



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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My Journey to Faith

By Claire Stivrins

Will you marry me?... Of course the answer was 'yes.' My tall, athletic, handsome, prince of a man—a slight drawback his being American, but at the time, this did not seem to be an issue; we spoke the same language didn't we?

Fast forward 17 years and four kids later... a million arguments and make ups, nothing abnormal for a healthy marriage but more a complete understanding now of the enormity of two cultures, languages and upbringings with faith

on top of that, can be so different, and the realization t h a t different can be good. One culture is not always better or worse but sometimes just that; different. That in part is how we "landed" at St. Patrick Catholic Community...in search of religion and compromise.



Claire, Alex and Kids

Alex was raised a Catholic and during our early days it was important to him that our kids also be raised in the Catholic

Newsletter Notes From Fr. Eric

The Stivrins have been long time parishioners here at St. Patrick Catholic Community. I have literally seen their kids grow up, way up. You may recognize them by their stature . . . tall—do not sit behind

them at Mass! The Stivrins also stand tall, very tall in the way they give of themselves to the parish, they are extremely involved in our Christian Formation among other ministries.

I am grateful for the

Stivren family and other families like them who offer great role models and witnesses in their faith.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. Eric Tellez

Thank you for showing me how to be part of this vibrant community, sharing love, happiness and hope for a better tomorrow with profound gratitude for all we have and where we are.

Faith. I believe in England they were so happy to see anyone in the pews, it was considered good enough to make it to church on Sundays and school religious education thrown in on top was plenty.

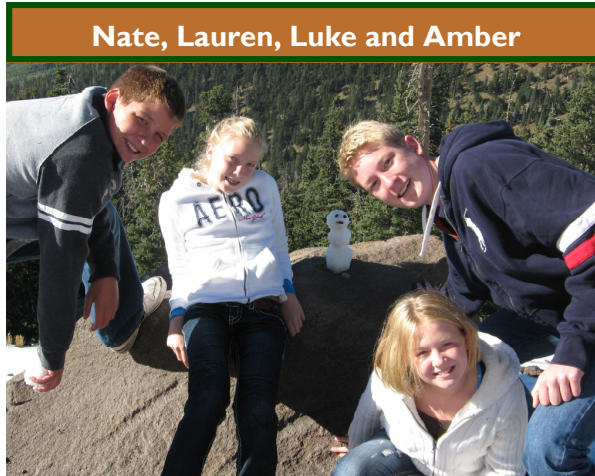
My faith was tested severely at the death of my father at the young age of 57, at which time I was here with Alex and three kids. My father's faith was unshakable and a beacon of strength for us all as he went from marathon runner and fitness man, to cancer victim in only seven months time. In his hours of need he was actually strength for us, he had faith and hope and dignity to "get through whatever may come." Alex was wonderful, understanding and loving as I traversed between England and here trying to 'absorb' as much of my father as I could in the time we had left. Faith was all we had to draw on and faith pulled me through the shock of death in the family. A good dose of chicken pox for three kids and a stray dog adopting us also took my mind off the immediate sadness of the moment and forced me to

focus on the living! He knows what we need.

The three kids as they grew—and another one too—also grew attitudes

So my faith journey progresses as my children grow like a little giraffe family, tall, not always perfect but warts, bumps,

hiccups and all, we are here living, loving and growing and it's wonderful to do so with you all. Thank you for showing me how to be part of this vibrant community, sharing love, happiness and hope for a better



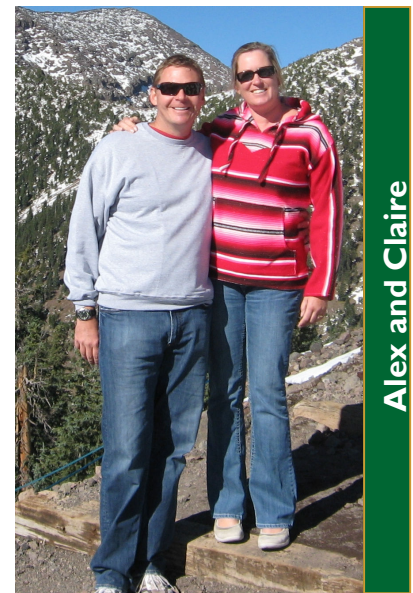
Nate, Lauren, Luke and Amber

and opinions to our amazement! Their energy would demand we go to St. Patrick, not the other two churches we attended nearby that were a bit staid and old fashioned/traditional (like the churches I grew up with). St. Patrick was fun and the music great....a novel concept for a British gal. I was surprised at how fun, involving, welcoming, and family friendly it was—children's choir and all. And though I've had a few issues, we've learned to accept that sometimes different is not just different; it is downright good.

tomorrow with profound gratitude for all we have and where we are. God Bless and Love, The Tall Family Claire, Alex, Luke, Nate, Lauren and Amber ...pets too—Stivrins

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God Bless and Love, The Tall Family Claire, Alex, Luke, Nate, Lauren and Amber ...pets too—Stivrins



Alex and Claire

Get Involved

If you would like to become involved in ministries the Stivrins are involved in, here are their contacts:

- Children's Choir Paul Hillebrand 480-998-3843
- The EDGE Natalie Rauch 480-998-3843
- Altar Servers Terry Keenen 602-619-3577
- Men's Club Bob Juckniess 480-836-1822
- CLOW Gerri Porteous 480-998-3843x210