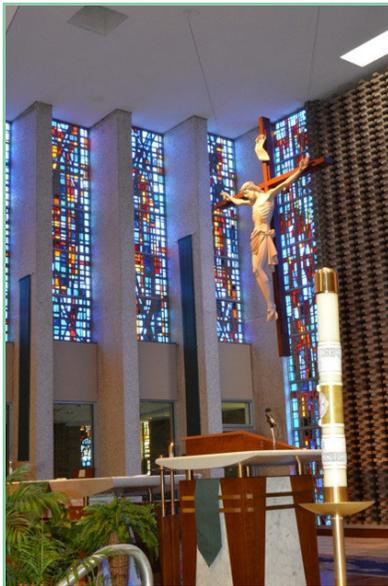


Our Parish Family Newsletter

Fall 2016



St. Joseph
Catholic Church
Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a world-wide apostolate of men and women who undertake charitable works of visiting the sick, visiting residents in nursing homes, distributing Catholic literature, making Rosaries, praying the Rosary for the deceased at wakes and the spreading of the Rosary, as our Blessed Mother requested at Fatima.

The first meeting of the Legion of Mary was in Dublin, Ireland in 1921. The first Praesidium or “parish unit” in the United States was in 1931. The first Praesidium at St. Joseph Parish in Strongsville, Ohio was in 1964.

Every year on or near the Feast of the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, the Legion of Mary members make an individual reconsecration to Mary by saying, “I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is Yours.” This Church function for the members and auxiliary members is the **Acies**. Auxiliary members support the Legion’s work by the daily recitation of the Rosary and the Legion prayer called the **Tessera**. The Legion of Mary asks those that recite the daily Rosary, prayerfully consider becoming an auxiliary member. What are the First Friday and First Saturday prayer services? To further deepen our prayer lives and grow in

sanctification, consider attending each First Friday of the month Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for reparation for sins against His Sacred Heart. Jesus told St. Margaret Mary that all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, will be granted “the grace of final Repentance”. Those devoted to His Sacred Heart shall not die under His displeasure, or without receiving their Sacraments. His Heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour of life.

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In addition, our parish offers the First Friday Reparation Service in the chapel at 7:45pm, led by the Legion of Mary, with prayers dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

During the third apparition, on July 13, 1917 at Fatima, our Blessed Mother requested the Communion of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart on the first five Saturdays for the blasphemies and ingratitude committed by ungrateful men and women. She wants us to console her and she promises to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation to

all those who, on the first five Saturdays of consecutive months: go to confession (which can be made eight days before or after the First Saturday); receive Holy Communion; pray the five decades of the Rosary; and keep Her company for 15 minutes in meditation on one or more of the mysteries with the intention of offering Her reparation. First Saturday Reparation Services are in the chapel at 3:00pm with a format similar to that of First Friday evenings.

Our parish has started the second year of the home Enthronements to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Enthronement to the Two Hearts is more than a devotion, it is a Rite. Clergy visits the home with two members of the Enthronement team to pray to invite Jesus and

the Blessed Mother into the home. Other beautiful feast days in September to remember are; celebration of the anniversary of the Legion of Mary on September 7 and the Birth of Mary on September 8. On September 2, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, and on September 15, we remember the Feast of the Sorrowful Mother. (Watch the bulletin for information about the Sorrowful Mother prayer service.) The Blessed Mother wants us to reach out to her in good times and bad and so we ask **“Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us.”**

For more information on “The Legion of Mary” contact Karen Lester at 440-572-2586. For the “Enthronement to the Two Hearts” Pam Luber at 216-789-8413 or the Parish Office 440-238-5555.

Welcome David Stavarz “Seminarian”



Hello everyone! My name is David Stavarz. I am the seminarian you will see around the parish a bit this coming year. Being in 3rd Theology at the seminary means that I have the opportunity to spend two semesters here at St. Joe's for my internship assignment. I am sure you will see much of me in the next few months at different things around the parish and I am very excited to meet all of you!

There are many of you I haven't had the privilege of meeting. Therefore, I'll start with a little about myself. I grew up in

Barberton, OH with my parents David and Jean, and with my two younger brothers, Dylan and Alex. My home parish is St. Francis de Sales in Portage Lakes (where Fr. Suso had his first assignment). After attending grade school at St. Francis, I went on to Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron. Actually, it's funny because when I was at Hoban, Fr. Mamich came and said Masses for our cross-country team on the Fridays before our meets so I've known him for some time. In my senior year at Hoban, after prayer and conversations with some family and friends, I went on to study at Borromeo College Seminary in Wickliffe, OH. Seminary was not on my radar at all before my senior year, but even after 6 years of seminary I can say that it's still the

best decision I have ever made. Outside of taking classes and reading books at the seminary, I have many hobbies and passions. I love playing guitar, running, biking, kayaking, camping, backpacking and hiking, snowboarding, listening to all kinds of music (especially on vinyl records), going to concerts and all those things a normal guy loves to do. However, most of all I love that Christ has called me to be a man of God and glorify Him through all the things I love. I love growing closer to Christ each day and I love showing others the beauty of the faith. I know that I will see the beauty of His Church even more this year as I spend it here at St. Joe's.

Catch ya around!
David



*From the Desk
of
Fr. Joe Mamich*

Dear Parish Family:

It's hard to believe that we've already reached another September. As we begin another school year and another Pastoral Year, there is a great deal of activity taking place around the parish and this newsletter will explore some of those with you. I hope that you will take the time to see some of the opportunities and activities our parish will offer throughout the new school year!

First, I want to express my appreciation for the patience and understanding exhibited by so many over the course of the past two summers' worth of parking lot work. We certainly had some interesting moments over the past two summers, but all indications are that we have a product that will last a long time! All of this work would not have been possible without the support that you have offered to the Diocesan *Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope* Campaign! We were able to meet our share of the project (40% of the total cost) completely from the funds raised through your support and sitting in our Parish Improvement Fund and taking nothing from our parish's general savings! I'm grateful for your support and our partnership with Sts. Joseph and John School (who was responsible for 60% of the total cost) in helping to bring this project to a successful completion!

Secondly, as we look upon the work that we have accomplished within our physical plant over the past two years, I am also excited about the outreach opportunity that we started last year – our Parish Service Day. It was a great start last year and we look forward to keeping this alive for another year! As you will see on page 4 of this

newsletter, we had a very successful first experience last year and look forward to doing it again this year on Saturday, October 22.

The pictures help to illustrate some of the outdoor work that we did last year, while others visited a local nursing facility, cleaned our parish kitchen, and helped get the parish ready for the upcoming Christmas season. We look forward to another successful year and hope that you'll consider joining us for this year's Service Day. Please stay alert for updated information in the bulletin or you can visit www.sjohio.org/service to see more photos from last year and soon, to sign-up for this year's opportunities!

In addition to the happenings within our parish, we know that our nation is preparing for the 2016 General Election. Being a Catholic and an American brings a great responsibility to the exercise of our civic duties, particularly when it comes to voting. We believe that our Church Teaching, Scripture and prayer should help to guide the decisions that we make in voting, as we strive to use these same things for our daily living. As you've seen in the bulletin, the Catholic bishops of the United States have updated their teaching document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. This document contains our bishops' guidance in the exercise of our rights and duties as participants in democracy. You can read this document (and find more resources) at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship. If you'd like a copy, but don't have access to the internet, please give our Parish Office a call and we'll be happy to arrange for you to receive a copy. As we go through the Election Season, please continue to pray for our country, her leaders and those who will be elected to public office.

As you read the pages of the newsletter, you will notice that these are not the only things happening. In

particular, you can read short biographies about our new Parish Pastoral Council members. Every year, I'm grateful for our parishioners who respond to their nomination and step forward to go through our discernment process. As you read about our newest members, you may also wish to see the TV monitors in the HFC or Gathering Area to see photos of the entire Pastoral Council or even visit www.sjohio.org/ppc for more information about the function, role and meeting minutes of this consultative council in our parish.

Within the coming months, I hope that you'll make time to become involved in the many opportunities that we have at St. Joseph. I'm confident that you'll find something that you would enjoy being a part of and perhaps, even invite a friend to join us for an activity! In a special way, please mark your calendar for Friday, October 7 at 6pm. We'll celebrate Evening Prayer and then offer a Prayer of Dedication over the then-completed Memorial Plazas located at the flagpoles and Blessed Virgin Mary Statue outside of the Bell Tower. It'd be a great way to not only celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, but also to recall the many people who have been a part of our parish and both our collective and individual lives!

As we journey through these months, may God continue to bless each one of us! May St. Joseph, our Patron, always be our guide and may we continue, in all that we do, to continue to grow into the disciples Christ invites us to be!

With my best wishes and prayers,

Father Joe Mamich
Pastor

2nd Annual Parish Service Day Saturday, October 22, 2016

A committee of parishioners has been meeting since April to plan our next parish service day. We learned a lot our first time through, with the **Power of 10²** held last fall, and hope that this year's event will be an even bigger success. Keep an eye on the bulletin for further information, but this is where we are at right now.

Parish Service Day Schedule

8:00 am	Gathering in church with prayer and sending service instructions, snack and drink pickup
8:20 am	Depart for worksites
8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Work
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Work (Choose what hours work best for you – a few or the whole day)
8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Work
4:30 pm	House blessing and prayer with homeowner

The committee is currently reviewing the site applications and scheduling someone to meet with the homeowner to review the work requested. Worksites will be chosen based on need as well as the number and skill availability of our volunteers.

Volunteer signups will be the weekends of September 17-18 and 24-25, with a speaker at Masses the first weekend. Volunteers who sign up by October 7 are guaranteed a t-shirt and will be able to select a worksite. We are also looking for help with pickup trucks and/or trailers to assist with moving yard waste to the Strongsville Waste Station.

Once again, we will schedule a variety of work so that anyone can be involved. Besides yard work, you might assist with some projects around the church, visit with folks in local nursing homes or assisted living communities or help with parish ministry tasks. All work will take place within the city.

If you plan to make it a full day event, you are asked to bring a bagged lunch and drink. Coolers and water will be available at each site. Homeowners will be expected to allow volunteers the use of their restroom facilities as needed throughout the day.

This is a great opportunity for school or Confirmation service experiences, as well as a wonderful way to get to know fellow parishioners. Feel free to invite a friend, coworker or other family members to work with you. For further information, contact the parish office at 440-238-5555.



Meet our New Members of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council 2016-2019



Craig Behm



Jon Drexler



Jason Januszewski



Bill Velioniskis

Craig

I am honored and privileged to be a new member of Parish Council here at St. Joseph Church in Strongsville. I have been a member of St. Joe's for the past 6 years and more importantly was able to come into full Communion with the Church in 2015 through the RCIA process. A truly rewarding and fulfilling experience which has provided not only a deeper relationship with Jesus but also in my family.

My wonderful family consists of my wife, Maggie and our four amazing children: Mitchell (14), Ryan (12), Mollie (5) and Brennan (3). I look forward to working closely with not only Fr. Joe and all the commissions, but also with you, my fellow parishioners.

Jon

I joined St Joseph's Parish nine years ago when I moved to Strongsville following ten years of service in the Marine Corps. I currently work for NASA performing programmatic analysis and cost estimation on various projects and missions.

My wife, MaryBeth, and I have

been married for over 18 years and have two daughters: Alison, who is now in Heaven but blessed us with 10 wonderful years first, and Natalie, who currently attends SJJ School.

Our Catholic faith calls each of us to more than just our personal experience with God. My participation on Parish Council will be my first active step in becoming more involved at Saint Joseph. I am excited for this opportunity and look forward to serving our parish.

Jason

I have been a member of St. Joe's for almost my whole life having rejoined my childhood parish when my wife and I moved back to Strongsville about 7 years ago. I work for Tri-C as an accountant, but my most important job is being a husband to my wife of 11 years, Jodi, and a dad to our two girls Stella, 7, and Marisa, 4.

Jodi and I recently became more active in the parish by helping at the Fish Fry, the Clam Bake and as part of Couples Ministry. We also like to attend the Parish Picnic and I play in the Parish Golf Outing.

Over the next three years, I look forward to helping improve our parish as a member of Parish Council.

Bill

My wife, Kristin, son Brian, daughter Laura and myself relocated to Strongsville from Northfield Village in 1978. Kristin and I met at Cleveland State University in 1965 and were married in September of 1967. After graduating that year, the Army called in April 1968. After returning home in 1970 we wanted to start our family. God had other plans: not being able to conceive, we adopted Brian in 1974 and two years later we adopted our daughter Laura. We have one grandson, Dominic who just turned eighteen.

I retired in January, 2015 after twenty-nine years as Senior Purchasing Agent for Ross Environmental in Grafton, Ohio.

Currently I volunteer as a St Joseph's Gardener and enjoy being involved in the Men's Group. I am looking forward to contributing my time to Parish Council.

Coming soon....ALPHA

ALPHA is an opportunity to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment. The video-based program is for young adults to seniors who want to renew and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and for those of all ages who wish to reconnect with the Church.

Alpha sessions begin with a simple meal, followed by a 20-30 minute

video and a small group discussion led by a trained leader. Alpha creates an environment where questions can be explored freely without judgment or pressure. All of this with no fee and no pressure! Alpha will begin on January 11, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Holy Family Center. Parents with students in our PSR program may attend and drop students off early and pick them up when Alpha is over for the evening. High School teens and young adults are

encouraged to attend the Alpha sessions. Alpha will continue on Wednesday evenings until March 22, 2016 (no class on Ash Wednesday) and a retreat will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2016 from 9:00 to 1:00.

St. John Neumann will also offer Alpha beginning in September 21, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30.

Please visit our website at www.sjohio.org/alpha for more information on Alpha.

What topics are covered?

- Session One: Who is Jesus?
- Session Two: Why Did Jesus Die?
- Session Three: How Can We Have Faith?
- Session Four: Why and How Do I Pray?
- Session Five: Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
- Session Six: How Does God Guide Us?
- Session Seven: How Can I Resist Evil?
- Session Eight: Why and How Should I Tell Others?
- Session Nine: Does God Heal Today?

My "LEAD" Experience

By: Brooklynne Elliot

What is LEAD, is most likely the first question you are going to ask. Franciscan LEAD is a five-day, Christ-centered, sacrament-soaked, prayer fueled immersion into Catholic teachings on **Leadership, Evangelization, And Discipleship** inspired by the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi. However, for everyone that became very confused after that statement, LEAD is a five-day retreat at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, where you

become closer to God through prayer and lessons taught by college students.

During the five days, you have no idea what you are doing until you are actually walking to the activity. Therefore, for any person like me, where you have your schedule set and always know what is going on, the first couple of days will be hard. Another "crazy" part of the week is as soon as you arrive on campus your phone is taken from you, put in a box, and returned to you Friday afternoon. It probably sounds crazy but I loved not being attached to my phone, in fact I feel

myself using my phone less than before.

The amount of activities I did at LEAD was crazy but I cannot give away too many secrets or it would ruin the fun for others. My favorite part of the week was silent prayer which we had every morning. It was a time that I really focused on my relationship with God and learned how to pray. Learning to pray sounds weird but it is a new thing for me and I discovered that I was waiting for a voice to answer me and it is not that simple, really. Other activities included many

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BY TEENS, FOR TEENS is a faith based leadership program for students in grades 7-12. During the months of September-May we meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month for faith- filled lessons, service projects, social events, and guest speakers. **Tuesdays at Joe's** has been a social event held in the courtyard of the Church during the summer months. All teens are invited to participate in the program and no registration is necessary for most events.

ROCK36 (Reaching Other Catholic Kids in grades 3-6) is a youth group for our younger friends and meets quarterly after the 4:30 Mass.

Members of the By Teens, For Teens (BTFT) youth group have been very busy this summer! Our **Tuesdays at Joe's** events have allowed us to gather during the summer months for group games, tournaments and lots of fun and laughter.

One Tuesday evening was dedicated to our junior and senior team members as they attended the **College Café** in the HFC. Teens had a chance to discuss college life and classes with some of our guest speakers from different universities. These young adults provided our teens with great advice on academics, housing, social activities and opportunities to live out and practice their faith on campus.

Along with Fr. Anthony Suso, high



school members of our BTFT and chaperones joined over 1600 high school students from around the country for the Steubenville Youth Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. During the three day conference, students and youth ministers attended Mass and Eucharistic Adoration together, listened to

guest speakers and clergy, danced and sang with the awesome musicians and prayed and worshiped Jesus. Teens were encouraged to fully participate in the Mass and to examine areas in their life where they are thirsting for more. Finally, teens were challenged to become better disciples by walking more closely with Jesus. The Steubenville Conference was an awesome experience, and we encourage teens to attend again next year.

Fall activities are already in place for our teens! Junior and seniors are receiving leadership training as they prepare to act as table leaders and welcome the Confirmandi to some of our group discussion nights. Our "Back to School" kick off night was on August 21st with our "Sundaes on Sunday" event. Our teens will also participate in serving and dancing at the Polka Party dinner on September 18th. Our **ROCK36** group will meet again in October.

Please visit our website at www.sjohio.org/youth to see our schedule for September – May and follow us on Instagram @SJS_Youth

My "LEAD" Experience

talks by people around my age, so it was easier to listen and learn from them.

After this week, I feel as though I have become a much stronger

person spiritually. I know I have learned so much about myself, things that I needed to accept or take control of, in order to become closer to God. In addition, this week I made some of the most incredible friends. We talk everyday and I am positive that we

will be lifelong friends.

LEAD was definitely the best experience I have ever had. I am so beyond blessed that I was able to have this experience and cannot wait to share with everyone how I have grown in my faith.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Parishioners of the Catholic community of St. Joseph Church, are a people of God, blessed by a diversity of gifts to carry on the work of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to be a Eucharistic people gathering to worship and praise God. We commit ourselves to be an apostolic people enabling each person to grow spiritually, so that each can invite others to know the Good News of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves further to use our time, talent, and treasure in serving each other with a caring spirit, reaching out to the needs of our families, our Parish and our community.

St. Joseph Health Fair New and Improved

Since our first health fair in 2008, the continued community and Parish support of the event have been a blessing to the Health and Wellness Ministry. We have had many hospital systems, physicians, nurses, chiropractors and other health care related companies come to provide you, our parishioners, the opportunity to get updated health information, screening tests and even your annual flu vaccine.

We have had our growing pains. As more community businesses wanted to participate, we started to see repetition of services and we

noticed that parishioners did not have the time to spend at all the booths as it became more overwhelming.

We did not want to lose the opportunity to educate everyone and therefore, we have come up with some changes that hopefully will address these issues. We are making our event a **“Bi-annual Event”!** We are holding health fairs on **October 2, 2016 and April 2, 2017!** This way, we can provide more opportunities for you to engage with the local health care businesses and we are hoping to avoid similar companies being at the same event.

In an effort to make the event more accessible, we are making the event a little smaller on each date

by limiting it to 30 companies on each date. Because of this, the health fair can return to the Holy Family Center to help our elderly parishioners who had difficulty walking long distances over to the school.

We hope that these changes make the events even more enjoyable for our parishioners. We will continue to provide flu shots, blood pressure checks and cholesterol and sugar checks. We hope we will have new businesses join us as well as have our old favorites back. The businesses love engaging with our parishioners and our ministry enjoys providing this event to all of you for free. See you in October and April!

Health to you always!

St. Joseph Carpenters Group

St. Joseph Carpenters began with an event which is now our annual “Meet and Greet” July of 2013. We formed a core group of about 20 members and voted to call our group "St. Joseph Carpenters". Our steering committee of 20 individuals plan and work the events.

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month to coordinate and plan the events.

Mary and Ed Butauski have taken on the responsibility of the bus trips and do a superb job. Our bus trips are usually filled, resulting in a waiting list.

We try to do 3 to 4 casino trips a year along with our overnight and Spiritual and Shrine trips.

Last fall we started our “Spiritual Walks”, led by Vicki Palisin once a month.

In August, our “Meet and Greet” membership event took place followed by evening Mass with Fr. Anthony presiding focusing on St. Padre Pio. After Mass a presentation was given by our guest speaker who shared her miraculous experiences.

September will be the month this year that we join with the youth group to host their fundraiser. Fr. Bill Jerse will come back again to do the Polka Mass and join us at

the dance party after. The attendees are always in for good food, dancing, prizes and a lot of fun. The SJS Youth Group, along with their leader, Linda Zvoncheck, do a fantastic job with making this event happen. It is always a terrific testimony of both age levels having a fantastic time.

October we will hit the road again, this time to Michigan, for our overnight bus trip.

Our 2015-16 Carpenter members reached a grand 218. Our members include parishioners and non-parishioners. Our membership fee is \$3 and membership is always open.

Call MaryAnn to RSVP 238-9336 for events and Mary and Ed for bus trips and information 238-4270.