

AUGUST 10, 2008

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

Christian stewardship is a broad, encompassing teaching, emphasizing that everything we are and everything we have – all our creation, our Church, our own vocation, personal resources, our talent and even our time – comes as gifts freely and lovingly given to God.

Stewardship Live It!

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**ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS!
(GRADES K-6)**

- Have you been searching for a way to get involved in your parish?
- Do you wonder what to do on those long winter evenings?
- Do you have an overwhelming desire to learn more about or share your faith?

Search no more! We have a thrilling and spine-tingling way to beat away those winter blahs. You can become a part of our exciting Faith Formation Program! We are an exhilarating example of Stewardship here at St. Rita's. This year we are going to be seeking ways to make our Spirits Come Alive!

If this sounds like a deal you can't pass up we have openings for catechists in the following grade levels.

Grade 3: Tuesdays at 4:30pm
Grade 5: Mondays at 4:30pm

If you would like more information about our program, please contact Anita Wagner at 671-2079.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

Registrations for next year were due **June 26!** If I have not heard from you or you have misplaced your forms they are available in the Faith Formation Office (in school), the Parish Office, and on the table to the right of the Chapel in the Narthex of the Church or go to our website at www.saintrita.org. Classes are beginning to fill. Please submit your forms ASAP to guarantee placement in the fall.

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SACRAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration forms are being accepted for the Sacraments of **First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist**. If your child is a minimum of seven years old and you choose to have him/her make one of the Sacraments please submit a registration form to the Faith Formation Office.

Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation Office (in school), the Parish Office, and on the table to the right of the Chapel in the Narthex of the Church or go to our website at www.saintrita.org.

COMPANIONS IN GRIEF GROUP presents:



**Roslyn Karaban, M.Div., Ph.D.
Professor of Pastoral Care and
Counseling at St. Bernard's School of
Theology and Ministry**

**Wednesday August 13 at 7:30 p.m.
at Holy Spirit Church**

Dr. Roslyn's special area of interest and expertise is complicated grief. She teaches courses in this area and often goes to churches to give talks and workshops. She is the author of *Complicated Losses, Difficult Deaths*.

Dr. Roslyn is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and many of her clients come to her for grief counseling. She runs a training program (with St. Bernard's and Lifetime Care) in hospice chaplaincy and also brings to this work a lifetime of complicated losses in her own personal life. Dr. Roslyn will talk about the grieving process and particularly about difficulties and complications that may arise. She will have handouts and will allow time for interaction, questions and personal sharing. *All are welcome to attend!*

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**LADIES OF ST. RITA PARISH
Save the Date ~ September 5-7**

Our Annual Retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House

The theme this year is *Understanding St. Paul ~ A Realistic Guide for Today's Catholics*. Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated the year beginning in June to St. Paul, the 2000th anniversary of the Apostle's death.

The topics to be covered are:

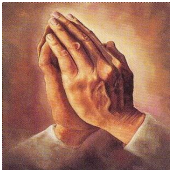
1. The Life and times of St. Paul and the Catholic faith today.
2. St. Paul the Theologian teaches us Faith, Hope and Love.
3. St. Paul's conversion and our continuing need for renewal.
4. Being a New Creation in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come away for a weekend with the Lord. Let Him restore and renew your spirit. Let Him create in you strength and courage through the teachings of St. Paul. Think about it ladies and plan this weekend for a quiet getaway with the Lord ~ you deserve it!

For reservations or information please call Thelma at 872-0642 or Debbie at 216-9276. We carpool from St. Rita parking lot on Friday September 5 at 5:30pm. We return Sunday around Noon. Suggested stipend is: single room/shared bath \$130 – double room/shared bath \$100 per person. Double room used as a single with private bath \$190. Meals included. Don't let the price keep you away – The Retreat House believes money should never keep anyone away from a beautiful experience of faith.

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Did You Know? Our bulletin is available each week on-line at www.saintrita.org – check it out!



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008

7:00AM CAROL ALVAREZ – Eleanor & Harold Dill
9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008

9:15AM RICHARD SIEBERT – Michaela Siebert

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008

9:15AM PATRICK MITCHELL – Anna & Ed Ehlers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

No Morning Masses

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

Anticipated Mass for the Feast of the Assumption

5:45PM TIM & STEPHANIE HOLLANDER –
Joyce Hollander

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008

Holy Day ~ Feast of the Assumption

9:15AM MARION & JANIS KUNTZ & PATTY KLEHR
– The Klehr Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2008

5:00PM JOHN SCOTT & ERIN POLLOT – Family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2008

7:30AM HENRY STASZAK – Family
9:00AM KATHY BAYER – Family
10:30AM FRANK & ANNA COSTANZA –
Teresa Costanza

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**This week the Tabernacle Light will burn
in loving memory of Joseph Filippone**

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Additional Holy Day Mass Times at area churches: Feast of the Assumption

Thursday, August 14: Holy Trinity at 5:30pm
Holy Spirit at 5:30pm

Friday, August 15: St. Paul's at 8:30am
Holy Trinity at 9:00am
Holy Spirit at 9:00am and 7:30pm

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MISSION SPEAKER ~ Each summer the Bishop asks every parish to welcome a Mission Speaker to help us reflect on our call to spread the Good News. We were happy this weekend to have one of our own parishioners Kathy Velekkakan who shared with us the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. If you missed the second collection this weekend and wish to support this important work you can make a donation to St. Rita's marked "Medical Missionaries" and we will forward your gift to them.

From the Desk of Drew Desmarais

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Reflections on Pastoral Ministry

I have enjoyed my gradual shift to pastoral ministry here at St. Rita Parish over the last two years. After spending over twenty years in faith formation (nine here at St. Rita), it was time to revisit my pastoral training that I received in the Diocese of Providence, R.I. In my earlier years I engaged in seminary training for the priesthood. As part of that I was a summer chaplain at Roger Williams Hospital in Providence. Words are inadequate to describe all the joys and sorrows that one experiences in a hospital ministerial setting. I learned at an early age that a minister enters on a journey with the folks that he is privileged to be with. There are numerous occasions where words just can't be found to comfort someone grieving the loss of a loved one, comfort someone receiving a terminal diagnosis, comfort folks who are losing a marriage, job, family, self esteem, and hope.

My experience over the last thirty plus years of ministry has taught me that prayer and the Eucharist are the two basic tools to take on this journey with the folks. Before I enter a hospital, nursing home, memory care or hospice home, funeral parlor, home of a parishioner or other areas, I say a prayer. I pray that I can be an instrument of God's love, grace, presence. God needs to be at the center of the pastoral minister's life. In the face of life's mysteries where words and understanding are in short supply, over time God fills in the terrible silence, answers the question why, wraps the hopeless in hope, puts the right person in our life at the right time, brings relief to the person suffering chronic emotional and physical pain. God is then at the core of who we are and central in making sense of the world around us.

The Sunday Eucharist reminds us every week that God needs to take a central role in our lives. When in my humanity I've forgotten that basic tenet of our faith that is when trouble came calling. I consider traveling life's journey with you a privilege. I've come to see the folks of St. Rita Parish ministering to each other in so many ways and this is what makes this place special and encourages the staff to keep going on the journey with you. My prayer is that God's transforming love touches your heart.

Peace,

Drew

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**FOR AN UPDATED DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Please call 671-1100 x 22 – anytime!**

Call the parish office ask for extension 22 or if the recording comes on you can press 22.

PLANS FOR THE WEEK AUGUST 10, 2008

TUESDAY 8/12

1:00pm Recovery – Rm 3

WEDNESDAY 8/13

7:30pm Companions in Grief at Holy Spirit

PARISH SUPPORT		
For Last Weekend August 2 & 3		
Last Week	Weekly Goal for Aug 2008	Variance
\$14,705	\$13,800	+ \$905
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$72,879	\$69,000	+ \$3,879

(Our fiscal year is 7/1/08 – 6/30/09)

The surplus in the weekly collection is allocated to reduce the overall budget deficit of the parish.

Monthly Parish Center Mortgage Payment - \$2,725
Mortgage Balance as of July 1, 2008 - \$200,229

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ACT Now ~ Automatic Contribution Transfer

It is easy to make your financial contribution to Saint Rita Church by automatic withdrawal directly from your bank account. There is no charge for this service. Sign-up cards are available in the back of Church or for more information call the parish office at 671-1100 x 12.

Creating A Safe Environment

In accordance with Diocesan Policy if you are over the age of 18 and will be volunteering in our Parish and/or School in working with children, teens, and/or vulnerable adults you will need to attend a CASE workshop and have a criminal background check. In addition, if you will be driving children, teens and/or vulnerable adults you will need to complete a *Volunteer Driver Information Form*.

Note to drivers: If you have attended the workshop in the past you do not need to attend again, however, a new *Volunteer Driver Information Form* is required at the beginning of each new school year.

Upcoming dates are:

Thursday, August 21
at 7:00pm at St. Rita's in Room 1

Wednesday, September 3
at 7:00pm at Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday, September 17
(Time TBA) at St. Paul Church

Monday, September 29
7:00pm at Holy Trinity Church

We welcome the newest members of our parish family who were baptized this weekend:

Savanna Lee Dauria
Joshua Peter Weber



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BIBLE READINGS:

- 10 Sun **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time** 1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13a Ps 85:9-14 Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33
- 11 Mon **St. Clare** Ez 1:2-5,24-28c Ps 148:1-2,11-14 Mt 17:22-27
- 12 Tue Ez 2:8-3:4 Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131 Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14
- 13 Wed Ez 9:1-7;10:18-22 Ps 113:1-6 Mt 18:15-20
- 14 Thu **St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe** Ez 12:1-12 Ps 78:56-59,61-62 Mt 18:21-19:1
- 15 Fri **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab Ps 45:10-12,16 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56
- 16 Sat Ez 18:1-10,13b,30-32 Ps 51:12-15,18-19 Mt 19:13-15
- 17 Sun **20th Sunday in Ordinary Time** Is 56:1,6-7 Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Rom 11:13-15,29-32 Mt 15:21-28

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ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
Next Weekend ~ August 16 & 17

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Marisa Vargas, Alex Vargas, Nick Wynne

Sunday, 7:30am:

Connor McKenna, Susan Loeb, Sandy Loeb

Sunday, 9:00am:

Rachael Benz, Lauren Benz, Juliana Cruz

Sunday, 10:30am:

Abby Geen, Jenny Geen, Jamie Farris

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SACRISTAN:

Week of August 10 Miriam & Dan Kennelly

LINENS:

Week of August 17 Carol Seitz

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Wedding Banns

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Aprile Strang & Daniel Paul

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HELP! Breakfast Club is in need of workers.

Cooks and waitresses are especially needed. The commitment is one Sunday morning a month from September - May for 3½ to 4 hours. Great working conditions, fun co-workers, and free breakfast! If interested please call Jane at 671-3871 or Sharon at 671-1100 x 12.

