreciate."

Where do we begin? First and foremost, we must start with prayer and ask the Holy Family to guide our

efforts in the spiritual education of our children. Bless the food before meals. Establish a simple routine of family morning and night prayer — a recitation of the "Morning Offering" upon waking, and an "Act of Contrition" at night is a sufficient starting point.

Also, keep in mind that it is impossible to pass on the faith to our children if we do not constantly pursue its knowledge and practice

it ourselves. Faith formation is a lifelong process and we, as parents, are not exempt! Take advantage of the parish adult faith formation programs and seek spiritual reading — the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a great place to start.

Rest assured that your efforts will produce a firmly grounded spiritual foundation for your children.

And the reward? An unwavering hope in life eternal!

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