

OUR LADY

Star of the Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

GREETER MINISTRY

*Extending a Friendly Welcome to
All Who Enter Our Doors*

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Sometimes, all it takes to set the tone for the day is one simple interaction. Positive or negative, we have all experienced how the simple actions of those we encounter in public can affect us. One ministry wants to make sure the first interaction you experience at Our Lady Star of the Sea is a happy and positive one.

The Greeter Ministry is made up of parishioners of all ages who take pride in welcoming other parishioners and guests alike to each Mass. Regina Durel, Greeter Ministry coordinator, says being at the door to say “hello” each week is one of the easiest ways for parishioners to get engaged with helping out at church.

“I always tell people ‘If you can smile and say welcome, you can become a member and it’s the truth,’” she says. “It’s open to singles, couples and families. The only requirement is arriving at Mass 15 minutes early.”

Greeters post themselves at the main door to welcome each person with a friendly “hello,” answer any questions they might have, and help point visitors in the right direction.

“It’s all about warmth and welcoming,” Regina says. “It’s a good way to recognize people and make that eye-to-eye, face-to-face contact. It’s making people feel comfortable in a place filled with love because truthfully, that’s what we’re supposed to be about. It’s a first impression of what’s ahead.”

Regina says the greeters hope to set a tone that parishioners can carry with them throughout Mass and beyond. With that in mind,

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Greeting parishioners can, and should be a family affair, says ministry coordinator Regina Durel. The ministry welcomes the help of parishioners of all ages.



Our Lectors Ministry Brings the Word to Life



Sophie Schubert coordinates our Lectors Ministry.



Barbara Conway serves as a lector at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Here at Our Lady Star of the Sea, we are blessed with many ministries, each of which follows the Four Pillars of Stewardship in some way — through Prayer, Hospitality, Formation or Service. In turn, some of our ministries are more visible than others, particularly those that are part of our liturgies — one such example is that of our Lectors Ministry.

Of course, the ministry performed by our lectors goes beyond merely reading aloud what is on the printed page. As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states, “When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy” (29).

“I am a lector myself, and have been for several years, at another parish before I arrived here four years ago,” says Sophie Schubert, who coordinates our Lectors Ministry. “It is an honor to be able to speak and proclaim the Word of the Lord. I always feel that our role is to bring the Word to life for people.”

Who can be a lector? Lectors are fully initiated Catholics who

are commissioned to be ministers of the Word of God at Mass and other services.

“We currently have more than 60 participating lectors,” Sophie says. “We hold a training session for lectors in the early fall, but if someone expresses an interest later than that, we make arrangements for them to be trained as soon as possible. The training consists of three parts — to make it clear to people that they need to prepare and what is expected of them, to appreciate the importance of the position, and to become familiar with and to learn to use our online scheduling system.”

Thanks to Lou Anne Hawkins, this ministry has a superb online system which allows people to both select and change their lector assignment, even if something comes up just a few days before they are scheduled.

“We have five Masses on the weekend, and need two lectors for each Mass, so people do not serve every week, but regularly,” Sophie says. “We will have a table and information at our booth at the parish Ministry Fair this December, and people can express an interest at that time and we will follow up with them.”

If you would like more information, or to express an interest in the Lectors Ministry, please contact Sophie Schubert at 301-775-9414 or email her at sbsandmjs@verizon.net.



A Letter from Our Pastor

This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action

Dear Parishioners,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries — within our community and beyond — and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what you are supposed to do when you share your faith with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to "share our faith"? Well, it is exactly what parents — as the "domestic church" — are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach religion classes in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

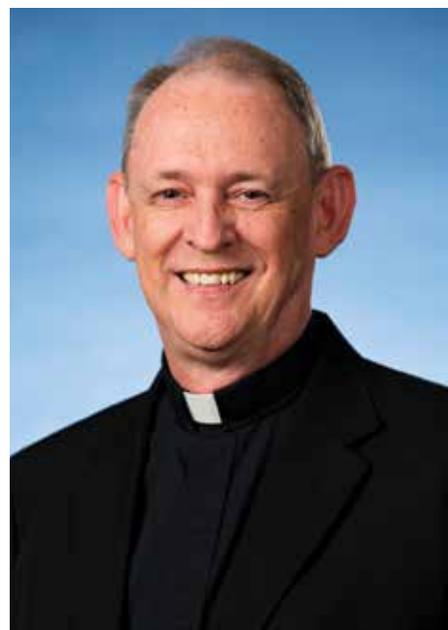
"Sharing the faith" also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and

more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives — and *also* be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year — thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many



opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Keith Brennan
Pastor

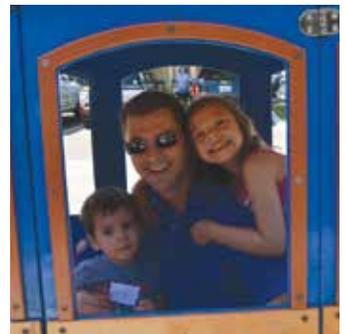




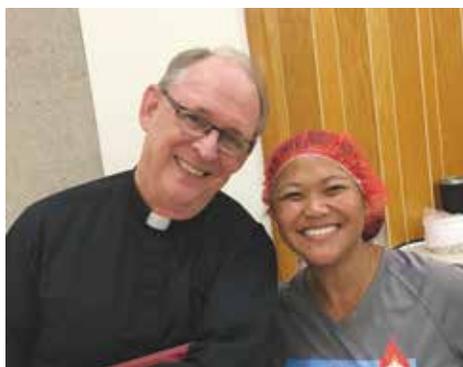
Sharing in Opportunities for Service

As the summer season wound down, the faith community of Our Lady Star of the Sea shared in wonderful opportunities for service and fellowship — our Helping Hands event, during which our parish packed 10,000 meals for the hungry in Africa, and the Family Fun Day.

We thank all who participated in these events, and we look forward to living out stewardship together this fall and beyond!



Service and Fellowship as a Faith Family





Meet Victor Yazbec

LOOKING FORWARD TO PARISH

When the first Mass was celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Christmas Eve, 1974, there were 73 families who belonged to the parish. Over the years, that number has grown exponentially, now totaling over 3,000 families! With new growth comes the need for new construction, and we are certainly blessed to have the talent and expertise of parishioner Victor Yazbec on our parish Building Committee.

Victor has been a part of Our Lady Star of the Sea since marrying his wife, Kristy, here in 1987, and his involvement in today's renovation echoes the participation of Kristy's parents in the first building of our parish.

"My in-laws helped build the original church, so this all comes to fruition for our generation to now be making improvements for the future generations," Victor says. "They had no idea when they put shovels in the ground that I would be a part of the third renovation!"

As a member of our Building Committee, Victor is able to draw upon over 20 years of experience as the owner of his construction business, Victory Homes and Development.

"What I love about the construction business is the people and the relationships that we build," he says. "We really build people's dreams — a home is so intimate that you become a part of their life and their family. That's how I live my Christian community and outreach. This time, with the refurbishment of the church, there is the passion of Christ in it. You're not just building a home for one family, but for many families through the generations."

In helping with the church renovation plans, Victor has enjoyed learning about ecclesiastical architecture. While the church's two prior building projects have addressed a need for more space, the current plans seek to improve the worship experience for parishioners.

Creating the best possible place for parishioners to worship includes updating the sound system with the most recent technologies, and — above all — emphasizing the sacredness of the space.

"The lasting effects of what we do today will prove true through the future, and that means an increase in the liturgical experience as you enter our church," Victor says. "In liturgical architecture, everything has a reason for being in a certain position. We want to en-



The Yazbec family — (from left) Blake, Kristy, Victor and Jordan



RENOVATION PLANS BECOMING REALITY

hance the experience and bring the children and youth in to see that we're more than just four walls.

"It is an intimate experience — at Mass, you're there for your Christian community, but you're also there for Jesus and God," he continues. "You'll feel the tranquility and serenity, and then you'll see the crucifix and tabernacle and adornments of the altar, and all of a sudden, you'll be excited to be in a sacred space. The refurbishment will allow future generations to really enjoy the worship space that they deserve as a growing community."

Owning a business is often a 24/7 job, but Victor has made it a priority — with the help of his wife, Kristy, who manages their office — to give some of his time back to the Lord in thanksgiving. One of his sacrifices of time that has brought the most blessings is his commitment to attending daily Mass.

"My [employees] start early in the morning, and after all these years, they know not to call me from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. when I'm at Mass," he says. "Later, they'll ask me what the readings were and how it went, and you're spreading the love a little bit with those conversations. It's huge — whether they're Catholic or not, they're interested. That's the Holy Spirit at

work. And when you sacrifice that time, I don't know how, but it seems like that day just has a little more time in it."

Victor is particularly thankful that he and Kristy were able to raise their two grown children, Jordan and Blake, in the warm and vibrant faith community here at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

"We've been blessed by past monsignors who have created an incredible foundation, and our current Msgr. Brennan is just a phenomenal man," he says. "The volunteers and the ministries that come out of this parish are overwhelming. We have an incredible parish family. We don't run from church, we run *to* church. We go there to give and to continue to strive to be good stewards for our kids."

For Victor, Our Lady Star of the Sea's current renovation project will prove to be an invaluable gift to the future generations of our parish.

"We're restoring our past and preserving our future, and it's important for our children and our children's children," Victor says. "We have a beautiful project on the ticket. Now it's time to give back to our congregation — they deserve it after all these years." As a stewardship parish, we are asked to give back to God and celebrate his generosity to each one of us.

"It is an intimate experience — at Mass, you're there for your Christian community, but you're also there for Jesus and God. You'll feel the tranquility and serenity, and then you'll see the crucifix and tabernacle and adornments of the altar, and all of a sudden, you'll be excited to be in a sacred space. The refurbishment will allow future generations to really enjoy the worship space that they deserve as a growing community."

— Victor Yazbec



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Greeter Ministry *continued from front cover*

the ministry is currently looking for more friendly faces to help extend the welcome at the church's other doors.

"We have a tremendous need for volunteers and we are calling all parishioners to help us," Regina says. "It's not even a huge commitment. We're not asking them to switch their schedule. Just come 15 minutes before the Mass they already attend. It would only be on a monthly or biweekly basis."

For those who choose to lend their time, Regina says the benefits of extending Christ's welcoming spirit can far outweigh the time spent.

"It's like getting back what you're giving," she says. "You're greeting people and you're getting back the same warmth that you're getting. People are just thrilled to be greeted and it's a reciprocal gift."

Parishioners and their families who are interested in serving with the Greeter Ministry are enthusiastically encouraged to get in touch with Regina Durel at 904 476-5726 or radurel214@comcast.net.



Come on in! The Greeter Ministry wants to make sure you feel at home by providing a warm welcome at each Mass.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m. | Sunday - 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Daily (Monday to Saturday) - 8:30 a.m. | Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Saturdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m.