

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Tom and Kate Ritzer

For Tom and Kate Ritzer the path to Saint Rose was as simple as drawing a circle of a 10-mile radius around the University of Minnesota where Tom worked. Within that circle was Roseville where they found a house. At the time their children were attending St. Helena's elementary school in south Minneapolis. Learning that Saint Rose School had openings they checked it out and enrolled their children. At the same time (2002) they joined the parish. It turned out to be a good fit for the family.

"When we joined, all activities at the school and parish were going full throttle," recalls Kate. "A very busy parish. We got to know the school families, the school and parish staff and other parishioners. Over the years we have felt a real sense of belonging."

They are also grateful for being part of such a wonderful Catholic community, one that has been "fortunate to have great priests who give sermons that we always learn something from," says Kate.

The parish also provided opportunities for the Ritzers to volunteer. Kate has been on the Parish Council and is the current chairperson of the finance committee. Tom is on the facilities committee, has worked at the Park and Ride and was active in Boy Scouts; our youngest child just finished his last Tomahawk experience. "It was emotional," they say.

Other things to know about Kate and Tom:

- Kate grew up Catholic in Hibbing and graduated from the College of St. Scholastica with a B.A. degree. She works for Delta Dental of Minnesota as a Senior Executive and Governance Assistant, Finance.
- Tom was raised Catholic in Sun Prairie, WI and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BLA degree in landscape architecture and an MS in natural resources science and management. He has worked at the University of Minnesota Landcare Department for more than 20 years and is currently the Assistant Director for Facilities Management.
- Tom and Kate, both proud of their Irish ancestry, met in an Irish pub in St. Paul and were married at the Church of St. Stanislaus by family friend Fr. John Clay.
- Away from work Tom enjoys gardening and Kate takes time with family, friends and the community.
- The four Ritzer children all graduated with a Catholic education. "We must have done something right in raising our children because during their free time, they like to hang out with one another," says Kate, "and even with us now and then."

