

# St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish Newsletter



Reverend Charles J. Schwartz

March 2021

## **Mission Statement**

*We are a welcoming Catholic Community, alive in Christ, making present the kingdom of God!*

## **Parish Core Values**

**Compassion:** We lift up one another in compassion—listening to, praying for and walking with those who are in need.

**Justice:** We promote equality and are called by God to protect human life, to promote human dignity, to advocate for the poor and to be a voice for the voiceless.

**Respect:** We experience and reveal the living Christ as we embrace the richness we all bring to God's kingdom.

**Empowerment:** We are empowered to use our God given gifts to serve others and share the good news of God's love.

## **Mass Schedule**

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. &  
11:00 a.m.

[www.stpatsgh.org](http://www.stpatsgh.org)

**GREETINGS IN CHRIST!!** Friends, in the past month, you should have received a brochure with information about the Pastoral Plan Vision 2025. This vision issues a call to our faith community to *"Inspire every heart to Know, Love, and Serve Jesus Christ."* You have seen the recent video where I introduced this vision, and encouraged all of us to engage in the implementation of this vision. With this in mind, I found it appropriate to share with you a letter written by Tony Allen, our Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization, that challenges us to live out Vision 2025 in a real way. I ask that you please take the time to read the following letter and contemplate how you can apply to your life.

Blessings, Fr. Chuck

## **Created in His Image: We Are Called to Worship at Mass Together**

Over the past year, many churches have stopped meeting in person or have restricted the number of worshipers allowed to gather for any one service. St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish has been limited in the number of people allowed to gather for Mass since June 2020. Before that, we were not allowed to gather at all for a period of three months. A global pandemic, government regulations, and a desire to serve each other and society have kept us from gathering. Instead, we've held Mass online, met "virtually," and used technology to connect.

Many churches have done their best to continue celebrating Mass and provide some degree of in person services. Because of this, a small percentage of parishioners have been able to participate in person and have made the best of navigating the Covid -19 restrictions. During this time, our sensitivities have been heightened, our differences of opinion have been on display, and we have had to endure restrictions and protocols that are awkward, inconvenient, and frustrating. Then, no matter how safe we make it, some of our church family still can't come.

With all this in mind, some members of the faith community may feel tempted not to come at all. The question many ask is if our current gatherings are so different and restricted, our online options so available and convenient, and our physical presence a genuine vulnerability, why should we even meet in person?

This is the question... *Continued on page 4...*

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## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PASTORAL VISION 2025 UPDATE**

Please take time to read the brochure you've received in the mail and discern how you can be part of fulfilling our vision. From time to time new videos will be coming out giving updates, and showing the plan in action through our ministries. Keep an eye on your email and our website for these. Already the staff has begun working to develop ideas to help with integrating our Vision into all of our ministries.

### **THANK YOU TO THE STAFF!**

The Covid-19 epidemic has created a great challenge in ministering to our parish family. Almost instantly a whole new way of ministering to the parish had to be designed and implemented. We were challenged with learning how to use new methods of communicating to meet many different circumstances, adjusting plans and methods for all of our ministry programming, ministering to the sick and homebound, and even managing our income and expenses and adjusting to ever changing guidelines all while working remotely much of the time. From these challenges, innovative things came about! In this time we implemented new technology for virtual meetings and ministry, began live stream of Masses, created videos and live prayer on social media, developed safe methods for having Mass and operating our food pantry, began a program of calling all of our households personally, developed safe ways to continue youth formation, and more. In April and December staff and volunteers worked to call all of our households and were able to reach about 700 families during both of these months. These are all fruits of the staff's hard work and they are sure appreciated.

### **CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL**

Last year pledged support was about \$18,000 under assessment. This will be paid from parish general funds. Our assessment this year is \$148,309 which is lower than last year. When you receive your CSA information, please prayerfully consider a gift to support the work of the diocese in carrying out what Christ has called us to do.

**Jimmy Beauchamp | Parish Administrator**  
**616-842-0001 ext. 130 | jimmybeauchamp@stpatsgh.org**



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## **THANK YOU FROM LOVE IN ACTION**

Dear Father Chuck,

We recently spent some time reflecting on the past couple of years at Love in Action and many occasions for gratitude became evident. As an organization, we want to share our thankfulness with our community partners who enable us to do the work God calls us to.



We are passionate about creating a community for our neighbors. A place where they feel accepted, cared for, and supported as they work through various life issues and where God's heart, love, and delight for each person is evident.

We are so grateful for the ways St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church has partnered with us in this endeavor. You have created a welcoming community by giving us space to host our classes, providing childcare, hosting food trucks, and serving our neighbors through the food pantry ministry. St. Pat's continues to be a blessing to our community and we look forward to future opportunities to partner with you.

Blessings,  
*Jan Carpenter, Relational Ministries Coordinator*

*Love in Action of the Tri-Cities*

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## PASTORAL CARE

**A DAY IN THE LIFE...** Through bulletin articles, I've tried to give you an idea of how I have been reaching out to the parish. A typical day in my job is:

- Communicating via emails/phone/zoom meetings with staff, parishioners, ministry contacts, Love in Action, Lakeshore/GR Parish Nurses, GR Diocese, and Momentum Center.
- Provide resources, education, mental/spiritual support, encouragement, hope to staff and parishioners, along with problem solving and situation management.
- Providing physical/mental/spiritual health resources for bulletins and weekly parish email.

**PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR** For seven years, my job title has been "Parish Nurse" which focuses on supporting the body, mind and spirit. Other roles as a Parish Nurse includes providing education, referrals, training volunteers, counseling, and advocating. My role at the parish also includes overseeing the Pastoral Care and Charity and Justice ministries, volunteers, and Christian Services. My job title has recently been changed to Pastoral Care Coordinator to reflect this expanded role.

### **Ongoing Pastoral Care Ministries during the Pandemic**

**BLOOD DRIVES** continue twice a year. Next blood drive is June 24th.

**Donors:** visit [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive) for more information

**Volunteers:** help with set-up, registration, refreshments. 2-3 hour shifts 12pm-5:45pm.

**MOMS GROUP** (*Mothers of Many Seasons*) Thursday mornings or evenings on Zoom

**Mothers:** To join the MOMS group Zoom call, email Nancy.

A fellowship of mothers of any age or stage of mothering providing spiritual, social, emotional and practical support in the vocation of motherhood.

**MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION** Prayers are needed now more than ever!

**Volunteers:** commit to pray 10 min each day. A book of special prayers available upon request. The sick and homebased are especially invited to participate.

**To Participate:** call Nancy, Monday - Thursday, 8-4pm, with your name, address & birthday.

### **CHARITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

A big thanks to Mary Grillo for her guidance, support, and wealth of information!! I am grateful she is educating me on all the ministries. We are truly blessed and thankful to all the volunteers who make this parish what it is.

**Nancy Megley, RN | Pastoral Care Coordinator**  
**616-842-0001 ext. 119 | [nancymegley@stpatsgh.org](mailto:nancymegley@stpatsgh.org)**

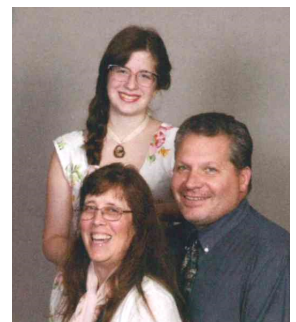


## WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Welcoming Committee, led by Steve and Laura Zachar, host welcome receptions to ensure all newly registered parishioners are provided a welcome packet containing a wealth of information on our ministries and an opportunity to meet with Fr. Chuck and members of the parish staff.

In the past, the welcome receptions were held five times a year in the Family center; however, due to the Covid-19 lockdown, only 3 receptions were able to be held in 2020. (January, March, and virtually in December) Laura and Steve recently hosted back-to-back welcome receptions via Zoom in January and February 2021. Thank you Laura and Steve for sharing your welcoming hearts!

- 52 families joined our parish in the year of 2020
- **Next Welcome Reception:** Sunday March 14, 2021



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

(...continued from front page) But as members of the Body of Christ we should not let virtual and electronic activities ever be accepted as an equal alternative to meeting and gathering in person. We need to reflect on the importance of our gatherings so that our desire to meet together in person grows instead of withers on the vine. When we come together as the Body of Christ we are able to know, love and serve our God in a genuine, fully committed way that gives witness to our Eucharistic experience of sacrifice and thanksgiving.

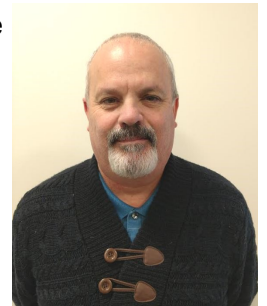
As human beings we are created by God to be in relationship with each other. We need in person face to face human interaction. Our children need interaction with others and the opportunity to see their friends. We are more than just pixels, 0's and 1's, screennames and headshots on Zoom and Skype. We are human beings. We are made to see and hear and taste and touch and navigate our way through the physical world God has made. In recent months, we have seen the ability and usefulness of our online world. But we have also felt its limitations. No one in love with another happily accepts a long-distance relationship as ideal. Neither should a loving faith community. Our technology has made it possible for one to never have to leave their house. It might help us feel safe by avoiding getting sick from Covid-19, but it most assuredly guarantees us the loss of part of our humanity.

The Bible consistently teaches that the church is Christ's body on earth (Eph. 1:22-23). Each believer is a different body part, but we're intricately knitted together (Eph. 4:15-16). Our spiritual gifts are like eyes and ears and hands and feet that each play their part in the body's growth and mission. Yes, even at a distance, we are still Christ's body. But like any healthy body, we shouldn't want to stay dislocated. We need each other to feel whole.

We need to celebrate and experience the sacraments of the Church. Our desire to receive the Eucharist can only be satisfied by the physical reception of Christ's body, blood, soul and divinity. Our desire to know and love Christ can only be quenched through His blood of the new covenant. For this to happen we need to be present during the celebration of the Mass. This is not somehow replaced by watching the Mass being celebrated on television. We are called to serve and that is active discipleship, not a passive observance. Discipleship is not a spectator sport.

We speak of trust in God. We declare that he is Lord and that he is in control. The covenantal relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ promises us eternal life if we but remain faithful to his word and love God with our whole heart, our whole soul and our whole being and love our neighbor as our self. (Mt 22:37-39) I invite you to come back to in-person worship at Mass. A life worth living does not come without risk. We use to know that. It is time for all of us to reclaim our baptismal call as priest, prophet and king. Together let us inspire every heart to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

**Tony Allen | Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization**  
616-842-0001 ext. 121 | [tallen@stpatsgh.org](mailto:tallen@stpatsgh.org)



## HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

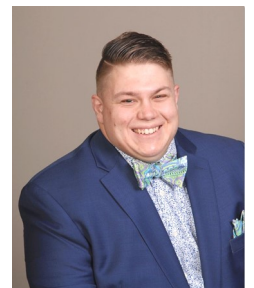
We kicked off our semester at Life Teen with a social night featuring a floor hockey tournament on the patio of the youth center where the teen winner was able to challenge our adults in a final game. It was a blast!

This semester at Life Teen we started a series on the human person as one having dignity due to the fact that humans are made in the image and likeness of God. Being made in the image and likeness of God means that we have dignity and are called to take care of ourselves. In order to expand on this idea, we spent a night on the different ways to take care of the body, mind and soul.



This summer high school teens will have the opportunity to attend Life Teen's summer camp in Tiger, GA for a week to experience God's love and calling for their lives.

**Grant Wyatt | Coordinator of High School Ministry**  
616-842-0001 ext. 123 | [grantwyatt@stpatsgh.org](mailto:grantwyatt@stpatsgh.org)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

### ROCK (5th & 6th grades)

Tuesdays 6:45- 8:00 pm

#### March

- 2- Joseph
- 9- The Exodus
- 16- St. Patrick's Day celebration
- 23- Moses & God's call
- 30- The Passover

#### April

- 6- No ROCK; Spring Break
- 13- 10 Commandments
- 20- Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Saul
- 27- David

#### May

- 4- The Prophets
- 11- Year End party



Herbert Basil  
Kathryn Braginton  
Garrett Butler  
Jake Chasco  
Cecilia Frendt  
Lillian Frendt  
Laney Goers  
Isabella Golin  
Connor Howard  
Samuel LaDronka  
Addison Pike  
Alexander Scholz  
Nicholas Stevens  
Clara Streng  
Olivia Wert



### EDGE (7th & 8th grades)

Wednesdays 6:45- 8:15 pm

#### March

- 3- 8th grade
- 10- 7th grade
- 17- St. Patrick's day celebration
- 24- 7th grade
- 31- 7th grade

#### April

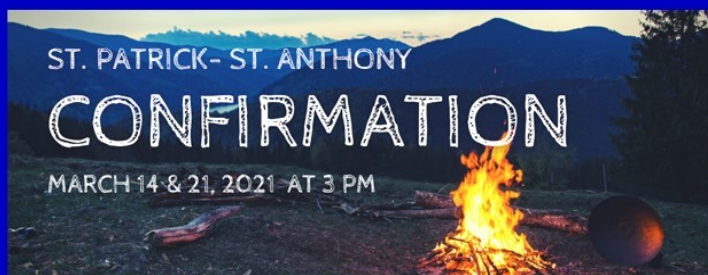
- 7- No EDGE; Spring Break
- 14- 7th grade
- 21- 7th grade year end celebration
- 28- 8th grade year end celebration

STAY IN THE KNOW...

**JOIN  
REMINDE  
TODAY!**

Text your code to 81010 now.

5th- @spsa2028  
6th- @spsa2027  
7th- @spsa2026  
8th- @spsa2025



Benjamin Bowman  
Tessa Britt  
Quinn Douglas  
Natalie Dufon  
Jax Flynn  
Emmerald Harris  
Jonah Hayes  
Gregory Kopko  
Maggie Raha  
Ashlyn Ritter  
Gabriel Trask  
Layla Westbrook  
Ava Woolf



**Rachael Mouradian | Coordinator of Middle School Ministry**  
616-842-0001 ext. 122 | rachaelm@stpatsgh.org

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Andrea Williamson | Coordinator of Children's Ministry**  
**616-842-0001 ext. 133 | [andreawilliamson@stpatsgh.org](mailto:andreawilliamson@stpatsgh.org)**



### **Sacramental Sessions for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders began on September 30, the Feast Day of St. Jerome.**

The children are preparing for their first reconciliation and First Eucharist!  
 Thank you for your prayers as we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic and for all parish families who are focusing on strengthening their Domestic Church.



Taylor causes ripples as she shares what she learned about the power of a prayer table by arranging one for a family friend.



**St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish**  
**Drive-in Movie Night, December 17, 2020**  
 Sharing faith and friendship!  
 Father Chuck visited every car during the movie!

### **Blessing of the Pets October 4, 2020 Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi**

Thank you, Lord for the gift of our pets that bring us so much joy and comfort.

"One day, we will see our animals again in the eternity of Christ. Paradise is open to all of God's creatures."  
 ~Pope Francis



### **The Living Rosary**

Children's Ministry hosted "The Living Rosary" on all Sundays in October, November 1, All Saints Day, and January 22, Sanctity of Human Life Day! A beautiful group of community members ages 2-90 have prayed together bonding in such a special way. We will host the "Lenten Living Rosary" on all Sundays of Lent at 5:00 P.M. at the Bell Tower.



**National Sanctity of Human Life Day  
 January 22, 2021  
 We prayed "A Living Rosary for Life"**

## **WORSHIP & LITURGY**

There have been more than a few changes to our Liturgies in the past year, some small, some temporary, and some that may change how we do things going forward. I wanted to take a moment to point out a few things of note.

When the Church was remodeled, and the Audio/Video system was rebuilt, a lot of technology was included to encourage the use of A/V from the Church in the various other rooms of the building, and vice versa. One thing that had not been included was the ability to live stream services to those who could not attend. Over the past year it became clear that this was something we needed. We have since had live streaming capabilities installed and are currently learning the ins and outs of the new technology. Even when we are all able to be fully together again at Mass, I see this as a beneficial tool for our community. From those who are homebound and cannot attend Mass to streaming weddings and funerals for those family who cannot make the trip. Even being able to stream non-Mass events like Parish Missions could be a benefit. If you happen to have experience running live streams and would like to assist us in this process, please reach out. We can use all the help we can get.

During this period, our Music Ministry has unfortunately been unable to meet for rehearsals. You may have also noticed in the music area, that the microphones are spread out to accommodate for social distancing, which limits how many musicians can participate at each Mass. It has been a difficult process but I want to thank this small but committed group of Singers that has been diligently working to keep music alive in our Parish. We are all very much looking forward to the day when a full choir can raise its voice in God's praise.

I personally want to thank you all for working together with me, and the entire Liturgical team here at St. Patrick – St. Anthony, through all of the uncertainty. Thank you for being flexible, and helping us institute changes to our Liturgy that will not only keep us all safe, but are intended to allow us to continue worshipping our Lord, and celebrating Mass together as a Community of Faith.



**Alex Navas | Director of Music and Liturgy**  
**616-842-0001 ext. 126 | [anavas@stpatsgh.org](mailto:anavas@stpatsgh.org)**

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## **JOB SEEKER PROGRAM**

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the Job Seeker program is currently supporting clients by way of phone, email, social media and computer to guide them toward meaningful employment. A restricted computer is set up outside the Job Seekers office in the Outreach Center for use by appointment for clients who do not have internet access while searching for employment.

Through phone calls, we are able to find out first-hand job seekers who have obtained employment, are still in need of our assistance, and those who moved from the area or no longer in need of our employment services. This keeps our records accurate for reporting purposes. Emails allow us to provide job seekers with weekly job postings, including current opportunities in the Tri-Cities area and beyond. Resumes are also created and updated for those requesting assistance without a one-on-one presence in the office. Using social media on the St Patrick-St Anthony Job Seeker and GHI Jobs & Networking Facebook pages, we provide the Tri-Cities area with details on upcoming virtual hiring events. In addition, the job seekers program highlight manufacturer's and hiring agencies' immediate hiring needs as well as related services for our clients on those very same sites.

As a result of reaching out to clients by way of various channels, 62 job seekers found employment in the Tri-Cities in 2020. Based on the percentage of clients we connected with last year, we believe there are another 20 - 25 individuals who have found employment however, have not responded to our calls or emails.

I am in the office Tuesday –Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Feel free to contact at me with any needs or questions you may have.



**Mark Bancuk, Program Coordinator | St. Patrick - St. Anthony Job Seekers**  
**616-842-0001 ext. 132 | [markbancuk@stpatsgh.org](mailto:markbancuk@stpatsgh.org)**

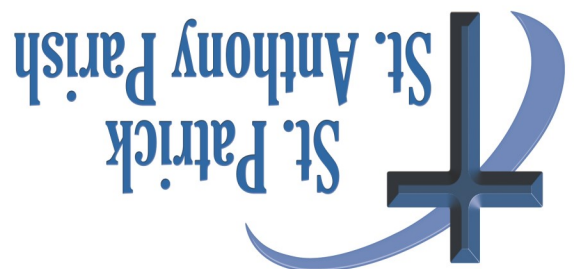
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***If you do not use the internet or email often and want to stay updated our parish news, please let us know! Call the Parish Office and ask to be put on bulletin mailing list.***

- Our food pantries served 173 families (425 persons) in the month of December
- We support over 450 elementary and 77 secondary & college students in Haiti.
- Through our partnership with No One Lives Alone, we currently have 8 residents in transitional housing at Bernice's house.
- Livestream Masses have over 100 views, Christmas Eve had over 400
- In January, Nancy Megley personally delivered 44 prayer shawls to homebased parishioners.
- Our Confirmation candidates have completed over 250 acts of service since September.
- Over 50 carloads of families attended our drive-in movie night in January.
- Our youth went sledding and hiking in January with good attendance. Formation continues virtually as well and in person.
- Some of our elementary youth braved a 9 degree wind-chill to participate in the Living Rosary for Life

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