



Life at the Spirit

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Fall 2017

Cluster Mission - "The Gift That Is Our Family"

Sunday, October 22 - Wednesday, October 25, 2017

In this newsletter we feature our upcoming Cluster Mission, stories about our parish families, and our school.

Church of the Holy Spirit

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Parish Mission Statement:

The members of Holy Spirit Parish, committed to God, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and our Catholic Faith, with the power of the Holy Spirit welcome and support all on our journey of faith.

Find out about parish events and get the latest updates at Holy Spirit Church!

Visit us at our new website:
www.holyspiritstcloud.net

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The Gift That Is Our Family

by Fr. Tom Knoblach

What routines and traditions do you remember about your family as a child? There are holiday customs, what you do on vacations and weekends, rules about chores and homework, what time to be home, how to get along with siblings and neighbors. There are favorite meals and things you learn to eat because "it's good for you." There are games and bedtimes and visits to relatives. And in different ways, there are customs of faith and prayer and knowing something about the love of God.



Growing up on the north side of St. Cloud, I still vividly remember Da Vinci's Last Supper that was on the wall by the kitchen table. The crucifix was over the doorway in the living room, and there was a smaller one in each bedroom. A picture of Jesus as a child was in the hall, and the living room window was flanked by two shelves – one was a small statue of the Sacred Heart, the other of Mary. Flowers (well, plastic ones that never faded but had to be dusted) were always next to those statues, red for Jesus and blue for Mary. The manger scene was under each year's Christmas tree, the Advent wreath was lit before supper, Stations prayed twice a week during Lent, or the day's Scriptures read. The Rosary was prayed during May and October.

My parents did not present these signs of faith as something that needed an explanation or defense of their value – they were simply an unquestioned part of our household. And even though for a child, the Rosary seemed to last several hours, I cannot thank them enough for making this part of our life together. It was, and remains, a gift.

Beyond these religious practices, we also learned about our gifts and talents, our limitations, the rules of courtesy and responsibility, forgiveness, loyalty ... the list goes on and on of what simply being a family teaches us. Each family can reflect on The Gift That Is Our Family – not only the gift of being a family and receiving life and love from God, but also the gift that each family is called to give to each other, to the Church, and to the world.

Catholic faith recognizes the family is a "domestic Church," a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is lived and handed on from generation to generation. Like the Church as a whole, each family has the mission to witness to the love of God and make it visible in the world.

Every family, with all of its routines as well as the unexpected joys and sorrows of life, becomes a key actor in the work of evangelization – sharing the Good News of God's love and presence in the world. The family models the life of the Trinity: a com-

**Mark your Calendar for these
events coming soon**

**Fall Festival
October 7 - 8**

**Cluster Mission
October 22 - 25**

**St. Marcellus Mission Group
Craft/Bake Sale
November 18 - 19**

**Annual Advent Concert
December 3 - 11AM**

munion of persons joined in love and life. Each family, just by being a family, is truly a gift from God to one another, and to the world.

We are having a cluster mission this fall, from October 22 - 25. This mission will present encouragement and practical strategies for strong family life and faith. All are invited, from each generation of family. Bring your friends and neighbors.

Each session will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Speakers include Steve and Kari Colella, from Annunciation Ministries and the Archdiocese of Miami; Nic Davidson, evangelist, youth minister, and author (he and his family are currently members of Holy Spirit); and Dr. Ray Guarendi, clinical psychologist and TV/radio host on stronger marriages, confident parenting, and better families.

Each evening of speakers rotate among the churches in our cluster, with Wednesday, October 25 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School ... a celebration of families with Mass, a meal, and fun activities.

This newsletter will give you more information on what to expect, how to prepare, and perhaps how to appreciate more deeply The Gift That Is Our Family.

**The Gift That Is Our Family
Cluster Mission Schedule**

**Sunday, October 22
The Colellas
St. Anthony's Church
6:30 PM**

**Monday, October 23
Nic Davidson
St. John Cantius
6:30 PM**

**Tuesday, October 24
Dr. Ray Guarendi
Holy Spirit Church
6:30 PM**

**Wednesday, October 25
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Mass, Food, Fun, Service
5:30 PM**

**Child Care provided
Social and prayer time will
follow each presentation**

Cluster Mission - Keynote Speakers

by John Koch

The first of the keynote speakers for the mission are Kari and Steve Colella. Both have multiple degrees from flashy universities and seminaries. They spent 15 years at the Archdiocese of Boston in the Marriage Ministries program, where Kari developed the marriage preparation program. In 2014



they relocated to the Archdiocese of Miami, where Steve heads the Parish Life program. In 2015 they founded Annunciation Ministries, whose mission statement is to say "yes" to God's will for life, marriage and family. Kari and Steve

have spoken at countless missions with wit and insight. They will handle the kickoff of the mission on Sunday evening at St. Anthony's as the professionals par excellence.



Our Tuesday speaker at Holy Spirit will be Dr. Ray Guarendi, or "Dr. Ray," a nationally known clinical psychologist, counselor, and lecturer, and the author of five books on marriage and parenting. He styles himself as a family specialist. He also can be heard on his own national radio show "The

Children's Corner

What gifts has Jesus given to your family?



Brady Andvik
4th Grade - SEAS

"Life and a beautiful America"

Doctor Is In," and on TV in "Living Right with Dr. Ray," in addition to regular appearances on major TV programs such as Oprah and CBS This Morning. To my mind, his most glowing accolade is that he is the father of ten, the last one adopted. In our whirlwind society, where professional commitments put an instant damper on large families, he practices what he preaches — and he gets a lot of practice.

Of Dr. Ray's five books, four are on parenting, mostly dealing with the wayward child. The fifth is entitled *"Marriage: Small Steps, Big Rewards"*. Its main theme is that the focus of family life should almost always be on the parents' marriage. Problems may surface because the seven-year-old is single-handedly launching his teacher into retirement, but the explanation is often found in the parents' marriage. No matter how rocky a marriage becomes, if it does not suffer from a critical threat, it can generally be saved by both people, and sometimes only one, making small but consequential changes in their attitudes and actions toward each other.

Dr. Ray's expertise on families is permeated with the Christian perspective. He is not averse to quoting scripture if it aids his argument. But he is ultimately a psychologist, and he appeals to the practical side: that doing the Christian thing is also the right thing, and in both the short and long term, it will make life easier, happier, healthier and more prosperous. He is a master speaker, and in a long career he has been confronted with virtually every family crisis and can propose a manageable solution to almost all of them.

In the midst of these keynotes, the real treat of this mission may be the third speaker, our own Nic Davidson. Nic is a powerful speaker! One 77-year-old listener declared that his talk on the "Gift" was the best preaching he'd ever heard in a Catholic Church. If your schedule won't permit attending on all four nights, don't miss Monday evening at St. John Cantius.

Being a Missionary - The Nic Davidson Story

by Deacon Vern Schmitz and John Koch

When we think of missionaries, we may think of the Maryknoll missionaries in Africa or the Crosier priests and brothers working with some indigenous people in Indonesia. But the Church has broadened the definition — and so has Nic Davidson. Nic also sees himself as a missionary.

Nic is married and he and Jacelyn are in this together. In fact, Jacelyn is the reason they are in St. Cloud as she is completing her Family Medicine Residency at St. Cloud Hospital. They plan to continue their service as missionaries, possibly in Alaska or back to China or in Dominica (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic), where their three oldest children were born. Or perhaps they will go



Jack Wieber
4th Grade - SEAS

"I consider my gift from Jesus that I get to go to a school where we can celebrate Mass and the holy days."

Children's Corner



Evelyn Wieber
2nd Grade - SEAS

"Food - because not everyone has enough food."



Averie Andvik
4th Grade - SEAS

"Family and friends"

to some other part of the world where God is calling them to serve those in need of an evangelist or a youth minister or a doctor.

Nic and Jacelyn have been missionaries even before they were Catholic. However, coming into full community with the Catholic Church in 2008 has changed everything. It all started when Jacelyn was studying at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth and she invited Nic to join her at a Mass. Nic will tell you he has never been the same since. Nic views his faith as a gift, in the same way that life is a gift. He eloquently tells the story of his mother, 17 years old, pregnant, rejected and confused, but freely accepting the challenges of her position along with the new life that would unalterably change her plans for the future. In a blog article on this subject, Nic speaks of "worth," the life inside her being infinitely more precious than any personal alternative. The parallel with the Virgin Mary's decision is striking: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Marriage for both is another enormous gift, too compelling to be reserved to them alone. When children didn't come, they decided to adopt. The opportunity eventually presented itself: two brothers, natives of Dominica, one seven and the other one. With little income, they took the plunge. Their participation in the "gift" doubled. Jacelyn graduated from medical school. The expanded family returned to the United States for Jacelyn's medical rotations and licensing tests. Then out of the blue a call came with the proposal that they adopt their sons' sister. This would unite the three siblings.

At that time Jacelyn was doing 14-hour shifts and studying for her medical boards. She was far too distracted to make any critical decision. She did a remarkable thing: she ceded the decision to Nic. Nic prayed on it, not in the warmth of his home, but on his knees in a cold chapel. In his prayer, he made all the arguments against the proposition, most of them absolutely compelling. He finished his prayer with the paraphrase of Christ at Gethsemane: "Lord, if there is ANY way that I can pass this to someone else, please let me do that..."

Nic said then he felt the presence of Christ beside him, asking with a smile, "But do you remember the rest of the sentence?" With a grimace, Nic acknowledged to himself that he knew it very well, "...but nevertheless, not my will, but Yours be done." The decision was made. Nic called Jacelyn and informed her, "We're having a girl!" The response was equally emphatic, "YES! I was so worried you'd say no!" Last January the family of five, after 15 years of marriage, Jacelyn gave birth to a baby boy.

Like all missionaries, their life has not been an easy one – living out of a suitcase for years. In their case, being a missionary means relying on the generosity of others and using some of their own gifts to earn enough money to support themselves and their ministries - bringing the love of Christ to others, in faraway places or right here in St. Cloud.

Nic is a powerful speaker. You won't want to miss his talk on Monday evening!

FALL FESTIVAL

October 7 - 8, 2017

Spaghetti Dinner - Oct. 7

Breakfast Buffet - Oct. 8

Games - Cake Spin

Bingo

Raffle Drawing 11:30 AM Sunday

The Gift of Family

by Roxann Storms

"My family." What powerful words, with such varied meaning. Under the dedicated, faith-filled leadership of Fr. Tom as the spiritual head of our Holy Spirit family, and the supportive guidance of our brothers-in-faith Deacons Vern and Frank, our parish community reflects the vast range of different formations. From the bustling families that fill a pew to the single adult, each is an important member of our family in faith.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, as with the case of Julie and Eva Gay. According to Julie, "Our family is non-traditional, being just Eva and me, yet I feel our small family is a gift from God. Our Catholic faith is the foundation of our family and what guides us in our daily lives. We are an extension of Holy Spirit, a small family within a larger family community."

Families expand and contract, like the Scott Frieler clan who joyously welcomed Gabriela, their sixth daughter (!), while newer parishioners Laura and Kelly Halverson are "happy/sad" at the launching of son Evan as he starts college. Some of our families intentionally live inter-generationally with adult children or are raising grandchildren, while others, like Jim and Sandi Mackendanz, are providing loving care for an aging parent.

While celebrating joys, families also go through difficult times. Just as Mary felt the suffering of her Son, Marge and John Keller experienced the rippling pain of divorce at the ending of their son's marriage. "It was hard to see Mitch and the kids go through this, but he is such an incredible dad," reflected Marge. Families can be of great support to each other and bonds often strengthen. Marge shared they now enjoy Wednesday dinners with Mitch and their grandsons before heading off to faith formation. Families also receive support. Marge expressed deep gratitude for the outpouring of aid from her Holy Spirit family as she goes through her cancer treatment, as well as during John's pulled hamstring, and when Mitch was non-weight bearing and couldn't drive. "The meals, lawn mowing, and other kinds of help was incredible. Parishioners offered to go to Rice to drive Mitch around and, when we came to church, people would come up to say they were praying for us or put their hand on our shoulder. I can't express how much that means." In other circumstances, relationships can become complicated when families struggle with addictions, mental illness, experience abuse, have a member in jail or prison, or, unfortunately, are tragically impacted by suicide or other difficult losses. Family. What a powerful word.



Sponsored by St. Marcellus Mission Group

November 18 - 19, 2017

Craft Items

Quick Breads - Cookies - Caramel Rolls

Lunch Served on Saturday

Coffee and Rolls on Sunday



Bret Reuter knows too well the changing dynamics of family. After experiencing three miscarriages, he and Barb were overjoyed with the birth of Carsten, and their love expanded with the arrival of Elliana from Guatemala when she was 11 months old. Their family was perfectly formed...until Barb's unexpected death. "The worst moment of my life was watching the kids say goodbye to their mother." Bret went on to say that about a half hour after her death, a beautiful, serene smile came over Barb. "I treasure that, it was so reassuring." In the depths of sorrow, the love of his and Barb's rela-

tives, neighbors, and their Holy Spirit family pulled him and the kids through their terrible grief. “At that time, we didn’t know what God had in store for us. I am so profoundly grateful to have Nicole come into our lives and now for Claire.” Nicole, who came from her own blended family as her parents divorced when she was 12, quickly learned how to navigate being wife and mother, creating space for Barb as the kids’ spiritual mom. “Barb’s presence is still an important part of our family and she is praying for us,” she said.

A commitment in the Reuter household is to eat together, play together, and pray together, which includes identifying three things during their bedtime prayers they are grateful for from the day. Carsten, now 14 and active with swimming and other involvements, describes their family as “crazy busy, there’s a lot of good things to do.” “Fun” is how Elliana, 10, sees their family life and she unites them in playing games, while four-year-old Claire is “a thinker” and recites a litany of nightly prayers. “Claire prays for everyone, by name!” Nicole exclaimed.

“Genetically, they’re from three different birth-moms,” said Bret, “but they are deeply connected and adore each other. I always planned on having three kids and, by God’s grace, I do.” Hard times are going to happen, Bret reflected, but God is there, stating “One of my favorite passages is Romans 8:28: *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”* Their family has since grown to include Carsten’s talking parrot Sadie, Mr. Nibbles (Elliana’s cat), and Flower, Claire’s white unicorn. Claire sums it up best as, every night after prayers, she says “I love my family!” Family, in whatever form and through whatever changes, is truly a gift from God.

Let’s Remember the True Meaning of Marriage

by Marc Dvoracek

We believe in one God, but God has been revealed to us as a Trinity of three distinct Persons who exist in a state of eternal and complete self-donation to one another. Each member of the Blessed Trinity is a distinct, separate Person, yet each is constantly and completely pouring Himself out in a steady stream of love for the other Persons.

This short summary of the mystery of the Trinity offers us an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of marriage and the nature of the human person. For if God is love and we are made in the image and likeness of God, then we are made to love each other. The Church does not teach this as a lofty, unattainable goal. Rather, she passes this on to us as the very purpose of our lives. The reason we are all here is to practice love so that we can exist in the presence of Love itself, which we know as Heaven.

St. John Paul II’s statement that “love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being” points to this great truth – that the human person can only be complete by giving oneself completely to another in authentic love. The physical differences between man and woman are an outward sign of our incompleteness as individuals. We truly need another to realize our true potential. An accurate view of marriage reveals it to be not a restriction on our freedom, but the surest path to true freedom for those called to this vocation because it allows us to reach our full potential as human persons made in God’s image.

Marriage is not just a gift between the spouses. By living their vocation to love one another, the married couple becomes a gift to the entire world as a sign of the love of the Crucified Lord. The self-sacrificial love between spouses transforms the lover and the loved, but it also shows the world a small glimpse of the power of the pure, undiluted love of Christ on the Cross.

The ramifications of this are profound. If Christian marriage nourishes and deepens our understanding of God and our relationship with Him, then the health of the Church is directly related to the health of marriage in our society. Furthermore, marriage prepares us to fulfill our very purpose in life – to love God eternally in Heaven.

At this time in our history, the culture in which we live largely believes that marriage has no fundamental purpose

other than the personal fulfillment of the participants. It is telling us and our children that the only precondition for marriage is a desire for happiness. The physical complementarity between male and female which allows two to become one flesh, according to the words of Jesus, is optional or even completely unnecessary.

I believe that we are being called to live our married lives deeper than ever before not only because it is our vocation, but also because our culture desperately needs it right now. We need to live so our marriages become signs of contradiction to the world in this time of great confusion about the very meaning of marriage and family.

In a practical way, this kind of sacrificial love is shown when an elderly husband or wife cares for their sick spouse or helps them get to church on Sunday with their walker or wheelchair. This love is shown when a young couple brings their small children to Mass and they take turns holding the fussy infant or toddler in the “cry room.” This love is shown when one spouse puts their career on hold for the sake of the family. This sacrificial love is shown each time one spouse puts the other’s needs in front of their own. By living a sacrificial love for our spouse, we can give the world an imperfect, but compelling demonstration of Christ’s love for his spouse.

With the grace of God, we can do this. As the final nuptial blessing says:

*“May we bear true witness to Christ before all;
And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which we hope,
we may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

Called to Serve: Kevin and Molly Powers

by Deacon Vern Schmitz



What brings a family of four from Chicago to our beautiful piece of God’s creation? Well, one could say it’s listening for God’s call. And it’s working together as a family to answer that call.

Kevin and Molly are here because, after an extensive nation-wide search, Bishop Kettler named Kevin as the superintendent of CCS. The decision was made in March, but God had initiated Kevin’s call to serve our children and teens many years ago. For any one who has had a successful relocation, you know it involves the entire family. Kevin’s move also involved Molly, his wife, and their one and three year old daughters, Claire and Mary Colette.

Kevin comes to us after spending four years as the principal at St. Margaret of Scotland School in Chicago’s south side. “It was an amazing school and

also very challenging at the same time. Most of my students came from two parent homes and lived below the poverty line. I am very proud of what we accomplished in four years: enrollment grew from 150 to 225 students, test scores dramatically increased, our deficit was cut in half and, most importantly, our students were excited to be there.

Molly was the one who found the job opening for CCS and encouraged Kevin to apply. She is the one who felt he would be a great candidate for the position as superintendent of this new venture by the Diocese of St. Cloud. Kevin

says, “Molly has worked in campus ministry for over six years, and she loved guiding young adults on their faith journey. However, she and I also believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to where we are needed and sometimes that might be out of our comfort zone. Molly was, of course, sad to leave her work but is excited about our next adventure and is my biggest supporter.”

They are now in the midst of a new school year and a new leadership team and structure. We asked Kevin how he is handling the tension and challenges of serving Christ and His Church while also fulfilling his roles as husband and father. Kevin states, “Working for the church and its schools is a very rewarding and challenging ministry. Working in education requires a lot of night and weekend meetings and events that take away from family time. I have learned over the years how to better balance my responsibilities at work and my call of being a father and husband. But I still struggle with ‘turning it off’ when I get home because I still receive the phone calls and emails. But Molly and I believe, and hope to also instill in our daughters, that working for the church is a mission, and at times we need to make sacrifices of our personal time.”

As for Kevin’s new role as superintendent of Catholic Community Schools, he states that “one of the main reasons why CCS was created was to better collaborate and share resources across all the schools. This will allow us to save money, time and resources, use these in other areas to create amazing schools.” He knows these changes won’t necessarily be easy, but his hope is that the efforts being made will attract new families and better serve those in need, not just those who can afford it. He goes on to say, “this will require myself, principals, parents, pastors and community members working together to find scholarship funds, get legislation passed for tax credits or vouchers, and do more word-of-mouth marketing. CCS will be successful!” Our parish family is blessed to have the Powers family in our midst. When you see them at Mass, please welcome them to our faith community.

An Exciting New Year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

by Kelly Vangness

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School students started back on August 29th. Students came in with a variety of emotions, but the thing that was felt more than anything was excitement! The staff all agreed that even though summer is nice, there is nothing better than the start of a new school year. This year at SEAS, students and parents came back to find several changes were made to the school.

If you visited our school over the summer months, you may have noticed many improvement projects happening while you were there. A much needed roof on the cafeteria, gymnasium, and entry was completed and a fence was added to the perimeter of the playground to make it safer for our students. Inside the building, preschool classrooms were moved to the primary wing of the school and new carpeting was installed in both entryways.



The major programming change this school year was the addition of an all day option for preschool students. We are excited to be able to offer a variety of programs to meet the needs of our families. The school is also home to four new staff members. Jamie Hatlestad (Technology/Library), Amanda Laudenbach (Kid Kare Director), Amy Rolph (6th Grade), and Katie Yurczyk (Preschool) are all great additions to our staff. It is exciting to see the gifts they bring to our students.

We are also continuing our journey with Catholic Community Schools. The CCS Board has been meeting and their hard work of forming the system is progressing. During this year of transition, I am personally excited to see how all the Catholic schools in the St. Cloud area will grow together under the direction of Superintendent Kevin Powers. Teachers

from all the CCS elementary schools worked together this summer to improve language arts programming and plans are made for this work to continue this school year.

Quality Education in a Christ-Centered Atmosphere is our mission at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and we thank you so much for supporting our school so we are able to truly live out the mission. We would love for you to stop in to see what is happening in our classrooms, check out all of the improvements to the building or attend Mass with us (most Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m.).

Baptisms, Deaths, New Parishioners

Baptisms:

Parents:

Pax Christine Ksiazek	daughter of Meghan and Robb
Montana Mary Poganski	daughter of Jillian and Curran
Finley Richard Schmitt	son of Heather and Nathan
Tori Mae Schmidt	daughter of Jason and Angela
Aubrey Jean Pickering	daughter of Code and Rana
William Clyde Christensen	son of Jamie and Carrie
Elin Diana Christensen	daughter of Jamie and Carrie

New Parishioners:

Marlene Lahr
Kevin and Molly Powers
Ryan McGuire
Michael Lemke
Susan Middlesworth and Tony
Brian and Laura Lintgen

Deaths:

Mary Kugn-Tagg
Anne Ledford
Marjorie Seanger

