

Saint Francis Solanus



MAY 2019

Join us at Our Parish Picnic

JUNE 8 EVENT TO FEATURE GREAT FOOD AND FUN FOR ALL

Saturday, June 8 will mark the unofficial start of summer with the annual St. Francis Solanus Parish Picnic! Starting at 5 p.m., the picnic promises great food, entertainment, and fellowship for all.

“Come and have a good time,” says picnic co-chair Erin VonderHaar. “There’s inside and outside food, games, a silent auction and a basket raffle. “There is a 50/50 drawing and also a general raffle.”

Entertainment will include the Heidelberg German Band from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Raised on Radio from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The children’s area, Kiddie Korner, will include games, candy, face painting, and a few new additions this year. Adams County Fair Royalty will also be on hand to help around the picnic grounds and meet guests.

In the Parish Center picnic guests will find Bingo, the Cookie Walk, and some food. Food and drink offerings will include soft drinks and beer, bacon cheddar burgers, chicken strips, hot dogs and brats, tenderloin, BBQ pulled pork and roast beef sandwiches.

As for the silent auction and basket raffle, Erin says picnic guests can look for opportunities to bid on or win items like a signed Cubs baseball glove, a ShopVac, gift certificates for restaurants or massages,



The stalls and tents pictured might look empty now — but on June 8, they’ll be host to many activities during the annual St. Francis Solanus Parish Picnic. Parish families and members of the community are invited out to enjoy live music, raffles, children’s activities, a silent auction, and more.

and even class-wide blue jean days for students at St. Francis Solanus School.

“Sometimes, it’s items like things from Thirty-One Gifts,” Erin says. “We might have oil changes from a local repair shop. Last year we had 80 baskets, and for the silent auction we had 70 to 80 items.”

Erin says the traditional nature of the picnic pulls community members back to the event year after year as many make room on their calendar to attend

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This Month, We Reflect on **MOTHERS AND STEWARDSHIP**

We celebrate the month of Mary during May, and during this month, we also celebrate Mother's Day. It seems fitting that we honor our mothers during May, since Mary is given to us by God as the example of true Christian motherhood.

Those who are called to be mothers have been blessed by God and called to fulfill a very important responsibility. Mothers are the vehicle through which God brings new life into this world. When we talk about Christian stewardship, we talk about sacrificially returning to God what we have been given. What can more clearly be a demonstration of complete sacrifice than the relationship between mother and child during the nine months of growth in the womb? During these nine months, the child's life depends on the actions of the mother as her energy and nourishment goes directly to the growing baby.

Although this relationship may change to some extent after the child is born, a mother's sacrifice for her child is far from over after the birth. The role of the mother is critical in the child's development — both

spiritually and physically — throughout life. Mothers provide the comfort, nurture and support necessary for their children to become productive citizens and responsible Christians.

The job of a mother is not an easy one. This is a fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew very well. She worried when her young Son appeared to be lost, only to find Him later in His Father's House. She was probably concerned as Jesus began His public ministry — not knowing what difficulties and rejections He would encounter along the way. And Mary must have experienced great anguish as she watched her Son's body being crucified to a cross.

May all mothers look to Mary as their model for motherhood and ask her intercession as they strive to fulfill their God-given role in their children's lives. During the month of May, let us all take some time to express our appreciation to our mothers for allowing us to come into this world, for loving us, and for serving as an example of what it means to be a steward for life.



A Letter From Our Pastor

Honoring Our Lady in May

Dear Parishioners,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

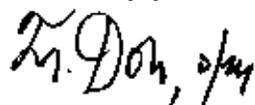
May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

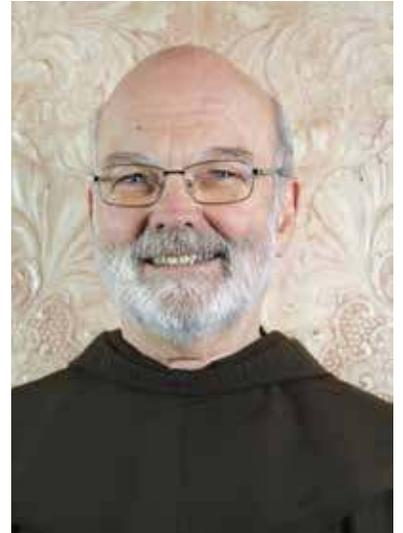
As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



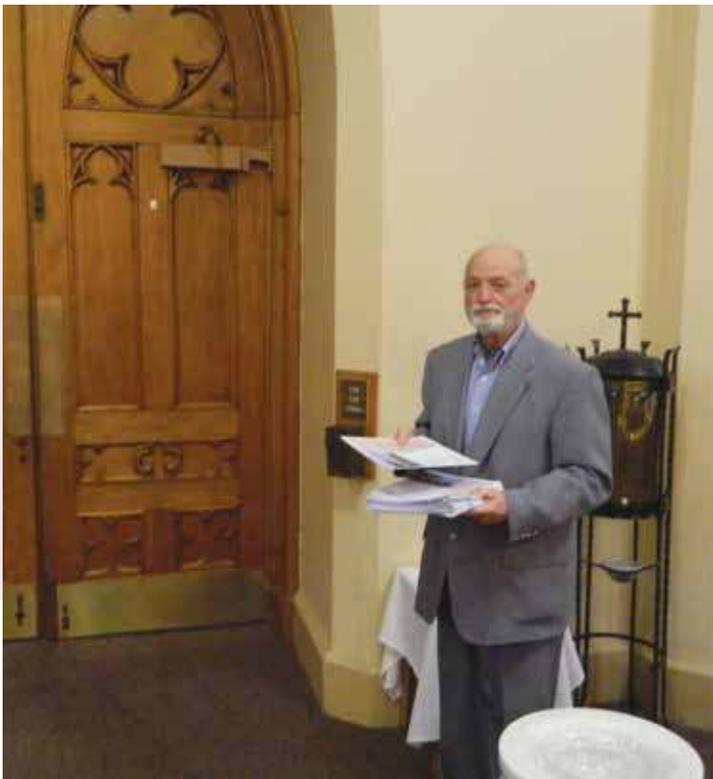
Fr. Don Blaeser, O.F.M.
Pastor



The Usher Ministry Extends Hospitality



Ushers facilitate the parish collection, allowing us all to become better parish stewards.



Just as an usher is there to greet us when we enter the church building, they are also there to hand out bulletins and say “goodbye” as we re-enter the world.

Though we might only notice the parish ushers when they perform noticeable tasks like taking up the collection during Mass or distributing bulletins, in truth the mission of the Usher Ministry is much deeper and less tangible. At its heart, says ministry coordinator Kelvin Hufendick, the Usher Ministry is devoted to “extend[ing] the hospitality of the Church to its people,” by presenting a ready smile to each and every person who enters the doors of St. Francis Solanus.

“Ushers are usually one of the first people the parishioners see when they walk into church,” Kelvin says. “They open doors, seat people, take up the collection, facilitate Communion lines, and assist people with special needs. And in all these things, they seek to make a good first impression, helping make people feel more welcome and comfortable.”

Kelvin first started volunteering as an usher several years ago after being spontaneously asked one Sunday to help take up the collection. Enjoying the feeling of helping out, Kelvin decided to sign up as a regular usher. He soon came to realize, however, that the role of an usher was much bigger than the parish collection.

“As an usher, you are blessed to be able to extend the hospitality of the Church to the faithful who have come to celebrate the Mass. It is truly rewarding spiritually. Another great blessing of the ministry is all the new people you are able to get to know and share your faith with.”

— KELVIN HUFENDICK

Oftentimes there to greet parishioners as they enter the church, ushers are usually the first person parishioners and visitors see, becoming quite literally the face of the parish community. Ushers also assist parishioners and guests in finding their seats, are readily available in the event of a medical emergency or a general need for assistance, help facilitate both the offertory and Communion line, and ensure that

Hospitality to All Who Enter Our Parish

the church is left in good order for the next parish liturgy.

While performing these simple tasks, ushers are able to more actively participate in the liturgy, using their time and talent for the benefit of God's Church. They are also able to meet many new people within the parish, continually working to make our faith community a more welcoming environment.

"As an usher, you are blessed to be able to extend the hospitality of the Church to the faithful who have come to celebrate the Mass," Kelvin says. "It is truly rewarding spiritually. Another great blessing of the ministry is all the new people you are able to get to know and share your faith with."

The Usher Ministry is open to any adult parishioner feeling called to serve. Volunteers typically serve 1-2 times a month and are able to choose their preferred Mass time, making it easy to fit into their schedules.

"We welcome anyone who feels they are able to do this ministry," Kelvin says. "Come help us serve God by making people feel welcome in His Church."



In opening the doors for parishioners and guests, ushers become the first official face of our church making them important hospitality ministers.

Those interested in learning about the Usher Ministry or joining may contact the parish office at 217-222-2898.

Parish Picnic *continued from front cover*

what will be the first of many local parish picnics the summer will bring.

"People like the traditional activities, so there tend to be minimal changes," she says. "The money we raise goes 100 percent back to the church. This is the church's major fundraiser and where the majority

of the church's money besides weekly donations come from."

Leading up the event, an additional fundraiser was held in April at Buffalo Wild Wings, where a percentage of each patron's bill was donated to the picnic.

Donations of any auction or basket raffle items will be accepted up to a week prior to the picnic. While volunteers were also encouraged to sign up for events and booths in mid-April, parishioners are still welcome to lend their time by calling any of the chairpersons listed below:

Erin and Justin VonderHaar — 217-242-5030 or 217-257-9011

Mike and Erin Schrage — 217-653-3977 or 217-440-7469

Bill and Lori Chapman — 217-430-4654 or 217-617-1004

Gabe and Kelly Wheeler — 217-653-6265 or 217-779-8322

Nathan and Amy Slough — 217-779-6283 or 217-316-0447

Duke and Marsha Collins — 217-430-2828

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

May 1

In the history of the Church, Western veneration of Joseph began with the introduction of the Feast of St. Joseph in the late 15th century. In 1870, at the end of the First Vatican Council, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph to be the patron of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of carpenters, workers, fathers, and a happy death given that he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus. In 1955, Pope Pius XII declared May 1 to be the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to counteract the Communist May Day holiday.

Devotion to St. Joseph began relatively late in Church history, primarily because his role of husband to Mary and head of the Holy Family was underplayed in early Christianity by many unauthenticated legends of Christ's childhood. These legends almost always portrayed Joseph as an old man, a simple guardian of Mary and Jesus.

Modern theology places Joseph in a much more important position. Because of his valid marriage to Mary, Joseph shared in Mary's parenthood — Joseph was a father to Jesus in every way except biological. Joseph appeared publicly as the natural father of Jesus, thus shielding the virginity of Mary and the reputation of Jesus. Joseph's fatherly love, authority, watchful service, and diligence as a hard worker and provider were all necessary circumstances in God's plan for the Incarnation.

Before Jesus would leave and pursue His ministry, He learned the trade of carpentry from St. Joseph and, as a young adult, worked alongside His foster father as a carpenter. The importance of such work — thus, the example set forth by St. Joseph — was emphasized by Pope St. John Paul II in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, in which he stated, "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."



A TRADITIONAL PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O Blessed St. Joseph, faithful guardian and protector of virgins, to whom God entrusted Jesus and Mary, I implore you by the love which you did bear them, to preserve me from every defilement of soul and body, that I may always serve them in holiness and purity of love. Amen.

“The Sacred Ministry” of the Sacristans at St. Francis Solanus

A faith community member arrives early before each celebration of the liturgy to perform the quiet honor of serving as our sacristan. From turning on the lights and illuminating the sacred space, to putting out the hosts and wine to be consecrated, this steward helps our clergy and community prepare to receive Christ.

“A steward is, simply put, a servant, and these sacristans are clearly being servants of the priest and the Lord and the community in preparing for the highest form of worship, the sacrifice of the Mass,” says Fr. Don Blaeser. “It is a sacred ministry and a great honor.”

The sacristans complete a number of small tasks, assisting the clergy in the physical or earthly preparations for the Mass so that they might prepare spiritually.

“They may not be aware of how important their service is, but we notice it, especially if someone is missing,” Fr. Don says. “It takes a great burden off of us as the priests so that we can prepare and have the peace of mind to celebrate the Eucharist.”

Before Mass, the sacristans turn on the lights and the sound system and set up everything needed for the celebration, including chalices, patens, and the wine and water. They check on the hosts in the tabernacle and notice if any liturgical ministers are missing and seek ministers, as needed.

“During Mass they are attentive if something is missing, and after Mass they ensure the vessels are purified and cleansed,” Fr. Don says.

Anyone who is at least 16 years of age and has been trained as a Communion minister may become a sacristan. Together, the sacristans coordinate their schedules in order to ensure every weekend and weekday Mass has a parishioner supporting our clergy in this position.

“They would need training as a Communion minister first because they are dealing with the Sacred Species,” Fr. Don says. “Afterwards, we would get together to train them as sacristans specifically, and they can also shadow someone currently serving in this position.”

Fr. Don would very much like to thank those

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The faithful stewardship of our parish sacristans helps to ensure that our clergy and community are prepared to receive Christ.



St. Francis Solanus

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Sacristans at St. Francis Solanus *continued from page 7*

faith community members serving as sacristans and would encourage others to consider this ministry, for there is currently a need for more sacristans.

"I am very grateful to those who serve in this ministry and are so willing and generous with their time," Fr. Don says. "Years ago, only the priest entered the sanctuary, but now these stewards have the honor to serve in this very important and sacred ministry."



If you would like more information about becoming a sacristan, please reach out to a parishioner currently serving in this position or to Fr. Don Blaeser through the parish office at 217-222-2898.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: M, T, W, Th, F, 6:30 a.m. | M, T, W, Th, F, S, 8:00 a.m. | W, 8:35 a.m. during school year

Confessions: Saturdays 8:30 a.m., 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil 5:30 p.m.; Holy Day: 6:30 a.m.; 8:35 a.m. on school days; 8:00 a.m. during summer; 5:30 p.m.