



Living Our Faith... Sharing Our Blessings

SAINT ANNE - SAINT CATHERINE COLLABORATIVE

Pentecost:

Pentecost comes from the Greek meaning "50." Jesus and His followers were Jewish, and they celebrated the Jewish "Feast of Weeks" (Shavuot) 7 weeks after Passover ($7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$). Shavuot/Pentecost was an important agricultural feast that celebrated the end of the wheat harvest. Jews from everywhere, speaking many languages, had gathered in Jerusalem to offer thanksgiving. Jews today continue to celebrate Shavuot, remembering when God gave the 10 Commandments to us on Mt. Sinai.

the Birthday of the Church

50 Days after Easter, Christians celebrate Pentecost Sunday. What is Pentecost, and why do we celebrate it?

Jesus' followers had witnessed the terrifying crucifixion, death, and burying of Jesus. Three days later, several in their group encountered the living risen Christ while traveling on the way; others had experienced the risen Jesus in their midst. This must have left the small group of followers feeling a mixture of joy, awe, shock, confusion, doubt, wonder, and fear. "Now what?" they probably asked themselves. Luke, the writer of Acts of the Apostles, describes how they obeyed the risen Christ's request that they stay in Jerusalem to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit," and eventually witness "to the ends of the earth."

And so there they were in an upper room in Jerusalem—10 days after some of them had seen Jesus ascend into heaven, and 50 days after the Resurrection. Luke describes the apostles gathering "to pray in one accord, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers... when the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each

one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim..." (Acts 1:13 - 2:4)

The power of the Holy Spirit had come upon them, and nothing would ever be the same. The Church was born when this frightened, traumatized small group left the safety of the upper room, poured out into the streets, and risked their lives to proclaim the Good News—the Gospel—of Jesus the Christ, no longer dead but living. They proclaimed to people from many nations and languages, and yet they were understood by all. By Pentecost night, they had baptized 3000 people into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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Witness Talk: Monarrez Family

This is the second in a series of talks highlighting how stewardship, as a way of life, is being lived out in our Collaborative.

My name is Oscar Monarrez. My wife Gloria and I, along with our 2 teenage kids, Oscar and Cristina, have been parishioners of St. Anne first, and then the St. Anne - St. Catherine Collaborative, for over 20 years. We are here today to talk to you about Stewardship. And in particular, the Stewardship of TIME.

Soon after our first child was born, we decided to become more involved with the parish, mainly to provide our kids – and ourselves – with a way to connect with the community, while at the same time, learning how to serve it. However, we cannot claim that we have always been good Stewards of our time. At first, being involved in the parish meant mostly us getting something out of it. Whether it was coming to Mass, or having our kids attend CCD. After a while however, we realized that it was only fair for us to give some of our time back, too.

Gloria and I both grew up in Mexico, where in general, the concept of Stewardship within the Catholic Church, particularly as it applies to Time and Talent, was not only NOT widely promoted, but to a certain extent, discouraged. The very conservative views of the Catholic Church there, was that the work of God was best left to those within the clergy. So it wasn't until we came to the U.S., and to St. Anne in particular, that we began to learn and practice the concept of Stewardship.

So over the course of several years, we started to become increasingly involved with several ministries, and have encouraged our kids to give some of their time to the parish, too. But, at times we struggle with our time commitments, as some of you may also do. Just making it to Mass sometimes is challenging with all the things in our schedule. And the same goes for our other ministry commitments. We all have busy lives, but our priorities, our faith, our family, and our community, remain the same.

We want to teach our kids by example, not just by talking about what we want them to do with their time. They see us coming to church and helping in different ministries, so over time, they too have learned the importance and value of helping others, and often, they find themselves enjoying it more than they thought they would.

My favorite definition of Stewardship is: "The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care". I think this definition fully embraces what Fr. Peter, Fr. Joe, and Fr. David, often talk about in their homilies. That is, that being good Stewards of our faith is not just about Treasure. To all of us, Time is a precious – perhaps the most precious and limited resource that is gifted to us every day. In great measure, whatever we decide to do with it, helps define us as individuals.

In her TED talk, author Laura Vanderkam talks about "How to gain control of your free time". She suggests that when we say we don't have time to do something, what we really mean is that something isn't really a priority to us. She argues that time is a choice, and a highly elastic resource that will stretch to accommodate whatever we choose to put into it. These two ideas, both struck us and stuck with us. They have forced us to think more carefully about where in our list of priorities our Catholic Faith lies, and then, guide us to make better choices on the time we dedicate to it.

We often hear that when we give, we end up receiving much more in return, and how giving makes us far happier than receiving. I know these all sound like platitudes. However, that doesn't mean they are not true. But the only way to become convinced of these truths, is by trying them out for yourself, and seeing that indeed, as St. Francis of Assisi said, "...it is in giving that we receive."

Thank you!

Pentecost *continued from page 1*

We are still that Church. Our mission is the same—to proclaim the Good News of Jesus the Christ to the “ends of the earth,” starting in our own neighborhoods. We still gather to pray in one accord, hoping that the Holy Spirit will break through our fears, anxieties, doubts, and differences to reach out to others with understanding, with words of encouragement and with acts of kindness and generosity.

NEW WEEKEND SUMMER
MASS SCHEDULE – 2019

(Weekday schedule remains the same)

NEW!

Begins: June 22/23, 2019

Ends: August 31/September 1, 2019

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Mass - St. Catherine*

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine*

*due to air conditioning availability

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:00-3:45 p.m. - St. Catherine

(or by request)

Dear Parishioners,

We are now going into the sixth year of collaboration. How are we preparing for future adjustments and transitions that may occur within the next year?

- Over the last five years we have collected data that indicates a decline in Mass attendance over the summer. People adjust their schedules over the summer and rightfully so. It is time we do the same.
- Our current schedule is not sustainable if someone becomes ill and cannot function and/or we do not receive an SMA priest for the summer.
- This new summer schedule will remain in place whether we receive an SMA priest or not. Having a schedule in place that one priest can fulfill makes sense going forward.
- Confessions will be celebrated at St. Catherine before the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass (3:00-3:45 PM). (Please feel free to approach one of the priests after any Mass to ask for the Sacrament. If they are unable to hear your confession at that time, they will make other arrangements with you.)
- All of the above was decided in consultation with the Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee.

Thank you for your consideration as we attempt to be proactive moving forward in collaboration.

God love,
Fr. Peter and Fr. Joe

Belonging Leads To Believing.

No report can fully convey the vitality of a faith community. *That* can be seen at our liturgies, where babies to seniors raise their voices in praise to God. Belonging leads to believing. We are meant to live the Christian life in community with others; we are created to belong with and for one another. Our faith community offers a wide variety of opportunities for us to pray, serve, give, and learn together encouraging our sense of belonging.

Over the past 3 months much has transpired in our Collaborative. 23 faith sharing groups with over 250 participants met and prayed weekly during Lent. We celebrated the Triduum as one faith community. We also celebrated Father David's 25th Anniversary of Ordination. Our kinship is GROWING!

Below is a sampling of other things that have happened over the past three months.

FUN FAITH FACTS:

- 4,009 Current Faith Community Population
- Households (including 16 new families since March 1st)
- 142 Masses celebrated
- 16 Prayer Services held
- 35 Babies Baptized
- 115 Children received First Eucharists (and gave their First Reconciliation)
- 43 Teens Confirmed
- 1 Couple Married
- 111 Anointings of the Sick
- 15 Funerals celebrated
- 4 RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) candidates were prepared and were fully initiated in to the Church at the Easter Vigil
- 30 Times groups prayed the Rosary together
- 41 Hours spent in Adoration
- 12 Times parishioners walked the Stations of the Cross together
- 40+ Visits to the homebound
- 78 Visits to 3 local nursing homes (including prayer services, praying the rosary, and bringing communion)

And so much more!

Looking Ahead to the Summer Months –

- Vacation Bible School
- Mission Trips (Teens/College & Young Adults/Adults)
- Ministry Leader Gathering

...keep posted

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SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE:

Begins: June 22/23, 2019

Ends: August 31/September 1, 2019

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Collaborative Weekday Schedule:

Monday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Anne

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service - St. Anne

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Friday: 8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:00-3:45 p.m. - St. Catherine

(or by request)

WAYS TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST

(mark your calendars: June 9, 2019)



WEAR RED!!

It is a tradition to wear red on Pentecost in honor of the Holy Spirit – red is a symbol for fire and for life.



HANG BANNERS / OPEN THE WINDOWS

Celebrate the wind, the breath of the Holy Spirit (spiritus = breath in Latin; Holy Spirit = the Living Breath of God). Tongues of fire and doves are well known symbols of the Holy Spirit.



PRAY A NOVENA! (NOVENA =9 DAYS)

The original novena was when the disciples prayed in the upper room. Pray daily for the nine days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to identify and to share the gifts you have been given by God.



SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CHURCH

Make a Pentecost birthday cake to share.



LEARN AND SING PENTECOST HYMNS

For example, Come, Holy Ghost or Veni, Sanctus Spiritus

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the “New” Collaborative Newsletter!

We will now be distributing quarterly issues of the newsletter – which we are producing in-house! This is both a way to make use of the talents of our parishioners, and a way to better utilize our resources. Skilled volunteers are needed to help with production of the newsletter. If you would like to find out more, please contact Debbie Rhodes at DebbieR@LWCatholic.org or call 978-320-4212.