

SEPT
2017

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MEET THE 9 A.M. CHOIR

Proclaiming God's Word Through Song

“I want you to remember that God gave you these special gifts and that you need to use them wisely. You need to find a way to give them back to Him.”

These words were spoken to Juliette Rodrigues when she was in the fifth grade. Taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, one of the sisters pulled young Juliette aside and told her that she had been blessed with three very special gifts – her intelligence, her artistic abilities, and her musical talents. Then, the sister reminded Juliette of the importance of finding ways to use those gifts for God's glory.

“All through my life, those words have echoed in my head and I looked for ways to do just that,” Juliette says.

Singing with the 9 a.m. Choir for the past 20 years as both a choir member and a cantor is just one of the ways that Juliette has been able to do that here at St. Anthony Catholic Community.



continued on page 2

MEET THE 9 A.M. CHOIR

continued from front cover

For her, it's been a concrete way to give back to the Lord, using her musical talents to proclaim God's Word to others.

"Through my cantoring, I'm giving back to God because I'm proclaiming the Word through song," Juliette says. "I feel like I'm giving that prayer of song to our entire parish family. It's truly so meaningful to me."

This, explains Music Director Rosie Johnson, is one of the particular gifts of liturgical music. It allows parishioners to use their God-given talents for others, making the liturgy come alive for others.

"Music is one of the main ways that we as the congregation become a part of the liturgy, helping to bring it alive," Rosie says. "When you hear the Gospel, you are listening to it, but when you sing it you are an active participant, reaffirming and reiterating the Gospel message. To me, it's one of the most enriching ways of making the Mass come alive."

Music is such an integral part of the worship experience that it's hard to imagine a Sunday liturgy without it. Each entrance, offertory and Communion song is carefully chosen to reflect the message of the Sunday's readings, helping the congregation more fully internalize the Scriptural message. And in the process, our souls are uplifted, as we engage our entire being in songs of

"Singing and playing for the choir is my way of giving back both to Him and the faith community – my way of sharing my gift. It's also a way for me to express how I feel and when I'm there, singing and playing His praise, it just moves me. It is truly an overwhelming feeling that fills me with tremendous joy."

– Rosie Johnson, Music Director

praise and thanksgiving to our loving Creator.

"Whatever is read in the Gospel, our music is chosen to affirm and enhance that," Rosie says. "It helps bring up the Scripture message again, sometimes in a more emotional and personal way."

For our choir members, it's truly an invigorating and uplifting experience. Even on days when they feel tired and somewhat reluctant to sing, they leave Mass filled with the joy that always comes from serving the Lord. And in the process, they are able to form lasting friendships with other choir members, as they become their own mini ohana.

"It is always such a blessing – I just get a high after Mass and feel so uplifted," Juliette says. "You don't just sing for yourself, but as a family we are all singing together to praise God. And over the years, I've met many good people who are such a blessing to me. We've become a separate community, like a family."

"Singing and playing for the choir is my way of giving back both to Him and the faith community – my way of sharing my gift," Rosie adds. "It's also a way for me to express how I feel and when I'm there, playing and singing His praise, it just moves me. It is truly an overwhelming feeling that fills me with tremendous joy."

All parishioners gifted with a love and appreciation for music are invited to consider joining our 9 a.m. Choir as they proclaim God's Word through song. To join, simply speak with Rosie Johnson after Mass on Sunday or call her at 808-385-8049.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Save Room on Your Busy Schedules for Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

I don't know about you, but I still get a surge of adrenalin as the beginning of September approaches. Even though I'm no longer in school, I feel a sense of anticipation when I see the shelves filled with brand-new notebooks, composition books, and all the assorted items students use. I'm aware once again of the great hopes, exciting dreams, and good intentions that a new school year holds.

Even for those parishioners not directly involved in school, September marks new beginnings. Labor Day traditionally marks the unofficial end of the summer vacation season, and our calendars may reflect that. Many of you have calendars a lot like mine — they're full year-round with appointments and obligations. But even for us, things get busier in September as various organizations that took a break during summer begin their regular round of meetings again.

Nevertheless, I have a request for you as you fill up your fall schedules. First thing, please put in some time to share the talents God has given you. As you

are aware, as Christian disciples — as stewards — we are called to return to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure He has entrusted to us. We should make our commitments to God when we begin our planning, so that we don't offer Him just the scraps of time and energy left over after everything else.

Make this September the month you make a commitment to sing in the choir, including attending rehearsals. Or begin working with our parish religious education in one way or another. Or decide to launder altar linens once a month. Or volunteer to help in the parish office one morning a week. Or help care for the parish grounds. Or join the Knights of Columbus. Or join a social service ministry. Or... well, you get the idea.

There are many ministries and groups within the parish where you can serve, and you'll find that you receive even as you give. Hardly anyone in the parish can't find at least one activity in which they can participate and which fits their schedule. If you aren't involved, make this September



the month to change that.

Thinking about commitments, some people say they don't have Time for prayer. Again, it's a matter of priorities, and I challenge any one of you to demonstrate to me that you can't pray at least one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be during the course of the day. That's at least a beginning.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.



“I think it all went so smoothly that we were amazed. It was a tribute to so many people and their preparation, planning and efforts.” – Br. Fred Silbereis S.M.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION D

“This Is O

The people of our parish came together as good stewards, providing an excellent example of stewardship through the sharing of time and talent, to install new carpeting in the church. Br. Fred Silbereis S.M. pointed out how perfectly it all went, thanks to the coordination involved and the number of people and organizations who took part.

“I think it all went so smoothly that we were amazed,” Br. Fred says. “It was a tribute to so many people and their preparation, planning and efforts.”

The person responsible for overseeing the entire project was Mr. Gil Ho’op’i, who not only completely organized the removal and return of the pews, but he also made arrangements for the cherry picker used for replacing burned out bulbs in the high ceiling. Since the benches and carpet would be out of the church, it was an ideal time to take care of that part of the task.

“So many contributed to this parish effort,” Br. Fred says. “Kathy Shimada, who is involved with the local Job Corps, invited them to come and help, and they did so very, very well. They took about an hour to move the benches, a job that we expected to take as much as two days. Three days later, they returned and helped put the benches back into place, and bolted them to the floor. Nona Iwata, a parish sacristan, put in an enormous amount of time, planning and running around in order to insure that Masses held in the school cafeteria during the renovation went smoothly and everything needed was ready to go. This entailed a lot of carrying and arranging of not

URING THE CARPET PROJECT *ur Church*”

only altar books and vessels, but also folding chairs, furniture, songbooks, etc. Of course, she had generous help and I cannot begin to name them all.”

The effort to replace the carpet so efficiently was, without a doubt, a total community effort. It meant holding Mass in the cafeteria while the work was being done. In order to accomplish that, almost all of our ministries needed to be involved and to cooperate in the effort.

“Our choirs certainly stood up to be counted by helping to get the necessary music stands and instruments, as well as microphones and amps moved, and then putting it all back again when the carpeting had been installed,” Br. Fred says. “Jeff Vierra found time to decorate the cafeteria with flowers and greens on the Sunday we held Mass there, and then he cleaned and cleared and got it all back into the church. On the Sunday we held Mass in the cafeteria, several ushers stood outside the church to direct and guide those who may have forgotten about the change in location for that day.”

Importantly, as Br. Fred notes, there were people who made special donations toward the cost of the project.

The core of our Catholic identity here at our St. Anthony Catholic Community is stewardship. As a stewardship community, we show our faith, our love and appreciation for God and the many blessings He has bestowed on us by giving back. Our carpet project was definitely stewardship in action and an example of how we recognize God’s presence in our community and in our lives.



SETTING AN EXAMPLE OF STEWARDSHIP FOR OUR CHILDREN

As we strive to live as grateful stewards, we must remember that each of us has a responsibility to help our youngest parishioners learn what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus Himself told the disciples, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14). Christ wants children to grow closer to Him and to become His disciples, and parents are responsible for helping to lead their children to this end. The Rite of Baptism reminds us that parents are “the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.”

An important part of faith involves living a life of stewardship, as the proper response of a Christian disciple. So, it follows that parents bear a great responsibility that comes from Christ Himself to raise their children as grateful stewards. However, it may already be difficult for adults to grasp the concept of stewardship and put it into practice in their own lives. How can parents teach their children to do the same?

First and foremost, parents can teach stewardship by setting a good example. In-deed, the example of our lives is so powerful that it can and should be a witness to the Gospel. As parents live the life of stewardship, their children will see the beauty in the stewardship way of life, and they are bound to follow suit. If parents live in thanksgiving to God for all He has given them, their children will grow to see that all we have is a gift from God. And when parents offer gratitude to God, it will surely impact their children.

Eight-year-old Suzie has watched her dad serve Communion at Sunday Masses throughout her

young life. When asked why she thinks he does this, she responds, “We need to help the priest.”

Meanwhile, her older sister, Jane, responds to the same question by explaining, “We need to serve God. He does so much for us. We should appreciate it and give back to Him.”

It is clear that by witnessing their dad’s example, the girls are beginning to understand – each in her own way – that the life of a Christian disciple involves selfless service in gratitude to God. However, it is not just their father’s example that has helped them develop this understanding. Both their father and their mother emphasize stewardship as a family practice. They spend time in family prayer, serve at the soup kitchen together, bring up the offertory as a family, and participate in other acts of service. Such involved participation in the faithful life allows the girls to bear witness to the power of serving others in thanksgiving, even at their young ages.

“We need to help other people,” Suzie says. “Jesus wants us to put other people first, and if we want to listen to Him, we need to serve others.”

As Suzie’s statement demonstrates, the stewardship way of life is not only understood or lived out by adults – Jesus wants children to be His disciples, as well. So, it is essential that parents help their children develop a true understanding of stewardship, and encourage its practice through the example of an active faith life.

May all Christian parents be not only the first, but also the best teachers of faith to their children, in what they say and in what they do.



GETTING TO KNOW BRIAN MILLAR, DEAN OF STUDENTS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

“Honor Christ in Everything”

Brian Millar and his wife, Krissy, had been visiting the island for over 14 years when they learned about an available position as St. Anthony’s Athletic Director.

“We took a leap of faith and moved to the island from Georgia in the fall of 2014,” Mr. Millar says. “I have a passion for being around the water, and there was an opportunity to build up the Athletic Program. We thought we would love it.”

Today, Mr. Millar serves as the Dean of Students and Athletic Director at St. Anthony School, and he has enjoyed working in a Catholic environment, where faith guides daily activities.

“We are a school that can teach faith in Jesus Christ,” Mr. Millar says. “At a Catholic school, we can pray with the kids, share the Gospel and point them to a higher standard, to Christ.”

In his current position, Mr. Millar manages the school’s athletes, which includes building the middle school’s new Athletic Program, working with the coaches, improving facilities and recruiting students to participate in sports.

“St. Anthony has a huge history of athletics,” Mr. Millar says. “About 70 percent of our student body is currently involved in athletics.”

As the Dean of Students, Mr. Millar also oversees discipline and crisis management. He is excited to be part of a new administrative team at the school.

“There have been many changes lately, and this is our first year of being a kindergarten through 12th-grade school,” Mr. Millar says. “The changes are going to enable us to build an even



Brian and Krissy Millar

stronger foundation from which to move forward.”

For Mr. Millar, his work with the school is an act of stewardship, of giving back to the faith community.

“I try to honor Christ in everything I am trying to do here,” Mr. Millar says. “I want to convey to the students, teachers and parents, that we’re here for them. Whenever they come into my office, I stop what I’m doing because they are my priority.”

At the same time, through athletics, the students of St. Anthony learn to build virtues and become stewards of their own talents.

continued on back cover

“I try to honor Christ in everything I am trying to do here. I want to convey to the students, teachers and parents, that we’re here for them. Whenever they come into my office, I stop what I’m doing because they are my priority.” – Mr. Brian Millar

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 58040
PERMIT NO. 3

1627 B Mill Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Church Office: (808) 244-4148
www.stanthonymaui.org

GETTING TO KNOW BRIAN MILLAR

continued from page 7

“When students choose to commit to a sport, they are developing skills, as well as faith and perseverance,” Mr. Millar says. “Those develop in students’ lives and prepare them for the future.”

There are many areas where faith community members could become involved with the mission of St. Anthony School as it helps our young people grow in faith and in stewardship.

“Come visit our campus and see where we have improved and where we still need help,” Mr. Millar says. “Our campus is huge, and we have built a foundation where we are stewards of our finances. If you decide to give in any way, we have a foundation to channel that gift.”



LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHURCH CENTER :: **Saturday** 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SAINT DAMIEN CHAPEL :: **Monday - Friday** 6:30 a.m. | **Saturday** 7:00 a.m.