



# Parishioner of the Month

## Ms. Kay Flint

### November 2021

*Our God is so amazing and beyond comprehension.  
He knew how sinful I would be, before I was born  
yet he still willed me into existence. **Each one of us!***

Most of you have probably seen this little lady scurrying about before Mass making sure that everything is in perfect order. Ms. Kay Flint feels so fortunate to be the Sacristan at St. Peter's Church, it compares to nothing else in the world. It is a job that is humbling, gratifying, rewording and spiritual. It is such an honor to spend this special time at the Altar and Sacristy preparing the most "beautiful table in the world" and she cannot help but to ask herself, how could this ornery person have such an honor? How could this be?

Kay Flint has been a Catholic her whole life. She was born in a small mountain town called Crested Butte. At that time Crested Butte was almost 100% Catholic. She recalls the times when the Priest would take Communion to the homebound – the Altar Servers would walk along with him holding candles. The Church was St. Patrick's and there were three Priests who served out of that town. Confirmation was held only once every four years and you had to be 9 years old. When the four-year rotation came around, Kay was only 8 years old, so her Mother submitted a request to Bishop Wilking for permission to allow her to be confirmed with the other kids otherwise, she would have to wait until she was 13. The Bishop approved and Kay was confirmed – that was in 1948. During this time Kay was attending public school in Crested Butte and the parents and Priest were the people responsible for religious education of their children. There were others who came to teach, like the Benedictine Nuns from Chicago. They would come for three weeks every year, in which the children called "Sister's School." She recalls Sister Miriam, who gave her brother Mike a St. Christopher medal. He wears this medal around his neck to this day.

It was important to Kay's parents that Kay and her brother Mike go to a Catholic School, so they moved the family to Pueblo just so they could attend the Shrine of St. Therese, which was run by the Charity Nuns. What an example and commitment to their faith. Kay found herself fully engaged in a variety of organizations in her High School years. She worked at the Catholic Hospital as a Missionary Disciple, was a member of the Legion of Mary as a Candy Striper, helping the kids and elderly, and teaching religious education. She was in Girl Scouts, music, Campfire Girls and even tap dancing.

It was in High School where Kay met her lifetime partner – Jack. He was an electrician working on a remodel at the school and curiously Kay would make lots of visits to the chapel, just so she could walk by and say "hi". It didn't take too many trips to the chapel before Kay and Jack were dating. At that time, it was not common for a Catholic and non-Catholic to date, but their love overcame this hurdle and when the time came for the two to be married, Jack converted to Catholicism. He did this out of his love for Kay, so that they could be married *inside* the railing. Jack knew how important Kays faith was to her and if he had not converted, they would have had to marry *outside* the railing in the Church. One of Kays favorite stories of Catholic education with Jack, was during a time when he would drive her to Church for

confession. He would sit outside and wait for her in the car. Well, one day Kay walked out of Church after confession and Jack was not in the car. Where did he go? So, she went back into the Church to search for him and all at once, he came out of the confessional! Jack told Kay he had to go in and “see what that confession was all about.”

Kay and Jack were together for 53 years. They have 4 children (all girls), 7 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. They moved from Pueblo to Gunnison, while two of the girls were still in high school, for the love of hunting and fishing and they shared their love of the outdoors together. Kay has always seemed to live a life of love and adventure starting at the young age of 10 - working in the family restaurant, cooking on the hot grill. She took on jobs as a cashier, waitress, retail, elementary school teacher, legal secretary, realtor, telephone operator, business owner (KAZEE’S Sweets & Treats) and even a Clown. Over the years, the Flint family always held a close relationship with their Priest. They would share holidays, meals, and camping trips together. That was just the way it was her whole life.

The most very special thing about the adventures Kay has experienced is how she has loved every minute of it and has often thanked her Mother for her life. Even in tough times, Kay held strong to her faith and appreciation. After her Jack passed, she told Father Steve, she didn’t know what her life was going to look like now, but she knew it was going to be with the Church. As a young child Kay already had developed an appreciation for her gift of life. She wasn’t really supposed to be here. Her Dad had experienced a very serious accident at work (a ¼ ton rock fell on him) and he was brought home to die, but amazingly survived – yet it was thought he would never have more children. But they did – and it was little Kay. At two years Kay developed diphtheria and almost died. God saved her and she is ever grateful. Even as recently as 2019, Kay was headed for spinal surgery. There was no office manager at the time and Kay really wanted to help. She made her way to Church – knelt before the tabernacle – and asked for the Lords help. She knew only he could make it possible for her not to have the surgery and when she left the Church that day, she knew everything was going to be ok, and she was right. Her back had caused her so much pain, but little by little the pain started to go away. Now, it is virtually gone, no surgery and Kay marches on with her day – every day.

Kay’s relationship with God is an ongoing conversation - all day. Perhaps there are times when she talks too much, but she is filled with little prays and a lot of gratitude, always thanking God for her life, faith and the many blessings. There are times when her prayers are more “formal” and many times she will reflect on the gospels and converse with the Lord – again always grateful and always asking the question; “Am I leading and doing with my life what you plan?”

This is important to Kay and so is the Church. It has always been a big part of her life. She recalls a trip to the Holy Land and taking a boat ride out on the Sea of Galilee. It was calm when they left the shore and then suddenly a wind came up. This humbling experience reminds Kay of one of her favorite Saints. Saint Peter. “He was such a boob” she said, “if he can be handed the kingdom- maybe there is hope for me?” Kay admired St. Peter for his trust and faith in the Lord, especially the event on the Sea of Galilee. How he walked out towards Jesus with no shame and just an open heart - keeping his focus on the Lord. It is a lesson for us all. In fact, Kay would remind her religious education students; “the Lord is always with you. He is sort of like a puppy dog – he will always love you. It doesn’t matter how you look or how you smell or how bad you are.” What a wonderful analogy.

This is how Ms. Kay Flint lives her life, with humility, appreciation, and love. Always keeping her focus on the Lord. ***Thank you Ms. Kay for your commitment and service to our Church – always making sure the most “beautiful table in the world” is set and ready to receive our Lord.***