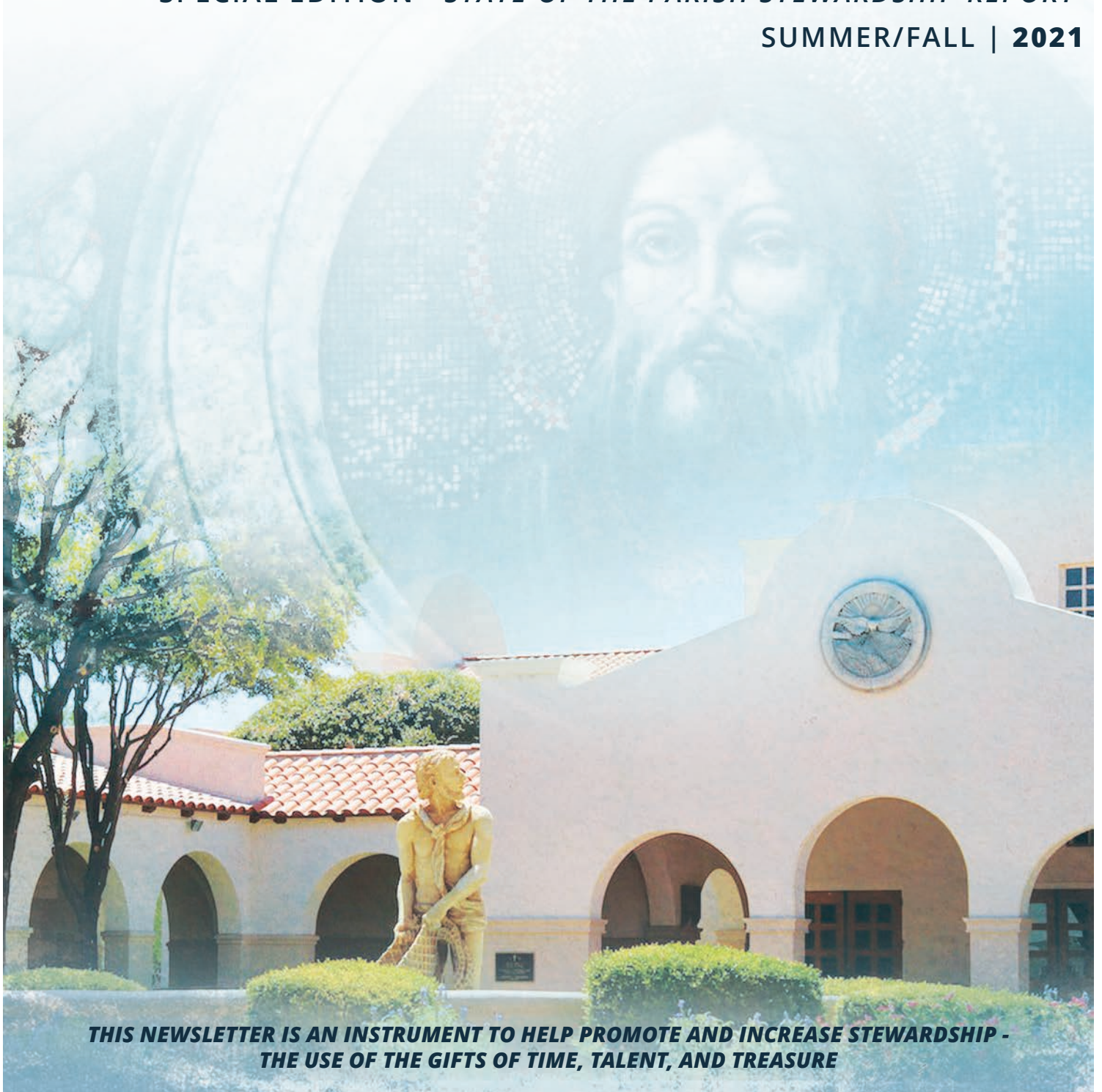




**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**

# “GOOD NEWS”

SPECIAL EDITION - STATE OF THE PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT  
SUMMER/FALL | 2021



***THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN INSTRUMENT TO HELP PROMOTE AND INCREASE STEWARDSHIP -  
THE USE OF THE GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE***

# SOUL OF CHRIST



## *ANIMA CHRISTI*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.  
Separated from you, let me never be.  
From the evil one defend me.  
At the hour of death, call me.  
And close to you bid me;  
That with your saints I may be,  
Praising you forever and ever.  
Amen.

# STATE OF THE PARISH

## SUMMARY AT A GLANCE

Total Registered Parishioners:	<b>3,919</b>
Active Parishioners who regularly contributed:	<b>1,042</b>
Budgeted Total Revenue 2020/2021:	<b>\$1,862,093.92</b>
Total Revenue Contributed 2020/2021:	<b>\$1,775,756.07</b>
Shortfall:	<b>\$. 86,337.85</b>
Budgeted Plate Revenue:	<b>\$1,348,000.00</b>
Total PLATE Revenue Collected:	<b>\$1,275,988.79</b>
Shortfall:	<b>\$. 72,011.21</b>
Number of Active Volunteers:	<b>Over 200</b>
Number of Ministries:	<b>Fifty</b>



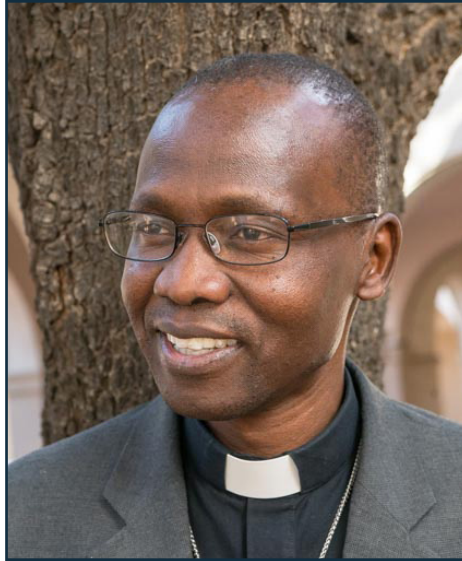
# STATE OF THE PARISH - PREAMBLE

***Sixth State of the Parish  
Stewardship Report - July 2021  
by Fr. Robert Seraph Aliunzi, AJ***

Dear Friends and Fellow Pilgrims on the Journey towards Holiness and Heaven.

It has been a year since I gave you my fifth State of the Parish Address amidst the heat of the Coronavirus pandemic. Since then, the Lord has blessed us in amazing ways despite the global challenges imposed upon us by this pandemic. Even though the challenges are far from over, I am very excited to share with you some of those blessings our parish received during this period and our plans for the future. But first, let me begin by expressing my very deep and sincere condolences to some of our families who since then have lost a beloved one either due to COVID or natural causes. Please, join me in observing a moment of silence in prayer for them.

Other casualties of the pandemic our community of faith may have experienced included, for some of us, broken relationships and families, loss of jobs, loss of income, mental health issues and other illnesses, crisis of faith, disillusion with our government



and Church leadership and so forth. For all of these, I want to assure you that my heart goes out to you. You are not alone. Together with our collective and personal trust in God, be confident that, we shall overcome.

One of the greatest blessings we enjoyed despite the pandemic this past seventeen months, is that our Church was never closed to the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments despite the restrictions in the beginning on the number of in-person attendance and the imposition of other safety measures. We adhered prudently to the directives of our diocese as well as the health department and,

state and federal government in order to provide a safer environment for you to worship in here at our Church. Indeed, we were measured in our approach and thank God as a result, I did not receive any single report of anyone who got the COVID because of coming to our Church.

As I address you today about the state of our parish, I am happy to report to you that a lot has changed for the better. In confirmation of this, Bishop Olmsted has already lifted the dispensation that made it "optional" to attend Sunday and Holidays of obligation Masses effective July 1, 2021. The Bishop, like many of us, believes that given the current status of the pandemic and the availability of the vaccine, it is appropriate for the Church to take safe and sensible steps forward in our approach to Mass and the Eucharist. He lays out details of the Importance of the Eucharist for our Christian life in his great apostolic exhortation ***Veneremur Cernui***, which I encourage you all to read. In fact, for that reason, for the next coming months, our focus will continue to be on the Eucharist, and we shall continue to reflect deeper on this apostolic exhortation and on the Eucharist.

## SYNOPSIS OF THE ADDRESS

Now allow me to share with you just a synopsis of the amazing things that the Lord has been doing in our parish this past year. I will do this under the following broad themes:

- i. Religious Education, Faith and Spiritual Formation***
- ii. Sacramental Celebrations***
- iii. Liturgy***
- iv. Finance***
- v. Communications and Marketing***
- vi. Ministries***
- vii. Conclusion***

# RELIGIOUS ED, FAITH, AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Religious education will be considered under three broad categories: Children's Religious Education, Life-teen and RCIA.

## **a) Children's Religious Education**

Like most of the other programs Fr. Teilo and his very talented Catechists conducted classes entirely virtually in the beginning of the pandemic but then opened up to in-person options once the COVID situation improved. They did an amazing job of keeping our children not only engaged but also gave them solid formation in their faith and the sacraments. We have developed a very comprehensive catechetical curriculum for our Religious Education Program that covers the different levels of our children from kindergarten to EDGE before transitioning them to the life teen program for further age-appropriate faith formation. We shall share more on this curriculum in a separate article.

In the Children's Religious Education category, we had a total of 318 children. Of these, 90 received their first Holy Communion (87) and Confirmations (90) in the month of May 2021. These are categorized as follows:

- Traditional Religious Education had 1-5th Grade had a total of 192
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd had 65 children
- Special Needs Religious Education had 4 children
- Edge (Middle School) had 57

## **b) Life Teen**

Our Life Teen program was run by our very dynamic director Robert Corwin and his very dedicated core-team members. In the midst of the pandemic, our Life Teen ministry served our teens in many ways. Beginning in March of 2020, when our parishes were asked to eliminate in-person offerings, we immediately moved our Life Nights online. Over the course of two months, our incredible Core team ministered online regularly and remained available to our youth. Over the summer, our Core Team planned a completely new model of ministry to ensure our teens and families were supported and guided during the uncertainty of youth ministry in the COVID age. We offered series for our teens that addressed race, our role in the public square, the human emotions of Jesus, and many other important topics. This year, we served over 75 registered teens between in-person and online Life Nights. In fact, every single Life Night this past year was offered in-person and online, this was very important to us so as to make sure we met our families where they were and journeyed with them. Under the direction of our new Youth Minister, Kristen Hew, we are excited to see our ministry grow and develop even further!

## **c) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Under the coordination of Kim Doyle, our RCIA program was run like a well-oiled machine with regular classes conducted both virtually and in-person when this possibility opened up during the

pandemic lock-down restrictions.

Our RCIA candidates of this period were perhaps one of the most on fire and solid Catholics we have "produced" despite the pandemic atmosphere under which they were formed. They labored, adapted and persevered to learn the faith through the various methods of catechesis Kim and her Catechists had constantly to devise in order to beat the challenges posed by the COVID 19. Out of the total number of candidates who began their preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, we were blessed with 30 who received them.

## **d) Adult Faith and Spiritual Formation:**

In order to keep our adult community continually engaged in their faith and spiritual growth, and in keeping with one of our 5-year strategic goals, we designed practical strategies to serve our people. Under the coordination of Barb Lishko and my direction, we carried out the following faith formation activities even during the COVID:

**i. Journey Towards Holiness Campaign:** This campaign was first launched during the Advent Season (November-December period) in preparation for the birth of Christ. During this time, we had weekly Flocknote reflections two times a week on various aspects of advent. Fr. Robert's Candid Monday Video messages and other opportunities were created for parishioners to share their faith experiences on this faith Journey Towards Holiness. This

## R.E., FAITH, AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION (CONT.)

culminated in a very successful Advent Mission animated by Mark Hart, an inspirational and humorous speaker, vice-president of life teen and best-selling author of several books.

**ii. Journey Towards Holiness Campaign: Focus on the Cross and the Resurrection.** This was a Lenten campaign that ran from Ash Wednesday in February to April 2021. Again, this campaign had very educative weekly Flocknote reflections, Sessions of the "No Greater Love" series hosted by Kim Doyle (both virtual and in person) and other activities similar to the Advent campaign. The culminating point of the campaign was our Lenten Mission conducted by the charismatic evangelist and ex-sheff Jesse Romero.

**iii. Journey Towards Holiness: Focus on Mary and the Eucharist Campaign.** This campaign offered us a unique opportunity to discover more about our mother Mary and

her divine son who has offered himself for us in the Holy Eucharist. In addition to our weekly Flock note catechesis on Mary and the Eucharist, we also included regular classes based on Fr. Michael Gaitley's reflections on Marian Consecration, facilitated by Margie Kesler on Mondays and Tuesdays. During the entire month of Mary, we had Mary Crowning at all the weekend Masses in honor of our Mother Mary. And finally, during the second part of our Journey Towards Holiness, our focus shifted to the Eucharist with the timely release of Bishop Olmsted's wonderful apostolic exhortation **Veneremur Cernui**. We continue to encourage deeper reflections on this letter throughout the remaining part of the year. We have also since then continued to provide more opportunities for adoration and also introduced a specific adoration hour for our kids under the code-name **Jammies and Jesus** during which our children

lead their families in saying the rosary in front of the exposed blessed sacrament and end with benediction once a month during summer. This has been very successful so far attracting families from around the valley. We shall continue providing more opportunities for adoration throughout the remaining part of the year leading eventually to perpetual adoration here in our parish.

### **e) Marriage**

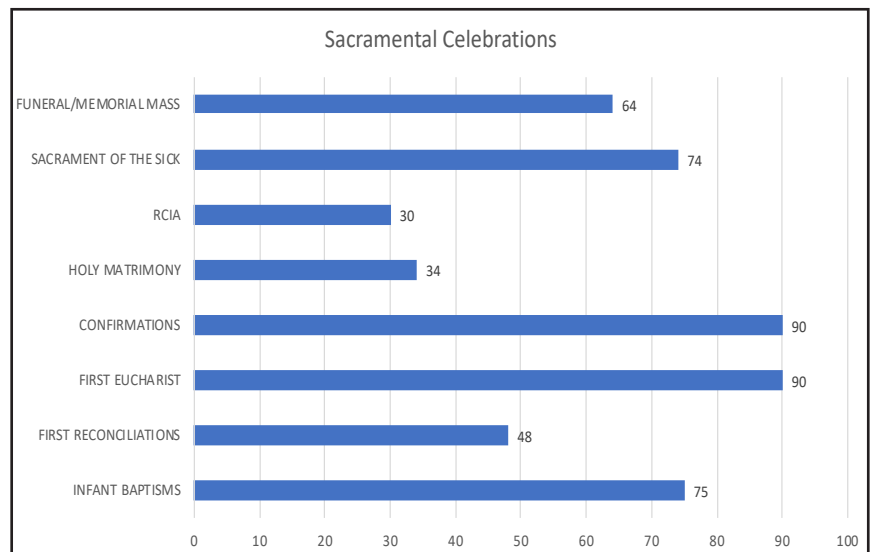
This ministry is coordinated by Barb Lishko and Ramsey Echeverria. During this past year, despite the pandemic, we have been working with 23 couples preparing for their sacrament in addition to having also 21 active cases of annulments being pursued with the tribunal by Davida Graham our annulments coordinator.

Up to June 30th, we have had 34 weddings this fiscal year and 7 con-validations.

## SACRAMENTAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE (CONT.)

Despite the pandemic, we had uninterrupted celebrations of the sacraments, some more than others as follows:

- First Reconciliation - **48**
- Confirmation/1st Eucharist - **90**
- Sacrament of Holy Matrimony - **34**
- Infant Baptisms - **75**
- Sacraments of the sick - **74**
- Funerals - **64**
- Reconciliation - **334**
- RCIA - **30**



# LITURGY

Liturgy is the bedrock of our faith and worship. Of all the activities maintained throughout the pandemic, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist remained the single most desired and dearly missed sacrament by many. That is why when some restrictions were imposed on the numbers that could attend Mass in public initially, there was widespread dissatisfaction and distress among many Christians. However, despite the said restrictions, we had 173 volunteers and ministries who at different times kept our liturgy alive and vibrant till now. They include the following:

	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Current Active Ministers</b>	<b>Inactive Ministers</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours/Month</b>	<b>Training Hours</b>
1	Altar Linens	1	0	4-6	1.5
2	Altar Servers	16	21	1-6	2+ Shadowing
3	Art & Environment	6	0	Seasonal	Ongoing
4	EMHC's	56	63	1-4	6
5	Lectors	45	23	1-4	6
6	Ushers	40	56	1-4	Shadowing 1 Month
7	Video Projection	8	9	1-2	1.5 + Shadowing 1 Month

## Music

Despite the highly scaled down liturgical celebration of the Mass, we kept our choir members connected mostly for emotional and spiritual support. Few of the regular choir members for both the 10:00am and 2:00pm live-streamed Masses continued to assist Anjanette Indelicato our music director and Dan Ballinger at those Masses. They all did a fantastic job.

Currently there are two ministries in this department namely, Music and Sound of which:

- i. There are 64 Adults: 40 Kids as of last children's choir total
- ii. Volunteer hours among the Adult Singers typically range from 3-4 hours per week

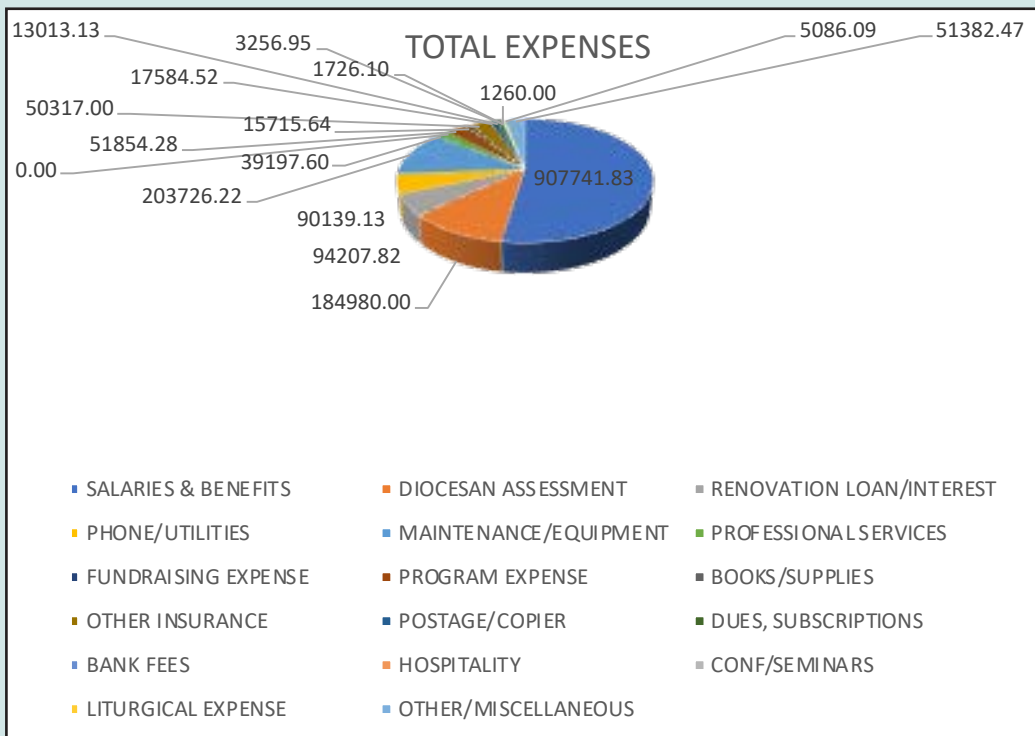
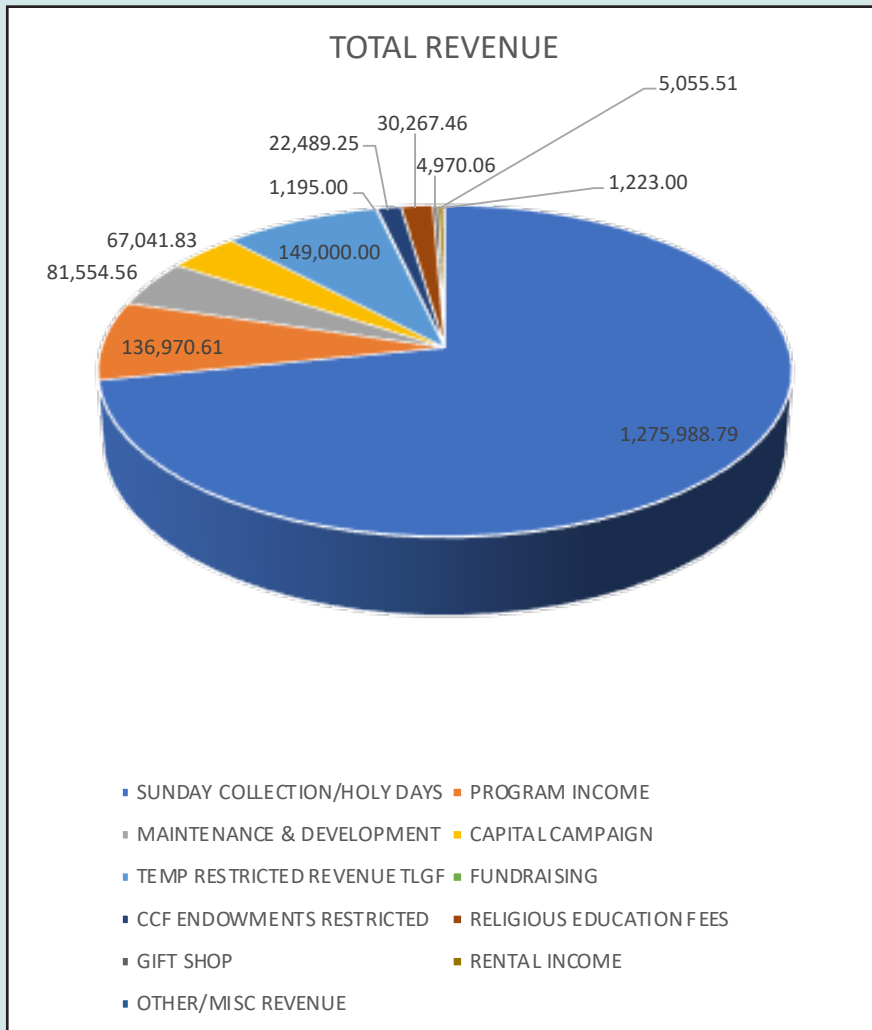
# FINANCES

Like most parishes and other businesses, our own parish was also greatly impacted financially by the pandemic. Our income dropped by nearly 60%. Of our 3,919 registered parishioner, only 26% financially supported our parish which might have greatly accounted for this drop in revenue percentage. As I pointed out in the summary at the beginning of this address:

a)	Our total number of Registered Parishioners:	3,919
b)	Our active Parishioners who regularly contributed:	1,042
c)	Our Budgeted Total Revenue:	\$1,862,093.92
d)	Total Revenue Contributed 2020/2021:	\$1,775,756.07
	<b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$. 86,337.85</b>
e)	Our Budgeted <b>PLATE</b> Revenue	\$1,348,000.00
f)	Total <b>PLATE</b> Revenue Collected	\$1,275,988.79
	<b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>\$. 72,011.21</b>

Below is the graphic representation of our Income and Expenditure for the financial year

# FINANCES (CONT.)





## FINANCES (CONT.)

I would like to thank you all but most of all those 1,042 active parishioners who sustained our parish during those most challenging moments of the pandemic. The challenges are not yet over and as we are fully beginning to re-open all of our ministries to serve you, our need for your financial support remains very critical. For those of you who have not made any financial contributions during this past year or made very irregular or minimal contributions, I encourage you to consider at least resuming doing so because tithing is not only a biblical but also an important part of worship. If

only those of you who make up the 2,877 who did not tithe at all would consider making a weekly contribution of just 2-5 dollars, we will be in position to cover some of our shortfall and revive all our ministries. Also, we encourage you to sign up for recurring online giving which is now available to you. If you have challenges, please contact Mary Pacheco our accountant at: [finance@standrewchandler.com](mailto:finance@standrewchandler.com) or just call the parish office 480 899 1990 ext. 103. Again, I am so grateful for your continued support to our parish.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The role of communication over the course of this past year was one of the most important aspects of our mission at St. Andrew. From the onset of the Pandemic, our communications department made it our mission to keep the parish informed, while helping plan, develop, and execute measured precautions and offerings. Our mission was to ensure our community was engaged and supported throughout the uncertainty we all faced. We immediately offered Live Stream Masses and even upgraded our system to include state-of-the-art equipment and sound systems so that we could reach as many of you and as clearly as possible. We instituted Monday Candid Messages of Hope through which I tried to update and encourage

the parish in the most transparent way. This also included interviewing parishioners and staff so we could all stay connected into the life of the Church. Our Friday Flash was completely revamped and updated and became a place for us to be in almost constant communication with you all. In addition, our use of Flocknote also became an integral mode of communication for many of our other ministries. We made sure that all of our decisions took into account the whole of our parish, not just a few. We launched a task force and parish surveys to gauge the place that everyone was at so we could communicate with the parish and serve you better and more effectively.

## MINISTRIES

Our parish is perhaps one of the most active ones in the diocese of phoenix served by highly talented staff, councils and ministries which remained so even during the pandemic. Before the COVID we had over fifty active ministries in total served by over three hundred staff and volunteers. However, due to the pandemic, most of these eventually became inactive due to the restrictions on public gathering. As we have opened up officially for many activities in our Church, we are in the process of evaluating which ministries are still relevant and needed and which ones are not. I will offer details on each one of these separately in future articles. For now, allow me to just introduce to you members of our staff and councils so that you can reach them if you need to do so.

### I. Staff

- i. Fr. Robert Seraph Aliunzi AJ - PASTOR
- ii. Fr. Teilo Lwande Mukani, AJ - Associate Pastor (Director of Religious Education)
- iii. Fr. Edward Shefre Urassa AJ - Associate Pastor (General Spiritual Director)
- iv. Florence Slattery - Business Manager/HR/ Coordinator of Caring Ministries)
- v. Jennifer Thompson - Executive Assistant to the Pastor/Front Desk Receptionist
- vi. Carol Fuizzotti - Director of Liturgy
- vii. Anjanette Indelicato - Director of Music



# MINISTRIES (CONT.)

- viii. Mary Pacheco – Accountant/Data base Administrator/Safe Environment Coordinator
- ix. Barb Lishko – Marriage Ministries/Adult Faith Formation Coordinator
- x. Ramsey Echeverria – Co-Coordinator of Marriage Ministries
- xi. Kim Doyle – Coordinator of RCIA/Special Needs Religious Education
- xii. Kristen Hew – Life Teen/Young Adult Coordinator
- xiii. Davida Graham – Annulment/Special Events and Facility Rental Coordinator
- xiv. Selina Nunez – Coordinator of Communications and Marketing
- xv. Yvette Meyer – Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- xvi. Rene – Maintenance and Facilities supervisor
- xvii. Pat Kosis – Coordinator of Funeral Ministry
- xviii. Eneida Scoby – Administrative Assistant to RE department
- xix. Luis Enrique – Senior Maintenance and Facilities Assistant (Part-time)
- xx. Arnulfo Ruiz – Maintenance and Facilities Assistant
- xxi. Michelle Gonzales - Gift Store manager
- xxii. Michelle Lorenzana - Counselor

## II. Deacons

- i. Mark Lishko – Coordinator of Altar Servers
- ii. Ramon “Chito” Zamora – Adoration Animation Team Member
- iii. Ernie Garcia (Retired) – Facilitator of Bereavement Support Group
- iv. Don Crawford – Coordinator of the Deacons Schedule

## III. Parish Pastoral Council

- i. Mike Threadgill, Chair
- ii. Dr. Glenn Watercotte, Secretary
- iii. Elizabeth Bender
- iv. Martin Clarke

- v. Aarthi D’Souza
- vi. Angelica Hernandez
- vii. Michelle B. Kash, Stewardship council Liaison
- viii. Rodney Miller
- ix. John Scheidt

## IV. Finance Council

- i. Jim Probst - Chair
- ii. Syd Winter – Vice Chair
- iii. Tina Bork – Secretary
- iv. Dn. Mark Lishko
- v. Eugene Okonkwo
- vi. Patrick Foley
- vii. Justin Woitas
- viii. Mary Pacheco (Ex-officio)

## V. Stewardship Council

- i. Gerry Lee, Chair
- ii. Alan Lynch
- iii. Charlie Johnson
- iv. Michelle B. Kash, Parish Council Liaison
- v. Matthew Meehan
- vi. Serge Tabaro
- vii. Mark Brodnick
- viii. Kristin Golden



# CONCLUSION

As we have opened our parish fully to liturgy, Sacraments and to all Ministries, we are looking forward to getting back to full capacity in the weeks and months to come. Led by the Pastoral council and supported by the staff, the stewardship Council, Finance Council and Ministry Leaders, we are planning a series of activities not only to get our parish back but also to strengthen the sense of community for which our parish has been known. The big planning meeting for these activities will be held by this team on August 7, 2021. Among the community builders that we are either going to resume or begin will include, among others, our pancake breakfasts, Doughnuts, Monthly Pasta with Pastor (to meet with your priests). However, the biggest event to take note of will be the Parish Fall Festival on October 17. This will be the grand re-opening of our parish to welcome back our parishioners. At this celebration, we shall begin with a special Mass at 2.00pm in commemoration of all our parishioners who died due to or during this COVID pandemic. The Mass will be followed soon after, by a picnic, food and lots of fun till into the night.

We are also going to continue strengthening our Adult Faith Formation by offering you very spiritually uplifting events driven

by our focus on the Eucharist. We shall have increased adoration opportunities, talks and parish missions in Advent and Lent next year in addition to the regular classes conducted by Margie's Marian Missionaries of the Divine Mercy. Note that on the weekend Adoration of September 10-11, we have also designed a special event which will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Holy spirit complete with confessions and a Healing Mass.

Under the Religious Education portfolio, we have created a dynamic synergy, through a ten-year strategic plan, between the Children's Religious Education, EDGE and Life teen in order to build a seamless transition in their faith formation. The specific vision for this strategy is to produce a vibrant well-formed cadre of Catholics right from preschool all the way through old age ready for ministry in our Church.

Finally, as we look to the 2021-2022 Youth Ministry year, our very dynamic Life Teen and Young Adult Coordinator, Kristen Hew, has much in store for us in that department. In addition to activities for the Teens and Young Adults, Kristen has also included something for Parents. For the moment we will be continuing our Life Teen program on Sunday afternoons following the Holy Mass at 2:00 p.m. We

shall be utilizing the Search Program designed by Augustine Institute which truly brings into perspective the way we answer life's big questions through the lens of the Catholic Faith. Then we have the Young Adults Ministry known as YAWAY (Young Adult Way) which will be hosted primarily on Saturdays following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Guided primarily by the Holy Spirit, this ministry will seek to unite Young Adults of all ages, from 18-35 in the Catholic Faith. And just as we cater for the teens and the young adults, supporting our parents is just as real and as important. To support them, we are establishing a program that seeks to aid our parents in diving deeper into their faith, seeing how our faith applies to the various scenarios we face in raising our teens, and to build community among our parents. This program will meet one Sunday a month at the same time that Life Teen and EDGE are occurring.

So, as you can see and indeed as I maintained throughout the pandemic period in my messages, we are emerging as a new and stronger St. Andrew Parish with new needs and priorities which I am confident, we are equipped to address. Please, join us in this journey so that we can continue to rebuild our parish together for the better. St. Andrew, pray for us.



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE - JOE SCHMIDT

*Joe Schmidt - Serving God and Our Parish*

by Susan Zeck

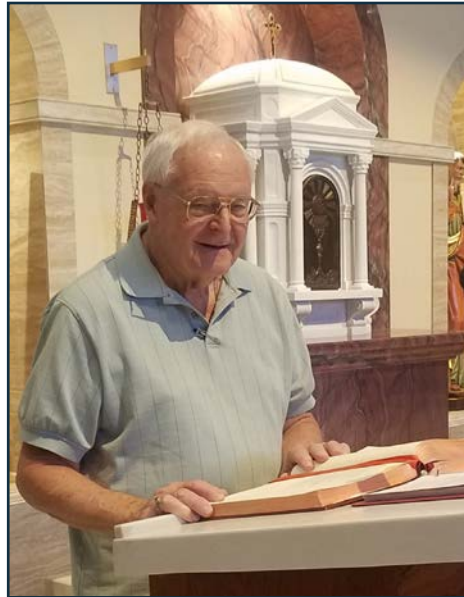
If you ask Joe Schmidt how to experience a real sense of belonging to your Church, he will tell that you have to reach out and make the effort to get involved. That is what he told his brother who once complained that no one in his own parish knew his name, and that is what Joe has absolutely done over the past 28 years here at St. Andrew the Apostle. He could easily say that his Church is his life!

Joe moved here with his family from Denver, Colorado in 1978. He joined St. Andrew in 1993 and immediately began volunteering as an usher. He kept that job until he turned 80, saying, "by then, it was too much standing!" He served the Church in many capacities over the years and now, at 82, he is still involved in several other ministries.

This year is his twenty-fifth year with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) either as a sponsor or a team leader. He is proud to say that through the grace of the Holy Spirit he has actually brought two people to Christ. He truly believes that the Holy Spirit inspires him as to what to say and when to say it, and that sometimes surprises him.

Deacon Ernie Garcia is glad to have Joe involved with the Seasons of Hope Bereavement Support Group, which provides ongoing faith-based grief support for those who have lost a loved one. Joe knows about personal loss, which enables him to share deeply with sincere empathy and genuine concern. He has helped others who get stuck in their own grief and pain because he can relate.

Tragically, Joe lost his 18-year-old (only) daughter in a car accident 40 years ago. He has been widowed since 2010, when his wife of 40 years died after suffering from chronic back pain for many years. He faced more sorrow when his 23-year-



old (only) granddaughter died from pancreatic cancer six years ago, just six months after her diagnosis. He still misses them all and looks forward to reuniting with them. Of course, he anticipates seeing the face of Jesus, but he very much wants to see their faces again too. He and his son share their losses and support each other.

You can see Joe as an Altar Server every Wednesday evening during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the close of Adoration. He had to become acquainted with the workings of the thurible and incense boat. Someone once asked him if there was an age limit to being an altar boy? He smiled and said that he knew of none. He visits with Jesus during Adoration beforehand.

Joe loves speaking the Word of God as a Lector. He attends Kevin Saunders weekly Bible study class and believes the knowledge he gains enriches his proclamation of the Scriptures. Kevin teaches through the entire Bible in seven years. Joe says, "I'm in the fourth year now and if I can live that long, I'll finish it!" He also attends another weekly Bible study with friends from the parish.

Being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is worrisome

for Joe because he does not feel worthy to distribute the Body of Christ, but since he is trained, he will oblige if an urgent need exists. He will also take Communion to a person in a hospital in special circumstances.

Joe attends daily Mass and prays the Rosary with the congregation before the Mass, leading the prayers if needed. He also prays the Rosary regularly with the Respect Life Ministry in front of Planned Parenthood on Baseline Road in Tempe. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 39 years but is not currently active in any of their programs. The E-3 Africa organization interested him and he helps by donating and praying. He also participates in the Journey Towards Holiness campaign. Joe is very approachable and helps with other campus activities wherever needed.

His work history includes 52 years in the grocery business, primarily as a manager and a buyer, before retiring for the second and final time in 2007. He is grateful that he has his health and is able to travel. In 2008, he was fortunate to be able to visit his family's hometown in Munstereifel, Germany. He was elated, "to walk on the same streets as my mother did!" He hopes to get to Rome for a fourth visit and would like to see the Pope this time.

With the lifting of the dispensation in July, Joe hopes all the people will come back to Church. His message to everyone is, "Come back to Mass, to the Eucharist and pray every day!" His own life is full of prayerful activities, and he hopes to get to heaven and be a saint. He has many good stories to tell about his life's journey that show what a kind, sincere, and humble man of faith he is. St. Andrew is blessed to have had him serve here for all these years.



# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Eucharistic Adoration at St. Andrew*

by Susan Zeck

*Adoro te Devote, Latens Dietas.  
(Humbly I adore you, O hidden  
Diety.)*

St. Thomas Aquinas (Latin)

Jesus is waiting for us in His sacramental form as the Host in the luna of the monstrance on the altar in the church. We have the chance to be with Him and adore Him every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm with Benediction following.

Have you accepted the invitation? Our Church is excitedly encouraging us to visit Jesus more often by increasing the availability of Adoration hours. We can take advantage of these opportunities to experience more intimate prayer time with Our Lord.

A Eucharistic team was formed at St. Andrew a few years ago with the goal of instituting Perpetual Adoration here (24 hours a day). The library was vacated and turned into an Adoration Chapel and how-to discussions continued, but plans got delayed and then there was COVID. The team was called back to revisit the planning strategy this year with a new goal to have Perpetual Adoration in place sometime in 2022.

In preparation, two additional days of Eucharistic Adoration have been added to one weekend of each month this summer. The next extra days are scheduled for August 13 and 14. Adoration opening liturgy begins after the morning Mass and closes with Benediction at the end of "Jammies and Jesus" on Friday the 13th and before the 5:00



pm Saturday Mass on Saturday the 14th. Then, there will be an overnighter on September 10 to 11.

Beginning in October, there will be continuous Adoration opportunities on first Fridays and first Saturdays of the month. Watch for more information in the parish communications and for Holy Hour sign-up sheets in the narthex after Masses. Adoration is held in the Church or the Chapel and sometimes in Hennessy Hall, look for the signs.

"Jammies and Jesus" is an hour set aside for young children to learn about Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Ages 1-7 can wear pajamas. It begins at 6:00 pm and ends with Benediction at about 6:45 pm. According to Father Robert's letter, there were more than 60 children and their families in attendance for first session in June. He said the children were "in awe of the Blessed Sacrament," as he talked to them about adoring Jesus. Barb Lishko gave a lesson on how to pray the Rosary and the children led the recitation. They were very receptive and it will be fun to see how involvement

progresses. There are plans to add music and confession. My two-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter loves to go to Benediction and "sing to Jesus." She has even memorized Tantum Ergo! Exposing young children to this Liturgy enhances their religious education and their love for Jesus; it is a great way to start their own faith journeys.

Bishop Olmsted dedicated Part Three of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Veneremur Cernui* to the importance of Eucharistic Adoration in our Catholic faith. He states, "Friends deepen their love and affection for each other by spending time together and the same is true with our relationship with Christ."

St. John Paul II wrote about Eucharistic Adoration being the greatest treasure of the Catholic faith in his Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, written in 2003. He said, "Worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church." He extols the time spent before the Blessed Sacrament as an experience of John resting on the breast of Jesus.

How do you spend an hour in front of Jesus? Pope Francis says, "One cannot know the Lord without this habit of adoring, adoring in silence." St. Faustina writes, "I take refuge in the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and I speak to Him with profound silence." It is usually very quiet in our Church, but even if it's not you can still talk to Jesus. Tell Him about your day, your woes, your joys, or you can use structured prayers to adore, thank, atone, and supplicate.



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION (CONT.)

Many people pray the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, read Scriptures or a spiritual book, do a daily Examen, or ask the Holy Spirit for guidance (Romans 8:26-27). If you want to pray with a group, there are two structured prayer times available every Wednesday. The Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy lead the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Litany to St. Joseph beginning at 10:00 am and the staff lead the Liturgy of the Hours- Daytime Prayer usually at 11:00 am. The Prayers for Eucharistic Adoration booklet is also available for your use in the Church throughout the day.

When you first start going to Adoration you will see a lot of the same people there every week and, hopefully, you will soon be one of the regulars. Two long time parishioners and adorers of the Blessed Sacrament agreed to share their thoughts on this personal way of praying. BethAnn Bader states, "Adoration is meeting Our Lord Jesus for precious one-on-one time in front of the Tabernacle, in all

my lowliness and sinfulness, trusting that His Divine love and mercy will heal me and transform me. He speaks to me and lifts me up all to Himself." Judy Betka relates, "Being at Adoration is a peaceful feeling, just being able to spend that special time in the presence of Jesus. It gives me strength and courage to be strong in the world."

If we want Perpetual Adoration to become a reality at our parish, we have to visit with Jesus consistently. Will you commit? Matthew Kelly writes, "All the answers are in the Tabernacle." He knows we can pray anywhere, but acknowledges, "that there is something powerful about praying in front of His Presence." If you have never come to see Jesus, as the Bread of life, humbly exposed in the monstrance, please come and pray before Him. You can stop in for ten minutes, stay for a Holy Hour, or longer. You may notice some positive changes in your life.

### Left

Altar in Hennessy Hall

### Right

Jammies and Jesus



***Gaze upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him as you desire to imitate Him.***

- St. Clare of Assis

***In an ever changing world, the Holy Eucharist is a constant reminder of the great reality of God's changeless love.***

- St. Mother Teresa

# ZOOMING IN

## FATHER ROBERT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



## FIRST COMMUNION - APRIL 17, 2021



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





# PARISH PROFILE: ANJANETTE INDELICATO

*Parish Profile: Anjanette Indelicato*

by Brian J. Tindell

It was twenty years ago this summer that Anjanette Indelicato moved to the Valley from her native Indiana to take the position of Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew the Apostle. She served in a similar position at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, but she was attracted by the mountain vistas and desert climate of Arizona. She sent her resume to the Diocese of Phoenix and soon was leading a music program that has delighted parishioners and won acclaim for our parish.

Anjanette grew up in Catholic schools in Indiana and loved music from an early age, she studied voice and piano and learned the guitar. She counts Whitney Houston as one of her early influences. The first concert she attended was John Cougar Mellencamp and admits to taking her younger sister to see New Kids on the Block. She studied voice and music at Ball State, but switched her major to psychology because she couldn't see a career path in performing arts. After two years of working in an office, a friend encouraged her to consider music ministry. She returned to Ball State to earn a master's in music. The position at St. Joan of Arc soon followed.

There are different musical groups at St. Andrew; Anjanette oversees the Sunday morning adult choir and the children's choir, which includes kids from grades 2 to 8. The Saturday evening ensemble and teen musicians are their own groups. Groups regularly perform at weekend Masses and holy days. Anjanette also provides music for weddings and funerals. In 2005, St. Andrew's choir toured Italy and performed in the Vatican at St. Peter's Basilica, then attended a papal audience with Pope Benedict XVI. They've gone on the road to perform in San Diego and Newport Beach.

"I love the parishioners and the people in the music ministry," says Anjanette. She chooses the songs for Sunday mass based on the readings and themes for that day. She describes the music of our parish as "traditional music with a contemporary bent." Many people have



said they come to our parish because of the music. Just recently, some visitors told her they came to St. Andrew after watching our Mass on livestream and loving what they were hearing.

The pandemic has had a serious impact on the music ministry, as it has on all parish life. Anjanette has been able to work only part-time and the choir has not been able to perform at all. The music ministry members are very close and supportive and have regular zoom calls to check in on each other. She will return to full-time status soon and the adult choir will return this fall and, hopefully, the children's choir will too. Anjanette says that the adult choir is always looking for new singers and instrumentalists. Vocalists just have to be able to hold pitch. Anyone interested in joining only needs to contact her at the parish office.

Anjanette is continually pursuing her own musical interests. She writes songs and tries to produce one new song a month. She believes creative energy needs time and space and she blocks out at least an hour a day to seek inspiration and focus on creating. She released a CD in 2008 called "Anjanette" (available on platforms like Amazon and Spotify), a collection of songs ranging from rock to heartfelt

ballads, and is planning to put out new music in the near future. She sees her creative drive as deeply connected to her Catholic faith. "I believe strongly that I'm just a messenger," she observes. "I just take what God gives me. I'm just a vessel."

Does God inspire a stirring love song as much as a church hymn? "One thousand per cent!" she says. "Whatever you write about, there's someone else in the world who needs to hear that." Anjanette often finds inspiration in nature and regularly records ideas on her phone. She has even dreamed about songs a few times, a very rare and special insight. She feels a need to share her musical passion with an audience and was a regular performer at some venues around the valley until the pandemic closed them down. She is just now getting back on the live stage and hoping for more opportunities. She has a YouTube channel and a website ([www.anjanettemusic.com](http://www.anjanettemusic.com)) to share her music.

Anjanette can also be found jamming with a jazz group called Syncopated Sugar, featuring St. Andrew pianist Joe Toon. Solo performing is still the most difficult because there's always the challenge of creating energy alone and trying to connect with an audience.

Music ministry and her personal love of creating and performing are all linked in her Christian faith. "It's all about getting aligned with God in fulfilling your calling. Life shouldn't be this huge struggle," she says. "If you are in line with God, that's where your abundance comes from. I'm definitely called to do both music ministry and solo work."

Like most Christians, the pandemic has deeply influenced how Anjanette views her life and her vocation. "I think the pandemic really strengthened my faith," she notes, "because I actually had to trust that everything would work out okay instead of just talking the talk." She has learned to be open to God's inspiration, whether He leads her to write a song about faith or a tear-jerking break-up ballad. "I just take what is given," she says, and then shares it with her church and her audience.

# THE EUCHARIST



## *The Eucharist*

by Charlie Johnston

The Eucharist. It has been called the “source and summit of our faith” by Popes and Church Councils, it has been adored by Catholics for millennia, it has inspired armies, it has driven away enemies and plagues, it has bled as though it was human flesh (spoiler alert), and its consecration has been the pinnacle of worship in the Mass since the earliest days of the Church. I say “it”, because on outward appearances the Eucharistic host appears to be just a piece of unleavened bread, but as Catholics we believe it is so much more than that. Actually, we believe it isn’t an “it” at all, but more accurately a “He” and that He is of course Jesus Christ Our Lord.

So, how did we get here, what is the history of the Eucharist, and what exactly does the Church teach about this small thing that, despite appearances, is the glorified flesh of the Son of God? In this article we’ll take a look at all these questions.

The Eucharist does not exist in a vacuum and isn’t something the Church just decided to include in our liturgy at some point in the foggy legendary past. No, the Eucharist has a long history in the Church, all the way back to its very founding, and even goes back beyond that in what biblical scholars call “typology.”

When we speak of the institution of the Eucharist we are usually speaking of the night that our Lord was betrayed. But, we can actually go back even further to a point where, on the sea shore, Jesus gave an important speech to the crowds that has been called the Bread of Life Discourse (John 6). Here, Jesus tells the crowds that He will provide for them His very flesh and blood to eat and drink. He wasn’t speaking in allegories or metaphors, and we know this because when they murmured about this teaching he doubled down with even stronger language than before. When the crowds got even more restless from these words and some of His closest friends turned to leave, there was no vacillating or equivocation. He asked the twelve if they would also leave. Essentially saying, ‘if you don’t believe what I’m saying, you’re free to go also,’ but Peter spoke up for the other apostles and said that they were going to stay with Jesus because they believed in Him.

A little while later at the Last Supper on the first Holy Thursday, Jesus speaks the words that we hear at every Mass when He said, “this is my body, this is my blood,” and so He gave the Apostles what had been promised to them back on

the shores of the Sea of Galilee. This same consecration has been repeated by priests every day, and all around the world, since then. The same elements of bread and wine become, through the Holy Spirit, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But is that where it all started? Didn’t I say something about the Eucharist predating the Church, at least in types and symbols? Yes, I did. Due to space limits I can’t list them all, but let’s take a look at two of the most important ones.

At the Last supper, the Apostles had gathered together to celebrate the feast of unleavened bread, also called the Passover. This holiday observance was instituted by God to commemorate the Exodus from Egypt, and the climax of all the plagues that had befallen pharaoh and his people; the death of firstborn in Egypt, except for those marked with the blood of the Passover lamb. Though the observances surrounding Passover had slightly changed and developed over the 1400 years from Moses to Jesus, the essential elements remained. A lamb was sacrificed at the temple, and then consumed as a way to consummate the covenant. This is what Jesus was alluding to when He said, “this is my blood, the blood of the new covenant...” Jesus and His Apostles weren’t just celebrating another Passover meal, like their ancestors had for centuries before them, they were celebrating a new Passover, and consuming not just another lamb, but the pure and unblemished Lamb of God.



## THE EUCHARIST (CONT.)

Seen in the light of this new Passover, the cross of Christ isn't a separate event, it is the ultimate culmination of the Passover meal. The Cross and the Last Supper are so interconnected that we commemorate and participate in both every time we go to Mass and receive the Eucharist.

The second Old Testament prefigurement and sign pointing to the Eucharist was an event that also involved Moses. Remember back in the gospel of John where Jesus gave the bread of life discourse? Well, if you go back to the beginning of that chapter, you'll see what prompted this discourse from our Lord. Jesus performs one of the miracles that John refers to as His "signs" and this was Him feeding the 5000. After He does feeds them, He slips away because He perceived they wanted to make Him king. Of all the miracles Christ performs, why does feeding people precipitate a population decreeing a monarch? If we look at the text it tells us. They asked themselves if He was "the prophet."

This may seem cryptic to us in the 21st century, but to a first century Jew it would be crystal clear. "The prophet" was one whom Moses himself foretold, he would be the new Moses and lead Israel as the first Moses had done. What was it that Moses did that would make them suddenly think Jesus was this prophet? Moses fed the people in the desert with bread from heaven, also known as manna.

This manna from heaven was sent by God all throughout Israel's wandering in the desert (over 40 years in total) and only ended when the Israelites had crossed the Jordan into the promised land. So powerful of a sign from God, that they were instructed to preserve a jar of this manna inside the Ark of the Covenant, along with the tablets of the law given to Moses on Sinai, and Aaron's rod that had budded and that represented his priestly office. All three of these items were miraculous and pointed towards Christ, the Bread of Life, The Word, and Our Great High Priest.

The Psalms and Book of Wisdom both refer to manna as "the bread of angels," but even though the Israelites ate this miraculous bread of angels for

40 years, they all died, and Jesus points that out to those who would've made Him king. He tells them that the bread He will give them will cause them to live forever, and when asked to "give us this bread always" by the crowd, Jesus drops the bombshell; the bread He is talking about is His flesh.

Jesus is the sacrificial Passover lamb, Jesus is the bread of life, Jesus is the culmination of all sacrifices of the old covenant, and His sacrifice on Calvary surpasses them all. This is what we partake in every time we receive the Eucharist.

As I said at the beginning of this article, the Eucharist isn't just a thing that represents Jesus and the Old Testament prefigurements of the Bread of Life; the Eucharist is the glorified flesh and blood of Our Lord. When the priest prays the words that Jesus spoke at the last supper, known as the words of institution, then what appears to be bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Eucharist is the summit of our faith because it is the source of our faith, it is the one we put our faith in, it is the one who died for us on that hill in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

The Eucharist has been the central part of our worship since the earliest days of the church. On the very day He rose from the grave, Jesus appeared to two of His disciples that were traveling to a town called Emmaus. He walked with them, but His appearance and identity were supernaturally hidden from them. When they explained to Him why they were sad He began going over the scriptures about the messiah. He explained and broke them open for them, but when they reached their town they asked Him to stay with them. When He went inside and took bread, and broke the bread, they recognized who He was. If this pattern sounds familiar it's because it's how every Mass unfolds; first with scripture and a homily, and then the breaking of the bread.

Just like those disciples on that first Easter Sunday, may we always recognize Our Lord in the breaking of the bread.

***Always remain close to the Catholic Church, it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.***

- St. Padre Pio