

A Disciple's Journey

Living Beyond
Ourselves

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A Stewardship Newsletter • Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

By Laura Weikle

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

Anderson Stamps Family

"Extending love into the lives of others through service is such a part of who we are and service has even brought profound healing in our own family challenges. To see my children serve independently, bringing their own gifts to others in their own way, is beautiful."

Julie Anderson Stamps and her three daughters have faithfully served the parish of St. Mary Magdalene! Julie came to her faith through RCIA at the Cathedral of Christ the King 22 years ago, and later after moving to Coweta County, found her spiritual home here at St. Mary Magdalene.

Julie has been involved in various ministries over her years here – *Rosary Group, Respect Life, RCIA, Welcome, Bible Study, VBS, and currently as an elected representative on the Pastoral Advisory Council* – but it is the liturgical and faith formation ministries where she spends most of her time.

Julie expressed to me that she feels as if serving in liturgical ministries allows her to live out her faith in a concrete way, indicating that "it enhances my faith to serve at Mass, to bring Christ to others."

Julie is an extraordinary minister, a sacristan, and regularly serves adoration. She has shared her dedication, to the liturgical ministries with her daughters who find themselves also serving the Mass. Her oldest daughter Ivy, who currently is attending college, is an extraordinary minister, and Hope, a 9th grader, is an altar server. Amanda, her youngest who only received First Holy Communion this year, is already asking to be an Altar Server. While waiting until she's old enough, she helps her sisters set up for class and helps Julie with her sacristan duties.



JULIE, AMANDA, IVY AND HOPE ANDERSON STAMPS

"As a parent, to bring our faith alive into the lives of my children, includes not only knowledge of what we believe but also service for others. Our gifts are meant to be shared," Julie offered when asked about serving at Mass.

Julie and her girls also serve Faith Formation with Julie being a 3rd grade catechist, her daughter Ivy as a peer minister and a 5th grade catechist, and Hope a Faith Formation Volunteer. Julie has homeschooled her daughters and all three also enjoy activities outside of church!

The Anderson Stamps are not unlike many families at our parish who worship together, serve together, and pray together. "We are blessed with a holistic, lively faith. We all may choose differently how we bring that service to the table, but we all have a place in the church to bring life to our faith," Julie shared.

If you are looking for ways you or your family can become a part of liturgy, visit our Prayer & Worship Ministry Fair this weekend after all masses.

*Christ has no
body now on
earth but yours;
no hands but
yours; no feet
but yours.*

(Saint Teresa of Avila)

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By Laura Weikle

MINISTRY FOCUS

The Elijah Cup

“We believe that prayer is very powerful. When we prayed together as a family for vocations we felt that it was not only a source of power and unity, but it created structure. The Elijah Cup was in a place of honor in our home, and we tried to pray at the same time every night. Coming together as a family to pray was a beautiful way to end our day.”

Liz Lotter, whose family brought the Elijah Cup into their home.

The Elijah Cup is a new ministry to St. Mary Magdalene. The response to this new ministry has been overwhelming with every weekend in 2015 being filled with parish families signing up to take the Elijah Cup home and pray for vocations.

Although this ministry is new to our parish, it is not new to the Catholic church. This ministry was introduced by a small group of Catholics dedicated to spiritual growth and encouragement of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Padre Junipero Serra, the noted Spanish missionary, was selected as patron. The group later became known as Serra International. Serra today is a voluntary organization of Catholic men and women of various ages, races, and backgrounds with more than 680 clubs nationally. Serra Atlanta has nearly 100 individual Serrans.

The Elijah Cup is just one element of what Serrans do to promote religious life. The purpose of the Elijah Cup, a consecrated chalice, is to provide a focal point for prayer.

Each weekend the celebrant presents the Elijah Cup, a chalice previously consecrated, to a family, individual or couple. They receive a blessing and take the cup home, putting it in a place of honor. Each day for a week, during prayer time (morning, bedtime or at meals), they pray for an increase and perseverance of vocations. The following weekend they return the Elijah Cup and its case to the sacristan at the Mass they will attend.

The purpose of the Elijah Cup, a consecrated chalice, is to provide a focal point for prayer.



A prayer journal also travels with the Elijah Cup. Each week the family, individual, or couple that has the cup enters a thought, prayer or scripture verse. Over time, this diary becomes a spiritual journal for the parish.

Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women who he is calling in a very special way. We hope that those who bring the cup home will continue to pray for vocations daily.

There are plans to expand this ministry in the next few months and there will be a need for new sign-ups. Look for more information in future bulletin announcements. Contact Deacon Dennis at dcarazza@smmcatholic.org for more information.

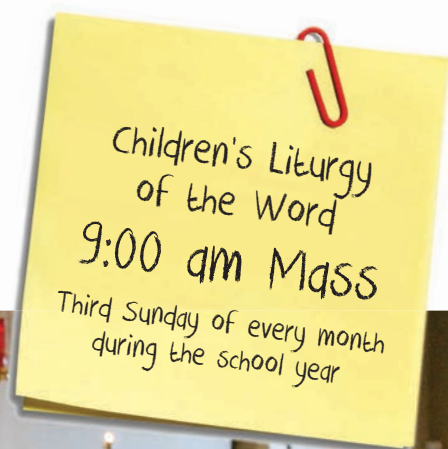
“In our prayers we remember not only those who have answered the call, but those who may feel the call and, for whatever reason, may fail to respond God’s voice. The Elijah Cup is a visual example to my family, not only to listen to God’s gentle voice, but to act on it when they feel it in their hearts.” Julie Anderson Stamps, whose family brought the Elijah Cup into their home.

By Matthew Sprague

YOUTH IN ACTION

It Takes a Parish to Raise a Christian

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." -Mark 10:15



Just as the congregation begins to sing the final verse of the "Gloria," Michael Karrels crouches down to remind his sons, John Michael and Victor Andrew, to approach the altar with reverence when Fr. Terry calls them forward. Then he encourages them to be good listeners and participators when they join St. Mary Magdalene's youngest parishioners for the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

The aim of this new ministry is to bring Jesus alive for the children at Mass, and to help them grow in faith and feel good about being Catholic. They listen to scripture and learn how it applies to their lives, and they join together in prayer. It's part of the Mass, and the children are doing what the rest of the community is doing. "What I appreciate as a parent is being able to fully concentrate on the readings and homily," said Karrels. "At the same time, our children are learning about their faith with age-appropriate readings, discussions, and prayers."

Here's How Our Children's Liturgy of the Word Works

All children Pre-k – 5th grade are invited to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9 a.m. Mass on the third Sunday of every month during the school year.

After the "Gloria," Fr. Terry invites the children to the altar to receive a special blessing. Then the leaders escort the children to the parish hall where they share God's Word and participate in an interactive homily. The children return to the congregation by bringing their offertory envelopes to the altar before returning to their pews. We celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist around the table as one family of faith.

What Parents Can Do

Reinforce God's message in our children's memory and lives—and our own—by talking about the scripture with them in the car and at home.

If your God-given gift is reading with expression, or encouraging children to express their thoughts, the Children's Liturgy of the Word would love for you to share that gift.

**For more information,
email Matt Sprague at
msprague01@gmail.com,
or Bill Valladares at
billv@numail.org.**



By Karen Youger, Stewardship Chair

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Prayer and Worship Ministries Fair

As we continue through the last of the Lenten season into Easter, we at St Mary Magdalene will have the opportunity to serve in our Prayer and Worship ministries. This pillar of ministries plays a very active and important role in our prayer and Liturgical life here in the parish: from the sacristans who prepare for Mass; Arts and Environments who create the atmosphere of the sanctuary; to Eucharistic Adoration providing us with the opportunity to pray to our Lord in a very real way. Whether you have talents of art, music or sound, reading in front of crowds or just want to serve the Lord in a personal way; this fair has a place for you. Please join us after Mass and talk to the representatives of these ministries and find out where you are being called.

Our next fair will be the weekend of May 31st/June 1st focusing on Outreach Justice and Charity. We will again have ministries from both inside and outside of the parish for you to consider. Please mark that weekend on your calendar. Blessings.

2015 Annual Appeal

As you know, we kicked off the Archdiocese Annual Appeal for 2015 last month. All This I Do for The Sake Of the Gospel is this year's theme. As a parish, our 2015 goal is \$59,200. Although the numbers are still being gathered; we want to thank everyone for making the commitment to the 2014 Annual Appeal and helping our parish meet the goal. As always, we will continue to update you on our progress through the bulletin throughout the year. There are still envelopes in the Narthex if you haven't and still wish to give. Anything we give beyond our goal will again be returned to our parish for our needs.

**Discover your talents.
Live your gifts.
Explore
your purpose.**



AROUND THE PARISH SHOW ME YOUR ASHES!



**Saint Mary Magdalene
Catholic Church**

A Disciple's Journey

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Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Weekend Mass Schedule:
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil
9:00 AM, 12:00 PM Sunday