



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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## Tom and Sharon Phillips: *Bringing God's Blessings to Others*

**W**hen Tom and Sharon Phillips made their Cursillo Weekend in 2004, God touched their hearts in a beautiful way.

"It was awesome!" Sharon says. "It was life-changing for us. Although we had always been Catholic, the weekend deepened our understanding of our faith and our relationship with God in a new way."

As faithful stewards of God's spiritual gifts, Tom and Sharon enjoy bringing others the same kind of blessings they received by serving with the Quincy Cursillo Ministry. Over the years, they have served on multiple Cursillo teams, and worked together as a couple to direct Cursillo weekends.

"We are happy to share what we have received with others," Sharon says. "Cursillo is a powerful experience for adults, meant to strengthen their friendship with God and help them discover what their God-given gifts are to share with the world."

With renewed hearts, the Phillips also enjoy serving God in the midst of our parish family and school community. Both Tom and Sharon serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Tom helps maintain our parish lawn



*As faithful stewards of God's spiritual gifts, Tom and Sharon Phillips enjoy bringing others the same kind of blessings they have received.*

and bushes, and Sharon is a second-grade teacher at St. Dominic School.

"I taught for more than 30 years in the Quincy public school system, and I just finished my sixth year teaching at St. Dominic School," Sharon says. "God has given me

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# A WORD

## *From Our Youth*

Name: Noah Klauser  
Age: 17  
School: Quincy Notre Dame  
Grade: Junior



1) Tell us a little about your family.

My family has belonged to St. Anthony Parish for as long as I've been alive. My mom and dad's names are Kelly and Todd, and my brothers' names are Drew and Aiden. My parents both work at Catholic schools here in Quincy. My dad works at QND, and my mom works at St. Dominic's. We love to spend time together, especially playing games or watching our favorite shows as a family.

2) What is something unique about you?

I'd say that the most unique thing about me is how much I love my friends. There's nothing in this world I wouldn't do for them. They are the most amazing people I could ever hope to meet, and I love being around them whenever I can.

3) What are some of your hobbies?

Some of my hobbies include reading, writing, listening to music, playing games both on a table and on a screen, and spending time with all of my amazing friends.

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

I regularly attend HAFOC, which is a religious organization at QND that meets every Wednesday night. HAFOC stands for Hands And Feet Of Christ. We sing songs of worship, listen to talks about people and their religious journeys, and talk about our faith in a deeper level. I'm also a part of the Student Leadership Team at QND. We meet once a month to plan things for the school and HAFOC.

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

I love the way the community comes together during Fish Frys. It's great to see all sorts of people working together to make something so great for our parish. The people behind the scenes always seem to be talking and having a great time.

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

St. Anthony Parish has helped to shape my life by giving me a foundation on which I can build my faith. I've been introduced to a lot of different religious retreats and extracurricular activities that I may never have said yes to if I hadn't first started as a student in those pews.

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the returns to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the Code of Canon Law (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.

Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — Aug. 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Fr. Tom Donovan  
Pastor



# Encouraging and Building: THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR IS U

Staff and teachers are ready to spend the 2019-2020 school year building on last year's Bible verse from Matthew 4:19 — "He said to them, 'Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

Last year, students and staff focused on anti-bullying and being kind, and this year's verse — "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11) — takes that a step further for students to encourage and build each other up.



Mrs. Frericks is ready for the 2019-2020 school year at St. Dominic's.

"This verse is nice dovetail on what they did last year," says new Principal Carol Frericks. "Teachers and students will build up the relationships between the faculty, students and families. This is a great verse because it will constantly remind us to find ways to look at everything in a positive light and use it as a source of encouragement. This is natural in a learning environment."

Besides a new Bible verse to guide the school year, students, staff and parishioners have a lot to look forward to as the new year gets underway.

"I am so excited to get to know the children," says Mrs. Frericks, who will be serving her first year as Principal. "We can share in our love for God and love for each other. I am looking forward to the joy that will come from sharing experiences with them."

Mrs. Frericks also looks forward to helping everyone at St. Dominic recognize the "holy moments" she has been focusing on in her own faith journey.

"I hope our Bible verse will help guide all of us as teachers, parents and students to recognize holy moments at St. Dominic's," she says. "As I capture these special moments in my prayer journal, I plan to celebrate these holy moments as the fruits of the Holy Spirit with the students."

In the coming year, parishioners can expect to see a shared vision with the school and more recognition for parish and school stewardship by parishioners.

"Fr. Donovan is looking at ways to build bridges between the school and church," says Mrs. Frericks. "We want to create a vision that is for the school but also is shared with the parish."

Fr. Donovan and Mrs. Frericks want this vision to guide them for the school's future.

There are a few staffing changes, besides the addition of Mrs. Frericks. Mrs. O'Neal will transition from seventh-grade Language Arts to fourth-grade classroom teacher. Miss Glidewell will fill the Language Arts position. Mrs. Eversman has been hired a part-time physical education instructor.

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## UNDERWAY AT ST. DOMINIC

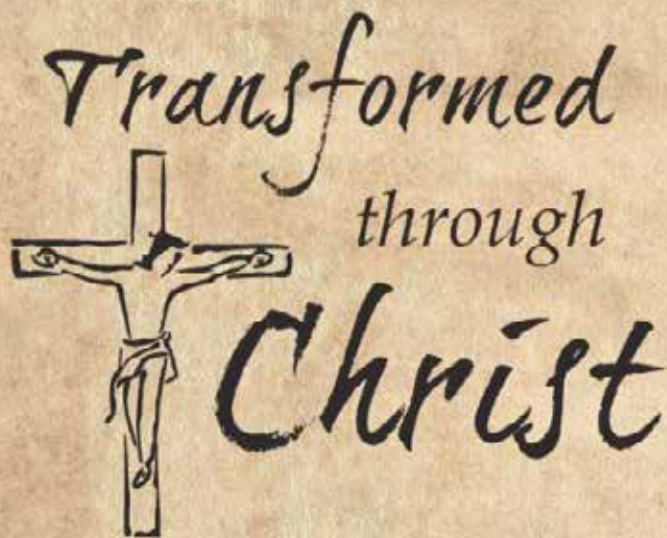
Mrs. Frericks looks forward to more collaboration with Fr. Donovan and a stronger relationship with St. Anthony of Padua parishioners. She knows that the students at St. Dominic are the future of the parish and that it is important to teach them in the Catholic faith from an early age.

“The students really are the seeds of the future,” she says. “Through prayer and faith, those seeds develop into future parishioners who are filled with grace and filled with mercy.”

Mrs. Frericks says the staff works hard at teaching stewardship at the school. One day, these children will lead and support the parish. For now, she looks ahead to the 2019-2020 school year.

“I am really looking forward to the start of school year and learning new things,” she says. “I am excited to meet families and become part of parish family with them. I am excited to spend every day with the children and cherish them as they grow and develop at St. Dominic’s.”

*The Back to School Bash will be taking place on Aug. 11, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m. Students can see their classrooms and teachers, drop off supplies and enjoy a hotdog meal with their families. The cookout is 5 to 6 p.m.*



Please consider using your time, talent and treasure to do God's work here on Earth!

### 2019 MINISTRY RENEWAL

Sept. 8th:  
Start of Stewardship Renewal with  
Virtual Ministry Fair

Sept. 15th:  
Witness Talk with Todd Klauser

Sept. 22nd:  
Commitment Weekend



# BACK TO THE BASICS: *Parenting 101*

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 school clothes, 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 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!

## ATTENTION: VOLUNTEERS OF ST. ANTHONY & ST. DOMINIC!

*We'd like to show our gratitude to the wonderful people who dedicate their time and talents for the good of our church and school at our*

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

September 12th at 6:00pm  
St. Dominic Gym

Please come join us for an evening of food & fellowship as we show our appreciation to you for all you do for our parish and school!

RSVP to St. Anthony Parish Office (217) 222-5996.  
The first 250 volunteers to RSVP will have a spot!  
Spouses welcome. Adults only please.

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## Meet Sueanne Spencer *St. Dominic School's Jack of All Trades*

For the past eight school years serving as our school secretary, Mrs. Sueanne Spencer has been the unofficial face of our St. Dominic School. She's been there to greet us with a ready smile, has been our source of contact when we have questions or are in need of information, has healed countless ailments with her ice packs and famous mints, and has helped make us all feel a bit more at home here at the parish school.

"I guess I do a little bit of everything," Mrs. Spencer says. "We don't have a school nurse so I like to say that I play one at school — then I do lunch counts, answer the phones, help teachers whenever I can with copies and such. And sometimes, depending on if our IT person is here or not, I help troubleshoot laptop and technology problems."

In all of these various capacities, Mrs. Spencer says she feels privileged to work in a place where her faith and professional life are one. It's a job that she truly loves — it is her own personal way to live out stewardship as she strives daily to become the face of Christ to our school staff, parents and students.

"For me, it's a mission as a well as a privilege to work with the children and to be able to really live in my faith," Mrs. Spencer says. "I'm so honored that parents trust us with their children — to be one of the first faces that our parents and students see each day. I want to be sure to be there with a ready smile. I want the parents to always feel comfortable, to feel that they can just stop in the office and chat, even if it isn't for a specific reason."



Not only is Mrs. Spencer blessed to work each day in a job that she truly loves, but she is also inspired daily by the immense generosity of our school parents. Countless parents give of their time, talent and treasure each year, working tirelessly to ensure the continued success of our school. It's their generosity that makes the school function so well and helps make Mrs. Spencer's job such a great pleasure.

"When you're talking about stewardship, it's giving of your time, talents and treasure," Mrs. Spencer says. "Our parents really exemplify this, giving a lot of their time and talents to the school.

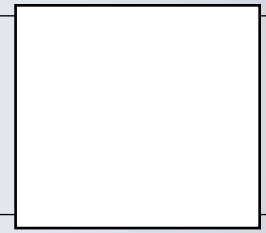
We have parents who are good at finances, who are good at art, who are good at organizing and they just bring their uniqueness to the table. We have parents who aren't afraid to work really, really hard for the school whether it's coming in early in the morning, during the actual day, or later at night to serve."

Together, these parent volunteers help create the beautiful "family-centered environment" which defines St. Dominic School. As the new school year begins, Mrs. Spencer is honored to continue serving alongside her fellow staff members and parent volunteers to ensure that St. Dominic continues living up to its mission of "promoting spiritual growth and academic excellence" while also modeling stewardship to its students.

"We have an amazing school and I love being able to represent it," Mrs. Spencer says. Having a job that you love is an extreme privilege. Not a whole lot of people can say that and I can. There is never a time when I don't want to be there — never a time when I don't feel grateful."

***"For me, it's a mission as a well as a privilege to work with the children and to be able to really live in my faith. I'm so honored that parents trust us with their children — to be one of the first faces that our parents and students see each day. I want to be sure to be there with a ready smile." — Mrs. Sueanne Spencer***

# 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.

## Tom and Sharon Phillips

*continued from front cover*

the gift of teaching, and I love to use it! I love the Catholic atmosphere at our school, and I appreciate that our mission is *first* to teach our children about God, and then give them an excellent education. ”

When asked about the importance of stewardship in the Christian life, Sharon has some helpful advice to share.

“When people start giving back, they also get back more in return,” she says. “When you start living out stewardship in your parish, you get to know your fellow parishioners better, and gain a deeper understanding of what God intends you to do with your life. As you share your gifts with others, your own faith becomes more profound and you build community at the same time.”

Tom and Sharon are also both involved in the Teens Encounter Christ Program, as well as the Quest Program. Both of these programs provide opportunities for young people to get to know Christ better, and draw closer to Him.

Teens Encounter Christ is three-day program designed for teenagers ages 16 to 21, and the Quest Program is a 24-hour experience offered for teenagers ages 13 through 15.

“I have seen these programs change the lives of young people,” Sharon says. “They are very rewarding ministries to be involved in. It has renewed our own faith to witness God’s power at work through them.”

Last but certainly not least, Tom and Sharon embrace the stewardship vision in its fullness by being faithful Catholic parents and grandparents. Their son, Andrew Phillips, lives with his wife, Christina, in Texas. Their daughter, Sarah Cole, and her husband, Korey, belong to our parish. Sarah has a son, Noah Hochgraber, and she and Korey recently had a baby girl named Audrey.

“Noah just finished second grade at St. Dominic’s School, and it was so great to have him in my class,” Sharon says.

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