



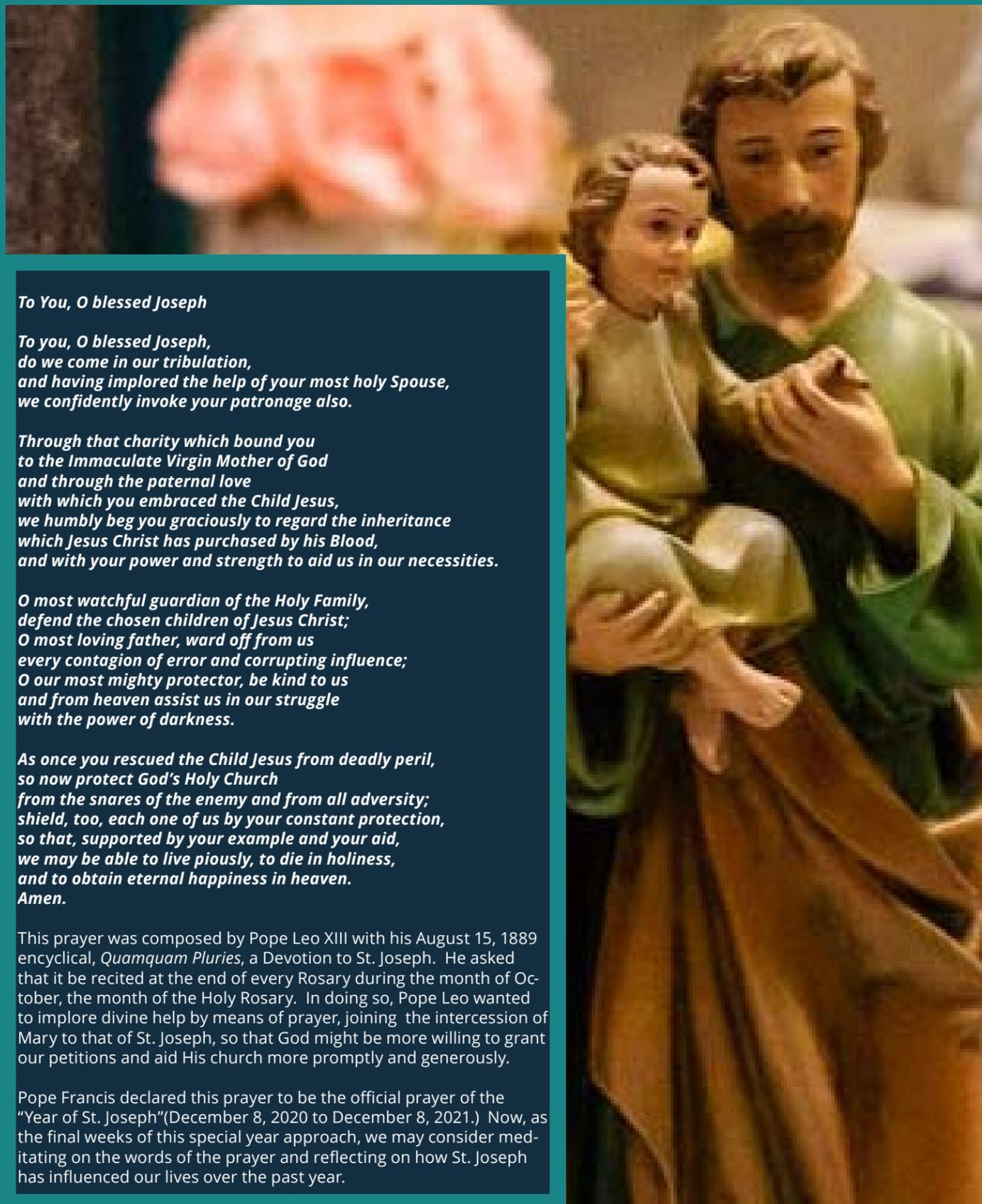
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

“GOOD NEWS”

FALL / WINTER EDITION | 2021

***THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN INSTRUMENT TO HELP PROMOTE AND INCREASE STEWARDSHIP -
THE USE OF THE GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE***

PRAYERS TO SAINT JOSEPH



To You, O blessed Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

This prayer was composed by Pope Leo XIII with his August 15, 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam Pluries*, a Devotion to St. Joseph. He asked that it be recited at the end of every Rosary during the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary. In doing so, Pope Leo wanted to implore divine help by means of prayer, joining the intercession of Mary to that of St. Joseph, so that God might be more willing to grant our petitions and aid His church more promptly and generously.

Pope Francis declared this prayer to be the official prayer of the "Year of St. Joseph" (December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.) Now, as the final weeks of this special year approach, we may consider meditating on the words of the prayer and reflecting on how St. Joseph has influenced our lives over the past year.

PARISH PROFILE: KRISTEN HEW

Parish Profile: Kristen Hew
by Brian J. Tindell

Kristen Hew is St. Andrew the Apostle's new coordinator for LifeTeen and Young Adult Ministry. She arrived only a few months ago, and is enthusiastic about the current state of youth ministry in our parish and what the future holds.

Kristen grew up in a large Catholic family in California. She had some experience with Arizona, visiting her grandmother in Lake Havasu City every summer. Like too many girls in high school, Kristen dealt with depression and poor self-esteem. She was bullied and involved in unhappy relationships with boys. She even resorted to "cutting," a form of self-harm. What was the way out? Her father always admonished her, "Read your Bible!" She finally picked up her father's Bible and began reading.

She had what she calls, "an experience with God's grace through the Word." She became aware that Christ had been suffering with her. "God loves us," she says. "We have dignity and beauty." She began volunteering in church and growing in her Catholic faith.

Kristen attended Cal State Fullerton, originally considering a career in journalism, but she quickly became interested in classes on world religions and Christian studies. She majored in Religious Studies with ideas about earning a Ph.D. and becoming a professor of theology. Then a local parish offered a position in youth ministry, something she hadn't considered before. But, she stayed open to the idea and let the Holy Spirit guide her forward. Working with young people is "the hardest and most challenging of positions," she says, "but also the most rewarding."

A major obstacle appeared when Kristen's husband, Ryan, lost his job as the pandemic set in. Kristen says they committed themselves to a time of discernment and prayer about their future, once again letting the Holy Spirit be their guide. They embarked on a 54-



day Novena as they faced an uncertain future. Midway through the Novena, Kristen was offered her position at St. Andrew and her husband enthusiastically embraced the move. He now has a position at Toyota, and what makes this story more remarkable is that Ryan is not a Christian. Being married to a non-believer is a challenge, says Kristen, but she long ago accepted that her faith came first in her life and her husband respects and honors her commitment.

So what is LifeTeen? "It's all about bringing Eucharistic-centered faith into the life of our teens," she says. It's not a social club but a safe space, centered on Christ, for teenagers to grow and develop their faith. Kristen's young adult ministry includes parishioners from ages 18 to 35. Their group is called "Ya-Way" (Young Adult Way) and they meet to socialize, study theology, and commit to Eucharistic Adoration.

Teens and young adults may have ideas and convictions that run counter to Catholic doctrines in areas like same sex relationships, birth control, and a male-only priesthood. How does Kristen approach these discussions? She prays for guidance and always stays open to questions and concerns of young people. In the "old days," a young person

with a tough question may have faced a stern-looking nun with a ruler. This is not Kristen's approach. Too often, she believes, young people have been ignored or put down when they asked questions. She listens and answers in a loving manner with Church teachings.

"You can't dodge questions," she says. "They're getting the answers elsewhere." She doesn't see her job as having to convince young people to accept Catholic teaching but only to plant the seed and let the Holy Spirit take over. Her sessions with teens have included the most basic questions, such as Who are you? Who is God? What is your relationship with God? It doesn't get more fundamental than that.

What are young adults looking for? Kristen says they want to find a community of fellow Catholics who are living their faith. They encounter many people who are Catholic in name only and not committed to a daily journey with Christ. College students sometimes find a lot of emptiness in campus life. Things of the world turn out to be unfulfilling. This is when young adults often turn to the faith they grew up with. Kristen points out that support for the faith journey must start much earlier and focus on middle school, because by high school many young people have already made up their minds for or against a spiritual faith.

Kristen is excited about the thriving and growing youth ministry at St. Andrew. Where is it leading? "Where the Holy Spirit leads," she answers. She would like to continue retreats for high school juniors and seniors and expand them for all high school grades. She is interested in teaching young people about St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. She sees herself as one day specializing in spiritual direction, working with people one-on-one, which she doesn't get to really do now. As she likes to say, wherever the Holy Spirit leads. Anyone interested in learning more about LifeTeen and young adult ministry can check out the parish website, call her at the office or look for their pages on Facebook and Instagram.

MINISTRY FOCUS: BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Bereavement Ministry

by Gerald Lee

One of the most difficult times in our lives is when we experience the death of a family member. We spend much of our life living with the person, and whether death arises from a lengthy illness or occurs suddenly, it is a very emotional and stressful time. As much as we may try, we usually are not able to focus or to think clearly, especially when planning a funeral.

Here at St Andrew the Apostle, we are blessed to have a Bereavement Ministry which covers both funerals and bereavement. The Funeral Ministry involves planning the "Celebration of Life" funeral mass and comforting the family. The Bereavement Ministry helps the family member(s) get through their grief, sadness, and separation experienced with the loss of a loved one.

The Bereavement Ministry team's leadership and volunteers are experienced, compassionate, and ready to assist at this most difficult time. Pat Kosis is the Ministry Leader. She and her husband Don have been members of St Andrew since the parish was started in the early 1980s. She is now a retired nurse, who in 1996 became parish nurse. In 1997, Pat was charged with all Caring Ministries, which included responsibility for the Bereavement Support Group meetings. Subsequently, Pat was given the position of Funeral Coordinator.

Pat still remembers her first funeral; a young man, 36 years of age, who died suddenly. She experienced the impact the death had on the young man's family and friends. It hit even closer to home when she learned this young man was a friend of her son. Since that time, the number of funerals each year has grown steadily. In his State of the Parish Report, Father Robert indicated that for the 12 months ending June 30, 2021, the parish presided over 64 funerals. Since January of this year, the parish has presided over 50 funerals.

The team consists of 4 Funeral coordinators: Pat Kosis, Katy Lorentz, Cathy Bergmann, and Marcia Kennedy. The following is what they accomplish:

- Pat is the lead and retrieves all phone calls received on the parish funeral line.
- Pat then contacts the family to get the necessary information.

- She then contacts one of the coordinators to set up a meeting with the family at a mutually convenient time.

- The mortuary representative, working with the family, is also contacted to coordinate times and needs, to alleviate some of the stress on the family.

- At the meeting with family representatives, church teachings are explained; scripture readings, music, and prayers are discussed and chosen.

- Family members and friends are encouraged to participate in the liturgy with reading the scriptures, taking up gifts, and eulogizing the deceased.

- The coordinator makes arrangements with the priest and/or a deacon, the sacristan, and the music director in setting up the service.

In addition, if requested by the family, a reception can be planned after the funeral service in Hennessy Hall. The reception coordinator is Judy Barber. Salads and desserts are prepared and donated by ladies of the parish who volunteer to do this when requested. Volunteers also work in the kitchen, prepare the beverages, set the tables, serve and clean up after funeral receptions.

As part of St Andrew's Bereavement Ministry, there are two Bereavement Support Groups.

1.) "Drop-in Bereavement Support Group".

This group is facilitated by one of the Funeral Coordinators and meets on the last Thursday of each month, at 7 PM in Room A. Just show up to verbalize, share feelings, pray, and be comforted by those in attendance

2.) "Seasons of Hope". This is a structured program headed by Deacon Ernie Garcia. It takes place over a 6-week period.

Do you know that you can meet with one of the coordinators to "Pre Plan" a funeral? Documentation and copies of a pre-planned funeral are then placed with the family and with the parish Bereavement ministry. Preplanning makes it easier on family members, gives them more time to support each other and to recall cherished memories and celebrate a loved one's life.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY (CONT.)

You now have the opportunity to learn much more about the Bereavement Ministry. The following informational sessions have been set up and are intended to help you in planning a beautiful CELEBRATION OF LIFE for your loved one. The dates and times of these sessions are as follows:

- Kim Doyle will conduct the following two sessions to inform you about Church Teachings, such as anointing, cremation, and burial.

Wednesday, November 3rd at 7 pm

Thursday, November 4th at 9:15 am

- Pat Kosis will conduct the following two sessions on what to expect when you approach the church, Hospice involvement, and Arizona Funeral Board.

Wednesday, November 10th at 7 pm

Thursday, November 11th at 9:15 am

It is a Loving Act to show Sadness when our Dear Ones are torn from us, but it is a Holy Act to be Joyful through Hope and Trust in the Promises of God.

-St. Paulinus of Nola

Pictured

Bereavement/Funeral coordinators:

From left: Pat Kosis, Cathy Bergmann, Katy Lorentz

Not Pictured

Marcia Kennedy



KNIGHT'S CORNER



Blessing Bags for the Needy

by Darren Weninger

A little over three years ago, Knights of Columbus Council 9482 realized that there was a way to help the needy and homeless on the streets of the Valley. Brother Mike Threadgill came up with an idea for "Blessing Bags" that members of the Council and fellow parishioners could carry in their vehicle and when they encountered a person in need on the streets the blessing bag would be handed to this person. The Council members procured the items, and anything not purchased by individual

members was purchased by the Council general funds. At the time, the bags consisted of small toiletries, hand towels, socks, and other small items.

The Council decided that it would be beneficial to include the EDGE program in assembling the blessing bags to teach the young members of the Parish the importance of giving back to the community, so in working with Fr. Tielo this is now the third year of the program.

On Sunday, September 12, the Council sponsored the third annual EDGE/Blessing Bags program at St. Andrew. The Council, together with spouses, sponsored a luncheon for the kids and their parents, and after the luncheon they assembled over 150 bags together. This year the bags contained basic needs items like toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, towels, paper products, socks, and water bottles. The EDGE kids had a very good time in the "assembly line" and, with explanation by the Council and Fr. Tielo regarding the purpose of the bags, learned how to give back to the community. After assembly of the bags the participants were given a bag to distribute to a person in need.

The Council thanks Fr. Tielo and the EDGE program for continuing to carry on this worthy program!



LIFE TEEN - SEARCH RETREAT

Life Teen Presents Good News from "Search" 2021
by Kristen Hew

This past summer our high school youth of all grade levels had the opportunity to take part in a brand-new Life Teen Retreat offered by St. Andrew called "Search".

After a year of being denied the ability to tangibly engage with their peers, with their faith, and the crippling effect on mental, physical, and spiritual well-being in our young people, it became evident that our teens were in dire need of the opportunity to engage and encounter one another in the faith. With much prayer our Youth Leaders sprang into action to bring about a retreat that sought to engage those heartbreakingly deep questions our young people have. What we did not expect was the response we received.



Kristen Hew speaks from the heart to the teens.

During the weeks leading up to the retreat, our beloved volunteer Julie Dworaczyk, her family, and other volunteers lent a hand to transform our Youth Center into a winter wonderland. With Julie's creative mind, the generosity of our parishioners who lent their trees, and hours spent in the building, we had our very own snowy mountain range at St. Andrew. Gratitude cannot be expressed enough for this time and effort as it spoke volumes to the hearts of our young people. To some it may seem trivial, but to our young people, the environment is one of the many ways that we express our value for them.

We kicked off our retreat in high energies with laughter and expressions of disbelief as our teens traveled through an ice tunnel to make their way to Narnia as our Life Teen Music Director, Dan Ballinger, lovingly put it. Without any hesitation, we sprang into action. Our teens engaged in crazy silly games ranging from kaleidoscope glasses and

whip cream to 20 questions to Blob Tag. Any of our parishioners who have watched the 1958 or 1988 movie "The Blob," will have a vague comprehension of how Blob Tag works, and that the last man standing wins!



Tatum McDonald proudly poses with her kaleidoscope glasses and whip cream handiwork.

Our youth leaders: Tracy Corwin, Jonathan Hale, Sam Tyler, Dan Ballinger, Kaitlyn Burke, and Louis Camou, not only led small groups but spoke from the heart on topics that resonated with the deep internal longing we all experience. With their own moving personal testimonies, they dug into the answers that the Church gives us from Christ on, "What is Love?", "What is Happiness?", "What is Purpose?", "What is Community?", and "What is My Purpose?" There was a dynamic shift in atmosphere as the retreat transitioned from silly hyper laughter seasoned with nervousness from our youth to joy filled laughter, pensive reflection, deep faith sharing, and tears. When asked what their favorite part of retreat was, scarcely did any teen answer anything other than Eucharistic Adoration.



The 2021 Search Retreat Attendees and Youth Leaders smile for the camera.

LIFE TEEN - SEARCH RETREAT (CONT.)

Indeed, as our young people engaged in Eucharistic Adoration, there was scarcely a dry eye in the room as the emotions, stress, burdens, anxieties, anger, depression, and more came crashing down from their shoulders. Our Ribbon Altar Cloth, representative of the hem of Jesus' robe, was clung to as He stood present to us in the Eucharist, just as He stood before the hemorrhaging woman thousands of years ago. As Adoration was held, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to our young people by our Pastor, Fr. Robert Aliunzi. Those who had not taken the opportunity to receive the gift of the Sacrament with Fr. Edward Urassa earlier that day, took advantage to seek it during this time that Christ was present in our midst. Of course, nothing can be shared of what is said in Confession, but Fr. Robert commented at the end that the Confessions were "absolutely amazing."



Youth Leader Jonathan Hale smiles with Jaiden Bohnert, Nathan Kolczak, Brandon Portillo, Santine Marino, and Stephen Roman while creating their own glass votives.

At the end of retreat, which closed with the 2:00 p.m. Sunday Mass, Tatum McDonald (a retreatant)

shared, "I still don't know what I want to do with my life, but what's so much more important to me that I'm taking away is, I have such a more...just trust with God and I know He's going to be with me throughout the rest of my life and I know that He has what is best for me in His mind."



Youth Leader Kaitlyn Burke smiles with Airiana Asencio, Karol Juarez, Emma Neza, Diana Marino, Lucy Rockwell, Celeste Frias, and Teagan Clark with creating their own glass votives.

Fr. Robert also provided a special blessing of our high school youth at the end of Mass, asking the Lord especially that all of them would be able to experience His unconditional love for them. Our Youth Ministry Team is excited as they continue to engage with these young people in the year ahead, and plan to establish an annual Life Teen retreat for all high school youth in the fall. Our annual Kairos retreat is scheduled to take place this coming February for high school Juniors and Seniors with more information to come.

If you would like to find out more about Life Teen or young adult events, please reach out to Kristen Hew at khew@standrewchandler.com

Eternal God, in whom is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen (Diary 950).

- St. Faustina

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.

- Wisdom 3:1

E3 AFRICA EVENT

Gala Event Brings Hope to a New School in Uganda by Dorie Rivera

How prophetic that St. Thomas Aquinas has been such a recurrent presence in Father Robert's life journey. St. Thomas Aquinas was one of the greatest scholastic philosophers and theologians ever and is referred to as the "Universal Teacher."

As a young child in Uganda Father Robert lost his parents when he was only six years old. Losing his parents also meant that he would not have the money to be able to pay to go to school. His memory of being denied education repeatedly in Uganda fueled a life-long dream to build a school in Uganda for orphans and poor children, and to name it after St. Thomas Aquinas, the philosopher and theologian he admired. The dream that he had continued even as he left Uganda and came to Arizona in 2004. Ironically, his first assignment here in the Diocese of Phoenix was at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Avondale.

After going from parish to parish to raise funds for the school, Father Robert eventually created a non-profit entity known as E3 Africa. In 2016, a multi-purpose room was built followed by a chapel, classrooms, and eventually dormitories. Also planned is a farm area where students can grow

their own food. Currently, 206 students are enrolled and more will be coming. The campus, when fully built, is set up to serve more than 800 students.

It is said that it is better to illuminate than merely to shine and Father Robert's work reflects that vision as well. He recently held a gala event in Phoenix to raise funds to continue with the building, begin the farm, and sponsor students who need financial aid. The event's honorary guest was Bishop Olmsted who prayed over the evening's festivities and blessed the non-profit organization. Throughout the evening, a silent auction and live auction were held, which helped raise over \$50,000. The school is also receiving assistance from E-3 Africa, an umbrella group committed to "educate, enrich and empower."

There are many things students are taught, but Father Robert says his unique vision at this special school is "to teach children how to live peaceably amongst themselves from different tribes by giving them peaceful conflict resolution skills".

We were told "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths." A grateful parish in Arizona and students in faraway Uganda are blessed because Father Robert did just that!



And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

- Matthew 25:40

GOOD SAMARITANS MINISTRY

Good Samaritans Ministry by Susan Zeck

You see the food donation wagon every time you enter the front doors of the church. You may have dropped off items, perhaps many times. Did you ever wonder what happens to all those cans, boxes, and bags? Volunteers from the Good Samaritans Ministry handle the sorting, storing, and distribution of all these donations, but that is only one aspect of their service to St. Andrew and the community. Here is the story of their commitment to helping those in need.

The Good Samaritans Ministry began at St. Andrew in 1993/94, providing assistance with gas and food vouchers to parishioners in need. It was expanded in 1996 and developed over the years into what it is today, with an onsite food pantry and a designated intake office. The ministry first serves our parishioners, then those within the parish boundaries and in the Chandler community by providing food, personal care items, rental, and utility payment assistance.

Florence Slattery, the Parish Business Manager, is also the coordinator for all the Caring Ministries. Steve Barber, a parishioner since 1998 who has served St. Andrew's in many capacities, has been with the Good Samaritans since 2010 and became the ministry leader in 2012.

One of the first things Steve did was to set up an online database to keep track of the people seeking assistance, financial donations, and expenditures. He organized the volunteer schedule for the intake office, so no one works alone. The pantry volunteers worked out a shelving system to keep the food rotating, reducing waste by giving easy access to the items closest to expiration dates. The intake office is currently open on Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The phone is open for messages (480-899-1990, ext.203), but calls will only be answered during office hours.

Those requesting assistance need to complete an intake form, explaining their situation. They can receive up to three bags of food items, including one bag of personal care items. They may receive varying financial assistance for rent and utilities, depending on their circumstances. A homeless person requesting help will receive a backpack stuffed with personal hygiene items and individual food items. Everyone receives a list of other resources and a copy of the St. Andrew weekly bulletin. The volunteers also naturally give the clients emotional support, sometimes by just listening.

Good Samaritans volunteers are all parishioners. They work with the reception and distribution of the donated food, and facilitate rental and utility payment assistance. Three men work

in the pantry transporting and sorting food items, stocking shelves, and putting together distribution bags. The others are assigned to the intake office - taking phone calls, giving referrals, entering online data, meeting with the clients, and determining the best use of resources to assist them.

The women working in the office also manage the Mother's Lifeline, which provides emergency assistance, diapers and baby clothes to mothers in need. Due to safety concerns, furniture and equipment are no longer handled through this office.

Steve Barber describes the volunteers as being the keepers of the food and the resources to give to those in need. This can be a challenging responsibility at times. Prayer helps get it done. There are twelve parishioners who volunteer as Good Samaritans every week. They have all worked with this ministry for many years and are a dedicated group truly practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy. Their commitment to help people in need also brings them a sense of satisfaction because they are making a positive difference in people's lives. Steve says he thanks God for the opportunity to help the people who really need help.

Thank you for your faithful service to our parish community. May God bless you Steve Barber, Tina Bork, Rey and Joan Dayog, Bob DiBrienza, Don Coleman, Peggy Freil, Mike Mancuso, Judy Sawitzke, Nancy Topolski, and Richard and Anita Zumwalt.

Surprisingly, over the past 20 months, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for assistance at St. Andrew has diminished. This can be attributed to the increase in other resources, like extra funds provided from the Federal stimulus checks, and other governmental programs and subsidies. There were also several grass roots endeavors providing food to anyone in need. As a result, the Good Samaritans temporarily cut back their office hours. It is expected that calls for assistance will increase again soon, especially with the supplemental funding programs ending.

Good Samaritans funding is provided by St. Andrew parishioners through specific designation of their routine donations, the Poor Box money, and the Fifth Sunday collections after Masses. They also bring in all the food donations. Some people have taken this on as their personal mission and will donate cases of a specific food or personal care item each week. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you, St. Andrew for your generosity!

For more information go to the St. Andrew website under Caring Ministries or talk with one of the volunteers. Contact Florence Slattery at 480-899-1990, extension 305, if you are interested in becoming a Good Samaritans volunteer.

Left

Steve Barber in the food pantry

Right

Richard Zumwalt taking donations to Caring Ministries



HAIL MARY PRAYER



Hail Mary Prayer by Charlie Johnston

Part I

"Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord Is with You."

The first part of the Hail Mary can be found in Saint Luke's account of the Annunciation. In this verse, the angel Gabriel greets the young virgin named Mary with a lofty salutation, he then tells her that she has been shown favor by God and is to be the mother of the Christ.

To really appreciate the depth of meaning in this greeting we have to look at each word in the original language of St Luke's Gospel.

Hail (Greek: Χαίρει "Chaire")

This word is used five times in the Gospels and is always translated as "Hail". However, in some non-Catholic translations of the Bible this word is translated as merely "greetings" in this one verse, but not in the other four. That is what is known as "translator bias" where the text is translated according to the preconceived notions the translator has about the text.

The greeting that is recorded by Saint Luke was a fairly common greeting, but not used to greet common folk. At that time, and in that part of the world, it was reserved to greet dignitaries, royalty, religious, and civic leaders. It was very strange indeed to use that salutation when speaking to a Jewish teenage girl, in a backwater town, at the edge of the

Roman Empire. Unless, of course, Mary was more than just a Jewish teenager.

Full of Grace (Greek:κεχαριτωμένη "kecharitōmenē")

This word is found nowhere else in scripture. Because it's a singularly used word, it becomes difficult to translate from Greek into English. Many modern translations render it as "highly favored" or "favored one," but these translations fall far short of Gabriel's greeting, which was both earth shattering and history changing.

It's often translated in Catholic Bibles as "Full of Grace" because of Saint Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation, but even this translation lacks the fullness of what was being said. If Saint Luke meant to just say "Full of Grace" he could have used the same words that he did to describe the infusion of Grace that was received by Saint Stephen during his ministry in Acts, but he didn't. Since Saint Luke was the author of both passages, we can ask why he chose two different phrases to convey the same meaning. I believe the reason is that he didn't intend it to be the same. What Gabriel said to the Blessed Mother could accurately be rendered as "you who were perfectly, fully, and completely filled with the Divine Grace of God."

This points directly to the Immaculate Conception, and even it's less glorious translation of "Full of Grace" does too, but read in the light of the deeper meaning of kecharitōmenē, we can more easily see that this was no ordinary Jewish teenager. She is a sacred vessel who was set apart from even the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. This is also notably the only time in the whole of the Bible that an angel addressed someone by title rather than name. That's how important this line is; it became the name that The Blessed Virgin was called by heaven. "Full of Grace" can legitimately be considered another name for Our Lady.

"When the Fathers and writers of the Church meditated on the fact that the most Blessed Virgin was, in the name and by order of God himself, proclaimed full of grace by the Angel

Gabriel when he announced her most sublime dignity of Mother of God, they thought that this singular and solemn salutation, never heard before, showed that the Mother of God is the seat of all divine graces and is adorned with all gifts of the Holy Spirit." -Bl. Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus

But, we cannot confuse this to mean that she did not need the salvific work of Christ on Calvary to be saved, for she herself called God her "savior" in her song of praise, The Magnificat. The Blessed Mother was preserved from Original Sin by an act of God and through the merits of her Son, Jesus Christ.

"The Lord is With You"

This portion of the greeting logically follows from the previous part. If she was preserved from Original Sin, it was only because of the "singular Grace" of Almighty God as Blessed Pope Pius IX defines it, then the Lord was truly with her at all times. She had received this Grace from God and was in communion with Him from the moment of her Immaculate Conception. The Lord was with her and would soon be with her physically by living inside her for the next nine months. Just in the same way that the Lord is with us from the moment of our receiving the Holy Spirit at our baptism, and then in a physical way He comes to use in the Blessed Sacrament.

Mary had been reserved by the Holy Spirit to be the new Ark of the Covenant, the tabernacle of the New Covenant for our Lord to reside in.

Part II

"Blessed art Thou among women And Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus."

This part of the prayer comes from the greeting of Elizabeth (the mother of John the Baptist) to her cousin, except that Elizabeth never said Jesus's name. At this point she wouldn't have known the name of Our Lord, because Mary had just arrived, and they didn't have long distance calling plans back then.

HAIL MARY PRAYER (CONT.)

Between this greeting and the fact that Mary later says, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that "all generations shall call me Blessed," we generally refer to her as The Blessed Mother. By calling her this title, we are only obeying what the Holy Spirit said through both Elizabeth and Mary herself.

An interesting note here, is that Elizabeth calls the unborn child "the fruit" of Mary's womb. This plays a very important role in one of the earliest titles of the Blessed Mother, "Theotokos." This title means "God Bearer" and was a direct response to the Nestorian Heresy that claimed she only gave birth to the humanity of Jesus and not His divinity.

Part III

"Holy Mary, Mother of God Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen"

Now we are at the final part of the prayer. This is the only part that isn't meant to be a quotation from Sacred Scripture but is nonetheless scriptural. This part of the prayer is our addressing and petitioning the Blessed Mother.

"Holy Mary"

Because Mary is fully, completely, and perfectly filled with the grace of God, and because of her perfect conformity to God's will evidenced by her fiat found in Luke 1:38, we rightfully and justly call her Holy.

Once again, just as with any created being, her holiness is not of her own making, but derived from her cooperation with the Graces that God gave to her. This is the level of holiness that we are all called to attain by virtue of our baptism. We are all called to be Holy as God is Holy (1 Peter 1:16), and God doesn't ask of us anything that is impossible. With God's grace we are all called to be Holy and become saints, with the Blessed Mother as our most perfect example of holiness.

"Mother of God"

So how can Mary, a finite created being, be the mother of God, who is eternal and infinite? This title for the Blessed Mother, often rendered in Greek as Theotokos is one of the earliest Marian titles. The reason it was so important for the Council of Ephesus to confirm this title of Our Lady was because of a heresy called Nestorianism, and its implications for the understanding of Christology.

Nestorius had rejected the traditional title of Theotokos, and instead referred to her as "Christakos." This title means "Christ bearer" or "Mother of Christ" and by itself is not at all objectionable, because Mary is the mother of Christ. But, just like almost all heresies, this was just an insidious way to sneak in his real beliefs, that Jesus and the Son of God were two distinct and separate persons. That Jesus Christ was a man born of the Virgin Mary and that the second person of the Trinity came and indwelt inside the man Jesus. Being in the same body, but two separate persons. This ran counter to the orthodox position that Jesus has two distinct natures and two distinct wills, but they exist within the single hypostatic union. As the council of Chalcedon would later codify with this statement,

"Two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion." -Council of Chalcedon

Jesus is the fruit of Mary's womb, He is both fully man and fully God. So, it is right to call Mary the "Mother of God" because to deny this title would be to throw in with the heretic Nestorius.

"Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen"

The last line in this beautiful prayer is a petition for the Blessed Mother to pray for us. It's important to recognize that this line also includes a line where we accuse ourselves of being sinners. This is because it's better to accuse yourself than for the devil to be your accuser before God. We are all sinners, and this is something that we must recognize daily, because admitting your faults is the first step to overcoming them.

We ask Mary to pray for us because we believe in the Communion of Saints, and that those in heaven can and do intercede for us before the throne of God. Just as we'd ask a fellow Christian to pray for us, we can ask any Saint in heaven to pray for us and they do.

But, we ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession even more than other Saints, and there are some very good reasons (among many more I'm sure) for this. Reason number one is the fact that Jesus performed His first miracle at the behest of His mother. You could call this the first instance of Our Lady's miraculous intercession on behalf of others. When the wine ran out at the wedding in Cana, she came to Jesus and told them "They have no wine," because she was cared about the hosts and how embarrassing it would be to run out of wine at a first century Jewish wedding. When Our Lord gave His mother to the Apostle John, while they both stood at the foot of His Cross, it was both a good Jewish son making sure His mother would be looked after, but also symbolic of her motherhood over all the Church. So, as a mother, Mary cares about us the same way that she cared about that newlywed couple in Israel some 2000 years ago.

My favorite part of that Gospel account is what Our Lady said to the servants at the wedding; she told them to "do whatever He tells you." She says this to us to this day. The Blessed Mother points to her Son and says "do whatever He tells you."

The second reason we seek her intercession, more than even the other saints, is because of her position as the Queen Mother. In the kingdom of Israel, the mother of the king was the true queen while the king's wife held no power until the Queen Mother died.

Bathshe'ba said, "Very well; I will speak for you to the king." So Bathshe'ba went to King Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adoni'jah. And the king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's mother; and she sat on his right. Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother; for I will not refuse you." 1 Kings 2:18-20

This is a model of the intercession that we seek from the successor to King Solomon's throne. We can, and should do so daily (at least), pray to The Father, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit, but we should also ask others to pray for us, both alive on earth and those alive in heaven. Those in heaven are more alive than ever before and are unencumbered by the cares of this life, so they make constant intercession on our behalf. Ask them to pray for you and ask Our Lady especially. I do every day.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Jesus is Still Waiting for You!

by Susan Zeck

The first Sunday of Advent is only four weeks away! That's right, on November 28th the Church begins a new liturgical year. What better time to begin a new prayer practice, like Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? The busy times are upon us, with fall festivals, holidays, school projects and plays, shopping, baking, and Christmas! You can use some quiet time with Jesus.

Stop in the Church or Chapel on a designated day of Adoration and experience some prayerful contemplation in front of Jesus in His humble form as the Bread of Life in the monstrance. He wants to hear about your busy day. Sit down and gaze at Him, adore Him. Stay for 15 minutes or maybe an hour. If you repeat this practice it can become a treasured habit.

Adoration is held in the church every Wednesday, beginning about 9:00 a.m. just after the morning mass and ending with Benediction at 6:00pm. Additional hours are offered every First Friday and First Saturday. These hours of exposition are held in the Adoration Chapel. Friday and Saturday hours both begin after the 8:30 a.m. mass, but end at different times. First Fridays will move to the church for Jammies and Jesus, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This hour is geared to families with small children, but all are welcome. It includes music, the Rosary, and Benediction. On First Saturdays, Adoration ends at 4:30 p.m. with a procession to the church for the Benediction, which is done before the 5:00 p.m. vigil mass.

The upcoming dates for Adoration are November 5th and 6th, December 3rd and 4th, and January 7th and 8th. (These are the likely January dates because of the Holy Day, but check in the bulletin or with St. Andrew website for updates.)

Please note additional information and special messages found in the weekly bulletin about the joys of Eucharistic Adoration, encouraging your participation in this powerful way to pray.

St. Mother Teresa tells us, "Jesus loves you. Even more - He longs for you. He misses you when you don't come close. He thirsts for you, even when you don't feel worthy."

FALL FESTIVAL

Memorial Mass and Fall Festival, October 31

by Brian Tindell

Fr. Robert Aliunzi, AJ and the St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Faith Community invites you to a Fall Festival, on October 31st. The event will begin with a special Memorial Mass at 2:00pm followed by the Fall Festival itself from 3:30 to 7:00pm. We invite parishioners to submit special prayer requests and names of loved ones who have passed away since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

The purpose of the Memorial Mass is to acknowledge the losses of the parish community during the pandemic and offer up the prayers of everyone. The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary before the Mass at 1:30. Following mass, the Fall Festival

will be underway in the social hall and courtyard. There will be free food, prize giveaways, games for children and adults, and live music. There will also be entertainment by local DJs. CDC guidelines will be followed.

The Mass and festival are meant to serve as a "Welcome Back" to the entire parish and a sign that St. Andrew is fully open for business. During the pandemic, in person masses were canceled and many ministries shut down. St. Andrew is now once again offering in person masses, and ministries are up and running. The Memorial Mass and Fall Festival will be a landmark event remembering the losses of the pandemic and showing that St. Andrew is once again fully open and carrying on its mission. Parishioners are encouraged to invite friends and family, and the entire community is welcome.