



In This Issue:

2

Finding Support
and Connection
Young Adult Ministry

3

Stewardship: "This Is the Day
the Lord Has Made; Let Us
Rejoice in It and Be Glad"

4

Questions & Answers
About Our Annual
Stewardship Renewal

6

Divorce Support Group
Being Organized

7

The New Prime Timers
Ministry at St. Anne
Catholic Church

New Transportation Ministry Offering Opportunities

If you are looking for a ministry that will enable you to meet your fellow parishioners while sharing the love of Christ with them, the new Transportation Ministry may be the answer.

Tammy and Steve Creed are preparing for our Ministry Fair this month, when they will be seeking volunteers to provide transportation to and from Mass for our parishioners who have no way to do so.

"Steve, who is a candidate for ordination as a deacon next year, was asked if we'd do it, and we agreed," Tammy says. "People can't come to Mass, so this is a start-up ministry. We'll be sharing about the ministry at the Ministry Fair, and we'll be looking for volunteers after that."

The need for the Transportation Ministry arose when it was apparent that a segment of our parishioners is aging, and, for a variety of reasons, cannot drive. The need for transportation to Mass may be temporary, but it is a problem.

"It's a ministry born of need, definitely," Tammy says. "I've done this in the past, but not on an organized basis – not yet."



Steve and Tammy Creed will be on hand to promote the new Transportation Ministry at our Ministry Fair this month. The ministry will provide rides to and from Mass for our parishioners who are unable to drive. Steve is also a candidate for ordination as a deacon next year.

Finding Support and Connection Young Adult Ministry

Young adulthood can be a challenging time of life. Whether you're a young professional, newly married, or adjusting to life with children, it's often a time of transition and significant decisions as you discern the direction of your life and your faith. It can be challenging to "find your place" in the parish, but here at St. Anne, we hope to give you support on your journey.

"I think young adults need community and fellowship," says Vanessa Schupp, who coordinates the Young Adult Ministry at St. Anne.

The group serves a wide range of young adults in the parish, from those who have recently completed college to those married with children, to cradle Catholics and those who entered the Church as adults. According to Vanessa, the diversity within the group allows for members to grow with both those who share their state of life, as well as those whose lives look different.

"I'm single and I bring that aspect to the group," she says. "Other people have families and they bring that aspect. You're able to see all those different vocations, it's great to see, here's the Catholic life and it's not just one way, there's a lot of different ways to live this out."

Young Adult Ministry events range from social activities to opportunities to grow spiritually, as well as serving the community. Whether you're at a game night, praying at a Holy Hour, or volunteering at Catholic Charities, the young adult community provides a chance for parishioners to deepen their faith and Catholic friendships.

"We don't have a lot of Catholics around here, so when you meet people who share your faith, we're all growing together," Vanessa says. "[It's important to] have



Young adults gather for their Christmas party.



Young adults enjoy each other's fellowship and fun at a Murder Mystery Dinner.

that time to just be together and talk about our faith."

Having been a part of the group for the past several years, Vanessa shares that her faith has been strengthened as she has shared it with others and learned from their examples.

"It's really helpful to have someone around your age be like, 'Hey, I'm going through this too,'" she says. "We give each other advice, we're in the same place and we can use it as a resource."

She emphasizes the importance of accountability, in a particular way, during this time in life.

"A lot of [young adults] are transitioning and they need accountability with other people," she says. "Having a group like this, we help people be accountable, we help people grow in their faith. It's easy to live your life and just go to church on Sunday. Young adult group is all about community and all about growing relationships."

Vanessa encourages other young adults to embrace their faith and find ways to live it out, with

the support of the parish community.

"Maybe you grew up Catholic, but did you really choose?" she asks. "When you're an adult, you're choosing to do things on your own. We're here to support you."

The Young Adult Ministry meets once a month on Sunday evenings, from 6 to 8 p.m. The nursery is available for families with young children. For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, please contact Vanessa Schupp at vschupp@hotmail.com.

Stewardship: “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad”

Sometimes, we spend much time looking at, analyzing and speaking about the meaning of various passages and readings from Holy Scripture. Of course, we need to do that – it is important to our spiritual well-being, and to have a complete understanding of the messages revealed to us in the Word of God. As you are aware, most weeks we have four readings as part of our Liturgy of the Word – a First Reading, then a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel.

The one reading that sometimes is ignored is that Psalm. Yet, there are truths and wisdom in the Psalms that are worthy of our comments and our recognition. Psalm 24 (a song of David) strikes me in particular as one rich in meaning for us, especially from the perspective of stewardship. It opens, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” For me, that says everything we believe and provides us with all the motivation we need to pursue stewardship as a way of life.

Let us consider how profound that statement – “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds” – really is. If we do embrace stewardship as a way of life, we admit and accept that everything comes from God and everything is God’s. Stewardship is not complicated, although we try to make everything complex and complicated, it seems. It is, as stated, merely the realization that our very existence, our lives, our goods all come from and in finality belong to God. We are the stewards of all of this. If we do accept that and try to live that way, we then tend to administer well God’s gifts on behalf of God. That is all stewardship is.

At the heart of all of this is our relationship with the Lord. We can also say that stewardship is all about getting that relationship right. Jesus certainly makes reference to stewards and stewardship in the Gospels. The Gospels were all written in Greek, and the English words for “steward” and “stewardship” are translations from a Greek word that means “to administer what belongs to someone else.”

That is what we do in this life. We receive gifts – we are granted the stewardship of time, talent and treasure from God. But all of this and all we may be are only gifts. Our use of them to serve one another and all those around us in our community, our parish and the Church Universal is the measure of our stewardship.



In the northern hemisphere, autumn begins on Thursday, Sept. 22. This time of year in the Church is when everything seems to begin or resume. There is another wonderful Psalm that states, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad” (Psalm 118:24). Let us do that together, and let us be good stewards together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Gary Kastl
Pastor

Questions & Answers About Our

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently "renewed" by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Anne. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year?



Discipleship Through Stewardship

2016 COMMITMENT CARD

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

Address

City State

Please bring this card to Mass on Sunday using the envelope provided. Thank you!



2016 Stewardship Renewal Youth Commitment Card

My Offering of Time, Talent and Treasure

First & Last Name (May be used by more than one child)

Parent or Parents' First & Last Name(s)

Street Address

City State Zip

Telephone (important)

Email



301 South 9th St. Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918)251-4000 www.stanneba.org

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Anne.

My age or physical limitations prevent me from being active in the parish. Should I still turn in a commitment card?

Yes! The first section of the card — Stewardship of Time — is the most important because it allows you to make commitments to *prayer*. Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.

One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your commitment card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Anne, 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.

Commitment Weekend is September 17-18. Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a “contract,” we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way to see which Sundays you missed.

I don't even go to Mass very frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?

We will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). Make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Anne a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH STEWARDSHIP



ST. ANNE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Every parish family receives a special “Stewardship Package” in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.

Divorce Support Group Being Organized

If you or someone you know has gone through a divorce, or is in the process of obtaining a divorce, and could use emotional help, a new support group is being organized at St. Anne.

Pam Soltis will be taking part in our Ministry Fair this month as the facilitator for Divorce and Beyond, a non-faith-based 10-week program dealing with the emotional issues faced by adults in divorce. Participants need not be Catholic or Christian to take part.

“A lot of people are hurting badly,” Pam says. “There is no support out there. This group gives them a chance to vent what needs to be done in a closed-door situation. Everything stays inside the group, and nothing is repeated. All agree to confidentiality.”

In the brochure Pam has prepared, she explains that the program is a self-help group of up to 15 persons. They will be able to work through the “mourning

period” of their divorce with others who understand, and share special problems and frustrations. The group is a safe place to gather and meet others who are working toward the same goals of sharing experiences, feelings, and insights.

The idea for the group arose when there were several parishioners talking with Deacon Tom present. One woman who had been divorced shared that there was no support for her.

“I’m from Indiana, and I had been trained at our church in Valparaiso as a facilitator in this program through the Archdiocese of Chicago,” Pam says. “I was going to throw all my materials from the program away when I moved, but something told me to keep them. I told Deacon Tom about it, and he read my folder. He said, ‘This is something we need.’ Fr. Kastl then approved it.” Pam, who is divorced herself, is the group facilitator, but emphasizes that “I’m not a therapist.”

The sessions each have exercises the group will follow during the 10-week program. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the books and program materials.

Session topics include the process of divorce, self-image, stress, blame and guilt, happiness, and pathways to growth.

“We’d like to start at the beginning of November,” Pam says. “There will be three sessions in November, three in December, and we’ll finish up in January. There’s a possibility we’ll start another session in the springtime. This is only for people who are divorced or who have filed for divorce. It’s not for someone who’s undecided about getting a divorce. We don’t tell you what to do.”

During the session, the program material will be read aloud.

“This may trigger someone to talk about something,” Pam says. “There are different coping tips, and it depends on the person as all are different. Everyone is going through a different situation.”



“A lot of people are hurting badly. There is no support out there. This group gives them a chance to vent what needs to be done in a closed-door situation. Everything stays inside the group, and nothing is repeated. All agree to confidentiality.” – Pam Soltis

Anyone with questions is invited to stop and talk to Pam Soltis at the Ministry Fair, or may call her at 918-357-3083.

“It Means Meeting New People, Perhaps Getting More Involved With the Church”

The New Prime Timers Ministry at St. Anne Catholic Church

When Brenda Lovett joined St. Anne a couple years ago, she was immediately attracted by the warmth and welcoming attitude she experienced among the parishioners. However, she felt something was missing from her experience. At her previous parishes, there had been an outlet for those a bit older – over 50 years of age – a way to bring them together in fellowship.

“I have been a nurse my whole life, and I have a real appreciation for the importance of outlets for people as they grow older,” Brenda says.

So, Brenda approached Fr. Gary Kastl, and the two discussed what she felt was lacking. As is Father’s way, he encouraged Brenda to get something going. In fact, around 20 years prior, there had been a group at St. Anne called Prime Timers, which served older parishioners in our community – but it had drifted away, as ministries sometimes do. Thus, Father and Brenda decided to name this new ministry the same thing – Prime Timers.

On Saturday evening, Aug. 13, this group gathered for the first time at the Rectory, Fr. Kastl’s home, for an evening of fellowship and sharing and breaking bread. The parish provided the main course, and those attending brought the rest of the meal. One key aspect of that

initial meeting was to define and discuss what the purposes and goals of the group would be going forward.

“The basic idea is to provide an outlet and a gathering point for those over 50 years old,” Brenda says. “It means meeting new people, perhaps getting more involved with the Church, but the bottom line is that our older members can gather in a pleasant environment just to enjoy themselves.”

While the discussions and insights from the initial meeting are still under consideration, Brenda is already planning and looking ahead to the coming year for Prime Timers.

“I think it is important for us to gather together at least once a month,” she says. “Since our initial meeting was on the second Saturday of the month, we will plan to have monthly meetings on that same Saturday. Thus, the September meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 10, most likely after the 5 p.m. Mass. However, people need to keep a close eye on the bulletin for information confirming that. Also, it is my hope that we can institute a monthly event that at this point may occur on the final Thursday of each month either during the day or in the evening.”



“The basic idea is to provide an outlet and a gathering point for those over 50 years old. It means meeting new people, perhaps getting more involved with the Church, but the bottom line is that our older members can gather in a pleasant environment just to enjoy themselves.” – Brenda Lovett

If you would like more information on Prime Timers, please contact Brenda Lovett at 918-804-5734 or brendalovett@gmail.com, or Fr. Kastl at the parish office, 918-251-4000.



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New Transportation Ministry Offering Opportunities

continued from front cover

Tammy says her approach to recruit volunteers is straightforward.

“I’m going to Mass anyway, and this is an opportunity to do an act of charity,” she says. “Also, it will give me a chance to visit with another parishioner, who I otherwise might not know.”

What’s more, enabling a parishioner to attend Mass is putting the love of Christ into action.

“To provide a service for someone to go to Mass - is there a greater service than to help someone receive the Eucharist?” Tammy asks. “If a parishioner is homebound, they will have the Eucharist brought to them. But there are those who can’t get to Mass and miss out on the joy of receiving Christ – this is an act of mercy to pick them up and take them to Mass so they can enjoy the Eucharist with their faith community.”

As the ministry starts up, Tammy says she would like to have 10 volunteers. The plan currently is to provide transportation to and from Mass, and perhaps to parish

classes or activities.

“I know it will grow,” she says. “With our aging segment of parishioners, we have many who miss Mass because they don’t feel comfortable driving. If the Transportation Ministry is in place, we may see more in Mass on a regular basis.”

Once a core of volunteer drivers is in place, Tammy says the plan is to assign drivers to parishioners living in their same areas.

“We want to make it as easy on the volunteers as we can,” Tammy says. “We have people in Wagoner, Coweta, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, and Catoosa, for example.”

And if there are wintry roads, Tammy says she plans to have volunteers who are not afraid to venture out.

“Unless Fr. Kastl tells us ‘no,’ we’ll go get them,” she says.

Although the Transportation Ministry will be recruiting drivers, the Ministry Fair event will also let parishioners know that the service is available.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Transportation Ministry, please contact Tammy Creed at 918-809-9351, or Steve Creed at 918-279-8928.