



# St. Anne Catholic Church

*April 2016*

## “A ‘Giant’ in Their Corner”

### *Becoming a Prayer Giant for the Confirmandi of St. Anne*



*Students at the 2016 Confirmation retreat, including youth from both this and last year’s classes. Through the Being a Giant Ministry, these future leaders of our Church have each been paired with a Prayer Giant who will spiritually support them for the next three years of their life.*

**A** young person’s Confirmation is an important milestone in their religious formation. Having received the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, these young men and women are now meant to go out into the world, witnessing the truth of the Gospel through active discipleship. Yet, the years following Confirmation are also when our young people are faced with the most challenges to their faith life – more than any other age, these men and women are on the front battle lines, constantly being tested and tried.

Seeking to better support our newly confirmed parishioners, St. Anne’s Faith Formation Coordinator Brianna

Noonan felt inspired to create the Being a Giant Ministry. Through this ministry of prayer, youth are spiritually adopted by a parishioner for the three years directly following their Confirmation.

“The idea is that on the day of their Confirmation, they will receive a Prayer Giant that has committed to praying for them on a daily basis for the next three years,” Brianna says. “These kids are in great need of prayer as they face the challenges of everyday life, the demands of school, and the pressures from their peers.”

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# *Cultivate* Your Personal Garden for Christ this Spring

Everyone loves springtime. The weather is warmer and beautiful flowers are blooming all around us.

But anyone with a beautiful garden will attest that the flowers do not magically appear as if the season change itself miraculously makes the flowers bloom. Beautiful flowers and lush gardens are the result of the gardener's hard work.

Imagine that a man is given some flower seeds. The man then buries the seeds in the ground and leaves them on their own. As the months pass and rain falls, some seeds may receive enough nourishment to bloom. But simply burying seeds in the ground will hardly make for a gorgeous garden. Rather, if the man truly wants to enjoy many beautiful flowers, there is much care and work ahead. Recognizing the hidden beauty within these simple seeds, he must cultivate the ground, plant the seeds in a solid foundation, then water and fertilize them throughout the year. Only then will he see the proper fruit these seeds were made to bear.

This simple illustration speaks to the heart of us this season — not only as we look around at the flowers, but more importantly as we reflect on the springtime of the Church. We are celebrating the great feast of Easter when, through His death and resurrection, Christ offers us the greatest gift of all — eternal life with Him forever. This celebration leads us to reflect on

the many gifts God has given us in this life and the fruit they will bear, especially as we look to life eternal.

He has given each of us a multitude of gifts so that we can better serve Him and bring others to Him. Do we notice the hidden potential of our gifts? Do we see them, like the seed, as seemingly small yet so full of fruit? Everything we have — our time, talents and treasure — is a gift from the Lord. Do we accept gifts in gratitude, then put them to use by cultivating and nourishing them so they will bear the proper fruit?

Just like springtime flowers that we enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for. Our gifts need to be cultivated and nourished. Only then will we see them for what they are — wonderful gifts given by God meant for His greater glory.

Like the seeds, if we use our gifts flippantly, we may see some fruits here and there. But we are called to so much more — we are called to build a beautiful garden. We are called to offer God the most beautiful flowers of all.

This season, as we look at all the beautiful flowers around us and enjoy God's creation, let us think about the seeds in our own lives. Ask yourself if you have accepted the gifts God has given you — your time, talents and treasure — and have cultivated and cared for them properly. Or, do they just sit dormant within you yearning to bloom?

# ALL THINGS AND ALL PEOPLE ARE MADE

# New

Dear Parishioners,

**W**e associate the Easter season with springtime — a time of new life and new beginnings — and Holy Scripture addresses this idea of newness many times. In one of our readings during April, God declares, “Behold, I make all things new.”

This idea of being “new” is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We need to strive to do this on a regular basis – even on a *daily* basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new.

During this ongoing Easter season, we need to retain that idea of being “new.” And being “new” means conversion, and we have often pointed out that conversion is at the heart of a life of stewardship.

It is always risky to try to summarize God, but we hear in Holy Scripture four ways that the Lord makes things new:

**1. God makes us spiritually and morally new.** This is part of that conversion process, but it does not occur unless we want it to happen and we work at it.

**2. God makes us physically and bodily new.** This is the hope of eternal life, when God makes it clear that all of our sorrows and pains and challenges of this life will be eliminated.

**3. God makes creation new.** This is difficult to imagine or to perceive, but the world that we will eventually experience is new and glorious.



**4. God perfects our relationship with Him and with each other.** In heaven there will be no sin to get in the way of His love for us, our love for Him, or our love for one another.

For all of the seeming depth and complexity of these concepts, they really boil down to one basic idea – if we live out our lives in ways that serve and love others, this “newness” is not only a natural progression, but also a natural result. It all comes down to the calling each of us has received. Are we responding to that call? Are we even thinking about that call? We

need to, and we need to do it now – not at some vague point in the future. We have an annual renewal here at our parish, but we might better term it a “perennial renewal.” That is what our faith and our lives need to be all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Kastl*

Rev. Gary Kastl  
Pastor



*Behold, I make all things new*



## "A Safe Way to Learn The Rite of Christian



St. Anne's RCIA candidates, catechumens and sponsors – (first row, from left) Marion Williams, Ryan Clarke, Greg Campbell, Nicole Campbell, Trischa Clarke, Kathy Erickson, Cindy Ocker, Jeff Ocker, Wendell Blanton, Kay McSherry, Debbie Krzmarzick, and Alex Timmons; (second row, from left) Karen Barrett, Johnny Pinson, Ron Crokek, Jo Ankney, Pam Pollard, Lois Hinton, Susan Leech Lopez, Jacqueline Quinnett, Cassie Gigvere-Ciranowicz, and Caitlin Hartwell; (third row, from left) Cheryl Mahon, Katherine Sheridan, Fred Salie, Carla Dingman, Richard Tran, Justina Ingwersen, Ursula Swain, Rick Ewing, and Fr. Kastl; (fourth row, from left) Stuart Barrett, Angela Dunn, Tawny Bishop, Carrie Laughlin, Elisa Davis, Brenda Sand, Randy Hurst, Everett Schmitz, Megan Polly, Colleen Weeks, Chris Proctor, and Jack Nil; (fifth row, from left) Bob Erickson, Doug Trammell, Joanna Goluuska, Collin McDonald, Calvin McDonald, Andrew Polly, Scott Weeks, and Kirk McAnany.

Clay and Elisa Davis made a huge leap when they enrolled their children in Catholic school, knowing that the majority of families at All Saints were Catholic. Since their children had no knowledge of the faith, Elisa decided to begin RCIA in order to engage in further conversation with them.

Soon, their children were in faith formation classes, and the entire Davis family began attending church at St. Anne together.

"Through this process, our family grew an appreciation for the history, tradition and beliefs of the Catholic Church," Elisa says. "I believe the totality of what our family has been experiencing, the relationships we have built at All Saints and the desire to place Christ at the forefront of our lives initiated the desire to convert."

The Rite of Christian Initiation for

Adults offers men and women the opportunity to do exactly what the Davis family is doing – to ask questions and explore the teachings of the Church.

"At other churches, you walk in and feel pressured to join, whether or not it is a match for you," Elisa says. "RCIA was a safe way to learn about the Church because there is no pressure to join. You can learn and decide if the Catholic Church is a fit for you."

For seven months, men and women have been on a journey of learning about the faith together from a variety of catechists, including lay people, priests and deacons. The RCIA sessions take place on Sunday from 10:15 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. from the middle of September until the Easter Vigil.

"I admire our candidates and catechumens so much because this is a huge decision," says Kathy Erickson,

RCIA Coordinator. "They are searching for something. Now these people feel like they have found home, and it warms my heart!"

The men and women in RCIA come from many different backgrounds and walks of life. In Elisa's family, her mother's upbringing was in the Methodist Church and her father's was in the Catholic Church. Though she remembers going to midnight Christmas Mass with her father's side of the family, she never felt like church attendance was a consistent factor in her life.

Similarly, Clay and his parents and brother only occasionally attended church when he was growing up. He remembers witnessing his brother's baptism and having a positive experience at Christian summer camps.

"I believe my deep heartfelt love for Christ occurred as a result of attending

# On "About the Church" Initiation for Adults

numerous church camps during the summers and my time as a Boy Scout," Clay Davis says.

Throughout the RCIA process, Elisa has enjoyed sharing the journey with her friend, neighbor and sponsor, Carrie Laughlin. The journey has also brought the Davis family closer together through attending specific family sessions and celebrating liturgical traditions during Advent and Lent.

"St. Anne's provides many opportunities for the whole family to invest in the Church and community," Clay says.

"The Advent wreath was new to our family, and the readings we did every night while lighting the candles were powerful. This is our first Lent, and it has also brought forth fantastic family conversations."

This year, 26 adults and 7 children are preparing to enter fully into the Church at the Easter Vigil. After Easter, however, the RCIA gatherings will continue as these new members transition into the faith community.

"Friendships have been formed throughout this process," Kathy says.

"We grow through our relationships with each other, and they will always have the relationships they formed in RCIA."

All of us here at St. Anne can help these men and women feel welcome by greeting each other in a spirit of warm hospitality. Let us welcome them into the Church!

"We thank you in advance for your patience as we grow in our Catholic faith," Elisa says. "We look forward to lifelong relationships as we join St. Anne."

*For more information about RCIA at St. Anne, please reach out to  
Kathy Erickson at [rcia@stanneba.org](mailto:rcia@stanneba.org) or 918-357-1809.*

## Prayer Giant *continued from front cover*

Brianna explains that the ministry's title was inspired by Matthew Kelly's book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*. In his book, the author says when you examine the life of Catholic leaders, they all have a "giant" in their life – namely a person that has been continuously praying for them.

"Prayer changes things!" Brianna says. "So, we wanted to make sure that each one of these young people, as fully initiated Catholics, has a 'giant' in their corner."

With one Prayer Giant for each confirmand, the number of ministry volunteers continues to grow each year based upon the size of the Confirmation class. Last year, St. Anne's had nine confirmed, whereas this year's numbers have grown to 20 teens being confirmed, with an additional five becoming fully initiated Catholics through RCIA.

An advantage of the ministry, says Brianna, is that it allows parishioners to make a meaningful difference from the convenience of their home.

"It takes time and commitment and is such a great gift to those who give it, but it's something anyone, anywhere can do," Brianna says. "You don't have to show up somewhere at a specific time. You just need to come to our Lord in prayer every day on behalf of this one individual."

The Being a Giant Ministry is a ministry of faith in that volunteers may never see – at least in this life – the effects of their prayer. As such, says Brianna, Prayer Giants may not get the "warm, fuzzy feeling of knowing how their time and efforts have affected these young people." At the same time, however, this is what makes the ministry so beautiful because, through their intercessory prayer, ministry volunteers are simultaneously deepening their own faith in the Lord.

"We know that the Father gives to those who ask and He answers to those who knock," Brianna says. "So, through prayer and faith, we trust that our God who is a good Father will care for our young people."

*Currently, the Being a Giant Ministry is in need of more volunteers. Please consider becoming a Prayer Giant, strengthening our youth to become the Catholic leaders our world desperately needs! For more information, please contact Brianna Noonan at 918-251-4000 or [bnoonan@stanneba.org](mailto:bnoonan@stanneba.org).*



# Dying He Destroyed Our Death, Rising He Restored Our Life

*“He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead” – Apostles’ Creed*

**A**s we have recently come to the end of our Lenten journey toward Easter, let us take a moment to meditate on three pivotal lines from the ancient creed, which comprise the central events of our redemption.

Far from being a mere myth or legend, in Jerusalem around the year 30 A.D., Jesus Christ – the Son of God made man – was tortured at the hands of the Romans. He was flogged, beaten, spit upon, and crowned with thorns. He was made to carry the cross through the crowded streets to Golgotha and, once there, He was crucified – He was nailed to a cross and died. Just as someday we will each be laid in our graves, Jesus was laid in His.

The most obvious question that confronts the observer of this horrific reality is “why?” Luckily, Christ made the impetus for His self-sacrifice quite clear: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life” (Jn 3:14-15).

The reasons Christ died on the cross are twofold, one negative and one positive. The negative cause is sin. Only in witnessing the cost of redemption – the death of the Son of God – can we begin to comprehend the profound magnitude of sin: “You were bought with a price,” says St. Paul (1 Cor 6:20).

Conversely, Christ willingly accepted the cross because of love. St. John famously says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

Uniting these two causes, St. Paul says, “God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

In His limitless compassion, Christ entered into the fullness of human suffering – physical torment, emotional agony and utter isolation – so that He might share complete solidarity with mankind. Accordingly, His passion and death not only accomplished our redemption, but by the cross, He also showed us the way to true discipleship.

For Christ taught His disciples long before His crucifixion, “if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23).

Christ’s is the final and perfect covenant between God and man, and it is a covenant of love, with Christ Himself as its high priest. Nevertheless, this covenant is not based on love as popular culture conceives of it, but love as Christ displayed it: “The way we came to know love was that He laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16).

Joined with the passion, Christ’s resurrection is the key to the entire Gospel – for in rising from the dead, Jesus proved true His bold promises. He had prophesied to the apostles, “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again” (Jn 10:18). The resurrection vindicates this promise and validates His teaching and miracles.

Furthermore, Christ, “the firstborn from the dead,” opened the door to eternal life and to new creation (Col 1:18). Out of the darkness of despair, the scattered and frightened disciples saw the risen Christ and were renewed and transformed. Filled with faith in the crucified and resurrected Savior, they evangelized the known world.

St. Paul summarizes the centrality of the redemptive power of the Easter Triduum with his characteristic zeal: “If Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. Then we are also false witnesses to God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins” (1 Cor 15:14-17).

This Easter, let us respond to the glory of Christ’s resurrection by exclaiming, as St. Thomas the Apostle did, “My Lord and my God!” And may each of us be filled with faith in God of our salvation, hope in the rewards He has won for us, and love for Him who has deigned to bestow them on us.

# SACRISTANS:

## ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION OF THE MASS



**T**here are many moving parts that go into a Catholic Mass, be it a Sunday Mass, a daily Mass, or a feast day Mass. In order to ensure that these liturgies run smoothly, St. Anne's eight sacristans each help out at a different Mass. By preparing beforehand, as well as cleaning and organizing afterwards, sacristans help to make the Mass a prayerful and reverent experience.

"It's behind-the-scenes – people don't usually see what we do because it's before the Mass starts and after the Mass is over," says Jack Boucher, who has served as a sacristan for the past 20 years. "There are eight of us all to-

gether, which is nice because we have someone plus a backup for every Mass. We're just here to make things a little easier on Father."

Prior to each Mass, sacristans will arrive a half hour early to ensure that everything necessary for the liturgy is ready to go. They unlock doors, turn on all the lights, place the candles and crucifix on the altar, and make sure the Sacramentary book is in place. They also make sure that the bread, wine and sacred vessels – chalices, ciboriums, cruets, and bread plates – are properly prepared and in their correct places. After Mass, they clean and put away the

sacred vessels, remove the candles and crucifix from the altar, turn off the lights and lock the doors.

By taking the time to come early and stay late, sacristans are able to lend a helping hand to Fr. Kastl.

"Father is usually pretty busy talking to parishioners, so we are able to relieve him of this duty," Jack says. "Once he gets to the sacristy, it's all done for him, so it frees up his time a little bit."

Serving as a sacristan has helped Jack to better see the traditional details of the Mass.

"You become more aware of things," he says. "For instance, the colors of each

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## *St. Anne Catholic Church*

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Mass – the colors on the veil needs to match the color on the altar and the color that Father wears. You also learn a lot of the terminology – for example, what the difference is between a chalice and a ciborium.”

Through their work, sacristans are also able to grow closer to God, and gain a deeper understanding of the Mass.

“You’re handling the hosts, and handling the vessels, and it really makes you aware of the importance of the Mass, and what it means,” Jack says. “You also feel a little closer to what’s actually going on in the Mass. Just by doing this minor thing, it becomes that much more meaningful.”

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– Jack Boucher

*All parishioners are welcome to help out by serving as a sacristan! If you are interested in serving, please contact the parish office at 918-251-4000.*