

## Stewardship in Pajamas!

It's not a misprint. Here's an opportunity for you to share your time and talent with Saint Elizabeth Parish—all from the comfort of your own home! *The Spirit* newsletter staff is seeking volunteer writers and graphic designers to help create its quarterly newsletters. Are you an aspiring writer? Then hone your skills, get some experience and play an integral role in your parish community. Have you dabbled in newsletter layout and design? We're looking for creative individuals to put their flair into *The Spirit*. We meet just four times a year (PJ's optional) to prepare for circulation dates in March, June, September and December. If interested in joining the newsletter staff, please call the parish ministry center at 610-321-1200.



*The Elizabeth Ministry held its annual Trick or Treating with the Saints play date on October 29. Parish children dressed in their costumes went to different stations in the church, learning about important Catholics. After each station, they got to pick out a treat. The children also made fun arts and crafts while their moms socialized.*

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# The Spirit

*Tidings for the parish community of Saint Elizabeth*

Volume 13 Number 4  
Fall 2014

### Dates of Interest

November 29-December 14  
Advent Giving Tree

December 1-2-3  
EFF Advent Prayer Services  
4:45 PM and 6:30 PM

Monday, December 8  
Immaculate Conception  
Mass at 7:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 16  
Advent Penance Service with  
Individual Confessions  
7:00 PM

Saturday, December 20  
Christmas Confessions  
9:00-11:00 AM

Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
Mass at 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 25  
Christmas Day  
Mass at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

December 31-January 1  
Holy Day - Mary, Mother of God  
Mass at 5:30 PM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

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By now, most people have heard something about the *Eighth World Meeting of Families (WMF)* that is being held in Philadelphia on September 22-27, 2015. Many of our parishioners have probably seen some often contradictory news reports and TV talk show debates about Church teachings on a wide range of moral issues affecting family life today. And everyone knows that the "Big Story on Action News" is having Pope Francis visit Philadelphia at the end of the *WMF* to celebrate Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Sunday, September 27, 2015 – expected to draw more than one million people. But what exactly is the *World Meeting of Families* and what impact might this event have for Catholics here in the U.S. and around the world?

The *WMF* was established under the leadership of Pope Saint John Paul II as a celebration of family and faith for Catholic believers worldwide. The Pontifical Council for the Family collaborates with a local church to host this international gathering, designed to strengthen the bonds of faith and family life. It has been held every three years since the inaugural gathering in Rome in 1994. In 1997, the *WMF* was held in Rio de Janeiro, Rome again for the Millennium celebration in 2000, Manila in 2003, Valencia in 2006, Mexico City in 2009, and Milan in 2012. Next September, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is the host community.

During the *WMF* itself, an international audience of thousands of families will come together to celebrate the blessings of family life, address the challenges faced by families in today's world, learn more clearly

(continues on page 5)

### WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES PRAYER

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love.

Through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph:  
pray for us!**

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## Parish Web Site Provides Window into a Vibrant Community



*What's the holy day Mass schedule? Whom do I contact to offer my stewardship service? I was out*

*of town last week – how do I catch up on Father Mullin's homily?* All these answers – and much more – are at your fingertips on the Saint Elizabeth parish web site at [stelizabethparish.org](http://stelizabethparish.org).

The site has been in existence for a number of years, but was recently “upgraded both in technology and design,” reported Greg Zunic, a parishioner who volunteers his professional skills as the web master.

“The site now supports mobile devices like phones and tablets,” Greg explained. “It automatically adapts its look and feel to accommodate the device.” He noted that the use of more open space and simple images mirrors overall web design trends.

The biggest benefit for parishioners is that the site is a one-stop destination for the most current information on worship and ministries. “Now that the web site is easy to get to from any device, parishioners can stay updated even if they're on the go,” Greg said. “This is particularly helpful for updates on the many programs scheduled each week.”

The navigation menu has also been revised, based on visitor statistics. “We wanted to make

the most-used information accessible quickly and easily, so we redesigned the home page and menus,” Greg added. The home page now contains quick links to news, the latest bulletin, a calendar, a listing of Mass schedules, and contact information.

“This helps the site fulfill an important purpose for non-parishioners, too,” said Greg. “It gives many visitors their first impression of the Saint Elizabeth community,” he explained.

“Prospective parishioners can get a good overview of the range of activities, ministries and organizations that make Saint Elizabeth the vibrant parish that it is.”

One of the most popular features is *Words from Our Pastor* – a collection of audio and occasional videos of Father Mullin's homilies that can be listened to online or downloaded. “This is great if you are not at one of the Masses on the weekend, or want to reflect on his message at a time convenient to you,” Greg said.

“The recent improvements are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of providing information to the community. One of our goals is to assist all of the parish ministries and organizations to get the message out about their programs. With an increase in participation by these groups, we would expect a whole new range of uses to come for the web site,” Greg concluded.

~ Susan Morgan

### Other Parish Web Sites

The main parish web site is not the only site serving the needs of Saint Elizabeth parishioners. The following sites offer more in-depth information on various aspects of our community:

#### [Saint Elizabeth Parish School](http://teacherweb.com/PA/SaintElizabeth/SchoolHomepage/sdhp1.aspx)

<http://teacherweb.com/PA/SaintElizabeth/SchoolHomepage/sdhp1.aspx>

Information on parish school programs. You can also find them on Facebook by searching “Saint Elizabeth Parish School.”

#### [Saint Elizabeth Youth Ministry](http://www.stelizabethparishyouth.org)

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

Information on parish youth ministries, from elementary through young adults, including scouting. You can also find them on Facebook by searching “Saint Elizabeth Youth-Ministry.”

#### [Saint Elizabeth Athletic Ministry](http://www.stelizabethparish.org/youth/athletics.php)

[www.stelizabethparish.org/youth/athletics.php](http://www.stelizabethparish.org/youth/athletics.php)

The online home of the Saint Elizabeth Athletic Ministry (SEAM), which coordinates all the sports programs offered for the youth and adults of the parish.

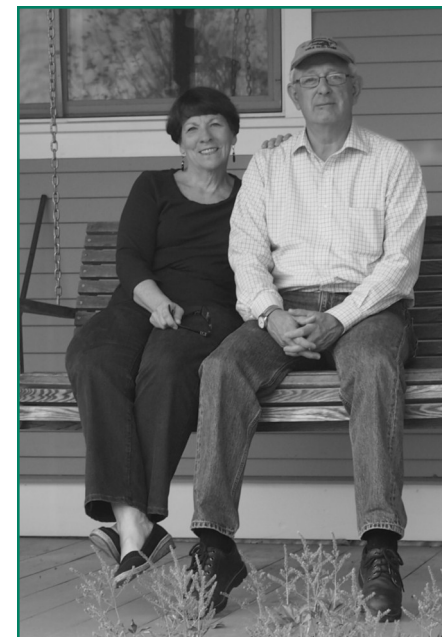
## Family Spirits—The Magees Answer the Call Many Times Over

Clare and John Magee, Saint Elizabeth parishioners since 2000, have answered the call to serve God's people in ways that have evolved and changed over the years. The couple – who have been married for 31 years and have two grown sons, Jim and Tom – currently support seven ministries and parish teams between them.

“Invitations from other parishioners along with prayerful reflection often prompt my volunteer choices,” said Clare. She recalled how her involvement with the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) started that way: “One day after morning Mass, John Mathis, whom I only knew by name, asked if I'd ever thought about joining the RCIA team. When I said I hadn't, he suggested that I pray about it. It took me two whole weeks, but clearly the Lord wanted me to say yes to Him, so I did...and I stayed in that ministry for 12 years.”

Still other motivators, like the opportunity to give back to the parish and community, have guided the couple's changing stewardship efforts over the years. “I was drawn to *Catholics Coming Home* from a strong personal desire to help make it easier for those Catholics who had left the church to find a way back,” shared John. “And I became an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion because I wanted to play a greater role at Mass.” Clare added that being an Extraordinary Minister and making casseroles for St. John's Hospice fall into her “no brainer” stewardship category. “It's an incredible honor to offer the Body of Christ to others, and making casseroles is a rewarding way to follow God's wish to feed the hungry,” she explained.

Upon reflection, both agree that no matter what group or what motivator, they've benefited greatly – spiritually and other-



*Clare and John Magee have been open to God's call to share their stewardship at Saint Elizabeth.*

wise – from being involved in various ministries. They've come to deeply value the unique experiences gained from this winding volunteer path. “I've been able to practice my faith more fully,” said John. “For example, my involvement with The Lord's Pantry has allowed me to help others who are less fortunate.” Clare said that she is fulfilling an obligation of spiritual and corporal works of mercy learned in Catechism classes many years ago.

“Any time you follow the Lord's example and His desire to extend yourself to others, He gives you so much more in return,” she concluded. “And that doesn't even include the wonderful friendships you make when you become involved!”

~ Amy Giampietro

### Dates of Interest *cont'd*

January 25-30  
Catholic Schools Week  
Open House: Sunday, 12:20-2:00 PM

January 31-February 1  
Blessing of Sacramental Candidates  
at Weekend Masses

Ash Wednesday, February 18  
Mass at 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM  
Liturgy of the Word & Ashes  
at 11:30 AM and 4:30 PM

Lenten Fridays, 7:00 PM  
Stations of the Cross & Benediction  
February 20 - March 27

Saturdays, February 21 and 28  
Confirmation Retreats  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

M-T-W, February 23-24-25  
EFF Lenten Prayer Services  
4:45 PM and 6:30 PM

Friday, March 20  
Living Stations of the Cross  
1:30 PM and 7:00PM

## New Youth Minister Has Big Plans for Millennials

Did you know that according to the Pew research Center, three out of ten young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 say they are not affiliated with any religion? This is at, or near, the highest level of religious disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the quarter-century that Pew has been polling on these topics.

It's no wonder that Clare Kane, Saint Elizabeth's new Administrator of Parish Youth Ministry Programs, plans to pay these Millennials special attention.

This past September, Clare stepped into the shoes of Amy Deedy, the former Coordinator of Parish Youth Ministries, and she hasn't stopped to even tie the laces! "Amy accomplished so much and built the framework for so many great youth programs," smiled Clare. "She really gave me a head start. There's nowhere to go but up!"

Exuding enthusiasm, Clare discussed big plans for the youth of our parish and has set lofty expectations for herself in the process. "I hope to be a major presence at the parish and to make all of the young people here feel like this is a place for them...that the Church has a lot to offer them, in particular. Catholicism maintains ideals that these young adults can really relate to in their everyday lives."



Clare Kane, new Administrator of Parish Youth Ministry Programs, hopes to create a more natural, fluid transition between age groups and on into young adult ministry.

In her new role, Clare is responsible for much more than parish youth groups. She supports all youth programs including year-round athletics, three parish youth groups spanning 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, boy/girl scouts of America, and the young adults program.

"In addition to building upon the wonderful programs Amy initiated over the years, I hope to create a more natural, fluid transition between age groups and on into young adult ministry," said Clare. "I want to create a place where teens can socialize with other like-minded people and help establish a spiritual mindset that carries over into their adult life. I also want to help the younger generation find their vocations and, in doing so, perpetuate their love for Christ far into adulthood."

Leading by example, Clare has been living a Christ-centered life for her 24 years, actively participating in the Church as an altar server, member of the choir, religious education teacher, camp counselor, and working at various religious missions. Clare is a member of St. Norbert Church in Paoli and currently lives at home in Coatesville. She graduated from West Chester University with a dual certification in elementary and special education. She has five siblings and a beloved Golden Retriever named Luke. When she gets a chance to take off those big shoes that she put on this fall, Clare prefers to lace up sneakers and go hiking or canoeing...or kick them off completely and head to the beach!

"My heart is meant for ministry," Clare concluded. "I always knew that my passion was working with youth, so I couldn't be more grateful or feel more blessed to have this opportunity at Saint Elizabeth parish. Already, I can feel the generous spirit and warm sense of community. I'm so excited to be a part of it all!"

Many thanks to Amy Deedy for the foundation she helped to build, and Godspeed to Clare as she works energetically to bring the impressionable youth back to the Church.

~ Lisa Barbadora

## School Spirits

### Los Estudiantes de Saint Elizabeth a Hablar Espanol

New to the curriculum this year at Saint Elizabeth Parish School is a boost to the foreign language program for middle school students. Only a handful of schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are now teaching a second language and Saint Elizabeth is proud to be one of them.

Students are learning Spanish through the Rosetta Stone program, a well-established, interactive language learning program utilized in many schools throughout the country.

The program was introduced to the seventh and eighth graders last year as a self-directed learning experience, but has been augmented by teacher-led instruction this year. All middle school students are now learning how to speak and read the language in a conventional classroom setting. "We found that kids learn best with a blended approach," stated Principal Dr. Diane Greco. "This means they have the digital-based learning component, but also have a teacher in the room. This combines the best of a traditional learning environment with individualized instruction through technology, which is much more comprehensive."

Why Spanish? "We believe that this is the most practical language," said Dr. Greco. "Spanish

is the second most-spoken language in our country and we have a high percentage of Spanish-speaking people right here in Chester County."

The goal of implementing a language learning program is to build a solid foundation, so that Saint Elizabeth students are well-



Seventh graders at Saint Elizabeth Parish School are learning a new language through the Rosetta Stone-based curriculum.

prepared for high school language courses. The Rosetta Stone program not only fosters awareness of culture and diversity, but also places a strong emphasis on practical language skills like reading, writing and speaking. Plus, instruction is modified to support individual learning styles, which allows students to move at a comfortable pace.

According to 7<sup>th</sup>-grader, Taylor Barbadora, "I enjoy learning a

new language – it's so different from other things we do every day. Plus, it's fun trying to talk with my friends in Spanish and also my little brother, who doesn't get it yet...but he will!"

"We have already observed that this is an effective teaching method," added Dr. Greco. "The students are conversing, motivated to deepen their learning of the language, and having fun at the same time."

Muy Buena!

~ Julie Krumenacker

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## Bible Study: Learning and Living The Word

Does the thought of attending bible study intimidate you? You might think you need to be able to recite verses from the bible or be a theologian to participate. Ask anyone who attends the bible study at Saint Elizabeth parish and you will find it's not like that at all!

"We're all regular people. None of us is a theological scholar," smiled Eleanor Angstadt, coordinator of the Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Committee's Bible Study Planning Team and the



facilitator of the morning sessions. "We're a low-key group who gather to read, study and discuss the bible readings so that we can incorporate the messages into our daily lives and the Word of God can become a part of us."

Bob Masino, co-facilitator of the evening sessions agrees, "None of us is a bible expert. We read the text, answer questions and then rely on each other to deepen our understanding. We all share our thoughts and learn together, which enhances the experience exponentially."

The unique format of the bible study program here is the key to its success. After reading the passages, there's time for personal prayer and reflection. Each person is welcome to ponder a series of thought-provoking questions privately or openly with the group – there's no pressure. Each meeting often includes a formal educational component, such as a DVD with a knowledgeable speaker, who can really open one's eyes to the meaning of the bible stories. The DVD presentations provide a brief history lesson on the culture and traditions of the time, giving valuable insight into a particular passage or event so that the writings can be understood from the right perspective.

Finally, there's time for fellowship by discussing the questions and sharing what is learned and how it applies

to modern life. As Eleanor pointed out, "It's one thing to read the bible texts and answer the questions, but when everyone discusses them as a group, that's what amazes me. The bible becomes three dimensional. Everyone's perspective helps to unfold the full meaning."

"My favorite aspect of bible study is the opportunity to share and expand my faith while meeting so many great members of our Saint Elizabeth family," shared Mary Ann Kilty, who said she was a little intimidated

at first. "It's been a humbling and joyful discovery." Parishioner Carol Oksala added, "I had never studied the bible before, but I've been inspired by others." Pat Sylvester elaborated, saying: "I've made so many new friends that I otherwise wouldn't have met. I've gained inspiration from others and insight into others' lives, their joys, their struggles and how they overcome them, and I've learned what their faith life means to them."

For the past eight years, the AFF Committee has offered bible study at Saint Elizabeth, now coordinating a new series each fall, winter and usually spring. The Planning Team researches which books of the bible or biblical topics will be studied, working to create a mix of Old and New Testament books, as well as modern thematic material. This winter's bible study will be on the Book of Revelation, followed in the spring by a series on the Book of Job. New next fall, the parish will offer a three-part series, entitled "The Bible Timeline." Watch the bulletin for information or email Eleanor Angstadt at eleanora52@verizon.net.

Fidel Verdugo, session co-facilitator invites all parishioners, saying: "Don't be afraid to be a student again. You will enjoy the company of others who seek to learn more about their faith."

~ Rhonda Jones

## 2015 WMF cont'd

the Catholic vision for marriage and family, and strengthen their own commitment to living in imitation of the Holy Family in daily life. The 2015 theme, "Love is Our Mission – The Family Fully Alive," announces the fundamental mission of every Christian family to love one another and all others as God loves, in imitation of the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ. Every member of the family shares responsibility to communicate and share this God-like love with others and it is in this way that each family can become fully alive in God's love.

Most of the activities of the WMF will be held in the Philadelphia Convention Center. The formal program includes:

- an opening ceremony on Tuesday afternoon;
- the celebration of Mass each day;
- an Adult Congress (18+) that offers a series of keynote presentations and breakout sessions throughout the day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday;
- an interactive Youth Congress for children between 6 and 17 years old.

The Saturday program includes both a special Youth Event at Citizens Bank Park and an elaborate *Festival of Families* on the Parkway that evening. The time for the Papal Mass on Sunday remains unconfirmed.

Some of the major presentations during the WMF feature topics such as:

- *Living as the Image of God – Created for Joy and Love* on Tuesday afternoon;
- *The Light of the Family in a Dark World* on Wednesday morning;
- *The Family – A Home for the Wounded Heart* on Thursday afternoon;
- *The Joy of the Gospel of Life* on Friday morning.

Over and above the formal events, the real key to the WMF is the opportunity for families from all over the world to intermingle with one another informally and to reinforce their shared commitment to family life in the Catholic Christian tradition. And, in some ways the ultimate value of next September's WMF will be realized to the extent that Catholic parishioners here at Saint Elizabeth, across the Archdiocese and around the world, take seriously the call of Pope Francis to join in a year-long preparation of daily prayer for families, catechetical instruction on the Church's teachings on marriage and the family, and open-hearted conversations with others about the strengths and challenges of family life in the modern world.

A special preparatory catechesis for the WMF has been published by *Our Sunday Visitor* and is readily available as item T1651PH at [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com). I invite all our parishioners – adults, youth and children; individuals,

couples and families – to take advantage of the many faith formation opportunities to be provided in anticipation of the WMF and to plan now to participate in its varied events and activities.

As an expression of our shared commitment to pray for families near and far, I encourage every parishioner and each family household to incorporate into your daily prayer the recitation of the *Prayer for the World Meeting of Families* – see cover.

Parishioners can also become involved as host families for national and international visitors during the week of September 22-27, and as staff volunteers to serve as welcome teams, guides, ushers, translators and in other support services. To learn more about the 2015 WMF, including registration information, event scheduling and volunteering, simply go online to [www.WorldMeeting2015.org](http://www.WorldMeeting2015.org), on Facebook at World Meeting of Families 2015, and on Twitter @WMF2015.

As we prepare for this unique event, let us unite in prayer for all families, especially the most troubled, in our own parish and around the world. May every family, by the grace of God and the intercession of the Holy Family, build up homes of loving communion, prayerful faith and generous service to others!

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph:  
pray for us!*

~ Fr. Thomas Mullin