

Meet Our Evangelization Team

Fostering Opportunities to Engage in Stewardship and Serve as Christ's Disciples

The newly formed Evangelization Team at St. Jude Catholic Church is working to reach three groups of people — those already in the pews, those who used to attend Mass but don't any longer, and those who don't know Jesus. The team was formed in early 2024 to work on ways to evangelize all three of these groups.

The members have learned a lot in the first year. They meet twice monthly and have spent the first year learning how to evangelize. Tammy Stewart — the coordinator of evangelization, outreach, and campus ministry — leads the Evangelization Team. She invites more people to get involved in this vital mission. As Tammy notes, it's been a wonderful year of learning and discernment, and she has most enjoyed hearing the faith stories of the other members.

"I knew everyone, but learning more about them and their faith stories has been incredible," Tammy says.

The team hosted a speaker who shared that evangelization is about sharing Christ — it's not about going and knocking on doors. This was a new realization for many members. They have all worked on their faith stories and on making their stories stand out as compelling to others.



"We learned that evangelization is not scary," Tammy says. "To evangelize, we need to walk with people in faith. We can all do that."

Tammy has truly seen the Holy Spirit gathering the members. One member has a heart for missionary work, while another wants to start a prison ministry. Each member has passions, and joining them together will make this group very effective in their work.

The members have also been learning about the stages of faith. Evangelization is about helping move people from one stage onto the next.

continued on page 5

CELEBRATING THE EASTER SEASON

Easter Sunday fell this year on April 20. But even now while this glorious day has come and gone and as the springtime days of May have arrived, remember that Easter is far from over — the celebration of the greatest feast day of the Church year continues for 50 days after Easter Sunday.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated Christ rising from the dead, following His gruesome passion and death. On that glorious Sunday — three days after He died — Christ fulfilled His promise, “Destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days” (Jn. 2:19) and the promises of the Old Covenant, “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. They will strike at your head while you strike at their heel” (Gen. 3:15).

Through His resurrection, Jesus broke the chains of sin and death, opening for us the way to eternal life. Yet, His mission was not yet over. He was back with His disciples, showing them that what had been promised to their fathers had been fulfilled.

“Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Lk. 24:46-48).

Yet, again, there is still more.

After all, Jesus is not still walking the earth, showing us Himself, is He?

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to His Father's right hand. That day falls on May 29 this year, but the Feast of the Ascension is a movable feast and will be celebrated this year on June 1. And 50 days after Easter, the Father sent His Spirit, just as Christ

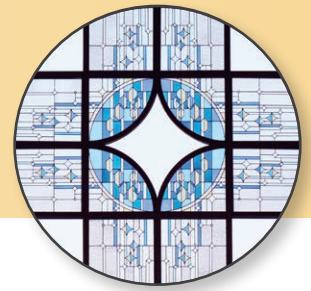
promised He would. And with that (the feast we now celebrate as Pentecost, which falls on June 8 this year), Christ's salvific mission was accomplished, and it is with the celebration of that great feast that we conclude the Easter season — a season of joyful recognition of the salvation Christ won for us.

Having been beaten and killed for our sins, Christ rose from the dead breaking the bonds of sin. Then, after He ascended to His rightful place in heavenly glory, the Lord sent the Spirit, and now, armed with the power of the Spirit, the Church serves as the sacrament of salvation on Earth — offering us sanctifying grace (a share in the life of Christ Himself) through the sacraments.

As you can see, the Easter season offers us a time to commemorate some of the most important events in the history of salvation. In fact, it can rightly be called the most important season of the Church year, for it is now — during these 50 days — that we celebrate the fruits of Christ's sacrifice.

Today, though Christ has won the victory over sin, we are all still living in a tainted world. We still feel the effects of sin because we do not yet fully partake of the fruits of Christ's victory. That we will only know when (and if) we, by the grace of God, enter eternal glory in the heavenly kingdom.

Let us all take the time this Easter season to thank God for the gift of salvation. Spend time reflecting on how much we have opened our hearts to the grace He pours upon us. May we all be more aware of the glory Christ has won for us, and, in so doing, willingly detach ourselves from the fruits of this world so that we may be more receptive to the fruits of His grace.



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

Community Gets Ready for the Annual St. Jude Festival

A Great Time for Fun, Fellowship, Food, and More

Be sure to mark your calendar, because the annual St. Jude Festival happens this year on May 29, 30, and 31. Since 1987, the festival has brought the community together for plenty of fun, fellowship, and great food. Scott Strother, chairperson of the St. Jude Festival, looks forward to this year's event.

"The festival is utilizing the parking lot like normal," Scott says. "We start opening to everybody at 5:30 p.m. The band kicks off at 6 p.m., and the main festival ends about 10 p.m. It's open to anyone in the community."

The festival will offer a wide range of entertainment, games, and rides.

"We have different sections," Scott says. "The Monte Carlo area is for gambling and adult games and stays open later on Friday and Saturday nights. We have cards, blackjack, poker, roulette, craps — all the fun games. Everybody just plays until they want to go home."

There is plenty for the whole family to enjoy.

"We have the carnival side, the rides, and the booths where you're trying to win prizes," Scott says. "The food side runs the big tent. The cantina and the grill area have everything from tacos and cheeseburgers to ribeye steaks to tenderloins, all the way down to elephant ears. We try to expand our options to try to offer the most to everybody."

The festival kids' area will be set up in the gym.

"It has booths of all types with kid games," Scott says. "They can play different things to win a prize. There are all

kinds of stuffed animals and toys."

And it wouldn't be our festival without live music!

"We have local bands all three nights," Scott says. "DJ Tobias is back Thursday night. Friday night we have Project 19, a cover band. Saturday night is a cover band, Train Wreck."

The festival is sure to be a fun, widely attended event, so plan to purchase your tickets soon!

"Everything runs off tickets," Scott says. "We went away from cash to be able to track money easier. It's also an archdiocesan rule. You can buy tickets when you get there and use them for anything except carnival rides — they have their own tickets."

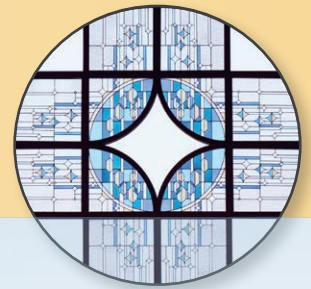
As mentioned, the festival needs many hands to run.

"We always need volunteers," Scott says. "We'll start around Mother's Day with a SignUpGenius. We encourage everyone to volunteer. It helps the parish. It takes the whole community to make this work. People who show up that day and others sign up weeks in advance. Local organizations can run certain booths. The Knights of Columbus are running the Big Wheel Six for adult games. St. Philip Neri's Parish brings volunteers as well. A lot of volunteers have some role in the parish."

The proceeds all go back to the parish church and school.

"We don't know which project it's going to this year, but it always goes to a capital expense," Scott says. "One year, the roof on the church was replaced. It's been used to replace ACs. We give the money to the church, and





ude Festival

the church decides where it's needed. We know it's going to a good place."

The festival isn't intended just for parishioners — it is open to the whole community.

"I grew up at St. Jude," Scott says. "I've been a parishioner there most of my life, other than when I was deployed in the military. It's been my home parish. I love giving back because St. Jude has always given my family. The festival brings the community together, which is what it's all about."

Scott is grateful for the support and hopes to pull more into involvement for future festivals.

"This is my fifth or sixth year," he says. "We have about 12 committee members. Our whole staff, I give them all props. They've come back year after year. It's not light work — we work from the day it ends to next year when it starts again. It takes the whole committee. We could always use more because sharing the load makes everything easier."



Those interested in volunteering can watch the parish website and bulletin for details. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Scott Strother at 317-690-1477 or scottcstrother@gmail.com.

Meet Our Evangelization Team *continued from front cover*

"We want to deepen people's faith, no matter what stage they are at," Tammy says. "We want to feed parishioners spiritually."

The Evangelization Team also supported the eight-week RESCUE Project during Lent.

"We have come to believe as Catholics that it's the clergy's job to evangelize," Tammy says. "As Catholics, we are bad at evangelizing. We don't recognize that we all have the power to evangelize."

As the team continues to work on its mission, they know that they want to foster the faith in those three

groups of people. Also, those who are already in the pews need to be empowered to spread the Gospel to those who don't know Jesus.

"We want to become a parish focused on evangelization," Tammy says. "We want to have a process in place for those new to the parish to help them grow."

Evangelization goes beyond inviting people to Mass — it involves getting people involved in ministries and providing opportunities to grow in faith.

"This is a diverse team in terms of experience and age, and I'm excited about that," Tammy says.

After many years of faithful service to St. Jude, Tammy Stewart is retiring on May 9th. To get involved with the Evangelization Team, please contact Kris Chaney at kchaney@stjudeindy.org

How to Pray the Rosary with Devotion and Purpose

As Catholics, prayer is an integral part of our spiritual journey, and among the most cherished and powerful devotions is the Rosary. With its beads and meditative rhythm, the Rosary offers a profound way to connect with God and reflect on the life of Jesus Christ. Whether you're new to the practice or seeking to deepen your prayer life, here's a guide to help you pray the Rosary with devotion and purpose.

Prepare Your Heart: Before beginning the Rosary, take a moment to quiet your mind and open your heart to God's presence. Offer a prayer asking for guidance and grace as you enter into this sacred time of prayer.

Start with the Sign of the Cross: Begin by making the Sign of the Cross, affirming your belief in the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who you invite to join you in prayer.

Recite the Apostles' Creed: This foundational prayer expresses our core beliefs as Catholics. Recite it slowly and attentively, reflecting on the profound truths it proclaims.

Pray the Our Father: As Jesus taught His disciples, pray the Our Father, acknowledging God as our loving Father and seeking His will to be done in our lives.

Meditate on the Mysteries: The Rosary is divided into four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous. As you recite each decade, meditate on the corresponding Mystery, contemplating its significance and relevance to your life.

Recite the Hail Mary: With each bead, pray the Hail Mary, honoring Mary as the Mother of God and seeking her intercession as you journey through the Mysteries.

Conclude with the Glory Be: At the end of each decade, offer the Glory Be, praising the Holy Trinity and acknowledging God's glory and presence in your life.

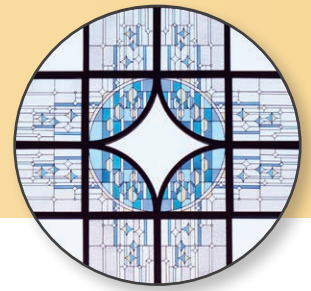
End with the Hail Holy Queen: Conclude the Rosary by reciting the Hail Holy Queen, asking Mary to pray for us and guide us on our journey towards her Son, Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer: Finally, offer a closing prayer, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to pray the Rosary and asking for God's blessings upon yourself and your loved ones.

Practice Consistency and Persistence: Like any spiritual practice, praying the Rosary regularly requires commitment and discipline. Set aside time each day to pray the Rosary and allow its transformative power to enrich your spiritual life.

The Rosary is a beautiful and powerful prayer that invites us to journey deeper into our faith and relationship with God. By following these steps and approaching the Rosary with reverence and devotion, may you experience the profound grace and blessings it offers in your life.





A Look at the Meals Ministry

Feeding Our Neighbors in Need and Serving as Christ Would Serve

About seven years ago, Andrea Morelli resurrected a ministry in order to serve even more parishioners. The Meals Ministry, which originally provided meals for new moms, is now a way for the parish to come together and support parishioners with home-cooked meals, whether they are new moms, recovering from illness or surgery, or have other unique needs. For parishioners who are facing a challenge, a warm meal can be a great gift. And for parishioners who love to cook and have a little extra time to deliver a meal, it's a wonderful way to give back and use their gifts for others.

"This is a ministry just to help others in need and to serve as Christ would serve," Andrea says. "There are people out there whose gift is cooking and they enjoy cooking for others. And there are people that appreciate home-cooked meals and might stress if they can't provide one for their family."

On average, the Meals Ministry provides meals for one person or



Volunteer Alicia Iaria with the meal she prepared

family each month, but there are slower and busier times during the year. When a new need arises, Andrea uses mealtrain.com to set up a schedule for meals and provide any extra information such as food allergies.

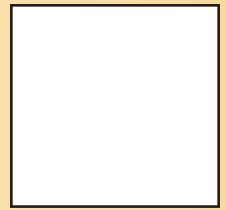
Meals are usually provided for three to six weeks, depending on

the situation and they might be scheduled for three times a week or otherwise according to the person's needs. Andrea emails the meal train link out to her email list of 100 parishioners and they sign up as they are able. Some volunteers provide meals regularly and others jump in when their schedule allows. This is certainly a ministry where many hands make light work.

"This is a ministry for those who enjoy cooking and have the time," Andrea says. "We've also had people that have signed up to help

continued on back cover

"This is a ministry just to help others in need and to serve as Christ would serve. There are people out there whose gift is cooking and they enjoy cooking for others. And there are people that appreciate homecooked meals and might stress if they can't provide one for their family." — ANDREA MORELLI



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

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

A Look at the Meals Ministry *continued from page 7*

because they found it so helpful themselves.”

The beautiful thing about the Meals Ministry is that Andrea can tailor it to each person’s needs. Recently, Andrea set up ongoing meals a few times a week for a parishioner in a nursing home with spina bifida. Someone recovering from surgery might need more frequent meals but for a shorter period of time.

Andrea notes that sometimes people are reluctant to ask for help or feel like they need to pay it back in some way. However, volunteers are greatly rewarded by the joy of helping others and providing a meal here and there isn’t a burden to anyone, especially for those who enjoy the work.

“I have had people who were hesitant and people who didn’t want to bother others,” Andrea says. “But this ministry has 100 people in it that want to help others.”



*A meal provided by
Jen Kocher*

To learn more about providing meals or to request a meal train,
contact Andrea Morelli at ammorelli@msn.com.