

# SAINT CLARE PARISH PROFILE

## DANA & DENTON THOMPSON



The Thompson family didn't waste any time planting new roots here in the community.

"We attended our first Mass (at St. Clare Parish) on the first Sunday after we moved here, and we immediately became members as this is the parish of our new community," said Dana Thompson.

Dana and her husband, Denton, along with their three children — Quade, 14; Rogan, 11; and Kimber, 9 — moved to Wrightstown in July 2017, and they have been proud members of St. Clare Parish ever since.

Dana, a Colorado native, and Denton, a Wyoming native, met in Wyoming after college. They married in August 2002 in Colorado and moved to Omaha, Nebraska, 13 years later because of a job promotion for Denton. Another job promotion in the summer of 2017 had the Thompson family packing its bags for Wisconsin, where Denton was named North Central President for Airgas, a leading single-source supplier of gases, welding equipment and supplies, and safety products.

"After researching and visiting the area, we chose Wrightstown because of the small-town

community feel that we both grew up with,” Dana said.

Noting that both she and Denton were raised Catholic, Dana added: “We like being able to get to know local families. We see them at church as well as at many different activities in the community. It’s been a nice way to get to know people in the community, being new to the area.”

They typically attend Mass at St. Paul Church in Wrightstown, but over time they also have attended Mass at St. Patrick in Askeaton and St. Mary in Greenleaf. Their children are active in sports, so even when the family is out of town on weekends they always attend Mass somewhere.

Here at St. Clare Parish, the Thompsons are active parishioners.

Dana serves as a catechist, lector and member of the Discipleship Formation Team, in addition to attending Monday morning Bible study and leading a Lenten discussion group. Denton serves as a sacristan, while Quade and Rogan are altar servers, and Kimber is eager to be an altar server within the next year.

Dana has been a member of the Discipleship Formation Team for two years.

“I enjoy being able to provide ideas for ways to continue to reach the adults in our parish,” she said. “It’s vital that we never stop learning about our faith. We are first taught by our parents, then our catechist, and continue to be educated every time we attend Mass.

“However, it must become a choice to continue to learn and grow in our faith and relationship with the Lord as adults. It shouldn’t end when we receive confirmation — that is just the beginning!”

Dana also has been a catechist at St. Clare Parish for two years. She first became involved as a catechist while in college and then again when her children were ready to begin religious formation.

“I have taught confirmation, first confession and first communion classes,” she said. “I fell in love with learning about salvation history in an adult small group study where we discussed a book by Scott Hahn called ‘A Father Who Keeps His Promises.’ We would meet during our children’s classes, so while my oldest son was attending religious formation classes, I was too!”

She also read a book, “The Real Story: Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible” by Edward Sri and Curtis Martin, “and it truly pushed me along into understanding the story of the Bible and how it’s our story as well.”

Dana began hosting small group studies in her family’s home during Lent. She truly enjoyed “learning with others and experiencing those moments when my mind is absolutely blown by a new way of understanding a concept or teaching that I may have known but not realized fully.”

Meanwhile, Denton has been a sacristan at St. Paul Church for the past year.

“Over the years my work schedule has kept me very busy and I was challenged to fulfill my personal commitment to our church community,” Denton said. “Growing up very active in a small parish, from altar server, to grounds keeper, to lector, when I was approached by a current sacristan my heart was open.

“He explained to me how intimate you become with the Mass from behind the scenes and how it forces you to get to know your parish families. And he was 110 percent right. It has been a great experience for me, and I have learned so much. Mass takes on an even deeper meaning.

“It has also given me another opportunity to grow my children’s faith. Each time I am sacristan all three of my children arrive early with me, all with tasks to complete for the Mass. It’s so great to see their excitement to go early and contribute. Now I think I need them more

than they need me — they know exactly what needs to be done.”

Both Denton and Dana said it’s very important that their children are raised Catholic.

“As an adult, I now understand that we have been given the fullness of the truth and we feel a responsibility to share this with our children so that they know the treasures of the Catholic Church that they will never be able to receive from any other faith,” Dana said. “The importance of the Sacraments and the grace provided through them is irreplaceable.”

When they aren’t engaged in parish activities, the Thompsons enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching movies together and venturing outdoors for hunting, fishing, paddle boarding and other recreational activities. Quade and Rogan play football, basketball and baseball, while Kimber plays basketball and softball.

The family enjoys their new home in Wrightstown, but they do miss some things — like the Colorado mountain landscape, not having to swat away so many mosquitos, and being closer to family members.

“Colorado weather is the best — we miss the sunshine and longer summer-like weather,” Dana said. “In Wisconsin, we love the endless green grass and trees, and the friendliness of Wisconsin people.”