

January/February/March 2017

Volume 4, Issue 1

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

Greetings! By the time you receive this note the Advent and Christmas seasons will have passed. A new church year and a new civil year 2017 are underway.

A NEW BEGINNING, old things have passed away and the Lord makes all things new. As I look forward to the challenges of the new year, I am thankful to the many individuals who have contributed to the mission of St. Joseph's through their time talent and treasure. If St. Joseph's is to grow and in the future be a more vibrant witness for Christ even more members, especially younger members with families, need to become involved. In today's busy world, I know this is not an easy task. In the past only about one third of the parish members attend or support the work of the parish.

To that end, there are numerous committees, activities and ministries available for members to participate in. These opportunities are listed in a booklet parishioners can pick up at the church in Holy Family Hall. In addition, the parish has a small professional staff that needs YOUR active support and involvement. How many of us have expressed our gratitude to them? In all honesty the parish could not function without the dedication of Lisa Hall our Associate for Administration, Debra Griffith Associate for Finance and volunteer Barb Pacelli. There would be no Faith Formation or Youth Ministry without Pat Walsh and Grace Fay and their team of dedicated teachers and aids. What would the week-end mass be like without Linda Jones and the music group to say nothing of the donated services of Deacons John Crane and Stephen Lape.

As a part-time pastor, I depend on all of these individuals and it is essential for the life of the parish that every member embrace the present and actively work toward the future. I know you are out there and I invite you to come forward with your ideas. It is truly fitting, as the new year dawns, that the parishioners fully embrace the fulfillment of their mission as evangelists for Christ.

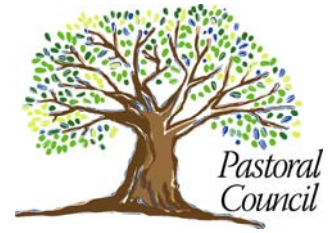
Peace and blessings,

Fr. Peter

**Please note: Effective January 1st,
our Sunday Liturgy will now take
place at 9:00AM.**

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st, and January 5th. At each of these meetings Council members continue to reflect on ways to support the work and mission of our Church, to encourage the involvement of our parishioners in the life of the Parish, and to foster works by which the spirit of the Gospel is promoted in our community.



Christmas reminds us of God’s unending love for each of us. Although the holiday season is certainly a time of celebration and cheer, for many people this time of year can be challenging. As such, the Council encourages Parishioners to look for ways to share their faith with those in need. Examples include visiting those who are homebound or hospitalized, visiting a neighbor who appears lonely, volunteering at local shelters or care facilities, providing rides to parishioners who are unable to drive, becoming involved in Parish ministries, or simply praying for those in need of God’s help.

Parishioner Registration/Update

If you are a registered member of the Parish and have a **new** address, phone number, or email, please complete the form below.

✂ -----

Parishioner Registration/Update

Name(s): _____

Street:: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone(s): _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Completed forms can be dropped off in the collection basket or mailed to:

St. Joseph’s Church
45 MacArthur Drive
Scotia, New York 12302

✂ -----

Thank You!

Periodically we receive “thank you” notes from various individuals and organizations who are grateful for our kindness and support. Here are just a sampling of some of those notes and cards that are posted on the bulletin board in Holy Family Hall:



From Catholic Charities: “Thank you for your generous gift to the Diocesan Louisiana Flood Assistance effort of 2016. This appeal was requested by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help with domestic disaster recovery in Louisiana.....please know that this donation makes a difference and allows us to respond to national disasters such as these devastating floods.”

From Scotia Food Pantry: “Thank you so much for the monetary donation.....this donation will purchase a great amount of food to help stock our shelves. We appreciate your support.”

From Millie & Patsy Benny: “You made our Christmas very special, your cards, Christmas tree decoration, church calendar & poinsettia plant. From our hearts, thank you all. Your kindness and thoughtfulness put a lot of joy in our heart.”

From the YWCA: “Thank you for the generous and thoughtful holiday gifts....we appreciate your thoughtfulness and loyalty. Your gifts make an immediate and lasting impact on the quality of the programs and services that the YW is able to offer to our community.”

From Northern Rivers: “Thank you for supporting Northern Rivers Family Services’ 2016 Holiday Giving Campaign. Your donation of gifts and gift cards will help make this holiday season a joyful and memorable one to those in our care.”



Thanks to the following parishioners who helped with Christmas flower deliveries: Tuesday Baptist Volunteers, Deacon John Crane, Kathy DeFrusco, Jim Guzewich, The Massaro Family, Chris Magruder, Beth Marchman, Carolyn Mundweiler, The Nichter Family, The Rainboth Family, Dan Stec and Karen Sroczyński. Thanks for taking time from your busy holiday schedules to spread some cheer to our nursing home and homebound parishioners!

These are just a few of the many ways that we reach out to those within our community and spread the good news of Jesus Christ through our actions.

**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!

Faith Formation



It is hard to believe that we are 1/3 of the way through our class year. Our children have been busy about many things. Activities that support the Gospel message are taking place in all the classrooms. Children in First Grade have made and decorated ornaments to be distributed to the shut-ins of our parish when the poinsettia plants are delivered to them. They also made Christmas cards for our members of the military. Their cards were added to those done in conjunction with Anne Arocho's parish project.

The children in Second Grade decorated gingerbread houses and placed them on a classroom display with the church as the "center of town" and the streets named for the Sacraments.

As we approach 2017, preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will be their primary focus.

We thank Mrs. Margaret Dolen who filled in as a capable catechist during the absence of Mrs. Carol Casey. Mrs. Casey has now returned to teaching after her recent knee replacement surgery.

God Bless you now and always.

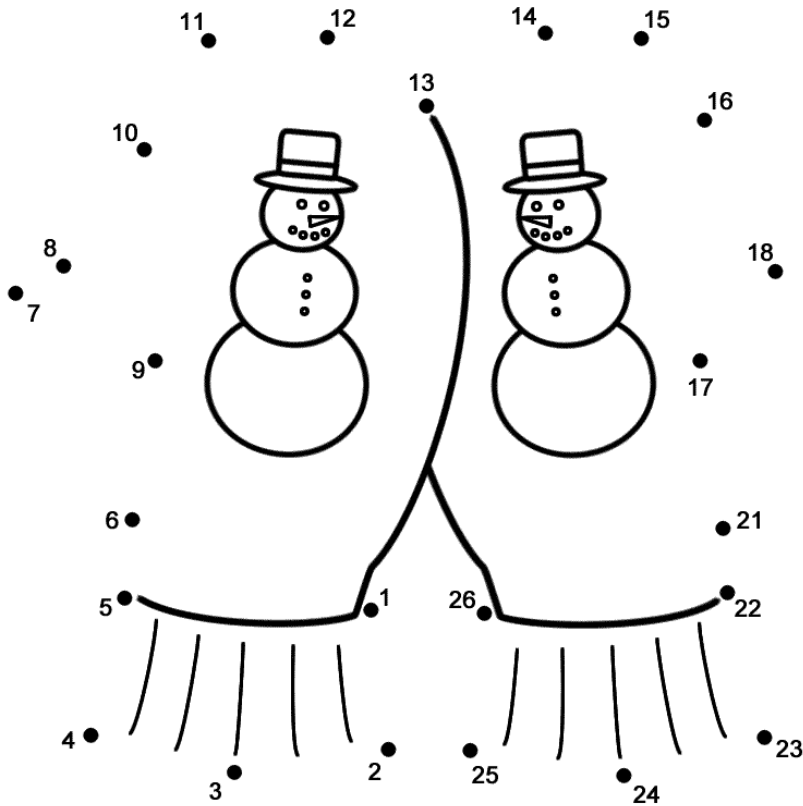
Patricia A. Walsh

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation



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

Kids Corner



Connect the dots!

Color me in!



Special Events & Activities Photos



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/-12/31/16</u>	<u>7/1-12/31/15</u>
Total Income*	\$260,322	\$237,037
Total Expenses	210,329	225,118

(*Please note income figures include all sources of income, not just offertory. As of the printing of this newsletter, we had received **\$7,536** for our annual Christmas collection ~ many thanks for your generosity during the Christmas season and all through the year.)

2016 Bishop's Appeal Update



Assessment Goal	\$70,555.00
Pledges/Gifts to Date	<u>72,512.18</u> (282 Responses)
	\$ 1,957.18 Over Assessment

As of December 1st, **\$65,317.18** in payments have been received which means we only need **\$5,237.82** to reach our Assessment! Please remember to send payments direct to the Stewardship Office in Albany or online at www.TheBishopsAppeal.org by **March 15th** in order for us to receive the credit on our 2016 Appeal Assessment.

Year-End Contribution Statements will be sent out by the end of January. Please note that any donations made to the Bishop's Appeal will not appear on your church contribution statement, but on a separate statement from the Diocesan Stewardship Office. Please contact Debbie Griffith at the Parish Office (346-2316) for any questions you may have regarding these statements.



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Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 346-2316

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