

Our Parish Family of the Month November 2020



Mike & Tisha Swan
Anna, Isabel & William

This month's Parishioner of the Month includes five parishioners! A busy family who has found creative ways to bring God into their daily lives.

After a few years of adventure post High School and College, including being a Nanny in Italy. Mike & Tisha met each other in Crested Butte. Being they are both adventurous, it wasn't really their intent to stay in Crested Butte, but over time they came to recognize what a great place it is to live and raise a family. They love the sense of community and the bonus of having Grandpa Dan & Grandma Jan McElroy near!

Tisha was born a cradle Catholic, receiving the sacraments at St. Peter's Church in Gunnison and going through the motions as a youth. But, as she grew up, her curiosity grew as well, and she wanted to learn more about the Catholic religion and felt it important to raise her children in faith. Mike came all the way from Virginia to Crested Butte. His family didn't attend Church when he was growing up and he was introduced to the Catholic Church through Tisha. He has found the Catholic Church and his faith to bring him peace and so he recently decided to take the next step and is part of the RCIA program this year with Ed Schmidt! Tisha joins in the meetings as well as other parishioners from Queen of All Saints. What a beautiful and positive experience to share together and a big congratulations and welcome to Mike!

Anna and Isabel have both been attending Religious Education, with Anna having made her 1st Communion and Isabel is on track for her 1st Communion this December! When I asked what their favorite part of Mass was; Anna said she likes receiving communion and she likes "knowing that God is with me." Isabel likes watching Father Andres hold up the holy host and William likes to drop the money in the collection as well as receive a blessing from Father Andre's at communion. Coming up to the front of Church with the rest of the community is a special event for William and he prefers to find his own spot in line and independently receive his blessing. The family usually sits in the balcony, so singing along with Maggie is a special part of Mass as well.

As you can imagine, the Swan household is a busy place. Mike is the Director of both the Ski Club and Golf Club at The Club at Crested Butte – country club. Tisha works as a realtor with her Dad at Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties. But somehow, they still manage to find time to share in prayer at mealtime, attend Mass on Sunday, and continue to grow in their faith and set an example

for their children. Even during hard times, especially in the early onset of COVID-19, they were facing challenging times in their marriage and together discovered how turning to God and to prayer has strengthened both their faith and relationship and together they have become stronger.

I love the creativity the family uses to keep God in the fore front of their day. A clothesline hangs in the house, where the family adds notes with their prayer requests. When a prayer is answered, they take the note down. It's a great way to slow down and pay attention to the many blessings they have received and as Tisha says, it helps us to recognize; "how wonderful God is in our lives."

The children have been experiencing and recognizing how God responds in their life in other ways too. For example; Anna was making a night light as a gift for her cousins. She wondered what she should use to put the light in to and a peanut butter jar seemed to be the perfect answer.

However, Anna didn't feel confident she could find one to use, so she turned to God for help in her task. As she went to the garage to rummage through the recycle bin – there it was! The one and only peanut butter jar in the bin – right on top! William is learning how important prayer is as well. He makes the sign of the cross as he asks God to help him find the energy and strength to climb the swing. It's these little things that help to remind us all what wonderful gifts are in our lives every day.

Both Anna and Isabel agree that Mother Teresa is their favorite Saint, because she has helped a lot of people, including babies and is an inspiration for Anna to want to help children and babies. Isabel feels Mother Teresa is kind and helps people and they are both absolutely right! In the words of Mother Teresa; "it's not about **how much** you do, but **how much love** you put into what you do that **counts**."

The Swan family certainly has much love and they continue to work on teaching, loving, and growing together in God's love. Thank you to the Swan family for your example of faith!



"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4