



The KING'S Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Megan Mottet, Our New Director of Spiritual Formation, Shares Faith and Stewardship Journey

Staying Grounded with Jesus

NOVEMBER 2023
Inside

When Megan Mottet heard God calling her to something new, she listened intently to where she would be led. In prayer, she heard Him calling her back to work after seven years as a stay-at-home mom.

“For the last two or three years, I had this sense that God was calling me out,” she says. “I had other ideas — it was not what ended up happening. This ended up being bigger than my own ideas.”

With a background as a mental health therapist, she knew she wasn’t being called back into the field, but she didn’t anticipate where God would lead her. “I had no idea this position was coming,” Megan says. “In January, I had updated my resume thinking I would apply for something else, but felt God tell me ‘No’ when I went to turn it in. Several weeks later, when it was announced Deacon Tim was retiring as the Director of Faith Formation, I felt God tell me that was the position for which He wanted me to apply. I only had to change one line on my newly updated resume to have it ready.”

She continued to take it to prayer. “Through the whole process of applying and interviewing, I spent a lot of time in prayer,” Megan says. “I would say, ‘Lord, I don’t want this if You don’t want me to do

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As of July this year, Megan Mottet began serving here in our parish community as the new Director of Spiritual Formation.

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The “Thanksgiving Spirit” Doesn’t Have to End at Thanksgiving

The origin of the first Thanksgiving feast is a matter of some debate among historians. But since 1863, Americans have annually set aside the fourth or fifth Thursday of November to give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest. The holiday became a matter of federal law in 1941, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint congressional resolution to observe Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. Even as our society has become less agrarian, families continue to gather each November to give thanks to God for each other, and for the many blessings they have received throughout the year.

Most people associate this “spirit of Thanksgiving” with the fall holiday and its many recognizable symbols — brisk weather, cornucopias, family gatherings, and plenty of delicious food. But giving thanks to God in gratitude for the gifts we have received isn’t an attitude we should save for this annual holiday alone. When we live lives of stewardship — sharing of our time, talents and treasure in thanks to God and at the service of others — we can sustain life in the Thanksgiving spirit throughout the year.

The Church teaches that this daily response of gratitude is an important element of living the life of a Christian disciple. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ

sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head” (CCC, 2637).

And how can we express this spirit of thanks? We can serve others, living the virtue of charity by reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need through acts of kindness. We can give back to God from our “first fruits,” sharing of our treasure in thanksgiving and recognition of the need to return a portion of our gifts to God. We can utilize our unique talents to make our parish and local communities better places. And, as the *Catechism* also points out, we can even express thanks through prayerfully offering up our daily activities to God — “Every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving” (CCC, 2638).

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to think of ways that you can live in the “spirit of Thanksgiving” on the fourth Thursday of November, and every other day throughout the year. Living the stewardship way of life may not always involve a precisely carved turkey, decorations or a family viewing of *It’s a Wonderful Life* — but it will provide lifelong fulfillment and joy rooted in an attitude of perpetual thanksgiving.

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A LETTER FROM OUR CATHEDRAL RECTOR

Christ the King, *the Perfect Example of Stewardship*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

With the liturgical year ending soon and Advent and Christmas close behind, I want to share with you the profound significance of the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 26. This feast holds a special place within the heart of the Catholic Church and shows us what true stewardship is all about.

The Solemnity of Christ the King, observed on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, invites us to reflect on Christ's universal kingship and reign over all creation. In a world often focused on power, control, and self-centeredness, this feast presents a countercultural message. It reminds us that Christ's kingship is marked by self-sacrifice, humility, and service. Our Lord's throne is not one of worldly grandeur but of the Cross, where He gave His life for our salvation.

This feast is a powerful reminder of the core values of Catholic stewardship. Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God — our time, talents, resources, and even our very lives. Just as Christ, the King, entrusted His life for our sake, we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has bestowed upon us. We are caretakers of His creation, called to use our resources wisely, generously, and in ways that bring about His kingdom on Earth.

Christ's kingship and stewardship are deeply intertwined. By recognizing His authority over our lives, we acknowledge that our role as stewards is to use our gifts in accordance with His will. This means serving others, working for justice, promoting human dignity, and caring for the Earth and its resources. Our actions as faithful stewards should reflect the self-giving love that Christ displayed during His earthly life.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is an important day in the Catholic Church because it brings our



focus back to the heart of our faith. It reminds us that Christ's reign extends beyond the confines of time and space, touching every aspect of our existence. This feast challenges us to evaluate our lives in light of His kingship and to ask ourselves whether our choices and actions align with His teachings.

As we approach this solemn feast, let us take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to Christ and the principles of stewardship. May we strive to be faithful stewards of His grace, using our gifts to

build a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world. Let us remember that Christ, the King, calls us not to a life of privilege but to a life of service, solidarity, and sacrificial love.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Through our worship and reflection, may we be renewed in our dedication to Christ's reign and to the active stewardship and discipleship He calls us to embrace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. John Moriarty



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Digital Marketing Ministry

The church bulletin has always been a helpful communication tool, but in this digital age, there are so many more ways to reach people. Plus, it's important to communicate with those who no longer come to the Cathedral or even those who have never come to the Cathedral. The Digital Marketing Ministry seeks to fill this need by working to **promote** the Good News; **present** the Cathedral to those looking for a home; **invite** seekers to come worship; and **communicate** the Cathedral's worship, ministries, and events.

Katie Sheppard, former Director of Advancement, came up with the idea for the ministry about four years ago, recognizing the need to expand communications with the community. She also understood that some parishioners have the skills to make such a ministry a reality.

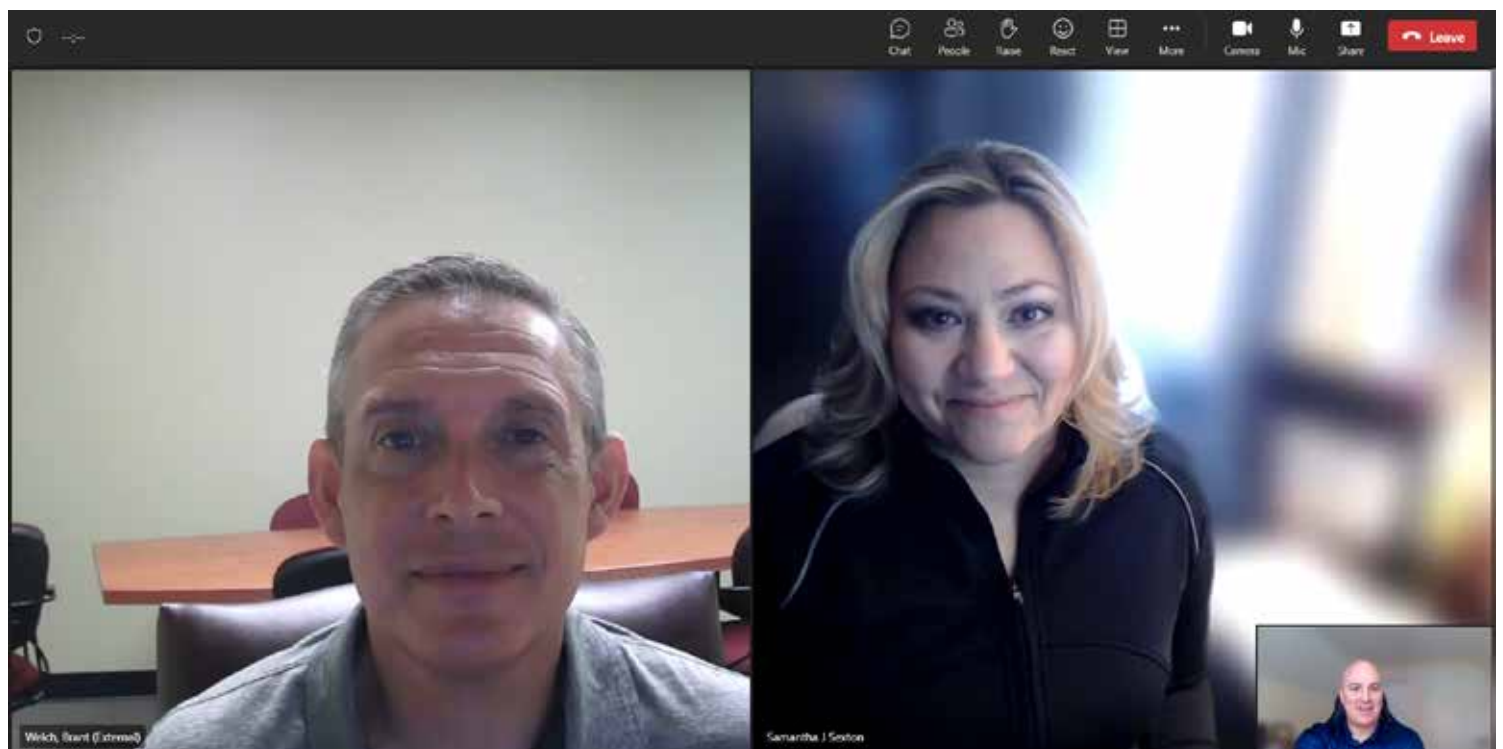
"She launched the ministry as a way to engage members of our parish who have marketing, communication, or information technology skills

that could help us do a better job of communicating the mission of the parish and inviting people to a deeper life of discipleship and stewardship," says Deacon Tim Weinmann, a member of this ministry.

These days, most people access all of their information via technology. With this in mind, the ministry members recognize that communication has to go further than the church bulletin.

"While never forgetting that we do have a small segment of the parish who will never go digital, we believe that we need to stay current with the technology out there to get our message out to those who are using that technology to manage and plan their lives," Deacon Tim says.

Over the last few years, ministry members have helped inform parishioners about the capital campaign and Bishop's Annual Appeal, as well as spread the word on how to support southeast Kentucky after the floods. In addition, the group launched a Parish app with 1,200 users and also revamped the website.



Team members meet via Zoom.

Embracing Technology to Engage Parishioners and Wider Community

The ministry meets virtually every other month, and various members work on special projects. This ministry goes beyond mere Facebook posts and website updates. Members are constantly looking for the best ways to keep parishioners and potential parishioners informed via multiple technological channels.

“We want our parishioners to feel like their connection to the parish is constant and available to them as they live their busy lives,” Deacon Tim says. “We want to make it as easy as possible for all parishioners to stay in touch with everything that

is going on at the parish and feel they are a part of everything happening.”

Overall, Deacon Tim has been so impressed by the skills of parishioners that he’s had the opportunity to witness through this ministry, and he is so thankful to all who serve. The rest of the Cathedral staff share the same sentiment.

“For those who have the skill set and passion for this kind of work, being a part of this ministry allows them the opportunity to truly use the talents and skills God has blessed them with to help build the kingdom,” Deacon Tim says.

If anyone with skills in marketing, communication or information technology is interested in learning more or becoming involved, contact Micah Johnson, Director of Advancement, at 859-335-3684 or mjohnson@cdlex.org.

Megan Mottet, New Director of Spiritual Formation *continued from front cover*

it. I only want the heart for this if this is Your plan.’ My desire only deepened as I prayed that prayer.”

In July, she began her new position. Because she has been a part of many ministries, she has a working knowledge of many areas of our parish life and was able to hit the ground running. She did so by establishing relationships with some ministries, deepening existing relationships with others, co-leading the development of new communication strategies, learning the ropes to eventually lead the RCIA program, grasping the administrative duties, taking annulment advocate training, and planning exciting changes in the children’s and youth ministries. Like any job, there have been adjustments, but Megan is excited to see how the new plans unfold in the coming months.

Megan appreciates that this position provides her with a different level of involvement with parishioners and the church community. “I have spent many years teaching my kids about God and the beauty of our Catholic faith. Then I began to share more with friends and extended family. Now,

I get to help people mold their own faith to a greater level.” Watching family, friends and now fellow parishioners grow closer to Jesus and become intentional disciples in their own lives is a joyful blessing for Megan.

At the parish level, she recognizes how much is happening behind the scenes. She emphasizes the importance of staying steadfast in her faith and prayer life.

“It’s very important to stay grounded with Jesus. I can see how it could easily get overwhelming, and I could lose sight of why God put me here,” she says. “There’s so much more happening than just your time at Mass. There are a lot of needs and many ways for people to step in and help. The more hands we have for the various things happening with the parish, the better for God’s kingdom.

“My prayer is to provide a faith-building path for as many as possible in our community,” she adds. One that encourages involvement and discipleship, so our parish will flourish and be a beacon of God’s light for generations to come.”

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All Souls Day:

A Reflection of Catholic Stewardship and Remembrance

In the tapestry of Catholic tradition, few days hold the same depth of significance as All Souls Day, observed on Nov. 2. This solemn occasion, rooted in both faith and compassion, offers Catholics a unique opportunity to intertwine their beliefs in stewardship and remembrance, creating a powerful link between the living and the departed.

All Souls Day is a day of profound reflection and prayer for the souls of the departed who are believed to be undergoing purification before entering the eternal embrace of heaven. This belief rests on the concept of Purgatory – a state of cleansing and transformation where souls are purified of their remaining imperfections. As Catholics, this doctrine emphasizes the enduring connection between the living and the deceased. By offering prayers, Masses, and acts of devotion on this day, Catholics hope to assist the souls in Purgatory on their journey towards heavenly glory.

Catholic stewardship is founded on the principles of giving of our time, talent, and treasure back to God and the parish in gratitude for the gifts God has given us. It extends not only to the Earth and its resources but also to the spiritual realm and the souls of those who have passed away. All Souls Day embodies the essence of stewardship by underscoring the responsibility Catholics have towards their fellow human beings, even beyond the threshold of death. Stewardship, in this context, signifies an active commitment to caring for the spiritual well-being of others. By praying for the souls of the departed, Catholics are fulfilling their stewardship duty by interceding on behalf of those who cannot pray for themselves. This act of compassion and selflessness exemplifies the core values of stewardship and resonates deeply with the Catholic teachings of love, charity, and empathy.

There are many ways to honor and pray for the deceased in our parish community and our own families. Attending Mass on All Souls Day is one of the most powerful ways to honor the deceased. Offerings of prayer, often in the form of the Requiem Mass, are customary on All Souls Day. These prayers are not only for the souls of specific individuals but also for all departed souls. The Catholic tradition of lighting candles serves as a symbol of hope and remembrance. Visiting the graves of loved ones, cleaning tombstones, and leaving flowers are poignant ways to connect with the departed. It serves as a reminder that life is fleeting and encourages the living to cherish their time and relationships. Performing acts of charity in memory of the deceased is another meaningful way to honor them. Donating to a cause they cared about or volunteering in their name reflects the Catholic spirit of selflessness and compassion. And families can come together to share stories, memories, and prayers for their departed loved ones. This fosters a sense of unity and ensures that the memories of those who have passed away remain alive in the hearts of the living.

All Souls Day bridges the gap between the living and the departed, weaving together the threads of Catholic faith, stewardship, and remembrance. By dedicating time to prayer, reflection, and acts of compassion on this day, Catholics honor the souls in Purgatory, demonstrating their commitment to the principles of stewardship and their unshakable belief in the eternal connection that transcends death. In this way, All Souls Day becomes a powerful reminder that Catholic stewardship encompasses not only the tangible world but also the realm of souls – a testament to the depth and richness of Catholic tradition.

Casserole Ministry

Fills Stomachs and Enriches Souls



What is more inviting than a hearty casserole, full of delicious meat, cheese, pasta, or rice? It always promises to fill empty stomachs, and in the case of our Catholic Action Center Casserole Ministry, it fills hungry souls with the love of Christ served by caring hands.

The CAC Casserole Ministry here at Christ the King is led by Celina Magana who, with the help of Carol Keslin and Mary Kelly, coordinates the parishioners who have signed up to donate casseroles. The ministry provides these casseroles on the first and third Fridays of the month at the CAC, located at 1055 Industry Road.

The CAC was founded through the Diocese of Lexington in June 2000 and is a faith-based outreach of volunteers who provide three meals a day, shower and restroom facilities, mail receipt service, telephone access, clean clothing, and shelter to those in need.

“The number of those helped varies, but the CAC serves 150 people a day, and sometimes in the winter it goes up to 200,” Celina says.

During the Stewardship Renewal, those

interested in providing casseroles may sign up, and their names are forwarded to Celina. She works from a main email list of 116 casserole donors. Three to four days before the casseroles are needed, she sends out an email so those wanting to prepare the food can respond, and she can determine how many casseroles are needed. The donors for that particular Friday then have the time to choose the casserole, shop for the needed ingredients, and prepare the dish. Donors are asked to prepare a casserole that will serve 10.

“Some bring a couple casseroles, and a lot fix three,” Celina says.

The donors bring their casseroles to our church and they are delivered to the CAC.

“This makes it a lot easier for the donors,” Celina says. “It is easier for them to pull into our parking lot to drop things off.”

The donors are free to choose what casseroles they prepare, but there are guidelines.

“They have to be nutritious and hearty, and something that will be filling,” Celina says. “Unfortunately, this means no salads or fresh

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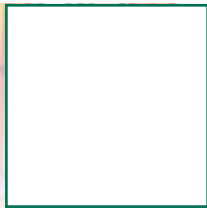
“It’s a community effort to feed everybody in need. If there is a need for something that is needed in addition, the CAC will let us know. We’re able to manage it. Our donors are absolutely amazing!”

— Celina Magana



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Casserole Ministry *continued from page 7*

fruit, as it would go bad, but we request something appetizing for people. Pastas, rice, meat, and some cheeses are good ingredients.”

The act of preparing a delicious casserole certainly falls under the umbrella of stewardship, with the donors using their time, talents, and treasure to provide the food for others in the community.

“Oh, absolutely,” Celina says. “We have very talented cooks in the parish and they want to share. It takes a lot of work, but this is very meaningful.”

Anyone who wants to become a casserole donor is welcome, and there are other needs at times.

“Sometimes they need snacks or breakfast foods, and we are a community of donors to provide

items needed,” she says.

Other Lexington denominations also provide food for the CAC.

“It’s a community effort to feed everybody in need,” Celina says. “If there is a need for something that is needed in addition, the CAC will let us know. We’re able to manage it. Our donors are absolutely amazing!”

For more information about the Casserole Ministry, log onto the parish website, cathedralctk.org, and click on the drop-down menu for “Serve With Us.” On the left side menu, click on “Catholic Action Center.” Under that heading, you will find “casserole recipes.”

If anyone wants more information or to become a casserole donor, or provide other food items, contact Celina Magana at 859-447-5998.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

Daily (Monday to Saturday) - 8:00 a.m. | (Monday to Friday) - 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday 4:45 - 5:20 p.m., Saturday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | First Sunday of the month 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.