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# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

*Let the Fun and Learning Begin!*

## A New Year For Our Parish School of Religion

Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) teachers are ready for another year of teaching our faith to first through eighth-grade students!

"Seeing children and adults take ownership of their faith and truly building a relationship with Jesus is wonderful," says Director of Religious Education (DRE) Bonnie Nytes.

Entering her 13th year in the DRE position, and having taught at Quincy Catholic schools for many years, Bonnie's



*By making PSR as interactive and engaging as possible, volunteer catechists help make the faith come alive for our parish youth.*

favorite lesson is helping students learn a Bible verse. She says the verse becomes "part of their heart."

"My favorite Scripture is Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength,'" she says.

Bonnie enjoys her career because of her love for the Catholic faith and having the opportunity to teach our children and teens.

PSR is offered for first through eighth-grade students in between Sunday Masses, from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

"The most important thing in our life is our faith, our relationship with God," Bonnie says. "So, we work hard to be sure our kids learn math, reading and science, etc. We work hard to get them to their sports and extracurricular activities. Shouldn't we work even harder to be sure they are being educated in their faith?"

Classes are taught by volunteers. The teachers follow a weekly curriculum and also mix in teachings on subjects such as the saints, holy days, the sacraments and Ten Commandments, to name a few.

"Our students also memorize Catholic prayers and Scripture passages, as well as doing activities using Scriptures," Bonnie says.

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# Providing Love and Care for Others Through the *Butterfly Support Ministry*

**F**or a family facing the recent loss of a loved one, the funeral planning process can easily become overwhelming. In the midst of grief, they are suddenly faced with numerous decisions — from funeral homes and coffins, to liturgical readings and hymn selections. Each one of these choices is important, providing us with a tangible way to commemorate the deceased. And the members of St. Anthony of Padua's Butterfly Support Ministry are here to lovingly support individuals through the process.

"I think it helps them in their time of loss," says ministry coordinator Mary Courty. "When you lose a loved one, your mind just kind of goes to mush. You need someone to be there to support you and help you through the process. We're there to help guide them through the different things that are available so that they don't have any regrets down the road, because there are things they wish they had done but just didn't think about at the time."

Having personally experienced how difficult the funeral planning process can be without support, Mary feels passionate about aiding parishioners during their time of need. That's why following a parishioner's death, she and her fellow volunteers take the time to personally meet with the grieving family, offering their condolences and walking them through the various funeral options here at the parish.

"We try to support them as best we can during this difficult time," Mary says. "After the death of the person, we will come to the family's home or they can come to the parish office, whichever is better for them. We'll help them plan the funeral liturgy, choosing the readings, psalms and

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*"You need someone to be there to support you and help you through the process. We're there to help guide them through the different things that are available so that they don't have any regrets down the road, because there are things they wish they had done but just didn't think about at the time." — Mary Courty*

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*Members of the Butterfly Support Ministry — (from left) Alice Rakers, Gene Soebbing, Mary Courty and Joann Witte*

songs — we help them choose people to read the readings or to bring up the gifts and make sure that they have the necessary altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers."

Beyond the funeral liturgy itself, the Butterfly Support Ministry works to become a recourse to grieving family members. They'll connect the family with other bereavement ministries such as the Funeral Luncheon Ministry. They also offer pre-planning for individuals interested in planning their funeral before their passing and provide continued support for grieving families/individuals through special Masses, follow-up visits, and sympathy cards sent at Christmas and on death anniversaries.

"It's just so rewarding to be able provide that love and care for others," Mary says. "Just knowing that I'm helping someone deal with their loss, as opposed to when I went through it with the loss of my father really all on my own — I think it's so helpful to have someone there to help you, guide you, and be there for you. I feel it's a very worthwhile ministry for our parish family, and I feel so blessed to be involved and be able to help provide that service for others."

*If you are interested in joining the Butterfly Support Ministry, please contact Deacon Harry Cramer at 217-222-5996 or Mary Courty at 217-653-6939.*

# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## Getting Our Priorities in Order

Dear Parishioners,

I know that many people are not on a school year calendar. But for many of us, September brings a livelier rhythm to our schedules. Life just seems to get busier after Labor Day. Therefore, this month seems to be a good time to think about our priorities and to pray for God's guidance.

It has been said that the truly important is often pushed aside by the merely urgent. So, as you review your priorities, please make sure that you include what's really important!

First of all, be sure to include time for God, as well as for job, family and recreation. Of prime importance, make sure that Mass on Sundays is a top priority — that's the most important event of the week. In addition, reserve some time for personal Scripture study, as well as prayer with your family or a prayer group — then incorporate that into your daily and weekly routine.

There are many forces pulling at us as we decide where to use our talents. For most of us, our jobs claim the lion's share of our efforts and sometimes threaten to engulf our whole lives. We also have responsibilities to our families and legitimate calls for service to the community — that obviously includes the Church. We have lots of areas for service right here in our own parish — religious education, music, serving as an usher, or any one of the

many ministries in which you may use your talents to grow closer to God.

Finally, we have to set priorities for using our money. As Christians, we are responsible to God for the use of the financial resources He has entrusted to us — no matter if it's a lot or a little — and to make a return to God in thanksgiving. In this regard, Scripture gives us the tithe as a goal. Working toward a tithe may mean some changes in your priorities, but I can tell you from personal experience that those who have adopted this as their standard of giving experience a joy rooted in the spiritual growth that occurs as we continually live out the "three Ts" of stewardship — time, talent and treasure.

Priorities are certainly a part of life. As you review your own priorities, especially now that many regular routines are starting up again, ask yourself how you will use the time, talent and treasure entrusted to you by God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Tom Donovan  
Pastor



# PARISH AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES REFLECT ON EXPERIENCE AT THE MSGR. MCGREAD ST

Over 50 years ago, the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita, Kan., began taking a new approach to shepherding his flock. We are *all* stewards of God’s great gifts, he taught his parishioners, and by growing and sharing those gifts, we can better build His kingdom here on earth. Who was this dynamic pastor? Msgr. Thomas McGread, otherwise known as the “Father of Stewardship” in the United States. As a part of Msgr. McGread’s legacy, Catholic clergy and lay people now travel to Wichita twice a year to attend conferences highlighting how the stewardship way of life is changing individual lives and parishes around the country.

This July, our parish sent a group of five from St. Anthony of Padua Church and St. Dominic School to attend this unique conference. These five attendees — including Fr. Tom Donovan, Stewardship Committee Chair Kim Peters, teachers Katie O’Neal and Hope Glidewell, and Principal, Carol Frericks — are thankful for the incredible experience they had at the conference.

Katie O’Neal, a fourth-grade teacher at St. Dominic School, was particularly inspired by the conference speakers and their honest and humble discussions about making stewardship a way of life.

“It was really affirming, refreshing and enjoyable to see so many people really living their faith,” she says. “Stewardship was very much alive in the speakers’ everyday routines and lives, and it was so accessible and real and positive in their own journey and in all the lives that they touch.”

New teacher Hope Glidewell, who joined the seventh-grade faculty at St. Dominic School this year, also benefited from hearing the stories of intentional discipleship that were shared at the conference.

“I feel like I was able to experience and understand stewardship in more detail and with more concrete examples, which will help me model it in my own life and for my students,” she says. “At the conference, they talked about parents as the first teachers of stewardship, but I think that teachers are also among



the first teachers of stewardship. I hope this experience will shape my classroom approach in many ways.”

Carol Frericks, St. Dominic School’s new Principal, is grateful to have shared the experience of this conference with two of her teachers, as well as parish representatives Fr. Tom and Kim.

“I just thought it was an awesome experience to do this together,” Mrs. Frericks says. “It provided an opportunity to see how the school and parish can work together on this stewardship mission. The sharing experience was so rich for all of us — after we listened to the talks, we had an opportunity to talk about everything

# ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



## STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE *“A True Blessing”*

and what it means for us, and we really developed a shared understanding of things.”

It was during these times of reflection and sharing that our group of conference attendees hit upon a realization — the verse that St. Dominic School had already chosen for this year’s theme perfectly encapsulates what stewardship is all about!

“The verse is ‘Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do,’ from 1 Thessalonians 5:11,” Mrs. Frericks says. “We absolutely see the strong connection between this verse and the four pillars of stewardship, because it is about starting where we are, creating this vision and mission together, and sharing it — not just with the school, but with the families and the parish as well.”

Although this was the fourth time Kim Peters attended the Msgr. McGread Conference, she continues to be amazed and inspired by the testimonials confirming the profound impact stewardship can have on a parish. This year, she enjoyed the chance to experience the conference with Fr. Tom and some of our school staff.

“It’s been a true blessing getting to know Carol and Katie and Hope,” she says. “The school is our greatest ministry as a parish. Being the Stewardship Chair, I’ve been wanting to ensure that the parish and school are working together, and these three have brought great ideas to the table. I think it will be a great marriage between the parish and school this year.”

As always, Fr. Tom is thankful for another inspiring conference. He feels that tapping into the experience of a diocese that is 34 years ahead of ours on the path

of stewardship is an invaluable opportunity for any parishioner, and particularly for leaders in the parish.

“As a parish, you need a vision, and it’s more than I can teach on Sundays because it’s an entire way of life,” he says. “When you talk to priests and parishioners who have gone down this road, you get that witness that if we put our faith in this and do what we need to do, God will provide.

“Stewardship is not a *quid pro quo* — making an exchange of one thing for another in hope of a ‘better deal,’” Fr. Tom adds. “It’s that you’re walking a path that is well-tread for people in parishes who have looked deeply within themselves and done the hard work of coming together and doing something great for God. I just encourage people to walk this path and see where we can go as a parish.”

***“I just thought it was an awesome experience to do this together. It provided an opportunity to see how the school and parish can work together on this stewardship mission. The sharing experience was so rich for all of us — after we listened to the talks, we had an opportunity to talk about everything and what it means for us, and we really developed a shared understanding of things.” — Mrs. Carol Frericks, Principal***

*Fr. Tom Donovan would like to encourage all parishioners to prayerfully consider attending the next Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference. Fr. Tom is happy to sponsor anyone who chooses to attend, and hopes that many of our parishioners and parish leaders will take this opportunity to grow their faith and their understanding of the stewardship way of life!*

# OUR ANNUAL *Stewardship Renewal*

*Commitment Weekend is **September 21-22.**  
Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!*

## **Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?**

Honestly ask yourself, "How much time do I spend in prayer each week?" The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there's just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

## **Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?**

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. Anthony of Padua. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. Anthony of Padua, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

## **Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?**

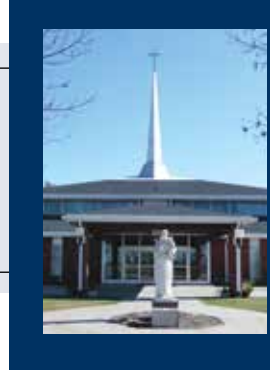
It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to "help yourself," but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy business person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find

that it's not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At St. Anthony of Padua, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.



# ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



## Opportunities for Fellowship and Fun Abound at Junefest and our Parish Picnic

*We thank all who attended our Junefest and Parish Picnic events this summer, building fellowship in our parish community while sharing in plenty of fun! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who helped with these two events, especially the following chair people —* **Junefest:** *Jessica Bliven, Melissa Young, Nate and Jackie Bruns* **St. Anthony Picnic:** *Dave Keck, Sara Courtney, George Dreyer Jr. and Jackie Dreyer, Gail Grawe, Jay and Julie Peter, Dan Reichert*



# 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.

## Parish School of Religion *continued from front cover*

An important part of this formation is sacramental preparation. Bonnie says both PSR teachers and parents have a role to play in these important steps on the faith journey.

"If we want our children to embrace and grow in their Catholic-Christian faith, we must give them roots," says Bonnie.

This year, there are a few diocese-wide changes to the sacraments. The age for First Communion will change from second to third grade — this is part of the declaration to return to the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation by the Diocese of Springfield. Eventually, all students will receive Confirmation in third grade, prior to their First Holy Communion, which will take place in the same Mass. This

is the current practice at the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults Mass.

Bonnie also teaches religion at St. Dominic — her true love for the faith shines through in all she does. She looks forward to another year of sharing her faith with all.

"I love to see children feeling God's love and realizing that they are so important to the Body of Christ," she says.

Registration Sunday will be at 9 a.m. on Sept. 8, on the main floor of the church hall. All parents and students are asked to attend. There will be time to meet the teachers, receive the handbook and have questions answered. Classes begin Sept. 15.

*If you would like more information on classes or to volunteer as a teacher, substitute or aide, please contact Bonnie Nytes at the church office at 217-222-5996 or send an email to [bonbrod12@gmail.com](mailto:bonbrod12@gmail.com). For more information about the restored order of sacraments, please refer to: [https://www.dio.org/uploads/files/Communications/Parish\\_Link/2018/07052018/Introduction\\_with\\_FAQrvsd061918.pdf](https://www.dio.org/uploads/files/Communications/Parish_Link/2018/07052018/Introduction_with_FAQrvsd061918.pdf).*

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