



# Saint Rose *of Lima*

## THIS ISSUE:

### PAGE THREE:

*Resolve to be Merciful*

### PAGE FOUR & FIVE:

*"This Is an Ideal Parish Stewardship Opportunity" Our Saint Rose of Lima Walk With the Saints and Run for the Feast Events*

### PAGE SIX:

*Teaching Children to Live a Life of Stewardship*

### PAGE SEVEN:

*"That's Why We're Here, to Help Each Other" The New Childcare Ministry at Saint Rose of Lima*

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**"We Gain a Great Understanding How Strong We Can Be When We Work Together"**  
*Catholic Schools Week at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School*

**FOR JANETTE FLETCHER** – who has been involved with Saint Rose of Lima School for the past six years, and involved with Catholic schools her entire life – Catholic education is something close to her heart. So it's no coincidence that she is moved by the opportunity to once again serve as Coordinator of Catholic Schools Week.

"I attended Catholic schools from the time I entered kindergarten – and now that I have a child attending, the Catholic school takes on added meaning to me," Janette says. "They are special places because of their Catholic identity, the strong faith element, and the effective family atmosphere they engender."

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education



throughout the United States. It starts on the last Sunday in January and runs all week – this year, it takes place from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." Events planned for the week involve activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. It is a way for the school to focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people, and its contributions to

*continued on page 2*

# Catholic Schools Week continued from front cover

our Church, our communities, and our nation.

“Each year we try to thank and involve as many people and groups as we can because there are so many who make our Catholic school important and possible,” Janette says. “Although we are still developing our definite plans, we strive to have something special for each group we identify. Therefore, we will have Appreciation Days for students, parents, parishioners, priests, teachers and staff, and people from the community.”

As Janette notes, the week actually begins with a special event on Saturday, Jan. 30 – a 1950s-style sock hop with dress, music, dancing, and desserts from the era. The event begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m.

“We did this last year, and it was so successful, we decided to do it again,” Janette says. “This year, we expect it to be even bigger and better. The gym will be decorated appropriately, and this is free for everyone. You might say it is a way we can begin Catholic Schools Week by saying ‘Thank you’ in a dramatic and entertaining way. In fact, the whole week is about gratitude. We also have students at every Mass that first weekend to not only greet and meet people, but also to present some small gift to each.”

In a meeting with U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1998, Pope St. John Paul II said, “The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students, so that they may be true to their condition as Christ’s disciples and as such work effectively for the evangelization of culture and for the common good for society.”

Janette certainly agrees with this perspective on Catholic education.



“Much of what we do during the week is fun for the students, but the plan is also heavy on acknowledging the ideas of discipleship and stewardship,” she says. “I think the idea of stewardship really comes together in efforts like this. So many people become involved and contribute to making it successful, that we gain a great understanding how strong we can be when we work together.”

With this in mind, Janette notes her gratitude towards those who make Catholic

Schools Week – and Catholic education – possible in our Saint Rose community.

“We are blessed with such good people and such a good faculty,” she says. “They and the students need to have some fun also, so we are planning the annual bowling day as well as special meals, a special dinner for parents, and many other events which are enjoyable. I encourage people to keep their eye on the bulletin and listen to announcements so they can be aware of the various activities and when they are occurring.”



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*If you would like to learn more about Catholic Schools Week 2016 at Saint Rose of Lima, please contact Janette Fletcher at 615-849-3767, or our Principal, Sr. Marie Hannah, OP at 615-898-0555.*

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

Resolve to be  
*Merciful*

Dear Parishioners,

**MOST OF YOU** are aware that we launched a Holy Year of Mercy on Dec. 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. You are most likely also aware of Pope Francis' motivation for proclaiming this year. In his announcement the Holy Father stated, "It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective."

If we do nothing else during this Holy Year, each of us must seek forgiveness from the Lord; and we also need to make an effort to forgive others. Mercy is, after all, a two-way street. We receive it, but we must as well show it. In fact, during this month when many make resolutions, let us each resolve to be merciful.

That, of course, is not always easy, and sometimes may not even be convenient. Being able to be merciful requires us to look beyond the emotional, past the self-centeredness that may lead us to

be angry and unforgiving. The story is related that soon after becoming pope, an interviewer asked Francis to describe himself – the pope immediately answered, "A sinner." However, he quickly added, "Who has been looked upon by the face of mercy."

Each of us can recall when we have been "looked upon by the face of mercy." This needs to be our motivation for showing to others what we have received. Also, in his letter announcing this Holy Year, the pope called us to have a "deep desire for true conversion." This is what stewardship is all about – not being self-centered, but God-centered. It asks us to recognize, acknowledge, and share our many gifts. Nevertheless, to do that effectively requires a conversion on our part. That needs to be part of our purpose for this year, too.

Stewardship always seems to come back to the concept of "love for one another." One of the misnomers – and a conclusion many have drawn from the Year of Mercy – is that God's essen-



tial characteristic is mercy. The Lord's fundamental attribute is love. Mercy is what love looks like when we show it.

Therefore, let us resolve to show mercy and love to all we meet, all we know, and all with whom we may work.

In Christ,

*Rev. Nicholas M. Allen*

Rev. Nicholas M. Allen,  
Pastor

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# “This Is an Ideal Parish Stewardship Opportunity”

*Our Saint Rose of Lima Walk With the Saints and Run for the Feast Events*



AT THE HEART of the concept of stewardship is the idea that people give of themselves. If this can be done with a wonderful sense of community, it is even better. The weekend of Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day is particularly special to us as Catholics, and we at Saint Rose of Lima do even more to make it special.

On Friday, Oct. 30, 2015, we held our Walk with the Saints. Children are encouraged to dress as saints, and it is something intended for the entire family, as a carnival is built around it. Attendees have the opportunity to enjoy treats, play games, and share in a sense of community. “This is an ideal parish stewardship opportunity,” says Jamie Jackson, who was the coordinator of the event. “It produces a great sense of togetherness and family. It is fun and it involves all the children of the parish – almost 100 children participated. It also creates stewardship, in that it is usually the older young people who staff the 15 or so stations at which the children can play and win prizes.”

The following day, Saturday, Oct. 31, the parish held the annual Run for the Feast under the leadership of Beth Dye. A five-kilometer walk/run, this year’s five-kilometer trek and one-mile fun run produced the largest-ever number of par-

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# *Our Saint Rose of Lima Walk With the Saints and Run for the Feast Events* continued from front cover

ticipants. Open to the entire community, and not just the parish, this event started early at 7 a.m. but was also filled with family activities and spirit. Every 400 meters (¼ mile) there was a memorial to someone – and thus, was tied to “Everything that goes into this – the planning, the organization, and the event itself – are indicative of the strong sense of commitment on the part of our people,” Beth says. “We had almost 500 participants this year, more than double the number we have ever had previously. The increase was from people outside the parish so there is, I guess, an evangelization aspect also. We raised \$9,000, all of which went to the school.”

A stewardship parish prays, celebrates and should have a strong sense of community. These two events exemplify that feeling here at Saint Rose of Lima!



# Teaching Children to Live a Life of Stewardship

**HOW OLD** do you have to be to practice stewardship?

Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children — even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

## *Sharing Your Time*

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous — such as being patient, generous and kind — is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

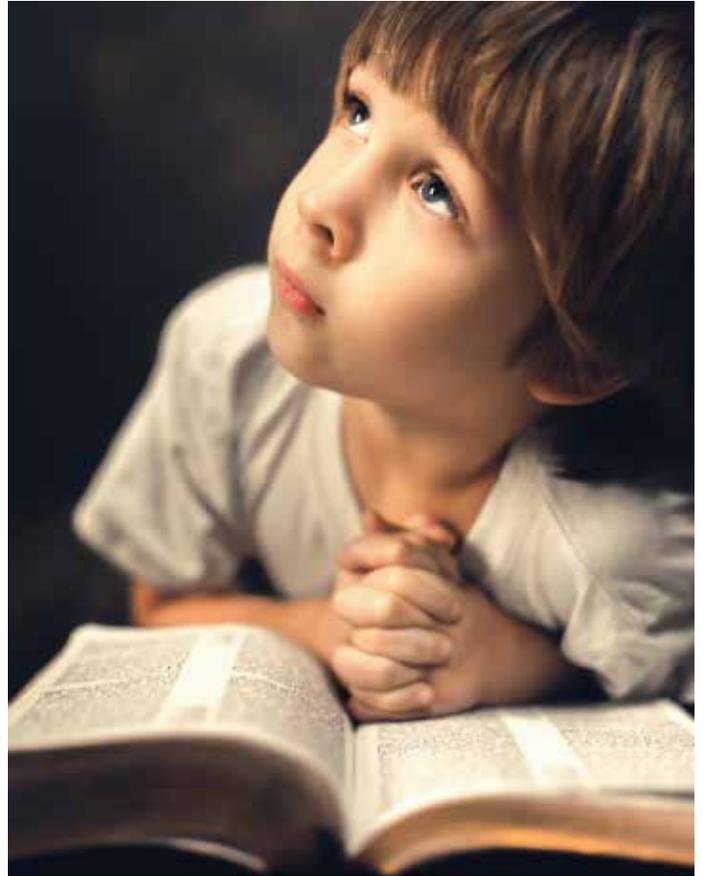
## *Sharing Your Talent*

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-aged child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry, or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents — such as playing a musical instrument or football — to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

## *Sharing Your Treasure*

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.



If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

## *The Most Important Lesson*

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is *why* we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.



# “That’s Why We’re Here, to Help Each Other”

## *The New Childcare Ministry at Saint Rose of Lima*

IF YOU ARE A PARENT, you know how it is – there are always a million things clamoring for your attention. Life becomes a juggling act, trying to keep it all – work, home, relationships, faith, and a social life – in the air. In many cases, growing deeper in your faith, as a parent, can seemingly become more difficult than ever before.

“We have a lot of Bible studies and classes here, where parents would like to attend, and it’s difficult for them to concentrate or attend because they have young children with them, or they need a babysitter and just can’t get one,” explains Dianne Jackson, who is working to coordinate a new Childcare Ministry within the parish, “The more opportunities we can provide for people to [step away and get involved], the more they can grow in their faith.

A mother of two, Dianne understands how hard it can be to make your spiritual life a priority when you have young children.

“There have been many times when I couldn’t attend something I would’ve liked to,” she says of the inspiration behind starting this ministry.

Dianne hopes that this ministry will give parishioners the opportunity to serve and parents the ability to get closer to God, as well as other members of their parish.

“We’re looking for people to help, so that people can further explore their faith and learn and continue to grow,” Dianne says. “This is also a way to come together as a social group and have interactions with



*“We’ve talked about our time, talent and treasure with stewardship. This is something that a lot of people could help with. Anything we can do to help our brothers and sisters here at Saint Rose to grow, that’s what we’re called to do.”*

– Dianne Jackson

adults and learn about what other people are experiencing in their faith.”

Whether it’s attending a “home and school meeting,” preparing to enter the Church through the RCIA process, or just learning more about God’s Word at a Bible study, it is important for parents to take a break from the demands of being “mom” and “dad” and take care of themselves.

“It helps you grow as a whole person, not just only one aspect of your life, just constantly ‘mom,’” Dianne says. “Get outside of yourself and see what’s going on in your parish – it makes you a better parent and a better person to grow in all of those ways.”

In order for this new ministry to be successful, Dianne is hoping to involve as many parishioners as possible, serving as “babysitters” for parish events. She hopes that everyone from teenagers to grandparents will volunteer to serve the parish in this way.

“I’m looking for someone who loves children, who likes to have fun with them,” Dianne says.

The way she sees it, this is a ministry that could appeal to many people, and she hopes that people will take the time to get involved and help a busy parent.

“A lot of people have this gift [to care for children],” Dianne says. “We’ve talked

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# Saint Rose *Church*

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## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:30 & 11 a.m., 5 p.m.

**For Daily Mass schedule and**

**Reconciliation schedule,**

**see website:** [www.saintrose.org](http://www.saintrose.org)

## The New Childcare Ministry continued from previous page

about our time, talent and treasure with stewardship. This is something that a lot of people could help with. Anything we can do to help our brothers and sisters here at Saint Rose to grow, that's what we're called to do."

Dianne's daughter, Natalie Jackson, has served in this way in the past, and enjoyed using her gifts to serve the parish.

"When we use our talents for God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, we find peace and happiness," Natalie says. "Helping parents in just another way to benefit our parish by giving them the opportunity to [spend time with Christ]. It can be especially hard for parents with young children to make time for God. Knowing that, it's easy for me to offer my

time to serve these parents if it, in turn, brings them closer to Christ."

According to Dianne, serving in this way is a great reminder of the fact that we're all part of the family of God and our parish family.

"Being a member of Saint Rose, that's what Jesus is asking us to do, to help others grow in their faith – that's why we're here, to help each other," she says, "I think this is a pretty easy way to accomplish that."

Dianne hopes to kick off this new ministry early in 2016. Events that offer childcare will be advertised as such and parishioners are invited to call to register their children for the event. This service is provided at no cost to those attending the event.



*Are you interested in serving as a babysitter with this new ministry? If so, please contact Dianne Jackson at [djackson@saintrose.org](mailto:djackson@saintrose.org) or 615-893-1843.*