



OUR PARISH

Family Newsletter

Spring 2019

Saint Joseph
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



Homebound Eucharistic Minister, Bringing Jesus to Others and Being Jesus to Others

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound go out into the St. Joseph community each week bringing the sick and those of advanced age the Body of Christ. It also involves sharing prayer and the Word of God with the recipient. Not only are they bringing the body of Jesus to them, they are bringing them the comfort in knowing that their parish community is supporting them. The homebound look forward to seeing the Eucharistic Minister. They may be the only person they come in contact with all week. Over the years, there have been many instances where the Eucharistic Minister feels welcomed into the person's home as an extended family member.

Through our baptism, we are called to love God above all else and our neighbor as ourselves. In Jesus' ministry, we notice in our Gospels in "ordinary time", that Jesus reached out to those most in need. For St. Joseph's homebound, the Eucharistic Minister becomes Jesus to those they visit.

We have many parishioners in need of this ministry. Most ministers serve once a month on a rotating basis. It is best to take the Eucharist to the homebound after the community celebrates Mass on either a weekday or a Sunday.

Of course if this doesn't work for your schedule, the clergy and office staff are available during the week to give you access to the Eucharist.

If you think you may be interested in this ministry, contact Deacon Bob at the Parish office at 440-238-5555 extension 110 or email him at rl Lester@sjohio.org.



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Asceticism: Denying Ourselves, So That We Might Follow Him

Love ‘em or hate ‘em, athletes like LeBron James, Tiger Woods, Serena Williams, Tom Brady and Omar Vizquel are a sight to behold when they were or are playing at their peak. I’m sure many of us have memories of watching LeBron dominating on the court, Tiger shooting a 10-under at Firestone or Omar being the first part of a double-play, but they weren’t born with the ability to do those things. Sure, they were all probably born with strong athletic ability, but that doesn’t necessarily mean greatness in their field of play. Instead, it took them years of patient endurance, practice and yes, denial of pleasures, to get to a point where they could play at that level. We could learn a few things from these great athletes.

Hopefully, all of us desire to be holy, desire to grow in virtue and desire especially to be free from the bondage of sin. Indeed, I’d be willing to put money on the fact that deep down we desire that people remember us for being good and not because of some earthly reason. Only God can make us good, holy, virtuous and free us from sin, but it takes our participation with his mercy and grace. One of the ways in which we can help the Lord’s grace is by applying ascetic practices to our lives. The reason I brought up athletes in the beginning is because asceticism comes from the Greek work *askesis*, which means practice, bodily exercise and more especially, athletic training. The early Christians began using it to signify the practice of spiritual exercises (denying oneself) performed for the purpose of acquiring habits of virtue and the obvious connection—turning

away from sin (vice).

The clearest example of asceticism in the life of the Church is the practice of giving something pleasurable up or performing some light self-mortification during the Lenten season. By light self-mortification I mean, doing something that is not comfortable, such as sleeping on the floor, using one pillow, or taking a cold or colder showers. Whether we are giving something up or self-mortification, we deny ourselves the pleasures of earth to focus more on the pleasure of heaven. Indeed, the Lord, quite often, uses the pleasure and comforts of this world to direct our hearts and minds to heaven, but during the Lenten season and other times, if the Lord calls us to, we deny ourselves, take up His cross and follow after Him (John 16:24).

There are two things that happen when we make ascetical practices a part of our lives. First, we begin to enjoy more of the things which we deny ourselves when we are able to enjoy them. I usually give up something more difficult along with this, but every year, I also give up iced tea. My favorite thing to drink is unsweetened fresh brewed iced tea. It’s a simple thing to give up, but at the end of Lent, when I finally have a glass of tea, it’s like having it for the first time; it’s the taste I recognize, but, for some reason, it’s new again. I appreciate it more having not had it. Second, it helps us overcome sin. The best example of this, and it’s a difficult topic to discuss, is how self-mortification helps people overcome the sins of the flesh and the use of inappropriate

viewable material. I’ve heard of any number of men and women who have this struggle and they make great strides and they even overcome these types of sins, by denying themselves comforts that many of us think we cannot go without. One group I know uses a list: cold showers, no alcohol, no desserts or sweets, no eating between meals, no soda or sweetened drinks, no television or movies, only music that lifts the soul to God, no televised sports, computer and phone for research and communication purposes only regular and intense exercise, daily holy hour, no major material purchases and a minimum of seven hours of sleep each night. And, they do this for 90 days. Extreme? Yes, but in the end, they knew that they could overcome their struggles because they were able to deny themselves even everyday comforts. They were not and we are not slaves to comfort and pleasure. We are made for so much more “we are made for greatness” (Pope Benedict XVI).

In the last 20 or so years there has been a push to do something nice for Lent and that is all well and good, but Lent has always been and will always be, a penitential season. A season not to dwell on our sins, but on our Baptism and where we have fallen short...does that mean acknowledging our sins and doing what we can to overcome them? Yes! But in the end, we deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow after Jesus, so that, growing in holiness (virtue), we may rise with Him on Easter Morning!
Fr. Bob McWilliams



*From the
Desk of
Fr. Joe Mamich*

Dear Parish Family:

Happy March!

Even though it's the first weekend of March, we have not yet even begun Lent! Since Lent begins on March 6th, I thought I'd begin this column with two reminders about the Season. First, let's talk about the custom of abstaining from meat. In addition to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, all Fridays during Lent are days of abstaining from meat, which applies to all those fourteen years and older. Beyond that, we also know that because of their significance, both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are not only days of abstaining from meat, but also days of fasting. Fasting applies only to those eighteen years through fifty-nine years old. These two customs represent one of the three traditional practices of Lent, fasting. Through our use of fasting, and the two remaining practices of Lent, prayer and almsgiving, we enter into this Holy Season so that we might best celebrate the New Life of the Resurrection on Easter.

As has been our custom for the last several years, we will once again have our Annual Weekend of Eucharistic Adoration or even more commonly known as "Forty Hours Devotions" from Friday, March 29th continuing through Sunday, March 31st. It has been awesome to see people throughout the course of these days in the silence of the church in the presence of Christ. 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 do so and everyone is welcome to stop in and pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Registration will begin later this month 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!

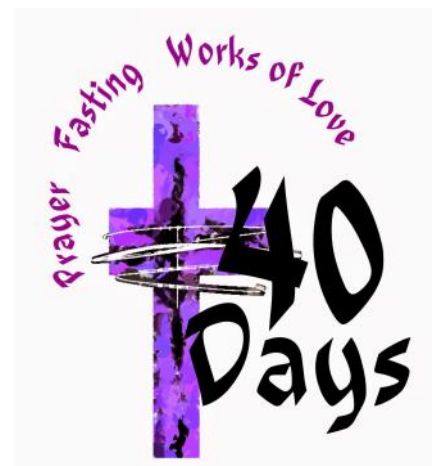
Connected with our Weekend of Eucharistic Adoration, we have our Annual Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, March 31st. Having gathered around the Eucharistic Table of our Lord, we are given the opportunity to gather as a community around the "table of community" in the Holy Family Center immediately following 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 25. 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. In a very special way, please see the profiles of those women and men who are to join us as Catholics during this upcoming Easter Season. Throughout the past year, they have journeyed with us and our RCIA team learning more about our Catholic faith. They will be one with us for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Please join me in welcoming them and see page 6 of this newsletter for the liturgical schedules for the upcoming celebration of Holy Week. It'd be a great way to pray with them! For the second year, our Easter Vigil is 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 upcoming Lent and Easter,

Fr. Joe



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



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 Sacraments 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, dogmas, and the Sacraments and will continue their final two months learning about Lent and the Church's stance on moral issues.

The Lord has called thirteen men and women to discern and grow in the Catholic faith this year. Four of them will be receiving Baptism and the other ten, along with them, will be received into full communion in the Catholic Church during the Easter Season by receiving the final two Sacrament of Initiation, namely, Confirmation and reception of First Holy Communion. This journey began in the interiority of their hearts, but they have not made it alone. Each week, the Catechumens and 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:

Alicia Bardasz: "It took traveling abroad to make me realize that Christ is always with me. From the time the Sister Servants of Jesus visited my family at the time of my birth, until I witnessed God's presence in Warsaw, Poland, I realized that it was God's wish for me to become closer to Jesus. One of the last things sister Agnes told me was 'to keep God close to your heart'. It has stuck with me ever since and it motivated me to join the RCIA. Since joining the RCIA, I have experienced pure joy and happiness and a strong sense that I was meant to be there. I thank everyone for their warmth, prayers and welcoming me to the Church."

Nate Bishop: "My inspiration for wanting to become Catholic was my family. My daughter says prayers every night and thanks Jesus throughout the day. I want to be able to help her relationship with God grow as mine
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does also. I've really enjoyed the RCIA program. There's so much to learn and it gives me a greater appreciation for everything the more I learn. Every time I go to RCIA class and then church on Sunday, I feel closer to God and grateful I started this journey."

Bill Chapman: "Kathi Chapman, my wife, has inspired me most in my spiritual journey into the Catholic faith. Whenever I have a question of faith, I ask Kathi, and she thoughtfully provides insight. I admire her example of living her faith particularly when people reach out to her and she is always willing to walk together with them. The Symbolon videos illicit thoughts and feelings which result in a deeper desire to better know and follow Jesus Christ. The RCIA process through the Symbolon videos, adds a richness to the nuances of Christ's life that inspire me to walk more closely with Him. Christ's love is clearly manifest in the RCIA team being so welcoming. The people and staff at St. Joseph are an inspiration to me and I see God in how they reach out, give of themselves, are welcoming and just willing to spend time together."

Demitrius Colbert: "A few different things inspired me to want to be Catholic. Visiting St. Rocco's, I saw a beautiful parish, the different cultures and realized that the priests and nuns live there in that not so great neighborhood. Salvatore Fragapane, my father-in-law, also was an inspiration in my decision as well. He's no longer with us, but he always gave God credit and praise for his success in life. Father Joe was first on the scene when our house burnt down and made sure I had shoes on my feet and came back to bless the house when it was rebuilt. They made me want to be better for myself and for others. RCIA has helped me. Father Bob is a blessing and has made this process easier to grasp. He didn't just throw us out to the wolves, but is patient and has a great sense of humor; I know that I am not alone. After learning about the Eucharist and Reconciliation, I'm actually looking forward to Confession. I love RCIA and this parish."

Corbin Hilty: "Faith is a big part of my life. I wanted to join the Church because I want my family to grow in a unified household. My wife grew up in St. Joe's and I love the beliefs and values that she grew up with."

Oliver Jira: "What inspired me on my spiritual journey into the Catholic faith is being a Christian witness for my niece's baptism and having the honor to be her Christian witness and help guide her in her Catholic faith. I experienced God on my wedding day at St. Joseph and RCIA is strengthening my marriage and preparing me to raise my children as a united Catholic family."

Luke Joziuk: "What inspired me the most on my journey into the Catholic faith was my eagerness to learn more about God and the Catholic religion in general. The RCIA program has helped me form a deeper relationship with God by teaching what is necessary for the faith and also it has helped me by reminding me of how important God is in our everyday lives".

Steven Mooney: "My fiancé, Sheryl, has inspired me the most in my spiritual journey into the Catholic faith. Without her, I would have little to no knowledge of the faith. The RCIA process has helped me form a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ because I have learned a lot about the faith, prayer and Baptism. Learning about prayer helped especially because no matter how bad life gets, I know that I can always speak to God through prayer."

Sabrina Selinka: "My fiancé and I attended Catholic Mass frequently over the ten years we've been together as he was raised Catholic. I remember being confused but curious. My curiosity led me to wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith. Once we became engaged, we discussed things such as how we wanted to raise our future children. It was during that conversation that I was inspired to join RCIA as I knew that bringing God in to our daily lives would only make our family stronger. The more I learn about the Catholic faith the deeper my relationship with Jesus Christ is becoming. RCIA is helping me understand prayer, scripture and "why" to the things we do and things we believe in. The open dialogue amongst all of us helps me become more comfortable within my faith as well as expressing my faith and sharing with others."

Jennifer Sheppard: "I'm truly looking forward for our family to be joining the Catholic faith. This has been a lifelong journey for me and God has led me here to Saint Joseph's Church. I'm inspired by our son (five years old) and his love and faith for Jesus Christ. I want to be a role model for him and provide support, spiritual guidance and faith in God during the good times and the storms life can bring. My husband, Michael, and I have enjoyed our RCIA classes and Mass together. It has brought our family and faith closer to God."

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Mike Sheppard: “My biggest inspiration is my family, my wife Jennifer and my son. Early on, our son always had a strong faith and we knew it was our responsibility to continue to support that, not only for him but ourselves as well. From the moment we walked into St. Joseph Church I’ve felt the Lord’s presence and I truly feel like I am being led through this process. RCIA has given me the opportunity to grow and share in my own faith. Our family is looking forward to calling St. Joseph’s home.”

David Swope: “I have been truly inspired by the other members going through the RCIA journey with me, but my number one inspiration during this journey has been my fiancé, Jennifer. She has taught me many things and, by giving me a different perspective, has been a wonderful resource to discuss different topics. She was and is my motivation for RCIA each and every day. RCIA is helping me understand more about the teachings of the Church and, while it can be easy to get bogged down, gain a deeper understanding of Jesus’ presence in my daily life; Jesus is always present. Our weekly sessions have helped me to lean more on Jesus in my daily life and have helped spark introspective reflection on multiple important topics. The best part of RCIA has been getting to end each session in the Chapel for a moment of silent prayer as it is a great place to escape and just focus on my relationship with Jesus and nothing else.”

Hannah Wilthsire: My husband and his family inspired me to start my spiritual journey into the Catholic faith. I saw how centered Jesus Christ was in their lives and enjoyed attending Sunday Mass with them. Also, my husband and I knew it was important to raise our future children in the Catholic faith. Throughout this process and with prayer, I have gained a deeper understanding of Catholicism and feel closer to God. I am excited to continue to grow in my faith and am glad to have started my spiritual journey 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, April 14, Palm Sunday

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

EASTER TRIDUUM

THURSDAY, April 18, Holy Thursday

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

FRIDAY, April 19, Good Friday

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

SATURDAY, April 20, Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer with Ephphetha Rite: 8:30 am
Blessing of Easter Food: 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.

SUNDAY, April 21, Easter Sunday

Sunday 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, April 20)
Two priests each weekend
Saturday, April 13: 10:00-11:00 am and 3:00-4:00 pm

St. Joseph Youth Ministry

By Teens For Teens is a youth ministry program for students in grades 7-12. During the months of September through May, teens meet for faith nights, service projects, social events and guest speakers. In the summer, members gather on Tuesday evenings in June for "Tuesday at Joe's". Other summer events include participation in Vacation Bible School, retreats and summer outings.

High school teens involved in BTFT are invited to become Faith Mentors for our Confirmation candidates. As a Faith Mentor, students journey with the confirmandi and lead small groups during faith nights and on retreat. Senior Faith Mentors prepare witness talks and mentor our younger leaders too. This past year, seven of our Faith mentors attended Notre Dame Vision, a leadership retreat held at the University of Notre Dame. During their week long experience, they learned more about their own spiritual gifts and ways to bring others closer to Christ. Faith Mentors reveal their gifts to others in the St. Joseph community through service and participation in youth activities. When asked about their commitment to BTFT, Faith Mentors shared some of their comments:

"I love being a leader in BTFT. I have the opportunity to inspire young Catholics about how they can grow in their faith and it's awesome to see my own spiritual growth."
Courtney-SHS

"I really enjoy being involved in the parish's youth ministry. One of my spiritual gifts is evangelism, and I am able to use this gift as a BTFT Faith Mentor."
Kaitlyn-Padua

"I feel good about myself when I make a positive impact on a kid's life-especially when it involves the Catholic faith."
Patrick-SHS

"I feel kids look up to me and want to learn how God works through me."
Evan-Padua

"I was truly filled with joy seeing the confirmandi participate in discussions and get involved on retreat. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my gifts with others.

Lauren-Magnificat

"I used to be the one being taught, and now I help students become closer to God and follow in Jesus' footsteps. Having the opportunity to give back and to be the leader makes me happy."
Albert-Holy Name

"Teaching these kids strengthens my own faith as I see, through them, the importance of faith in the future."
Jack-St. Ignatius

"Using my spiritual gifts of

encouragement and knowledge are important to me. Being involved in the Church makes me a stronger person and helps me grow in my faith with God."
Cassie-SHS

"Being a part of Youth Group is important to me because it is a chance for me to grow in my faith with other teens."
Katherine-SHS

"Service is something that I love and by being a BTFT Faith mentor, I am able to put that gift of service to use by helping the youth."
Eddie-St. Ignatius

"I am doing what God wants everyone to do...help spread His Word to everyone."
Colin-Padua

By Teens For Teens is open to all 7th-12th graders and no registration is required. Please check our website at www.sjohio.org/youth to see our current calendar and event schedule.

IT'S NOT SUMMER WITHOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School starts with a ROAR on June 17th. Students entering grades K-5 are invited to join our crews for a week of prayer, Bible stories, friendship, Mass and FUN! ROAR VBS is an African adventure for the entire crew! Registration will open on April 1, 2019. Teens interested in volunteering should complete the youth application on our website. We welcome back all of our teen and parent volunteers from last year, too!



Recipes From Our Winners

Winter Thaw: more like winter snow storm. Thank you to all who braced the weather and attended the Winter Thaw. We had approximately 100 people attend the event and raised \$500 for the Heritage College Scholarship Fund. This year's winners and their recipes follows:

Leo's Special Chili Made by the Trunzo Family

Using a large stock pot
 Two pounds ground beef chuck
 One pound Italian sausage
 Three-15 oz. cans of chili beans drained
 One-15 oz. can chili beans in spicy sauce
 Two-28 oz. cans diced tomatoes in juice
 One-6 oz. can tomato paste
 One large yellow onion, chopped
 Three stalks of celery, chopped
 One green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
 One red bell pepper seeded and chopped
 Two green chili peppers, seeded and chopped
 One tablespoon bacon bits
 Four cubes of beef bouillon
 One half cup of beer
 One quarter cup chili powder
 One tablespoon Worcestershire sauce, minced garlic,
 dried oregano
 Two teaspoons ground cumin and hot pepper sauce
 One teaspoon dried basil, salt, pepper, cayenne pepper,
 paprika
 Simmer until cooked
 Top with 1-10.5 bag of corn chips and
 one-eight oz. pkg. of cheddar cheese

"Unstuffed" Cabbage Soup Made by Linda Hudak

Using a large Dutch Oven:
 Fry half pound bacon cut into 1 inch pieces
 remove bacon, keeping fat in the pot
 Add one small head of cabbage cut into one inch pieces,
 cook until soft.
 Season with (1/2 teaspoon each) of the following
 ground mustard, nutmeg, salt and pepper, red pepper
 flakes, fennel seed, coriander
 Add one cup strained and rinsed sauerkraut
 Deglaze pot with one cup white wine
 Add half a cup shredded carrots
 In a separate pan, brown one pound ground beef and half
 pound ground sausage. Strain and add to pan.
 Add bacon, one cup golden raisins, two cups V8 juice,
 one can pureed tomatoes, one cup beef broth
 Let simmer and add salt and pepper to taste.
 Add one cup cooked white rice before serving.



We Welcome These Families To Our Parish Family

Abunimeh
 Aigner-Pointner
 Baeslach
 Beach
 Butler
 Camacho

Chalkley
 Dehil
 Gardner
 Gorney
 Gray
 Herold



Mahoney
 Mangione
 Matusek
 Millard
 Muizzi
 Nolan

Ries
 Rosen
 Siedel
 Solomon
 Wigle
 Zankofski

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy spirit, few are the Catholic community of St. Joseph Parish. We celebrate Eucharist, worship God, and use our God-given gifts to serve all of God's people.