



Summit Catholic

Strength for the Journey Ministering the Eucharist to Our Homebound Parishioners



It's not usually something people like to think about. For those who have watched the health of a family member or close friend decline with age or illness, it can be painful to see their suffering. However, God is still present in these difficult moments, ready to generously give hope and strength in the midst of struggle.

For those who visit our homebound parishioners, it is an opportunity to share God's love, and the love of their parish family, with those who are suffering. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit and bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass, as well as pray with them and encourage them on their journey.

"They need to receive Christ for the journey they're on, and if they're not able to be part of the community in person, the community needs to reach out to them," says Larry Beardsley, a St. Mary's parishioner who is working to get more people involved in ministry to homebound parishioners.

According to Anne Watson, a parishioner at Our Lady of Peace, who has been



Anne Watson visits and brings Holy Communion to Dorothy Neary.

on both the giving and receiving end of this ministry, the Eucharist can be an immense source of comfort and strength to someone in their time of need.

"I've had people bring me Communion and it means a lot," she says. "It gives you a chance to really pray and brings you back to the Lord in your thoughts. I think it can give people the opportunity to seek the Lord, while they're suffering. It gives them the opportunity to be positive about what they're going through. You can be very negative and disappointed in God because you're suffering. [I value] having the opportunity to share with other people this love of Jesus and how

Stewardship: A Need to Give

When the church needs a new roof or the local food bank needs donations, we jump at the chance to give for the sake of the need. It's part of our human nature – we identify a need, and we want to give of our time, talent and treasure to help.

But as a stewardship people, we are called to give of ourselves not simply because the Church has needs, but because each of us has a need to give. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, to the Church, and to other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for all of the many blessings each of us has received" (67).

As fellow members of the Body of Christ, created in God's image, we should strive to go beyond simply co-existing with one another on earth. The life we live should be fueled by love for each other. This love should dictate how we live – by giving of ourselves.

Jesus Christ showed us the perfect example of this self-giving love when He died on the cross. His death was a completely selfless act. He gave of Himself for our sake, offering us – through that gift – life everlasting.

As Christ's disciples, we follow His example, and we give of ourselves for the sake of others, out of love and an inherent need to give.

That's not to say that we gain nothing through our gifts. In fact, in His goodness, God sees to it that we do. Most of us have experienced what happens when we give of our time,

talent or treasure. We feel as though we get more out of it than we give. If you speak to someone who serves at the soup kitchen or someone who has made it a regular practice to tithe to the Church, you are likely to find that he or she feels blessed to be able to give. As the U.S. Bishops point out, "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

Find out for yourself. Get involved in a ministry. Make a commitment to put some money in the collection basket next Sunday. Don't wait to find out if there is a need – give of yourself right now. You will be richly blessed for doing so.



Stewardship and Discipleship Begin With Love

Dear Parishioners,

In John 13:35, Jesus says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” So many times, the Lord calls us to love one another. This was one of the Gospel readings back in April. On that particular Sunday, Pope Francis gathered with a large group of teenagers, and the whole theme of his homily was built around that message. It is a message that is equally appropriate for all of us, young and old.

Pope Francis is well aware of modern technology and modern communication, especially with how it is so prevalent among today’s youth. He also said in that April homily, “Happiness cannot be bought; it is not an app that you can download on your phones, nor will the latest update bring you freedom and grandeur in love.”

The pope explained that “Love is the Christian’s identity card, the only truly valid ‘document’ that identifies us as followers and disciples of Christ.” Nevertheless, we must work to constantly renew this card, because if it ever expires, we cease being witnesses of the faith. If we are really followers of Christ, then genuine love needs to shine forth in our lives. As Pope Francis said, “Before all else, love is beautiful, and it is the path to happiness.”

Who among us does not want to be happy? We all strive for that, and the Lord gives us a formula for achieving it. It may seem simple on the surface, but we all know how difficult it can be. Love – the kind of love to which we are called by Jesus – is work. Lots of work. It takes effort, renewal, conversion, and persistence.

During his homily, Pope Francis completely captured the essence of stewardship, and of love. He declared, “Look to the Lord, who is never outdone in generosity. We receive so many gifts from Him, and every day we should thank Him... Let me ask you something. Do you thank the Lord every day? Even if we forget to do so, He never forgets, each day, to give us some special gift. It is not something material and tangible that we



can use, but something even greater, a lifelong gift. He offers us His faithful friendship, which He will never take back.”

Gratitude is, of course, at the very basis of stewardship. It is this thankfulness that should inspire us whenever we run up against one of life’s many roadblocks – those things that make it hard for us to love as we should. If we rely on the Lord, we can accomplish this love. As the pope said in closing on that day in April, “Loving in this way, you will be recognized as disciples of Jesus. And your joy will be complete.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Michael Glenn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Michael Glenn
Pastor

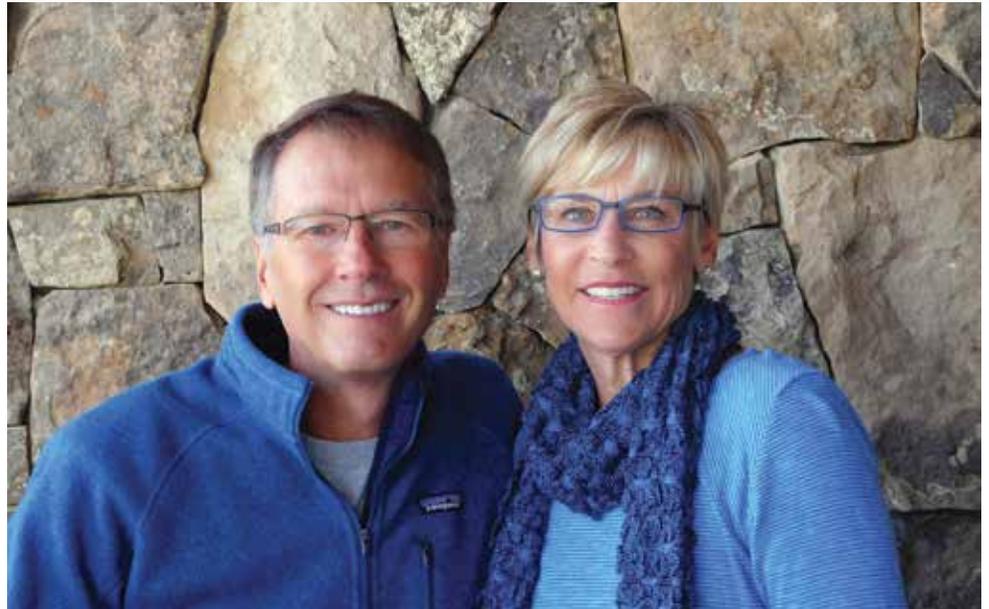
“Decide What You Enjoy Doing” *St. Mary's Bob*

Throughout his whole career, Bob Lowe enjoyed working for Kraft Foods and has always had a passion for food and for cooking. When he was discerning different ways of becoming involved in parish life, the Kitchen Ministry seemed like a natural fit.

“One of the most important things is to decide what it is you enjoy doing, and that is probably the talent that you have been given,” Bob says. “When you volunteer, you will meet other people who share that talent and form friendships.”

For years, Bob and Diane Lowe enjoyed visiting the Breckenridge area and affectionately called St. Mary's their “vacation parish.” So, when they moved to the area in June of 2011, they felt at home, as they joined the faith community.

“Every time someone comes to one of our churches, they are impressed with how smoothly they run, and this



Bob and Diane Lowe

is because of the contribution of the parishioners,” Bob says. “On any given Sunday, the visitors outnumber the parishioners four to one, and so there is a need for each of us to commit to helping out.”

After formally joining the parish, Bob became a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, and Diane became an usher. A few years later, Diane was looking for another way to serve the parish and learned that there was a need for someone to coordinate the church's Decorating Committee. Bob and Diane decided it was something they could do together.

“The Decoration Committee has been a worthwhile experience, and it helps you understand the liturgy in greater detail,” Diane says. “You understand the different Holy Days and why certain colors and decorations are used during certain seasons.”

Today, Bob and Diane both serve as Eucharistic Ministers, and Bob has also joined the Knights of Columbus.

“For my father, the Knights of Columbus was a way to make lifelong friends,” Bob says. “It seemed like a good opportunity for me to make new friends and to get involved in other ministries at the church.”

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Diane Lowe decorating St. Mary's for Easter

You Enjoy Doing” and Diane Lowe

Through the different ministries at the parish, Bob and Diane have found many ways to also become involved in the community with organizations like the Rotary Club and Habitat for Humanity.

“Frequently, there’s a blending of church and community volunteer work, which is an opportunity to really take our faith and put it into action in the community,” Bob says.

St. Mary’s offers many ways for parishioners to use their talents and to become involved according to the gifts and time that they have.

“Always feel that you can get involved at any level that you want

to,” Bob says. “You can volunteer a little or a lot, and the ministries are all very flexible and accommodating.”

For Bob and Diane, living stewardship and giving back to their church and community have helped them form friendships and serve others. They took their first steps by simply discerning what they enjoy doing and finding ways to engage those talents.

“We are a small parish and help is always needed whether as an usher or a Eucharistic Minister,” Bob says. “If anyone is interested in helping us on St. Mary’s Decorating Committee, that would be wonderful. You can start in a very small way.”



Bob Lowe works on a Habitat for Humanity project with the Knights of Columbus

Strength for the Journey

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it’s through Him that you can handle the pain, the change in your lifestyle, and everything that comes with [illness].”

Not only do parishioners receive strength and grace from receiving the Eucharist, but they are also comforted in knowing that others remember them and lift them up in prayer.

“It’s important that they recognize that there are people who are praying,” Larry says. “We are one body and they’re not alone. We bring to them not only the Eucharist, but also fellowship, to let them know that they’re remembered; they’re not forgotten.”

“When homebound, their focus becomes much narrower, and they know God’s there and loves them, but generally, they don’t have a lot of company and a lot of visitors,” adds Ron Schuman, a St. Mary’s parishioner. “They just need to know that someone cares.”

For those who serve in this way, it has in turn strengthened their own faith.

“I know it has,” Anne says. “I’m much more conscious of the gift of the Eucharist and the need for people to have exposure to that. I know that, through the Eucharist, I feel such a tenderness for people who are suffering. With anything like this, it’s you that gains the most. I feel like the

Lord really touches my heart in seeing these people, and to help in any small way, I feel very privileged.”

“It increases your faith in Jesus and it adds to your experience at Mass,” says Deacon Jim Doyle, who coordinates this ministry. “You can anticipate, ‘I get to bring Jesus to somebody else right after church.’”

Those who serve encourage others to consider becoming involved in this ministry.

“As we bring Christ to these people, we are really respecting life, and that is part of our commitment to respect life from conception through the end of life, to natural death,” Larry says.

“I’m very capable, and I’m still healthy, so for me, it’s being able to provide something, it’s a way to give back,” Ron adds.

If you would like to learn more about serving in this way, please contact Deacon Jim Doyle at 303-668-2133 or deaconjim@summitcatholic.org. In addition, if you know someone who is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, please contact Deacon Jim or the parish office.

Getting to Know “Summertime” Saints



St. Christopher

School is out, and summer is now in full swing. The days are longer, warmer and filled with plenty of fun summertime activities.

This summer, as we take family vacations, get together for barbecues, spend time by the pool, and enjoy all of the usual summertime activities, we can also take the time to reflect on some of the saints who are associated with the summer.

Family vacations are perhaps the most iconic of all summertime activities. Although there is no patron saint of vacations, there are a number of saints associated with traveling. One of the most popular is St. Christopher. According to his story, St. Christopher was an extremely tall and strong man who served Christ by helping people cross an especially dangerous river. That is why many people wear St. Christopher medals while traveling – to ask for his blessing and protection.

For those of us who are taking road trips this summer, there is St. Frances of Rome, the patron saint of cars and drivers. While St. Frances died well before cars were invented, her story says that her guardian angel went ahead of her when she traveled at night and lit the road with a lantern to keep St. Frances safe.

There are also saints we can look to when traveling by plane. St. Joseph of Cupertino was a Franciscan friar who is said to have frequently and miraculously levitated off the ground during intense prayer sessions. Because of this levitation, he is recognized as the patron saint of air travelers. St. Therese of Lisieux is also associated with aviators and flying.

If you are going on a cruise this summer, you can ask for the intercession of St. Brendan the Navigator, an Irish monk who founded the Clonfert monastery and monastic school, and is the patron saint of mariners and sailors. He and his brothers sailed the Atlantic Ocean and evangelized on a number of islands, and may have even reached the Americas.

Another favorite summer activity is swimming. Whether you choose a pool, a lake or the ocean, seek the intercession of St. Adjutor of Vernon, a knight who was captured in the First Crusade. His captors tried to force him to give up his faith, but St. Adjutor escaped by swimming to his freedom. For this reason, he is the patron saint against drowning, and for drowning victims, sailors and swimmers.

The summer is also a time of amusement and enjoyment. One of the biggest national celebrations of the summer is the Fourth of July. For this type of summertime activity, we look to St. Barbara, the patron saint of fireworks.

There are also a number of saints with feast days during the summer. The feast day of St. Anne, the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, is celebrated on July 26. July 31 is the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who is also associated with stewardship. These are just two of the many saints whose feasts we celebrate this summer.

No matter what kinds of activities we choose to enjoy during the summertime, let us remember to honor the saints who have gone before us, and give their intercession for us as we walk through our own journeys of faith.



St. Joseph of Cupertino



St. Brendan the Navigator



St. Adjutor of Vernon

The Mary and Martha Ministry: Uniting the Women of the Parish

Most of us are familiar with the Biblical story of Martha and Mary. It is the story of two very different women – Martha busily serving Christ and His disciples, while her sister Mary quietly sits at the feet of Jesus, eagerly listening to His words. As women, many of us easily identify with the figure of Martha, working hard to ensure that everything needed is prepared. Yet, through Christ’s words, “Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her” (Luke 10:42), we are reminded that our works are meaningless unless they are grounded in our relationship with Him.

Inspired by this story, parishioner Patty Leifheit felt called to form the new Mary and Martha Ministry, helping the women of the parish grow together in both their spiritual activism and religious formation.

“I chose that name probably because there are so many of us that are Marthas,” Patty says. “The first time we got together, we discussed whether we were Marthas or Marys and how it is important that we become a blend of the two, taking time for both work and reflection and quiet time with Jesus.”

Though the men of our community have been blessed by the Knights of Columbus Ministry for a number of years, Patty explains that the parish has been lacking an organization specifically for women. The Mary and Martha Ministry seeks to fill that gap, uniting the women’s efforts within the parish under “one umbrella” and deepening their sense of camaraderie.

“I wanted to organize and pull together all the various ministries the women were already doing, while also providing a spiritual and social aspect where we could come together as women, sharing our time together,” Patty says.

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(From left) Patty Leifheit and Grace Dugan both have felt blessed by the new Mary and Martha Ministry. It has encouraged them in their personal spiritual journey and has enabled them to feel a deeper connection to the other women, young and old, of the parish.

“I wanted to organize and pull together all the various ministries the women were already doing, while also providing a spiritual and social aspect where we could come together as women, sharing our time together” – Patty Leifheit

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Though still very much in its formative stages, the Mary and Martha Ministry currently involves a quarterly social gathering for the women of the parish, such as the recent spring tea, book club gatherings every other month, and various other social and service opportunities throughout the year. Outreach opportunities vary from assisting with Catholic Charities' Gabriel House, coordinating and serving meals for funeral receptions, laundering services, gardening, to collecting and delivering food bank items. This way, each woman can assist parish life in the way that best fits her talents and schedule.

Grace Dugan, parishioner and member, explains that events like the book studies have provided that "Mary aspect" to the ministry, "allowing the women to come together for prayer and spiritual growth." In the future, the

ministry hopes to broaden its spiritual offerings to include Eucharistic Adoration, special Masses, and other prayer opportunities.

Available to all women, old and young, single and married, the Mary and Martha Ministry has already helped better connect the women of our community, uniting us in our common goal of holiness.

"Because our faith community is so spread out, we don't often have the opportunity to interact with other women from around the area," Grace says. "This ministry has kind of brought us all together."

In this way, the women are encouraged in their faith journey, as they work to become that "Martha and Mary" blend of both service and prayer.

If you would like to get involved, or if you are interested in receiving more information about the Mary and Martha Ministry, please contact Patty Leifheit at 970-468-1948.