

January/February/March 2018

Volume 5, Issue 1

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

Greetings! A new church year and a new civil year 2018 are right ahead of us. 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 be a more vibrant witness for Christ in the future 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.

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. 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 and Debra Griffith Pastoral Associate for Finance. There would be no Faith Formation or Youth Ministry without Patricia Walsh and Grace Fay and their team of dedicated teachers and aids. Let's not forget the silent work of the Pastoral Associate for Property Management Mr. Scott Sutherland. 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. It is essential for the life of the parish that every member embraces the present and actively works 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



Christmas Mass Schedule:

December 24th ~ 4:00 pm

6:00 pm (Children's Liturgy)

9:00 pm

December 25th ~ 10:00 am

The Solemnity of Mary Mother God:

January 1st ~ 10:00 am

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation program has gotten off to a good start. The 60 children are enthusiastic and are enjoying the varied activities across the grades.

First Grade placed a birdfeeder in the branches of a tree outside their classroom window. This activity is in response to their lesson on care for God's creation. Here they and their teachers ask God's blessings on the birds who will depend on this feeder throughout the Winter.



Much of the Second Grade year will be devoted to preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. They have attended their first of two workshops related to the Sacraments. These workshops are parent & child activities. Following the theme of the Sacraments the children in Grade 2 recently decorated Gingerbread houses which were then placed on the Sacrament Streets with the Church as the "center of Town."

We are all praying for the rapid recovery and return to ministry of Mrs. Mary Ann Schaeffer (Catechist in Grade 4) following her recent heart attack. Please join your prayers with ours for Mrs. Schaeffer.

In keeping with the Diocesan directive the children at all Grade levels viewed presentations on personal safety. In this session the children in Grades 3, 4 and 5 watched a video on preventing bullying or reacting to diffuse the action. This video was created a few years ago by children in Glendaal Elementary School under the direction of one of their teachers.



We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Holy New Year.

God Bless You.

Patricia A. Walsh

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation.



Youth Ministry - Faith and Self Care

As Catholic Christians, we are taught that we are called to serve others. Strong emphasis is put on the message that Jesus calls us to serve those in need and those around us. But, by focusing so strongly on this message, we, as a Church, unintentionally send the message that serving others is everything. This is not to say that serving others isn't important. Jesus left us with the most amazing example of servant leadership, and the importance of service as part of being a Christian; but Jesus also left us with the wonderful example of the importance of taking care of ourselves.



Scripture gives us many examples of Jesus taking time away from the crowds, time separate from his disciples, and time in solitary prayer. In Mark 12:30-31 Jesus gives us the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these." Most of us, as people of faith, focus on the first and second parts; service to God and service to others. We focus on it so much that we forget about the third part, the qualifier for the first two parts: service to ourselves. Jesus tells us that we can only serve and love each other if we first love and care about ourselves. This is not permission to be selfish or not to care about the world, but it is proof that God understood the nature of human beings. He knew that we would be unable to adequately take care of others and serve the Lord if we don't take care of ourselves first.

In a world where we are constantly in motion and are surrounded by the "busyness" of life, we forget that as human beings and as people of faith, we are given permission to take care of ourselves. In order to take care of ourselves, we need to be aware of our boundaries and accept the fact that we cannot be everywhere or be doing everything. We need to leave time in our day, or at least our week, to take time and refill/recharge ourselves. For some, that might be taking a walk, a hike, or doing something athletic, for others it may be playing music, writing or painting, still for others it might be sitting in silence on the top of a mountain, on the beach, or at a lake, or it may just be taking time for prayer. Whatever it may be for each of us individually, we need to take the time to actually do it. This can be difficult in the midst of family, work, and other obligations; but it is important. It is so important that God made it part of His commandment to us. So, take a moment, as you sit here reading this article, and think about what brings you joy, what recharges your batteries, what refills your soul, so that you can take on the things that God brings you. How can you make some of those things part of your week, if not part of your daily life? And remember, God wants you to take care of yourself, just as much as He wants you to serve others.



Peace, Love and Light,

Grace Fay

FAITH Along the Way

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 7/1-11/30/17 | Previous Fiscal Year 7/1-11/30/16 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Income* | \$204,560 | \$238,755 |
| Total Expenses | \$212,057 | \$210,043 |

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

2017 Bishop's Appeal Update



| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Assessment Goal | \$68,853 |
| Pledges/Gifts to Date | \$68,913 (265 responses) |

As of November 16th, **\$59,646.90** in payments have been received by the Stewardship Office and credited against our assessment. Please remember to send payments direct to the Stewardship Office in Albany or online at www.TheBishopsAppeal.org by **March 15, 2018** in order for us to receive the credit on our 2017 Appeal Assessment.

Year-End Contribution Statements

The 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 (518-346-2316) for any questions you may have regarding these statements.



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

Annual Report Continues.....

As we reported the Annual Finances (or “Treasures”) in our last newsletter, we finish our reporting in this newsletter with our “Time and Talent” portion of our Annual Report.

Prayer and Worship:

The administration of the Sacraments and the celebration of the Eucharist each weekend are the source and summit of all we are and all we are called to be. There were over 300 masses celebrated at St. Joseph’s during the past year with approximately 22,000+ people in attendance. Communion was given to approximately 15,000 people, 17 Baptisms were celebrated, 12 children received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time, 13 youth received the sacrament of Confirmation, 4 Marriages were witnessed and 22 funerals were celebrated. Pastoral care of the sick, hospital visitation and communion calls to our homebound parishioners were also made on a regular basis.

All of the above services are supplied by the parish professional staff of:

- 1 Priest (full time & shared with Our Lady of Grace)
- 2 Deacons (unpaid)
- 1 Pastoral Associate for Administration
- 1 Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation (part time)
- 1 Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry (shared with Our Lady of Grace)
- A team of Liturgical Musicians (1 paid with several volunteers)
- 2 Pastoral Associates for Maintenance (1 full time & 1 part time)
- 2 Pastoral Associates for Finance (both part time)
- Approximately 200+ volunteers in various ministries



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry:

We strive to teach the values, heritage and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Within this educational framework, we try to guide our youth to become lifelong witnesses to the reality of the Risen Christ through the sacramental life, personal and communal celebrations and charitable works.

During the 2016/2017 school year, we served 157 students from 102 families. Our program is assisted by the volunteer services of our catechists, aides and gatekeepers. As an integral part of the program and as a response to their Baptismal call to service, students at all levels were introduced to activities assisting the wider community. This past fall, our parish also sent five students from our Youth Ministry program to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). Aside from Sunday Liturgy, the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs serve the largest segment of our parish population. A nominal registration fee helps to offset, but does not cover the operating expenses of the program.

Annual Report Continues.....

Bereavement Ministry:

The Bereavement Ministry has cared for parishioners who have suffered the loss of loved one through death. They initially contact the family by sending a note of condolence and assist them in the preparation of the funeral (if celebrated here at St. Joseph's). A Memorial Mass is held annually for the deceased loved ones of our parish family.

Social Concerns Committee:

The mission of the Church has always included aspects of social concerns and outreach. Our Social Concerns development reach out to our community and beyond in providing direct and practical assistance to those in need and fostering positive relationships that help build the wider community of the world.

Regular monthly food drives benefit SICM (Schenectady Inner City Ministries) as well as our local Scotia Food Pantry. Monthly volunteers gather to make 300 sandwiches which are delivered to Bethesda House in Schenectady. Members coordinate and staff the SICM sponsored summer lunch program at our local park (we assisted in two weeks this past summer). Other collections include health care kits which are distributed at Bethesda House as well as collecting personal care items to support the Catholic Charities Personal Care Closet (these items are crucial to those on assistance as public assistance does not cover the cost of these items). Finally, the committee oversees the coordination of the Giving Tree which collects and distributes Christmas gifts to many organizations within the community.

Administration / Buildings & Grounds:

In addition to the ministerial services here at St. Joseph's, there is the whole area of Administration and Buildings & Grounds. This past year there were many repairs made to the church and Parish Center roof, boilers and air conditioners, Parish Center parking lot, classroom window replacements (due to two incidents of vandalism) as well as extensive tree removal at the Parish Center. It is important to note that many times there are repairs made to our facilities due to the generosity and talent of some of our parishioners which save the church a great deal of money and, for that, we are most grateful.

All of these items and more represent the TRUE SCOPE of our community. Your sacrificial gifts of *Time, Talent and Treasure* literally are the only means of meeting our obligations and make all these ministries possible. We will be highlighting many of these ministries (and more) in 2018 and hope that many of you will make a commitment to volunteer and help your church.

□

TIME Talent *Treasure*

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 Bethesda House: “Your recent donation of sandwiches...was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all. Due to your thoughtfulness and generosity, a sense of joy and gratitude is felt by our many guests and residents.

Without your charity many people experiencing difficult times would go without a meal and many lives would not be touched.”

From Scotia Food Pantry: “Thank you so much for the food donation. The volunteers of the Scotia Food Pantry appreciate all that you do for the many families that we serve.”

From Catholic Charities: “Thank you for your generous gifts...to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany in support of the Diocesan Storm Season Appeal. You make it possible for Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Albany to respond quickly and effectively when disaster strikes. Thank you again for your thoughtful gifts and know that with these contributions, you are the answer to someone’s prayers.”

St. Joseph’s would also like to thank its many dedicated volunteers that help to make our events and the church successful. Without you we would be at a loss!

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.

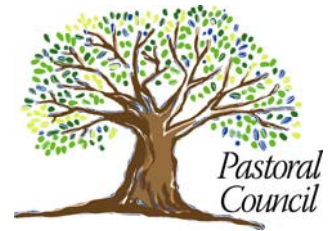


THANK YOU

**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!

Pastoral Council



The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on September 7th, October 5th, November 9th, and December 7th. At each of these meetings Council members 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. Items of note include:

- The Council welcomed its newest member, Tim Caldwell, during its September meeting.
- The Council is working to organize a Ministry Fair following Mass on January 20th and 21st.
- Members of the Council will assist in serving a Community Meal at the City Mission of Schenectady on April 24th, 2018.

Christmas is an opportunity to celebrate God's eternal love for all His children. Though the holiday season is surely a time of festivities and joyfulness, for many people in our community this time of year can be difficult. 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.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and happy New Year.

Eric Yager
Chair, Pastoral Council

Kids Corner—Color Me In



Kids Corner

Hail Mary Word Search

J B L E S S E D M G F
 M Z L Z Y T L K O K X
 N X X N D D I C T L P
 W J E S U S A L H D N
 S O X Y Q M H E E O F
 R H M M A R Y E R G R
 E H O E A G B H J V U
 N T B L N M R T D K I
 N A M O Y N E A N R T
 I E O R N K J N C K H
 S D W D R P R A Y E D



Directions: Find all 17 of the words that are in bold print below in the Hail Mary prayer in the word search above.

Hail Mary,
 Full of **Grace,**
 The **Lord** is with **thee.**
Blessed art thou among **women,**
 and blessed is the **fruit**
 of thy **womb, Jesus.**

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us **sinner**s now,
 and at the hour of **death.**
Amen.

Pictures, pictures & more pictures...



Madison Burton & her mom, Kelly, take a rest at the Christmas Bazaar— where is St. Nicholas???



Tyler and Emilia DeCerbo came to visit with St. Nicholas at the Christmas Bazaar on December 2nd.



Anne Arocho again this year spearheaded the effort to send Christmas cards to our troops. Anne & her brother Luke recently collected cards at Our Lady of Grace in addition to St. Joseph's. A total of 233 cards were collected!



Cliff Semerad and his cat, Felix, receive a blessing from Fr. Peter in honor of the Feast of St. Francis.



We were honored & happy to share with Dr. Mele his 103rd Birthday at mass on December 3rd.



Pictures, pictures & more pictures... Youth Ministry



St. Joseph's Church
Parish Office
45 MacArthur Drive
Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 346-2316

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Burnt Hills, NY
Permit No. 236



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

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>From the Pastor's Desk</i> | <i>Cover</i> |
| <i>Faith Formation</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Youth Ministry</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Notes from the Finance Office</i> | <i>3-5</i> |
| <i>Thank you</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Pastoral Council</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Kids Corner</i> | <i>7-8</i> |
| <i>Pictures, pictures & more pictures</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Pictures, pictures & more pictures— Youth Ministry</i> | <i>10</i> |