



St. Joseph

Catholic Church

Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



Our Parish Family Newsletter

Winter 2016

A View From The Loft

We are blessed at St. Joseph Parish to have many committed and talented musicians serving in our liturgies. We asked all of them why they serve in music ministry, and here are their inspiring responses:

"Hi, my name is Marie and I love to play my French Horn at Mass. Every Mass I play, I pray that God helps me play the best I can and share the voice that He has given me with everyone in a pleasing way. It's not about me, but about serving others in a way He allows."

"When I moved to Strongsville, I tried to find a church that I could go to regularly and hopefully do cantor duties. When I started attending Mass at St. Joseph's, I just knew that was where I wanted to share my God-given talent. So, I approached Luke one time after Mass and he was very encouraging and welcoming. It was an easy decision. As a devout Catholic, singing was something that always gave me inspiration." *Ariel Flores*

"My clarinet had been in the closet for nearly 25 years. I wondered if I would be able to play it again and Luke encouraged me to give it a try. He helped by providing me with the music I needed to learn in advance. Being involved with music ministry has given me a new way to serve the Parish and give glory to God by hopefully adding

a different color to the beauty of our Sunday worship."

Pasty Brodie

"Singing in the choir helps me be fully present in the celebration of the Mass, in mind, body and spirit. In mind, because I have to follow the Celebrant and Melissa to sing the right words at the right time. In body, because you have to sing at the right pitch, hear what the other members are singing and sing at the right volume. In spirit, because to sing properly, you have to be emotionally invested. What better emotional investment to give praise to the Lord? According to Saint Augustine, "sing once, pray twice" and we need all the help we can get!"

Dave Carney, Praise Team

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A View From The Loft

"I like Youth Choir because I learn new songs and I learn some important life lessons from the practices we have. My favorite thing about the Youth Choir is learning new songs and forming some friendships with other members in the choir. It warms my heart to see other kids that are younger or around my age singing their hearts out to the Lord and giving Him thanks. Kareece told me, "I love the songs, they are very inspirational to me."

"Back in the late '90's, I lost both my parents. Their parish, the one I grew up in as a child, had a funeral choir. I was so impressed and comforted by their music that I



returned to St. Joseph's and joined our New Life Choir. It feels good to be there to pray and to sing with the other members of the choir for the deceased and their families. I hope that in some small way, it adds to the celebration of their loved one's life."

Jackie Hildebrand, New Life Choir

"God has given me a need inside to sing His music. I am not

someone who likes to pray out loud, but I do love to sing my faith out loud. This is my way of passing my faith along."

Diane Springer, Sunday Choir

"I have been ringing for the last twelve years. When I began, I didn't read music and had never played an instrument. I participate in the St. Joseph Church Bell Choir, the Strongsville United Methodist Church Bell Choir and the Strongsville Community Bell Choir. I love to ring spiritual music because it touches my heart and draws me closer to God."

Nina Vito-Jones, Handbell Choir

If these wonderful words of wisdom speak to you, please consider being a part of our music ministry!

"33 Days to Morning Glory"



This past July, the **St. Joseph MOM'S Group** offered a six week retreat titled "33 Days to Morning Glory", written by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC. The retreat consisted of daily readings from Father Gaitley's book and a weekly meeting to discuss and watch the accompanying video.

On August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, the group made their Consecration to Jesus through

Mary, commonly called Marian Consecration. Having grown spiritually as a retreat group during these six weeks, we have all experienced spiritual growth and devotion for the Blessed Mother.

A few of the members have said the following. "Once I turned to Mary, everything in my life changed. I became more serious about my prayer life, by making a "prayer corner" in my home and going to confession regularly. Praying the Rosary and reading the Bible has led me closer to her Son and continues to do so every day."

"I pray much more meaningfully, treasuring the privilege of talking to her as a person, asking her help as our Queen.

The retreat has helped me to better understand Mary's role within our Catholic faith. It has also helped me to include Mary in my prayer life, in addition to deepening my relationship with Jesus."

Father Gaitley describes our Blessed Mother's role in the following way. "Mary is uniquely, particularly, personally your mother and my mother and she doesn't lose us in the crowd." He wrote the book for one main reason: "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary truly is the surest, easiest, shortest, and most perfect means to becoming a saint." Who wouldn't want to dive into such a blessing?

2016 Annual Report

St. Joseph Parish

Dear Parish Family:

Each year our Winter Newsletter affords me a chance to write and share with you an Annual Report about the activities, life, and finances of our parish community. Once again this year, there are countless examples of how we have allowed Christ to touch our lives and enrich the lives of others through our prayer, service, and our presence within our wider community. There are two things which have made me very proud surrounding the finances of our parish during the past year. First, we underwent and passed with “flying colors” our 3-year Diocesan Review, and secondly, while other parishes have found it necessary to work to increase their Sunday Offertory, your strong financial support has made that unnecessary here. With a very grateful heart, I present you our Annual Report covering the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

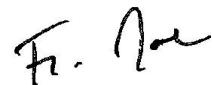
With this past summer’s completion of the parking lot and the ongoing conversation about the replacement of our church’s organ, I am proud to say that we have completed all of our planned capital improvements. Outside of the organ, we do not anticipate any major capital expenses within the next several years. Given that the majority of our facilities are over fifty years old, this is tremendous and evidence of planning, forethought, and strong financial support. Your support of the *Rooted in Faith: Forward in Hope* Campaign and your continued generous support of our weekly offertory has allowed us to meet these current needs while laying the groundwork for a solid future.

Parish Life Statistics	2016	2015
Adults welcomed into the Church	9	8
Infant Baptisms	57	68
Marriages	22	18
Funerals	70	69
8th Grade Confirmations	75	88
2nd Grade First Communions	74	61
Registered Households	2,593	2,526
Registered Parishioners	6,731	6,516

With an eye towards the future, as we move on from our parish’s 70th Anniversary, we not only recall those who had gone before, but set a course for our future. Our Commemorative Brick Plazas, along with the benches, and ongoing sales of bricks, witness to those who are and have been a part of our parish, but have begun to solidify support for our future. As you are aware, the net proceeds from this project will continue to go into the St. Joseph Parish Endowment. As its slogan states, our Endowment Fund is meant to help us share our faith day, while helping us to secure our future. All of the donations to this fund remain completely at St. Joseph Parish for the benefit of our parish and our parishioners. You can always visit www.sjohio.org/endowment or give the Parish Office a call to find out more.

As you view our report, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact Dee Downey, Finance Council Chairperson at 440.236.3496, Joe Shuman, our Business Manager at 440.238.5555, or me. You may also wish to visit www.sjohio.org/finance for details on our Finance Council or for past Annual Reports.

I am hopeful of your continued prayerful, active, and financial support of our parish. I continue my pledge to always strive to be the best steward of our shared resources. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide our work, that way, together, with St. Joseph as our guide, we might continue to accomplish great things!



St. Joseph Parish
Statement of Church Revenue and Expenses

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget
	2016	2015	2017
Parish Receipts:			
Offertory Collections	\$ 1,208,868	\$ 1,184,291	\$ 1,206,400
Donations & Bequests	86,814	15,008	-
Maintenance & Repair Fund ¹	143,183	155,458	135,100
Income From Parish Programs	121,050	149,050	145,999
Investment & Endowment Income	5,354	10,010	5,361
Miscellaneous Receipts ²	95,530	93,298	62,930
Designated Collections	24,243	29,083	21,755
Total Parish Receipts	1,685,042	1,636,198	1,577,545
Parish Disbursements:			
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	599,051	638,418	616,041
Rectory & Household	16,993	15,924	10,700
Parish Office & Administration	80,128	70,912	74,727
Altar, Sanctuary & Liturgical ³	59,485	71,731	61,598
Community Outreach ⁴	32,996	38,130	37,480
Religious Education ⁵	31,731	36,067	33,080
Stewardship & Evangelization	35,353	26,057	36,463
Utilities	48,902	53,053	52,510
Insurance & Property Taxes	18,511	18,947	19,600
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	62,159	57,983	45,857
Diocesan Assessment	136,266	143,292	137,604
School Support ⁶	276,759	278,597	256,000
Designated Collections	24,243	29,133	21,755
Capital Expenditures	367,863	190,818	107,029
Total Parish Disbursements	1,790,440	1,669,062	1,510,444
TOTAL PARISH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(105,398)	(32,864)	67,101
Less - Mortgage Principal Payments	85,667	96,513	85,595
TOTAL PARISH CASH FLOW (USAGE)⁷	\$ (191,065)	\$ (129,377)	\$ (18,494)

¹ These funds help to offset plant operating and capital expenditures.

² Includes \$52,411 in 2016, \$57,264 in 2015 and \$24,840 in the 2017 budget from *Rooted In Faith* donations.

³ Includes all expenses associated with Mass, our Parish Mission and our Parish Programs & Functions.

⁴ Includes Social Concerns Ministries, such as Feeding Our Families, West Side Catholic Center Meals, Mission of Hope and Bereavement.

⁵ Includes programming and resources for PSR, Youth Ministry and all educational ministries (no salaries are included).

⁶ Includes our parish subsidy to our interparochial school and any parish-awarded tuition assistance.

⁷ Our negative cash flow includes: in 2016, \$201,792 for the parking lot replacement project and \$98,944 for the garage addition; in 2015, \$53,509 for the parking lot replacement project and \$103,905 for the garage addition and in 2017, \$63,479 for the balance of the parking lot replacement project. Funds for the parking lot and garage addition projects were raised in previous years.

St. Joseph Parish
Statement of Church Assets and Liabilities

	Balance As Of June 30,	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Checking, Savings And Investments		
Checking Account Balances	\$ 9,519	\$ 11,406
Savings and Investment Account Balances	367,104	636,356
Parish Improvement Account	<u>133,515</u>	<u>388,126</u>
Total Checking, Savings and Investments	510,138	1,035,888
Accounts Receivable	<u>69,842</u>	<u>549</u>
Total Assets	\$ 579,980	\$ 1,036,437
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 31,536	\$ 104,817
Income Received In Advance ⁸	-	192,111
Loans, Notes and Mortgages Payable	<u>184,724</u>	<u>270,391</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>216,260</u>	<u>567,319</u>
FUND BALANCE		
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	469,118	501,982
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	<u>(105,398)</u>	<u>(32,864)</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>363,720</u>	<u>469,118</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 579,980</u>	<u>\$ 1,036,437</u>

⁸ School portion of parking lot project.

St. Joseph Parish
Major Capital Projects Completed Between October 2011 and June 2016

Hearing Loop System
Interior Painting
Bell Tower Tuck-pointing
Garage Addition
Parking Lot Replacement
Demolition of Mary House
St. Joseph Plaza Garden
Remodel of both Rectory Guest Suites
Good Shepherd Statue Shrine
Technology: New phone system
Technology: New computers, server, & WiFi
Repair: Church Tower Bells
Replacement: HVAC Unit HFC Kitchen
Replacement: HVAC Unit Parish Office
Replacement: Rectory AC
New Electronic LED Sign at Pearl Road
Replacement: Rectory Roof

As this list recounts, our parish has completed many major capital projects during the past five years. While some benefited from specific gifts and some were a product of the Rooted *in Faith: Forward in Hope* Campaign, the majority are a product of your generous financial support of our parish, the efforts of our Parish Staff, and the assistance of our Finance Council in their counsel with me about the administration of the financial resources of our parish. Together, we have accomplished much and because of this work, we are looking forward to enjoying the benefits of a solid campus to allow the ministries and faith of our parishioners to continue to grow!

Our Legacy Memorialized



When Fr. Joseph McGraw, our founding pastor, first arrived on the site of our parish back in 1946, he never could have envisioned how our parish community would be today. Regardless, Fr. McGraw worked together with our first families in laying the foundations of our parish. Through their hard work, not only was the first church completed, but in four short years, St. Joseph School opened, and in less than twenty years, plans were underway for our current church. All of these things laid the foundations for a legacy that we benefit from today. We have the gift of our facilities, parish, and community because of those who worked hard in the past to leave us a future.

Having marked our parish's 70th anniversary on June 10th, we appreciate and recall those who have gone before us and work to leave a legacy for those who will come after us. Our legacy may not be in the same brick and mortar as theirs was, but ours is equally as valuable. The fabric of our parish has been built and nourished within the walls of our building, but Christ has formed a people of His own, made of our flesh and blood. These are the names and lives who have been memorialized

by the bricks, benches, and underneath the flagpoles. These are the legacy that we are forming and preparing to hand to our future parishioners.

When we gathered on Friday, October 7 to dedicate these plazas, all of these people and more were on our minds as we gathered on a crisp yet beautiful early fall evening to celebrate Evening Prayer and the Dedication. As you will see in the pictures, many parishioners were on hand as was Fr. Bob Sanson, our Pastor Emeritus, who seems to be thoroughly enjoying his retirement, gathered for the celebration.

We were also privileged to welcome the Honor Guard from the Strongsville VFW Post 3345, not only were they there to raise our flags, but also the post donated our first American flag.



We are grateful for their presence and gift which was offered on behalf of all who have proudly served our country!

While we are grateful to see this project come to be on our grounds, it's not over yet. Although all of the benches and flagpoles are sold, our project continues, until all the bricks are sold. Please consider participating in this project as a way of memorializing any special occasion including birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and more! With a minimum donation of \$100, donations of bricks for any of these occasions allows you to remember your loved ones in a special way while helping to provide for the future of our parish as funds raised benefit the St. Joseph Parish Endowment Fund. Our St. Joseph Parish Endowment Fund helps us to continue "sharing our faith, while securing our future"!

You may continue to find order forms in the Parish Office, Literature Rack in the Gathering Area, or by visiting, www.sjohio.org/bricks. Bricks will be installed at the discretion of the installer so we cannot guarantee where your brick will be placed. Our plan with the installer is to continue installation of bricks in groups of approximately twenty. If you have any questions, please contact Janusz or Rita Zak at 440.268.0778 or email, janusz.bricks@gmail.com.

As Fr. McGraw could not have imagined how our parish would be in 2016, who knows what it will be like in 2086? **Our presence, prayers, and support today are contributing to what we will be then!**

Our Partnership with San Jose' Villanueva, El Salvador

Many parishioners are familiar with St. Joseph's beautiful partnership with San Jose' Villanueva, El Salvador. In 2004, while on a trip to COAR (Community of Oscar A. Romero) in Zaragoza, El Salvador, Fr. Sanson sought to establish an on-going relationship with a parish in El Salvador. The director of COAR pointed Fr. Sanson in the direction of the parish of San Jose' Villanueva, just across the highway, and the journey began.

The partnership that started twelve years ago has grown in so many ways. We started with the Spiritual Partnerships and the Educational Partnerships. Families praying for one another and parishioners here supporting students in San Jose' Villanueva through scholarships have enabled many in both parishes to be active in this relationship. Additionally, parishioners have sponsored the construction of chapels in this region of El Salvador and celebrated together. Epilogos Charities, with Mike & Susie Jenkins, has helped with the administration of the resources we

send to San Jose' Villanueva, as well as providing additional opportunities for involvement by parishioners. Many from our parish have spent time at the Epilogos Volunteer House, sharing meals with Mike, Susie, Ana (the housekeeper/cook) and Ana's son, Salvador, who has grown from a little boy into a young man during the many years of the partnership.



One of our groups that took students & staff from Berea-Midpark High School to San Jose' Villanueva for the past 7 years had to suspend their 2016 trip, due to increased gang violence.

As the group searched for a project still connected to San Jose' Villanueva, an idea was presented.

Could we bring up a student from that community to our community, allowing him to attend school here, as an exchange student? Calls were made, meetings arranged, funds raised, visas were processed, and our partnership expanded.

Victor Salvador Vallee Cruz arrived in Cleveland on August 9th. Victor (he goes by Victor at Padua, but goes by Salvador for those who have known him for a while) is the son of Ana, the Epilogos cook and housekeeper. He is attending Padua Franciscan High School as a junior, and will live with Shelley & Rick Mack until he graduates in 2018. Victor is a fine young man with great study habits and marvelous English skills. His first few months have gone very well. Victor is adjusting well to our food, our sports teams, (he loves sports) and Padua. He is looking forward to experiencing snow for the first time, but we will see how long that excitement lasts! Many of the people from our area who have visited San Jose' Villanueva have already made him feel welcome, creating a wonderful **extended family** for his stay in Cleveland. Please look for him at Mass and other parish functions, welcoming into the community of St. Joseph Church-Strongsville.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – 2016

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Communal Penance Service

TUESDAY

December 13, 7:00 pm

SATURDAYS 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Saturday - 12/17 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Tuesday- 12/20 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

No Confessions on Saturday
December 24

CHRISTMAS MASSES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm in Church (Children's Choir &
Bell Choir Prelude)

With seating in both the Church and HFC

6:00 pm in Church (Praise Team)
11:00 pm Christmas Night Mass
(Musical Prelude: 10:30 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 am-10:00am-Noon

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, VIGIL
4:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 am
10:00 am
Noon

Westside Catholic Center

St Joseph Parish provides a good opportunity for families and individuals who have the desire to serve people in need or just want to get an introduction to social concerns but have limited time. For over ten years, parishioners have been serving breakfast and dinners at the Westside Catholic Center and their Women and Children Shelter. The commitment is relatively low, volunteers can volunteer once a year or several times a year. Each commitment is about three hours. Since 1977, the West Side Catholic Center located on the outskirt of Ohio City has offered hot meals, hospitality, clothing and household goods, emergency services, advocacy, a women and children's shelter and a housing solutions program to those in need at no charge, regardless of religious affiliation. St. Joseph Church is one of many churches and organizations that contribute to its mission. Besides serving meals, money has been donated from the St. Joseph Golf Outing and the Soul Race. In 2015, St. Joseph Parish received the **Sr. Kathleen Kilbane, "CSJ Walk in Faith Award"** from the West Side

Catholic Center. This honors the significant support that our Parish has offered to their programs over the years. For more information about the "Westside Catholic Center", you can go to their website www.wsccenter.org

Many find serving meals at the Westside Catholic Center to be educational and rewarding. It can be an eye opener especially for kids. Sometimes you don't realize or appreciate how good things are until you witness firsthand people in need of food and shelter. Some people living in an outer ring suburb might not realize that there are a lot of people in the intercity living below the poverty level. This is especially true for young kids. When serving at the Westside Catholic Center one may realize it can be very rewarding. While it's our Christian duty to serve people in need, many find it's more of a blessing to give than to receive.

St Joseph Church provides two opportunities for serving meals at the Westside Catholic Center:

1. There are opportunities on the first and fifth Saturday of each month for six to ten parishioners to serve breakfast to 100 to 150

needy clients. The volunteers consist of individuals and families. This opportunity is very family friendly. It is also good for high school students who need service hours. Volunteers get to the center around 8:00 am to prepare breakfast and they are normally done serving by 10:30 am.

2. A group of two to four parishioners prepare and serve dinner for up to 30 women and children on the first and third Sunday evenings at WSCC's Women and Children Shelter. The volunteers get to the shelter around 5:00 pm to heat up or finish preparing the meal. The Volunteers are usually done by 7:30 pm. Some volunteers prepare their favorite family recipes and others bring prepared foods from GFS. Either way, the volunteers are reimbursed with GFS gift certificates from the "Sharing Tree". Additional volunteers are especially needed for the Sunday meals. New volunteers are trained by veteran volunteers.

If you have any questions about the opportunities at the Westside Catholic Center or would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Miller at 440.238.9439 or email tmiller87@wowway.com



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.