

October/November/December 2016

Volume 3, Issue 4

# St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



*From the Pastor's Desk*

***Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor***



Greetings to all! I hope your summer went well and you are ready to embrace the new season. If my information is correct, this newsletter is the only one to be sent out before the November elections and there are a few points that every Catholic should keep in mind as they prepare for Election Day.

The New York State Catholic Conference and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have published "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" in which they remind us of our obligation to take an active role in the political system and to exercise the right to vote. "In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

All activities of the Church (and its parishes, schools and ...organizations) in the political arena must conform to the requirements of sect. 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

As your pastor, I strongly encourage every Catholic of voting age to educate themselves on the issues of our day, as well as the Roman Catholic teachings on Social Justice so as to fulfill their moral obligation as responsible citizens.

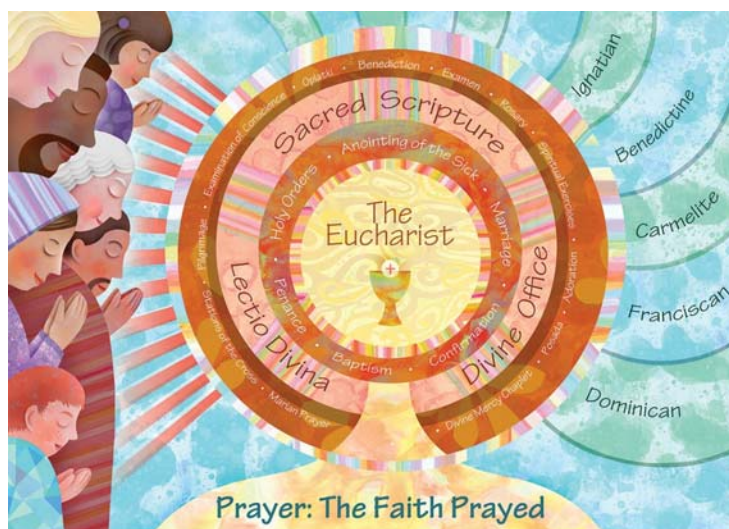
For resources see:

[www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

[info@nyscatholic.org](mailto:info@nyscatholic.org)

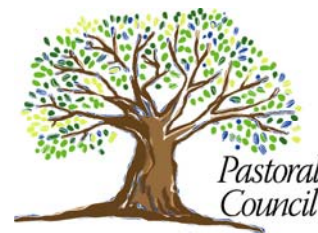
[www.usccb.org/issuesandactions](http://www.usccb.org/issuesandactions).

*Peace and blessings,  
Fr. Peter*



## Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council held its monthly meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup> and is scheduled to meet on October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 continues to discuss ways to support Fr. Peter as he continues to serve as Pastor to both St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace in Ballston Lake. The Council also continues to consider areas in which our two Parishes might collaborate and/or share services.
- Guided by the Church's social teachings on immigration and "welcoming the stranger among us", the Council has begun to consider ways the Parish might assist the Albany office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in their efforts to resettle individuals and families uprooted by the conflicts in the Middle East.

Parishioners interested in serving on the Council are encouraged to contact any member of the Council or the Parish Office .

The Council wishes all parishioners an enjoyable autumn and Happy Thanksgiving.

## Special Events & Activities (Photos)

The weather cooperated and we were able to enjoy an evening at "The Joe" on July 25<sup>th</sup> to watch the Tri-City ValleyCats take on the Vermont Lake Monsters ~ the ValleyCats won 13-1!



Bountiful baskets at the Farmers Market in September!



The DeMarco family enjoyed meeting "Uncle Sam"



What's a baseball game without an ice cream cone???

Parishioners enjoy a picnic in the pavilion before the game began.



Some were lucky enough to meet "Southpaw" while they were eating!



## *Youth Ministry - Role of faith in sports*

In today's world, families and young people can feel pressure to achieve great heights in academics and extra-curricular activities. Due to that, it can be difficult to make time and space for any sort of belief or faith practice. Families find it hard to balance school, dance, sports, theater, and faith. This summer's Olympic Games has given us examples of people who excel in their chosen profession, but also have deep faith lives.



While we can easily get caught up in the drama of games or who has the most medals, it is the individual athletes who show us their deep faith during the events. In a world where people are afraid to declare their faith or religion, many athletes are wearing faith symbols on their body, pointing to the sky when they win a medal or finish an event, or even speaking about their faith when interviewed by reporters. Just look at Team USA. Olympic gymnast, Simone Biles, told reporters at the games that she carries a rosary in her gym bag to remind her that God is with her and she always says a prayer before her routines. Olympic diver, David Boudia, spoke with one reporter about how his faith in Jesus Christ keeps him centered and focused in his life, especially when he is competing. Olympic medal fencer, Ibtihaj Muhammad is the first USA Olympian to compete while observing the hijab; the traditional Muslim custom of women covering their body so that only their face and hands show, an outward sign of the deep faith that she has. On the track, the USA Women's 4x100 and 4x400 athletes were shown as they got into a huddle to say a prayer after each of their races... And these are just a few examples of how faith plays a role in the life of these professional athletes.

If faith practices are possible for these professional athletes, who have dedicated their lives to sports; why is it so hard for us to make space for faith in the lives of our young athletes? These professional athletes didn't just take up religion when they went pro, it is something that they had practiced their entire lives. To take away their faith would be taking away part of who they are as athletes and, more importantly, as people. So, why is it so hard for our young people today? How can we, as adults, make more of an effort to help our young people make space in their already busy lives to embrace faith? And the bigger question, how do we engage young people in faith and help them understand how important a faith belief can be in their lives.

Sadly, I do not have a definitive answer to these questions; and, honestly, I don't believe there is a one size fits all answer. The answer depends on the family, on the young person, on the chosen faith. But these are questions that we have to continue to ask, discuss, and focus on in order to help our young people become the best people that they can be. It's not just families that have to ask these questions, it is also us, as a faith community. We need to be willing to have these uncomfortable and difficult discussions and see how we can adjust, as a community, to help families make faith a priority; and view young people not as a problem to be solved, but as part of our community that we need to continue to welcome into our Churches showing them examples of people of faith in their own communities.

Peace, Love and Light,  
Grace Fay



## *Faith Formation*



Happy New Year – new SCHOOL year, that is. We welcome our students in Grades 1 through 5 on October 3.

Registrations have been coming in throughout the Summer. As we approach the opening day, there are a few families who have not yet notified us of their intention to participate in the Faith Formation program this year. We have many new families who will be joining us this year. The end result is that we will have a larger enrollment this year. This is a good sign for the parish, in general.

It is our sincere hope that the families participating in the Faith Formation program will follow through with the themes of the lessons and with the family practice of their Faith. Weekly attendance at Mass is a crucial part of living their Catholic Faith.

What we do in class, we do not do in isolation. The lessons of Good's love, care for creation, learning about the Sacraments of the Church, love and respect for one's neighbor, the life of Jesus are all lessons that can and must be brought out of the classroom and into the home.

We depend heavily on the prayerful support of all the members of Saint Joseph's Parish. Please keep our children and their Catechists in your prayers.

God Bless you now and always.  
Patricia A. Walsh

**Color me in!!**



## Kids Corner

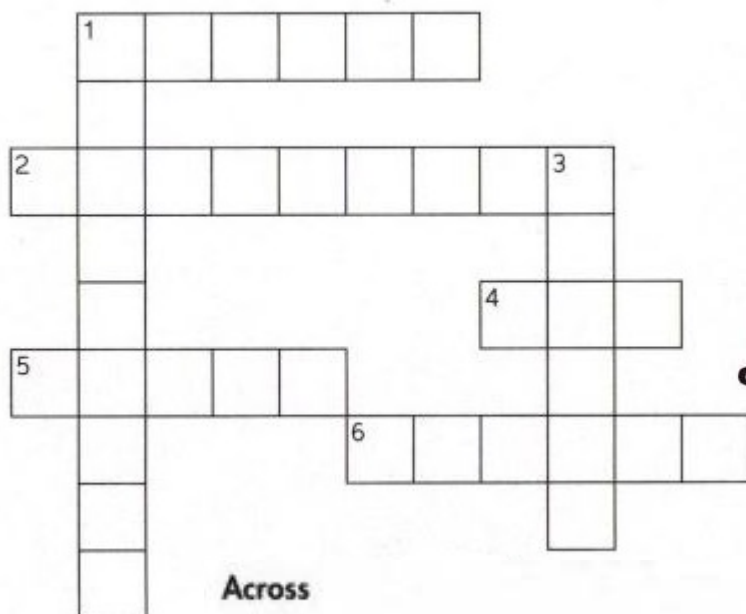
### Nativity Word Search

NATIVITY NIGHT  
 CHRISTMAS SHEEP  
 MANGER MOTHER  
 DONKEY GIFT  
 STABLE  
 DECEMBER  
 ANGEL  
 SHEPHERD  
 BABY  
 STAR



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

### Christmas Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

1. "Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_ has been born." Luke 2:11
2. The city of David where Jesus was born.
4. There was no room there for Mary and Joseph to sleep.
5. Mary pondered everything here. (Luke 2:19)
6. They told the shepherds about Jesus' birth.

#### Down

1. The angels told them about Jesus' birth.
3. Jesus' first bed.

## Special Events & Activities



Our **Seventh Annual Ziti Dinner & Silent Auction** will be held on **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00-7:00 pm 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! Back by popular demand, we will 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 also looking for High School students to help serve that evening. Information regarding this event may be directed to Deb Griffith at 393-3168 or email [dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com). Advanced sale tickets will be available beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 18<sup>th</sup>** only. St. Joseph's receives 100% of the sale of the pass. Shopping passes are available at the Parish Office or at selected weekend masses (see bulletin for dates).



Come see and learn about the remarkable and beautiful owls and raptors that share our area. Trish Marki, Wildlife Rehabilitator with The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York, will present a live raptor program "**Silent Wings**" on **Sunday, November 6, 2016** at 1:30 PM at the Parish Center. Trish will bring some of her feathered friends with her and her presentation will provide the audience with information on owl and raptor identification, behaviors and habitats and what you need to do if you find injured or orphaned wildlife. Questions? Contact Kathy Brooks on 280-1478 or email [brookska@nycap.rr.com](mailto:brookska@nycap.rr.com).



If you are unable to make it to the Ziti Dinner on October 15<sup>th</sup>, stop by the Parish Center on **Election Day (November 8<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.

When this newsletter went to print, there were only **94** days until Christmas! Mark your calendars for our **Annual Christmas Bazaar & Visit with St. Nick** on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will have many handcrafted items for your holiday shopping. The Bazaar will take place from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and St. Nick will visit with children from 11 am to 1 pm.



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

## Notes from the Finance Office



Included in this newsletter is the Annual Financial Report for FYE 6/30/16. This is a condensed version of the annual report that is sent to the Diocese. If anyone has any comments or questions regarding this report, please contact Debbie at the Parish Office (346-2316 or email: [dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:dgriffith@albany.twcbc.com)).

Our new fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As in each newsletter, listed below are the income and expenses to date compared with last year:

	<b>Current Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Previous Fiscal Year</b>
	7/1/15—8/31/16	7/1/15—8/31/15
Total Income	\$74,507	\$64,366
Total Expenses	\$70,466	\$61,645

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

## 2016 Bishop's Appeal Update

Assessment Goal	\$ 70,555.00
226 Pledges/Gifts to Date (271 responses)	<u>\$ 70,612.18</u>
<b>Over Assessment</b>	<b><u>\$ 57.18</u></b>

It is interesting to note that last year at this time we had received 259 responses and were still looking for \$4,625 to fulfill our obligation (which we finally did in March 2016). This is fantastic news to have our goal met this early. Our next goal is to have all pledges paid by **March 15, 2017** in order for us to truly meet our assessment. It is also worthwhile to note that St. Joseph's will receive a 50% "rebate" of any funds in excess of \$70,555 in payments. Please remember pledge statements are mailed monthly and payments should be sent direct to the Stewardship Office in Albany.

Payments may also be made online at [www.TheBishopsAppeal.org](http://www.TheBishopsAppeal.org). Again, thank you to everyone who gave a gift or made a pledge to this year's Appeal.



**FYE JUNE 30, 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	Actual	Actual
	FYE 6/30/16	FYE 6/30/15
<b><u>Cash Receipts:</u></b>		
Weekly Collections	\$274,297	\$279,500
Deficit Reduction Collections	14,892	15,996
Monthly Building Maintenance Collection	23,066	24,964
Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Income	7,715	9,555
Bulletin Sponsors	9,550	9,587
Mass Stipends/Stole Fees	3,820	3,810
Donations/Bequests/Memorials	59,459	22,220
Fundraising (net)	32,208	32,911
Heritage Fund	5,955	36,452
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$430,962</b>	<b>\$434,995</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>		
Salaries, Benefits & Payroll Taxes (non-clergy personnel)	\$192,511	\$199,223
Clergy Salary & Benefits	58,717	57,595
Repairs & Maintenance (church, parish center & rectory)	29,053	59,186
Diocesan Assessments	26,737	32,778
Utilities/Water & Sewer (church, parish center, rectory)	26,473	30,909
Insurance (church, parish center, rectory)	22,545	21,471
Office Supplies & Expenses	12,724	12,838
Snow Removal	5,400	7,325
Liturgy Supplies/Flowers	7,363	6,850
Food (church & rectory)	9,347	6,367
Telephone/Internet (office & rectory)	3,641	5,789
Truck Expenses	3,789	5,438
Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Expenses (non-salary)	4,930	4,232
Charitable Donations	4,031	3,880
Evangelist	3,813	3,608
Postage (office & FF/YM)	3,003	3,099
Continuing Education/Retreats	3,056	3,020
Other Operating Expenses	2,064	4,540
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>419,197</b>	<b>468,148</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditures Over Receipts</b>	<b>\$11,765</b>	<b>(\$33,153)</b>
<b><u>Non-Operating Income:</u></b>		
Rental Income	\$7,925	\$8,150
Investment/Other Income	(975)	572
<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>\$6,950</b>	<b>\$8,722</b>
<b>FYE Net Income/Deficit</b>	<b>\$18,715</b>	<b>(\$24,431)</b>
	<b>As of June 30</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b><u>Balance Sheet</u></b>		
Cash	\$1,781	\$6,558
Savings	90,585	79,675
CD's & Investments	81,353	70,331
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$173,719</b>	<b>\$156,564</b>
Due to Diocese		
Bishops Appeal shortage(2014 assessment)	\$0	\$6,512
School assessment	53,003	53,068
Bishops Appeal collections	37,728	33,908
<b>Total Due Diocese</b>	<b>90,731</b>	<b>93,488</b>
Other liabilities	2,884	1,687
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>93,615</b>	<b>95,175</b>
Fund Balance	80,105	61,389
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$173,720</b>	<b>\$156,564</b>



## 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 The Society for the Propagation of the Faith:** “Thank you for....the proceeds from the 2016 Missionary Cooperation Plan. The generosity of your parishioners represents a tangible share in the evangelization of peoples and cultures.”

**From Scotia Food Pantry.** “Thank you so much for the donations of fresh vegetables and for school supplies. Both are very special treats for our families. Thank you so much for all that you do for the needy families that Scotia Food Pantry serves.”

**From the Cross & Bowers families.** “Thank you so very much for all that you and everyone at the church have done to help my family through this horrific time.” “....thank you for the beautiful funeral service you conducted...for my granddaughter. Although I am not Roman Catholic by faith, your service and kind words will be in my memory for a long time.”

We also have received numerous thank you notes from our **2016 graduates** in appreciation for their graduation gift from the Parish.

A big “Thank You” to all who pledged or donated to the 2016 Bishop’s Appeal ~ our Assessment Goal of **\$70,555** has been met! This was a great achievement to have met the goal 6 months earlier than last year! Your generosity will help many throughout the Diocese in the coming year.



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.

**AND last, but not least:** Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our recent **Farmers Market**. Every year we are amazed at how much is accomplished in a short period of time and it would **not** be possible without everyone’s help! Many, many thanks!

**If you would like to  
receive St. Joseph's Newsletter  
via email please contact  
Brenda at [yager.brenda@gmail.com](mailto:yager.brenda@gmail.com)**

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