

A LOOK AT THE Cancer Care Support Ministry

Walking With Fellow Parishioners as They Embark on a Difficult Journey

During the most difficult journeys in life, a strong parish family can offer great comfort. Sometimes journeys of grief and illness are lonely, but we can always step in to support one another. This is the purpose of the Cancer Care Support Ministry, which reaches out to those fighting cancer as a presence of hope and a resource to ease the burden.

Patti Collins oversees the Cancer Care Support Ministry. She realized a need in the parish for this support ministry. So, she found the tools through Cancer Treatment Centers of America to train parishioners to walk alongside those who are fighting cancer in a way that honors their individuality and privacy while showing them that they are not alone.

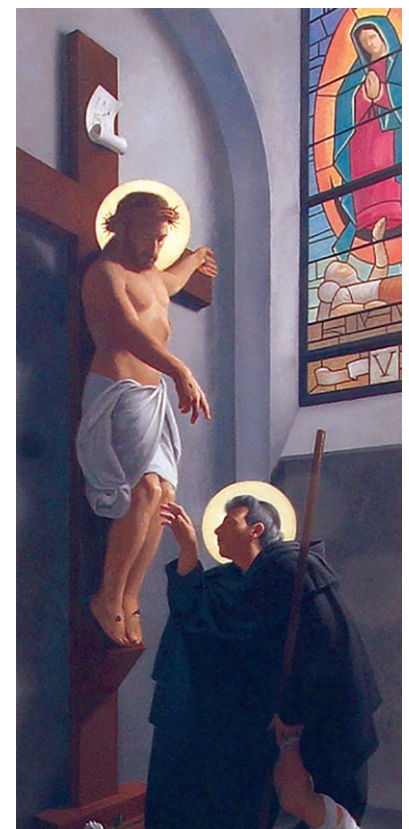
“Cancer affects a lot of people in our world, and therefore, a lot of people in our parish,” Patti says. “We

need to walk with our parishioners where they are at.”

The Cancer Care Support Ministry trains volunteers over four weeks. Ministers learn how to be supportive without imposing their opinions or ideas. They bring parish and community resources to light so that those with cancer know all of their options. The ministry offers a meal train, prayers over a year by the St. Peregrine Guild through the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and ministers offer to accompany people to appointments. The ministry is willing to tackle any needs that come up.

“If someone needs something, the ministers let me know and we figure out a way to meet those needs,” Patti says.

The Cancer Care Support Ministry currently serves about 26 parishioners actively receiving treatment or



St. Peregrine, the patron of cancer patients

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EMBRACING

STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE

A BLUEPRINT FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a pastoral letter that would resonate through the years, shaping the way Catholics perceive and practice their faith. Titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, this document serves as a profound blueprint for how Catholics should live stewardship as a way of life and is — in essence — the roadmap for how we live out stewardship at our parish.

At its core, stewardship is not merely a financial concept, but a profound spiritual principle deeply rooted in Catholic teachings. The 1992 pastoral letter seeks to enlighten Catholics on the transformative power of stewardship, inviting them to view their lives through the lens of discipleship and responsibility.

One of the pivotal messages of the document is the recognition that everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure — is a gift from God. Stewardship, as outlined by the USCCB, is the grateful and responsible management of these gifts in a way that reflects our love for God and others. It is a call to live out the Gospel in concrete and intentional ways, not just within the walls of the church but in every aspect of our daily lives.

The pastoral letter emphasizes that stewardship is not an optional aspect of the Christian life but an essential response to God's love. It challenges Catholics to move beyond mere Sunday worship and integrate their faith into every facet of their existence. In essence, stewardship is presented as a way of life, a continual commitment to recognize and utilize God-given gifts for the betterment of the world.

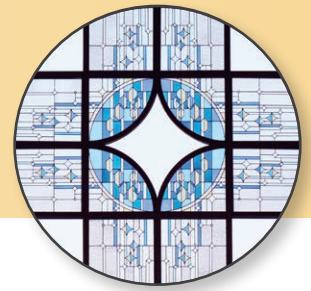
Furthermore, the document urges Catholics to embrace stewardship with a spirit of generosity, emphasizing the importance of sacrificial giving. This sacrificial aspect goes beyond monetary donations; it encompasses the giving of one's time and talents for the service of others. By doing so, individuals are called to be active

participants in building a community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.

Stewardship is not a one-size-fits-all concept, and the pastoral letter recognizes the diversity of gifts within the Catholic community. Each person is uniquely endowed with talents, and the document encourages a discernment process to identify and employ these gifts for the common good. In essence, the USCCB provides a framework for fostering a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually rich community by acknowledging and utilizing the varied talents of its members. The pastoral letter challenges Catholics to consider the broader implications of stewardship beyond the local parish. It calls for a heightened awareness of social justice issues, advocating for a commitment to building a more just and compassionate society. Stewardship, in this context, becomes a catalyst for positive change in the world, encouraging Catholics to be agents of justice and mercy.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a timeless guide for Catholics seeking to deepen their relationship with God through the practice of stewardship. It presents a holistic approach to living out one's faith, challenging individuals to recognize and utilize their God-given gifts in the service of others. By embracing stewardship as a way of life, Catholics can contribute to building a community that reflects the transformative power of God's love in the world.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a must-read for any devoted Catholic looking to take his or her own stewardship to the next level. The USCCB's pastor letter is available for purchase online through various outlets, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ascension Press, and more. Search for the document online and pick up a copy!



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Making the Most of the Dog Days of Summer




Dear Parishioners,


As we find ourselves in the midst of the “Dog Days of Summer,” I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the unique challenges and opportunities that this season offers for our spiritual lives. The scorching heat and the lazy, hazy days of summer can sometimes tempt us to take a break from our routines, including our faith practices. However, I encourage you to view this season as a time to draw nearer to God and to prepare for the busy fall that lies ahead.




The “Dog Days of Summer” traditionally refer to the hottest and most uncomfortable days of the year. In the midst of this heat, it can be easy to feel lethargic and lose sight of our spiritual commitments. But let us remember that our faith journey should be a continuous and unwavering path, regardless of the season or circumstances.

Instead of allowing the summer heat to distract us, we can use this time to deepen our faith and draw closer to God. Here are a few ways to make the most of the “Dog Days of Summer”:

-  **Embrace Silence and Solitude:** The lazy days of summer often provide opportunities for solitude and reflection. Spend time in prayer and meditation, seeking God's presence in the quiet moments of your life.
-  **Nature and Creation:** Take advantage of the beauty of nature during this season. Spend time outdoors, whether it's in your garden, by the beach, or in a nearby park, and marvel at the wonders of God's creation.
-  **Read and Reflect:** Summer is a great time to delve into spiritual literature, Scripture, or books that inspire and deepen your faith. Reading can provide valuable insights and keep your spiritual journey vibrant.

 **Attend Mass:** Even during vacation or when your usual routine is disrupted, make attending Mass a priority. Seek out local parishes while traveling and continue to receive the Eucharist.

 **Acts of Charity:** The warm weather can make it easier to engage in acts of charity. Volunteer at a local charity or participate in community service activities that align with your faith.

Furthermore, let us use the “Dog Days of Summer” as a season of preparation for the busy fall that lies ahead. As the summer sun gives way to the autumn winds, our lives tend to become more hectic with school, work, and other commitments. By nurturing our faith during this season, we can fortify ourselves for the challenges and opportunities of the coming months.

Take this time to consider how you can deepen your commitment to your faith community and your personal spiritual growth. Plan ahead for your involvement in parish activities and ministries. Consider joining or volunteering for initiatives that resonate with your beliefs and passions.

In conclusion, the “Dog Days of Summer” can be a time of spiritual renewal and preparation for the fall. Rather than drifting away from our faith, let us seize this opportunity to draw nearer to God, fortify our spiritual lives, and prepare ourselves for the busy season ahead.

May the end of your summer be filled with God's blessings and inspiration.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter Marshall
Pastor

New School Year Begins With and Valuable Additions

As the summer winds down, it's time to jump back into a new school year. Our St. Jude Catholic School staff has been hard at work, crafting a new mission statement to lead the school. This mission statement will be the heart that guides us in the new school year: "St. Jude Catholic School is dedicated to fostering an educational environment focused on developing minds, shaping hearts, and engaging hands for the glory and honor of God."

Ultimately the school is focused on what the *Catechism* calls each member of the Church to do — to know, love, and serve God. This year, students will be calling on the Scripture verse of the year from the Gospel of Mark — "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

Principal Beth Meece shares about how this will look as the school year begins.

"Our mission statement is really the focus and guide for us as the school grows, changes, and develops," she says. "We are nearly full in every grade level, and we have been able to expand staff to help better support

staff and students. We have staff for math and reading intervention, as well as two new assistant principals."

Joseph Crowe joins the staff as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Assessment and Jennifer McBride is the new Assistant Principal for Student Behavior and Intervention. This restructuring of the assistant principals' positions will better define roles and improve support for students, staff, and families.

"This will give us all more time for relationship building and increased communication as well," Mrs. Meece says.

Last year, the school introduced a family engagement policy to facilitate and expand parish stewardship of time. That policy will continue into this year.

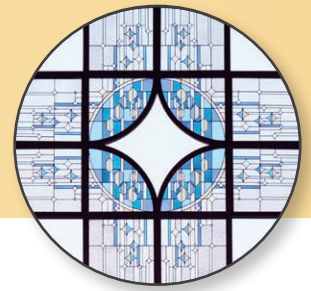
"We wanted parents and families engaged in both the parish and the school community," Mrs. Meece says. "It pushed some out of their comfort zones, but we found it to be a great success. We are so pleased with how it went over and seeing families more involved."

Parishioners are always encouraged to be involved in the school, whether they have students there or not. There are many opportunities to attend school events

or volunteer for different activities.

"Our parishioners model stewardship to our students," Mrs. Meece says. "When they see them attending daily Mass, serving the parish in different roles, or





With New Mission Statement Commitments to Our Staff

volunteering at the school, they witness the importance of being an active and engaged member of the community.”

To receive the school newsletter and stay up-to-date

with school activities, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, parishioners can contact the school office.

Please keep our staff and students in your prayers as we joyfully begin a new school year!



For more information, visit the school website at www.sjsindy.org/school.

A LOOK AT THE Cancer Care Support Ministry

continued from front cover

undergoing scans. When someone goes into remission, the ministry celebrates by sending them a fruit bouquet and then continues to check in periodically. Many people are quiet about their battle with cancer — based on the statistics, Patti guesses there are more parishioners that they could be serving.

“The hardest part of this ministry is getting people to know that we’re here,” Patti says. “We want to be supportive, not invasive. I wish this ministry could go away, and we wouldn’t need it at all. But in the meantime, I wish we could find out about those who are in our pews that we’re not aware of.”

The trained ministers, who each support up to three parishioners, often have a personal experience with cancer. About a third of them have experienced cancer

themselves or through a family member, so this ministry means a lot to them. More trained ministers would allow the Cancer Care Support Ministry to expand and ensure that the volunteers don’t take on more than they can handle. The ministry also supports those with other life-altering diseases like Parkinson’s and ALS.

“This ministry needs anyone who cares how others are making it through life, can talk to people they don’t know well, is friendly, and has a positive attitude,” Patti says.

To be trained, or if you or a family member would like to connect with the Cancer Care Support Ministry, contact Patti Collins at pcollins@stjudeindy.org.



HABEMUS PAPAM: POPE LEO XIV

A Faithful Steward for a New Chapter in the Church

The Catholic Church entered a new chapter on May 8 with the election of Pope Leo XIV — formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A. — as the 267th successor to St. Peter. A Chicago native and member of the Augustinian order, Pope Leo XIV is now the first American pope in the Church's history. His election is a powerful reminder of the Church's global reach and the vital role of the Americas in its future.

He follows Pope Francis, who died in April after more than 11 years as our Holy Father. Pope Francis made a lasting mark through his deep concern for the poor and marginalized and his call for a “Church that goes out.” His papacy inspired many, as he pushed boundaries around certain pastoral and doctrinal issues.

While Pope Leo shares Pope Francis’ pastoral heart, Leo XIV may be more traditional in his approach, and many see his election as a joining of the Church's desire to reaffirm timeless truths and extend mercy in a world that needs both.

Pope Leo XIV brings with him a different tone and style — one that emphasizes continuity with the Church's teachings and a strong sense of doctrinal clarity. While he shares Pope Francis’ pastoral heart, Leo XIV is considered more traditional in his approach, and many see his election as a signal of the Church's desire to reaffirm timeless truths in a world that often rejects them.

But don't mistake tradition for rigidity. Pope Leo's background tells a story of missionary zeal and service. He spent years in Peru, walking with the people, building

community, and forming future priests. He knows the importance of meeting people where they are, but he also knows that truth and charity must always go hand in hand.

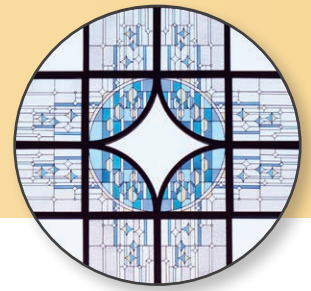
His choice of the name “Leo” reflects inspiration from Pope Leo XIII, known for his teachings on social justice and the dignity of work. It's a name that signals a pope who wants to lead the Church with wisdom, courage, and deep concern for the common good.

For those of us committed to stewardship as a way of life, there's much to admire in our new Holy Father. From his years of missionary service to his humble leadership style, Pope Leo XIV has lived the call to stewardship — receiving God's gifts gratefully, nurturing them faithfully, and sharing them generously.

In one of his first public messages, he said, “The mission of the Church is Christ's, not ours. We are stewards, not owners.” That simple statement gets to the heart of what stewardship is all about. It's not about control, but trust. It's about placing our time, gifts, and resources in God's hands and using them for His glory.

Pope Leo XIV's emphasis on fidelity, reverence, and responsibility offers a fresh and steady voice for today's Church. He's a reminder that living our faith fully — with truth, charity, and courage — is the best witness we can give in a divided world.

Let's pray for our new Holy Father as he begins this sacred mission. And let's follow his lead — living as good stewards, grounded in the Gospel, and ready to serve the Church and the world with joyful hearts.



Blood Drives a Profound Opportunity to Save Lives and Put Christ's Golden Rule Into Action

Every Day
more than 10,000 patients
rely on the generosity of
blood donors to survive.

There is no
substitute for blood.

It is **precious**.
It is **perishable**.
And the need for
it is **vital**.

If you were offered the opportunity to save three lives while spending no more than an hour to do so, that opportunity arrives on Aug. 17 and Nov. 23, when our St. Jude Blood Drive Ministry holds the last two parish blood drives for the year.

Emily Lehner is the ministry volunteer coordinator who works with Versiti, a non-profit organization that collects and distributes blood products to medical facilities.

"We have blood drives four times a year," Emily says. "We set up in the Apostles Room from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays. It takes only 45 minutes to one hour to donate."

Emily offers the assurance that the procedure is a simple one and not to be feared.

"Each donation, a unit of blood, can go to area hospitals and save up to three lives," she says. "The universal donor is O-negative, meaning that type of blood can be given to anyone. Blood can be used for accident victims, cancer patients, those with blood disorders, or new mothers who have experienced blood loss. Pediatric cancer patients require blood transfusions. There are

many reasons someone may need blood."

The reason to give blood comes down to living our faith.

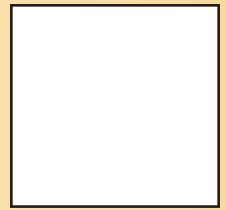
"We are doing Christ's ministry by giving of ourselves to help others, and to help a neighbor whom we may not know," Emily says. "We're fulfilling Christ's Golden Rule to love others and to love yourself."

Emily will put notices in our weekly bulletin with information about making an appointment on the day of the drive.

"We prefer you have an appointment, but if you are a walk-in, they will take you," she says. "It's an important ministry and an easy way to give of ourselves. It goes with our faith."

Once the procedure is completed, the donors are served cookies, juice, or coffee.

Anyone with questions about the blood drive or the donation process may contact Emily Lehner at 317-679-4019 or lehnerem@sbcglobal.net.



5353 McFarland Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 786-4371
www.stjudeindy.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday Anticipation — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday — 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Monday/Wednesday/Friday — 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday/Thursday — 6:00 p.m.

Holy Day Mass

See Bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday/Thursday — 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Saturday — 3:00-3:45 p.m.

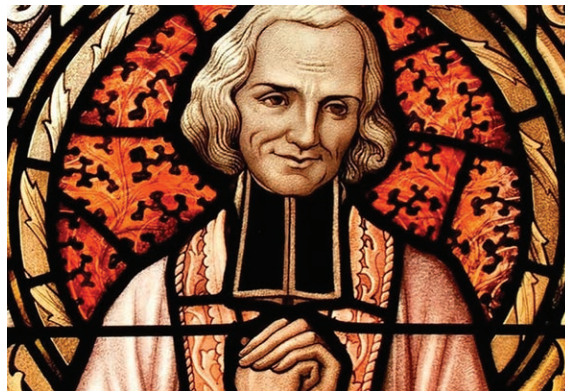
Anytime by appointment

Celebrating the Feast of **ST. JOHN VIANNEY:**

A Call to Support Priests and Vocations

The Feast of St. John Vianney, celebrated on Aug. 4, holds special significance for Catholics worldwide. It is a time to reflect on the life and legacy of the patron saint of parish priests and emphasize the importance of supporting priests and nurturing vocations, especially in light of the decline in priestly vocations in the United States.

St. John Vianney, known as the Cure of Ars, exemplified priestly dedication and selfless service. His commitment to his parishioners and deep spirituality continues to inspire Catholics. He tirelessly promoted the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, demonstrating the crucial role of priests in the Church.



Today, there is an urgent need to support our priests and foster vocations. We can help by praying daily for priests and vocations, financially supporting our parishes, encouraging young men to consider the priesthood, participating in vocations programs, offering mentorship, and promoting the priesthood through sharing positive experiences.

On St. John Vianney's feast day, we remember the invaluable role of priests and the need to support and encourage future priests. By engaging in these efforts, we can ensure that the Church continues to benefit from the guidance and sacramental grace provided by dedicated priests, inspired by the life of St. John Vianney.