

July/August/September 2017

Volume 4, Issue 3

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

Since Easter the Church has been celebrating the mysteries of our faith at each of the Sunday liturgies.

On the fiftieth day we celebrated PENTECOST and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each and every one of us has been given a commission to GO OUT TO THE NATIONS AND MAKE DECIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE. The very next week we celebrated the FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY. We believe in ONE God in THREE persons. Many though we are, we are one called to use our gifts to build up the Church. Each of us is called to reverence the past, live in the present, and plan for the future. On the 18th of June the Church celebrated the FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. Once again we heard in the Holy Scriptures that we are ONE body in Christ called to bring the kingdom of God to all people. Each parish community is called to be Christ's heart, his hands and his feet, in the local community.

The Church gives us guidance as to how we can do this, perhaps you remember the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Corporal works:

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Cloth the Naked
- Visit Those Imprisoned
- Give Shelter to the Homeless
- Visit the Sick and Bury the Dead

Spiritual works:

- Admonish the Sinner
- Instruct the Ignorant
- Counsel the Doubtful
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Bear Wrongs Patiently
- Forgive all Injuries
- Pray for the Living and the Dead

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

During the summer months perhaps we all can take some time to reflect on how well we reflect the love of Christ in our lives. Have a grace filled summer.

*Peace and blessings,
Fr. Peter*

Faith Formation

Earlier this year we quickly redirected our focus in Faith Formation from the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation to the spirituality of Lenten practices and the celebration of the Resurrection. How quickly time has passed.



The 12 children whose study involves preparing them to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist were very busy. In late January the children and their parents participated in a workshop reinforcing the concepts they had learned in class. This also let the children show their parents what they had learned. As child and parents discussed the lesson at each learning center, it made for interesting dialogue on Faith.



After a weather related postponement the children gathered to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 4. The theme of the prayer was the Forgiving Father and the story of his welcoming home his prodigal son, throwing a special party for him. After making their First Confession each child, having been a Guest of Honor at the Celebration of Reconciliation, signed the Guest Book.

These children and their parents then be participated in a workshop in preparation for First Eucharist. They celebrated First Eucharist on May 7, at the 9:00 Liturgy. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Nicholas Bevilacqua
Anabella Candida
Mylarose George
Riley Higgins

Riley Jackson
Ainsley Kahrs
Rob Knaggs
Michael Lape

Austin Marek
Abigail Rainboth
Owen Wilbur
Noah Smith

As the concluding activities of the school year occupied our classes, many classes had some unique experiences.



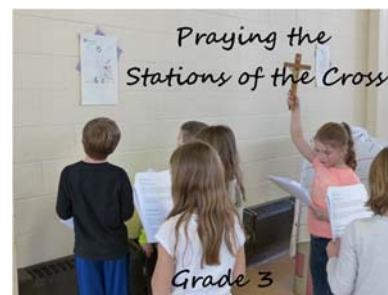
Grade 4 - Last Supper



Grade 2 watches the Last Supper



Grade 3 - Prayer in Chapel



Praying the Stations of the Cross

Grade 3

Faith Formation cont.



Our Catechists have been very creative in teaching the lessons of Catholic Faith to our children.

Enacting the story of the Last Supper; care for creation; sharing our resources with those less fortunate and learning of the various styles of prayer are only a few of the aspects of our Faith that the children have experienced this year.

It has been a year of growth in Faith and in sharing that Faith with those around us.

They have heard repeatedly and hopefully understand that

“You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before all, that they may see the good that you do and give Glory to God.”

In short – Let Your Light Shine.



Registration forms have been distributed to families currently participating in Faith Formation. We ask that those wishing to re-register their child/children do so as soon as possible. Any family wishing to register for the first time for a child who is entering Grades 1 through 5 should call the Office of Faith Formation (374-3382) and registration papers and information will be sent to you. Children are required, by Diocesan policy, to have 2 years of instruction before receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Registration for Grade 1 assures that this requirement will be met.



God Bless You,
Patricia A. Walsh
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

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
Total Income*	\$507,690	\$429,317
Total Expenses	450,721	418,455

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

2016 Bishop's Appeal Update



Assessment Goal \$68,853

Pledges/Gifts to Date 63,349 (250 Responses)

\$ 5,504 Balance Needed to Fulfill 2017 Diocesan Assessment

Our kickoff for the 2017 Bishop's Appeal was held on the weekend of April 22nd/23rd and we're off to a great start, but we still have a way to go. Everyone's help is needed in order to reach our assessment. If you have misplaced your envelope or have kept forgetting to complete the envelope, please stop reading this newsletter now and fill out the "coupon" below and return to the Parish Office or drop in the weekend offertory basket. It is our hope to be able to wrap up this Appeal before summer's end. Please remember all gifts, no matter the size, will help us reach our assessment goal. If you prefer, you may go online to: www.TheBishopsAppeal.org



Donor Information:



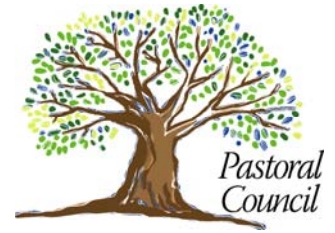
Name _____ Total Gift/Pledge _____

Address _____ Initial Payment: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Balance Due _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Pastoral Council



The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st. The June meeting also served as the Parish’s annual Trustees Meeting. 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.

In May the Pastoral Council conducted a survey of parishioners to better understand their perspectives on our faith community. Following the closing date of the survey, the Council compiled the results so they could be analyzed and then shared with the Parish community. The following table lists the results of the survey’s 10 scaled-response questions:

Question	1-Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5-Strongly agree	No opinion
St. Joseph’s facilitates a strong spiritual life.	0%	2%	11%	30%	57%	0%
St. Joseph’s makes an effort to accommodate everyone, including people with special needs.	0%	0%	5%	21%	70%	4%
Parishioners at St. Joseph’s are provided with opportunities to serve those in need.	0%	4%	9%	38%	48%	2%
The pastor and other leaders at St. Joseph’s communicate regularly and effectively with members of my parish.	2%	2%	22%	24%	37%	13%
Sufficient faith formation and religious education programs are available for children and young adults in the parish.	0%	2%	11%	18%	51%	18%
Sunday Eucharist is celebrated with full and active participation by all parishioners.	2%	0%	13%	38%	46%	2%
Newcomers are warmly welcomed into the parish.	0%	0%	13%	21%	43%	23%
The parish makes sufficient efforts to meet the needs of people who may feel excluded from parish life at some point (e.g., divorced individuals, single parents, the elderly).	0%	2%	13%	20%	32%	34%
Regular efforts are made to discover parishioners’ talents and invite their use in parish service.	11%	15%	27%	31%	16%	0%
What is the likelihood that you would encourage a Catholic who is new to the neighborhood to join St. Joseph’s?	2%	2%	9%	30%	50%	7%

Three major trends were apparent from the survey’s written response section. Respondents voiced a need for better communication concerning the efforts of the Parish’s various ministries and opportunities to share their talents, effective approaches for attracting more families to St. Joseph’s, and a focus on increasing youth involvement in the Parish. The Council and Fr. Peter will use the results of this survey to develop strategies to ensure that the Parish continues to serve the needs of its parishioners and the local community.

Special Events & Activities



July 17th ~ ValleyCats Baseball Game at Bruno Stadium (reservations were due to the office by June 26th).



July 31st – August 11th ~ Summer Meals Program in Collins Park.

Once again St. Joseph's will be participating in the Summer Meals Program sponsored by SICM. Volunteers are needed to serve lunch in Collins Park during the weeks of July 31-August 4 and August 7-11. You may volunteer for one or more days (you do not have to sign up for the full week). Sign-up sheets are available in Holy Family Hall.

Questions? Please contact **Jim Raymond** at **518-372-8329**.



August 24th & September 19th ~ City Mission Evening Meals. Watch the **City Mission** bulletin for sign-up details for this community outreach activity.



September 9th & 10th ~ Farmer's Market. Before and after masses on the weekend we will be selling lots of homegrown fruits, vegetables & flowers as well as homemade jams, jellies & baked goods. Help is also needed for set up, selling and clean up. Please contact **Kathy Brooks (518-280-1478; email brookska@nycap.rr.com)** for more details or to help with this event.



October 14th ~ Eighth Annual Ziti Dinner & Silent Auction (4-7 pm). Think ahead about a donation or creating a special themed basket for our Silent Auction (brainstorm with family or friends to come up with something creative!). We will once again bring back the popular "25¢ Bingo" game to play while awaiting the auction results. Watch for details in the bulletin of how you can get involved with this important fund raiser.



October 17th ~ BOSCOV's "Friends Helping Friends" Discount Shopping Day. We have shopping passes available again this year that entitle you to shop at Boscov's and receive 25% off most purchases as well as an entry for some great prizes. Passes are currently available at the Parish Office at a cost of \$5.00 (St. Joseph's receives the entire \$5.00 from each pass). Please let family, friends and co-workers know about this special shopping day and purchase a pass for them!



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

Thank You!



We have received several notes of thanks & appreciation in the last several months 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 Christ Child Society: “Thank you so much for the baby items that were donated to the Christ Child Society.....We are so thankful for your 25 years of helping the Christ Child Society.”

From the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry: “Thank you so much for the very generous food donation....this food will help stock our shelves. Thank you for your support.”

From Doris Urban: “Many thanks for the nice Easter plant and the special visit. Thank you all.”

From Trina Pecci: “Thank you so much for the Palm Cross and flowers. That was so nice.”

From Arthur & Lucia Bianchi: “Our thanks for the Easter plant. It was much appreciated.”

Thanks to the following parishioners who helped with the Easter Flower deliveries:



Kathy Brooks, Emelia & Tyler DeCerbo, Art & Logan DeSieno, Patty Johnson, Roseann Jweid, Norma Laniewski, Chris Magruder (and little helpers!), the Massaro Family, John & Mary Morrette, the Nichter Family, Dan Stec, Tuesday Baptist Volunteers and the Venditti Family.

Special thanks to **everyone** who helped with our recent Tag & Treasure Sale. We had over 86 parishioners & friends who worked tirelessly over a two-week period to help us raise **\$10,619.75** (including gift card and 50/50 raffles). **GREAT JOB EVERYONE!**



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

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St. Joseph's Church Newsletter

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