



# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

"A WORD FROM OUR YOUTH..."

PAGE 2

REMEMBERING AMERICA IS A GIFT  
FROM GOD PAGE 3

NEW PERSPECTIVES AND  
A RESTORED ORDER TO  
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PAGE 4

THE TRAITS OF THE CHRISTIAN  
STEWARD PAGE 6

THE FISCHER FAMILY: PUTTING  
GOD FIRST PAGE 7

## St. Anthony's Stewardship Council *Discovering Our Gifts, Working Toward a Common Goal*



St. Anthony's parishioners Katie and Scott Klauser  
with daughters (from left) Ava and Ellie

At first, Katie Klauser was reluctant to join the Stewardship Council — she was already involved in so many activities with her family at the parish and the school. But when she finally joined, Katie learned how much she valued helping others discover their talents and give back to the community.

"I have really been enjoying getting more involved with our parish family," says Katie, a St. Anthony's parishioner since 2014. "When we discover our gifts and start using them to serve our church, school and our community, we receive so much grace, and it shows God how much we really love Him.

Together, the members of the Stewardship Council reach out to fellow parishioners to help them identify their gifts from God and how to utilize them. For Katie, living stewardship and giving back to the faith community has become a family activity alongside her husband, Scott, and daughters, Ellie and Ava.

"When we share our gifts of time, talent and treasure, it enhances our relationship with God as well our relationships with each other," Katie says. "God blesses us with these gifts — what we do with them is our gift back to God."

Connecting the parish is one of the main responsibilities of the council, and the monthly newsletter is one of the

*continued on page 2*

# St. Anthony's Stewardship Council

*continued from front cover*

primary ways all the parishioners of our parish are brought together.

"Through our monthly newsletter, parishioners can get to know each other and be informed on upcoming events they can possibly get involved in," Katie says. "The newsletter also includes really nice spiritual articles that can help us in our faith journey."

The Stewardship Council strives to support parishioners in their faith journeys and to strengthen their relationship with God through various resources.

"We recently coordinated a book study with the book *Resisting Happiness* and included study guides for self-reflection," Katie says. "We are also in the process of putting together a parish library that will include books to help us enhance our faith."

Members of the council also coordinate annual Ministry

Fairs and the Stewardship Renewal, events that help parishioners discern their talents and how to engage them in support of the parish, school and community.

"Getting more involved is fun and rewarding, and it enhances our relationships with others in a couple of great ways," Katie says. "We can work together with like-minded people towards a common goal, and the people we serve see our example and hopefully get inspired by it."

Any parishioner is welcome to join the Stewardship Council to help other parishioners identify their gifts and to bring our faith community closer together in support of each other.

"Thank you to the committee for being so welcoming and wonderful," Katie says. "There are only so many hours in a day, so I'm doing what I can and love working alongside other people who share this same passion."

*If you would like more information about the Stewardship Council, please reach out to the parish office at 217-222-5996.*

## "A Word from Our Youth..."

*This month, we speak with student Lauren Brinkman.*

**Name:** Lauren Brinkman

**School:** Payson

**Age:** 13

**Grade:** Will be in ninth grade in the fall

**1) Tell us a little about your family.**

I have a mom, dad, and two older brothers.

**2) What is something unique about you?**

My personality.

**3) What are some of your hobbies?**

Playing sports, doing puzzles, and hanging out with my friends.

**4) How do you get involved with stewardship at St. Anthony Parish and/or your school?**

I go to church every week and I help with Vacation Bible School.

**5) What is one of your favorite things about St. Anthony Parish?**

We are all like one big family.

**6) How has St. Anthony Parish helped shape your life?**

It's made me a better person.





# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## Remembering America is a Gift from God

Dear Parishioners,

**W**e're all familiar with the song "America the Beautiful." Many of us share the feelings that inspired Katharine Lee Bates when she composed it as a poem.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.*

Katharine Bates drew her inspiration from her experiences during the summer of 1893. An English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she went to teach summer school at Colorado College, necessitating a journey across the country. The trip's highlight came when she reached the pinnacle of Pikes Peak and could gaze upon range after range of the Rocky Mountains on one side and the expanse of the Great Plains on the other.

Moved by the vistas around her and the varied features of America she had seen, an idea for a poem and some of its words formed in her mind atop the mountain. That night, back in her hotel room, she completed the poem.

I think the reason for the popularity of "America the Beautiful" is that it combines several themes into one coherent whole. The beauty and immensity of America's

natural creation, the rich abundance of our harvests, and the recognition of God's generosity are woven together. The final product forms a hymn of thanksgiving for our land that goes beyond national pride to prayer, for God is the spiritual source for all the goodness we have.

I think it's a suitable theme for July, the month we celebrate Independence Day, our national holiday. Thankfulness, after all, is the basis of stewardship, the recognition that we've been given all we have. We're then responsible to the Giver for the use we make of His gifts.

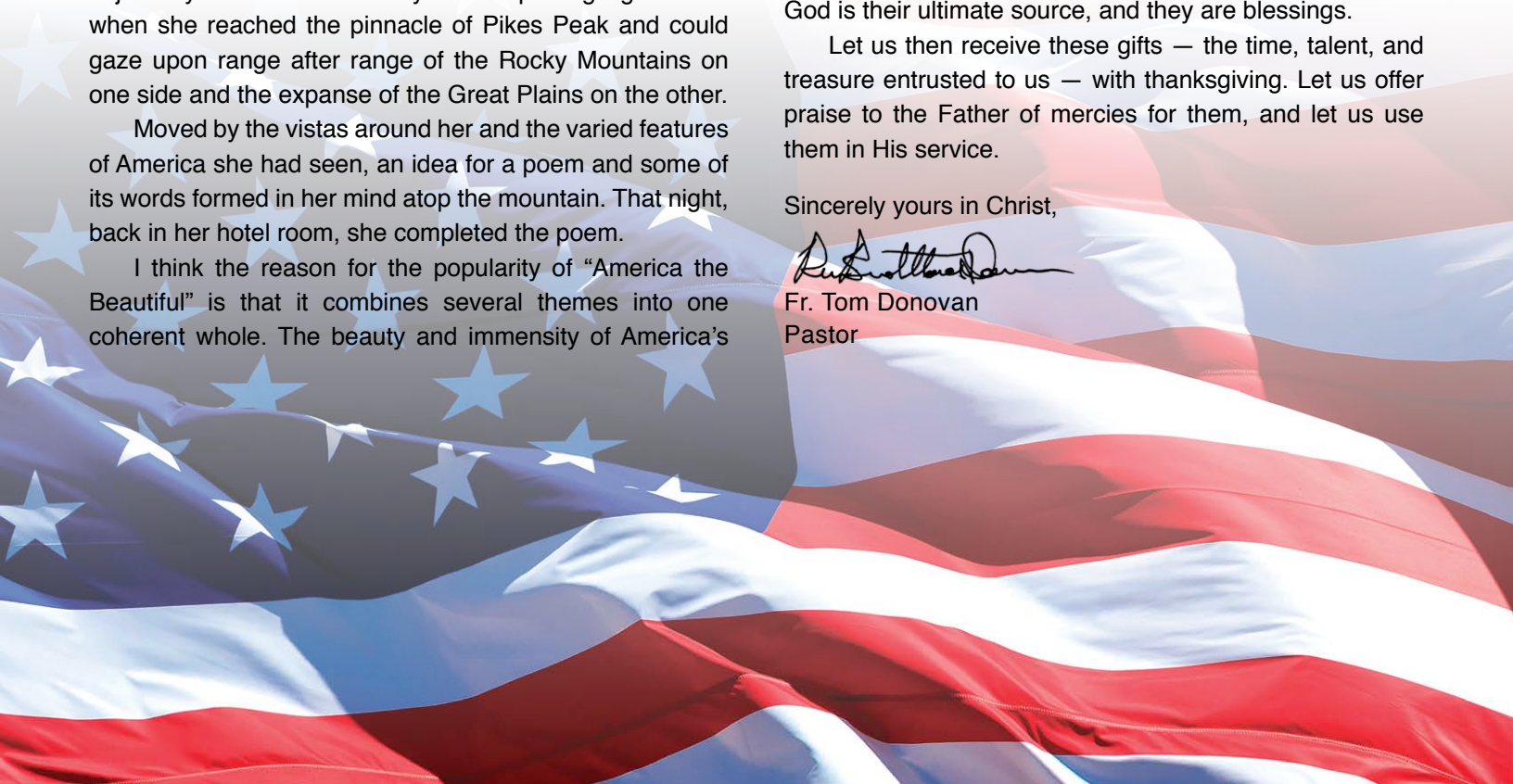
The gifts we celebrate are manifold. Some are of a spiritual nature — our salvation by Christ and the sacraments, for example. Others are in the natural order, such as the beauties of creation and abundant harvests. Still others relate to social relationships, like families, friends and national life. Whatever the class of these gifts, God is their ultimate source, and they are blessings.

Let us then receive these gifts — the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us — with thanksgiving. Let us offer praise to the Father of mercies for them, and let us use them in His service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom Donovan".

Fr. Tom Donovan  
Pastor



# NEW PERSPECTIVES *and a RESTORED*



*Parish youth following the 2019 Confirmation*

Over the years, Confirmation has become increasingly viewed as a “graduation” of sorts — a conclusion to formal religious education as a youth “moves on” to spiritual adulthood. Yet, rather than being an end, Confirmation is meant to usher in a new beginning for the sacrament’s recipient. For by perfecting the graces of Baptism in the young members of our Church, the Sacrament of Confirmation allows parish youth to more fully receive the power of the Holy Spirit as they commit their lives to Christ. This is why, says Director of Religious Education Bonnie Nytes, the Diocese of Springfield’s recent decision to restore the Original Order of the Sacraments of Initiation provides us with a unique opportunity here at St. Anthony of Padua.

“Hopefully, it will help us all realize that faith formation is an ongoing journey,” Bonnie says. “We each, adults and children, should be continuously educated in the faith as we can’t ever truly learn it all. This restored

order will also allow our children to receive the special grace of Confirmation as early as possible, helping them combat the increasing challenges of today and to stay more engaged in the faith.”

Consequently, St. Anthony of Padua’s Parish School of Religion program, or PSR, is currently in a season of flux and transition as we finalize how this new order will function here within the parish. Classes for first through eighth-graders will continue meeting on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15 a.m. in the Church Hall, providing developmentally appropriate faith formation to our parish children. First and second-graders will begin the process of sacramental preparation, receiving their First Reconciliation during second grade in early Advent, and the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation during their third-grade year. Older youth, however, still in need of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will still wait to receive their final sacrament of Christian Initiation during their seventh and eighth grade years.

“We’re really in this period of transition and we all kind of just need to take a deep breath and be patient with one another,” Bonnie says. “But also to remember that the true reason we send our children, either to a Catholic School or PSR, is because we want our children to be formed in the faith. And though the sacraments certainly are an important part, the Catholic faith is about much more than simply receiving the sacraments and getting out. Our goal is to help the youth come to know Jesus and to help make the faith central to their lives.”

Thus for each grade level — be it a sacramental year or not — PSR classes are designed to share God’s Word and the precepts of our Catholic faith with the youth in their own language, making the faith come alive for them

*continued on page 5*

*Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in early August with the academic year officially beginning Sunday, Sept. 8. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bonnie Nytes at 217-222-5996.*

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



## RED ORDER *to Sacramental Preparation*

so that it can take root in their hearts and lives. We invite all parishioners to support this ministry by prioritizing faith formation for their children.

"As good parents, we are all trying to give our children as many tools as we can to be successful in life," Bonnie says. "We help them in their academics, make sure that they play the sports they excel in, and enroll them in things like music and dance. But if we really believe what we say we believe — that the only thing that lasts is God — then why wouldn't we put that first?"

The ministry also welcomes parish volunteers who are willing to serve as either catechists or classroom assistants. No prior teaching or catechetical background is required. All that's needed is a love for the faith and a desire to share that love with the youth of the community.

"We always are in need of additional volunteers — people who are willing to work with the Holy Spirit to share God's love," Bonnie says.

**RAFFLE**  
**\$2,000**  
**CASH PRIZES**

**Air-conditioned Bingo**   **Country Store**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**Funnel Cakes**  
**Cotton Candy**  
**Nachos**

**St. Anthony Picnic**

**Saturday - July 20, 2019**

**4:00p.m. Mass - Open 5:00 p.m. to Midnight**

**St. Anthony Church & Hall**  
**2223 St. Anthony Road - Quincy IL**

**Food & fun for the whole family!**

**Kiddie Land with Crafts, Games & Rides**  
**New for 2019 Armbands**

**Tent Covered Seating**  
**Games for All Ages**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**SOUTHERN RAIL BAND**

**GREAT FOOD & DRINKS**





# The Traits of the Christian Steward

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

**Insight** — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

**Conscientiousness** — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and

treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

**Generosity** — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

**Joy** — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



## The Fischer Family: *Putting God First*

In the Fischer household, there's one person that they always try to put first — the Lord Jesus Christ.

"My wife, Ashley, and I believe that God and church should come first in life, and this is how we are raising our family," Kurtis says. "I want my kids to know that. We never miss Mass each weekend, no matter what. Whatever we need to do to help out at the parish, we do it."

Kurtis and Ashley have been blessed with two children, Gabriella, 6, and Samuel, 3. As a family, at home, at our parish and in the outside world, they strive to make stewardship a true priority in their lives.

"We make sure we pray together as a family every day," Ashley says. "We always pray before meals, and we say night prayers together. We make time for each other, and for our faith. It is very important to both of us that our kids are raised that way, because that is how we were raised."

In the past, Kurtis served as the Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #583 in Quincy. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Men's Society at our parish. With the other members of the Men's Society, he maintains our parish and school buildings, and also hosts an annual chicken dinner, a pancake and sausage breakfast, and Lenten fish fries to

raise proceeds for these maintenance services. He serves as an usher, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and fills in as a greeter at times.

For six years, Kurtis served God and our country in the Air Force.



*The Fischer family*

*continued on back cover*

*"My wife, Ashley, and I believe that God and church should come first in life, and this is how we are raising our family. I want my kids to know that. We never miss Mass each weekend, no matter what. Whatever we need to do to help out at the parish, we do it." — Kurtis Fischer*



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



2223 St. Anthony Rd.  
Quincy, IL 62305  
217-222-5996

Return Service Requested

WWW.STANTHONYPADUA.ORG

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.

## The Fischer Family: *Putting God First* continued from page 7

"When I was in basic training, I was a chapel guide, and I took some of the guys to church that wanted to go," he says.

Ashley lives out the call to stewardship by being a faithful Catholic wife, mother and an active member of our parish community. She enjoys being part of the Ladies' Society, and is a member of the Parent Teacher Organization, which she represents at our parish Finance Council meetings. As a school parent — Gabriella attends St. Dominic School, and Samuel is planning on in the future — she loves devoting her time and talent to making the school a caring and faith-filled environment for all to enjoy. By helping out with things like lunch duty and field

trips, she is able to be present for her daughter, as well as the parish school family, in a meaningful way.

"I have really enjoyed getting to know other school parents and teachers by volunteering," Ashley says. "It makes it feel like a family to me."

The Fischers are deeply grateful to have the blessing of Catholic education in their lives.

"It is a real priority of ours to have our kids receive a Catholic education, and we are willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to make it possible," Kurtis says. "You don't learn about our God in the public school system. The religious aspect of a child's education is so important."

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