

Our Parish Family Newsletter

Fall 2015



St. Joseph
Catholic Church

a stewardship parish

Feeding Our Family Ministry

It's the first Sunday of the month, the noon Mass is over and you're wondering what is going on in the kitchen! There is a group of people preparing a meal to serve 50 - 75 people. Were you not invited? Yes, you are! If you haven't heard about this new ministry yet, this is your opportunity and official call to become a part of serving our fellow brothers and sisters in East Cleveland.

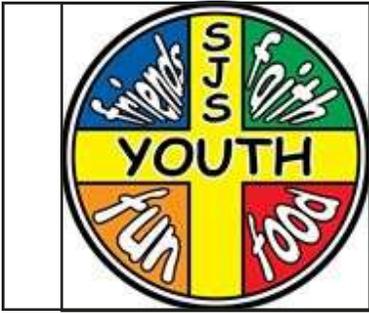
One fellow parishioner, Jayme Thein, has been a member of St. Joseph Church since 1999. She and her husband, Greg, have two children, Colin and Erica, who both attend Padua High School. Jayme has been involved in various church ministries as her children have grown, starting with the preschool PSR program, Vacation Bible School and PSR. She decided to join this ministry because she was hoping to make a difference and build relationships in a community outside of Strongsville. Her daughter Erica, who feels this experience has helped her to "appreciate those things in life we often take for granted, such as food and shelter... one small act of kindness can make a difference in so many lives", often accompanies her. Jayme best describes her experiences: "I have so much respect for the team members who work so hard

to write a menu, shop, obtain donations and prepare enough food to serve 50 - 75 people. The team members, that drive to East Cleveland in all kinds of weather are compassionate and so very generous to the people that they serve. Finally, I could never leave out our brothers and sisters of all ages that we see each week. We get to hear their stories, share in their sadness and celebrate their victories. One woman was so excited to share with me that she was no longer homeless!

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SJS Youth Group

Fall 2015

My name is Linda Zvoncheck and I am expanding my ministry here at St. Joseph Church to include working with the SJS Youth Group. As a former 8th grade teacher at Sts. Joseph and John School, I am excited to plan some great Sunday night events for our teens in grades 7-12.

SJS Youth Group started the back to school season with our first annual "Sundaes on Sunday". Teens from Strongsville High School and all of the area Catholic High Schools gathered in the HFC on August 2nd to give advice to our 9th graders about life in high school. While creating the ultimate ice cream sundae, our teens had the opportunity to ask questions and give advice regarding school, sports, service and faith. Thank you to all who attended and to our celebrity teachers for providing the perfect scoop!

The Steubenville Youth Conference held on July 10-12th was a huge success for our six teens who were able to attend. Thank you to Fr. Joe, Kathy Wolf and Tim McGrath for joining our youth in a weekend that was **LIMITLESS!** Along with meeting teens from all over the United States and Canada, the teens experienced dorm life and college food for the weekend.

Experiencing Eucharistic Adoration in a community of young people left some of our teens speechless. Our teens who attended the conference will be sharing their individual stories during our October SJS Youth session, but the overall impression was one word – **AWESOME!** Come and listen to their stories as we will begin making reservations for our July 2016 visit to Steubenville in January.

As we begin the new year of SJS Youth Group, we welcome grades 7-12 to make time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month to experience fun, faith, friends and food with other teens. Our first session on September 20th called **"Go Fish"** will feature activities and discussions regarding our faith and decision making. Goldfish crackers and Swedish fish will help drive the theme home for our teens!

Finally we hope our college friends are doing well and offer this tweet from Sarah as advice regarding SJS Youth Group.

"s/o to @SJSYOUTH for making Sundays bearable and keeping me sane throughout the week. No matter how busy I am, I will always make time for you."

Follow us on Twitter @SJSYouth and Instagram@sjs_youth or email lzvoncheck@sjohio.org.

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Seeing people leave with a big smile on their face and warm food in their body, truly makes me feel like I can make a difference."

We have teams of cooks who plan and prepare the meals and teams of servers who arrive to transport the prepared food to "Our Family Center" in East Cleveland and

serve it. We serve meals on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month from 5pm – 6pm.

If you want to make a difference in the lives of others please contact Allen or Denise Weaver at 440-268-6128.



*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 going into the new school year!

First, I want to express my appreciation for the patience and understanding exhibited by so many over the course of this summer's parking lot project. Needless to say, thanks to the weather, the project took some unexpected turns, but we clearly have arrived at a finished product in which we can be proud and expect to serve us well long into the future. Without the support that you have offered to the Diocesan *Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope* Campaign, our share of the project would have come from our General Savings. However, 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. We'll soon begin planning for Phase II, which will encompass the areas behind, north, and in front of the school, which will again be a joint-effort between us and the school. They will again be responsible for 60% of the total cost.

Secondly, as exciting as the completion of the parking lot project may be, there is something more exciting on the horizon – something that has not happen at St. Joseph since 1992 – the ordination of a parishioner to the Priesthood.

We anticipate James Kulway's Ordination to the Diaconate late next month and the Priesthood in May 2016. As have his parents (Jim and Sherry), James has been a parishioner for many years and certainly is grateful for the support that so many have offered to him over the years. It's a great opportunity that we have to offer one of our own for service to the Church!

Along with James, we're also happy to welcome Patrick Schultz to our parish community as he begins to minister among us this month. As Patrick writes in this newsletter, he will spend this school year, and especially after his Ordination to the Diaconate until his Ordination to the Priesthood, with us on weekends. As a classmate of James, his presence gives us another reason to celebrate this year. As we anticipate these celebrations, I offer two more suggestions: 1) as we pray for them, please remember Carol Wallington who is in formation for lay ecclesial ministry, and 2) if there is someone who you think would make a great deacon, lay minister, sister, or priest, don't hesitate to mention that to them! You might just be the encouragement that they need. Fr. Anthony, both deacons, and I stand ready to assist anyone who may be thinking of a vocation of service within the Church – give us a call!

In addition, these are not the only items that are worth noting in our newsletter. As you view the newsletter, I hope that you'll take the opportunity to see the stories of the great work occurring in a new outreach ministry, Feeding our Family. In just over eight months, this has grown from a visionary hope into a twice-monthly ministry serving 50-75 people each time! What a great witness to the power of the Spirit at work within our community!

In addition to this new ministry, I invite you to view the article about my own new ministry – as Safety Forces Chaplain to both the Strongsville Fire Department and Strongsville Police Department. I've already had a chance to have a couple ride-alongs and have enjoyed the interactions with our First Responders and the wider Strongsville community. As I was interviewed by one of our parishioners for this, I hope that it may serve to illustrate some more of the responsibilities and opportunities that I will have within our community because of my new responsibilities.

Finally, as you browse the pages, please pay special attention to the experiences of our Youth at Steubenville, the continuation of youth ministry efforts, now under the direction of Linda Zvoncheck, and the very important and active ministry that we have at St. Joseph to those who are undergoing trouble in their marriages, separated, or divorced. Recently, Pope Francis reminded us that the Church should pay special attention to those who are divorced – I'm proud to say that's already been a staple of our activities at our parish for nearly ten years! I'm sure the Holy Father's words will bring renewed discussion of this important topic, I hope this newsletter will offer you some material to share with those who are affected by troubled marriages. We're here to help...certainly extend the offer!

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 and stewards Christ invites us to be!

With my best wishes and prayers,

Father Joe Mamich
Pastor



Welcome
Patrick Schultz

Greetings to all you folks at St. Joe's! My name is Patrick Schultz, and I am entering my ninth and final year of formation at St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe. This year, God and Bishop-willing, I will be ordained a transitional deacon on October 24th, and a priest on May 21st. Throughout this academic school year, I have the privilege of serving in diaconal ministry at this parish!

This means that I will be here to assist at Masses on the weekends, meet with engaged couples,

baptize babies, and preach at various Masses.

To say that I am thrilled about this next year would be a gross understatement.

I come to you from St. Mary Parish in Hudson, Ohio. I am the eldest son of my parents, Rick and Michelle, who celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this year. My younger brother Scott is entering his junior year at Indiana University in Bloomington where he studies business, finance, and Spanish. He's a smart fella!

The most important thing I hope to bring to your community and share with you this year is my love for and relationship with the Lord. Mine is a heart that has been

captured by love, and longs to live and serve Jesus by loving and serving His Bride, the Church, aka, all of you!

It is with great joy and expectation that I am now moving into my final year of formation, which will culminate on the marble floor of the Cathedral sanctuary, where, with my four other classmates, I will lay down my life for the sake of the Bride, pledging to give all that I am to Christ and his Church. I am sincerely grateful and humbled that it is with your Parish community that I will be formed and nurtured throughout these remaining months. I so look forward to meeting you all very soon! Until then, you'll remain in my prayers as I hope I remain in yours! God bless!



Strongsville's Safety Forces Chaplain

Fr. Joe has agreed to become Chaplain for Strongsville's Safety Forces. He was sworn in at the June 1st Strongsville City Council Meeting. He will primarily serve members of Strongsville's Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and Emergency Dispatchers. Fr. Joe has had prior experience as a

Police Chaplain and understands the challenges. He served in that capacity for the City of Stow while he was assigned to Holy Family Parish. He found the experience to be beneficial for the department and for him both as a spiritual servant as well as an individual. While he has had no prior experience as a Fire and Emergency Services or Emergency Dispatcher's Chaplain, he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the members of those departments.

Fr. Joe's vision for the duty of Safety Forces Chaplain is first to serve the Safety Forces Community. He will also be available to assist members of the Strongsville community by reference from safety forces members or a direct request after an incident. A key goal of Fr. Joe's is to develop the Safety Forces Chaplain position not solely as an individual spiritual leader but as a program that will not be exclusively dependent on one person.



All Saints and All Souls – The Church is Larger than you Think!

By: Father Anthony Suso

The Catholic Church is much bigger than any of us could possibly ever imagine. When you step inside St. Joe's for Mass on Sunday and look around you see bricks, mortar, and fellow parishioners. However, our church building and the people in it make up only one third of the whole Catholic Church. All the Catholics here on earth make up what is called the **Church Militant**. We are the Catholics still fighting the earthly battles with sin and evil in the world...our ultimate goal being Heaven. The Catholic Church also has the men and women who have died and are now being purified of their sins in purgatory who are on their way to Heaven. They are called the **Church Purifying**. Lastly, we have the Catholic Church living eternally with God in heaven in perfect happiness and peace. They are called the **Church Triumphant**. All three groups make up the whole **Roman Catholic Church**. Knowing and understanding these three groups of Catholics is the whole point of the Church's celebration of All Saint's day on November 1st and All Soul's day on November 2nd.

We are all called by God to become Saints and friends of God! Our path to sainthood began on the day of our baptism but it didn't end there. Even after baptism, we still have the inclinations and disordered desires to commit sin.

In order to become a saint you first have to know that you are a sinner in need of repentance and forgiveness from God. All the serious sins we have not confessed and had forgiven through the sacrament of reconciliation still need to be dealt with before we can go to heaven. Sin leaves behind an icky residue, much like the salt spray caked on our windshields and cars after the first snow. We need to allow God to wash off the residue of sin, the temporal effects of sin still lingering in souls that need to be purified before we can see God face to face in heaven... that is the Church being purified in purgatory. That is why we pray for the dead at a funeral mass. This is precisely who we commemorate on the Feast of All Soul's. We remember and commend to almighty God, all of our deceased family members and friends in the sure and certain hope that through our prayers and God's mercy they will see God face to face in heaven one day.

We are all called to be saints and we rely on each other's prayers to ultimately achieve our faith's goal, union with God in heaven. It's God's grace that makes us a saint but it's our prayers that help us to know our sins and ask forgiveness from God.



This week remember and pray for a loved one who has died – All Soul's and pray to the saints in the Church for guidance of what it takes to get to heaven – All Saint's. We are just one third of the Church! We are the Church militant on earth, fighting against sin and evil on the way to heaven. We have an obligation to pray for the dead, purifying them of the temporal effects of sin so they may be in heaven one day. Every time we gather at the altar of St. Joe's the saints and angels of heaven, the Church Triumphant, pray with us in triumphant song, acclaiming the great sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Church is much larger than you think; the Feast's of All Saints and All Souls proves that!



Christian Family Renewal through the Loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary



The family unit of a father, mother and child is the most central foundation of society and the Church. Many families today are discouraged by personal sin, daily stresses and busyness of life and need to refocus their living on the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family. The spirit of the Holy Family is stirring through our Parish Consecration and love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pope Francis speaks to us often regarding the importance of prayer and the call to holiness within the family. We become healthier, holier and happier as does our world when we unite in prayer with our good and loving God. Fear, worry and hopelessness are replaced with the peace and joy only God can bring to our lives.

Through the Enthronement of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the home, the family enters into an alliance with their Hearts by way of consecration. The family is brought closer together in love and peace.

The first part of the Enthronement rite took place at St. Joseph Church on June 14th with Fr. Joe officiating. Fr. Joe was very pleased with the number of parishioners in attendance.

During the months of July and August parishioners were scheduled for clergy to visit their homes for their personal Enthronement. July and August were selected for the Feast Days of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Each family received a Two Hearts picture, two blessed Rosaries, a blessed St. Benedict cross, The Daily Acts of Piety prayer book, two brown scapulars, as well as information about the Rosary, Brown Scapular & the Sabbatine Privilege.

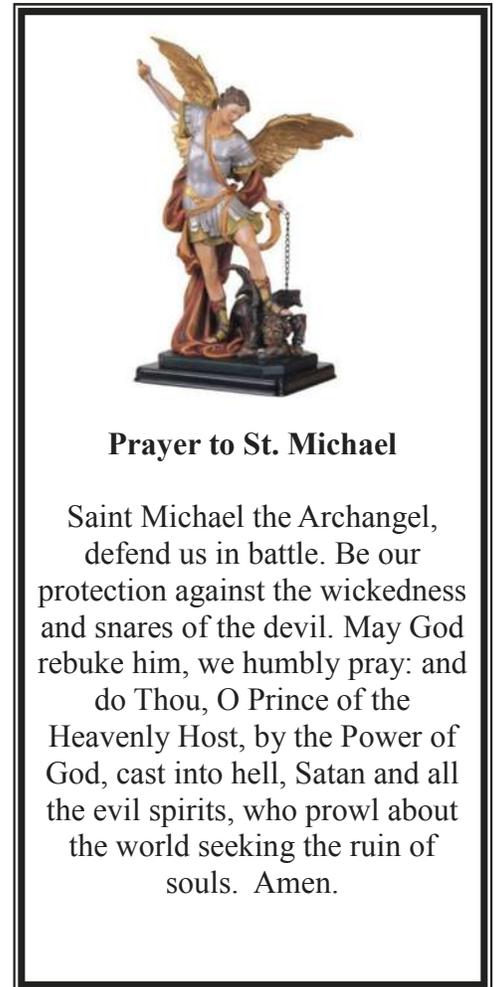
There are 25 families that signed up for Part II of the Enthronement rite. To date, approximately half of the families have had their homes Enthroned to the Two Hearts. All the parishioners remarked how beautiful the Enthronement rite is.

What is amazing is a witness of a woman who shared her story. Jesus and Mary united a couple living together with child to marry after their Mother had her home Enthronement to the Two Hearts. Each family receiving the Enthronement in their home is a seed planted to grow and flourish with the love of Jesus and Mary.

We are very thankful and blessed that Fr. Joe, Fr. Anthony and our deacons were chosen and accepted the invitation by Jesus and Mary to bring the Enthronement rite to our Parish community.

For more information on having your home enthroned with the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary please contact our parish office at 440-238-5555.

In times of trial, fear or worry recite the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel to strengthen and protect Christian families.



Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Broken Rings

Separation and divorce is a painful process for most people. Because of this, and the need for support during this difficult time, St. Joseph and St. John Neumann Churches are again offering two different programs for divorce recovery with a support group for those who are experiencing the hurt and uncertainty that often accompanies separation and divorce.

The first program, **Divorce Care** is a 14- week session, which **begins on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 7:30pm at St. John Neumann Church in the Marian Room.**

This is a video-based program that includes subjects like Facing my Anger, Depression, Forgiveness, New Relationships, and Understanding the Catholic Church's Teaching regarding Annulments, plus others.

Anyone who is in need of this type of support and encouragement is most welcome to attend. Based on availability, fliers will be available in the vestibule, outlining a complete schedule and topics covered during a 14- week program focused on the divorce recovery program.

The second program, **Sacred Steps to Peace** is a Catholic Divorce Recovery program for the separated and divorced that uses a pilgrimage retreat format. With clergy as your guide, it focuses on spiritual healing and growth through education, discussion and reflection on Scriptures and Church teachings. This will take place on **the third Friday evening of each month at St. Joseph Church, in the Holy Family Center Room 1, starting at 7:00pm on September 18, 2015.**

The evening begins at 6:30pm in the Church with the recitation of the Rosary.

Each participant receives a workbook, and the evening ends in a table discussion. Both Divorce Care and Sacred Steps to Peace have a small fee for the workbooks.

St. Joseph Church also offers a special ministry to **Couples in Crisis** experiencing difficulties in their marriages who would like to enhance their marriages to prevent divorce. This process has been very successful over the past few years with an 80% rate in saving marriages in crisis. It is a couple-directed program that is led by Carol Petro, a Licensed Social Worker from the Cleveland Diocese Marriage and Family Office and Deacon Bob Lester. You will receive a workbook to serve as a guide. At present, there are no fees for this program.

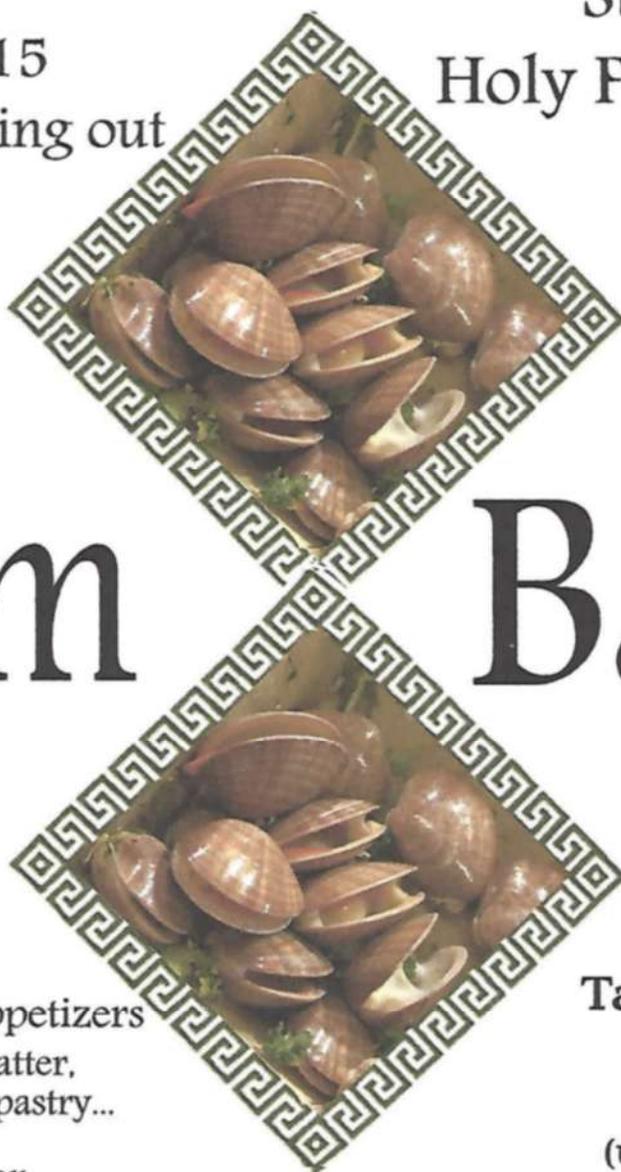
For further information on these three programs, please contact Deacon Bob Lester, at 440-238-5555, or email him at rlester@sjohio.org.

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.

Join us
October 24, 2015
for a great evening out

St. Joseph
Holy Family Center



Clam Bake

Menu

5:30pm – 6:30pm Appetizers
bruschetta, antipasto platter,
warm Brie wrapped in pastry...

6:45pm – 8pm Dinner
salad, clams, chicken or steak, cole slaw,
corn, baked or sweet potato, roll & butter

8pm – 10pm Dancing with a live band
50's, 60's, & 70's Classics,
Raffle Drawings & of course dessert

Takin' a Vacation!

Two tickets on
United Airlines
(up to 120,000 miles)
PLUS
A week stay at a location
of your choice
(Booked through RCI)
\$25 Raffle
Value based on where you go

Ticket price includes an open beer/wine bar

Order your tickets before October 5th and save!

\$45 Chicken "n" Clams \$50 Steak "n" Clams

after October 5th add \$5

For more information call Dawna Meng 440-238-3244