

St. Louis the King Catholic Church & School
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Dei Gratia

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Teach by Example

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Being a parent is one of the most difficult jobs one can take on. Unlike most other jobs, parents do not get vacation or sick time. It’s a 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, 52 weeks-a-year kind of proposition. It’s filled with runny noses, skinned knees, battles of will, and broken hearts. You spend countless hours worrying about them, wondering if every decision you make will be the right one. But, when all goes right, parenthood is also filled with immeasurable moments of intense joy, pride, and a warmth that can carry you through the coldest night. Parenthood is the definition of stewardship. You are given a miraculous gift from God and asked to care for and nurture it until it is old enough and capable enough to care for itself. This child that you love so much, is not yours to keep. It is yours to raise in a way that brings greater glory to God.

Raising a child to be a good steward is not an easy task, but it can be made easier when the parents model the behaviors they are trying to teach their children. If you want your children to see their faith as an important part of their lives, then you need to show them that you place great importance on it as well. How much more effective is the message that

attending Mass is an important part of their faith life if a child is raised going to weekly Mass. While it can be enticing to let others take responsibility for your child’s faith life, be it a religious education program offered through the parish or enrolling them in a Catholic school, the fact is that children learn best what is modeled by their parents. Physically attending Mass is not enough, however. Children need to be taught reverence and respect for the Mass. They need to understand the significance of the traditions experienced during the Mass. There are many resources available to help you better understand Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions, including The Catechism of the Catholic Church (an online version of which can be found at <http://www.nccbuscc.org/catechism/text/>). Another resource I have found very helpful over the years is a book entitled “Catholic Q&A: Answers to



the Most Common Questions About Catholicism” written by Father John J. Dietzen. Modeling desired behaviors, of course, extend beyond the walls of the church. If we truly want our children to grow up to be good stewards, we, as parents, must live our lives in a way that speaks to our responsibility as stewards. In “A Disciple’s Response: A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship” from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, it is clear that parents have a critical role in raising future stewards. “Parents, for instance, have work of great importance to do in the domestic church, the home. Within the family, they must teach their children the truths of the faith and pray with them; share Christian values with them in the face of pressures to conform to the hostile values of a secularized society; and initiate them into the practice of stewardship itself, in all its dimensions, contrary to today’s widespread consumerism and individualism.” It goes on to say that raising children to be good stewards may require adjusting a family’s patterns of consumption and perhaps even their lifestyle; but, “Above all, it requires that parents model stewardship through selfless service to one another, to their children and to church and community needs.”

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Small Steps

Accept without complaint any and every inconvenience you experience today, in gratitude to Jesus.

Stewards Among US

Married for 51 years, Ed and Marilyn Hoffarth raised seven children, four boys and three girls, within our parish community. From the beginning, Ed and Marilyn took an active role in the parish, although Marilyn remembers they became even more involved after the death of their oldest daughter, Diane, in 1976. As members of the Parish Youth Organization, Ed and Marilyn helped develop a Confirmation program that was used for some time as a model for the entire diocese. Over the years Ed was a member of the Men's Club, served two terms on the Parish Council, ushered, organized the annual "Market Place" fundraiser, was a member of the Debt Reduction Committee, and helped reestablish the Parish Festival in 1980. He jokes that, with the exception of the Women's Club, there isn't a ministry he hasn't been involved in over the years. Marilyn, on the other hand, has been a member of the Women's Club since its inception in 1966. With a passion for cooking, Marilyn also catered numerous events over the years, started the hot lunch program at the school, and helped the Women's Club produce two parish cookbooks. When her sons were growing up she also helped with the Altar Boys. She and Ed also helped establish the school's first fundraising event in the 1960's known as the Fun Fair.

Ed recalls when the parish was being formed, there was a different mentality, "Everyone was young, starting families and careers. We were anxious for the church to be built. There was so much to do back then that everyone was involved. We were all part of the church and felt a responsibility to help out." He fears that that sense of responsibility and loyalty no

longer exists, stating "we've turned into a 'want it now' society." He explained, 40 years ago, when you lived within the boundaries of a particular parish, you supported that parish. That was where you attended Mass, where you volunteered, and where you gave your money. He said, today, people have a consumer's mindset about the church they attend, leaving one parish for another the moment they don't like something. "We've had our problems over the years, but when you live in a parish you have a responsibility to support it through the good times and the bad."

Today, these proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren and five step-grandchildren continue their involvement with Ed serving on the Finance Council and Marilyn continuing her involvement in the Women's Club and serving as a money counter. Not surprising, Ed believes money, or the lack thereof, will continue to be St. Louis the King's biggest challenge. He commented, "You can't go to a movie for less than \$7, yet a lot of people throw a dollar or whatever loose change they have in their pockets into the collection basket on Sundays. I understand the church doesn't want to cross that fine line where people think all we care about is money, but the parish has to be able to pay its bills." Marilyn put it this way, "It's a question of how much you value your faith. We could give everything we've got and it wouldn't be enough. You should give from the top because God should be at the top of your priorities. Yes, you have to take care of your family, but you have to take care of God's house too."

Ministry Corner

The Hospitality Committee is a recent addition to the list of ministries available at St. Louis the King. Comprised of Greeters, Ushers and Mentors, each ministry serves in a unique but coordinated way to ensure a welcoming, uplifting Mass experience for all. Greeters welcome parishioners and guests as they enter the church and assist those who arrive after Mass begins to find their seats at an appropriate time so as to limit disruptions. Ushers are responsible for the collection of offerings and ensuring that, after Mass, the offerings are secured. Lastly, mentors act as liaisons for new parishioners and their families, introducing them to other parishioners, answering questions they may have about the parish and encouraging them to get involved in the various ministries offered by the parish. All Hospitality ministries are open to men and women as well as teens. Children can also participate as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Those interested in joining the Hospitality Committee are asked to contact Julie Schaffer through the Parish Office.

Did you know... Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. You have the opportunity to spend time adoring the Eucharistic presence of Jesus each week.

Eucharistic Adoration
Tues—6pm - 7pm
Fri—7:30am - 9:00am

Eucharistic Adoration (Spanish)
last Thursday of the month
7pm - 8pm (in the Church)

Mission Statement of the Stewardship Advisory Council

Leading by example, the Stewardship Advisory Council will guide St. Louis the King Parish as it seeks to adopt a Stewardship way of life. Through education we will help parishioners understand the true meaning of stewardship. We will foster a welcoming, friendly environment that encourages parishioners to identify their passions and talents and to be open to the call of the Holy Spirit. We will provide opportunities for parishioners to use their time, talent and material resources for the betterment of St. Louis the King Parish, the Diocese of Phoenix and our community as a whole. Working in partnership with the Pastor, parish and school staff, the Parish and Finance Councils, and the various other ministries, we will facilitate open communication and assist the parish as a whole in reaching its Strategic Plan Goals.

Shades of Green



We are called to be stewards in every arena of our lives—at work, at home, and at play. We are expected to protect and build up as best we can all that God has entrusted to us. One of the most precious gifts we have been given is the planet on which we live and we are charged not only with protecting it now, but preserving it and its resources for future generations. These simple, almost unnoticeable changes can reduce our carbon footprint on the earth. A side benefit to these changes? They can also save you money.

- Turn off computers when not in use and unplug chargers and appliances for big energy savings! A typical PC consumes about 300 watts and uses that energy whether you are using it or not. If electricity costs 10 cents per kilowatt-hour and you use your computer 4 hours per day, then that 20 hours you are not using your computer represents 60 cents a day or \$219 per year! Many appliances also waste energy in "standby mode" and are vulnerable to damage by power surges. Plug appliances and chargers into a power strip you can turn off when not in use and install motion-sensitive lights inside and out so that lights come on only when needed. In addition to reducing CO2 output by 1,000 pounds per year, these changes protect equipment from power surges and can save as much as \$200 per year on utility bills.
- 56% of energy use is attributable to heating and cooling systems. Resetting thermostats can reduce CO2 by 500 pounds per year! If the thermostat has a timer, set it so that you do not overly heat or cool an empty home. You can save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10°–15° for eight hours a day. If your water heater was made before 2002, save money and 500 pounds of CO2 by wrapping it with insulation.

There is no "away" when it comes to trash and the Earth. 1,200-2,400 pounds of CO2 could be saved by recycling cans, bottles, paper, batteries and electronics. Remember St. Louis the King School recycles plastic bags and has started another program recycling Capri-Sun and Kool-Aid juice packets, Frito Lay snack-sized chip bags and full-sized cookie wrappers. These programs not only help the planet, but provide additional funding for our school.

Trees are Earth's primary defense against global warming. As the "lungs" of the planet, trees convert CO2 into oxygen. An acre of trees can remove up to 2.6 tons of CO2 each year and one tree can convert 2,000 pounds of CO2 into oxygen over its lifetime. Shade trees can also reduce cooling costs by lowering building temperatures up to 20 degrees in the summer. Plant trees for birthdays and special occasions or make Arbor Day a special yearly tree-planting opportunity.

If every American changed one 60-watt incandescent light bulb to a compact fluorescent (CFL), it would reduce as much CO2 as taking 3.5 million cars off the road! CFL's come in many colors and sizes. Dimmable models are also available! These lights last much longer and use 66% less energy so they are cheaper over time. Every 75-watt incandescent changed to an equivalent 20-watt CFL saves 100 lbs of CO2.

Around the Diocese

The TV Mass of the Diocese of Phoenix, which is broadcast live each Sunday from Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix, moved from KUTP Channel 45 (Cable Channel 9) to KAZT-TV (AZ-TV7, Cable 13) on Sunday, April 19. The broadcasts are now 90 minutes long.

*Christ has no body on earth but yours;
Yours are the only hands with which He can do his work,
Yours are the only feet with which He can go about the world,
Yours are the only eyes through which His compassion can
shine forth upon a troubled world.
Christ has no body on earth but yours.
Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*