

# SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Eric and Denise Blomquist

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Travel has always been an enjoyable experience for Eric and Denise Blomquist and their two children. Making those trips even more special is the family's devotion to their Catholic faith by attending Mass wherever they happen to be.

"In addition to visiting beautiful churches, we like seeing the cultural differences and experiencing the sense of community," says Eric. "That feeling of community is what we have at Saint Rose. We appreciate the relationships we've formed here in our home parish."

Three of the Blomquists favorite travel destinations: Charleston, SC, San Antonio, TX and Ireland. "In Charleston the interaction between the congregation and the priest was something we've not been a part of before," says Denise. "All four of us noticed how the congregation actively replied to things the priest said, even during the homily."

"In both San Antonio and Ireland we felt such a sense of welcome from others and curiosity about where we were from," she continues. "People volunteered information to us that made our trips more enjoyable."

"It has really been rewarding to experience the uniqueness within the framework of what is very familiar to all of us."

The Blomquists joined Saint Rose in 2010 when St. Andrews shut down. "At the time we visited a number of Catholic churches," says Eric. "We found large differences among them. The culture at Saint Rose was important to us. It is a parish willing to evolve and change, but also maintain the attributes that make us Catholic. We appreciate belonging to a community that is actively seeking to be inclusive. We enjoy meeting people of different cultures and welcoming new people to the church."

Saint Rose has been a blessing to the family. "We grew up in small towns during the 70s and realize how many things we weren't taught about our faith," says Denise. "We realize how much more we have learned about Catholicism since joining Saint Rose."

That is reflected in their participation in church activities. Denise is a Eucharistic minister; Eric an usher and was on the Park and Ride team this year with son Eamon. Eric was a regular in the Adoration Chapel for several months before it closed because of the pandemic (during which time it was completely remodeled).

"I really missed that time each week," he says. "Since I have gone back I noticed that at the end of the hour I feel a sense of peace and calm. For me, that feeling was rather remarkable."

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## Other things to know about Eric and Denise:

- Eric grew up in Cannon Falls and received a BA in psychology from Washington University-St. Louis in 1990. He worked 18 years at Summit Brewing Co., starting on the bottling line and working his way up to brewer. He has been immersed in the challenges and blessings of being a stay-at-home dad/husband for seven years.
- Denise was raised in the combined parishes of St. Mary and St. Paul in Mineral Point, WI. She went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she graduated in 1995 with a BBA in accounting. She has worked at Medtronic for the past 17 years in various finance roles.
- Eric and Denise met on a blind date and were married at St. Andrews Church in St. Paul in 2004. They have two children: Ada age 16 and Eamon age 14.

