



# ST. CHARLES BORRROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2019

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## ST. CHARLES BORRROMEO'S PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:

*FIGHTING FOR THE VOICELESS*

Margie Sayward has always had a special place in her heart for the pro-life movement for personal and faith-based reasons.

"I feel passionate about fighting for the voiceless," says Margie, the Chair of the



*Parishioners and members of the Pro-Life Committee participating in the 40 Days for Life campaign*

Pro-Life Committee. "We need to live our Catholic faith, and one of the commandments is 'thou shalt not kill.' Abortion is killing."

St. Charles Borromeo's Pro-Life Committee actively seeks "to promote life from conception to natural death in our families, parish, community and archdiocese" by raising awareness and creating and supporting pro-life efforts and activities in the community.

Recently, committee members erected 20 white crosses on the church's campus representing the number of abortions that take place each week in Bloomington.

"The crosses are with a sign that says, 'stop abortion now,'" Margie says. "The sign has been vandalized, and I have received calls asking me to take them down. I know that this can be a very uncomfortable topic for some people."

Every second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the members of

*continued on page 5*



## GOT TALENT? BRING IT TO THE SPOTLIGHT!

The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians. “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at

the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadows behind a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.

**Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.**

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

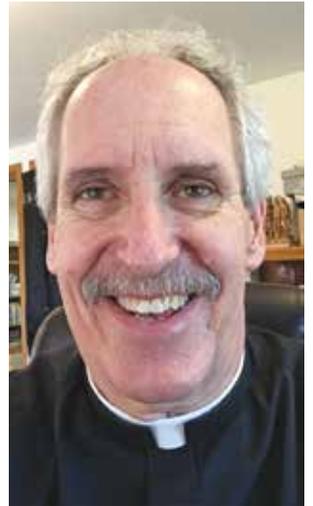
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Dear Parishioners,

As we arrive at the New Year, it is customary that we make resolutions, which hopefully will be carried out during the course of the year. So many times these resolutions pertain to our physical lives — we resolve to exercise more, build a healthier diet, become more organized, etc. These resolutions may also involve the mental aspect of our lives — reading more, attending more cultural events, and so forth.

Too often we forget about the spiritual part of our lives. Our souls need to be tended to, and we need to make sure that we are deepening our relationship with God throughout the entire year.

I would like to give you a list of possible spiritual resolutions. While it might seem difficult for one person to undertake all of these, hopefully anyone can try several of these resolutions at one time or a number of them throughout the year.



- Attend Mass once a week over and above weekend liturgies.
- Spend an hour (or any amount of time) in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament once a week.
- Pray the *Liturgy of the Hours* (the *Divine Office*) at least once a day.
- Read and meditate on a chapter of Scripture a day.
- Take up a devotion of the Church (e.g. Rosary, Stations, novena, other prayers, etc.) and pray it daily.
- Read a spiritual book once a month.
- Make a morning offering as you begin your day, then an examination of conscience as you end your day.
- Offer a prayer of blessing/thanksgiving before/after a meal.
- Take time to pray daily with your spouse/family.
- As an individual or a family, take time once a week to do some form of charitable work — visiting those who are homebound or in a nursing home, do some work for an elderly friend or neighbor, bring food to someone in need, etc.

This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully it gives you an idea that the small things done with great love can make a world of difference — both in your life and the lives of others.

Do not try to overdo any of these, but build up to doing them on a regular basis, thus laying a reasonable foundation upon which to build. Enjoy doing these resolutions, and see what a blessing they are for you and others.

Let us pray that 2019 will be a year of grace and favor from God. I wish you and yours a very happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Kovatch  
Pastor





# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT ST. CHARLES

## A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND EDUCATION

When our students at St. Charles School step out into the world, be assured they will be prepared to change the world, one child at a time.

Our celebration of Catholic Schools Week — which takes place in Catholic schools across the country this year from Jan. 27 through Feb. 2, will recognize the difference Catholic education makes for us all.

Under the theme of “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” the week will open at 10 a.m. Sunday with Mass, featuring performances by students in the Music Department. After Mass, everyone is invited to the school from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where donuts and coffee will be served. The Open House will mark the open registration for current school families.

Prospective families can tour the school under the direction of Student Council members.

“Parent Teacher Organization representatives will be meeting with new families in the gym and also offering tours,” says Mrs. Madonna Paskash, Principal. “There will be talks about the Athletics Department activities by volunteers. There will be an art show with students’ work on display and our music teacher will invite parents for scheduled performances during the day.”

Mrs. Paskash and Student Council members have been working to plan activities throughout the week.

“Each day we will show appreciation for a different group,” she says.

One day, for example, will be Parents and Volunteers Appreciation Day, and the teachers and staff will be treated to lunch served by the PTO.

Each day will have a theme for the students, such as “Funny Hair Day,” and “St. Charles Sports Day.”

On Friday, the gym teacher will invite parents to



*Mrs. Brown in the art classroom stands with part of her creation for Catholic Schools Week.*



*It was a relaxed scene as students dive into their books for read-in day in 2018.*

demonstrations and performances by the students in grades K-8.

“We will be trying to run a service project that week,” Mrs. Paskash says. “We want to see what the need is in the community. We might have a project for the homeless center, such as collecting socks, gloves and laundry detergent. The center serves two meals a day and sometimes the center asks for food donations.”

Throughout the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the difference Catholic education makes will shine through.

“Catholic education is important,” Mrs. Paskash says. “I believe we change the world one child at a time. I see the difference Catholic schools make in lives. I see kindness, hard workers, and they get involved in their communities, they do a great job in their professions and taking care of others in the community.”

Not only does Catholic education create persons of faith and strong morals, but it also results in strong academic performance.

Mrs. Paskash cites the Lilly Endowment that awards two full college scholarships to each county in the state.

“Monroe County has nine students up for it, and three are St. Charles graduates,” she says. “Catholic education is amazing. It is my whole life — I went to Catholic school for 12 years. It makes a difference in your life. It does amazing things in our world, and we do it very quietly.”

Mrs. Paskash cites two teachers at St. Charles who embody the values found in Catholic education.

Theresa Alexander, the preschool teacher, has both Catholic and non-Catholic students in her classes. How-

ever, several of the non-Catholic families have chosen to join the Catholic faith after their children experienced Catholic education under her guidance.

# LES SCHOOL:

“I’ve known her for 25 years,” Mrs. Paskash says. “I’m impressed and amazed about the converts.”

The second teacher she cites is Terri Schonoff, a longtime teacher at the school, who is active with services to the community.

Members of our parish can take an active role at the school by volunteering, and are, in fact, included in several activities. A recent project was a food drive for the United Ministry Center.

“They just sent us a list of the food items they needed, and our parish and school did it,” Mrs. Paskash says.



*Mrs. Paskash and the eighth-grade boys costumed as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs enjoy themselves during Catholic Schools Week 2018.*

Notices of upcoming school service projects are routinely listed in the weekly bulletins. For information about St. Charles School, please call the school office at 812-336-5853.

# ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO’S PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:

*FIGHTING FOR THE VOICELESS* continued from front cover .....

the committee meet to plan upcoming events and discuss current political and social issues related to abortion.

Different members of the committee have participated in the March for Life in Bloomington, and they also usually attend Indiana’s Right to Life Gala in December.

“We have a close bond as a group,” Margie says. “We all work together, and when you’re doing important work, like fighting for these unborn children, it makes your faith stronger.”

Some of the regular events that the committee organizes include the 40 Days for Life campaign that takes place twice a year.

“We recruit parishioners to come out to the Planned Parenthood and pray together,” Margie says.

In January, the committee organizes a rose ceremony that takes place at all Masses on the weekend closest to the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision

that legalized abortion on Jan. 22, 1973.

“During the rose ceremony, we will have a vase of water on the altar, and young people, usually children, will bring up 46 roses to place in it,” Margie says. “It’s a very symbolic ceremony with a rose for each year since Roe v. Wade.”

The committee also organizes a life chain every year that helps raise awareness of the sanctity of life.

“People line the streets with signs forming a human chain that starts at St. Charles and ends at Planned Parenthood,” Margie says.

Through the Pro-Life Committee, there are many opportunities to join together and fight for each individual’s fundamental right to life.

“We need to live our faith,” Margie says. “Everyone has a right to life, and these babies aren’t even getting a chance. We need to fight for them.”

If you would like more information about St. Charles Borromeo’s Pro-Life Committee, please reach out to Margie Sayward at [margieandthemikes@yahoo.com](mailto:margieandthemikes@yahoo.com).



## A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR PRAYER

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

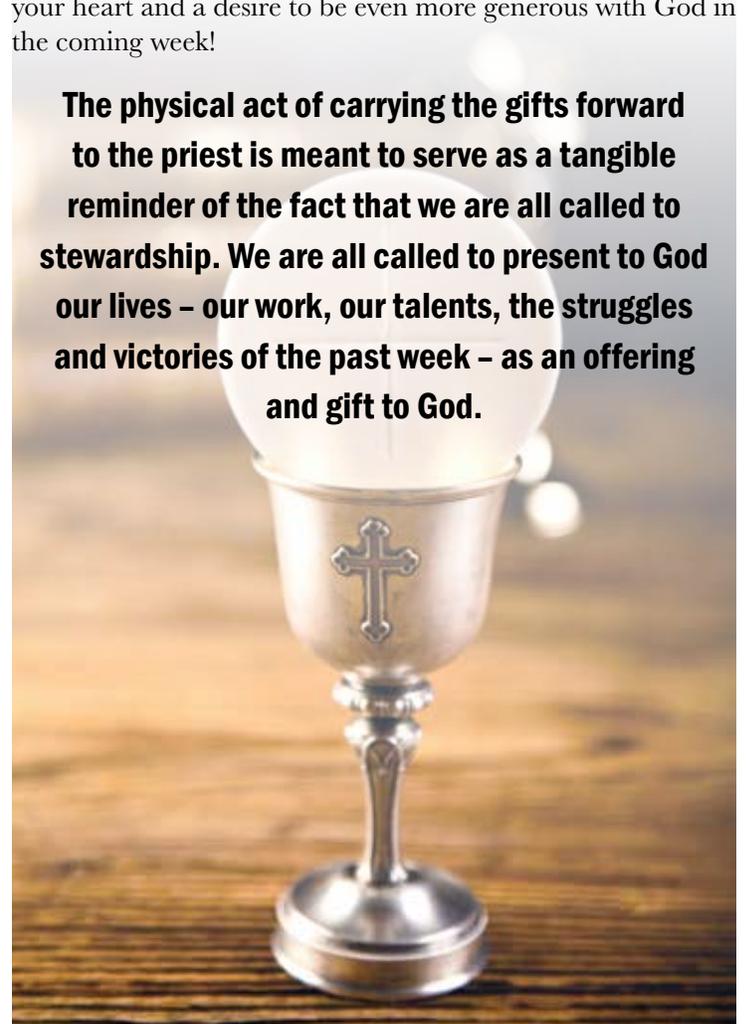
The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the

privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!

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## MAKING US A “STRONGER FAMILY”

THROUGH THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

A church is so much more than the bricks and mortar from which it's constructed. At its heart, a church is about its members, each coming together in worship of our Eucharistic Lord. It's meant to be a place first and foremost of warmth and love, allowing us to experience a taste of heaven here on earth — a place where our relationships with Christ and one another can be nurtured and grow.

“We really want people to feel at home here at St. Charles Borromeo, giving them that ready friend so that they feel welcomed,” says parishioner Mary Dedek. “We want to have people coming in and feeling welcome right from the start, giving them the feeling of a big family, so that they know they can always come and there will be someone there for them here at the parish.”

Feeling that hospitality was something that “really needed to grow within the parish,” Mary was eager to help co-chair the new Hospitality Committee alongside parish administrative assistant Sue Campbell. Their goal is to foster and develop ministries and activities which promote that “family feel” within the parish. This begins, says Mary, with growing our Greeters Ministry for weekend liturgies.

“We really want to make sure that



*Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs Sue Campbell and Mary Dedek*

we have sufficient greeters at all the Masses,” Mary says. “Our goal is to be able to man all of the doors, so we really need some more volunteers. And,

really, it's an easy thing to do. You have to go to Mass anyway and it can be done by families, young people, or an older person.”

Beyond that, a big part of fostering hospitality is providing parishioners with opportunities for fellowship. This allows us to get to know the people we sit by in the pews each week. That's what led the Hospitality Committee to host its first Fall Welcome this past September, offering some type of food after each of the weekend liturgies.

“We've had coffee and donuts after the 10 a.m. Mass for years and Fr. Tom has said repeatedly how much he would like to see us do something at every Mass instead of just one,” Sue says. “So we took that idea and had some kind of food-related item available after each Mass, depending on what was more appropriate for the time. Then though we didn't do any formal invitation, we took the opportunity to welcome any new parishioners and to introduce some new staff members since it was the beginning of the school year.”

The first one having been a success, Sue and Mary hope to begin hosting these Welcome Sundays on a quarterly basis as a means of drawing people together. The Committee also

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**ST. CHARLES**  
BORROMEIO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**MASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEKEND:**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m. Sunday Vigil

**WEEKDAYS:**

Monday: 8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. (middle school attends)  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. (elementary school attends)  
Tuesday, Thursday: 5:30 p.m.  
*\*Confessions are offered 30 minutes prior to every Mass*

**MAKING US A “STRONGER FAMILY”**

*THROUGH THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE*

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plans to soon begin hosting a welcome table in the back of church where new parishioners and guests can receive more information about parish life.

“The idea is that we might highlight different parish ministries or resources like FORMED.org and share them with parishioners,” Sue says. “We’d like to have different volunteers or parishioner ministries run the table each week, sharing information about the parish and school or even giving tours.”

Another hope is to create a special events team that can assist with the set up and clean up for larger events. After all, says Sue, many hands make for light work and having a designated team ensures that we can host these

larger gatherings more easily.

Though the Hospitality Committee is still very much a work in progress, Mary and Sue are eager to see how it will continue to develop and grow over the next year. Their hope is that more parishioners will join the ministry, bringing with them the ideas and enthusiasm that will help transform and enliven our community.

“We are very open to new ideas, and what better way for a new person to get involved than to help welcome other people,” Sue says.

“It just makes us a stronger family — a stronger group that can count on each other to help out when needed,” Mary adds.

**If you would like more information about the Hospitality Committee, please contact either Sue Campbell at 812-336-6846 or Mary Dedek at [marym816@gmail.com](mailto:marym816@gmail.com).**