



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

November 2014

Harlan and Leslie Schadt *Living Faith Through Prayer*

Inside

- 2 Approaching Advent From a Stewardship Point of View
- 3 A Time for Remembrance
- 4 This Advent Season, Support Others Through Family to Family
- 5 Mass of Remembrance AND Advent Vespers
- 6 Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 7 Parish Giving in an Online Age

As children of God, we are created for prayer – it is the means for us to nurture a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And as we can learn from parishioners Harlan and Leslie Schadt, it is a habit that, once developed, can bear fruit.

Of course, prayer needs a strong foundation of faith, and interestingly both Harlan and Leslie came into the Catholic faith later in life. Originally from Glen Ellyn, a western suburb of Chicago, Leslie's family wasn't affiliated with any particular religion. Her father was a fallen-away Catholic, and while her mother made sure that Leslie and her two older brothers attended Sunday school, the family didn't worship together. When Leslie was around 5 years old, her father returned to the faith of his childhood – something that would later influence Leslie when she decided to become a Catholic during her senior year in high school.

"My father was one of the most devout men I know," Leslie says. "He was ethical, virtuous, and a faithful family man. At first, he would go to Mass by himself. But by high school, I was going with him more and more. I was also influenced by my aunt and my cousins who were all practicing Catholics.



Harlan and Leslie Schadt (back row, center) with their family

Then, when I was a sophomore in high school, we studied the religions of the world – specifically Catholicism and the Protestant Reformation – and it was very plain to me that if you were Christian, you should be Catholic."

Harlan, on the other hand, didn't have any Catholic influence growing up in Fairfield, Iowa, where his family owned a farm. However, his parents were faithful, worked hard, and believed wholeheartedly that God was the source of all gifts. But in looking back on his faith journey, Harlan says that there were two influential people in his life who made him stop for a moment and think about the Catholic faith – one was a childhood friend who always put Confession before any Saturday evening activity, and the

continued on back cover

1608 13th Street
Moline, IL 61265
Phone 309-762-2362

www.sacredheartmoline.org

Approaching Advent From a Stewardship Point of View

Advent ignites the ecclesiastical year of the Church, and is traditionally set to begin on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. Advent encompasses four Sundays of penance, anticipation and joyful preparation. Commonly denoted by its distinctly purple motif, Advent's symbolic hues point to the royalty of Christ and the penance our souls require as we await His earthly arrival.

Every third Sunday during Advent, publicized by its characteristically rose color, is set aside as a time for rejoicing and merriment – a festive celebration of Christ's imminent coming. Advent's rich tradition within the Catholic Church incorporates several symbolic expressions of faith that describe the significance of Christ's coming. Seasonal mainstays – such as the family-oriented practice of lighting the advent wreath, St. Lucia crowns and Advent calendars – help us physically express the sacred nature of Advent.

The mystery and beauty of Advent, characterized by contrite hearts and holy anticipation, is in no way limited to the Christmas season. Indeed, Christians all over the world should remain in a preparatory frame of mind until Christ returns to Earth in splendor. Ever since His glorious Ascension, Christians everywhere have been on watch,

waiting for Jesus to return and take us home. As St. Paul explains in his letter to the Thessalonians, “Therefore let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Th 5:2, 6).

As stewards of our parish community, we are vocationally called to spread Christ's message to the world. Much like John the Baptist, it is our responsibility to announce Christ's coming to all of humanity. We must invest ourselves, evangelically, in the mission of Christian conversion. We must not do so with force or propaganda, but with love and education. When we live with Christ's arrival firmly in mind, truly desiring His immediate presence, Christian stewardship becomes second nature. Just as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* so eloquently explains, “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming” (CCC 524).

As the dawn of Advent breaks upon us, let us appropriately prepare our hearts, with stewardship firmly in hand, for the arrival of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



A Letter From Our Pastor



A Time for Remembrance

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November begins with the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls. At Sacred Heart, we will have a Mass commemorating everyone who has died in our parish the last year. All of us have lost loved ones over the course of the year since last November. Grieving is a healthy emotion and a necessary thing to do.

In times past, even the secular society recognized that a time was needed for sorrow. For a certain number of days, those grieving would not go out in public, and of course, black was worn over a prescribed period by family members. This might seem rather strange to us, but there was recognition that healing takes time. In our “hurry up” society, it would seem today that people have a hard time even working a funeral into their busy schedule. Employers

find it hard in some cases to even give people time off work to attend a funeral.


The church has a funeral rite. If celebrated well and with all its elements, it allows loved ones to process grief. The prayers at the time of a death, sharing at the wake of the deceased and the funeral Mass give reassurance about the mercy of God. We can forget that there are other times of mourning that can take place later. There is always the option to have a Mass offered for our dead loved ones. This can happen within a few weeks, and it can happen on the person’s birthday or on the anniversary of death. We are fortunate to have at least two Masses a day at Sacred Heart. To have a Mass celebrated for a loved one, all

a parishioner has to do is stop by our office to establish the time.

We also have the annual bereavement Mass. As we gather with others who have suffered the loss of a loved one, we realize that we are not alone. Others grieve too. We also are reminded of the promise of eternal life and the presence of a merciful God at all moments of our lives.

I would hope to expand our Bereavement Ministry in the future so that we might meet the needs of all those who mourn. We need to seek them out. For Jesus said, “Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled.”

Peace,


Fr. Mark DeSutter

This Advent Season, Support Others Through **Family to Family**

Each Advent season, parishioners look forward to participating in Sacred Heart’s Family to Family Ministry. Family to Family provides Christmas gifts to parish families in need of a little extra holiday cheer. Through this important project, parishioners are able to bring the love and joy of Christmas into the homes of those who most need it.

Family to Family has been a long-standing program at Sacred Heart for over 20 years. Each year, the ministry sends out a letter to parishioners asking them to submit the names of parish members who may be in need of Christmas gifts. Included in the mailing was a “Wish List” form that is completed by members and returned to the office with their suggested gifts. On the weekend of Nov. 15, these gift needs will be posted in sealed envelopes on the church’s bulletin board, and parishioners are welcome to take envelopes in order to donate gifts to the ministry.

“Each family receives three gifts in remembrance of the three gifts the Three Kings brought to the Christ Child,” says JoAnn Spears, who has been involved with the ministry for the past 10 years. “Parishioners can bring their wrapped gifts to the Lee Parish Center during office hours on Nov. 17 until Dec. 10. We get all kinds of gifts donated, such



as winter jackets, hats, mittens, pots and pans, sleds, and bikes.”

Just before Christmas, families are able to pick up their gifts on a specified date – this year, Dec. 17.

“When all the presents are all wrapped and on the tables ready to be picked up, it’s such a wonderful sight

to see,” JoAnn says. “The families are very thankful – a lot of them have big families, and can’t afford presents for their children. It really is great for the children to have something to open under the tree.”

JoAnn encourages all parishioners to participate in the Family to Family Ministry, either by purchasing and donating gifts, or by helping to sort the gifts before the families come to pick them up.

“It’s a really nice feeling, to know that you can help these people out like that,” she says. “I think that everybody wants these families – especially the children – to have a wonderful Christmas.”

For more information about helping out the Family to Family Ministry, please contact Julie Appleman or JoAnn Spears by calling the Lee Parish Center at 309-762-2362.

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– JoAnn Spears

Mass of Remembrance

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will hold a Mass of Remembrance on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. to honor all those parishioners who have passed on in the last year.

Elizabeth Lievens 10/18/2013
Robert Cronin 11/02/2013
Grace Verpaele 11/03/2013
Alice Kmetz 11/04/2013
Daniel Garvis 12/09/2013
Harold Michel 12/11/2013
Walter Kacprzyk 12/12/2013
Elaine Hindman 12/12/2013
John Wright 12/13/2013
Juliette Van De Velde 12/16/2013
William Laird 12/21/2013
Margarita Ramirez 12/31/2013
Mary Holmes 12/31/2013
Joan Meyer 01/01/2014
Marie Ege 01/02/2014
Marjorie De Decker 01/10/2014
Steven Tagmeier 01/12/2014
Faye De Bisschop 01/16/2014

Augusta Grunewald 01/20/2014
Helen Woodward 01/30/2014
Marilyn Wassenhove 02/20/2014
Virginia Barnard 03/03/2014
Joseph Laverdierre 03/03/2014
Patricia Courtney 03/04/2014
Evelyn Tarbay 03/08/2014
Stephen Polito 03/12/2014
Clara Duytschaever 03/13/2014
Florence Kinsey 03/15/2014
Rita Mills Sears 03/21/2014
Georgia Treadwell 03/25/2014
Roman Wakula 04/07/2014
Carl Raskie 04/08/2014
Rita Miller 04/22/2014
Elza Vols 05/02/2014
Stella Frerkes 05/04/2014
Joan Rose 05/04/2014
Schloemer-Denkoff 05/04/2014

Henry Rangle 05/25/2014
Omer Van Landuyt 06/14/2014
Maurine Anderson 06/15/2014
Lucille Garcia 06/25/2014
Marie Munoz 07/12/2014
Ronald Dolleslager 07/23/2014
Janice Orsborn 07/25/2014
Kirk Wicks 07/29/2014
Norma Starr 08/06/2014
Lois Siwy 08/09/2014
Richard Mendoza 08/10/2014
Lorraine Ketner 08/25/2014
Margarite Hicks 09/06/2014
Jennifer Barlow 09/06/2014
Gertrude King 09/07/2014
Henry DeMay 09/16/2014
Mary Ellen Sorensen 09/26/2014
Alyce Lang 10/04/2014
Dale Siefker 10/14/2014

Ecumenical Advent Vespers

November 30, December 7, 14,
and 21 at 4pm.

Come celebrate the anticipation of the Christ Child every Sunday during Advent in the hyperactive month of December. Feel the joy before getting bogged down with the busyness of the holidays. Vespers will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Church. Preparing doesn't mean doing nothing. Preparing means letting God do some pruning. It means looking into ourselves, emptying ourselves to make room for the coming of the Christ Child.



Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

O Lord, who art ever merciful and bounteous with Thy gifts, look down upon the suffering souls in purgatory. Remember not their offenses and negligences, but be mindful of Thy loving mercy, which is from all eternity. Cleanse them of their sins and fulfill their ardent desires that they may be made worthy to behold Thee face to face in Thy glory. May they soon be united with Thee and hear those blessed words which will call them to their heavenly home: "Come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Amen.

Many Catholics are aware that the Church dedicates the first two days of November – the Solemnity of All Saints on Nov. 1 and the Feast of All Souls on Nov. 2 – to commemorating and praying for the souls of the faithful departed. But did you know that during the entire month of November, the Church places a special emphasis on praying for the souls in purgatory?

The Church has always taught us to pray for the souls of those who have passed on from this life. Even in Old Testament times, prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought “well and religiously concerning the resurrection” (Liturgical Meditations, The Sisters of St. Dominic). And in the early days of the Church, St. Paul further emphasized

the importance and responsibility of not only remembering our brothers and sisters who have passed away, but actively praying for them: “For the Lord himself ... will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will first rise” (1 Thess 4:16).

Because of the very state of the holy souls in purgatory, we as earthly brothers and sisters in Christ are closely connected to those who passed on from this life. We share in the peace of knowing that salvation will one day be obtained, but are simultaneously suffering in separation from God. The Church also teaches that we have the opportunity to play a big part in helping these souls through their period of purgation, so that they may soon enjoy eternal glory with the Lord. As Donald

Cardinal Wuerl points out in *The Teaching of Christ*, “Their communion with the faithful on earth is not thereby broken. The living can bring comfort and alleviation to those in purgatory by their intercessions, by ‘Masses, prayers, almsgiving and other pious works which, in the manner of the Church, the faithful are accustomed to do for others of the faithful.’”

This month, please make a special effort to offer prayers for your deceased friends and loved ones, and all those who have passed away in the grace and friendship of God. Offering a Mass for someone who has passed away is an especially fruitful way to honor the memory and bring comfort to a holy soul in purgatory.

Parish Giving in an Online Age

We live in an age where nearly everything is accessible through the Internet. This is especially true when it comes to financial transactions, as we buy, sell and pay our bills online. Now, members of Sacred Heart Parish can give to our parish offertory online, as well.

“They can do it any time at their own convenience,” says Carolyn Wilson, who coordinated the addition of online giving to the parish website. “Even when out of town, they can set or change their donation online. It can be done with a weekly donation, bimonthly, monthly or a one-time annual donation.”

Beginning this month, parishioners can access the registration page for online giving from Sacred Heart’s parish website, www.sacredheartmoline.org. Registration is simple, requiring parishioners to enter their bank account and routing numbers or their credit or debit card information. An email address is required.

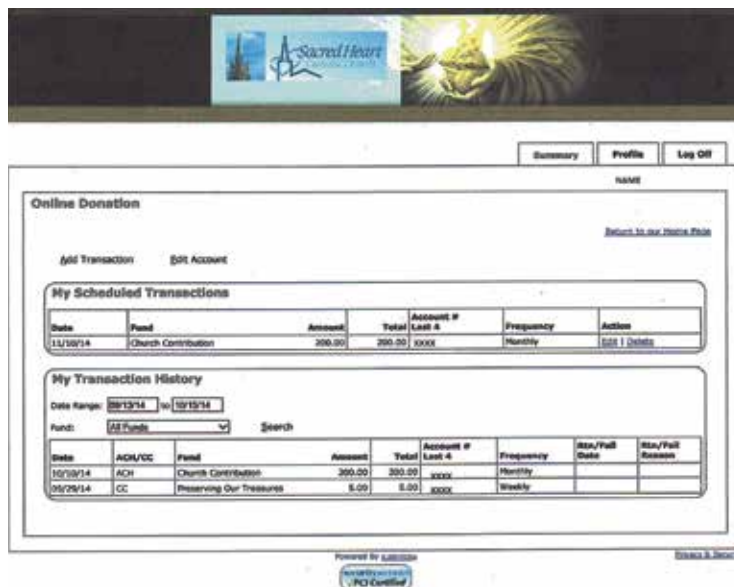
After registering for online giving, parishioners can choose from several donation options. Parishioners can designate the amount they wish to give and how often, the program will debit that amount from the parishioner’s account of choice on the date specified.

Indeed, online giving makes the entire process of giving to the offertory easier for parishioners.

“Online giving will allow them more selections, allowing them to give to special funds when there are special functions in the parish, so it will make it easier for the parishioners and also for the office staff in recording collections,” Carolyn says.

When parishioners register with online giving, it also eliminates the need for the envelopes to be distributed each month.

“This gives parishioners total control of what they’re giving,” Carolyn says. “They can increase their donations.



They can select various funds to donate to throughout the year without having to contact the office or use an envelope and drop it in the basket on Sunday. A special “I give electronically” card is available at the church doors for anyone wanting to put something in the basket. This gives them a lot more freedom and total control of their giving to the church. If they leave the state during winter time, they can still contribute to the parish throughout that time. They can also review their donations to the church at any time by accessing their account online and viewing their past history.”

Carolyn was the first to try online giving before it was made available to parishioners, to make sure that the system worked correctly. Once she tried it, she knew it was a great tool for our parish and our parishioners.

“I really like it because everything is right there for me,” Carolyn says. “I can change the amount at any time and I have complete control over my donations.”

For more information or to enroll in online giving, please call the parish office at 309-762-2362 or visit the website at www.sacredheartmoline.org. There will also be demonstrations and assistance with online giving available during the Coffee Café on Nov. 9 as well as after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday.

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1608 13th Street
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Mass Times

Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3 to 4 p.m.
and by appointment, call 762-2362

Eucharistic Adoration (St. Francis Chapel)

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Harlan and Leslie Schadt *continued from front cover*

other was a fellow serviceman on a transport to Vietnam who wore a rosary around his neck.

At the urging of mutual friends who felt they should meet, Harlan and Leslie were first introduced via the United States Post Office. For nine months, they exchanged letters before they officially met in person at a friend's wedding. They were engaged, and they were able to marry one week before Harlan was deployed to Vietnam. Little did Harlan know that by marrying Leslie, and later becoming a father to Devin, Dustin and Tara, it was the beginning of his journey to the Catholic faith.

"I attended Mass for years with Leslie and the children," Harlan says. "Then our parish priest wrote me a letter inviting me to attend RCIA. It was the impetus I needed to make the next step – a step for which I am grateful. It is so good to be Catholic."

Today, Harlan and Leslie have been married 45 years and have 14 beautiful grandchildren. They have been members

of our parish for almost 14 years, both serving in various capacities. But it is as vowed Secular Discalced Carmelites that Harlan and Leslie have found their true ministry.

As vowed secular Carmelites with the Secular Discalced Carmelite Community of St. Joseph and the Prophet Elijah, they have made a commitment to the order to seek the face of God in prayer for the sake of the Church and the world. In their commitment to their faith, and in the process of living as secular Carmelites, Leslie and Harlan say that they have learned that making prayer a priority enables everything else to fall into place.

"I know we live busy lives, so with prayer it's important to have a schedule," Leslie says. "So start with one prayer – the Morning Offering, a bedtime prayer, or a prayer before meals – and make it a habit. If you do this, then something amazing happens – for when you start making a routine of prayer, it will become so ingrained that prayer will no longer be something you do, but rather who you are."