



CHURCH OF

Saint Mary

Getting to Know Parishioner Jane Salzl *Following Christ Through Service and Stewardship*

Being part of St. Mary's has helped Jane Salzl turn her focus on the big picture — that is, what's best for the whole of our parish community. For her, being part of our parish means being part of the church fire — building our new, beautiful church, but also working through many challenging emotions attached to this reality.

"The confusion, frustration, sadness, anger, hope, work, patience, anxiety, and

pain were very real," Jane says. "I kept thinking, 'Moses wandered around in the desert 40 years? Holy cow, that is a long time! So, I guess I should not whine when our struggle is lasting only a few years.' I experienced 'consensus' in the building process. I learned that St. Mary's is made up of all of us.

Sometimes building decisions are not your first choice or even your second choice. But it is not about 'your' choice. It is about what is the best for the whole parish."

In a sense, belonging to our parish community has given Jane a big-picture perspective.

"I am reminded of the many grapes that are crushed to become wine," she says. "Or the many grains of wheat ground to become bread. Or the many people who give of themselves to become Church."

A longtime parishioner here at St. Mary's, Jane has received five sacraments while belonging to our parish. She used to teach religion and played guitar for the 11 o'clock Mass while she was in high school, more than 40 years ago. Still, Jane and her husband, Sam, are involved in our parish life.



Jane and Sam Salzl

Church of Saint Mary
755 Kraft Drive SE
Melrose, MN 56352

MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (English)

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. (English) & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

DAILY MASS:

Monday: 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.

VER AL DORSO
PARA ESPANOL



(320) 256-4207

www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION

Using Our Time and Talents to Spread the Good News

Jesus came to save the world and to draw all people to Him. When we think of the salvific work of Christ, many of us think of His life, death, resurrection, and His ascension into glory. And while those salvific events are of primary importance in salvation history, it doesn't end there.

Christ wants everyone to know the salvation He has won for them. He wants every soul to experience heavenly glory. Therefore, after having conquered death through His cross and resurrection, Christ commissioned His disciples to carry the Gospel to the world. They were charged to "preach the Gospel to all nations," winning, through their words and examples, souls for the kingdom! What a task! The disciples were overwhelmed at the thought of carrying the Gospel to all nations after Christ had returned to heaven. But the Lord assured them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). When the Holy Spirit descended upon them on the feast of Pentecost, all those in the crowd were amazed. They all spoke in different tongues, preaching the same message, and everyone there could understand!

And so it was that the Church was established

through the power of the Spirit and for the purpose of evangelization. Each of us has been baptized in that Spirit, and through that, made a member of the Church. It is, thus, up to each and every one of us to actively participate in the Church's mission — proclaiming the Good News to all the world and building up the Kingdom of God!

Each of us must re-evaluate how we are using the gifts God has given us to build up His Kingdom. Do we preach the Good News in all that we do and say? The same Spirit that descended upon the apostles that first Pentecost remains with us now, giving us the strength and courage to labor in the vineyard of the world.

Christ came to save the world, and He established the Church as the "universal sacrament of salvation" (*Christifideles Laici*, 2), by which many people throughout the world would know the glory of His truth. St. Paul describes the Church as one body with many parts. And just as each part of the body has a particular function, so each member of the Church has a particular calling, but united as one body in the Spirit, all of the members are to carry out the Church's one mission. How is God calling you to carry out this mission? What particular gifts has He given you with which you ought to build the Kingdom?

Each of us must re-evaluate how we are using the gifts God has given us to build up His Kingdom. Do we preach the Good News in all that we do and say? The same Spirit that descended upon the apostles that first Pentecost remains with us now, giving us the strength and courage to labor in the vineyard of the world.

If Not Stewards, Then What Are We?

Dear Parishioners,

As a stewardship parish, it is important to ask how well we understand the message of stewardship that keeps surfacing in all we do in our personal life and the life of our parish. If not stewards, then what are we? If not disciples of Jesus Christ, then what purpose do we serve as members of His Holy Catholic Church? Aren't these intriguing questions for any believer? And if not, why aren't they?

God's goodness and the gifts given to each of us shouldn't be taken for granted and our lives should be motivated by our gratitude for all we have, including every opportunity that gives glory and honor to God. Those opportunities are given at each moment of each day. Wait for them and expect them to become obvious. The idea of being a steward of those gifts and opportunities isn't new to the realm of believers in the Old Testament or the New Testament. And certainly, the Gospels of Jesus Christ make it quite clear that our Lord views us to be the stewards He expects us to be. His stories and parables confirm it. So, if you cannot or will not see yourself as "that" steward He invites you to be, then what are you? I am curious about those who reject being that steward. I am even more curious about what they believe are the other options.

I am still in awe of the first line in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, that boldly states: "Once one has decided to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option." They were so convinced that the stewardship way of life is a disciple's way of life. And yet, that is what we are and have always been.



"If not stewards, then what?" remains a challenging statement to invite us to reflect on what our Catholic faith is calling us to experience and participate in for the time we are given on this earth. It challenges us to face our reflection in the mirror of this life given to us by God and see what our Lord sees in us, and then embrace the opportunities being handed to us each day of our lives. Blessings and challenges await us, and no matter what the balance may be from day to day, our God equips us with all we need. He created us and sees us as stewards. Why would we dare resist seeing ourselves in the way our God sees us?

Connecting stewardship and discipleship is inevitable in my book. For that matter, it is inevitable in the "Good Book," which we identify and recognize as the Word of God. It matters to our God what we do with the gifts He so generously gives to each of us. Why would it not matter to us? I ask you to take some time to refocus, reevaluate and re-commit yourself to the faithfulness of the life, the time, the talent, and the treasure you have been given.

We are the stewards of those precious gifts. What are we doing with them?

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Marvin Enneking". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Fr. Marvin Enneking
Pastor



The Principles of *Catholic Social Teaching*

What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood – Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable – those with disabilities – and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” – this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.



Stewardship

Everything we have – even our own lives – is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible – striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good – the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.

The Rosary Ministry: DRAWING CLOSE TO OUR LADY IN COMMUNITY

When Maria Magdalena Montanez Raya's family began praying the Rosary regularly, beautiful little "miracles" of grace began to take place.

"Since we have started praying the Rosary every night together, our family has become much more united," she says. "Because of the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, we talk more, we understand each other more, and we agree with one another more often. Now, we go to Confession frequently, visit the Blessed Sacrament, and attend Sunday Mass attentively. We have really grown closer to God."

Through the devotion of the Rosary, Maria Magdalena has deepened her union with Our Lady and enriched her spiritual life in wonderful ways.

"I pray before everything I do now, and I really love being at church and helping however I can," she says. "I love to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary because they are biblical and they help me contemplate the life of Jesus."

Maria Magdalena also enjoys praying with the Rosary Ministry group, which meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the church worship area.

"When we pray the Rosary, we ask our mother to guide us and protect us," she says. "When we pray the Rosary as a group, it

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Parishioners gather to pray the Rosary at St. Mary's Church.

"Our group is small but powerful. It is very meaningful for our parish community. Prayer is so important! We are named St. Mary's and through the Rosary, we ask Mary to help us. There is strength in numbers, and it strengthens our parish family when we pray to Mary together."

— ROSIE ATHMANN

The Rosary Ministry *continued from page 5*

is more powerful than if we were to pray it alone, because we are together.”

According to Rosie Athmann, praying the Rosary is an uplifting, inspiring Catholic tradition that should be savored.

“When we pray the Rosary, we ask Mary to intercede for us,” Rosie says. “In the midst of the times we are experiencing now, it is so important for us to get together to pray the Rosary. In the past, it was very common for families to get together and pray it, especially during Lent. This tradition has been nearly lost. We need to bring back the tradition of the Rosary!”

By turning to Mary during hard times, parishioners such as Rosie have found solace and fortitude when they needed it the most.

“I have really seen prayers answered through the

Rosary,” Rosie says. “When I had cancer, I received a lot of prayers from friends and family. I also prayed a lot myself, which played a big part in my survival and recovery from cancer. Day by day, you just need to talk to God and Mary about what you are going through, and you will receive the help, comfort and peace you need. The answers to your prayers are all there.”

By attending the Rosary Ministry group, Rosie not only finds support, but she also finds an opportunity to bring others to the heart of Our Lady as well.

“Our group is small but powerful,” Rosie says. “It is very meaningful for our parish community. Prayer is so important! We are named St. Mary’s and through the Rosary, we ask Mary to help us. There is strength in numbers, and it strengthens our parish family when we pray to Mary together.”

If you would like more information about this grace-filled prayer ministry, please see the parish bulletin or call the parish office at 320-256-4207.

Getting to Know Parishioner Jane Salzl *continued from front cover*

“My husband Sam and I are church cleaners,” she says. “I am a cantor, I play guitar in our guitar group, I am a lector, I am a member of our Tuesday Morning Spirituality Group. I am a member of our Parish Leadership Council. I am a member of our newly formed Parish Life Committee.”

The Parish Life Committee in particular is a new initiative for Jane and our parish. The hope is to come together to celebrate, to work, and to build relationships and community.

“We have begun the Blessed Bakers, who are called upon three or four times a year to bake for parish functions,” Jane says. “We are about to begin the

Helping Hands, which is a group of people who can be asked to do odd jobs around our parish campus. Funeral lunches can now be served for crowds of 150 or less in our gathering space.”

Jane enjoys serving in our parish community and believes it is important to follow Christ through service and stewardship.

“I believe in generosity, and serving is a generous thing to do,” she says. “I hope not to be stingy. We are all called to imitate Christ as best we can. Christ was and is the definition of generous and the opposite of stingy. I have been given much. Therefore, I want to give back that same measure.”

“We are all called to imitate Christ as best we can. Christ was and is the definition of generous and the opposite of stingy. I have been given much. Therefore, I want to give back that same measure.” – JANE SALZL