



CHURCH OF

Saint Mary

Meet Parishioner Caroline Jacobs *Embracing Service to Others and the Power of Prayer*

Hopefully, we all know someone we consider a prayer warrior. We turn to them when we are in need, knowing that they will take our needs to prayer. Caroline Jacobs is one of the prayer warriors. When someone asks, she prays.

"I feel like I have a special connection with Mary," says Caroline, who always carries a rosary. "Jesus and Mary are my 'go-tos.'"

Caroline says that over the years, she's had a lot of prayers answered. She prays the Rosary at least once a day, and she sometimes prays as many as four in a day. Members from throughout our community look to Caroline when they need prayers. It all goes back to her days growing up on a farm near St. Rosa, when her whole family would pray a Rosary after supper. Caroline's mother, Gertrude, had a long list of prayers and was always praying for people.

In 2018, Caroline retired from 44 years of nursing at Pine Villa Nursing Home. She feels blessed by all the people she got to know over her years there. She'd often have women she worked with taking their nursing exams, and she offered them up in prayer.

"I really love to help people with their needs," Caroline says. "I think that's what led me to nursing. I am happy to pitch in and do my best to help out."

Caroline also spent many years helping with the parish

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Caroline and her great niece, Lydia

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 ESPAÑOL



(320) 256-4207

www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys

THE BIBLE

The Textbook of Stewardship

Have you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there is such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, conveyed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have taken possession and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land the LORD, your God, is giving you; put them in a basket and go to the place which the LORD, your God, will choose as the dwelling place for his name... ‘Now, therefore, I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, LORD, have given me.’ You shall set them before the LORD, your God, and you shall bow down before the LORD, your God” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by

hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefitted from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church — St. Paul — preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of Who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.

The Month of Mary:

A Time for Celebration and Joy

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month – and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine – which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way

that allowed the Lord to take human form made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a

saint, and also in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek – and we, too, must say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant.

I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

In Christ,



Fr. Marvin Enneking
Pastor



The May Crowning

Celebrating the Coronation of Mary

For many Catholics, May Crownings of statues or icons of the Blessed Mother have become rites of spring. Like flowers blooming or Mother's Day, this annual Marian devotion reminds us that the cold of winter is behind us, and it ushers in a month during which the Catholic Church pays special homage to Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God.

Generally taking place during the first weekend of the month, May Crownings bring children — often, recent First Communicants — out in their Sunday best to participate in processions and adorn statues of the Blessed Mother with crowns of flowers or actual gold crowns. Additionally, the children often place roses at her feet, and Catholics carry out similar practices in their homes by placing roses around statues of the Blessed Virgin, or even adding ornamentation to images of Mary. But where did this practice come from, and how did it develop into the tradition that we currently know and love?

The Coronation of Mary had been a popular subject in European art and literature for centuries, but the tradition of the May Crowning can be most accurately traced back to the late 16th century. Perhaps inspired by the practice of adding ornamentation to Marian icons that

had been carried out by some Eastern churches, Pope Clement VIII added two crowns to the icon of Mary with the Infant Jesus in the St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. The crowns were eventually lost, but were replaced by Gregory XVI in 1837 in a rite that was to become the standard practice for crowning.

While the May Crowning is not an official liturgical celebration on the Church calendar, it is an important practice in honoring Mary as the Queen of the Universe, and its imagery is especially influential in the faith formation of children. As Liz Kelly writes in *May Crowning, Mass, and Merton and Other Reasons I Love Being Catholic*, "One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. I favor no Marian celebration more highly than May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title, but to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown?"

This year, make a special effort to honor the coronation of Mary through participation in a personal or public May Crowning devotion.

BRING FLOWERS OF THE RAREST

*Bring flow'rs of the fairest,
Bring flow'rs of the rarest,
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale;
Our full hearts are swelling,
Our glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest
Rose of the vale.*

*O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May,
O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.*



Cantors

Draw Us into the Liturgy by Sharing Musical Gifts

Music provides a beautiful way for us to pray with one another in the Mass. Here at St. Mary's, we are blessed to have our Music Ministry that helps draw us into this communal prayer each Sunday. Becky Kapsner and her daughters are some of the cantors you might recognize who share their talents with God and our parish, leading us in worship on a regular basis.

"Music is a big part of the liturgy," Becky says. "It's part of the Mass so we want to do it well."

Having served as a cantor for nearly 20 years, Becky says music has always been part of her life, and even has a degree in music. Home-schooling her children has meant that music has been a significant part of their lives, too. Becky's daughters, Genevieve, Grace and Esther, have been singing with her for several years. They enjoy making music and harmonizing together, serving our parish with their beautiful voices and leading our congregation in worship. Their service through music has provided them with the opportunity to not only bring others into worship, but also grow in their own respective faith walks.

"For me, I think music is a really powerful thing and people connect with music," Genevieve says. "It helps people remember things. When you put a tune to something, you remember things. When you connect and worship to music, you are connected to God through the music. It's a link between God and the people."

"To me, music is very important," Becky says. "But the ultimate reason to be at Mass is to be with Jesus and worship and be fed, to offer ourselves to Him. So for me as a cantor,

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(From left) Grace, Genevieve, Becky and Esther Kapsner provide music for our parish community as regular cantors for Sunday Mass.



Our cantors' service brings us into a deeper experience of the liturgical prayer of the Mass.

Cantors Draw Us into the Liturgy by Sharing Musical Gifts

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I am the leader, but I also try to be prayerful and participate. Let Jesus be the focus then do your best and let it go.”

Those who serve in our Music Ministry at St. Mary’s welcome others to get involved. Leading music at Mass may seem like a daunting task, but Becky says there are ways to ease into it, such as joining the choir or cantoring with a friend – that was how Becky first started leading music in junior high. She and Morgan Kempenich, our Director of Music and Liturgy, are ready to help those who are willing.

“I know there are singers out there,” Becky says. “You don’t have to go in there alone, Morgan and I are willing to help people who want to and are interested in learning.”

“The ultimate reason to be at Mass is to be with Jesus and worship and be fed, to offer ourselves to Him. So for me as a cantor, I am the leader, but I also try to be prayerful and participate. Let Jesus be the focus then do your best and let it go.”

– Becky Kapsner

If you would like more information about our Music Ministry or serving as a cantor at St. Mary’s, please contact Morgan Kempenich at 320-256-4207 liturgy@stmarysofmelrose.com.

Meet Parishioner Caroline Jacobs *continued from front cover*

nursing ministry at St. Mary’s. Nurses and Dr. Patrick Heller would do simple exams and check vital signs for people lacking insurance or adequate insurance. But, in 2018, this ministry ended. Caroline stepped away from nursing, too, as she wanted to truly retire.

“I spent so many years working a lot of extra hours and weekends,” she says. “I wanted to devote more time to my children and grandchildren.”

In addition, Caroline is active in the Legion of Mary and Christian Mothers. Legion of Mary members meet weekly to pray a Rosary and conduct a meeting. They leave with an assignment, like delivering the Eucharist or visiting a family with a new baby. Before the pandemic, members often visited people in the nursing home.

Caroline and her husband, Tom, have three children and three grandchildren. Tom retired after 44

years at Land O’Lakes last June. In the summer, Caroline and Tom enjoy spending time at their lake home, near Atwater. They also enjoy spending time with family, being outside, golfing and bowling. Caroline also does Sudoku puzzles in her free time.

If you run into Caroline, feel free to ask her to offer up a few prayers for your needs!

“I really love to help people with their needs. I think that’s what led me to nursing. I am happy to pitch in and do my best to help out.”

– Caroline Jacobs