

The Knights of Columbus

A Fraternity of Faithful and Generous Men



The Knights of Columbus is a global fraternity of Catholic men dedicated to serving their parish and community. The brotherhood — united by the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity — was initially created by Fr. Michael McGivney to take care of widows and the poor. Today, the Knights' mission continues through a worldwide network of local councils.

The newly formed St. Jude Council 18241 is in its third year, with members working hard to establish themselves and their service projects, as they strive to make a greater impact on the parish and school community. The devoted men of this growing council regularly partake in service projects and fundraisers. Ricky Burton is the Grand Knight who oversees the council and makes sure that the group is accomplishing its mission of community outreach.

"Our mission is to help the church and school," Ricky says. "We are getting our feet under us and

making plans to establish fundraisers that will support the school and church ministries."

As a new council, these men are in the process of identifying how they can be most helpful and impactful in the parish community. Ricky has big plans for the council and wants to see it grow into an active and faithful group.

"I would like to see it grow to over 100 members," he says.

Ricky envisions a time when the Knights are active volunteers in all areas of parish life, especially within the liturgical ministries.

"I would like to have a Mass where the Knights assist Father as altar servers, lectors, ushers, and do all the things needed for Mass," he says.

In their three years of activity, the council has grown to 35 members and has already participated in

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— RICKY BURTON, GRAND KNIGHT

Thanksgiving:

A SECULAR HOLIDAY WITH SACRED SIGNIFICANCE

Thanksgiving is a cherished holiday in the United States, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November each year. While it may not have religious origins, Thanksgiving holds a deep significance in the Catholic Church and serves as a perfect example of living the stewardship way of life. As Catholics, we can find spiritual meaning in this holiday and apply the principles of stewardship to our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Stewardship is a core principle in the Catholic faith, emphasizing the responsible and generous use of time, talent, and treasure for the service of God and others. Thanksgiving aligns with this principle in several ways:

- **Gratitude to God:** Thanksgiving encourages us to express gratitude for the blessings we have received. In the Catholic faith, acknowledging and thanking God for His gifts is a fundamental aspect of stewardship.
- **Sharing with Others:** The act of sharing a meal with loved ones and providing for those in need echoes the spirit of stewardship. Just as stewards share their resources with others, Thanksgiving prompts us to share our abundance with family, friends, and the less fortunate.
- **Acknowledging God's Creation:** Thanksgiving often centers around a feast featuring the fruits of the earth. This feast reminds us of our role as stewards of God's creation and our responsibility to care for the environment.

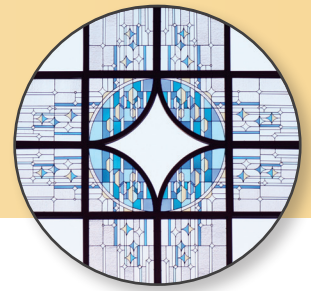
Living Stewardship on Thanksgiving and Beyond

Here are ways Catholics can live the stewardship way of life on Thanksgiving:

- **Gratitude and Prayer:** Begin your Thanksgiving celebrations with a prayer of thanksgiving, acknowledging God's providence and expressing gratitude for His blessings. Encourage everyone to share what they are thankful for during the meal.
- **Sharing with Others:** Reach out to those in need by volunteering at a local shelter, donating food, or participating in charitable initiatives. Sharing your time, talent, or treasure is a practical application of stewardship.
- **Family and Community:** Thanksgiving is an excellent time to strengthen family bonds and build a sense of community. Welcome those who may be alone or in need, extending the spirit of stewardship to your own household and beyond.
- **Gratitude Journal:** Encourage family members to maintain a gratitude journal throughout the year. Documenting daily blessings reinforces the stewardship principle of recognizing and appreciating God's gifts.

Thanksgiving may be a secular holiday, but its significance in the Catholic Church is profound. It provides an opportunity to express gratitude to God, share blessings with others, and practice stewardship in daily life. As Catholics, we can embrace the principles of stewardship on Thanksgiving by focusing on gratitude, charity, and environmental responsibility. This holiday serves as a beautiful reminder that living the stewardship way of life is not confined to the church walls but can be incorporated into our everyday lives, enriching our faith and our relationship with God.





A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

The Heart of Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

As the season of Advent begins, we enter into one of the most meaningful times of the Church year. These weeks are a time of waiting, watching, and preparing — not only for the celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, but also for His coming into our lives here and now. Advent helps us refocus on what truly matters, reminding us that Christ is Emmanuel — God with us.

Along the way, the Church gives us two powerful Marian feasts to inspire us: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary shows us what it means to welcome Christ into our hearts and to bring His love to the world.

At Christmas, we rejoice in the astonishing truth that God became man to save us. Yet in today's culture, it is all too easy for the real meaning of Christmas to get lost in the noise and distractions. That is why this season is also a beautiful time to renew our commitment to stewardship — offering our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in gratitude for all God has given us. When we think about the gifts we exchange at Christmas, it is good to remember that the most important gift we can give is to honor Christ Himself. Supporting the mission of His Church ensures that the Gospel continues to be proclaimed and His work carried out in our community.



This season also invites us to spend more intentional time with the Lord. Attending daily Mass when possible, stopping by the church for a moment of prayer, or gathering with our families to pray together during these holy days helps keep Christ at the center. In addition, Christmas gives us many opportunities to share our talents in meaningful ways — whether by helping decorate the church, preparing a meal for someone in need, welcoming a neighbor who may otherwise be alone, or volunteering at a shelter. Each of these acts

brings Christ's love more fully into the world.

If we approach this season with intentional hearts, Advent and Christmas can become more than a busy rush. They can be a time of grace, joy, and renewal. May our preparations draw us closer to Christ and help us share His light with others.

Please know of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter Marshall
Pastor



GET TO KNOW **The Gabriel Project**

An Initiative of Compassion Providing Care for Expectant

Joan Cahill values pro-life work. She grew up in a very pro-life family, and this work was ingrained in her from a young age.

“I like to pray at Planned Parenthood during 40 Days for Life, but I felt like I needed to do more than pray,” she says. “I needed to take action.”

Now, Joan oversees the Gabriel Project at St. Jude, a parish-based initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that supports women who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies. Joan and a team of volunteers, called

angels, work to help women who are experiencing a difficult pregnancy or who are within the first years of parenting.

“Many times, they’re financially struggling or don’t have family or father support,” Joan says.

This ministry is new, about two years old. The angels are still working to get the word out about their work. So far, many of the referrals have come through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Many of the women don’t have a faith background, and the angels can evangelize in subtle ways, like offering prayers.

About two years ago, Linda Kile, executive director of the Gabriel Project in Indianapolis, came and spoke about this initiative at Mass. Volunteers put notices in the bulletin, set up literature in the narthex, and manned a booth at the festival to get the word out.

“We try to give a hand up, not a handout,” Joan says. “We encourage women in decision-making and want them to put effort into their future.”

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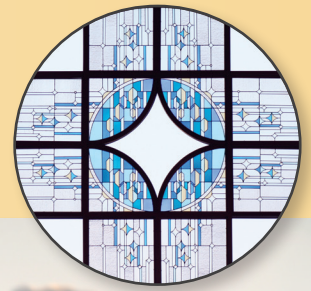
— **JOAN CAHILL**

The group keeps an ongoing collection in the narthex — it is always in need of diapers, Pack ‘n Plays, baby food, clothing, wipes, and more. Many of these items are shared with Birthline. Angels provide support by offering resources, baby supplies, or helping fill other gaps. When possible, they also offer life coaching.

Sometimes, what the women need most is simply a listening ear and caring advice. While the Gabriel Project doesn’t offer direct financial assistance, the angels strive to meet practical and emotional needs.

“One woman had lost her home,





nt Mothers

and her kids were scattered among relatives,” Joan says. “We helped her get temporary housing, and parishioners gave her rides to work. We also encouraged budgeting and connected her with the resource at Birthline.

“We hope to keep children in healthy environments and help women become independent so they don’t have to depend on the government or charities,” she adds.

Joan says the best part of this ministry has been meeting the

moms and babies. She has also loved seeing the generosity of parishioners, which has brought her joy.

“You should give toward this work because women need both material and emotional support,” she says. “Some have no housing or transportation and are just trying to survive. I’ve seen women break down in gratitude because someone they don’t know donated to help them. It’s a powerful witness of Christ’s love.”



To learn more about the Gabriel Project or to get involved, contact Joan Cahill at 317-919-3201.

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many school and parish functions. One fundraising priority is to raise donations for the altar servers’ next trip to Rome. The Knights would like to cover the cost of as many altar servers as possible.

The Knights meet once a month, on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Guerin Room. They start their meeting in prayer, praying the Rosary together. The business meeting formally starts at 7 p.m., during which they work on planning upcoming service projects and continue their work towards establishing an annual fundraiser.

“We have talked about creating an annual car show to bring the community together and raise funds, which will allow us to support the school and church in a variety of ways each year,” Ricky says.

Since Ricky has joined the Knights, he has seen the Lord work in his life. He testifies that he has grown in patience and compassion. Being a Knight has opened him to having a heart of service for his parish. He has also grown closer to Christ as a Knight.

“I never prayed the Rosary before being a Knight,” Ricky says. “When you do things like the Rosary, it brings you closer to God and strengthens your faith.”

All men 18 years of age or older are welcome to join the Knights. It is easy to sign up — simply show up to the next business meeting. For more information, contact Ricky Burton at 317-741-0276.

MOMS: Ministry of Mothers Sharing

Embracing and Nurturing the Vocation of Motherhood

For women who live out the vocation of motherhood, the gift of children is the most beautiful and important part of their lives. St. John Paul II said, “The history of every human being passes through the threshold of a woman’s motherhood.”

Because of the innate importance of the vocation of motherhood, the devil knows that he needs to work hard to degrade this role in the eyes of the world. He also works hard to isolate mothers to make their daily work more difficult. To combat this attack on motherhood and to support the mothers of St. Jude, the Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) offers an eight-week journey each year to embrace and nurture the vocation of motherhood.

“This ministry is specifically for mothers, but we also say that anyone who performs a mother-like stewardship is welcome here,” says Lane Wood, the coordinator for this ministry. “This can look like someone who does foster care or someone who cares for or is very involved in the life of their nieces or nephews. Everyone fulfilling a motherhood role in some capacity is welcome to join us.”

The MOMS course begins in January each year. They meet weekly on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. for the first seven weeks. Using the book *Grace Within*, various topics are discussed, such as self-esteem and self-acceptance, stress and anxiety, spirituality, friendship, and the discernment of gifts. These topics are discussed through the lens of Catholic teaching, where women learn to nurture their spiritual lives within this sacred vocation. There is time for prayer, journaling, and small and large-group discussion. The final week meeting takes place on Saturday for a celebration with brunch, social activities, and prayer.

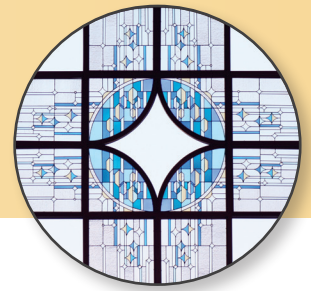
“I went through this program when my family first moved to St. Jude,” Lane says. “I had two little ones, and I wanted to get involved in the church. Taking part in MOMS was how I was able to acquire and develop my beautiful St. Jude tribe that has supported me ever since. It was a nice, welcoming group to make the transition to a new parish.”

In addition to the lessons in the book, members of various ministries will come in and share briefly about what they do within the parish. This allows moms who want to get more involved in the parish to learn more about the different ministry offerings and see how they can become more active in the parish community.

“The faith-based program was very therapeutic for me,” Lane says. “Motherhood can be very isolating. It’s easy to slip into thoughts of, ‘This is only happening to me.’ But that just isn’t the case. The things we experience in motherhood happen to others, whether they are in the same stage or a different stage of motherhood. We are not alone.”



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MOMS: Ministry of Mothers Sharing *continued from page 6*

Motherhood is busy, and a lot is going on day to day, which is why moms must take time to nurture their spiritual lives and continue to grow and develop as beloved daughters of God. God gives the grace to handle this beautiful vocation — to try to do it without His grace is exceedingly difficult. Knowing this, childcare is provided for the weekly meetings.

“I can completely relate to being busy as a mom of young children or a mom of teenagers,” Lane says. “It is worth every minute to take this time for yourself. This program is healing and strengthening for us. Moms tend to sacrifice a lot of themselves in motherhood. There are not many things that they think they need for themselves, but MOMS is really one of those things that we need.”

The women who have gone through the program in previous years are the ones who facilitate and put on the program. That looks like being a leader or facilitator, helping with childcare, being a prayer sponsor, or helping to prepare and serve the brunch. After they have gone through it themselves, they want to continue to support it for moms in the future because they know what an important resource it is for them.

St. Therese of Lisieux said, “The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.” Mothers of all ages and stages of life, from newborns to grandchildren and everything in between, are encouraged to join MOMS for support and strength for the journey of this vocation.

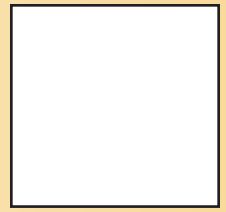
A new session will begin in January. While the group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, if enough moms sign up, a second group will be offered on Tuesday mornings.

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— LANE WOOD



For more information or to sign up for this session, contact momsgroupstjude@gmail.com.



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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



Holiday and Christmas Mass Schedule AT SAINT JUDE

Thanksgiving Day Mass — 9 a.m.

Advent Reflection on the Eucharist with Fr. Peter — Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.

Advent Penance Service — Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses — 4 p.m., 7 p.m., and 10 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass — 9 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God Masses — Dec. 31 at 5 p.m., Jan. 1 at 9 a.m.