



OUR PARISH

# Family Newsletter

Spring 2018

**Saint Joseph**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
*Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946*



## JOIN THE ST. JOSEPH SAFETY TEAM

Perhaps you didn't even know that St. Joseph Parish had a safety team. That's because we have started out small and kept a low profile. We are a group of parishioner/volunteers who have agreed to be available to assist the ushers in the event that some special need arises during our Masses.

We meet quarterly and receive instruction from public safety first responders in four areas. These are first aid/cpr, weather/fire and other emergencies, verbal calming skills and active threat response. Team members are given a simple lapel pin (as seen to the right) which allows the ushers to recognize who is available to assist them if some need arises. We are careful to be discrete so that we do not interfere or distract from the sanctity of the church services that are taking place.

While we certainly encourage parishioners who are also active or retired health care professionals or police officers to join us, everyone is welcome! This includes those also serving as ushers, greeters, Eucharistic Ministers or in other parish volunteer capacities. No one is asked to do anything beyond their ability or comfort level.

Our objective is to resolve simple issues, and in cases that would require a police or fire/EMS

response, provide intervention for the four minute period until first responders arrive.

Our goal for 2018 is to expand and organize to the point that we have at least three team members present at every service. If you are interested in joining us, contact Charles Goss at [Charles.goss@strongsville.org](mailto:Charles.goss@strongsville.org) or at 440-580-3207. Feel free to join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 30th in the Bethlehem Room.



## Table of Contents

<b>St. Joseph Safety Team</b>	<b>pg. 1</b>
<b>Strongsville Family Rosary</b>	<b>pg. 2</b>
<b>Fr. Joe's Column</b>	<b>pg. 3</b>
<b>RCIA</b>	<b>pg. 4</b>
<b>Schedule of Services</b>	<b>pg. 5</b>
<b>Deacon's Wives</b>	<b>pg. 6</b>
<b>"Wicked"ly Relational</b>	<b>pg. 7</b>
<b>The Easter Difference</b>	<b>pg. 8</b>

## Strongsville Family Rosary

The Strongsville Family Rosary is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Council in cooperation with the Legion of Mary chapters at St. Joseph and St. John Neumann Parishes. We say the Rosary during the 6:30 pm Evening Prayer in the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel on the third Thursday of every month.

The St. Francis Knights of Columbus Council is affiliated with St. Joseph and St. John Neumann Parishes with membership consisting of men from both parishes. The Knights of Columbus strives to support our members in living out their Catholic Faith and to help them strengthen their families. We do this by working in our parishes to help with parish activities and enhance parish life. We started the Strongsville Family Rosary as one of the many ways we work to fulfill this mission.

A few months ago, I was talking to a brother Knight from another Council and he mentioned that they had started a monthly Rosary in their parish. This brought back fond memories of my childhood when we used to have the "Block Rosary". The Catholic families on our neighborhood block would meet at a

different house on a rotational basis every month and say the Rosary. This was a wonderful experience and, I am sure, had a powerful effect on the faith and family life of all who attend.

I was convinced that this is something our Council should do also. With my childhood experience influencing me, I also strongly believed it needs to be focused on the family. I brought the idea up to our council and was given the go-ahead. I talked to the pastors at both parishes and they enthusiastically supported the idea. A few days after I contacted the pastors, I received a call from Deacon Bob Lester suggesting that we include the Rosary in the Evening Prayer Service at St. Joseph's on the third Thursday at 6:30 pm. I thought that was a good idea. I also talked to Pam Lubber, head of the St. Joseph Legion of Mary, and Clare Mahon, head of the St. John Neumann Legion of Mary, about joining the Knights in implementing and advertising the Rosary. They were both very enthusiastic, saying that it fit right in to the Legion of Mary mission. The Knights Council approved and we started the Rosary in November of 2017.

Next to the Mass, the Rosary is one of the most powerful prayers we can offer. At Fatima, Mary told us that if we said the Rosary faithfully and lived according to God's will, there would be peace after World War I; she then described exactly how the events happen if we weren't faithful, with Russia being taken over by Communism and another even worse World War. We weren't faithful to the Rosary and we know what happened. In the naval battle of Lepanto in 1571, which prevented the Muslims from invading Europe, the Christians were badly outnumbered. Pope Pius V asked everyone to say the Rosary before the battle, including the sailors on the ships. At the last moment, the wind shifted 180° giving the Christian force the advantage they needed to completely defeat the Muslims. There are many more such events.

Mary continues to ask us to faithfully say the Rosary. It can and will change us and the world bringing about God's Kingdom.

Bring your families and join us at the Strongsville Family Rosary. You will be amazed at the good that comes of it.

**Leo Burkardt Knights of Columbus**





*From the Desk  
Of  
Fr. Joe Mamich*

Dear Parish Family:

Happy March!

As you're reading this, we have already progressed about three weeks into Lent. How has your Lenten Season been going? In my early Lenten homilies, I spoke about Lent being a "time of healing". Just as each spring seems to "heal" our environment from the extremes of winter, so too Lent gives us the opportunity to "heal" in our own lives. Through the use of the three traditional practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are "healed" of things that have begun to creep into our lives and in doing their creep, have taken us away from the things that really matter – love of God and love of neighbor. Each one of these three traditional practices of Lent affords us an opportunity to "repent, and believe in the Gospel".

If you're like me, you may have already fallen behind in a Lenten resolution, but there's always time to start fresh. I hope that you will join me throughout this Lent in finding at least one of the practices that may be fruitful for you this Lent and in doing so, find this to be a "healing" experience as we make our way towards the celebration of Easter.

In the midst of this Lenten Season and helping us to exercise the

practice of prayer, we will once again have our Annual Weekend of Eucharistic Adoration or even more commonly known as "Forty Hours Devotions" from Friday, March 9th continuing through Sunday, March 11th. For the past three years, we have witnessed increased attendance! I hope that this year will continue that trend. If you have never experienced Eucharistic Adoration, this is a perfect way to do so. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the Church beginning with 7 pm Mass on Friday and continuing overnight and throughout the weekend, with the exception of Masses. While we're asking people to consider taking an hour time slot, you do not have to and everyone is welcome to stop in and pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Registration is ongoing in the Gathering Area after Masses and through our parish website. I hope that you'll consider this opportunity!

After this weekend, if you've found the experience of Eucharistic Adoration to be fulfilling for you, you might also consider stopping in our Eucharistic Chapel where Adoration is available 24 hours a day, nearly 365 days a year, outside of Mass. Please call our Parish Office or see our Weekly Sunday Bulletin for ongoing information about this opportunity to grow in prayer and relationship with Jesus!

Connected with our Weekend of Eucharistic Adoration, we have our Annual Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, March 11th. Having gathered around the

Eucharistic Table of our Lord, we are given the opportunity to gather as a community around the "table of community" in the Holy Family Center immediately following our Noon Mass. We are blessed with so many people who give generously of themselves in our various ministries and activities. It is a chance for us, as a parish community, to thank everyone who is involved in making our parish community what it is. All involved in any ministry or organization of our parish are invited to join us for both Mass and the luncheon, but we'll need an RSVP by Monday, March 5th. So, please give our Parish Office a call!

Lastly, as we journey through this Lent and soon approach the days of the Easter Triduum, I ask you to remember our parish in your prayers. Please consult page 5 of this newsletter for the liturgical schedules for the upcoming celebration of Holy Week (with a special note of the change of times for our evening celebrations!). With the Easter Vigil permitted at an earlier time this year, it might be a great year to experience this unique Mass without getting home after Midnight! Our Catholic faith reminds us that Christ's Last Supper, Passion, Death, and ultimate Resurrection are the central events of our Catholic-Christian faith, it makes sense that we should try to experience these to the fullest of their possibilities, especially in the gathering with our fellow believers. Hope to see you there!

Wishing you the best this Lent and Easter,

PRAY



FAST



GIVE

## Our Journey Through RCIA



In the early Church, when someone wanted to enter the Catholic Church, there was an extensive process of learning, prayer and conversion that took place before the individual was administered the Sacrament of Initiation and brought fully into the Church. For many years that process took many forms and in some eras was done away with completely. The Church, after the Second Vatican council, sought to resurrect this ancient way of conversion and gave to us the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA). The RCIA process has been busy preparing our candidates for full initiation into the Catholic Church here at St. Joseph Parish since September of this past year. They have received instruction on Scripture, the life of Christ, Church teachings and dogmas, the Sacraments and will continue their final two months learning about Lent and the Church's stance on moral issues.

The five of them have already been baptized and so are already integral members of our St. Joseph Parish community. All of them have expressed their desire to enter the Catholic Church during the Easter Season by receiving the final two Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Confirmation and Reception of First Holy Communion. This journey began in the interior of their hearts, but they have not made it alone. Each week, the candidates come together for prayer and study, supported by the clergy, their sponsors and the RCIA team.

We asked the candidates the following two questions to help them reflect on why they were becoming Catholic: 1: Who or what has inspired you the most in your spiritual journey into the Catholic faith? 2. How is the RCIA process helping you to form a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ and where have you experienced God at St. Joseph Parish? These are the responses that were elicited:

**Tschanen Brandyberry** (pronounced Shannon) says, "I have wanted to go through the RCIA process for 20 years, and made a promise to myself that I would complete the process before our oldest daughter makes her First Communion in two years. My husband is Catholic and after trying a couple churches to raise our daughters in, we found a home here at St. Joseph. Father Anthony and I previously discussed RCIA several times during the last three years, but this year was the one when it finally felt right. I have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations we've had during classes and our dismissals and have learned as much from the others in our group and on the team as I have from our lessons. One of the best parts about the process is how it has helped me at home. I share things with my husband, who also is my sponsor and we now are better equipped to answer questions our daughters have, leading to deeper discussions and more insight than before.

**Anthony Parrino** says "What I like most about the RCIA classes are that when I leave class every Thursday, I feel so much closer to God and that I've learned different things that I did not know about the Catholic faith. It has taught me the right ways to go about the marriage as I'm getting married in October. I love how the community can come together as a whole and love as one every Sunday even at different Masses."

**Jerry Frushour** says, “Similar to my wife, my inspiration for joining RCIA is my twin boys. Once we realized their love of the Catholic faith and going to church, I felt it was important that we explore the possibilities of becoming Catholic. After attending RCIA the first couple of weeks, I knew we made the right decision. RCIA has helped me understand the history, tradition and appreciation of the Catholic faith. Now, when I go to church, I feel like it means so much more. Attending RCIA has helped me learn how to have a deeper more personal relationship with Jesus Christ than I have had in the past.”

**Maureen Frushour** says, “My biggest inspiration for joining RCIA is my twin boys. They are currently in 2nd grade at Sts. Joseph and John School. They are so happy and get so excited when they talk about “being Catholic” and “God” and “His love for everyone”. Their enthusiasm for making good choices over bad choices is what inspired me to begin the process of joining the Catholic Church. The RCIA program is an enjoyable learning experience that has helped me understand how to have a “real” personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I really enjoy the weekly RCIA sessions and attending Sunday Mass.”

**Stephanie Nadvit** says, “My inspiration for wanting to become Catholic was because of my two children (a 4 year old and 7 year old who attends St. Joseph and John School). Also, my husband is Catholic and since we are raising our children Catholic I wanted to be a source of knowledge for them to help them along their journey throughout their years at the school and their Catholic life. However, along my RCIA journey it has become clearer that I also wanted to become Catholic for myself. This process has been very educational and spiritual and I feel very strongly about the Catholic virtues and that I have found a church home where I belong at St. Joseph Church.”

Perhaps the most important quality that each of our candidates has in common, is that they listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Whether it was an invitation, for their children or a deeper desire to grow in holiness, they have all chosen to make a deeper commitment to their faith. This, however, doesn’t happen in one class or even in the eight months we use for preparation. No, becoming, growing and remaining Catholic is a lifelong endeavor. The reception of the Sacraments merely opens the soul to receive the grace to continue living a relationship with Jesus Christ. The friendship, prayers, personal witness and the support of every committed Catholic at St. Joseph Parish is needed to fan the flame of faith, not only in our RCIA candidates, but also in each and every one of us. Please continue to keep all of our RCIA candidates in your prayers during this Lenten season and when you see them at Mass offer them a warm welcome and congratulations for responding to the call of our Lord.

## +SCHEDULE OF SERVICES+

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018—PALM SUNDAY**

Masses: Saturday: 4:30 pm  
 Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon

### **+EASTER TRIDUUM+**

### **HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018**

Morning Prayer: 8:30 am  
 Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper: 7:30 pm  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows  
 until 10:00 pm  
 Night Prayer: 10:00 pm

### **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018**

Morning Prayer: 8:30 am  
 Stations of the Cross: 12:10 pm  
 Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion:  
 3:00 and 7:30 pm

### **HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018**

Morning Prayer with Ephphetha Rite: 8:30 am  
 Blessing of Easter Foods: 1:00 pm  
 Easter Vigil: 7:30 pm (no 4:30 pm Mass)  
 A reception to welcome the newly initiated members  
 of the Church will follow.

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018**

Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon  
 (Seating in church and Holy Family Center)

### **+RECONCILIATION+**

Saturdays: 3:00-4:00 pm (except Saturday, March 31)  
 Two priests each weekend

Saturday, March 24, 2018

10:00 am—11:00 am  
 3:00 pm—4:00 pm

## Two Views of Being a Deacon's Wife



In 1992 after my husband, Deacon Pete, was accepted into the Diaconate Formation Program here in Cleveland, we were a diaconate retreat weekend. At one of the sessions, we sang “Here I Am Lord”, which touched me very deeply. I felt that I, also, was answering the call to serve our Lord. While God calls a man to be a deacon, he has to obtain his wife’s permission because he has to split his time between a wife, a job and the church, which is difficult to balance at times and puts a burden on family life.

After going through one year of formation here in Cleveland, Deacon Pete’s work took us to New Orleans, where he continued his studies and was ordained on May 11, 1996. I went to most of his classes and increased my knowledge of Scripture.

After we moved back to Cleveland in 1999 and became members of St. Joseph Parish, Deacon Pete and I shared in the Baptism Preparation Ministry. Later, I chose my own ministries: a lector, Eucharistic Minister, taking Eucharist to the homebound and Kemper House residents. I have been in the bereavement choir and am a funeral Mass server. I train lectors, am a member of the Liturgy commission and a Monday counter. Over the years, while serving our Lord in various capacities, I have felt very rewarded—a wonderful feeling that I have helped many needy people.

As a deacon’s wife, I have helped my husband in critiquing his homilies and taking on a consoling role when he has to face difficult problems. It is lonely attending Mass without him by my side because he is on the altar. But I am most thankful that he was called because it has helped me to grow spiritually. I am also very thankful for all the support we have received here at St. Joseph, from the priests, the staff and the parishioners that have made us feel at home. May God continue to bless all of you. **Jackie Moore**

For me, being the wife of a Deacon is the second greatest blessing and gift in my life. That is because being married to Deacon Bob Lester is the greatest blessing and gift of my life. If you look closely at these two great blessings and gifts, you will see they have been received by my beloved and me through the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. Both Sacraments are based upon belief in and reliance of Christ, prayer and sacrifice.

Bob and I say, with great belief and conviction, that it was Christ who brought us together. We believed we needed to prepare ourselves for the journey that Christ wanted to lead us; what better place to start our journey than with prayer! Attending Mass together, praying together, sharing our faith through conversation and participating in marriage preparation offered by the Church provided us with a strong foundation and readiness to receive the greatest blessing and gift, the Sacrament of Marriage. Prayer has been the support of our marriage; we both had personal faith conversions which we believe led to the call to the diaconate.

On May 22nd, Deacon Bob will have been ordained for 14 years; however, “our” diaconate ministry began five years earlier. Before responding to this second greatest blessing and gift, the Church required my affirmative response before moving forward through the interview process and getting accepted into the diaconate formation process. Throughout formation, we attended all classes together, participated in retreats, service projects and my favorite, weekly Mass and prayer services. Our continual daily prayer is the glue that held everything together.

There is sacrifice in marriage; there is sacrifice in the diaconate. During Mass, he is on the altar and I am in the pew (or the Chapel) by myself, but our prayers are united at the foot of the altar. Deacon Bob spends many hours working with marriages/couples in crisis, working with “Sacred Steps to Peace” (for the divorced), prayer services, bereavement groups, PSR, RCIA, etc. I cannot complain because he is Jesus to others. **Karen Lester**



## “Wicked”ly Relational

In 2003, Broadway was taken by storm with the musical “Wicked”. It is a retelling of the story of the witches from the “Wizard of Oz.” The show is great and I highly recommend seeing it if and when it comes back to Cleveland. One of the most popular songs is called “Defying Gravity” and for our sake this Lenten season I would like to take a look at one line from this song. In the third verse Elphaba, the “bad witch,” sings the line “and if I’m flying solo at least I’m flying free.”

We all know that Lent is a penitential season, but being penitent is only necessary if we have sinned or acted unjustly to God, neighbor or ourselves. Lent then becomes a time when we focus more intently on righting wronged relationships. It’s about recognizing that we were made for *life-giving love*, for and with others, and have often times fallen short of that. This is where Elphaba got it wrong. In “flying solo” she isn’t really “flying free”. Freedom only comes when we live in a manner that is consistent with who we were created to be or as St. Paul put it, “live in a manner worthy of the call you have received” (Eph 4:1). Freedom comes when we live in right relationship with God, with neighbor, and with ourselves.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the

desert he was attacking relationship. “You must be hungry after 40 days? Here, make from these stones some bread. It’s all about your needs and your wants. Gratify yourself here and now in the moment.” Satan wanted Jesus to turn inward; to think of only himself and not the fact that doing so would necessarily separate Him from the Father. Then at the parapet of the temple, where hundreds of onlookers would have witnessed the spectacle, Satan tells Jesus to prove He is the Messiah. “Show your greatness. Show everyone that you are indeed the son of God”. Satan wanted Jesus to show His “neighbors” how much greater He was than any of them instead of humbling Himself to walk with them and even die for them. Finally, “Bow to me,” Satan says, “and I will give you everything of this world.” He wants Jesus to sacrifice His relationship with the Father (God). Jesus will have no more of this: “I serve the Father alone, be gone Satan.” Himself, others and finally the Father (God); Jesus would not forget who He was or who He lived for.

What about us? Are we living in right relationship for and with God, others and ourselves? Here is the key; don’t fly solo. It’s not about you. For good or for ill, every single act of ours effects

someone (or everyone) else. Is your marriage struggling? Does your spouse know beyond a shadow of a doubt that everything you do is out of life-giving love? Do you live in such a way that your friends would say “no greater love has (*insert your name*) than this, that to lay down his/her life for friend: (Jn 15:13). Does God know that you are willing to give up everything for Him and that you recognize the pleasures of this world are nothing compared to the glory to come? Do you truly live your life knowing that God knit you together in your mother’s womb and that he counts the hairs on your head?

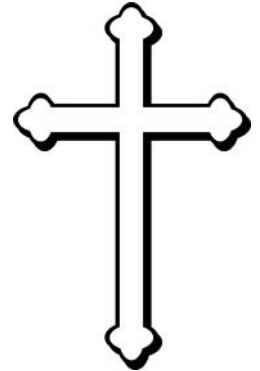
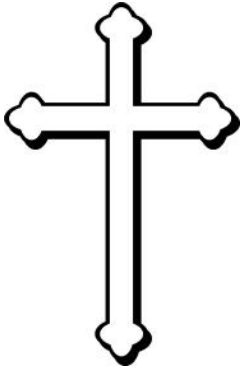
I could go on and on with examples, but you get the point. We are all in this together and “flying solo” isn’t an option. When try to do it on our own without recognizing God, good Catholic friends and that we are beloved children of God we lose our freedom and fall into sin. And that is what we must ask God to make right for us during this season of Lent; our relationships. It is only when we recognize our true identity and invite God and others into our lives (or onto our broomsticks), loving them with reckless abandon, for the glory of God, that we become truly free.

**Fr. Bob McWilliams**

### WE WELCOME THESE FAMILIES TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Beargie	Churchhill	Holy	Kusek	Murphy	Stroemple
Biley	Elgergawi	Hopkins	Kutolowski	Ordonez	Tesch
Bokovitz	Feador	Jaworske	Lacey	Partovi	Tuccillo
Boskovitch	Grega	Kiffer	Livengood	Porter	Warner
Calvert	Habenstein	Kilpatrick	Lung	Royer	Zipp-Partovi
Caraballo	Haberman	Krouse	Miller	Sauer	Zorman
Castaneda					

## What Difference Should Easter Make in Your Life?



Paul the Apostle and the other New Testament authors insist that Jesus' resurrection should make a major difference in how Christians live. So, how does our faith that Jesus rose from the dead impact our lives today?

First, as Christians, we know that death is not the end of our existence. It is natural to fear death; after all, life in this world is all we know. We cannot help but to approach death with some anxiety about the unknown. What, if anything, awaits us on the other side of the experience we call death? Will we be reunited with loved ones? Christians are able to approach death with a confidence that cannot be shared with those who think there is nothing beyond this life. We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loves us enough to have died for us, has overcome the power of death. And He has promised to share His victory with us at our own resurrection at the end of time.

Second, Jesus' resurrection is evidence that, ultimately, evil does not triumph over good. The forces of evil had done their worst in bringing Christ to death on the Cross. On that first Good Friday, it had seemed that evil had triumphed over Goodness Incarnate Himself. But the

resurrection demonstrates that good triumphs over evil. And as is the case with Christ, so it is with us—we know that no matter what evil (evil circumstances or evil persons) does to us, through Christ's conquest over evil and death, we too, shall overcome these foes.

This fact that evil does not finally win also gives Christians a joy that others do not share. This does not mean that we never experience sorrow, never get discouraged, or never feel pain. But knowing that Christ has conquered death and that He shares His victory with His people, gives us a hope and confidence that should affect our daily living. A quiet joy, based on trust in God's faithfulness, springs from our knowledge that death is not the end. This sort of joy is not about approaching life in a lighthearted way. Rather, it is an assurance that all will be well in the end, an assurance grounded in the fact that God is in control. Again, St. Paul, who had his own share of difficulties reminds us to: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil 4:4).

And then finally, we are called to seek what is above. The knowledge that the grave is not the end means that we must live now with our final

end in view. Since we will meet God when we die, we must prepare ourselves for this meeting during life. We need to seek the good and turn away from sin. We need to grow in our spirituality to become mature Christians. But we do not need to do this under our own power. The Risen Christ rains His divine assistance upon us through the sacraments, prayer, and the other means of grace. St. Paul's words, "If then you were raised with Christ," assume that Christians realize that their risen life begins now, even before death.

And so we come back to the question, "What difference does Easter make?" It makes more of a difference than we can even imagine. As we celebrate the Easter season, let us remember what we are celebrating—that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that He shares His risen life with us, both now and for all eternity.

The Easter season is about new life and rebirth. We are each called to be an Easter people—witnessing to that new life in Christ. We must live these beliefs and forever echo the joyous proclamation of Holy Saturday night as the Paschal candle is raised in to the darkness of the Church: "Christ Our Light."