

July, August, September 2019

Volume 6, Issue 3

St. Joseph's Church Newsletter

Parish Update

Fellow Parishioners:

By now, you have likely heard that Father Peter will be retiring at the end of September. We thank him for the contributions he has made over the past 16 years at St. Joseph's, and wish him a blessed, relaxed and peaceful retirement. We expect to share more information soon regarding plans to bid Father a proper and respectful farewell.

Over the next few months, we will be in close contact with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany concerning the future of our parish. To that end, we met with Deacon Frank Berning, Director of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese (and, as many of you know, our former deacon) on June 5 to discuss next steps. While no firm decisions have yet been made, our takeaways were as follows:

- The Bishop intends to keep St. Joseph's Church open with the help of the parishioners
- An Interim priest(s) will be assigned to say weekend Masses upon Father's retirement, enabling the current Mass schedule to continue – at least for now
- Interim teams typically have been at parishes for 3-9 months. It is expected that this arrangement will continue through at least the end of the year
- It is further anticipated that a new pastor will be appointed next year
- Rather than being assigned exclusively to St. Joseph's, the new pastor will have responsibility for multiple churches

The Diocese, with our help, is exploring a variety of options for St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace, and doing so amid changes at a number of parishes and a well-documented shortage of priests. There are many decisions to be made, each of which will affect other decisions, and all of which contributes to a challenging situation.

For that reason, it is important for us to be involved with the Diocese throughout this process. Please know that we intend to do so, and that we will keep you updated as we have new details to share. And, as we value and welcome your input, we urge you to contact any of us if you have thoughts, questions and/or suggestions as we move forward.

We know that change can be difficult. It is in that spirit that we ask for your prayers during this time of transition. At the same time, we are comforted by these words in the Book of Joshua (1:9): "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Yours in Christ,

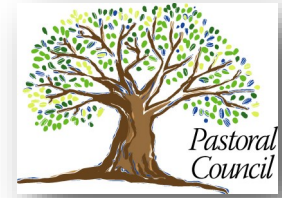
Carol Reynolds and Steve Janack, Trustees

Fred Pepper, Chair, Finance Committee

Eric Yager, Chair, Pastoral Council

Debbie Griffith, Pastoral Associate for Finance

Pastoral Council



The Pastoral Council held its monthly meetings on April 4th, May 2nd, and June 6th. The June meeting served as the Parish's annual Trustees Meeting. 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 congratulates Deacon Stephen Lape on his new position of Chaplain at the NY State Department of Corrections and Community Service. Deacon Stephen accepted this position this past April after working 18 years at the St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center.
- The Council thanks Deacon John Crane for his 32 years of service. We wish him a happy retirement.
- The Council thanks all those who volunteered their time and efforts to make this year's Tag & Treasure Sale a success.
- The Council congratulates Carolyn Reynolds and Steve Janack for being appointed as the Parish's Trustees for another year.
- The Council thanks Fr. Peter for the many contributions he has made to the Parish and the community over his 16 years at St. Joseph's. We wish him a blessed, relaxing, peaceful retirement.
- The Council will continue to work with the Diocese over the next few months to discuss the next steps following Fr. Peter's retirement at the end of September. We encourage parishioners to contact us with their questions, thoughts, and suggestions.

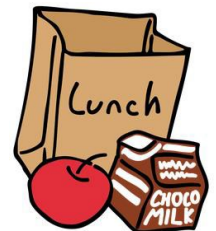
On behalf of the Council, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Eric Yager

Chair, Pastoral Council

SICM Summer Lunch

We welcome volunteers for any open slots on the sign-up sheets for Summer Lunch in Collins Park during the weeks of July 8th and July 15th. Please provide your email address or phone number. The sheets are on the bulletin board in HFH. On the table below the sign-up lists there are training brochures which should be read by all volunteers. Training material can also be read online at www.sicm.us > "What is SICM" – Learn more > Interns & Volunteers. Please remember to bring a hat and wear closed toe shoes. Any questions, please call Jim Raymond at 518-428-2596.



Faith Formation

Saint Joseph's religious program had 12 children making their First Communion on Saturday, May 4th. It was a beautiful day and the weather cooperated too!



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



The Quilting Ladies - pose with their beautiful Irish Chain Quilt that was auctioned off on Mother's Day!



And the Winner is....

Pat Rendaci

was the happy winner of the Irish Chain Quilt that was raffled off after mass on Mother's Day. Many thanks to our quilters who sewed such a beautiful creation!



Tag & Treasure Sale 2019 ~ the famous jewelry tables were all set up & ready for the rush on Friday morning!!



Patricia Pytlovany & Hillary Majewski are confirmed by Fr. Peter at the Easter Vigil mass!



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!



We have received several notes of thanks & appreciation in the last several months from various organizations & people. 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 Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry: “Thank you so much for the very generous food donation.....We appreciate all you do for the families that we serve.”

From Mary Ann Schaeffer: “Thank you for the beautiful & thoughtful Easter plant & palm cross. It really lifted my spirits as well as your support, prayers & cards during my recovery. God bless you all.”

From Doris Urban: “Many thanks for the beautiful Easter plant, the Palm Cross & the nice visit.”

From Barbara O’Leary: “Many thanks to all my friends at St. Joseph’s for the very pretty Easter plant....and palm cross.”

From Sister Maddie: “Thanks a million for all the tops & caring enough to save the lives of children by saving them. This is a great ministry & I have been doing this since 2008 after visiting their hospital in San Francisco.” (Note: pull tabs are removed from all the cans that are donated in church and sent on to Sr. Maddie.)

From Bethesda House: “Your generous monthly donation of sandwiches ensures that Schenectady’s homeless & impoverished citizens had nourishment for themselves & their families.....With your charity, many lives have been touched. Your ministry has given our guests & residents hope.”

From St. Joseph’s Place: “Thanks for all the snacks, brownies, cookies & cake you sent to St. Joseph’s Place.....Our folks enjoyed the baked goods!” (Note: Some leftovers from the Tag & Treasure Sale were brought to St. Joseph’s Place in Schenectady).

Special thanks to **everyone** who helped with our recent Tag & Treasure Sale. We had over 58 parishioners & friends who worked tirelessly over a two-week period to help us raise **\$9,564.79** (including gift card and 50/50 raffles).

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



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>7/1/18-5/31/19</u>	<u>7/1/17-5/31/18</u>
Total Income*	\$428,485	\$450,380
Total Expenses	\$443,835	\$451,106

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

The above figures are one month shy of our fiscal year end on June 30th. In the next Parish Newsletter, we will share with you the complete Annual Financial Report which will give greater details of income & expenses.

Fiscal Year Budget *7/1/2019 - 6/30/20*

Our budget for the period July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 was submitted to the Diocese in April and has been approved. We would like to share with you the projections that were given when we submitted our budget (at the time of our submission, we were not aware of the final decision regarding Fr. Peter's retirement.). As our weekly offertory is the majority of our income, the Finance Committee spent a great deal of time discussing other avenues of income and/or ways to decrease expenses to make up an ongoing decrease in weekly offertory. Please note the following is a condensed version of what was submitted to the Diocese.



Income

Weekly Collection	\$291,500
Fund Raising (net)	30,650
Bulletin Sponsors	14,000
FF/YM Fees	7,000
Rentals	9,000
Misc. Other Categories	<u>35,940</u>
	\$388,090

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	\$192,426
Maintenance/Utilities/Repairs	101,370
Office/Altar/Household	35,100
Diocesan Obligations	23,213
Misc. Other Categories	<u>35,770</u>
	\$387,879

FYE 6/30/20 Budget Net Income **\$211**

Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign

Here at St. Joseph’s, we concluded our portion of the Diocesan Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign in April. We are extremely grateful to the 100 families who pledged and/or donated a total of **\$179,115** to this campaign. If all are faithful to their commitments, St. Joseph’s will eventually realize **\$125,380** which will be used to fulfill some of the improvements/enhancements as listed in our “case” statement that was included with the communication regarding this Campaign. At this time, we would also like to thank the committee members who spent over a year assisting Fr. Peter develop the Parish case statement, attend numerous meetings reviewing documents and develop a plan to meet with parishioners, plan group discussions & presentations as well as meet with the Campaign Director assigned to St. Joseph’s by the Diocese: **Bob & Kathy DeFruscio, Deb Griffith, Patty Johnson, Tom Neals, Barbara Pacelli, Chet Watson & Paul Wilson.** We will keep everyone informed as this Campaign moves on to the distribution of funds phase and, again, **thank you** for your generosity.



Bishop’s Appeal Update (as of June 25th)



- \$64,116 Assessment Goal
- 45,352 Gifts/Pledges from 164 Families (compared to 215 in 2018)
- \$18,764 Balance needed to fulfill 2019 Diocesan Assessment (compared to \$10,950 in 2018)

Our kickoff for the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal was held on the weekend of April 27/28 and we are still working to close the gap ~ everyone’s help is needed in order to reach our assessment. If you have misplaced your envelope or keep forgetting to complete the envelope, please stop reading this newsletter now and fill out the “coupon” below and return to the Parish Office or drop in the weekend offertory basket. It is our hope to be able to wrap up this Appeal before the end of summer. Please remember all gifts, no matter the size, will help us reach our assessment goal. If you prefer, you may go online to: www.TheBishopsAppeal.org



Donor Information:

Name _____ Total Gift/Pledge _____

Address _____ Initial Payment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Balance Due _____

Phone _____ Email _____



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Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 346-2316

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St. Joseph's Church Newsletter

Church address: Mass Times:
231 Second Street Saturday - 4:00 pm
Scotia, NY 12302 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: StJosephs.Scotia@rcda.org

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