

January, February & March 2019

Volume 6, Issue 1

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Peter D. Russo, Pastor

Once upon a time...

Is a phrase which grabs us by the ear. Since childhood, these words mean that you are about to hear a compelling story which will hold your attention and make you eager to learn how it ends.

The Bible begins with three very famous words which have the same effect: In the beginning... The Book of Genesis starts the Bible on a whirlwind tour of salvation history, a story of violence and terror, joy and promise, sadness and death, but with an ending which is filled with hope.

The Bible is a witness to God's ever-growing presence in human history. Humanity, which we are told was made in God's image (Genesis 1:27), receives a series of revelations from God through words and deeds which save and redeem. Think of Noah's family in the flood; Abraham and Sara given a new lease on life; Moses and the Israelites escaping across the Red Sea. How does this story of God's revelation end? As Eucharistic Prayer IV states: "Again and again you offered a covenant to (us), and through the prophets taught (us) to hope for salvation...you so loved the world, that in the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to be our Savior." Jesus is the final word in the story of salvation history, and the importance of believing that God has become one with humanity is the central message of the Christmas season.

This mystery of God becoming human is known as the Incarnation, and the moments as recorded in the scriptures when it was first made known that Christ had arrived are called "epiphanies." An epiphany is a revelation, and in the case of Christ, it was a revelation of good news, like when you walk into a surprise party and the lights come on and everyone yells "surprise!" There is singing, laughter and joy at the unexpected moment to celebration. When God became human, the heavens and the earth responded with great joy. Interestingly, each of the four gospels look at the revelation of Christ from a different perspective, and each has had an influence on how the Liturgical Year celebrates the Christmas season.

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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

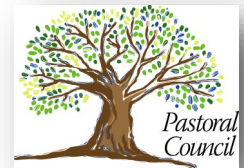
From the Pastor's Desk cont. from the cover

Shepherds and Magi

The most obvious influence from scripture on the Christmas season is the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, celebrated on December 25. Simply known as Christmas Day, this solemnity comes to us from the gospel of Luke. It is in Luke that we hear from Joseph and Mary who is pregnant traveling to Bethlehem, but finding no room in an inn, the baby is born in a manger. Luke also tells of the unsuspecting shepherds surprised by an angel who are directed to Bethlehem. The shepherds rejoice at the newborn Christ, but quickly disappear, while Mary we are told keeps all these things in her heart. A valuable lesson is found here for those who follow Christ beyond the initial joy of his coming to earth. (See Luke 2: 1-20)

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th. 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. Items of note include:



The Council welcomed its new Youth member, Anne Arocho, during its September meeting.

The Council selected topics for next year's Lenten presentation series

Christmas is an annual opportunity for us to celebrate God's eternal love for all His children. Though the holiday season is time of merriment and joy for most of us, this time of year can be difficult for some people in our community. 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 long-term 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 a happy New Year.

Eric Yager

Chair, Pastoral Council

New Trustee Announcement



Stephen Janack was recently appointed as a Trustee for St. Joseph's Church. Steve replaces Tom Neals who served for many years and who still is a member of the Finance Committee ~ we thank Tom for his many years of service as a Trustee. According to Diocesan guidelines, each parish must appoint two trustees and they must be approved by the Bishop. Trustees may serve a length of time at the discretion of the Parish priest, but for no longer than six years. Trustees must be knowledgeable of the parish and its programs along with Parish finances as they review & sign financial reports sent to the Diocese. The Trustees also serve as additional signatory on all Parish bank accounts. Steve will serve along with Carol Reynolds who is currently in her second term as Trustee.

Faith Formation

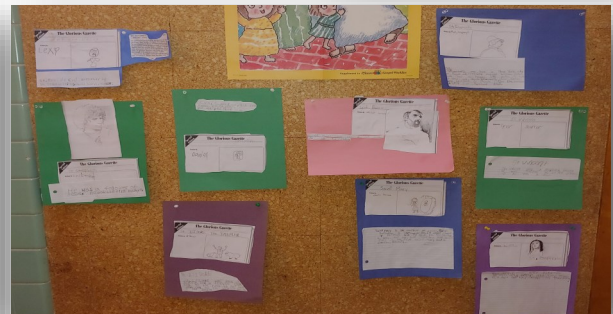
The 2018-2019 school year is well under way. I wanted to take this time to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome here at St. Joseph's. It has been a pleasure getting to know your children. The catechists have been welcoming and are a pleasure to work with. They have got this down to a science, as most have been teaching for many years. The second graders have started monthly appearances on the altar with the priest. I enacted this change as a way for the children to become less anxious about it when it comes to their First Communion.

My door is always open if you have any question, or comments. I am always at the Parish center on Mondays, before classes. Feel free to call, to chat, or to make appointment to see me.

God bless you!
 Roberta M. Quinn



All Saints Day projects



Third graders did some research and posted their "news articles" in the hallway for others to read.



The first graders were very proud of the pumpkins that they decorated.



The second grade class had a little help from some fifth graders while making their saint pumpkins.



The fifth grade class used art work to tell the story of the saints lives.

Photos...Photos...and more Photos...



St. Joseph's School alumni from 1968. Their 50th class reunion was held at St. Joseph's Parish Center on October 20th.



Our giving tree! Thank you to all who donated to those in need.



Our own Anne Arocho getting the signatures and cards ready for our service folks. A faithful and loving gesture over the past few years. Thank you Anne!



Building Blocks Workshop Results

On Saturday, November 17th, St. Joseph's hosted a program by **Building Blocks Workshop**. Under the direction of Architect Stephen Schwartz (and help from his wonderful wife, Bunny), we built a replica of Vatican City with over 70,000 Legos. Everyone was engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the program. Once the model was all together, Fr. Peter answered questions pertaining to Vatican City.



Great work!

Parish Updates

Please help us keep up to date and save money! As we do several bulk mailings during the year, we need up-to-date addresses to ensure we do not pay **triple** the postage (we pay for the original mailing, postage for incorrect mailing sent back to us and then pay for postage again when remailing).



Many parishioners have also discontinued their landlines and we do not have a valid number to contact them. Although we do not expect to be the first one you contact when you make a change, we would appreciate being notified soon after any kind of change in your household. Our office is open Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm (518-346-2316), but feel free to use the slip below to update us on your information. The slip may be mailed to our office at 45 MacArthur Drive, Scotia or dropped in the offertory basket at our weekend liturgies.

Thank you for your assistance!



PARISH UPDATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

____ New to the parish

____ Please check my address

____ Change of address / phone / email

____ I should have my own parish registration now

____ Never got around to registering before

____ Please send The Evangelist, the diocesan newspaper

____ Please send offertory envelopes

____ Moving out of parish

____ Please send Parish Newsletter via email: _____



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 <u>7/1/18 - 11/30/18</u>	Previous Fiscal Year <u>7/1/17 - 11/30/17</u>
Total Income*	\$194,173	\$205,525
Total Expenses	\$187,560	\$205,224

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

2018 Bishop's Appeal Update

Although it took us longer this year to reach our Assessment Goal, we did reach it and we thank everyone who committed to the Appeal.

As of December 5th, **\$61,852.74** 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, 2019** in order for us to receive the credit on our 2018 Appeal Assessment.



Year-End Contribution Statements will be sent out by the end of January, 2019. 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.

If you would like to receive the 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!

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 Catholic Charities: “On behalf of Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services, we thank you for your donation to our personal care closet. Our clients continue to benefit from your donations.....we work with a very vulnerable population and most are unable to afford the things that you so graciously donated. Thank you for all you do and we appreciate the effort you put in to collect the items.”

From Building Blocks Workshops: “I want to thank you and all the wonderful families for building a spectacular model of Vatican City. Honestly, it was the families that were spectacular – every person in the room was totally engaged! Thank you – Stephen & Bunny”.

From Scotia Glenville Food Pantry: “Thank you so much for the very generous food donation. The volunteers of the Scotia Food Pantry appreciate all that you do for our families.”

From Douglas Campbell, US Mission Coordinator: “I am writing this letter on behalf of Archbishop Launay Saturné and the wonderful, but poor people of the Archdiocese of Cap-Haitien, Haiti. This letter is to acknowledge the most generous gift of \$891.00 which represents proceeds from the Missionary Cooperative Appeal. Every cent of this money will be used to help the poor in Cap Haitien.....”

Many thanks to all our parishioners who help with the many activities and fund raisers that are held throughout the year ~ your help is always needed and always appreciated!

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.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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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

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

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