



ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MISSION: *Helping Young People Remain Vibrantly Catholic*

This December, our parish mission will tackle a deeply troubling question and situation in the Church, essentially asking why young people are leaving the Church and what we can do about it.

"It is well known that many young people who grow up Catholic do not remain Catholic after high school," says Jonathan Fuqua. "What is not well known is why this happens and what can be done about it."

The topic is a vital one, for our young people are the future of the Church. Jonathan points out that they are tomorrow's parishioners, religious and Church leaders.

"Walking away from Catholic Christianity amounts to walking away from the path that God has laid out for our happiness and salvation," Jonathan says. "Thus, when our young people leave and don't come back, it is bad for us and bad for them. Ultimately, it is bad for the world, for Christians are called to be salt and light to the world."

The dates for the mission are Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Each lecture will be followed by a period of questions and answers

"The talks will build on one another and will address the exodus of young people from the Church, why this is happening and tips for what can be done about it," Jonathan says.

Everyone from the community is welcome to attend St. Anthony of Padua's parish mission, and it will be most suitable for anyone sharing a concern about our young people following Christ.

Young people who do attend will understand more about why many of their peers struggle to remain Catholic as they enter early adulthood. Jonathan will also discuss

continued on back cover



*St. Anthony's parish mission
speaker, Jonathan Fuqua*



LIVING OUT *Gratitude* AND *Stewardship* DURING THANKSGIVING AND BEYOND

Every November, as the holiday season fast approaches, we are filled with a deep sense of sentimentality and gratefulness for all the goodness of the past year. At the same time, we encounter many wonderful ways to give — to cheerfully share our own gifts — during this time of Thanksgiving.

It is with this spirit of gratitude that we can truly live out the stewardship way of life. This Thanksgiving, there are plenty of opportunities to do this in a direct way. Is there a new neighbor you haven't met, or someone who might be spending the holiday alone? Invite them over for Thanksgiving dinner. Perhaps you may volunteer at a soup kitchen, or you might donate a Thanksgiving meal to a family in need who wouldn't have one otherwise.

If you go shopping on Black Friday, make it a point the next day to donate old clothes that you or your family members no longer need. And as the winter draws closer, you might participate in — or even organize — a coat drive, and then gather a small group to go out into the community to give the coats away to homeless shelters and those

in need during the winter months. There are countless such opportunities to live in gratitude and thanksgiving — opportunities that go beyond just having a meal with family and friends on the fourth Thursday of November.

Of course, we must remember that this spirit of thanksgiving does not end after Thanksgiving, nor does it end following Advent and Christmas. We must always consider how to give, even as the sentimental glow of the holiday season fades after the New Year. In January, if there is space at your table, fill it. In February, if there is abundance in your closet, give away from that abundance. In March, if there are volunteers needed at the soup kitchen, rally a team and give of your time. We need a renewed spirit of stewardship and thanksgiving that lasts the whole year so that our giving becomes habitual, and not just seasonal.

This Thanksgiving, ask the Holy Spirit where He is calling you to give. And may the joy of the Thanksgiving season flow into our lives as good stewards, every day and throughout the entire year.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

November: A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of Christians now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, that they may soon experience the joys

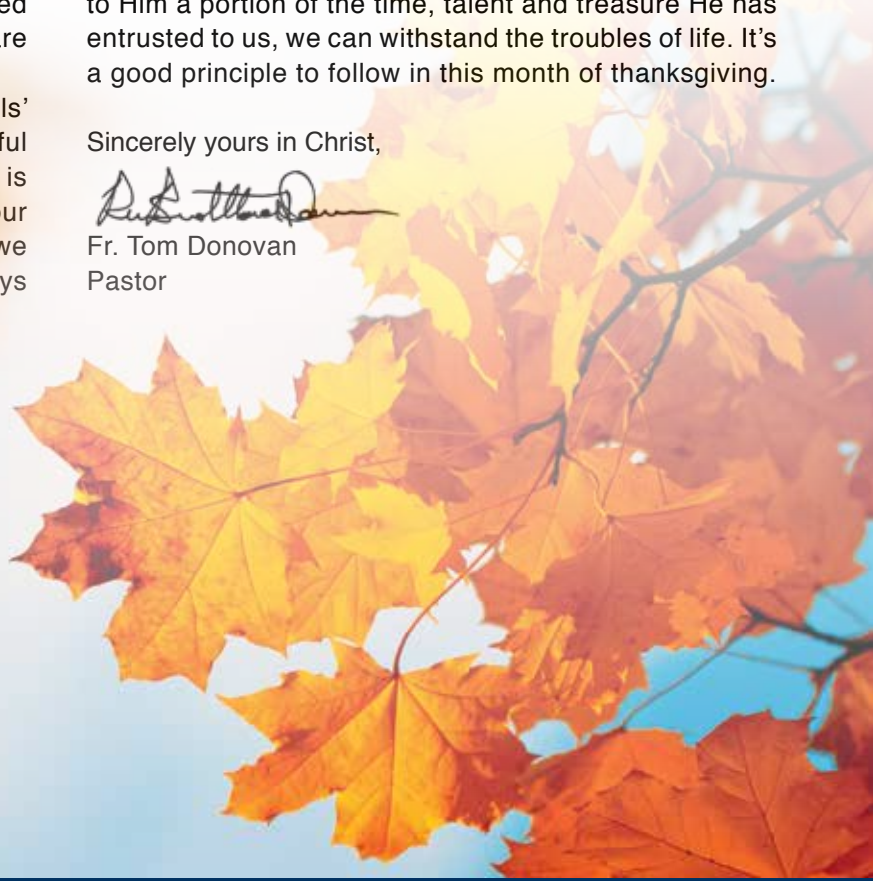
of heaven, at the same time we also are thankful for the love they gave us and for the faith they passed on to us.

Then, later in the month comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday celebrating all the things for which we are thankful. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Why not participate in the Church's Great Thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, on Thanksgiving Day? It's the ultimate way to give thanks.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings-on in our country, we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor



St. Dominic PTO

INSPIRING STEWARDSHIP

It's been said that charity begins at home — so why shouldn't that lesson extend to school? The St. Dominic Parent Teacher Organization is one example of the ways that stewardship can begin with a school community.

The PTO works to support St. Dominic throughout the year by sponsoring monthly events that encourage both parental and parish involvement. It creates a multi-generational bond that organization member and student mom Jennifer Breckenkamp says is part of what makes the parish school a great place.

"My favorite thing is walking into the school and all those kids looking up and saying 'Hi, Mrs. Breckenkamp,'" she says. "They're excited to see us because to them that means something fun is going to

happen. You can go to a lot of schools and there are unfamiliar faces, but for the most part I know which kids belong to what parents. And that just speaks to what a family atmosphere you get at our school."

PTO president Penny Weiman says the past year has provided opportunities to link members of the parish to the school. Last month's Trunk or Treat was a great example of how that link worked to make for a successful evening of fun and fellowship.

"The Men's Society cooked for us, our Ladies' Society did a scavenger hunt, and we trick or treated at Father's house," Penny says. "It was a wonderful event and the parish was represented and the school families were there being active. This year we also had a haunted



St. Dominic School Parent Teacher Organization president Penny Weiman (center) says the PTO is proud to offer opportunities for both school and parish families to take part in stewardship on a monthly basis. Here, Penny and her children enjoy one such event, "Muffins with Mom."

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THROUGH EVENTS

house that parishioners could walk through. We try to do things for all ages, so we invited the seventh and eighth-graders to come as volunteers. They came in costume and were wonderful as volunteers helping with the haunted house and getting the little ones in and out.”

This month, the PTO will host its annual Soup Supper, from which all proceeds will be split between five deserving families from the parish and school.

“Parishioners nominate families to receive the money,” Penny says. “Our goal is to give each family \$1,000.”

In December, the organization will begin selling memberships in the Dessert Club, a once-a-month chance to receive a special dessert from Penny and her family’s bakery, Cake Decorating Etc.

“The Dessert Club is for five months, January through May,” Penny says. “They buy a ticket for \$75 and the first Friday of the month they get a dessert they can pick up at Cake Decorating Etc. The first month is apple pie, February is red velvet cake, March is cheesecake, April is cream puff, and May is German chocolate cake. Since it’s for the school, we donate the cakes at cost and rest of the proceeds go to the school.”

Jennifer says she believes this year has been a great example of how the church and school can come together to accomplish great things in the name of stewardship.

“I grew up at St. Anthony and I went to school at St. Anthony,” she says. “I belong to the parish I really appreciate the Men’s and Ladies’ Societies stepping up and making an effort to get rid of that division we’ve had in the past and make it all one. Stewardship is something that becomes fun once you get involved. So many people are scared to sign up because they don’t want to donate their time, but once you’re in and get to know each other, it becomes fun.”

Penny says the organization is always looking for more help and would love to see older members of the parish get involved.

“Anyone is welcome on the PTO,” she says. “If they ever want to join, we are more than happy to take more people on.”



PTO volunteer Jennifer Breckenkamp says she is excited about the ways this year’s events have brought the parish and school together. Pictured is her family’s booth for October’s Trunk or Treat, set up like a fun coffee shop that handed out hot cocoa and won the family first place prize for the night.

If you would like more information on the PTO or the Dessert Club, please contact Penny Weiman by calling or texting 217-430-0391.

OFFERING OUR *Love and Adoration* TO JESUS

Eucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Churches that have this adoration display the Eucharist in a special holder called a monstrance, and people come to pray and worship Jesus.

Christ's great love for us was shown when He was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. He loves us without limit, and offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Can we not give Jesus a few minutes of love and adoration in return?

What is the importance of Eucharistic Adoration?

Eucharistic Adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.

What are the fruits of Eucharistic Adoration?

People who observe Eucharistic Adoration experience a deeper devotion to Jesus, and this manifests itself in countless ways. The primary fruits are repentance and conversion, which lead to increased charity — that is, the love of Christ alive in His people. The adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist also leads to greater reverence at Mass, a deeper desire for personal holiness, and a stronger sense of union with the parish and the whole Church. Ever since the early centuries of Christianity, the Church has linked Eucharistic Devotion to service to the poor. The practice has, more recently, led to an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

What is proper etiquette during Eucharistic Adoration?

When we are not taking part in vocal prayers and hymns with other adorers, we should be praying silently. Whenever we pass before the place where the Sacred Host is reserved, we should genuflect. We should observe the modest dress and decorum that are appropriate to very solemn occasions. We should avoid any actions that might disturb or distract others, or otherwise draw attention to ourselves rather than Jesus.



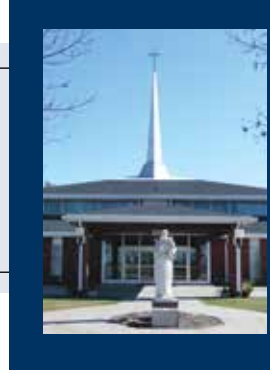
How should we pray during Eucharistic Adoration?

There are many ways to pray. We may meditate in silence by gazing on the Sacred Host. We may silently speak to Jesus from our mind and heart. We may also rely on devotions and prayers from Catholic tradition, such as the reading of Scripture, recitation of the Rosary, or the litanies. When two or more are gathered before the Sacrament, they may pray or sing hymns together.

What is the best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration?

The best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration is by doing it! Make frequent visits to Jesus at the tabernacle. Invite your spouse, your children, your neighbors and co-workers to join you. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. 'To visit the Blessed Sacrament is ... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord'" (1418).

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Ministry Fair Offers Opportunity for Deeper Parish Life

Our Ministry Fair was an event not to be missed — and more than 200 parishioners took the opportunity to learn more about how they can become more involved in our St. Anthony of Padua Parish and its many ministries.

“You Ought to Be in Pictures” was the theme for the 35 ministries manning booths at the fair that ran for the first three weeks in September in the parish hall. Each ministry booth took its theme from a movie.

A big draw for the Ministry Fair was the opportunity for families to have their pictures taken for the parish pictorial directory.

“It was successful, and a fantastic way to educate families who didn’t know about some of the ministries available,” says Kim Peters, Co-Chair of the parish Stewardship Committee. “We had raffle prizes so people could win some lovely things. We had a big gift basket worth over \$200.”

It was a challenge to run the fair for the three weekends, but the effort was worth it as those attending had the chance to learn what they could be missing by not becoming more involved in parish life.



Each ministry took a “movies” theme for its booth during our Ministry Fair that ran for three weeks in September.



Jackie Dryer won a raffle booth basket that was given away during the Ministry Fair.



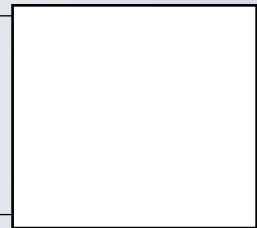
“You Ought To Be in Pictures” was the theme for our Ministry Fair, and the sign in table set the theme right from the start.



The Grand Prize basket, worth over \$200, was won by Ruth Peters during our Ministry Fair.

*You still have the opportunity to become involved in at least one of our parish ministries!
For more information, please call the parish office at 217-454-2340.*

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



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Return Service Requested

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DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

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.

St. Anthony's Parish Mission *continued from front cover*

why some of the reasons people give for abandoning the Catholic faith simply "don't hold up."

"Many people who eventually leave the faith do so because they assume that the Church's moral teachings, particularly on sexuality, are arbitrary rules with no rational foundation," Jonathan says. "But this is simply false. The Church's moral teachings on sexuality are grounded in a deep understanding of human nature and how we're designed to live."

Jonathan, our mission speaker, currently teaches religion at Quincy Notre Dame. A St. Peter's parishioner, he is connected to the parish through our larger Catholic faith community in Quincy, and several of his colleagues and students attend St. Anthony's.

"Also this year, I'm taking one of my students through RCIA here at Quincy Notre Dame, and this student will be baptized at St. Anthony's," Jonathan says.

As we prepare spiritually for Christmas, take a moment this December to attend the parish mission and speak with Jonathan and others about what we can do to not only keep our young people in the Church, but also to help them deepen their faith.

"I am most looking forward to dialoguing with the people of St. Anthony's about helping our young people remain vibrantly Catholic as they age into young adulthood," Jonathan says. "I hope I can learn from those in attendance, as well as share some helpful thoughts."

If you would like more information about St. Anthony's parish mission, please reach out to Jonathan Fuqua at jfuqua@quincynotredame.org.

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.