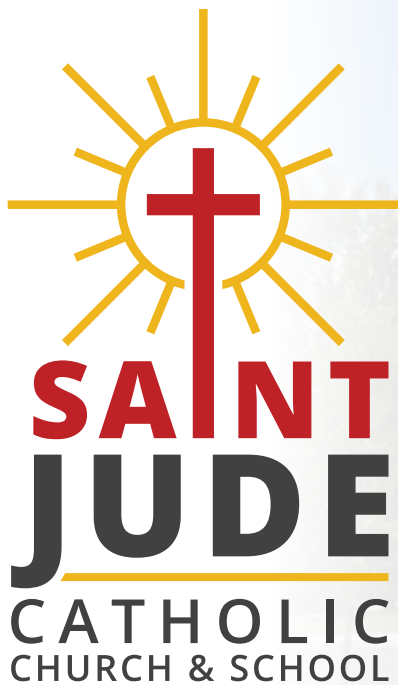




Meet the Vocations Committee

Helping Others Answer God's Calling in Their Lives

The terms “vocation” and “discernment” are used frequently at St. Jude when discussing how we should live our faith. This frequency is intentional, and it flows, in large part, from the Vocations Committee.

Vocations Committee member Tom Wellman is passionate about encouraging others to answer God's calling for their lives.

“‘Vocation’ is the broad term we use for what God is calling us to do in our lives, and discernment is simply our attempt to understand this calling through prayer and reflection,” Tom says. “The mission of the Vocations Committee is to foster all vocations including religious life, the priesthood, and marriage and family life.”

God is calling all of us to a particular vocation designed to make us holy and build up the Kingdom of God. Often, people mistakenly equate vocation with the priesthood or religious life — however, marriage is also an equally important vocation. Unfortunately, there is a downturn in all vocations. Fewer and fewer men and women are entering into religious life, and marriage rates are now falling precipitously in our society.

This is why the Vocations Committee exists and is an

continued on page 2



MCs and Sacristans have the opportunity to attend a pilgrimage to Rome.

“‘Vocation’ is the broad term we use for what God is calling us to do in our lives, and discernment is simply our attempt to understand this calling through prayer and reflection. The mission of the Vocations Committee is to foster all vocations including religious life, the priesthood, and marriage and family life.”

— TOM WELLMAN

Meet the Vocations Committee *continued from front cover*

integral part of the life of our parish. The committee meets monthly to brainstorm how they can educate and encourage all parishioners to discern their vocations.

“Our efforts are spent behind the scenes,” Tom says. “For the last few years, we have worked with all St. Jude ministries to consider how vocations play a role in each of their ministries. The most obvious outgrowth of this work is the marriage enrichment events.”

Additionally, the committee is especially focused on helping young people discern their vocations. Tom is encouraged by the increased numbers of altar servers and sacristans, as these roles provide an opportunity to get a unique perspective of the main function of the priesthood — that is, to bring Christ to us through the administration of the sacraments.

“We have had a few young men seriously discern attending seminary,” Tom says. “Although we have not yet had anyone take the affirmative step toward ordination, we continue to pray that God will bless us with young men and women who are called to the religious life.”

In addition to their efforts to encourage individual vocations, the committee also celebrates the priestly and religious vocations that are being answered by our young faithful.

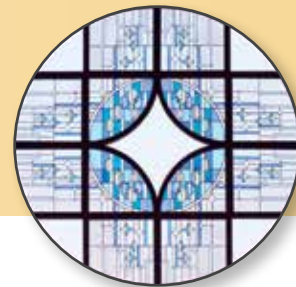
“Every fall we provide a dinner for the men at Bishop Bruté College Seminary,” Tom says. “We take our high school-age altar servers along with us to give them a firsthand view of seminary life.”

This informal night offers an impactful experience for the high school boys who get to see a side of the seminary that most don’t get to experience.

All are encouraged to listen to God’s calling. Even those who have already answered the call to either priesthood or religious life, or marriage and family life continuously need to discern how they are to grow in holiness by becoming better priests and religious, or husbands and fathers, and wives and mothers.



**Take to heart the prayer for vocations that is recited before every weekend Mass.
If you need support as you discern your vocation, do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Peter.**



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Christ the King, *the Perfect Example of Stewardship*

Dear Parishioners,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

With the liturgical year ending soon and Advent and Christmas close behind, I want to share with you the profound significance of the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 26. This feast holds a special place within the heart of the Catholic Church and shows us what true stewardship is all about.

The Solemnity of Christ the King, observed on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, invites us to reflect on Christ's universal kingship and reign over all creation. In a world often focused on power, control, and self-centeredness, this feast presents a countercultural message. It reminds us that Christ's kingship is marked by self-sacrifice, humility, and service. Our Lord's throne is not one of worldly grandeur but of the Cross, where He gave His life for our salvation.

This feast is a powerful reminder of the core values of Catholic stewardship. Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God — our time, talents, resources, and even our very lives. Just as Christ, the King, entrusted His life for our sake, we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has bestowed upon us. We are caretakers of His creation, called to use our resources wisely, generously, and in ways that bring about His kingdom on Earth.

Christ's kingship and stewardship are deeply intertwined. By recognizing His authority over our lives, we acknowledge that our role as stewards is to use our gifts in accordance with His will. This means serving others, working for justice, promoting human dignity, and caring for the Earth and its resources. Our actions as faithful stewards should reflect the self-giving love that Christ displayed during His earthly life.



The Solemnity of Christ the King is an important day in the Catholic Church because it brings our focus back to the heart of our faith. It reminds us that Christ's reign extends beyond the confines of time and space, touching every aspect of our existence. This feast challenges us to evaluate our lives in light of His kingship and to ask ourselves whether our choices and actions align with His teachings.

As we approach this solemn feast, let us take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to Christ and the principles of stewardship. May we strive to be faithful stewards of His grace, using our gifts to build a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world. Let us remember that Christ, the King, calls us not to a life of privilege but to a life of service, solidarity, and sacrificial love.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Through our worship and reflection, may we be renewed in our dedication to Christ's reign and to the active stewardship and discipleship He calls us to embrace.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter Marshall
Pastor



Encounter Ministry:

Welcoming New Parishioners with Connection

“We would love to have more members from all walks of life to come and help connect with people. The gift of hospitality in a large parish like ours is a vital part of making people feel at home here and we need more people who are willing to join us in this mission.”

— TAMMY STEWART

When someone becomes a parishioner at a church, it can be a little intimidating to meet people and find a place in the community. To help make people feel more at home in the parish, the Encounter Ministry was started.

“We used to just have parishioners fill out a form online and we would reach out to welcome them, but this process didn’t give us the opportunity to get to know them,” says Tammy Stewart, the Director of Evangelization, Outreach, and Campus Ministry. “We didn’t have a process in place to get the new parishioners acclimated into the parish either. Now we have them fill out an inquiry form and then we set up a time to meet, preferably face to face. The first question I ask them is why they chose St. Jude and that usually opens up some great conversation in getting to know them.”

Tammy has found this meeting to be very helpful for getting to know new parishioners.

“The stories that I hear in our one-on-one intakes help me to connect the parishioners with others in the





on and Community

parish,” Tammy says. “I can share support for different challenges they may be facing or connect them with people or ministries that they may be interested in. Our new parishioners feel connected more quickly and they are willing to share of themselves sooner than they would have otherwise.”

After meeting with Tammy, someone from the Encounter Team reaches out to the new parishioners to give them a welcome gift and make more connections. During this process, new parishioners are offered a tour of the church. After this, new parishioners are sent a survey to ask about their experiences with the Encounter Ministry. They are also invited to take a spiritual gifts assessment and invited to join a small group within the parish.

“The spiritual gifts assessment is a wonderful tool to help identify the gifts God has given you,” Tammy says. “It is exciting to realize that we have these gifts that God has intentionally given us. They give us a greater sense of purpose and we can help direct them into ministries or groups where they can utilize their gifts and talents. God has made each of us unique and we all have a special role to play in His Kingdom. This assessment can help us find our place here.”

The invite to be a part of a small group within the parish can help newcomers find a place here more quickly. In a big parish, it can be easy to feel invisible. We have many groups and ministries and it can be difficult for a new person to get involved. The small groups help make a large parish into small “churches” of people who meet regularly. They are catechetical social groups and a way to meet people who have common interests. Many of the existing small groups at the parish have

been together for decades. They have been through many seasons of life together, celebrating, grieving, and supporting each other.

The last part of the Encounter Ministry is the quarterly New Parishioner Meet and Greet. All new parishioners are invited to come to a breakfast where they can meet other new parishioners as well as the members of the Encounter Team. This is another opportunity for connection to others in the parish where new parishioners can meet others and learn more about what opportunities and support are available at the parish.

“Last year, we had over 100 newly registered parishioners,” Tammy says. “I would say that about half of them went through the Encounter Ministry process. Those that filled out the survey gave us great feedback and said that it was a great experience that welcomed them fully into the parish.”

For those who are newer to the parish but may not have taken advantage of this ministry, it isn’t too late. Anyone who considers themselves “new” to the parish is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get connected to the parish. Those who may have participated in parts of this process and want to be a part of the rest of it are welcome to contact Tammy to continue the welcoming process.

“We currently have six members on our team,” Tammy says. “We really could use more to help welcome our new parishioners. We would love to have more members from all walks of life to come and help connect with people. The gift of hospitality in a large parish like ours is a vital part of making people feel at home here and we need more people who are willing to join us in this mission.”

New parishioners or anyone interested in joining the team may contact
Tammy Stewart at tstewart@stjudeindy.org or call the parish office at 317-786-4371.

Women's Club:

Joyfully Upholding Pillars of Faith, Service and Community

"The purpose of our club is 'to promote the spiritual and personal growth of Catholic women through faith, service, and fellowship.' That sums up what we're there for. There is a lot of fellowship, but there is the concentration on faith and service." — **MARY BALL, WOMEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT**

The St. Jude Parish Women's Club members enjoy social times together, but the foundation of the club speaks to faith and service.

"The introduction to our Facebook page states that the purpose of our club is 'to promote the spiritual and personal growth of Catholic women through faith, service, and fellowship,'" says Mary Ball, Women's Club President. "That sums up what we're there for. There is a lot of fellowship, but there is the concentration on faith and service."

Any Catholic woman who is 21 years old or older may join, and members need not be St. Jude parishioners. Currently, there are between 30 to 50 active members with ages ranging from 35 to 80.

"We would certainly welcome younger women to join," Mary says.

The Women's Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Beatitudes Room. The group recites the Rosary, followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. If there is a social activity planned, however, there is no business meeting.

"We have a number of social activities," Mary says. "We go to wineries, we have a game night, or we have a night for crafts. We do have a Christmas dinner and gift exchange as a meeting. We also get together informally and do activities for the parish. We stuffed Easter eggs for the hunt and we put together the raffle baskets for the Reverse Raffle. We had a day that we made blankets for



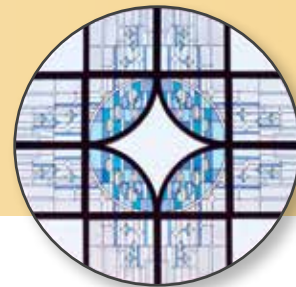
the Holy Family Shelter. And at least once a year we serve dinner at Anna's House.

"We do fun things and things to give back to the parish," she adds. "If someone asks us for a contribution, we never say 'no,' such as a contribution toward an Eagle Scout project. We were asked to help with the Mary's Way Dinner that was fellowship with women in the parish."

As Mary emphasizes, any age-eligible woman is welcome and encouraged to join.

"We welcome anyone who wants to come," she says. "You don't really have to be a parishioner. If someone is interested in the Catholic faith, she can attend. All are welcome. Each meeting, whether some activity is going on, is a social time to get to know each other and pray the Rosary. There is also food served, so we can break bread together. It's a very social atmosphere, and faith is an important part of it."

Meetings are posted in the weekly bulletins. Women interested in joining or wanting more information, may contact Mary Ball at mmbo104@yahoo.com or attend the meeting posted.



St. Charles Borromeo:

An Example of Living Completely for the Lord

One important aspect of stewardship—of involvement in parish life and our community—is understanding our own personal vocation. One saint especially embodies this key aspect of stewardship. St. Charles was a model priest, and many priests and clergy-in-training look to his life as an example of how to live completely for the Lord. Let us look to his example as we serve our own faith family and community.

When St. Charles Borromeo died at the age of 46, he had accomplished more than most clergy twice his age. St. Charles is credited with the continuation and completion of the Council of Trent in 1562, extensive reformation within the Archdiocese of Milan and beyond, and the creation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine—the forerunner of the modern Religious Education system. St. Charles possessed a fierce love for the Church, especially for the people under his spiritual care—the Archdiocese of Milan.

He was born in 1538 to the powerful noble family Borromeo. But rather than live the life of a noble, St. Charles chose instead to serve the Church.

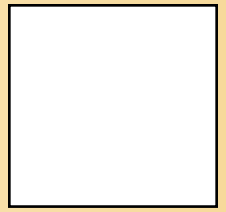
As a young man, St. Charles received the clerical ton-

sure—a hairstyle where the top of the head is shaved, common among religious orders—and studied at a Benedictine abbey near his hometown of Arona, Italy. His uncle, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo de' Medici, was elected Pope in 1559, and took the name Pius IV. Shortly after becoming pope, Pius IV appointed St. Charles to serve as secretary of state, as well as cardinal and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time, St. Charles was still a layperson. While serving in these positions, he encouraged the pope to reconvene the Council of Trent, an ecumenical gathering during which Church leaders corrected various abuses and sought to more clearly define elements of Catholic doctrine.

In 1563, St. Charles was ordained to the priesthood

continued on back cover





5353 McFarland Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 786-4371
www.stjudeindy.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday Anticipation — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 7:30am, 10:00am, 11:45am (Sept-Apr)

Weekday Mass

Monday/Wednesday/Friday — 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday/Thursday — 6:00 p.m.

Holy Day Mass

See Bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday/Thursday — 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Saturday — 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Anytime by appointment

St. Charles Borromeo

continued from page 7

during a secret ordination ceremony. Following the death of his older brother, Count Federico Borromeo, St. Charles' family had urged him to marry and carry on the Borromeo name. However, St. Charles felt that God was calling him to serve the Church, and continued to fulfill his vocation.

Shortly after becoming a priest, St. Charles was appointed by Pope Pius IV as Archbishop of Milan. Historians say the people of Milan rejoiced under St. Charles' leadership and spiritual guidance — he was the first bishop in 80 years to actually live in Milan and minister to its people himself. Under his rule, Milan became a model diocese that was revered throughout the Catholic world.

Due to his great intellect, St. Charles was often called away from Milan to help the pope in various ways. However, despite his busy life, St. Charles continued to

push reformation among clergy and sought to continually improve the ministry of the Church. He often encouraged clergy to spend time educating and spiritually renewing themselves. During a homily at a diocesan synod, St. Charles addressed the priests saying, "Are you in charge of a parish? If so, do not neglect the parish of your own soul, do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself. You have to be mindful of your people without becoming forgetful of yourself."

St. Charles was a true servant of the people. As the plague of 1576 ravaged much of Milan, he remained with his people, serving the sick and dying in hospitals throughout the archdiocese.

St. Charles Borromeo died Nov. 3, 1584. He was canonized in 1610, and his feast day is celebrated each year on Nov. 4.