

April/May/June 2017

Volume 4, Issue 2

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

In recent months, a chill wind has travelled the globe, cooling efforts at collaboration both between and within nations. Talk of white supremacy, isolationism, and religious barriers once thought to belong to a past era are now again front page news. Longstanding alliances are showing cracks, new budding agreements suffer frost.

“The word ‘solidarity’ is a little worn and at times poorly understood” admits Pope Francis. In the present moment, this concept-elevated to prominence in the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II only thirty years ago seems dated. But as Pope Francis reminds us, solidarity is the virtue that most needs to be stirred into action as a form of resistance to the current winds. “[I]t refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset which thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few” (Evangelii Gaudium, “The Joy of the Gospel” #188)

What can the parish do? Certainly many parishes are already involved in acts of social justice and charitable outreach in their immediate communities. Such activities are constructive of what it means to be a Christian community and should never be undervalued. Yet the current times call for more than local involvement. They call for a greater awareness of international issues and concerns. They call for a heightened sense of how the choices we make in our country impact others. They call for a much more robust understanding of global solidarity.

(From an article “Solidarity with All Peoples” by Ann Garriro).

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Peter



Special Events & Activities



May 19th & 20th ~ Annual Tag, Treasure & Bake Sale!

This is one of our biggest fund raisers for the year and we need everyone's help and treasures! Please look for the famous "pink sheet" on the weekend of April 8th/9th and sign up to help ~ there is something for everyone to do! We have already begun accepting donations of jewelry, books, CD's and DVD's during regular office hours. As of this printing, drop offs for all other items are scheduled as follows:

Tues., May 9th (noon-3 pm)

Sat., May 13th (10 am-2 pm)

Wed., May 10th (noon-3 pm)

Mon., May 15th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)

Thurs., May 11th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)

Tues., May 16th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)

Fri., May 12th (noon-3 pm)

As always, please check the bulletin for up-to-date changes that may occur. All acceptable items (check bulletin for list) should be brought to the side door gym entrance. We have streamlined the process of handling, sorting & pricing and your assistance in adhering to this schedule will be greatly appreciated. Start looking through your closets, basements, attics and garages and bring us your "treasures"! Questions?? Please contact **Tom Hyland** (518-370-1758 or email: hyles714@aol.com) or **Karen Grimaldi** (315-941-9137).



Baseball season is just around the corner and that means another parish outing to see the ValleyCats! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW & PLAN ON ATTENDING!** At this time, we have a limited number of seats (including some handicap seating) reserved for the **Monday, July 17th** game in which the ValleyCats are scheduled to play the Connecticut Tigers. We have opted this year to purchase "loaded" tickets. Each ticket will cost **\$12.75** which will include a **\$5 credit** to buy food, drink or merchandise at the many vendors within the park (we will not be doing the picnic pavilion this year). As added enjoyment to the evening, there will be a **fireworks** display at the conclusion of the game! You may reserve your seat(s) beginning **NOW** by returning the form below (checks should be made payable to St. Joseph's Church). Please mail to the Parish Office (45 MacArthur Drive, Scotia) or drop in the weekend offertory basket in an envelope marked "ValleyCats". Questions? Please contact Deb Griffith (346-2316 office or 393-3168 home).



YES ~ reserve my seat(s) as follows for the Monday, July 17th ValleyCats baseball game!

Name _____ Contact Number _____

Number Attending _____ x \$12.75/ticket = _____ Total Enclosed

Please advise if anyone in your party is in need of handicap seating: _____

(Last date for a guaranteed group reservation – **Monday, June 26th**).

Special Events & Activities Photos



2017 Sweet Baskets & Bags ready for delivery!



Tyler & Emilia DeCerbo makes a delivery to Lucille Martinec!



Youth prepare cards and notes to include in baskets & bags.



The CYO team representing Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph's recently concluded their season with a record of 16-2 against other CYO teams and also won the Schenectady Co. tournament.

Members of the team include (not in picture order): Ryan Allen, Cade Cercone, Cam Cremona, Caleb Hussey, Ben Kline, Sean McLaughlin, Aidan Morrison, Jake Passino, Matt Show & Jack Taylor.

Many thanks to Jeff Cercone who volunteered to coach ~ great job!

If you would like to receive St. Joseph's Newsletter via email please contact Brenda at yager.brenda@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
Stjosephschurchscotia.net
and don't forget to Like us on Facebook!

Highlight on Ministries



Altar Servers provide an invaluable service to the priest and deacon during the weekend liturgies. The requirements are minimal ~ they must have received First Eucharist and recognize the importance of serving at weekend liturgy. We are currently in great need of altar servers; particularly for the 4:00 pm Saturday liturgy. We went right to the source when trying to write about this important ministry. We asked some current altar servers: “Why do you altar serve?” and “What made you decide to serve?” Some of their responses were as follows:

“I get more out of mass when I’m an altar server. It’s not hard to do, and if you’re in church anyway, why not give it a try? You’ll be glad you did.”

“It’s a great and easy way to get your National Jr. Honor Society hours, because you’re at mass anyway!”

“Father does a lot of stuff during mass and he shouldn’t have to do all the different things.”
“It feels good to help.”

Of course it also helps when young people are encouraged by their parents. In the words of one parent: ***“As a parent you struggle with ways to try & make your kids be involved in things greater than themselves. It is something where you don’t need to “clear more time” for your kids or your own schedule to go somewhere & do something else because you’re going to be there anyway.”***

Another parent remarked: ***“I admit my children did not come running to me asking to serve and I did nudge them a bit, but once they started, they enjoyed that they were able to help their church in some way while they were growing up (they also liked the fact that a couple Sundays a month they did not have to sit with me!).”***

We are very fortunate and appreciate the dedication of our current list of altar servers (perhaps if you’re reading this, you could thank them some Sunday as well!): ***Anne Arocho, Luke Arocho, Chris Gillette, Ethan Higgins, Josh Janack, Kyle Ostrander, Jason Rudolph & William Schnore***

Please discuss this ministry with your child and prayerfully consider as a family if this is something you can commit to ~ it is a great way for them to experience and strengthen their faith. For more information or to volunteer for this ministry, please contact Deacon Stephen Lape (518-429-6190) or the Parish Office (518-364-2316).



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR WEEKLY UPDATES AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED AFTER THIS NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRINT.

Highlight on Ministries (cont.)



Children’s Liturgy of the Word is a drop-in program (there is no formal “registration” process) which gives children the opportunity to understand the Sunday Gospel message at their level during the 9:00 am Sunday liturgy. Children leave the congregation with two adult leaders after the Introductory Rites and then return after the Prayers of the Faithful.

During the time in the back chapel (we also refer to this as the “children’s chapel”), they will recite some prayers, sing a song or two, listen to the Gospel reading and a homily which is presented at a level they can understand and, if time permits, some small activity related to the reading. Each child also receives a handout which they can share at home with their families. Generally, this program begins after Labor Day in September and continues through April/May.

There are many Sundays when the program is suspended due to holidays or school vacation periods. In order for the program to begin on time in September, we need **ADULT VOLUNTEERS** to sign up **NOW**. We were very fortunate this year to have some returning volunteers who helped “train” new volunteers. Many of these returning volunteers have been doing this for quite some time (some started when their children were in grade school and are now in high school & beyond!) and would like to step down in order to volunteer in other ministries of the church. If you have a child who is currently attending this program, **please consider helping**.

Generally the commitment is for one Sunday of the month (even less if we can get more volunteers!). All materials are provided and help is always available. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Deb Griffith (dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com or phone 518-346-2316 during office hours). We would like to thank the following leaders who have done a great job this year for our children:

Kevin & Audra Burke (their sons Liam, John & Owen have also assisted!), Babette Grey, Christina Klejsmyt, Donna Mayer, Claire & Juliann Vadney and Ginger Zingelewicz.

Mrs. Mayer leads a session of Children’s Liturgy in which the children learned about the Holy Spirit. Each child made a dove which they could hang at home to remind them of the Holy Spirit.



Thank You!



Our mailbox has been bursting in the last couple of months with many notes from various organizations & people. Here are just a sampling of some of those notes and cards that are posted on the bulletin board in Holy Family Hall:

From SICM: In response to our donation of \$319.36 for the "Souper" Bowl, "Thank you for this "extra mile" of support". Also listed in the note were the many programs and services they are able to offer due to the generosity of support from the community.

From Scotia Food Pantry: "We wish to thank you for the generous food donation made in February. Your donation will help to feed many families this winter....."

From the Shartrands: "Thank you very much for the delightful Valentine notes and treats!"

From Mr. & Mrs. Fronk: "Thank you for Valentine's goodies! It was such a nice thing to do!"

From Anne Litynski: "I want to thank everyone for the lovely, delicious Valentine basket. It was delivered by a happy, excited little girl (and her mom too!)....."

From Lorie Malloy: "A very big 'thank you' to everyone at St. Joseph's who made St. Valentine's Day so special. Not only did I receive a gift filled basket in the middle of a snowstorm, but delivered right to me in person!...."

From Molly Caruso: "I really enjoyed the cards from the kids and all of the treats. Thank you again, you're so thoughtful!"

From Bernice Lukas: "I want to thank all the people who made things and took the time to arrange a attractive Valentine's Box, the children's cheerful notes & a nice visit from Dan who delivered the box."

Thanks to the following parishioners who helped with the Sweet Basket deliveries: Bev Barberis, Emelia & Tyler DeCerbo, Charlie Hall, Patty Johnson, Norma Laniewski, Chris Magruder, Beth Marchman, The Massaro Family, John & Mary Morrette, The Murray-Huba Family, Dan Stec and Claire Vadney (thanks for taking time during a bad week of winter weather to spread some cheer to our nursing home and homebound parishioners). Thanks also to everyone who donated "goodies" and to the children who made special cards to be included with the baskets.

Holy Week Schedule



- April 13th: Holy Thursday Liturgy ~ 7:00 pm
(Adoration continues until 10:00 pm)
- April 14th: Good Friday ~ Liturgy of the Passion & Death of Jesus ~ 7:00 pm
- April 15th: Easter Vigil Liturgy ~ 8:00 pm
- April 16th: Easter Sunday Liturgy ~ 8:30 & 10:30 am

Notes from the Finance Office

As in each newsletter, listed below are the income and expenses to date compared with last year:

	Current Fiscal Year	Previous Fiscal Year
	<u>7/1/16-2/28/17</u>	<u>7/1/15-2/28/16</u>
Total Income*	\$346,509	\$306,952
Total Expenses	331,213	321,847

(*Please note income figures include **all** sources of income, not just offertory.

2016 Bishop's Appeal Update & 2017 Bishop's Appeal



Again, a big "thank you" to all who contributed to the **2016** Campaign. Although we did not have the final figures at the time this newsletter went to print, we do know we have **exceeded** our Parish Assessment of \$70,555 as of March 6th. Once the final figures have been calculated by the Diocese, St. Joseph's will receive a "rebate" of 50% of the payments made over our assessment. This is always good news when we do not have to use any operating funds to meet our Diocesan assessments!

We were very fortunate last year to have reached our goal by September, 2016. The kickoff for the **2017** Campaign will begin on the weekend of **April 22nd & 23rd** and details (including our Parish Assessment) will be sent in a separate letter with a pledge envelope. It is our hope to break last year's record and wrap up this new campaign by August 1st! We are actually off to a running start as we have already received several pledges/gifts totaling **\$2,390** toward the 2017 Campaign ~ this is a great way to begin and we hope the momentum will continue once our kickoff begins. Please begin **now** to prayerfully consider what your contribution will be to the **2017 Campaign** which is entitled "**Being Ambassadors for Christ**".

A Look at the Budget



The Finance Committee is responsible for submitting an annual budget to the Diocese by the end of April each year for the next fiscal year which runs from July to June. We are currently in the process of developing our budget for FYE 6/30/18 and are fortunate to be able to share some of our expenses with **Our Lady of Grace** (mainly the cost of our Pastor and Youth Minister). Although this is of great help, we are also looking at possibly some costly repairs to our buildings (church, rectory and parish center) which are not shared expenses. Your assistance with the monthly **Building Maintenance** collection helps your parish with some of these costly (and sometimes unexpected) expenses. As always, we will share our annual financial report with the parish in the fall following the FYE.

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