

October/November/December 2017

Volume 4, Issue 4

# St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



*From the Pastor's Desk*

**Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you... calling to mind your works for faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ..." 1Thessalonians 1:2-3*

With these words, St. Paul greeted the people of the Church in Thessalonica. As pastor of St. Joseph's Church for almost 15 years, I can share St. Paul's praise for the Catholic Community of the Scotia-Glenville area.

The financial report that follows in this newsletter will give you a view of what has been done over the past fiscal year in the way of your Stewardship to St. Joseph's Church. Coming in the first newsletter of 2018, we will report on the Time and Talent resources of our parishioners for 2017. In order for the work of our Lord to continue, I, along with our Bishop, urge you to reflect on your commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and the good stewardship of His gifts to you.

For most of us, a life of stewardship represents an enormous transition from secular values. Some parishioners are very involved with the parish while others are striving to increase their commitment. We hope that you will take the time to read and prayerfully reflect on these annual reports. I pray that each member of the community will **TAKE A STEP** in their spiritual development.

I wish to thank each and every parishioner for your prayerful reflection on these reports and for the commitment you are currently making or plan to make.

*Peace and blessings,*

*Fr. Peter*



## *What does it mean to be a “member”???*

When looking up this word in the dictionary, there are many definitions listed:

- a body part or organ
- one of the individuals composing a group
- a person baptized or enrolled in a church
- a constituent part of a whole



Here at St. Joseph’s, we currently have 1,836 members from 755 “registered” families. Although these numbers seem substantial, do we really have that many “members”? Being a member means something different for each of us, but we must ask ourselves: Am I really a member?

To be a “member” of a team would mean to take part in practices and games; to be there when the team needs us. What if we only showed up for practices or games when it was convenient for us? Would that be fair to the other players? What would a game be like if different players showed up for games that did not show up for practice? What about a play or a show? Again, what type of performance would it be if not all the actors/actresses came to rehearsals?

In order for St. Joseph’s to continue to be able to serve the community as well as one another, we need the help and support of all our “members”. As an example of this, consider what is needed to prepare for our two weekend liturgies on a weekly basis. We need the help and support of our “members” as greeters, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, altar servers, vocalists and children’s liturgy leaders, just to name a few. Every member of St. Joseph’s has some “gift” that they can share with their church. Some members have more time than others and some members have more resources than others, but **EVERYONE** has something to share.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

Another example of the importance of active “membership” is when we are asked at the office to provide certificates, letters or statements to people regarding their status with St. Joseph’s (possibly as a sponsor or godparent). Although we cannot possibly know every individual who attends our church on a weekly basis, we can look to see if they are involved in a ministry or committee, contribute offertory through the use of envelopes or monthly ACH, respond to mailings, etc. If this is not the case, how are we to know you are a “member” of St. Joseph’s?

Perhaps as 2017 comes to a close and 2018 is upon us, each of us can reflect on what it means to be a “member” and resolve to serve in a way that benefits ourselves as well as St. Joseph’s.

## Youth Ministry - Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health is something that affects us all, regardless of who we are, where we are from or how old we are. With this in mind the diocese has created a Mental Health Awareness Committee. The diocese has blessed the week of **October 15-22** as Mental Health Awareness Week. In the spirit of that week, here are some mental health resources and information.



Remember that everyone is somehow effected by mental illness, don't be afraid to start the conversation about mental illness in your family. It can be started by simply asking "How are you?" and sitting to listen to the answer. If you have questions for the committee, feel free to contact Grace Fay, [olgsjym@gmail.com](mailto:olgsjym@gmail.com)

### Did you know? (From the National Alliance on Mental Illness)

- 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness
- ½ of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14, ¾ by the age of 24
- 42 million American adults live with anxiety disorders
- 16 million American adults live with major depression

### Ways to get help

Don't be afraid to **talk to your doctor**

Connect with **other individuals and families**

**Learn more** about mental illness

**Visit** [NAMI.org](http://NAMI.org)

The Diocesan Consultation Center: 518-489-4431

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>



NOVEMBER 16-18, 2017 • INDIANAPOLIS

We have 5 young people and 2 adults going on a pilgrimage to NCYC this year. Please keep us in prayer. If you wish to help us finance this trip with a financial contribution, please contact Grace.

Peace, Love and Light,  
Grace Fay

## 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>7/1/17-8/31/17</u>	<u>7/1/16-8/31/16</u>
Total Income*	\$69,142	\$74,507
Total Expenses	66,331	70,466

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

## 2017 Bishop's Appeal Update



Another big “Thank You” to all who pledged or donated to the 2017 Bishop’s Appeal. Our account with the Diocese currently shows 263 Pledges and/or Gifts totaling \$69,644 (against our assessment of \$68,853). Payments against these pledges and/or gifts total **\$51,036.34** as of September 13<sup>th</sup>. Just a reminder that all payments on pledges must be made by **March 15, 2018** in order for St. Joseph’s to receive “credit” for the 2017 Appeal. Payments should be mailed directly to the Diocese in Albany along with your remittance stub or made online at [www.TheBishopsAppeal.org](http://www.TheBishopsAppeal.org).

## Annual Financial Report

Included on the following page is the **Annual Financial Report** for **FYE 6/30/17**. This is a condensed version of the annual report that is sent to the Diocese. It should be noted that we ended our fiscal year in a positive position mainly due to the sharing of expenses with Our Lady of Grace (Pastor and Youth Minister), debt forgiveness by the Diocese for three years of School Assessment and a bequest. If anyone has any comments or questions regarding the annual report, please contact Debbie at the Parish Office (518-346-2316 or email: [dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com)). It is most helpful if questions or concerns are addressed personally and not anonymously.



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

## **FYE JUNE 30, 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u><b>Actual</b></u> <u><b>FYE 6/30/17</b></u>	<u><b>Actual</b></u> <u><b>FYE 6/30/16</b></u>
<b><u>Cash Receipts:</u></b>		
Weekly Collections	\$269,954	\$274,297
Deficit Reduction Collections	16,340	14,892
Monthly Building Maintenance Collection	23,591	23,066
Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Income	8,053	7,715
Bulletin Sponsors	9,538	9,550
Mass Stipends/Stole Fees	4,460	3,820
Donations/Bequests/Memorials	45,965	59,459
Fundraising (net)	29,766	32,208
Heritage Fund	140	5,955
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$407,807</b>	<b>\$430,962</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>		
Salaries, Benefits & Payroll Taxes (non-clergy personnel)	\$168,318	\$192,511
Clergy Salary & Benefits	56,733	58,717
Repairs & Maintenance (church, parish center & rectory)	75,411	29,053
Diocesan Assessments	26,500	26,737
Utilities/Water & Sewer (church, parish center, rectory)	25,612	26,473
Insurance (church, parish center, rectory)	22,995	22,545
Office Supplies & Expenses	12,809	12,724
Snow Removal	7,920	5,400
Liturgy Supplies/Flowers	7,203	7,363
Food (church & rectory)	6,605	9,347
Telephone/Internet (office & rectory)	3,834	3,641
Truck Expenses	3,670	3,789
Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Expenses (non-salary)	6,461	4,930
Charitable Donations	5,781	4,031
Evangelist	3,642	3,813
Postage (office & FF/YM)	2,591	3,003
Continuing Education/Retreats	5,600	3,056
Other Operating Expenses	2,507	2,064
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>444,192</b>	<b>419,197</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditures Over Receipts</b>	<b>(\$36,385)</b>	<b>\$11,765</b>
<b><u>Non-Operating Income:</u></b>		
Rental Income	\$8,025	\$7,925
Investment/Other Income	5,106	(975)
Diocesan Debt Forgiveness	26,500	0
Insurance Claims	6,725	0
Reimbursed Expenses	32,471	0
<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>\$78,827</b>	<b>\$6,950</b>
<b>FYE Net Income/Deficit</b>	<b>\$42,442</b>	<b>\$18,715</b>
<b>As of June 30</b>		
<b><u>Balance Sheet</u></b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Cash	\$23,676	\$1,781
Savings	41,461	52,857
Bishop's Appeal Savings	35,159	37,728
CD's & Investments	114,849	81,353
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$215,145</b>	<b>\$173,719</b>
Due to Diocese		
School Assessment	0	53,003
Bishops Appeal collections	35,159	37,728
Total Due Diocese	35,159	90,731
Other liabilities	4,436	2,884
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>39,595</b>	<b>93,615</b>
Fund Balance	175,549	80,105
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$215,144</b>	<b>\$173,720</b>



## Special Events & Activities



Our **8th Annual Ziti Dinner & Silent Auction** will be held on **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** from 4-7pm at the Parish Center. Come for a great family meal and stroll around the tables to bid on some fantastic auction items. Don't forget your quarters as we will once again be playing special games of 25¢ Bingo while we are awaiting the Silent Auction results. We need your help to make this evening successful ~ please refer to the recent mailing (and infamous "PINK SHEET") to see how you may get involved. We are still looking for High School students to help serve that evening. Questions? Please contact Deb Griffith at 518-346-2316 or email [dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com).

Once again this year we will be participating in **BOSCOV'S "Friends Helping Friends" Sale Day**. Purchasing a shopping pass for \$5.00 will enable you to receive a 25% discount on most merchandise (see pass for complete details) on **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** only. St. Joseph's receives 100% of the sale of the pass. Shopping passes are available at the Parish Office.



If you are unable to make it to the Ziti Dinner on October 14<sup>th</sup>, stop by the Parish Center on **Election Day (November 7<sup>th</sup>)** and pick up a dinner to go! We will be serving from 4:00 pm until sold out. Along with the take-out dinner, we will also be having a bake sale (bakers mark your calendars and plan to drop off some goodies for us to sell) as well as a small book sale.

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Christmas Bazaar & Visit with St. Nick** on **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We will have many handcrafted items for your holiday shopping. The Bazaar will take place from 10 am to 3 pm and St. Nick will visit with children from 11 am to 1 pm (we will also stay set up before and after the weekend masses on December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>).



As we did last year, we have a beautiful hand-stitched & professional-framed cross stitched Christmas piece (thanks Mary & John Morrette!) that we will be raffling (the winner will be chosen after the 9 am mass on December 3<sup>rd</sup>). Tickets will be sold before & after designated weekend masses and at the Christmas Bazaar, but why wait ~ you can send in the ticket below with your \$1.00 donation to get a head start! This piece will be on display beginning at our Ziti Dinner and at designated weekend masses.



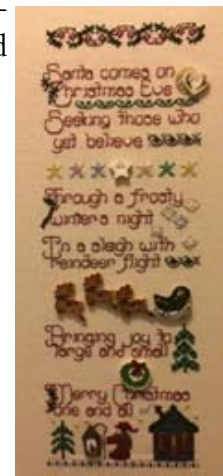
**St. Joseph's Church—Scotia, NY**

Christmas Cross Stitch Raffle

**\$1.00 Donation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Drawing will be held on December 3, 2017)*



## 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 Schenectady Inner City Ministry:** “Thank you for your recent gift to the SICM Food Program! Given the board support from the community, we are able to expand the offerings in response to the growing and changing needs in our community.”

**From Scotia Food Pantry:** “Thank you so much for the food donation and for the school supplies....The Scotia Food Pantry volunteers appreciate all that you do for our families.”

We also have received numerous thank you notes from our **2017 graduates** in appreciation for their graduation gift from the Parish:

**From Margaret:** “Thank you so much for offering me such a loving & supportive community for the past 12 years. I am truly blessed!”

**From Libby:** “Thank you so much for the money, it will be useful when buying books next year. I appreciate everything you & the church have done for me.”

**From Briana:** “Thank you so much for the graduation money. I’m excited for this next step. Thank you for aiding me on this journey.”

**From Ian:** “Thank you for my graduation gift. It was very thoughtful.”

A big “**Thank You**” to all who contributed to our recent special collections for storm relief. Because of your generosity, we were able to send **\$3,454.15** to Catholic Charities to aid their relief efforts in the areas hit so hard by recent Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.



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](mailto:breger.brenda@gmail.com)**

**We're on the Web!**  
[Stjosephschurchscotia.net](http://Stjosephschurchscotia.net)  
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## *St. Joseph's Church Newsletter*

Church address:  
231 Second Street  
Scotia, NY 12302

Mass Times:  
Saturday - 4:00 pm  
Sunday - 9:00 am

Parish Office  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 - 3:00  
Closed on Friday  
45 MacArthur Drive  
Scotia, NY 12302  
Phone: 518-346-2316 (office)  
518-374-3382 (FF/YM)  
Fax: 518-374-3383  
E-mail: [stjosephschurch@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:stjosephschurch@albany.twcbc.com)

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