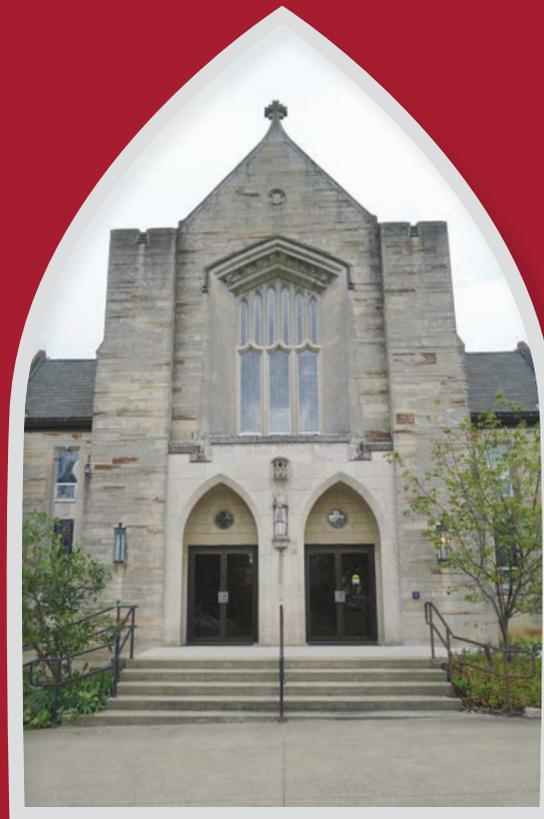


ST. CHARLES BORROMEO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MAY 2019

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*Greeter Ministry*

SEEING CHRIST IN WELCOMING OTHERS

Sometimes, all it takes to set the tone for the day is one simple interaction. Positive or negative, we have all experienced how the simple actions of those we encounter in public can affect us. One ministry wants to make sure the first interaction you experience at St. Charles Borromeo is a happy and positive one.

The Greeter Ministry is made up of parishioners who take pride in welcoming other parishioners and guests alike to each Mass. Steve and RoseMarie Bunjan serve as greeters at the Saturday evening Mass. They say being at the door to say “hello” each week is one of the easiest ways for parishioners to see the light of Christ in one another.

“I’m very outgoing and my wife is fairly outgoing,” Steve says. “We knew the greeter had left the 4 p.m. Mass, so I suggested to her that we take on that responsibility. After we did it, we enjoyed it, so we do it every Saturday Mass.”



*The Greeter Ministry is charged with making each visitor and parishioner feel welcome at weekend Masses. RoseMarie Bunjan waits at the door to welcome those on their way in for Mass.*

In keeping with Matthew 25:35 — “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” — the mission of the Greeter Ministry is one of hospitality, making both parishioners and visitors feel welcome and comfortable as they gather for Mass. As many as 30 parishioners

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ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2018 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

This past fall, our St. Charles Borromeo parish leadership conducted the 2018 Stewardship Renewal. This renewal gave parishioners the opportunity to discern how they are living out stewardship, and to make commitments of time, talent and treasure.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the results of the 2018 Stewardship Renewal at St. Charles Borromeo.

- There were 186 commitment cards received from 17 percent of active parish households.
- There were 1,184 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 87 percent of participating households.
- Some of the prayer commitments included: “Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day,” 148 commitments; “Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 124 commitments; “Pray for our priests,” 122 commitments.
- There were 611 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 78 percent of participating households. Of these, 137 were new parish ministry commitments, while 474 were re-commitments to ministries.
- Some of the ministry commitments included: Adoration, 76 commitments; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), 48 commitments; Funeral Luncheons, 43 commitments; Greeters, 26 commitments; Lector, 24 commitments.
- There were 165 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 89 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$2,034.

We thank all those who participated in the 2018 Stewardship Renewal by making commitments of time, talent and treasure. If you did not have the opportunity to fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you

to consider the ways you might share your gifts with God, our parish and the community. After all, there is no time like the present to begin living the stewardship way of life!



ST. CHARLES  
BORROMEIO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2018 COMMITMENT CARD

*My offering of time, talent & treasure*

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: *First & Last Name*

Spouse: *Phone*

Spouse: *Email*

*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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom".

Fr. Thomas Kovatch  
Pastor





# MEET SIOBHAN DENNIS

## *FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR PARISH AS A*

Have you ever noticed how beautifully prepared our sanctuary is for each and every Mass? The altar sits ready for the celebration of the Eucharist, the wooden pews gleam, and the liturgical books are right where they belong. All of these details come together to provide a peaceful and reverential atmosphere for worship, though many of us may not know who we have to thank for ensuring that our sanctuary remains such a sacred haven — our parish sacristans.

Siobhan Dennis, a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo for over 20 years and a sacristan for eight years, loves being able to lend her time and talents to the church in this special capacity.

“I enjoy it,” Siobhan says. “When I’m over there, the church is usually quiet, so it’s very peaceful and it’s a good time where I can just absorb that calm and peaceful atmosphere. It’s also a chance to reflect on your week — to just sit for a few minutes and gather yourself — and at the same time, you’re giving of your time and talent back to the church.”

Sacristans serve in teams of two on a rotating schedule. Most choose to serve for one month of the year, although



*Siobhan Dennis, an administrative assistant at our parish school, enjoys serving St. Charles Borromeo Church as a sacristan.*

some ask to be on the schedule for more than one month. Sacristans are responsible for caring for the linens used in the liturgy and for tidying up around the church. Each team of two decides for themselves how they would like to divide the various tasks.

“Usually, one person will do the linens and the other will do the light cleaning,” Siobhan says. “The one who does the linens — which are the corporal and the purificators and all the linens from Communion — comes about three times a week and makes sure everything is cleaned, pressed and replaced back in the sacristan closet. The other person comes to straighten up, dust, pick up trash, take care of the holy water, and make sure the books and things are all in order.”

Siobhan typically stops in the church three times a week during the month of November, her scheduled month. As an administrative assistant at St. Charles Borromeo School, Siobhan is thankful for the close proximity that allows her to easily stop by the church before her work day.

As a sacristan, Siobhan has found that these extra moments spent in the Lord’s house have deepened her faith and intimacy with Christ.

**“When I’m over there, the church is usually quiet, so it’s very peaceful and it’s a good time where I can just absorb that calm and peaceful atmosphere. It’s also a chance to reflect on your week — to just sit for a few minutes and gather yourself — and at the same time, you’re giving of your time and talent back to the church.” — Siobhan Dennis**

# SACRISTAN

“My favorite times are when I’m there by myself and it’s a personal time there,” she says. “I really take the opportunity when I go over to the church to have that one-on-one relationship with God. I sit and contemplate, and I feel closer to God. It’s a big reason why I continue to serve as a sacristan. That time is important to me.”

Siobhan, who was led to this particular ministry by a friend’s recommendation, is happy to have found such a fulfilling way to serve the parish. Feeling blessed by her experience with this ministry, she encourages anyone who may be interested in living out a more intentional discipleship at St. Charles Borromeo to prayerfully consider serving as a sacristan.

“I feel lucky in a way that I’m able to do this,” Siobhan says. “Being able to dedicate some of my time to the church

has given me a close relationship to God, and I would love for everyone to have that, as well. It’s also a way to connect into the parish, other than just attending Mass, and it’s an opportunity to share your time and talent that really alleviates some of the work of the parish staff. I think it’s a great way to get in and volunteer.”

**Are you interested in serving St. Charles Borromeo as a sacristan? If so, please contact Susan Langham at [susan.langham@comcast.net](mailto:susan.langham@comcast.net), or call her in the parish office at 812-336-6846 for more information.**

## Greeter Ministry

*continued from front cover*

like Steve and RoseMarie assist at other weekend Masses.

“I greet them with a ‘good afternoon,’ ‘have a good day,’ talk about the same kind of thing,” Steve says. “I open the doors in the back, keep the doors in the vestibule open so people can come in. If there’s something I can do to help, like get the door open for someone who is handicapped or has a walker, I try to go over and do that.”

“We answer questions or let them know where the washrooms are,” RoseMarie says.

For those who serve, greeting can be a great chance to get to know new people.

“It’s fulfilling to meet all the people,” RoseMarie says. “You get to know them because you see them every week, but now that we’re greeters, we ask their names as we have a chance. We get to know their name and greet them by name.”

Steve recalls getting to know one man that hardly ever spoke when coming into church. Once he asked the man and his wife’s names, he says it broke the ice from then on. That kind of seemingly small touch can be just the gesture that creates familiarity within a faith community.

“It brings them out of their shell,” RoseMarie says.

**Parishioners and their families who are interested in serving with the Greeter Ministry are encouraged to get in touch with the parish office at 812-336-6846.**



# STEWARDSHIP: *THE FOUR PILLARS*

**Y**ou’ve heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let’s take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

## **Hospitality**

### *Christian Kindness*

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don’t know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let’s try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

## **Prayer**

### *Heart-to-Heart with God*

“Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work,” a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don’t get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer.

The two biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

## **Formation**

### *Continuous Conversion*

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

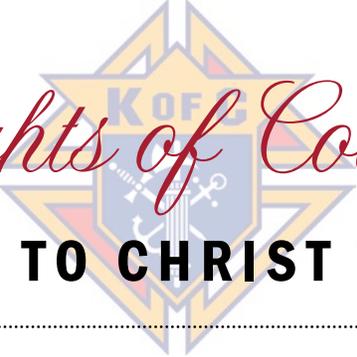
Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or “toy” that we wanted so badly, it doesn’t really satisfy. On the other hand, we don’t tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

## **Service**

### *Love in Action*

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta’s favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone.”

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you’ll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?



# Knights of Columbus

## GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST THROUGH SERVICE

When members of Knights of Columbus Council 1096, the John P. O'Donnell Council, engage in their various fundraising activities, they are working to grow closer to Christ through Fraternity and Charity — two guiding principles of the Knights.

“We’re helping to build community and in executing our mission of charity, we recall that Christ said, ‘love your neighbor as yourself,’ so we are trying to fulfill that with charitable giving and activities we engage in to raise funds or help with area charities,” says Grand Knight Gene Kremer, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

The John P. O'Donnell Council has 140 members and encompasses all three Catholic parishes in Monroe County — St. Charles Borromeo, St. Paul's and St. John's. The council meets at its headquarters at 123 S. Walnut St., Bloomington. The business meeting for members is on the second Tuesday of the month, while the fourth Tuesday of the month is the social meeting open to members, prospective members, spouses, and family members.

“Primarily, we do fundraising and charitable activities,” Gene says. “In the past year, the council went to larger stores in the area with the Tootsie Roll Drive. We support the Special Olympics and services for those with learning disabilities. Recently, we had a euchre tournament at St. Paul's and it was well-attended. We also had a Free Throw Contest for kids 8 to 13 years old in Monroe County. We also support the Global Wheelchair Mission and hold a strudel sale in December to provide scholarships for seminarians. We also support the Gibault Home in Terre Haute.”

The council also volunteers at fundraisers for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

“Several of our Knights are members of St. Vincent de Paul, and we like to support that organization, as well,” Gene says. “In June we'll probably volunteer with the Society for its hog roast.”

Any man, 18 years of age or older, who is a practicing Catholic may join the Knights of Columbus. And there are a number of compelling reasons to join.

“It can be very fulfilling to engage with others to help our fellow man,” Gene says. “By joining the Knights, there's a ready availability of activities to help support social and charitable organizations around the community. One of our principles is Fraternity, and when you join you also become part of a brotherhood who supports one another. It's a mutual aid society — not only with our insurance program, but with direct assistance from time to time to other members and families.”

There are three ways to join the Knights of Columbus — any Knight can sponsor a prospective member, so those interested can talk to any member; there are membership drives in the spring and fall at the parishes, when information is available about joining; or, log onto to the Knights of Columbus website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and submit an application online.

“We're always looking for new members,” Gene says. “I'd encourage any men in the Catholic community in Bloomington to reach out and contact me.”

**“It can be very fulfilling to engage with others to help our fellow man. By joining the Knights, there's a ready availability of activities to help support social and charitable organizations around the community. One of our principles is Fraternity, and when you join you also become part of a brotherhood who supports one another. It's a mutual aid society — not only with our insurance program, but with direct assistance from time to time to other members and families.” — Grand Knight Gene Kremer**

If you would like to learn more, please contact Grand Knight Gene Kremer at 812-334-3481.



ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**2222 E 3rd Street · Bloomington, IN 47401**  
**812-336-6846 · [parish.stcharlesbloomington.org](http://parish.stcharlesbloomington.org)**

## MASS SCHEDULE

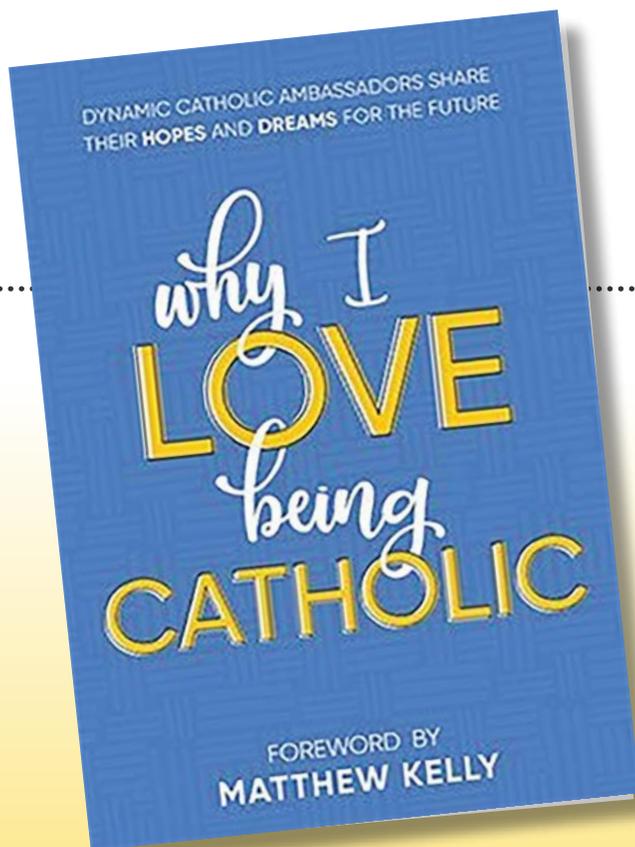
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### WEEKEND:

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*



## WHY I LOVE BEING CATHOLIC

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Our Awakenings Committee passed out a book during Easter called, *Why I Love Being Catholic* by Dynamic Catholic. If you did not get a copy, please stop by the parish office or contact Sandy Biggs at [bloombiggs6@comcast.net](mailto:bloombiggs6@comcast.net).