



Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Finding *Peace* and *Grace* With Christ in EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Visit Our Adoration Chapel, Open 24 Hours a Day

The adoration chapel at Our Lady of Hope opened on All Saints Day in 2005. This Nov. 1 will mark 19 years of its existence.

Parishioner Joyce Schwenk — with her late husband, Fred — originally started the adoration chapel and has encountered the profound gaze of Christ’s love upon her.

“I don’t know what I would do without the chapel,” Joyce says. “There is just a contentment you can get and a peace you can find in the chapel.”

After Fred received a cancer diagnosis, Joyce recalls three graces that he specifically asked of our Lord.

“Please help me to not be sick, please don’t let me lose my mustache and please keep the pain away,” Fred asked. “I can handle the cancer, I’m a big wuss when it comes to the pain.”

All three of Fred’s graces were granted and he and Joyce were blessed with four more years together.

“God can take care of anything if you let God into your heart,” Joyce says. “He helps you to handle suffering and will take care of you if you give Him the chance.”

Our Lady of Hope’s Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24/7 to parishioners and visitors. The goal is to have two people signed up for each hour. The hours in most need of adorers is the period between midnight and 4 a.m. Within the chapel can be found some spiritual books to read and devotionals to assist in prayer time. Even if it is not possible to take a full hour, it is encouraged to stop in and visit.

“Go to the chapel,” Joyce says. “You can go in and pray for anyone,

continued on page 5



Practicing Stewardship at Home

Nurturing Faith in the Domestic Church

In the Catholic tradition, the concept of stewardship goes beyond attending Mass and making donations to the church; it encompasses a way of life deeply rooted in sharing our time, talent, and treasure for the greater good. This way of life is not confined to the church walls, but extends to our homes, where we cultivate the values of stewardship within our families. As parents, it is our sacred duty to instill these values in our children and foster a culture of giving, service, and faith within the Domestic Church.

SHARING TIME

The first element of stewardship, sharing time, is a valuable lesson to teach children. Set aside regular family time for prayer, reflection, and discussing the needs of your local community. Engage in volunteer activities together, whether it's serving meals at a soup kitchen, participating in church events, or helping a neighbor in need. These experiences will show your children the importance of dedicating time to helping others and connecting with their faith.

SHARING TALENT

Encourage your children to discover and develop their talents, and then guide them in using these talents for the benefit of others. It could be as simple as teaching them how to play a musical instrument, create art, or even cook. In sharing their talents, children will learn the joy of giving, and they will find purpose in using their skills to make a difference in the world. Emphasize the idea that everyone has something unique to offer, and it is through these talents that they can help build a better world.

SHARING TREASURE

Stewardship also involves sharing one's financial resources.

Involve your children in the family's budgeting and financial discussions to help them understand the importance of responsible money management. Teach them to set aside a portion of their allowance or earnings for charitable giving. Encourage them to support church programs, charities, and those in need. When children learn to give generously from a young age, it becomes a lifelong practice of sharing their treasure with those who need it most.

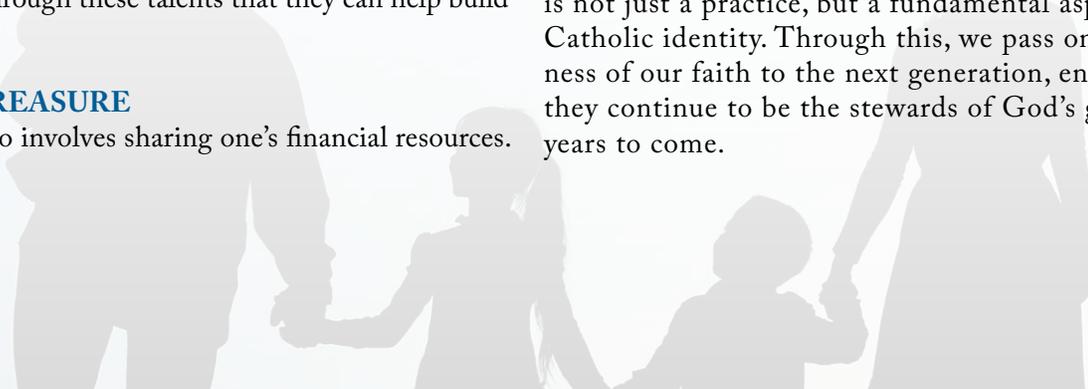
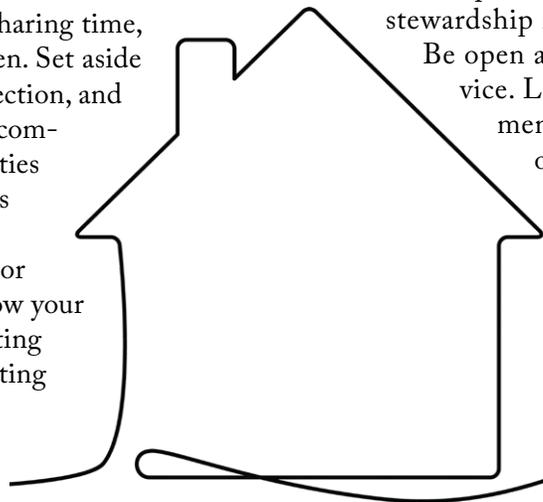
TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

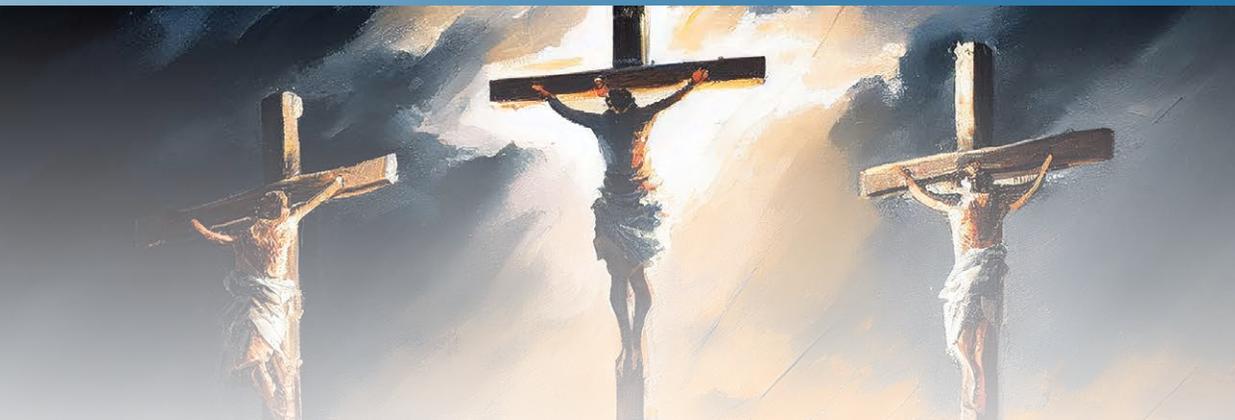
The most powerful way to instill the principles of stewardship in your children is to lead by example.

Be open about your own acts of giving and service. Let your children witness your involvement in church activities, your support of charitable organizations, and your dedication to helping others. When they see your commitment to stewardship, they are more likely to embrace it as a way of life in their own journey of faith.

EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP IN THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Stewardship is not limited to our interactions with the parish or the wider community; it is a way of life within the Domestic Church — our family. As parents, we have the opportunity and responsibility to shape our children's understanding of faith, generosity, and service. By sharing time, talent, and treasure within our homes, we create an environment where stewardship is not just a practice, but a fundamental aspect of our Catholic identity. Through this, we pass on the richness of our faith to the next generation, ensuring that they continue to be the stewards of God's gifts for years to come.





The Joy of the Paschal Mystery this Easter Season

Dear Parishioners,

As we rejoice from the celebration of Easter at the end of March, April brings us into the Easter season. I want to highlight the profound significance of the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost in the Catholic Church. This extended period is a time of immense joy, hope, and spiritual renewal, reflecting the exhilarating experience of the disciples witnessing the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Paschal mystery, encompassing Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, is the heart of our faith. In the resurrection, we find the ultimate victory over sin and death, promising new life, and eternal salvation. The 50 days of Easter serve as a continuous celebration of this life-altering event.

Celebrating the Paschal mystery throughout the Easter season is crucial for several reasons.

Let's begin with the joy of Jesus' resurrection, the cornerstone of our faith, which offers us all hope. The extended Easter season allows us to bask in this joy, inspiring us to live in the light of the risen Christ.

The Paschal mystery signifies not only Christ's victory over death but also our potential for renewal and transformation. The Easter season reminds us that through Christ, we can experience spiritual rebirth and profound life change.

Celebrating the Paschal mystery throughout the 50 days allows us to deepen our faith. We can contemplate the



meaning of the resurrection, explore the rich symbolism of the Easter liturgy, and experience a profound connection with Christ's sacrifice and victory.

The Easter season is a prime time for evangelization, an occasion to share the joy of the resurrection with others and invite them into the fold of the Church. By living out the Paschal mystery, we can become beacons of hope and share the Good News with the world.

The 50 days of Easter culminate in the celebration of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. It is a reminder of the vital role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives and the mission of the Church. Celebrating the Paschal mystery throughout the season prepares our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit with renewed vigor and openness.

As we journey through the Easter season, let's immerse ourselves in the Paschal mystery, reflecting on the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and allowing it to permeate every aspect of our lives. May these 50 days be a time of renewal, deepening faith, and evangelization as we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor

ST. GIANNA M *Offering Support and Encouragement*

Last April, after a multitude of “God winks,” Emily Swartzentruber and a few other parish moms established the St. Gianna Moms’ Group. Its impact over the past year has proven that God is indeed in the midst of this ministry.

“I was reading through a devotional one day in April of last year,” Emily says. “The devotion for the day was focused on St. Gianna as her feast day is in April. The end of the devotion encouraged the reader to start a moms’ group, so after I read that, the idea was on my heart. Then, at our gala that same month, another parish mom came up to me and said she would love to have a moms’ night out. It felt providential. I thought, ‘Ok, this is definitely something I need to pursue.’”

And pursue it she did!

Shortly after the gala, Emily went about coordinating the first meeting for what she named the St. Gianna Mom’s Group, knowing that St. Gianna’s intercession was behind its establishment. Emily was eager to welcome parish moms of all ages and stages to come together and grow in friendship and faith.

“I wanted the group to be a place where all moms

— old and young — could learn from each other and support one another in our common vocation,” Emily says. “There is so much we can learn from each other, so much support we can give one another, and I would love for every mom in our parish to be involved.”

Emily says that the Scripture reading from the Letter to Titus has fueled her desire to bring moms of all ages and stages together: “Similarly, older women should be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to drink, teaching what is good, so that they may train younger women to love their husbands and children” (Titus 2:4). And Emily says its message is precisely the purpose of this ministry.

“So many times as moms we run into issues,” Emily says. “We need to be able to reach out to other moms who have experienced similar things, and we can’t feel comfortable reaching out unless we know one another. The older moms in our parish have so much wisdom to share with the younger moms. This group exists to offer friendly love and encouragement for us as moms anchored in our faith.”

The group meets once a quarter at a third-party space. Most often, the meetings take place at the Upper Room



MOMS' GROUP:

Encouragement in Motherhood

above the Cherry Ghost Coffee House. Moms are invited to bring a snack to share, and drinks are provided.

"It's very laid back," Emily says. "I try to have some kind of a game or craft or ice breaker prepared just to get things going, but it's really all about food and fellowship. That's why we've chosen to not have the meetings at people's homes. I didn't want anyone to feel pressured to get their house ready for guests. I just want it to be an enjoyable evening where we learn and grow, encourage and support one another."

Thus far, four meetings in, Emily says she believes the ministry is, in fact, serving those who attend.

"We are still trying to find our footing in some ways," Emily says. "We are trying to figure out the right balance of structured planned activities and unstructured fellowship time, but it seems like people are really enjoying it. We are

continuing to move the ministry in the right direction, which is great! We need to get to a place as moms where we are walking hand-in-hand with one another as Christian mothers."

If you haven't been to a St. Gianna Moms' Group meeting, we encourage you to attend the next meeting, on April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Upper Room. No RSVP is necessary. Simply show up and bring a snack to share. We'd love to have you! And if you can't bring a snack, don't let that stop you — Emily says food is never an issue, and they will have enough. Just come!

For more information on the St. Gianna Moms' Group, contact Emily Swartzentruber at 513-600-2874.

Eucharistic Adoration *continued from front cover*

those you know and those you don't know. Any time you can spend there is helping the parish community and yourself. Then go and tell someone else about your experience."

As St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Nowhere on earth are we more welcomed or loved than by Jesus in the Eucharist. To be alone with Jesus in

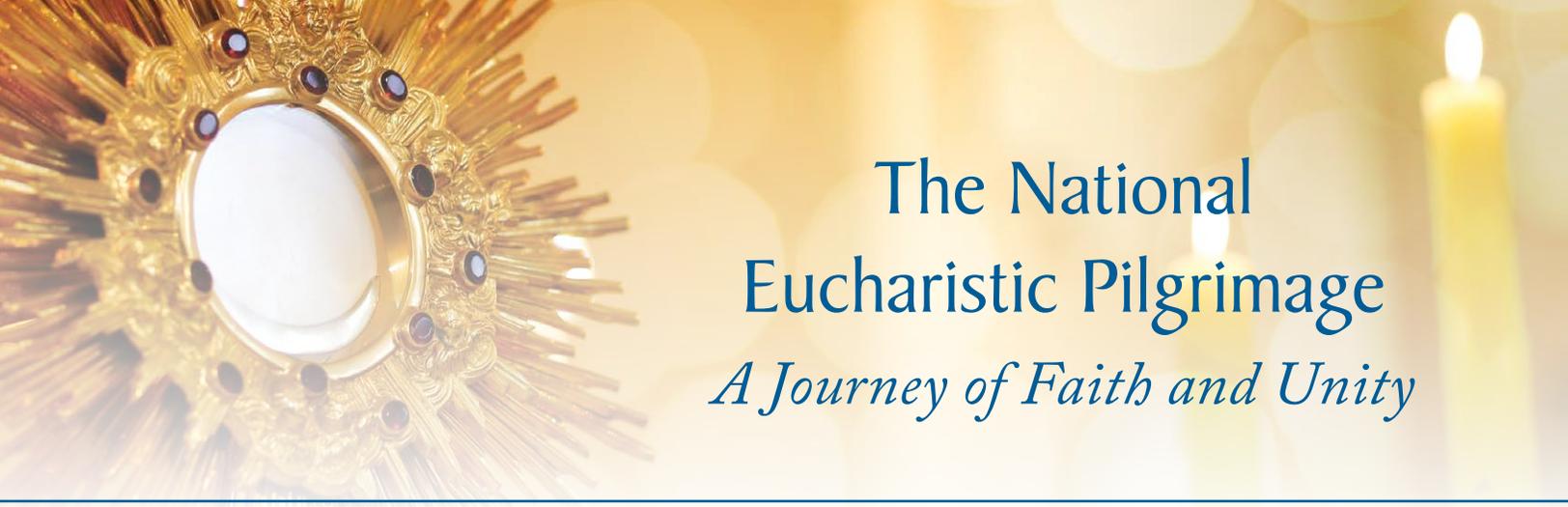
adoration and intimate union with Him is the Greatest Gift of Love — the tender love of Our Father in Heaven."

The call from Jesus to come and remain with Him is a call of love. The gift of your time accepts the invitation from Christ and places your heart open to receiving the graces He wishes to bestow.

"You can go in and pray for anyone, those you know and those you don't know. Any time you can spend there is helping the parish community and yourself. Then go and tell someone else about your experience."

— JOYCE SCHWENK

If you would like to sign up for an hour of adoration, contact Joyce Schwenk at joycesschwenk@gmail.com or 812-698-1766.



The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

A Journey of Faith and Unity

As part of the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced a significant event for Catholics across the nation, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, scheduled to take place from May 17 to July 16, 2024. This pilgrimage is a unique and spiritually enriching journey designed to deepen the understanding and reverence for the Eucharist and foster unity within the Catholic community.

The Significance of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

- **Renewal of Eucharistic Devotion:** In recent times, there has been an increased emphasis on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Catholic faith. This pilgrimage serves as a vehicle for the faithful to rekindle their devotion to the Eucharist, reinforcing its centrality in our spiritual lives.
- **Unity in Diversity:** The USCCB pilgrimage is a unique opportunity for Catholics across the country to come together in unity. It transcends geographical boundaries and emphasizes the universality of the Catholic Church. By participating, Catholics can experience the diverse tapestry of their faith community.
- **Spiritual Formation:** The pilgrimage will offer resources and opportunities for spiritual formation. Participants will have the chance to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist, engage in prayer and reflection, and grow in their faith through a series of catechetical sessions, liturgical celebrations, and devotions.
- **Evangelization:** The pilgrimage is an excellent platform for evangelization. As Catholics gather to celebrate their faith, they can share their beliefs and experiences with others, potentially leading to conversions and a broader understanding of Catholicism.

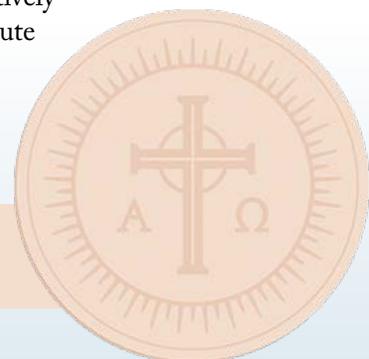
How Can Catholics Participate?

- **Attend Local Events:** The pilgrimage includes a

series of local, regional, and national events. Keep an eye on announcements from our diocese or parish about events and gatherings in your area. Attend these events with an open heart and a spirit of reverence.

- **Volunteer:** Offer your time and talents to help organize and facilitate local events. Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute to the success of the pilgrimage and serve your faith community.
- **Promote Awareness:** Share information about the pilgrimage with your friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Encourage them to participate and join you on this spiritual journey.
- **Engage in Prayer:** Pray for the success of the pilgrimage and for its intended spiritual impact on individuals and the Church as a whole. The power of prayer is immeasurable.
- **Prepare for Reconciliation:** The pilgrimage often involves a call to reconciliation. Prepare your heart for this sacrament, as it is a vital part of renewing one's relationship with the Eucharist and with God.
- **Reflect and Share:** Take time for personal reflection during the pilgrimage and consider sharing your experiences and insights with others. Use social media, personal blogs, or local faith groups to share your spiritual journey.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is an opportunity for Catholics to come together in a spirit of faith, unity, and devotion to the Eucharist. It is a time to deepen one's connection to the core of Catholicism and to celebrate the richness of the Church's diverse community. By actively participating, Catholics can contribute to the renewal of faith, foster unity, and deepen their spiritual connection with the Eucharist.



For more information on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage — part of the USCCB's ongoing National Eucharistic Revival — visit www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org.

EDUCATION COUNCIL *Fosters a Strong, Faith-Based Education for Washington Catholic Students*

Maria Sergesketter has deep ties to Washington Catholic Schools. So, when she was asked to serve on the Education Council, it was easy for her to say “yes.” Maria has now been a member for about a year.

“I have always held Washington Catholic in high regard,” she says.

The mission of Washington Catholic Schools is to “provide a solid foundation in the Catholic faith, foster academic excellence, and educate children to be successful leaders who serve their community.”

So the Education Council works to ensure this mission is being met. Its members also ensure that all students are being served and learning the faith so they are ready for the constantly changing world we live in.

The council works closely with Middle/High School Principal Karie Craney and Elementary Principal Kelsi Edwards on initiatives and projects to make our students’ education the best it can be. They have worked on many projects, including tuition, facility improvements, moving to one-to-one technology, free breakfast, and anti-bullying and anti-drug programs.

“The success of Washington Catholic and its



(From left) Angie Ashby, Judy Wagner, Maria Sergesketter, Jazmin Murfee, and Michelle Ringwald

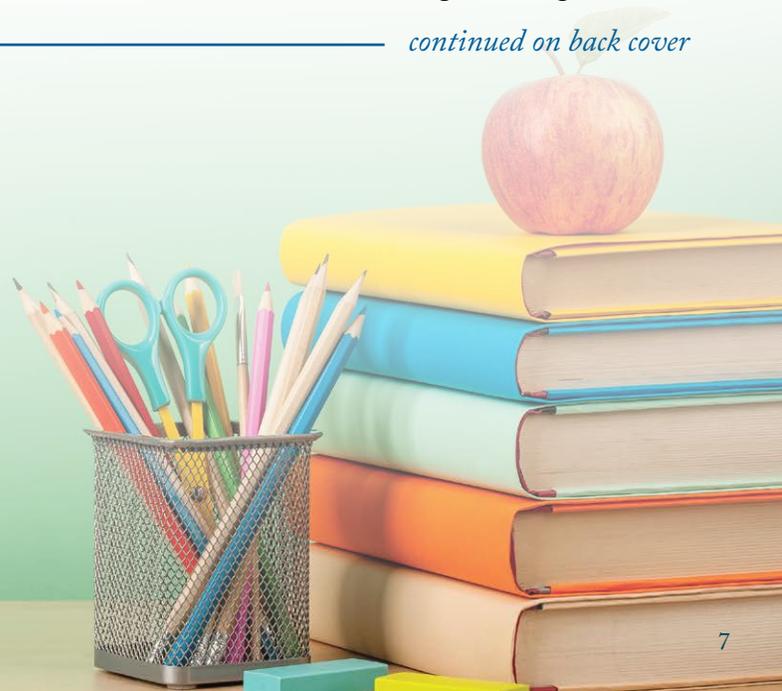
mission is so important to not just me, but to all who put their heart and soul into the school,” Maria says. “We are all dedicated to providing a great education and strong faith base to the future leaders of our communities.”

Maria’s roots are here, and she is proud to serve on the council. Her father graduated from Washington Catholic in 1958, her sisters graduated in 1985 and 1986, and she graduated in 1991. Maria’s daughter graduated in 2017, and her twins will be graduating in 2025.

continued on back cover

“We act as a bridge between the parish, community, and the school, representing our interest and our values, and making sure we stay on course with our mission statement.”

— MARIA SERGESKETTER



315 N.E. Third Street
Washington, IN 47501
812-254-2883
www.ccwash.org

Education Council *continued from page 7*

“We act as a bridge between the parish, community, and the school, representing our interest and our values, and making sure we stay on course with our mission statement,” Maria says.

Service in the parish is also important to Maria. When she has the chance, she heads up fundraisers, works events, or lends a helping hand. When Maria thinks of service, she recalls 1 Peter 4:10: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

“It’s really easy to do that when it’s for a greater

purpose, and you are sharing your time and talents with others,” Maria says.

We can all look for ways to get involved at Our Lady of Hope. You don’t have to make a huge commitment to get involved. Consider God’s many blessings and how you can give Him thanks by using your time and talents.

“Stewardship means to manage something that was entrusted to one’s care — to share my time, talents, and everything I have that God has graciously given to me, to be grateful for those gifts and to be generous with those gifts,” Marie says.

For more information about the Education Council, contact Maria Sergesketter at mbsketter@live.com or 812-617-5659.

