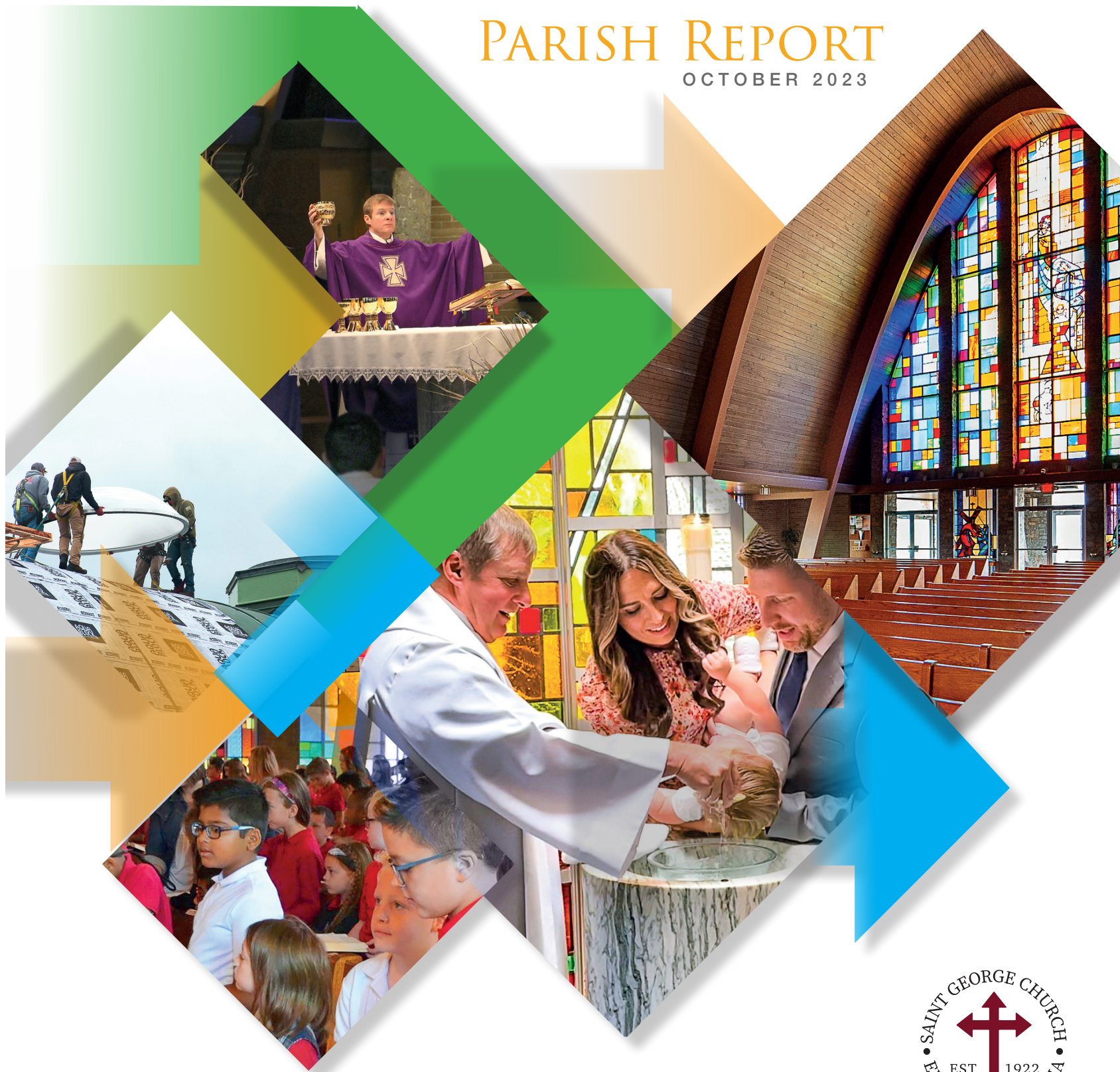


SixtyPlus

Newsletter

PARISH REPORT

OCTOBER 2023



News For Those Sixty And Over, Caregivers, And The Saint George Parish Community

Dear Saint George Parish Community



Whenever I return to my previous assignment at St. Leo's parish in Ridgway, Pa, I am often times asked, "How are things at St. George?" My frequent response is, "I never thought

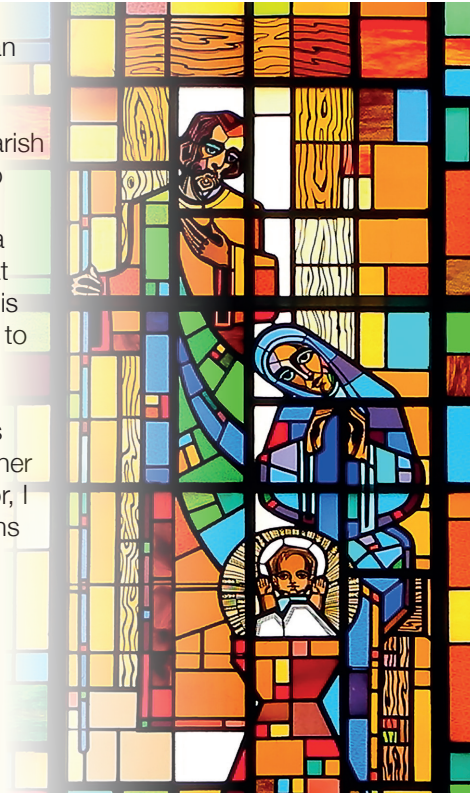
that I would have a stronger connecting assignment than here, but St. George has proven me wrong!" As I look back to the almost seven years being a pastor at St. George, I stand in awe of the many wonderful accomplishments that have taken place. This was made possible by so many parishioners, staff and the people who dedicated their time, talent and resources to make these goals possible. For my part, I was able to stay ahead of all this to help guide the direction we were able to go in.

When I think of all the positive and life

giving changes that have occurred, I can summarize this in the following areas: Arrangement of staff and personnel, renovations, financial improvements, parish anniversary celebrations, events and so many ministries! I call your attention to our list below that highlights for you in a very specific way many of the goals that we achieved just over this past year. It is in these achievements that we are able to claim St. George as a vibrant and most active parish. Thank you again for all that you have done to contribute to this success and my reassignment for another six years at Saint George as your pastor, I eagerly anticipate new goals and dreams made real. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to be the proud members of St. George Church!

With gratitude,

Fr. Brian Vossler



PARISH UPDATE

Summary Of Progress As Of September 2023

- Phase 2 – Rectory Renovations began. Cleaned and painted the church beams and Baptistry entrance.
- Welcomed Fr. Denny Veltri as sacramental assistant and now Fr. Chris Beran as our new Parochial Vicar. Roxanne Kleckner was added as support staff to the office and to Faith Formation.
- Faith Formation begins with a new EDGE Program. A middle school youth ministry program that provides a fun and safe place for youth to get answers about faith, and experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. We are excited to incorporate this program into our parish!
- Began a "Second Century Endowment" with a matching gift opportunity and the Catholic Foundation.



Saint George Parish Events Are Amazing!

- Parish Picnic
- Wild Game Dinner
- 100th Anniversary Gala
- Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner
- Holy Hour Evening
- Friends Night
- Soup, Salad & Soul Series during Lent
- Coffee & Donut Sundays
- Living Stations
- Mardi Gras Celebration
- Healing Mass
- Parish Forty Hours
- Bible Study Series



Please visit www.stgeorgeerie.org for a complete listing of our Parish Ministries!

Saint George Financial Report July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

	What Happened 2021-2022	What Happened 2022-2023	Parish Budget 2023-2024
Revenue Of The Parish			
Parishioner contributions to the parish	\$697,560	\$683,817	\$696,000
Other sources including:			
Shrine, Faith Form. Fees, Rent, S.O.S. Envelopes & Endowment	205,290	173,639	163,527
Parishioners contributions to Catholic Services Appeal	109,608	103,839	98,000
Total	\$1,012,458	\$961,295	\$957,527
Expenses Of The Parish			
Clergy, deacons, music, and pastoral ministry	115,668	110,297	\$116,346
Rectory, office & maintenance staff	92,856	104,313	108,188
Employee benefits	45,184	44,817	50,568
What it costs to operate the office and rectory	25,102	25,538	29,750
Altar supplies, parish, and liturgical functions	18,508	22,822	16,500
Saint George School: Scholarships & Maintenance	43,589	44,963	33,200
Religious education programs and youth ministry	32,005	27,506	33,575
Insurance and taxes	22,832	21,404	22,400
Utilities, plant maintenance and repair	94,007	109,287	103,355
Diocese assessments (a)	452,476	413,403	416,851
Capital expenses (b)	28,382	33,080	26,794
Total to carry on the mission of the parish	970,609	957,430	957,527
Net	\$41,849	\$3,865	\$ -

(a) Assessments Paid To The Diocese Of Erie

Diocesan Fund & Regional Sharing	\$40,412	\$39,201	\$37,678
Catholic School Support (H.S. & Elementary)	282,681	254,522	261,585
Priest Retirement	19,775	17,841	17,288
Catholic Services Appeal	109,608	101,839	100,300
Total	\$452,476	\$413,403	\$416,851

(b) Capital expenses

Paint Church beams, arches & Baptistry entrance	30,430
Installation of six new ceiling fans	2,650
Total Capital Expenses	33,080

FINANCE COUNCIL

Rev. Brian E. Vossler, Pastor
 John Zack
 Dale R. DeMarco, CPA
 Maureen Bishop
 William J. Steger
 Dave Stadler
 Krista Jeffreys, Business Manager

SPIRITUAL REPORT

Total number of registered households	1,403	Marriages	7
Total number of contributing households	360	Catechumens	-
Total number of parishioners	3,287	Deaths	58
Baptisms	24	St. George School (Preschool-Grade 8)	455
First Communions	42	Religious Education (Elementary)	72
Confirmations	57	Religious Education (Secondary)	52
RCIA Candidates	5		



Expenses Paid Through September 2023

Facilities Assessment	18,105
Mailing Cost/Marketing	4,999
Professional Fees	119,623
Building Permit & Asbestos Analysis	6,380
Bell Tower Paint/Repair	10,500
Stained Glass Windows & Masonry Restoration - Fiske	193,900
Roof - Metal Panels & Materials	223,647
McCreary Roofing:	
Fascia work, heat tapes, gutter work, dumpsters & labor	610,369*
McCormick & Anthony Concrete Parking lot, sidewalks & curbing	166,687
Siciliano Builders - windows, sliding doors, balconies, drywall replacement	134,435
Knorr Electric - fixtures & switches	1,189

Total Paid To Date \$1,489,834

Copper Return Value! **\$66,184 ***

Note: The amount paid to McCreary Roofing is the net amount after the Copper Return Value was deducted from the amount originally owed to McCreary Roofing.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS - RAISE THE ROOF PHASE 2

Windows, sliding doors, balconies and railings were replaced.

Recessed lighting in the dining room and hallway were replaced.

Upon tearing out the prayer room window, extensive damage was detected.

The damage was caused from water leaking from old pipes.

Insulation and drywall had to be replaced on the east side of the rectory for levels 2, 3, & 4.

PENDING RECTORY BUILDING RENOVATIONS.

Replace base boards that were damaged or removed with the wall demolition.

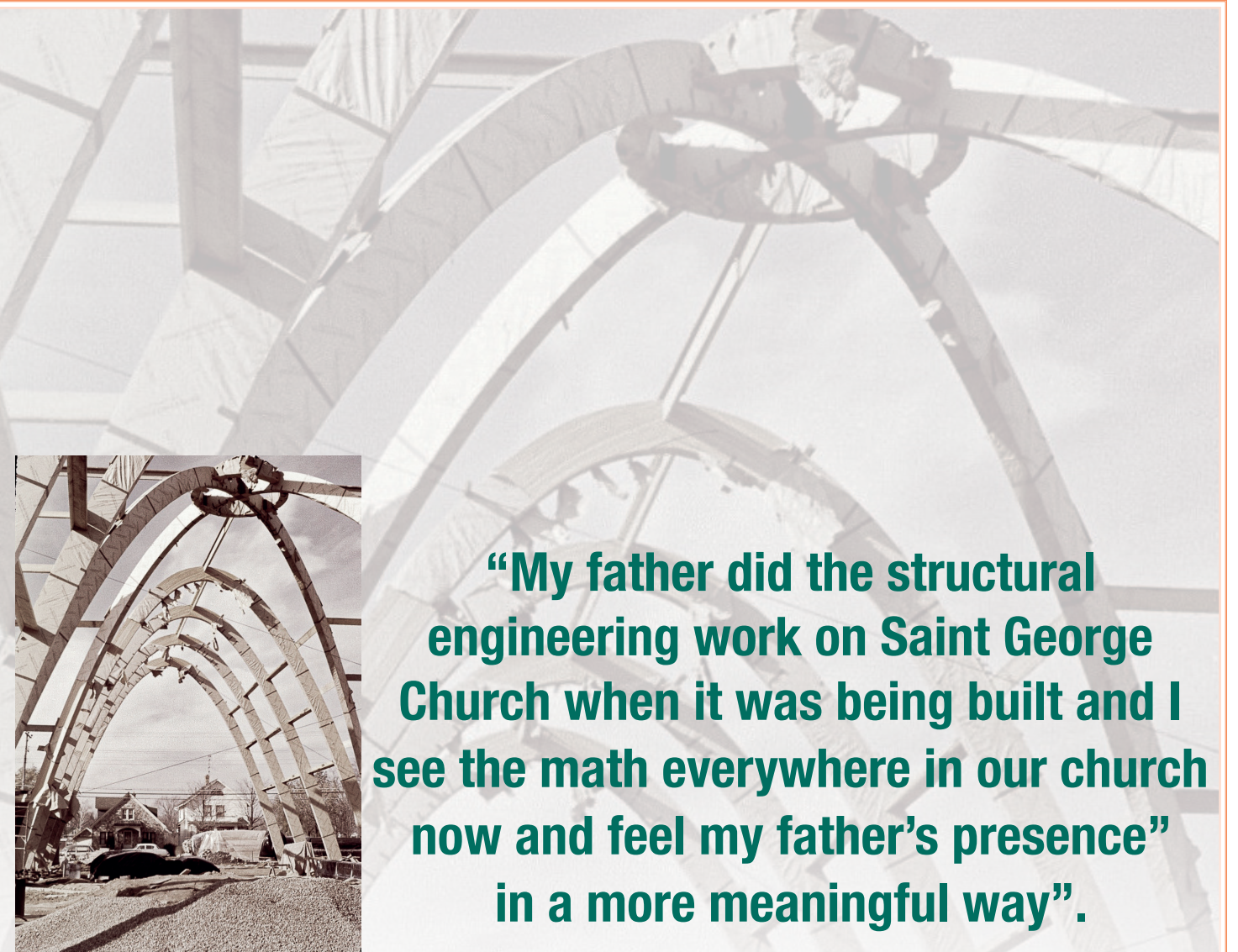
Replace carpets and window shades on levels 2, 3 & 4.

Install flooring in the dining room.

Install base cabinets, sinks, wall tiles and shower floors in 3 bathrooms on levels 3 and 4.

Continue painting throughout the rectory!

Saint George Roman Catholic Church, 5145 Peach Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16509. Call (814) 864-0622



“My father did the structural engineering work on Saint George Church when it was being built and I see the math everywhere in our church now and feel my father’s presence” in a more meaningful way”.

Mary (Amthor) Gibson

When I walk into St. George Church, I see parabolas. This wasn't always the case. Let me explain. Parabolas are symmetrical u-shaped curves that crop up in different mathematical constructs. Many years ago, I took a distance-learning calculus class and learned about the math behind these beautiful shapes. The concept was new, difficult, and intriguing to me. My father, Richard Amthor, who had passed away a few years before, was a calculus whiz; I remember him sitting calmly and working calculus problems the way many people work crossword puzzles. So, taking calculus connected me in a new way to my father.

And then, I walked into Saint George and it struck me. Parabolas. Everywhere! My father did the

structural engineering work on Saint George Church when it was being built and I see the math everywhere in our church now and feel my father's presence in a more meaningful way.

I have always loved our church's design and style elements, including our stunningly beautiful stained-glass windows. I remember my parents talking about the building. My father was a great fan of Frank Lloyd Wright, the incredibly talented 20th century architect famous for using beautiful natural materials and clean lines. You can see the influence throughout our church – the stone, the slate floors, the marble, the wood, even the hand-carved wooden statues from Germany – bringing the outside

elements indoors. Also, I remember my father talking about the choice of color. The parabolas were originally painted a forest green. The idea, I remember my parents saying, was to create the feeling of being in a forest – in one of God's outdoor temples – under a tree canopy.

Both my husband, Rob Gibson, and I grew up at St. George, received our sacraments there, were married at St. George, and our children were baptized at St. George. Like many of you, dear readers, I have spent a great amount of time in this building. I love every inch of it. Worshiping in our church allows me to sit amongst God's natural beauty as well as to enjoy the amazing gifts and talents of the artisans who have crafted our statues and windows, influenced the design and construction, and made their vision a reality.

IDENTITY THEFT

Safe Banking for Seniors



The American Bankers Association (ABA) Foundation offers free resources to help older adults and their families prevent elder financial abuse and exploitation.

<https://www.aba.com/advocacy/community-programs/safe-banking-for-seniors>

You can select from different categories of common scams to learn more about them and avoid falling victim to such fraud. Categories include, fake check scams, online dating scams, lottery scams, and more! Using this link below, you can browse all of the categories listed to learn about red flags that may come up in your day to day life. Look before you leap! Don't fall victim to internet scams that look legitimate. As always, if you are ever unsure of a situation, you can contact your financial institution for assistance.

Marquette Savings Bank
930 Peach St. Erie, PA 16501
Ph: (814) 455-4481 ext: 10145
Fax: (814) 651-0586

Jenna.Yates@marquettesavings.bank

Marquette
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Saint George Roman Catholic Church, 5145 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509, Phone: (814) 864-0622

YOUR HEALTH

Those haughty leaves have some nerve, don't they? Dumping on us in droves without invitation. Boasting their magnificence. Bullying us with their beauty

Dr. Danielle Hansen

As this new season falls upon our shoulders like the relentless leaves, instead of resisting it, let's approach it by surrendering with grace, gratitude and kindness. We know the laborious weight the leaves can carry, but we owe it to ourselves to pause, breathe, and bathe in their blessings.



When we open our minds to perceptions and

possibilities, we make room for the best version of ourselves

Consequently, the exercise of surrendering often leads to the reciprocal, powerful act of kindness.

Kindness triggers an increase of endorphins, the body's "feel good" chemical, which activates the part of the brain associated with enjoyment and helps lessen the effects of depression. Taking steps to make kindness a consistent focus can be transformative — and contagious. Even the smallest act can influence another person, and another after that.

Unfortunately, practicing kindness is not as simple as boasting our magnificence. True kindness takes effort, and engaging with others must come from a place of love — love for ourselves and love for others. It requires vulnerability and courage. Start by setting a goal to perform a daily good deed. Send a friend a book you think they'd like, invite someone to lunch, or offer words of encouragement to someone who needs them

Let's challenge ourselves to next-level kindness: Be kind to someone you disagree with. Not seeing eye-to-eye on an issue with someone doesn't lessen their need for kindness ... nor our ability to give it.

Be honest: How many times have you blurted out something in anger that you wished you could take back? Or spilled someone's secret that you promised to keep confidential?

Understanding and managing our emotions and behavior is one aspect of our emotional intelligence. When this is well-developed, we're able to communicate with people in positive ways, with empathy, compassion, and self-awareness. Emotional intelligence helps us build stronger relationships and achieve personal goals.

Before saying anything, pause and ask yourself these simple questions:

- Does this need to be said? Practice taking a deep breath and not reacting to every impulsive feeling.
- Does this need to be said now? Have you ever felt compelled to say something, and then realized you probably should have chosen a different time to say it? Learn to empathize with the emotions, needs, and concerns of other people. Developing good listening skills and being fully present in conversations will help us learn to read other people's verbal and physical cues.
- Is it kind? Before saying something, consider your choice of words and tone of voice to avoid saying something you might later regret.

LECOM

INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING

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