

April, May, & June 2018

Volume 5, Issue 2

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

This issue of the parish newsletter should go to press during the Easter season when the Church will be reflecting on the great mysteries of our faith each Sunday until Pentecost. Each Sunday during Lent we began the mass with the statement “**Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father the son and the Holy Spirit**”. In my Lenten homilies I spoke often of God’s constant invitation to enter into the mystery; the mystery of our personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the January issue of the liturgical journal “Worship” there was an article by Jette Bendixen Ronkilde that spoke of the importance of the active participation of the congregation in the liturgy as the means of our experiencing the mystery of our faith. All through the mass we pray to God the Father, in the Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ. Over and over again we are invited to experience the mystery of the Triune God and the power of divine love and mercy. As a community of faith, when we celebrate the mass, each person taking their proper role, we all enter that mystery. The “Worship” article that I referenced above addresses the importance of our active involvement in the liturgy in this way: “Worship provides a window into the kingdom of God since the gates of heaven are open in worship, worship **is** heaven in the ordinary. Christ is experienced as risen through the voices of the assemble. *** as such liturgy is a recurring Easter morning.” “The participants in the assembly “feel and taste” sense and see; they encounter the Lord’s presence and they are moved.”

As a pastor and presider at the liturgy I am keenly aware that we are all invited into a personal relationship with Christ. When I look out on the people gathered, at times I feel that some are not actively engaged in the great mystery. My hope and prayer for each one of you is that during this Easter season you will be open to the Great Mystery of God’s love for you through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Faith Formation

The children in our Faith Formation Program were actively involved in brightening the day of our Seniors and our Shut-ins. Children in Grade 5 decorated the Sweet Baskets that would then be delivered to the shut-ins of our parish. Children in Grades 2 and 4 created colorful Valentine cards to be placed in the baskets and two Third Graders helped in filling the baskets for distribution.



First Reconciliation will be celebrated with our Second Grade children on April 21. Please keep these young boys and girls in your prayers as they continue their journey of Faith and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the near future.

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



Holy Week Schedule



- March 29th:** Holy Thursday Liturgy ~ 7:00 pm
(Adoration continues until 10:00 pm)
- March 30th:** Good Friday ~ Liturgy of the Passion & Death of Jesus ~ 7:00 pm
- March 31st:** Easter Vigil Liturgy ~ 8:00 pm
- April 1st:** Easter Sunday Liturgy ~ 8:30 & 10:30 am

Hosanna!

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) Notes

SICM is again helping to sponsor the Spring 2018 Schenectaday CROP Walk against hunger. The Walk will take place on the afternoon of Sunday May 6 in Schenectady. In recent years, the Schenectady CROP Walk has raised \$40,000-50,000 to help fund nutritional needs of people in local, regional, and international communities. St. Joseph's parishioners can again support the Walk by walking and getting sponsors or by just making a monetary contribution. During the weekend of April 21 and 22, in Holy Family Hall, there will be a table at which parishioners can get Walk information, sign up to walk, or to make a financial contribution.

Starting in late May, our parishioners will have an opportunity to again sign up to volunteer to help serve lunches in the Summer Meals Program run by SICM. Details of where and when our parishioners will serve will be in a future bulletin and posted in Holy Family Hall.

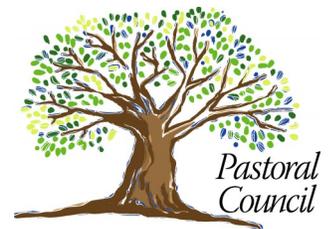
SICM also conducts the Steinmetz Summer Day Camp in Steinmetz Park in Schenectady for six weeks during the months of July and August. Volunteers are welcome to assist SICM staff in providing this faith-based, nurturing experience for children. More information to be made available in bulletins and posted in Holy Family Hall.



Article submitted by,
Jim Raymond

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on January 7th, February 1st, and March 1st. 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:



- A Ministry Fair was held on January 20th and 21st. The event showcased the various church ministries and presented parishioners with numerous opportunities to share their time and talents. The event was a big success- we were able to recruit 29 individuals to serve on church ministries!
- Tom Cronin, Advisor to the Bishop for Family & Parish Evangelization, gave a presentation to the Council on approaches to create a vibrant parish and invite members of the community to attend St. Joseph's Church
- Members of the Council discussed ways to implement the Diocesan "Re-igniting Our Faith" / campaign at St. Joseph's Church
- Members of the Council will assist in serving a Community Meal at the City Mission of Schenectady on April 24th.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you all a wonderful Easter.

Eric Yager

Chair, Pastoral Council

Special Events & Activities

May 18th & 19th ~ Annual Tag, Treasure & Bake Sale!

This is one of our biggest fund raisers for the year and we need everyone’s help and treasures! Please look for the famous “pink sheet” on the weekend of April 7th/8th and sign up to help ~ there is something for everyone to do! We have already begun accepting donations of jewelry, books, CD’s and DVD’s during regular office hours (please remember we are closed on Friday). As of this printing, drop offs for all other items are scheduled as follows:

- Tues., May 8th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)
- Sat., May 12th (10 am-2 pm)
- Wed., May 9th (noon-3 pm)
- Mon., May 14th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)
- Thurs., May 10th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)
- Tues., May 15th (noon-3 pm & 6-8 pm)
- Fri., May 11th (noon-3 pm)



As always, please check the bulletin for up-to-date changes that may occur. All acceptable items (check bulletin for list) should be brought to the **side door gym entrance**. Start looking through your closets, basements, attics and garages and bring us your “treasures”! Questions??? Please contact **Tom Hyland** (518-370-1758 or email hyles714@aol.com) or **Deb Griffith** (518-393-3168 or email debgriff-fith@verizon.net).



Baseball season is just around the corner and that means another parish outing to see the ValleyCats! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW & PLAN ON ATTENDING!** At this time, we have reserved seats for the **Thursday, July 19th** game in which the ValleyCats are scheduled to play the Brooklyn Cyclones. Again this year we are purchasing “loaded” tickets. Each ticket will cost **\$12.75** which will include a **\$5 credit** to buy food, drink or merchandise at the many vendors within the park. As added enjoyment to the evening, there will be a **fireworks** display at the conclusion of the game! You may reserve your seat(s) beginning **NOW** by returning the form below (checks should be made payable to St. Joseph’s Church). Please mail to the Parish Office (45 MacArthur Drive, Scotia) or drop in the weekend offertory basket in an envelope marked “ValleyCats”. Questions? Please contact Deb Griffith (518-346-2316 office or 518-393-3168 home).



YES ~ reserve my seat(s) as follows for the Thursday, July 19th ValleyCats baseball game!

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Number Attending: _____ x \$12.75/ticket = _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Please advise if anyone in your party is in need of handicap seating: _____

(Last date for a guaranteed group reservation – **Monday, June 25th**).

Special Events & Activity Photos



The children on Sunday are always learning something interesting during Children's Liturgy of the Word and sometimes with some interesting items as "props". Kevin & Audra Burke are seen here having the children use a fishing pole to make a point. We wonder what they learned that week!??!

Our recent Lenten Food Drive collected **972** items! Many hands helped to sort, pack and deliver food to Scotia Food Pantry and SICM.



Not even the big, heavy boxes stopped Noah Smith & Joseph Cappuccitti from getting "creative" on how to transport the boxes out to awaiting cars!

The CYO team representing Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph's recently concluded their season with a record of 17-2 winning both the Schenectady Co. CYO tournament & the Diocesan Tournament!

Members of the team include (not in picture order): Caden Cercone, Cameron Cremo, Ami Drucker, Caleb Hussey, Daniel Hussey, Quymaines Haggray, Ben Kline, Sean McLaughlin, Lorenzo Parillo & Raymond Vanclief.

The team was coached by Jeff Cercone & Paul Hussey.

Great season everyone!



Thank You!

Our mailbox has been bursting lately! Here are just a sampling of some notes and cards that have been received since our last Parish Newsletter was published (read the full notes on our bulletin board in Holy Family Hall).

From Birthright of Schenectady: “Thank you so much for your donation of the many clothes & baby items....your support will help provide the assistance our new mothers need in order to bring their babies into this world with dignity, love and peace of mind.”

From Bethesda House: A colorful card was received “The World Needs More People Like You” and the inside has the personal signatures of many people who received gifts from our Giving Tree at Christmas.

From Glendale Nursing Home: “Thanks to the organizers and parishioners at St. Joseph’s for all of the wonderful gifts provided for the residents at Glendale.....your generosity is appreciated more than you can imagine.”

From Laurie Bittner: “On behalf of my mother, Scotty Lambert, ... thank you for all you do with the residents at the Baptist Nursing Home.”

From Linda Mossey: “Thank you for the Valentine’s Sweet Treats Basket. It certainly was a surprise! It brightened my day]. Thank you for reaching out.....It’s nice to be thought of.”

From Marlene Massey: “Thank you so much for the Valentine box. It has made me very happy.”

From the Migliore’s: “You cheered our day & brought such a lovely basket of goodies from our church friends....Also wanted to thank the students in the Faith Formation program for their cards, well wishes & prayers..”

From Anne Martinec: “Please relay my sincere thanks and sincere appreciation to all the kind & thoughtful people who purchased & prepared the lovely Valentines box for those of us who are confined.....”

From Doris Urban: “Many thanks for the beautiful val. cards and all the goodies. I love the dog – it is so soft & cute. You are all so kind....”

From Arthur & Lucia Bianchi: “Our deep thanks for the wonderful box of goodies...a feast for the heart and soul.....Mr. B made short work of the tube of Hershey’s kisses.”

Thank You! cont.

From Lorie Malloy: “Thanks so much for all the goodies!”

From Bernice Lukas: “You all made my Valentine’s Day a happy one.....The notes were appreciated from friends and students. It’s so nice to be remembered...”

From Barbara O’Leary: “Many thanks to all my friends at St. Joseph’s for the very nice Valentine’s basket. I’ll certainly enjoy it.”

From Trina Pecci: “I appreciate the great cards made by the children & also the basket of goodies.”

Many thanks to ALL our volunteers. We would not be able to do the many ministries and outreach activities without your help.

We were able to reach out to **44** individuals with our **Valentine Sweet Basket** project in February. Special thanks to those who helped assemble and/or deliver those special treats: *Beverly Barberis, Colleen & Nicholas Bevilaqua, Susan & Tony Cappuccitti, Carol Casey, Kathy DeMarco, Patty Johnson, Chris Magruder (and friends!), Sherry, Ayla & Jacob Massaro, Donna Mayer, Mary Morrette with the help of Tyler & Emelia DeCerbo, Cara & Abigail Rainboth, Mary Raymond, Dan Stec and Claire Vadney.* Also, thanks to all the Faith Formation classes that created beautiful cards & notes to be included in the baskets!



Colleen & Nicholas Bevilaqua along with Cara & Abigail Rainboth help decorate some “Sweet Basket” boxes.

Claire Vadney, Donna Mayer & Mary Raymond make some last minute adjustments to be sure the baskets are “just right”!



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!

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 - 2/28/18</u>	<u>7/1/16 - 2/28/17</u>
Total Income*	\$322,914	\$373,009
Total Expenses	\$350,431	\$331,942

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

2017 Bishop's Appeal Update



Again, a big "thank you" to all who contributed to the **2017** Campaign. Although we did not have the final figures at the time this newsletter went to print, we do know we **exceeded** our Parish Assessment of \$68,853 as of February 1st. Once the final figures have been calculated by the Diocese, St. Joseph's will receive a "rebate" of 50% of the payments made over our assessment. This is always goods news when we do not have to use any operating funds to meet our Diocesan assessment!

Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign

This Diocesan-wide campaign has begun and you will soon be hearing more about the campaign here at St. Joseph's. The Diocese hopes to raise \$45 million with **70%** going back directly to the parishes. While the Diocese hopes to use their portion of the funds for supporting retired priests, enhance support for vocations, updating resources for innovative programs (youth, adult, etc.) as well as develop Catholic school resources, it is up to the individual parishes to use their percentage of the funds in any way they see fit to enhance the future of the Catholic faith within their community. This will be a HUGE undertaking within our parish and it is our hope that everyone will prayerfully consider our needs as well as those of the greater Church when making a decision to commit to this 5 year campaign. The Evangelist has run articles regarding this campaign and materials will be mailed to all Catholic households in the hopes of informing everyone as to its purpose so that they may make an informed commitment. Together, with the Diocese, we hope to "re-ignite" our faith in the Catholic church now and for generations to come.

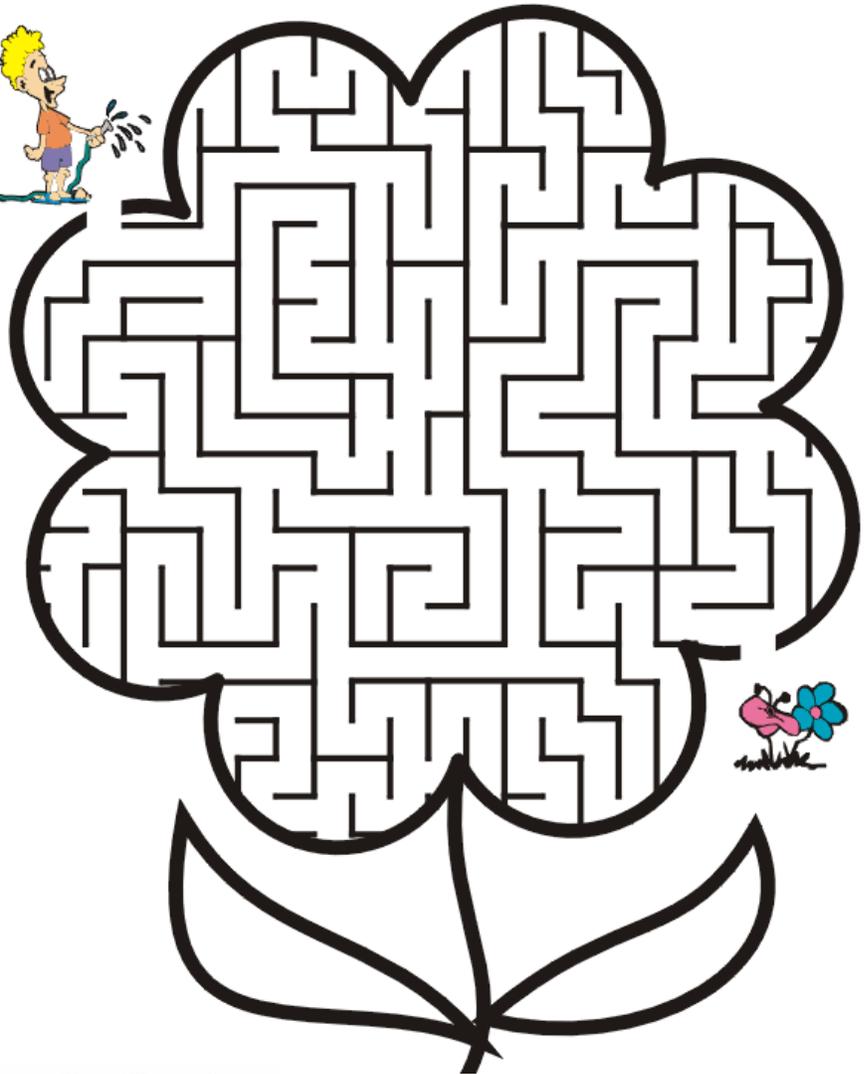
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**PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR WEEKLY
UPDATES AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS THAT MAY
HAVE BEEN ADDED AFTER THIS
NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRINT.**



Kids Corner

Help the boy find his way to the flowers!



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

Word Search!

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| PHARISEES | MASTER |
| JESUS | LORD |
| SADDUCEES | HEART |
| DISCONCERT | SOUL |
| QUESTION | SECOND |
| LAW | NEIGHBOUR |

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St. Joseph's Church Newsletter

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

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Closed on Friday
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