

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—DON McMULLEN



Happy Father's Day to Servant of the Week Don McMullen. He and wife Julie (21 years) have 5 sons: Kevin 15, Rick 14, Scott 12, Joel 8, Todd 4. Don's been a member of OLV for all of his 43 years. In the past, his work life was providing technical support for computers and local area networks for customers in northeast Ohio; presently, he is a Production Forecaster for Goodyear. Don's family is involved in a fun community activity as Children's Hospital Holiday Tree Festival volunteers. At OLV, Don served on the Pastoral Council in the early 1990's, and just became a Councilor again to fill a vacant seat for a two-year term. About his Council experience he said, "I have a fond memory of serving on Pastoral Council in the early 1990s during the transition between pastors. I had the opportunity to work with

Fr. Ray Finnerty until his health kept him from ministry, then with Fr. Ed Schwet when he was the parish administrator, and with Fr. John in his earliest days as our pastor. It was an exciting, yet stressful, time as our parish leadership slowly changed hands." In 1997, Don became a Lector. He said, "because at the time there was a need for additional lectors, and I thought I could do it. Since then I have found that it allows me to meet other parishioners." Don & wife Julie also serve on our Baptism Preparation program, shared with St. Eugene, and help present several sessions each year. Don has also helped with Palm Braiding for several years, has started his second year in the OLV Garden Keepers, and recently became a new member of the Knights of Columbus. Explaining the reason for his participation, he said "I feel that we are all given different gifts in life and that we should share them with others and with the parish. Normally, my style is to share my talents behind the scenes, but my role as lector places me directly in front of the parish. Although many people say that they could never read in front of a church full of people, for some reason I really enjoy it. My favorite time to lector is on Palm Sunday because it gives me the opportunity to narrate the passion. It is a time to bring the passion alive for the congregation, but also a time to set the tone for the upcoming Holy Week." He also enjoys his outdoor participation: "The OLV Garden Keepers is a fairly new group at the parish. We weed flowerbeds, trim plants, and spread mulch to keep the grounds looking good. I joined the group because I find gardening to be relaxing, and because it is one of those things in life where the results are immediately apparent." Overall, good OLV memories revolve around "celebrating the sacraments (Baptism, First Eucharist, etc) as a family. They're special, because Fr. John makes these celebrations very personal."