

Dear Fellow Parishioner:

Hi, my name is Patty Jarzembowski and I help with Market Day distribution.

Market Day is a fundraising program that St. Joseph School incorporated in their program to raise money for their budget. When the school closed, I was asked if I would like to chair this fundraising program for the church. I said "yes".

It really is very simple. Order forms for Market Day are put out in the three vestibules of the church. You can order from the form and put it in the main vestibule in a specific box or you can place the order yourself over the internet. The orders that are in the vestibule are entered over the internet by myself.

Usually on the third Wednesday of every month the orders for Market Day are trucked over and the helpers and I unload the boxes of food, making sure the correct amount of food was brought, box up the orders, and help distribute the orders to the customers. This takes place between 4:00pm and approximately 6:00pm. We are usually on our way home no later than 6:00pm.

By giving of your time and muscles, the church receives a profit of approximately \$100 per month.

This ministry is very important in that you can help the church's budget with your willingness to help. Right now we have two husband and wife teams plus myself. The two teams alternate each month and I am there every month. The benefits are, (1) the money the church receives to supplement the budget, and (2) your opportunity to meet other parishioners and neighbors.

I ask for your willingness to help. Husband and wife teams are awesome. If you are unable to help please consider ordering the food to bring the profit level higher which in turn helps our budget.

Sincerely,

Patty Jarzembowski

LECTOR

Hello, my name is Karen Ziolkowski and I would like to thank you and Father Terry for allowing me this time to speak to you today about the ministry of being a Lector.

You may have been told that you look or act like another member of your family - maybe a grandmother or uncle or distant cousin. If that family member is alive and lives nearby it is easy to become familiar with them just by calling or by visiting. If the family member is from a past generation, you may only be able to access your relative by examining old photographs. You may even be lucky enough to read old dairies or letters written by or to the deceased. The further back in time you go, the less likely you are to find information unless your relative was famous.

Well, we are truly fortunate to have a very detailed record of our Christian family inheritance, through Jesus, in the Holy Bible. I am indeed privileged and blessed to be able to present our inheritance to you in my ministry as a lector each month.

In my ministry as a lector, not only am I able to reveal God's design on how we should live as Christians but I am able to give you a sense of what Jesus' love truly is. Many holy people, teachers and prophets, and even the words of Jesus himself are presented to you each week in our readings at mass.

When I first began my ministry I was given a book that would help me prepare my heart and mind. This lector workbook gives guides on pronunciations, indicates the tone of the reading and suggests the properly delivery and emphasis of the scripture. Background on the reading also provides more information and understanding for the reading. When I prepare for my ministry, I read the passage several times and I practice the pronunciations of the words I am not familiar with. Performing this exercise at first was just a matter of self-preservation. As I became more experienced, I found that I truly was deepening my faith and that the word of God was entering my heart more deeply than it ever had done previously. I began to prepare for every Sunday's reading whether I was schedule to be a lector or not. If you tell me that you get nothing out of going to mass, I would suggest that you try preparing for the scriptures in advance.

Father Terry had encouraged us in other ministries to increase our prayer time and to read the gospels daily. It was suggested that we should spend at least ½ hour in prayer – and at least double that when we are busy because we definitely need it more on those crazy days! I have found that when I empty myself of the day's commotion and noise, God, through the Holy Spirit is quick to take up larger residence in my heart. I try to read the scriptures daily. Right now I am reading Paul – he totally is a righteous dude!

All of this has been given to me because of God's grace. I am only his voice. You can be his voice too. You too can proclaim the good news of God in this ministry on Sundays and every day!

Do not be afraid – He goes before you always!

P

A.D. 2012

Greeting beloved of Christ,

As a fellow parisher ask you help in the service of the Lord.

As a young child I learned how to serve and the joy in doing so.

To listen and follow the call of Christ to help spread the Kingdom of God on earth.

At times you don't always feel like doing anything and would like to do other things; but the heart overrules the body.

The Holy Spirit reminds you of the Love of God and all He has done for you and the honor of being called Chosen by God. Jesus isn't out done by service; He showers His blessings of peace and joy on you.

As an Extra minister of Holy Communion altar server, choir member, sacristan and environment and art committee the joy increases.

I am Connie Peschel a member of the most of my life; except went to the Convent and ten years beyond my Control.

I was baptize received my
Communion and Confirmed here

Not to sever in any ministry
at Mass seems unnatural
Come share the joy in the
service of Lord.

God is ever faithful in good
time and the times that are
hard, you grow from the experience

Yours in His Love
Connie Peschel

Good Morning. My name is Dan Sullivan and I am here to talk to you about St. Joseph's CHOIR.

When Fr. Terry asked me to read a letter about the choir, I asked myself what I could say that would be informative. I decided a definition and a little history might help. The definition of choir is a group of singers and instrumentalists gathered together, usually in a church, to sing and play as part of a service. That much most people know.

St. Joseph's choir was formed in the 1930's, and sang up to sometime in the 60's. In fact, it was that original group that acquired the organ that is in the choir loft now. It was brought to this country for the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, and I think was part of the Belgium exhibit. Sometime after the Worlds Fair the parish purchased the organ and the men of the choir hoisted it over the choir loft railing, which must have been quite a chore, since it is very heavy. Unfortunately that organ is no longer operable.

The choir reformed in the early 1980's, which is when I joined, having sung almost my whole adult life, in high school while playing sports, through college and many church choirs. However, I did take time off after college when marriage, children and laziness, not to mention my job interfered. It was through the efforts of two ladies that I got back to signing in a choir.

My wife and I and 5 of our 6 children moved here in 1979 and I joined this choir soon after. At that time there were approximately 40 members. Now we have around 18,

which really is not enough for a well rounded choir. Especially, when we usually do not have a full compliment of members at any one time.

AND THAT IS THE POINT! WE NEED NEW MEMBERS! Both singers and instrumentalists. Men, women and teenagers.

If you like to sing, or can play an instrument, PLEASE consider joining us.

Many people that I've talk to say they would like to join, but they don't because they can't sing. Let me state right now that almost everyone can sing, whether they think so or not. Don't be afraid, not one of us, to my knowledge, as any formal training, with the exception of our outstanding director, Mary Jadermak.

All ages are welcome. In the past we have had high school students. I know there must be high school students that are performing in school plays, etc., that are members of this parish, and we invite those students to join us. If you have children and do not want to get a baby sitter, that's OK also. Bring them along and they can play with the others. We are a family oriented choir!

As you probably know, the choir sings at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. We rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 to about 9:00, and again before Mass on Sunday. After having taken this summer off we will start rehearsals on Sep. 6th and perform on Sunday the 9th. We also put on a

special performance on Christmas Eve, Confirmation, Reconciliation, weddings and funerals.

At this point I would like all the choir members in the congregation to stand so that you can see who they are and so that you can ask them questions after Mass. I'm sure they will be happy to accommodate you. I will also be available.

In addition to the time we spend rehearsing, we also like to enjoy ourselves, and get to know each other better. We do this by having social gatherings through out the year, such as: a theme party, a fish fry, a golf outing (you don't have to play golf), and a Christmas party. Spouses or significant others are invited to all events.

In closing PLEASE JOIN US-----YOU'LL LIKE IT! We need your help.

REMEMBER, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT TO SING IS TO PRAY TWICE!

Thank you.

I've really only had 2 goals in my life. One was to be a mother and other was to be a lawyer. All my life I knew I wanted to be a mom, but it wasn't until I was about 24 years old that I started thinking that I could be an attorney.

I came from a very blue collar family. My father worked in the mills his whole life. Though he was one of the lucky ones who didn't get laid off when the steel industry hit hard times, we always lived in constant fear that he could lose his job any day. My mom, who was my first role model in spirituality, was a stay at home mom raising us 4 kids. She always turned to prayer to help see our family through hard times and thanked God for all His blessings in the good times.

In my extended family, not only was I the first person to go to college, I was the first woman to earn a high school diploma. My undergraduate career lasted 6 years because I could only afford to go to college part time at first while I worked 2 jobs to help with the cost. During my senior year when the idea of earning a degree became a real possibility, I remember feeling absolutely invincible. Something that I had worked so hard for, for so long was going to happen and I felt like I was on top of the world. This feeling that I could accomplish anything is what started me thinking of law school. If I could earn a bachelors degree, I could earn a law degree and thankfully my grades had always been good, so I took the acceptance test, applied and got in.

That was about the end of my euphoric feelings though. Financial aid wasn't what I had hoped for, my trip out to law school was plagued with car troubles, and the room I was staying in through orientation was infested with roaches. I felt like maybe it just wasn't meant to be, like perhaps I had set my sights too high. And being the tough, strong woman that I am, I dealt with it by having an emotional breakdown. My mom, who was with me through the whole ordeal, did her best to comfort me and I remember she told me to pray to St. Jude. Dumbfounded and angry, I asked her how the Beatles were supposed to help. And so began my first lesson in the saving help of saints.

All through law school, whenever I felt overwhelmed or that the journey just seemed too much to bear, I would pray to St. Jude for help. To this day, I still call on him quite often to get me through the difficulty or hopeless times.

Accomplishing my second goal of becoming a mother, likewise had its ups and downs. When I met my husband he had been married once before, so instantly I was a step-mom with 3 wonderful stepchildren. And I had wanted my stepchildren to also have a strong faith that they could turn to in their times of need, so we enrolled them in religious classes, but the best way to teach our children is through example, so I started teaching religious education. The 2011-2012 school year was my 7th year as a catechist here at St. Joes.

But I didn't just want to be a step-mom, I wanted to give birth, to know how it felt to have a baby growing inside of me, to understand a mother's unconditional love.

After my husband and I were married we started working on having a baby and getting pregnant happened rather quickly. However, keeping a baby inside my womb proved to be much more difficult and I miscarried. The pain of losing a baby and the thought of not ever becoming a mother was the

most terrible experience that I have ever endured. And once again I turned to my faith to help me through this loss. I found a special prayer to St. Theresa of the child Jesus and a novena to the Virgin Mary which gave me strength and hope, and I constantly promised heaven that if I were blessed with a baby, I would raise him or her to be a child of God. In all I would lose 4 babies before God gave me my daughter.

Through the loving grace of Jesus, I am an attorney and a mother. But I also have an obligation; an obligation to our Lord. I had made a promise to raise Reyah as a true child of God.

About two and a half years ago, I had read in our church bulletin that volunteers were needed at a local nursing home to help push the residents confined to a wheelchair down for mass. I called the number and informed the woman that my 10 month old baby and I would like to help. A little confused, she said we could give it a try and see how it goes. The next Thursday, I showed up with my infant daughter tucked inside a baby knap-sack on my back. We continued to go every week and through the years she has made many friends and to some she has truly become a bright little ray of light, whose faces light up when she walks in. She brings them such a joy, while my heart smiles because I know that I have begun teaching my daughter in the stewardship of Christ.

Today, my journey with God has also lead me to become a participant in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. I have recently celebrated my 5th year with team Destination Cure, which was founded in 2007. Since it began, this team of 38 moms has helped raise over \$125,000 towards finding a cure for cancer.

Likewise, my faith in God has helped me to find employment as an adjunct professor at the Calumet College of St. Joseph and as an attorney with the Evans Williams Law Group, which is a spiritual based law firm, whose philosophy is that God has given all of us unique skills, talents, and abilities. We must use them to do our part.

I am also a proud member of our St. Joseph Pastoral Council. And as such, I have been asked to write this letter detailing my voyage in Christ's stewardship, in an attempt to inspire more of our congregation to step up and walk with Jesus. I surely don't think of myself as an inspiration. I'm just a working mom trying to find enough time to devote towards my marriage, my family, my career, my charities and my passions. I'm just like most of you, trying to find enough time...which, after all, is one of our most precious gifts from God. I'm definitely not an inspiration, but I would like to be an example of what a little of your time and sharing of your faith could become. Thank you.

Tamara Fredrickson