

# OUR LADY OF THE LAKE



July  
2021

HARRY TURVEY

ACTS CORE TEAM  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

**Welcome to the first ACTS eNewsletter published by Our Lady of the Lake Parish. This newsletter will be published twice a year for our parish community.**

## Introduction from Fr. John Kerns

With great joy, I welcome you to our first-ever ACTS newsletter. With even more joy, I'm happy to announce we are hosting two in-person ACTS retreats this fall: a women's retreat on August 19-22 and a men's retreat October 14-17. I am grateful I will be able to attend both retreats. These retreats are a key evangelization tool for our parish, promoting intentional discipleship and building parish community through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, our parish hosted four ACTS retreats, with the leadership of mission teams based out of San Antonio, Texas. We were all set to host the first retreat on our own in June 2020, but along with other parish activities, COVID-19 required that we put a long pause on our plans. During this time, the ACTS Core Team, a group of parishioners dedicated to leading our ACTS ministry, did not lose hope. In fact, this team continued to meet monthly via Zoom to pray together and discern when we might be able to resume our retreat plans amid ever-changing circumstances. Our parish community is longing for and needing to reconnect, and these two retreats will provide those opportunities for the retreatants,

the retreat teams, and our parish community as a whole.

While these retreats provide an incredible opportunity for retreatants and the team to disconnect from their busy lives, connect more closely with God, and develop meaningful relationships with one another, the true beauty of the ACTS ministry lies in what happens after attending the



retreat. Retreatants are encouraged to continue their journey with and to Jesus Christ through active participation in spiritual development, service, and ongoing parish community building.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend an

ACTS retreat, I invite you to do so. If you have already attended an ACTS retreat, I encourage you to continue to spread the love and joy I'm sure you experienced during your retreat. You can do this especially by personally inviting friends and family members to attend one of the upcoming retreats. Let them know of the impact it had on your spiritual life. When an ACTS retreat ends, it's really just a beginning. We are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ in service to one another.

ACTS' vision states that ACTS "partners with Catholic parishes in building vibrant, active communities through ACTS Retreats and provides ongoing parish support."

As you know, parishioners talking and listening to one another at an ACTS Retreat help the Holy Spirit speak to us all. We're launching this eNewsletter to encourage communication among our parishioners as we emerge from the pandemic. We want everybody to know what's going on in our parish related to ACTS, including two upcoming retreats in the fall of 2021 and how ACTS retreatants are participating in parish ministries and activities.

Please take a look and let us know what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters. Contact Harry Turvey ([harryturvey@comcast.net](mailto:harryturvey@comcast.net)) or Julie Arndorfer ([juliearndorfer@comcast.net](mailto:juliearndorfer@comcast.net)) with suggestions.

ACTS FACTS

4

Number of ACTS retreats hosted by OLL

102

People who have attended an OLL ACTS retreat

14

People on the OLL ACTS Core Team

# Welcome



**TIM WASMAN**  
ACTS CORE TEAM FACILITATOR

**I'm excited to introduce our ACTS Core Team and to provide a little bit of context to what we actually do. While our first year as a Core Team was certainly not what we expected or wanted due to COVID, our team has been meeting monthly and getting ready for our retreats that will take place in 2021.**

ACTS stands for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service. ACTS is a Catholic lay-led retreat that begins on a Thursday evening and ends with Sunday Mass. The ACTS Core Team's primary initiatives are to facilitate the ACTS retreats that provide the men and women of our parish the opportunity to reconnect to their faith, and then invite these retreat attendees to continue their journey with Jesus Christ through participation in OLL community development and parish ministry programs.

As the Facilitator of our parish ACTS Core Team, I am blessed to work with **Mitzi Brumbaugh** as Co-Facilitator. Additional Core Team members

include:

**Rich Thornton**, Finance Coordinator

**Harry Turvey**, Communications Coordinator

**Karen Murphy & Val Rich**, Retreat Support Coordinators

**Katie Maag & Mike McCallum**, Retreat Supply Coordinators

**Pappy Corbitt & Susan Welch**, Spiritual Coordinators

**Mary Anne Sandoval**, Music Coordinator

**Brad Barker**, Events Coordinator

**Julie Arndorfer**, Pastoral Liaison

**Laura Patton**, Director of Adult Faith Formation

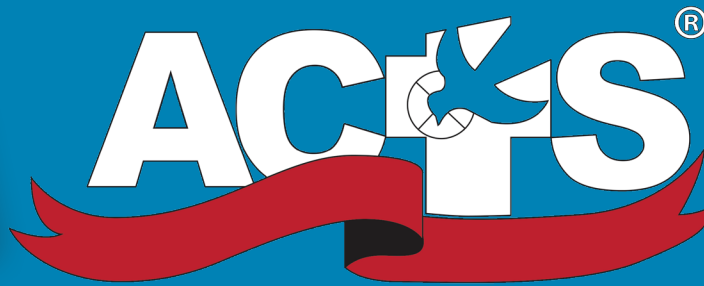
Team formation has started for our next women's retreat, which will be held August 19-22, 2021 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton. Lynette Pierson will serve as the Director of the retreat; Mitzi Brumbaugh will serve as Co-Director; Jackie MacMillan is the team's Spiritual Companion.

Our next men's ACTS retreat is scheduled for October 14-17, 2021 at Father Bernard Youth Center in Mt. Angel. Mike McCallum will serve as Director, Rich Thornton as Co-Director, and Father John is the Spiritual Companion.

Registration for both retreats is available on our parish website.

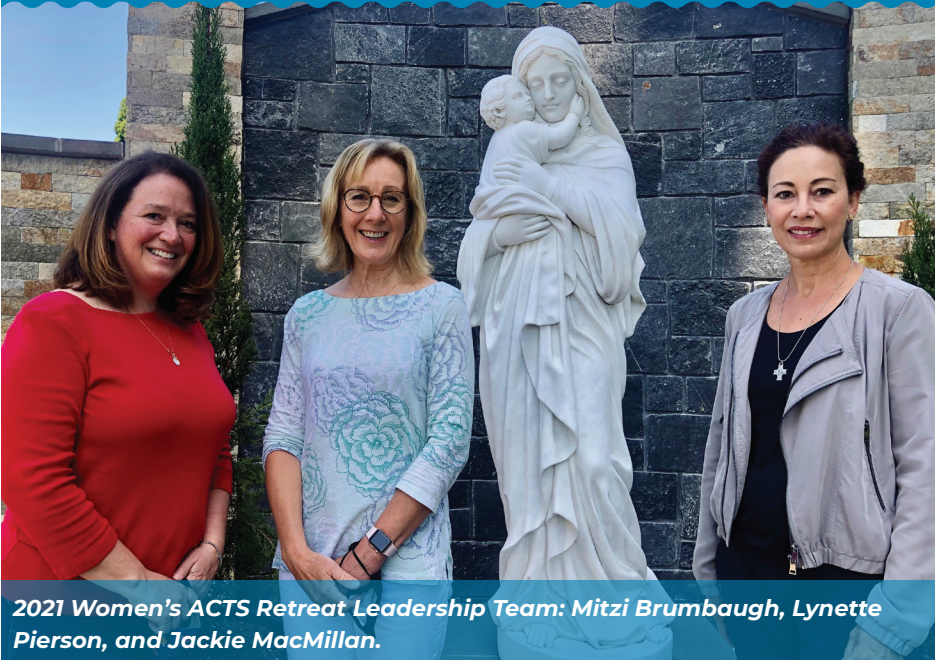


**Men's Retreat**  
Father Bernard  
Youth Center,  
Mt. Angel



## Women's Retreat

Our Lady of Peace  
Retreat House,  
Beaverton



2021 Women's ACTS Retreat Leadership Team: Mitzi Brumbaugh, Lynette Pierson, and Jackie MacMillan.

### Five "W"s and One "H" for Women's ACTS Retreat 2021

MITZI BRUMBAUGH  
ACTS CORE TEAM CO-FACILITATOR  
WOMEN'S RETREAT TEAM CO-DIRECTOR

**What?** Women of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, it is with great zeal and jubilant excitement that I shout from the rooftop, "We are having a Retreat!!"

**Where?** Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton, Oregon. We are grateful to be able to offer single rooms with a private bathroom for every retreatant.

**When?** Mark your calendars August 19-22, 2021. The retreat begins Thursday evening and we will return to OLL for Mass on Sunday morning.

**Who?** We are Inviting 15 of our Sisters in Christ from Our Lady of

the Lake to attend this retreat. Our retreat team is preparing, praying, and anxiously looking forward to serving you and retreating with you! Our 2021 ACTS Women's Retreat Team will be led by Lynette Pierson, Jackie MacMillan, and Mitzi Brumbaugh.

**Why?** Three words: Connect (with God), Connect (with each other), and Connect (with our shared faith).....plus three more words.... YOU DESERVE IT!

**How?** The Holy Spirit! We are so grateful that after such a lengthy time of disconnection due to COVID, we get the opportunity to reconnect in person on this retreat. Please come join us!!

### First Friday Adoration: A Time to be Still

SUSAN WELCH  
ACTS CORE TEAM  
SPIRITUAL COORDINATOR

During the past 15 months of COVID with limited access to Mass, the ACTS Community has had the privilege to assist the parish staff in coordinating monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

As you may recall, First Friday Adoration resumed after a brief hiatus with a 24-hour vigil for Peace last June, 2020. Since then, our parish has been gifted with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every first Friday of the month, beginning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass and concluding with a Holy Hour and Benediction from 7-8 p.m.

On first Fridays when I stop by church, I love the quiet and gazing at Jesus on the altar and have often returned for Holy Hour at the end of the day where there is beautiful contemplative prayer and music.

Many friends have shared that spending time in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament has been a lifeline during this past year with all the turmoil in

*continued on p. 4*



*continued from p. 3*

the world, as it has provided guidance and peace.

In Psalm 46 God invites us to “Be still, and know that I am God.” In this crazy world, it is important to stop and listen in prayer. Adoration allows that intimate communication. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ to make this a regular monthly tradition, a time to be still and listen to where God is calling you.



## Convert's faith grows in response to ACTS

Lynette Pierson has accepted the invitation to serve as the Director for the August 2021 ACTS Women's Retreat. Lynette was born and raised in Texas in the Episcopalian faith tradition. A graduate of Texas State University with a degree in Chemistry, Lynette enjoyed a successful career in technical sales ending with her role as Senior Western Region Manager - U.S. Borax. She converted to Catholicism and married the love of her life, Chris, in 1990. They moved to Oregon

in 1993 and are blessed with two sons, Matt (28) and Josh (26). Lynette and Chris, both recently retired, enjoy lots of outdoor activities including golf, kayaking, and hiking.

Lynette attended the first ACTS retreat offered at Our Lady of the Lake in November 2018. Two of Lynette's good friends, Julie Arndorfer and Val Rich, encouraged Lynette to attend the retreat after their experience attending an ACTS retreat with St. Pius X parish. In a Bible study the day after they returned from their retreat, Lynette remembers “their joy was very clear. I had been on several retreats before but this sounded like something different, and I wanted to give it a try.”

As Lynette reflects on her retreat experience, she fondly remembers “the joy and friendship in community with God and the other women on the retreat. It truly felt like the joy in community that we read about each spring in the Acts of the Apostles. Complete union with God in community with all the

other wonderful women on the retreat. The connection was very powerful.”

As a result of attending the ACTS retreat, Lynette feels “more open to sharing my faith with others, especially my ACTS sisters and brothers. As a result, my faith has grown even more through hearing about their faith experiences. It's about relationship with our Lord, fellow parishioners, family, friends, and everyone you meet. With everyone you meet, you carry the joy with you.”

Lynette served on the retreat team for the April 2019 Women's Retreat and is looking forward to serving as Director of the August 2021 retreat. “It is an honor and privilege to serve in the role of Director and helping to create a prayerful environment for the women attending the retreat.” Our parish is grateful to Lynette for serving her parish community as Retreat Director.

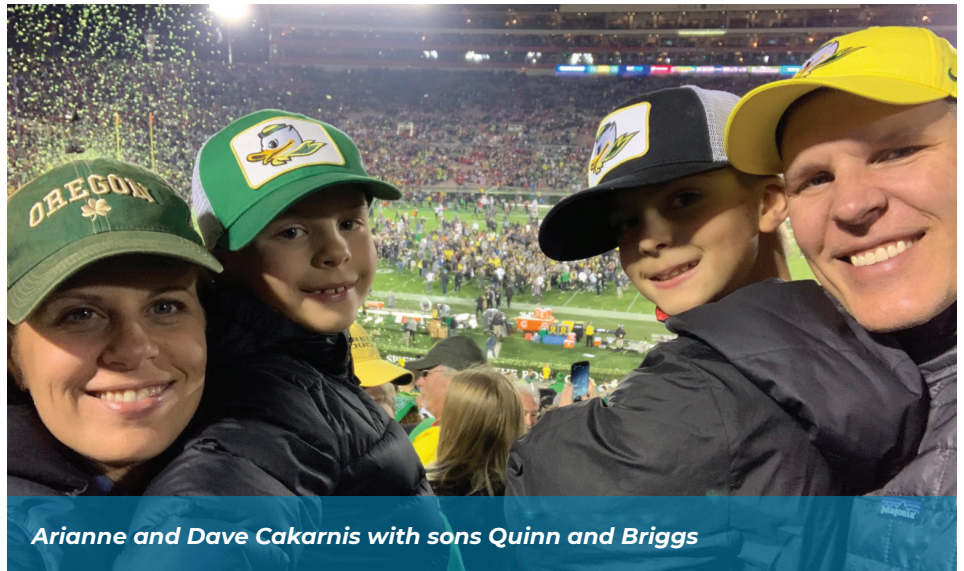


*Lynette and Chris Pierson with sons Josh and Matt.*

## Mom finds deeper connection to parish community through ACTS experience

Arianne Cakarnis attended the women's ACTS retreat in November, 2018. Arianne has been a parishioner of OLL for over a decade and been involved in a variety of ministries in the parish and also at the school. A lifelong Catholic, she grew up in St. Rose parish, attended Central Catholic High School and the University of Notre Dame. Arianne loves to travel with her family and is an avid consumer of Catholic autobiographies (a few favorites include *The Shed that Fed a Million Children*, *Left to Tell*, *Subverted*, *Something Other than God*, and *From Fire by Water*).

Arianne and her husband Dave have two boys who attend Our Lady of the Lake School. As a busy mom, the time commitment of the retreat seemed like a "big ask". While the length of the retreat initially seemed like a hurdle, Arianne said her participation in the retreat has



Arianne and Dave Cakarnis with sons Quinn and Briggs

proven to be a huge blessing in her life and well worth the efforts it took to be away from home for a couple of days.

In reflecting back on her retreat, Arianne remembers the powerful experience of hearing about the faith journeys of the women that served as retreat leaders. In addition, the small group discussions fostered great conversations and camaraderie with other women in our parish. Arianne's connections within our church community expanded as a result of her attending the retreat. "By sharing this intense time with other parishioners, you develop a bond that would be very rare

to experience in day-to-day interactions. The more connected we are to our church community, the more vibrant our parish is for all others who encounter it." Arianne reflected on the fact that the retreat encounter will never leave her, and it's something she can always revisit. Her advice to anyone considering attending an ACTS retreat is to not let the length of the retreat deter you. The benefits of participation will most likely have a lasting impact on your faith. She suggests offering up any obstacles to participating and "just say yes to the great gift that lies before you."

## Reluctant retreat goer finds zeal in his faith after ACTS

A lifelong Oregonian, Isaac Kreft attended the April 2019 Men's ACTS Retreat. Raised in the Lutheran faith, Isaac came into the Catholic Church through RCIA in 2016 after graduating from the University of Portland

with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He and his wife Megan are the proud parents of two young children, Justin and Gianna. Isaac has worked at BIOTRONIK for the past six years and has served on the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of the Lake. His hobbies include cycling, languages, apologetics, and cooking.

Isaac initially heard about the ACTS retreat through his work on the Pastoral Council, where he learned that it was an exceptional retreat program that had transformed parishes around the country and been deeply impactful to many people. Several people personally reached out to him and encouraged him

*continued on p. 6*



to attend a retreat. Isaac admits he “thought of every excuse to not give an ACTS weekend a shot, including needing to take time off work for it, feeling bad leaving Megan to hold down the fort, not being a ‘retreat person’, and having plenty more ‘productive’ activities to work on” that weekend. After a gentle nudge from his wife, he decided to see what ACTS was about for himself and chose to attend with an open mind. Isaac says “the weekend did not disappoint!” He reflects that the retreat gave him a tremendous opportunity for building new friendships and camaraderie with men in the parish. “ACTS provided the perfect environment for me to engage myself and other men in a deeper, more honest way that is hard to come by otherwise. That was so refreshing.” Isaac’s faith grew as a result of the witness of the men that shared “how God used ‘crooked lines’ to ‘write straight’ in their lives.” He feels emboldened to live his faith with more outward zeal and confidence, and said the retreat was a “shot in the arm” to appreciate the gift of the sacraments.

Isaac would like to encourage others to attend the retreat. “Consider it an experiment. You can’t really know how ACTS will affect you until you give it a go. At worst, it would be a weekend away from the regular busyness spent getting to know some of your fellow parishioners; at best, it could be totally transformational to you in ways you couldn’t even fathom.”



Isaac and Megan Kreft with Justin and Gianna.

## An Invitation to Contribute to ACTS Ministry

Our Lady of the Lake’s ACTS Retreat is “back in business” with our August 19-22, 2021 Women’s Retreat and our October 14-17, 2021 Men’s Retreat. Our ongoing goal is to grow our ACTS community while keeping retreats accessible and affordable. An Our Lady of the Lake ACTS Retreats Fund has been established which will be used exclusively to assist with keeping our ACTS registration fees at reasonable levels for current and future ACTS retreats, and also dealing with unanticipated retreat expenses. We encourage our parish community to consider

this ministry in your parish charitable giving. When you decide to participate, please write the check to “Our Lady of the Lake Parish” with the notation “OLL ACTS” in the memo portion of the check. Any amount contributed will be included in your annual parish giving account statement. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our ACTS Financial Coordinator, Rich Thornton, at [rpthor@msn.com](mailto:rpthor@msn.com). Thank you in advance for assisting our parish to provide what are truly life-changing experiences.



# ACTS enlivens the desire to learn more about the faith

Mike McCallum will serve as the director of the next OLL ACTS Men's Retreat, to be held October 14-17, 2021 at Father Bernard Youth Center in Mt. Angel, OR. Mike was born and raised in Eugene and attended Catholic school through high school. He and Gretchen have been married for 30 years and live in Canby. Professionally, Mike has been in the restaurant business his entire life, working in a family business and also holding a number of leadership positions in national restaurant associations. Mike enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, hiking, and helping others in their sobriety as a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

Mike attended the April 2019 men's retreat because he "was seeking to deepen my faith. I was invited by a friend who had experienced it. I had been going to DOGS (Disciples of God's Spirit) on Saturday mornings at OLL and had attended one other OLL men's retreat where I celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in 20 years. Some of the other DOGS were going and I decided to join them. ACTS seemed like a

good next step for me."

As he reflected back on his ACTS experience, Mike said the retreat gave him "the time for personal reflection and the opportunity to get to know other Catholic men deeper. I was particularly struck by the compassion and sincerity of the men who were on the retreat team. I learned that many of the challenges and questions I had were shared by others."

The retreat enlivened Mike's desire to know more about his faith, which he has pursued through participating in Bible

studies and in small group faith sharing. He has found peace, joy, and contentment in cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "I have learned that all the elements of my life are made better when I am more centered in my faith."

When asked how he would encourage someone considering attending an ACTS retreat, Mike said "this retreat has a way of making you whole. It's hard to explain, but easy to experience. Just say yes. Over a million people have attended ACTS, encouraged by bishops and priests around the world. We invite you to come and be a part of it."



*Mike and Gretchen McCallum*

Do you have an interesting story or idea for the next newsletter? Contact Harry Turvey ([harryturvey@comcast.net](mailto:harryturvey@comcast.net)) or Julie Arndorfer ([juliearndorfer@comcast.net](mailto:juliearndorfer@comcast.net)).