



Most Holy Redeemer

—Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church—9525 S. Lawndale Ave—Evergreen Park, IL—708.425.5354—mostholyredeemer.org—

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

December, 2016

“Be good for goodness sake.” We will hear these words many times in the coming weeks through numerous renditions of “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town.” A few years ago, I saw those words on a sign on the side of a bus. I thought it was a nice sign and a good reminder, until I took a closer look. The sign had been paid for by an organization that called itself, “Freedom from Religion.” They were urging people to be good not because it is what God asks of us, or even because Santa Claus is watching. They were urging people to be good simply for the sake of being good. That’s a nice thought, but without some higher authority involved, it’s hard to imagine that people would be good for very long. Without a higher authority involved, it would likely just be a matter of time until being “good for goodness” sake wasn’t enough, and baser instincts would take over. “Freedom from Religion” was not only trying to take Christ out of Christmas, but out of public life in general.

In the Church, we are good not for “goodness’ sake,” but because God has been so good to us. Our goodness is a response to the goodness that God has first shown to us. That is what stewardship invites us to do as well. In stewardship, we begin with recognizing the many ways in which God has blessed us and been good to us. Our goodness, our generous sharing of our time, talent, and treasure is a response to God’s goodness to us.

Certainly, at this time of year, we remember that. At Thanksgiving, we take stock of the many blessings we have from God in our lives. We are asked to especially recognize the blessings we often take for granted. We

STEWARDSHIP IS:

The grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

*Catholic Diocese of
Wichita website*

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FAMILIES PICK MOST HOLY REDEEMER GENERATION AFTER GENERATION

Most Holy Redeemer has been celebrating its 75th anniversary since January. To finish off the year, we thought we would tell the stories of families whose roots were planted here when the parish was young and whose members have always demonstrated stewardship.

THE FLYNN | NEARY | CRUDELE FAMILY

In October, 1948, John and Mary Jane Flynn and their two children—daughter Judy and son Reagan—moved into Most Holy Redeemer Parish. At the time, Mary Jane was expecting her third child. In April of 1949, that child, Patrick, was baptized in the white temporary church. Judy made her communion in May at the same church. Pat said he has received five of the seven sacraments here and anticipates receiving number six—the Anointing of the Sick—“someday.”

Today, as the parish celebrates its 75th anniversary, two of those children, Pat and Judy Neary, and one of John and Mary Jane’s grandchildren, Judy Crudele, are active members of the parish.

The Flynns were very involved in their parish. John was an usher at the 11:00 Mass and on the fund raising drives for the buildings that now form MHR. Mary Jane was active in the Altar and Rosary Society. She worked on carnivals and card parties and was an ironing lady—laundering the church vestments.

The Flynn children attended Most Holy Redeemer School. Pat remembered the Sisters of Holy Cross as excellent teachers and caring mentors who left

We picked two families—the Flynns and the O’Reillys—who have third generation members currently in MHR. What we didn’t know when we picked them was how connected they were. The four parents were friends, and all the children went to MHR at about the same time,

a favorable impression. He also felt honored to act as an altar server with Father Briody, Father McGinity, and Father McGurdy.

Judy has special memories of Mrs. Cismoski, her Girl Scout leader and of riding her bike to the Evergreen Park Library where Mrs. Amy Martin was the librarian. She also remembers that after the Plaza opened, she and her friends walked there to get their pictures taken in the photo booth at the dime store.

One of Pat’s most vivid memories was being part of a large crowd watching the demolition of the white temporary church. The building had been knocked down into a pile of rubble. At a predetermined time, it was turned into a giant bonfire. The Evergreen Park Fire Department was on hand to make sure no flying embers destroyed property.

Judy married Hugh Neary in 1972 and settled in the parish. Pat and his wife Colette were married here in 1981 and also returned. Both Judy’s children—Judy and Hugh—and Pat’s—Mary Anne and Katherine—were baptized, made their first communion and were confirmed in the parish just as Judy and Pat were.

Finally, three of the third generation members of the parish—Judy Crudele, Corinne Doran, and Katie Elwood were part of MHR’s first kindergarten class added in the early 80’s.

Both of Mary Jane and John’s children followed their example of service. Judy served on the Women’s Guild and the School Board where she was instrumental in bringing a kindergarten to MHR. She was also a lector and a Eucharistic Minister. Pat has served as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and usher. He has also delivered food to St. Agatha and chaired the Carnival for ten years. He says, “I’ve planted my roots at MHR.”

Speaking about the development of faith at MHR, Judy says “I buried five members of my family from MHR. My faith was formed and nourished at MHR. The priests were always there for me and my children. My son used to call the priests the ‘xchurch guys’.”

Mary Jane and John’s granddaughter, Judy Crudele, is an active member of the parish today. She is involved with the Liturgy Committee/Spiritual Life Commission, a lector, Eucharistic Minister and part of the Giving Team for CRHP 7. She says, “This was an experience that changed my life because it really re-affirmed how much MHR is a part of me; the support and prayers I have received over the years have helped me through some very sad times for me, principally the loss of my brother.”



MHR THROWBACK

This picture shows the court for one of the May Crownings in the early days of Most Holy Redeemer. Three of our current parishoners are part of this photo. Can you find Pat Flynn, Maureen Dombro and Joannell Zawaski?

THE O'REILLY | MURRAY | ZAWASKI FAMILY

When Ed and Mary O'Reilly moved into Most Holy Redeemer in 1950 with their children: Jean, Nancy, Karen, Janet, Joannell and Jim, they didn't envision their great-grandchildren playing in the same house. Yet, that's exactly what happened. Daughters Janet Murray and Joannell Zawaski and four of their children are still active MHR parishoners, and Janet lives in the house where she grew up.

The O'Reillys immediately made friends in the parish and became involved in parish life. Ed was an active member of the Holy Name; Mary was a volunteer and involved with the Altar and Rosary Society, eventually serving as president. Like many other families, the O'Reillys entertained the sisters who came to visit on their porches, but couldn't come in. The exception was Mother Huberta who came for dinner—in a black limo. The children were fascinated with the white fabric on the habit that framed the sisters' faces. They were sure those were their halos.

Janet and Joannell have many pleasant memories of growing up in the parish. They said all the kids walked to and from school in a big group. They

remember going home from school each day for lunch and watching "Uncle Johnny Coons" on TV. Only one of the students couldn't go home for lunch because she had to cross train tracks which was considered too dangerous. She ate lunch with the principal. Other memories include special ceremonies and events especially the outdoor May Crowning, a highlight of May.

Shortly after Joannell married Frank Zawaski and Janet married Bob Murray, they both moved into the parish. Janet and her family moved into their parents' home after they died—Joannell says Janet had to promise to take over all the holiday dinners their parents had hosted in that house. Both of them raised their children here and sent them to MHR. The sisters also followed their parents' lead in sharing time, talent and treasure in the parish. They served as Womens Guild officers, lunch moms, carnival workers, school volunteers, committee members, Athletic Board members and more.

Today, Janet's daughters Corinne Doran and Chris Murray and Joannell's daughters Katie Elwood and Lizzy Zawaski are also residents of the

parish. All four are active, taking part in events and volunteering. Corinne served as Womens Guild president a few years ago, and Katie has been a School of Religion teacher for a number of years. Four Doran children and four Elwood children are also growing up in the parish ready to take their place in parish history.

Janet and Joannell are happy with their almost life-long residence in the parish. They are impressed with the young people willing to take over the roles of those who went before them. They are also both very overwhelmed with the kindness and compassion shown by parish residents when both their families faced adversity. Recently, Joannell's granddaughter faced a serious illness lasting several months and Janet's husband passed away. In both cases, neighbors, friends and people they barely knew showered them with food, prayers and kindness emphasizing for them the compassion and willingness to share which is such an important part of MHR and the reason why many families stay for generations.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY OFFERS WARM WELCOME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

People, look east. The time is near

Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way.

(Verse 1, From the Hymn
"People, Look East")

"People, Look East" is one of my favorite hymns for the Advent season (Check out all five verses in your "Breaking Bread" hymnal the next time you're at Mass to tell the Advent and Christmas Story).

"Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table" to get ready for the guest, Love, also known as Jesus.

Isn't that what we do this time of year? Prepare for guests and parties, or perhaps we are guests ourselves? We brighten our homes, prepare some tasty treats, and then open our doors to friends, family and strangers alike. This is truly the time of Hospitality.

And thanks to the MHR Hospitality Committee on Hospitality Sundays, this song is in my head, during Advent and any other time of the year!

The best place in the world to be on a Sunday morning, in addition to Mass, is the church vestibule after Mass. Friends and families hugging and chatting, kids playing and laughing. If the weather is nice, the camaraderie spills outside. And if it's Hospitality Sunday? Everyone may linger until the next Mass starts!

When my kids were little, the thought of Hospitality Sunday, or "donut day!" would have them wriggling in the pew after Communion. These days, Hospitality Sunday is so much more than just donuts! Have you seen it? Handmade sweets, freshly brewed coffee, seasonal table trimmings and smiling faces greet us all.

Kathy Shannon with Donna Delaney and the other members of the Hospitality Committee create a beautiful setting and warm atmosphere. These Hospitality ministers graciously share their time and talent with our parish! Their Sunday mornings showcase their service for certain, but they have

also put in a great deal of time and talent before Sunday dawns to plan and prepare their fabulous baked goods.

The Hospitality Committee is graciously led by Kathy Shannon, and when I had the pleasure of interviewing her about this ministry, she said "I just love it!" To be a part of our parish, to welcome everyone and share time and gifts with our parishioners! And this message is conveyed in every interaction and event the Hospitality Committee offers!

The Hospitality Committee members' warmth and welcome have spread further than just the church vestibule on Sunday, too! They are often asked to share their time and talent at parish events and receptions, to greet and treat parishioners and guests alike! For example, I had the pleasure of working with Kathy Shannon and the Hospitality Committee members as we welcomed the School of Religion students and families back to a new SOR year in September.

By Colleen Klimczak

HOW DO I JOIN?

If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful ministry, please consider contacting the Parish Rectory at 708.425.5354, or Kathy Shannon directly at Kathy.Shannon@me.com.



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness, but aware
that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten
our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know your
will, to make it our own, and to live it in
our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us
by your power, for you are God,
sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights
of others; do not allow us to be misled
by ignorance or corrupted by
fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name, may
we temper justice with love, so that
all our words and deeds may be
pleasing to you, and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful stewards.

We ask this of You who live and reign with
the Father and the Son, one God, forever
and ever.

Amen.

Adapted from a Prayer of the Second Vatican Council
and contributed by Barbara Dowding, Archdiocese of
Vancouver, Canada

MHR CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY ON DECEMBER 3

Champagne toasts at the stroke of midnight in Briody Hall kicked off the anniversary year on the first day of 2016. Since then, there have been any number of events commemorating the 75th anniversary of Most Holy Redeemer Parish which had its beginnings in a temporary white church on what is now the parking lot.

The Anniversary Committee planned and hosted a reunion, renewal of wedding vows, a heritage Mass, and much more. Family banners were hung throughout the neighborhood, pictures were taken for a commemorative directory, and each time we entered the church we were reminded with oversized banners that the parish was “Rooted in Faith” and “United in Love.” Now, as the year draws to an end, the final gala celebration will take place on December 3.

The anniversary commemoration will start in the church with a Mass at 4:30 p.m. celebrated by Cardinal Blase Cupich. This will be his first visit to Most Holy Redeemer since he arrived in Chicago. The next part of the revelry will take place at the Oak Lawn Hilton starting with cocktails at 7 p.m. This will be a perfect opportunity for parishioners old and new to share stories and anecdotes about their days in MHR. An elegant dinner will follow at 8 p.m., and dancing will continue until midnight to the music of a seven-piece band. Reflecting the generosity of the parish and its many organizations, the Women’s Guild and Men’s Club are making a donation to defer the cost of the music. All those in attendance are sure to enjoy this gala.

Don’t miss this chance to be part of the parish’s history as it looks toward its future.

ROOTED IN FAITH, UNITED IN LOVE

• THE CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA •

conducted by **RICH DANIELS**



**CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA CONCERT
DECEMBER 11, 2016 | 7:00PM**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: A FRUITFUL TIME FOR THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Probably nothing challenges a Christian steward's use of time as much as the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Each year, we marvel at the irony of it: a time to honor and ponder God's great mystery, the Incarnation, somehow falls prey to a time of stressful shopping, endless "to do" lists, strained checkbooks, and guilt over what's not getting done. Sometimes those non-stop Christmas tunes begin to grate on our senses. How does the Christian steward answer this challenge to devote time to reflection and prayer while incorporating the best and most fruitful of our cultural traditions into this festive season? One suggestion would be to set aside a special time

of reflection right at the beginning of Advent for determining what our priorities for the season will be. Set aside an hour and begin by rereading the Christmas story in the Gospel of Saint Luke. Ask God to help you know what is the most generous and beneficial use of time in God's service during this season. Ask for help in setting aside time for prayer each day. Don't be afraid to cross things off your "must do" list if they add stress to what should be a peaceful time. Only you and God can determine the best use of your time. For instance, some people find annual Christmas cookie baking a reflective, creative time and a wonderful way to share. For others, it's a self-imposed burden

and a sure-fire way to a messy kitchen and a calorie overload. Likewise, that extra party may be just what someone needs to unwind and commune with friends while for another it may be the gateway to exhaustion or a temptation to overindulge in food or drink. Ask God which traditions are life-giving for you, and be bold enough to leave the others behind. "I just don't have time," is the frequent lament of the holiday season. But the Christian steward is aware that we all have the same amount of time, and to each is given an opportunity of returning the first fruits of that time back to God. The season of Advent offers just such a grace-filled opportunity.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time
December 3rd	75th Anniversary Gala	Mass at 4:30 p.m. Dinner Dance at 7 p.m.
December 11th	City Lights Orchestra Concert	7:00 p.m.
December 20th	Parish Reconciliation	7:30 p.m.
December 24th	Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. Family Mass 6:00 p.m. Mass 10:00 p.m. Mass
December 25th	Christmas Day	8:00 a.m. Mass 9:30 a.m. Mass 11:00 a.m. Mass
January 28th	Parish Appreciation Dinner	6:00 p.m.
January 29th	Catholic School's Week Mass	9:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS

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The Stewardship Committee wishes you a very safe, happy, and holy Christmas season filled with God's love.

Merry
Christmas!

STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

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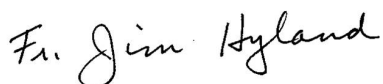
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are asked to see things in a new way, to see that things we may not at first consider to be blessings in our lives really are. At Christmas, we also remember God's love and goodness in sending us His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. The goodness begins with God. We respond to God's goodness through our generous sharing.

When the Christmas holidays come to an end, you may at times hear someone lamenting, "It's too bad that Christmas is over so soon." I don't think they're sad that all the rushing around and the headaches of decorating and buying gifts and standing in line at the post office and somehow paying for everything is over. What they miss is the fact that at Christmas, maybe our faith is a little more evident in our lives. What they miss is the fact that people are more generous at Christmas and more willing to help others. If you ever wish these aspects of Christmas lasted a little longer, maybe you should resolve to practice stewardship to a greater degree in the coming year. Recognizing God's goodness to us and giving back generously of our time, talent, and treasure will help us to keep alive those aspects of Christmas that we wish would last longer.

On behalf of all the priests and staff here at Most Holy Redeemer, we wish you and yours a very holy and happy Christmas celebration, and a new year filled with God's blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our parishioners!

In Christ,



Fr. Jim Hyland, Pastor