

Community Looks Forward to **PARISH FESTIVAL**

Parishioners Invited to Help Make Event a Success

Our annual parish festival promises a fantastic time — and it is a great fundraiser for our parish operations. Yet, it doesn't happen without a dedicated group of stewards who spend most of the year making preparations for the event. After the festival, the group takes a six-week break and starts planning for the following year.

This year's festival takes place May 30-June 1, from 6 to 10 p.m., with the entire St. Jude parish campus used for the event. The festival includes games in the school gym and Bingo in the cafeteria, while the Men's Club runs Monte Carlo. Outdoor food booths will be offering hot dogs and hamburgers. Kids can also enjoy carnival rides, and there will be live music entertainment. Of course, don't forget about the giant elephant ears!

Scott Strother took over running the festival in 2019 from Bill Kidwell. Before that, he had run the first aid area since 2012. Knowing how much help would be necessary, Scott quickly got a committee together. The 12-person committee meets at least once a month.

"Most people think the festival is just thrown together within a few months, but in fact, we start planning for the next year approximately six weeks after we finish the current festival," Scott says.



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PENTECOST:

The Church's Birthday a Lesson in Stewardship and Discipleship

Celebrated 50 days after Easter, Pentecost holds immense significance in the Catholic Church. It marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and Mary, empowering them to spread the Gospel. This event is not only a cornerstone of the Church's liturgical calendar but also a powerful lesson in stewardship and discipleship.

Pentecost, often referred to as the "birthday of the Church," underscores the central role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Catholic. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God, just as all our talents, time, and resources are. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and Mary reminds Catholics that their own lives should be characterized by the openness to receive and share the gifts God has bestowed upon them.

■ **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS:**

One of the primary messages of Pentecost is the universal mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in languages they did not know, allowing them to communicate with people from various backgrounds. This moment teaches Catholics that the call to discipleship and stewardship is not exclusive but extends to all people. Catholics are called to be good stewards of the Good News, sharing it generously and inclusively with others, just as the apostles did.

■ **BEING EMPOWERED FOR SERVICE:**

Pentecost is a reminder that the Holy Spirit empowers individuals for service. The apostles, who were once fearful and uncertain, were transformed into bold witnesses of Christ's teachings. This transformation illustrates the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and how it equips Catholics for service to the Church and the world. Stewardship, in this context, entails using one's talents,

time, and treasure to serve others and advance the mission of the Church.

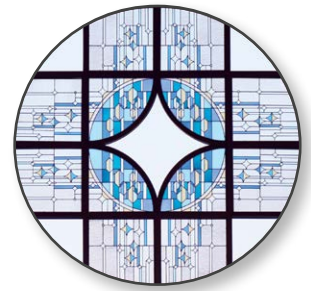
■ **UNITY IN DIVERSITY:**

The diverse crowd present at the first Pentecost, representing various nations and languages, highlights the theme of unity in diversity. Catholics are called to embrace and celebrate the diversity of God's creation while recognizing the common bond of faith. This is a vital aspect of stewardship — respecting the unique talents and backgrounds of each individual within the faith community and utilizing these differences to build a stronger, more vibrant Church.

■ **BEING RESPONSIVE TO GOD'S CALL:**

Pentecost serves as a reminder of the apostles' responsiveness to God's call. They were willing to leave behind their old lives, filled with uncertainty and fear, and accept the mission to spread the Gospel. This act of responding to God's call is fundamental to discipleship, which encompasses a willingness to be generous with one's time, talents, and treasure in service to God and others.

In conclusion, Pentecost is a pivotal moment in the Catholic Church's history, and its significance extends beyond the historical event. It is a lesson in stewardship and discipleship, emphasizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the call to share the Good News, the empowerment for service, unity in diversity, and the responsive nature of discipleship. Catholics are reminded that, like the apostles, they are called to be good stewards of the gifts and blessings they have received, using them to serve and enrich the Church and the broader community. Pentecost serves as an annual reminder that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and empower Catholics on their journey of faith and stewardship.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Circling Back to the Basics of STEWARDSHIP

Dear Parishioners,

Our parish has been committed to living Stewardship as a Way of Life for a while now, and I thought this might be a good time to circle back to the basics. Perhaps some of you hear the word “stewardship” and are still not sure what to think.

Wherever you fall in your understanding of stewardship, you may find yourself wondering why you even need to participate in the first place, or how you can possibly give more of yourself to God when you are already pressed for time, energy, and money.

As you try to answer these questions, the first thing to remember is that God is the source of the “three Ts” of stewardship — our time, talents, and treasure. If it were not for God, we would not have any of these.

The second key element on which to focus is to consider how you are receiving His gifts. Do you feel entitled to all He has given you, and perhaps demand even more from Him? Or do you thank Him for His abundant generosity, and as a sign of your gratefulness, return a portion back to Him?

God, in His infinite love and mercy for us, grants us these gifts during our time on Earth, even though we do not deserve them. As a sign of appreciation, we can give Him a return on His investment.



If God gives you a free Saturday afternoon, you could take your kids to Confession instead of watching TV, playing golf, or scrolling through your phone. If God gives you cooking skills, you could prepare a meal for a family with a newborn baby instead of going shopping.

Financial choices are applicable to stewards, as well. Do you waste your financial resources or take them for granted? Do you carefully think about what portion you should return to God?

However deep your understanding of stewardship, remember that it is not a rule or mandate — it is an invitation. No one is “forced” to live the life of a good steward. Our realization that God has blessed us — wherever we are in our faith journey — should drive our yearning to give back of our time, talent, and treasure.

Out of love for our Creator — and to continue to grow in His love — we should desire to give stewardship, as a way of life, a try.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter Marshall
Pastor

BEGGARS FO

Feeding Those in Need by Serving



If you are interested in donating or volunteering, contact Chuck Roach at croach@croachlaw.com.

Beggars for the Poor (BFTP) is a beautiful ministry that devotes itself to practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy by feeding and serving the homeless community in Indianapolis.

The ministry was established by Karl and Lynda Knable many years ago as a division of St. Vincent de Paul. For the last eight years, Randy and Tina Barnhorst and Chuck Roach have led our parish's participation in the effort to feed and clothe those most in need in our community.

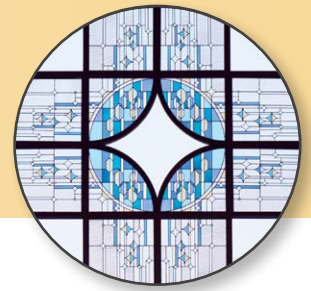
Chuck has been deeply touched by the Lord's providential hand through this ministry and has seen the great joy and hope that BFTP brings to those who usually go without.

"The mission is to serve a warm meal and distribute weather-appropriate clothes, hygiene kits, and snack bags to the Indianapolis homeless community each Saturday morning," Chuck says. "Local parishes serve on a rotating weekly basis, and St. Jude has had the first Saturday of the month for many years."

BFTP starts their preparations weeks in advance of each first Saturday of the month. They continuously collect clothing and toiletry donations and start gathering the needed food the week leading up to Saturday morning.

"St. Jude is a very generous community and we rarely have trouble finding volunteers or donors to jump in when needed," Chuck says. "Funds are contributed, along with donations of food and clothing, by parishioners and other volunteers who have signed up for our ministry. We maintain an email list and distribute it monthly, and are always thankful and gratified by the many wonderful people who contribute either on a routine or occasional basis."

Come Saturday, the BFTP volunteers prepare and cook the food early in the morning in order to serve it at 8:15 a.m. at the Roberts Park Methodist Church downtown on 401 N Delaware Street.



FOR THE POOR

Hot Meals to Indianapolis' Hungry

“Our customers are very thankful and express their extreme gratitude for the warm meal and the chance to receive shirts, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, and whatever else is needed,” Chuck says. “They come from many walks of life and are eager to share their stories. It is humbling to serve them and hear their stories, and all who serve gain a better understanding and appreciation for folks in different life circumstances.”

Chuck also notes that the meal provided through BFTP is the only warm meal the needy will have for the week.

“All who serve with BFTP find that we receive more than we give, through a better understanding of the people we serve and an appreciation for the grace we receive through service,” Chuck says.

BFTP shows the love of Christ to those who are often forgotten by our society. It also is a powerful opportunity to practice the true meaning of stewardship by recognizing all that God has given you and offering yourself for His service.

“BFTP has become a central part of my personal faith journey,” Chuck says. “Faith without action through service is hollow, and we are called to do more with what we have. It has been a blessing to me and my family, as service to others is one of the most meaningful ways to receive God's grace.”

All are welcome to get involved and serve. BFTP is looking for new leadership who would be willing to volunteer regularly and help with coordinating donations, food preparation, and service.

Parish Festival *continued from front cover*

Last year's live music was Josh Kaufman, the season-six winner of *The Voice*.

“Our goal this year is to bring the community together for some well-deserved family-style fun for kids of every age to celebrate the start of summer and the end of school,” Scott says. “While many see this as a church festival, we want everyone to feel welcome and see how God can bless the community while having fun.”

The funds raised at the festival go toward capital expenses here at the parish, with 10% going to St. Philip Neri downtown.

The highlight of the festival for Scott is seeing the community come together and have fun.

“I have always looked at life from the lens of how I make God smile,” Scott says. “The joy and laughter in the kids' games areas, the joyous music, and friends around the tables eating all bring joy to His name. I know God is

there and that is my favorite part of the festival.”

The festival always needs volunteers. Without people getting involved, the event can't happen. Scott encourages everyone to get involved in making this wonderful event a success.

“Many hands make light work,” he says.

This year's live music from 6 to 10 p.m. will be DJ Tobias on Thursday night, Project 19 on Friday night, and Train Wreck on Saturday night.

There will be a sign-up night at the church and online at stjudeindy.org. Those interested in joining the committee may contact Scott Strother at scottcstrother@gmail.com or the parish office.

DEEPENING YOUR FAITH:

The Transformative Power of Catholic Podcasts



In the digital age, where information flows ceaselessly, Catholics are finding solace and spiritual growth in the world of podcasts. These audio treasures not only serve as a source of inspiration but also as powerful tools for deepening one's faith and understanding of Catholicism. Let's explore how embracing Catholic podcasts can be a transformative journey for believers, accompanied by a curated list of the top 10 Catholic podcasts that you can easily access online.

The Power of Catholic Podcasts

Podcasts have become a cornerstone of modern communication, allowing individuals to consume content on the go. For Catholics seeking to fortify their spiritual journey, podcasts offer a unique blend of convenience and depth. Whether you're commuting, exercising, or simply relaxing at home, these audio programs provide a space for reflection and education, and serve as companions in the journey of faith.

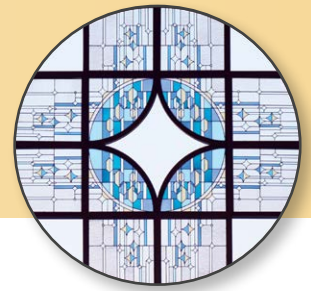
Ten Catholic Podcasts for Spiritual Growth

1. **Catholic Stuff You Should Know:** Delving into various aspects of Catholicism, this podcast combines humor with profound insights, making complex topics accessible to all.
2. **Word on Fire Show:** Hosted by Bishop Robert Barron, this podcast explores the intersection of faith and culture, offering a deep dive into the teachings of the Church.
3. **Pints with Aquinas:** A lively exploration of the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, this podcast invites listeners to engage with the rich intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church in a friendly, conversational style.
4. **The Catholic Talk Show:** Covering a wide range of topics, from history to current events, this podcast provides a fresh perspective on Catholicism with a dose of humor.
5. **Catholic Answers Live:** A live call-in show where apologists answer questions about Catholicism, providing valuable insights into the teachings and practices of the Church.
6. **The Liturgy Guys:** Exploring the beauty and richness of the liturgy, this podcast offers a deeper understanding of the rituals and traditions that form the heart of Catholic worship.
7. **The Jeff Cavins Show:** Hosted by Bible scholar Jeff Cavins, this podcast delves into Scripture, offering listeners a profound and practical understanding of the Word of God.
8. **Catholic Feminist:** A thought-provoking exploration of feminism and its intersection with Catholicism, this podcast encourages critical reflection on gender issues within the context of faith.
9. **Catching Foxes:** A candid and humorous take on the challenges and joys of living out the Catholic faith in the modern world, this podcast is both relatable and insightful.
10. **Among the Lilies:** Designed for Catholic women, this podcast explores topics relevant to their spiritual and everyday lives, fostering a sense of community and solidarity.

How to Access These Podcasts

To embark on your faith-enriching journey, simply visit the websites of the respective podcasts listed above or search for them on popular podcast platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, or Stitcher. Subscribe to stay updated on the latest episodes and let these podcasts be your companions in deepening your Catholic faith.

Catholic podcasts offer a unique and accessible means for believers to grow spiritually and learn more about their faith. Embrace the transformative power of faith in your ears and let these podcasts accompany you on your journey of Catholic discovery.



MERCY MEALS MINISTRY *Provides Great Comfort and Care in Times of Loss*

In times of loss at the death of a loved one, there is solace in gathering with family and friends to share a meal and fond memories. Our St. Jude Mercy Meals Ministry provides such a meal and gathering space for parish families in a true expression of compassion and stewardship.

Kathy Butkiewicz and Jan Rahn co-chair this ministry that can call upon at least 250 parishioners when a funeral meal is requested.

Kathy is not certain when the ministry began, but it has been a St. Jude tradition for many years.

“I’ve been here for 22 years, and people talk about serving in the ministry with different people, so it goes back a long time,” Kathy says.

The ministry provides a meal after the funeral in one of the meeting rooms in the Rev. Gerald Kirkhoff Multipurpose Center. The center was part of the capital campaign expansion, which also provided a well-equipped kitchen that makes meal preparation much easier. Besides warming ovens, the kitchen has refrigerators, an ice machine, storage space, and abundant counter space.

When a death has taken place in a parish family, the members meet first with Christie Denzer, Pastoral Associate of Faith



“It is amazing what our parishioners do. The people who serve are there from four to six hours, depending on the size of the gathering. We have had 30 people and also more than 200 guests.” — KATHY BUTKIEWICZ

Formation, to begin planning the funeral. During that meeting, she informs them about the meal offered by the Mercy Meals Ministry and determines if they would like to have it. Once the decision is made, the family tells her how many guests to anticipate.

“We have more than 250 parishioners on our SignUpGenius list,” Kathy says. “They are notified about the needed meal. They provide hot casseroles, salads, breads, desserts, and beverages, while the parish provides the meat. Sometimes it’s fried chicken or deli trays. We have to have the

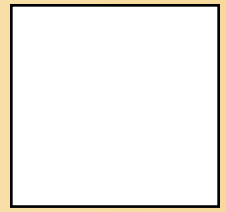
food ready for after the funeral.”

Ministry members set up the tables, set out the serving pieces, the décor, beverages, and salads, and plate the desserts. When the family members and others arrive for the meal, the ministry members monitor the buffet tables and pack up the leftovers for the family, clean off the tables, and wash the dishes.

Throughout this outpouring of care and hospitality, the Mercy Meals Ministry members are acting in stewardship.

“We’re asking of our parishioners to give of their time, talents,

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MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday Anticipation — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday — 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

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

MERCY MEALS MINISTRY *continued from page 7*

and in some way, their treasure,” Kathy says. “It is amazing what our parishioners do. The people who serve are there from four to six hours, depending on the size of the gathering. We have had 30 people and also more than 200 guests.”

The feedback from those receiving the ministry’s care is one of deep gratitude.

“They really appreciate being able to have a place to gather undisturbed,” Kathy says. “We don’t get a chance to gather like we did with family and old friends, and they are very grateful.”

Guests also comment on the food, noting it is homemade and provided with love.

“They really appreciate the comfort after experiencing a loss like this,” Kathy says.



Anyone interested in serving in the Mercy Meals Ministry may contact Kathy Butkiewicz at 317-752-6847 or Christie Denzer at 317-786-4371, or email stjudemercymeals@gmail.com.