



OUR PARISH

Family Newsletter

Spring 2017

Saint Joseph
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



Retired, but not from Priesthood!

Since I retired on July 1, 2016, one of my greatest joys is to return to St. Joseph Church, where I was pastor for twenty years, to renew my friendships and connections. For almost fifty years as a priest, I have been busy, and now I have some breathing room, and praying room too.

Which reminds me: **Save the Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Noon Mass.** Fr. Joe has been so gracious to invite me to celebrate my 50th anniversary as a priest with you. All are invited!

I now live in Vermilion, on the beautiful Lagoons, where I built a house with Fr. Frank Kosem in 1982, and now it is my residence (he built his own retirement house for 2019). I help with Masses not only at St. Mary's in Vermilion, but also at parishes all over the Diocese of Cleveland. While I will always continue to serve God's people, I am trying to balance my life and schedule. I try to learn what I used to tell aging people-that "**my worth is not just in my productivity, but also in who I am, as a priest and person**". As I become more limited by age (only 75), I want time to reflect, to read, to host my family and friends, to work out, and yes, to nap!

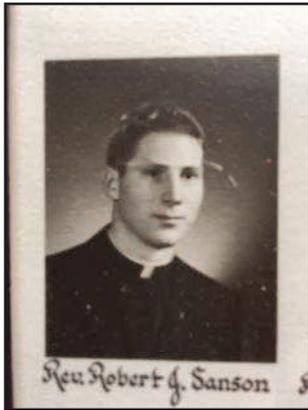
Besides helping with Masses and confessions, I am the chaplain to the (lay) Third Order Franciscans of the Lorain area, meeting at St. Anthony on Lake Erie. I continue to serve as a Canon lawyer as a judge in the Marriage Tribunal, and as advocate in child sexual abuse cases, both for victims and for those accused. This has been a painful but necessary ministry. On the joyful side, I belong to the "Apostolate of the Sea", approved by the U.S. Bishops' Conference to be chaplain on cruise ships. **What a gig!** I returned just before Christmas from a two-week cruise to Southeast Asia: Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. I get to celebrate daily Mass for people from all over the world, and travel the world, which is so enriching and interesting. I have been to the Baltic (Scandinavia, Russia, Estonia, and Germany), to Australia/New Zealand, the Mediterranean, Panama Canal and Alaska.

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Retired, but not from Priesthood!



I have had a wonderful life, beginning in Cleveland Hts. Even though I had no religious upbringing, I met Fr. Paul Lehner on my street, and he invited me to St. Louis School. That decision changed my life. I chose to make 1st Communion in 6th grade, visited the seminary in the 7th grade, and asked to join in the 8th grade. As a 14-year-old, I went to Borromeo High School in 1955, and stayed 8 years on that property, completing Borromeo College. After 4 more years at St. Mary Seminary, I was ordained in 1967 with 22 others (six of them now deceased). My dorm prefect and teacher in 1955, Msgr. Bob Wolff, is now in my priests' support group at age 90!

In 1957, my mother drove me to St. Joseph's in Strongsville to see Fr. Lehner, who lived with Fr. McGraw, as he built St. Ambrose Parish as the first pastor. **Who would ever think that this kid would return in 1991 as the pastor!** I thank God for a real variety of ministries. After serving 4 years at St. Columbkille in Parma, I was called to train as a canon lawyer in Rome, and completed my doctoral studies in Ottawa, Canada.

I worked at the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal for 13 years. As a canonist, I also taught in the seminary for 8 years. In my first class was Fr. Mark Latcovich, whose first assignment was St. Joseph's in Strongsville, and who is now the Rector-President of Borromeo and St. Mary Seminary.

In 1986, I was accepted as an Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of America, where I taught priests, sisters, laypersons and seminarians for 4 years. When I returned from Washington, DC, I was at St. John Bosco in Parma Hts. for just a year, before being chosen as the new pastor at St. Joseph's, when Fr. Tony Dodd resigned due to health reasons.

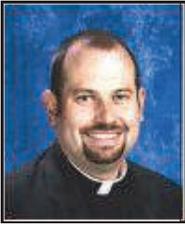
I had planned to retire at 70 in 2011, but the age was raised to 75, starting with me! I did enjoy my last assignment as Senior Parochial Vicar at St. Peter Church in North Ridgeville, which was also a very loving and supportive parish. The best part was not having to do "administration," but could be a priest full time.

My love for the missions in El Salvador has been so important in my life, from my first visit in 1982, to my joining the Board of Trustees of COAR, the Children's Village, to establishing our Sister-Parish of San Jose Villanueva in 2004.

My main fun activities were singing with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus for 8 years, snow and water skiing for 47 years, and bicycling 150 miles to Cedar Point for MS for 22 years.

Pray for me as I will pray for you in my "golden" years towards sunset and sunrise.





*From the Desk
of
Fr. Joe Mamich*

Dear Parish Family:

Happy March! We're in the midst of what has been a second relatively nice winter. As you're reading this, we are just beginning Lent 2017.

We are probably well-aware of the three practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Each of these affords us an opportunity to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" as utilizing these practices can help us to become focused upon Jesus and his presence within our daily lives and our dealing with others. 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. I hope that this Lent will be a blessed time for you!

In the midst of this Lenten Season and in the realm of prayer, we will once again have our Annual Weekend of Eucharistic Adoration from Friday, March 24 continuing through Sunday, March 26. This will be our Third Annual Devotions conducted in this manner. I have been impressed to see how the attendance has increased over the years and I hope the trend will continue this year. 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 7pm Mass on Friday and continuing overnight and throughout the weekend, with the exception of Masses. Whether

or not you stop in for a minute or an entire hour time-slot, I encourage you to take the opportunity to stop in and pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Registration begins the first weekend of March and will be available in the Gathering Area after Masses and through our parish website.

One of the fruits of the prayer before the Blessed Sacrament should be found in our parish community. Such prayer can take root in many aspects of our parish. Most recently, I feel that we saw the Lord's hand in the development of our Parish Mission Statement. Since last summer, our consultative groups (Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Pastoral Staff) worked on this. This work was undertaken through our various commissions and resulted in a November retreat where participants brought their work and together developed our new Parish Mission Statement, which reads: ***"Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are the Catholic community of St. Joseph Parish. We celebrate the Eucharist, worship God, and use our God-given gifts to serve all of God's people."***

Research into the concept of mission statements, particularly those for Catholic parishes, illustrates that parish mission statements should help to explain who a parish is, what it does, and why things are undertaken. I hope that people would be able to get a sense of our parish through reading our Mission Statement. Going forward as a community, I hope that this statement will help to

provide a lens for the planning of our various commissions, ministries, and events. I'm proud of the process, consultation, and prayer that went into developing our new statement and am happy that we have been able to update it. Over the course of the next months and years, I would expect that we will continue to flesh out how we can best live out our Parish Mission Statement through our activities, ministries, and life as a parish.

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 7 of this newsletter for the liturgical schedules for the upcoming celebration of Holy Week. As Catholics, we believe 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!

We are a parish that is blessed with many gifts and talents – together as we offer what we have been given – we are transformed and together, we become better disciples of our great Lord! With continued prayer and our efforts, we'll continue to make a difference in our community.

With you, on the Lenten journey,

Fr. Joe

Congratulations to our RCIA Catechumens and Candidates!



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has been busy preparing our catechumens and candidates for full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 15, 2017. They have spent many months learning about Jesus' life, the sacraments and the season of Lent. All of them come from different walks in life and different faith backgrounds but together they form an amazing part of our St. Joseph Parish family. This year, we are blessed to have five adults with the desire to enter into the Catholic Church during the Easter Season. David Shipe and Marina Kennedy are preparing to receive all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Shaleika Vargas and Stephanie Stepanik, who are already baptized Christians and will make a Profession of Faith,

Confirmation and receive First Holy Communion. Finally, we have David Diemert who is already a baptized Catholic, has received Holy Communion, and is going to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 1 with Bishop Gries. These individuals do not make this journey alone! Each week, the candidates come together for prayer and study, supported by the clergy, their sponsors and the RCIA team.

We asked the Catechumens and Candidates the following two questions: **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? Here are just a few of their responses!

Marina Kennedy says, the biggest inspiration for her wanting to become Catholic are "my girls, they are 6 years old and 8 years old and they go to St. Joseph and John School. I have watched their journey in learning about the Catholic faith and their love for Christ. The RCIA process has helped to explain the meaning behind all the questions I have about the Church and what we believe."

David Diemert says, "What began to lead me to thinking about becoming Catholic was studying church history. I was attending Moody Bible Institute, studying to become a Protestant Pastor. At that point in my studies, I was beginning to ask questions as to which Protestant denomination I was going to become a Pastor. As I studied the many different denominations, I began to study

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Congratulations to our RCIA Catechumens and Candidates!

the church history of them as well as Orthodox Christianity and Catholicism. I really began to want to become Catholic when I began to see that the Early Christians worshiped, believed, and prayed most like Catholics than any other denomination. Dr. David Anders' conversion story, a Protestant theologian who became Catholic, also had a big impact on me." David goes on to say that "being physically in the church, having dialogue with other Catholics, making Catholic friends, and learning more about each aspect of the Catholic faith is deepening my faith in the Catholic Church; which, in turn, is drawing me more into relationship with Jesus Christ."

David Shipe says, "What I like most about the Catholic Church is how the Masses are structured. It is essentially the same from church to church no matter where I have attended. I like that the Catholic faith and community is unified and can be traced back to the early years." David goes on to say, "I make sure that I set aside time every morning to read the daily readings and reflections."

Shaleika Vargas says, "Marriage led me to think about becoming a Catholic. Although I was baptized Catholic, my parents raised me Protestant. When we started wedding planning, we were not

sure in which church to be married. My husband is Catholic and very much wanted to get married through the Catholic Church. I decided to attend Mass a few times, expecting that it would confirm everything negative that I heard about the Catholic Church. The opposite happened. The more I learned about the Catholic Church, the more everything made sense. I felt an indescribable feeling every time I attended Mass. I realized that God was calling me to join the Church." Shaleika goes on to say, "my favorite part of RCIA has been learning different ways to pray. I feel like I have a closer relationship with God. I feel God's presence around me everyday, especially when I am in church. I was a little concerned about the length and time commitment of the RCIA program; however, I was surprised how much I looked forward to class each week. I learned to make time for God and to put God first in my life."

Stephanie Stepanik says, "I had been interested in the RCIA program for some time prior to joining. I had just not taken the step until I discussed my interest with my fiancé. He encouraged me to join the RCIA program. I decided to join with the support of my fiancé, whom is also my sponsor, and our families." Stephanie continues, "The RCIA program has helped me have a better understanding and stronger appreciation of our faith. Because of this, I feel like I have been able

to help form a stronger relationship with God. I feel a closer connection to God attending church on Sundays with my family."

Perhaps the most important quality that each of our catechumens and candidates has in common, is that they listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit calling them to a deeper commitment of faith. However, becoming committed disciples of Jesus Christ does not happen just through a class formation program or even sacramental initiation. Becoming baptized, confirmed and receiving Holy Communion merely opens the candidate's soul to receive the grace of God and continue living a personal relationship with Jesus Christ after the Easter Vigil. The friendship, prayers, personal witness, and support of every committed Catholic at St. Joseph Parish is needed to keep the flame of faith alive in our candidates' hearts and souls long after the RCIA classes have ended. Please continue to keep each of our candidates and catechumens in your prayers. When you see them at Mass, congratulate them for responding to God's call to become a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please call the Parish Office and speak with Father Anthony Suso at 440-238-5555 ext. 105. The journey of faith begins with you!

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

My Seminary Formation



I have to say that my internship here this year at St. Joe's has been a truly incredible experience! God has blessed me in many ways throughout these first few months. I have come to learn the everyday workings of the priestly life in the parish and a good deal about myself. There are certainly many things to learn about theology and the Church in the seminary, but it does not compare with the experience of it all in the parish. As I have begun to work alongside God's people, I have begun to see even more deeply the beauty of the vocation to which God has called me.

I have found it amazing all that St. Joe's has to offer and just how many ways it seeks to reach out to the greater Strongsville community. Truly, this community tries to make a difference in our world.

I have had the awesome opportunity of working in the

classrooms at SJJ. During the week, I alternate teaching the 4th and 7th grades. Before the end of my internship, I will also have visited and talked with every grade level.

I have talked with the kids on all sorts of topics such as Vocations, the Sacraments, the role and mission of the Church hierarchy, the Church's seasons (particularly Advent), Mary: The Mother of God and Hero of Christianity, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Christianity's relationship with Judaism, and various other topics. It has been truly enjoyable being with the kids, sharing stories, and helping teach them about the faith. I have also been able to join the "Ski Club" to share some fun time on the slopes at Boston Mills.



I have worked with our RCIA team and candidates, helping to teach on different aspects of the Church's teachings. It has been great to walk with them as they begin to learn about and come into a relationship with our beautiful Church.

Among the other ways I have been involved in the parish; I have been with "By Teens For Teens" at their faith nights and lock-in, helped with the up-and-coming "Young Adult Group", and the "Alpha"

program. I have been able to pray at funeral wakes, Masses, and committals with those who have lost a loved one. I have been with the PSR kids and have been able to speak with them about vocations and spending time with them in Adoration.

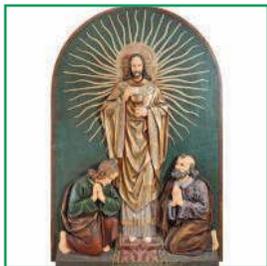
I was able to be a part of the formation process of the parish mission statement, which really gave me a good sense of the parish community as I talked with and listened to those who care so greatly for their community.

In regards to my project, I have been working with the morning Mass crowd to develop and integrate "The Propers" into the weekday liturgy. The Propers are a collection of Antiphon chants, rooted in Scripture that sing the Mass itself. The overall response has been overwhelmingly positive and it has truly been a unique and rewarding project on which to work.

It has also been a joy working with the parish office staff. In the seminary, we do not have much experience like this at all, so the priests and pastoral staff have been very helpful in getting me adjusted to the particulars of daily parish ministry.

Overall, as I said, it has been a remarkable couple of months at the parish. I thank all of you for helping make it so fruitful and for helping me so much throughout this crucial year of my seminary formation.

You are all in my prayers!
David



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

*"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."
Psalm 71:9*

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.

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.

+ SCHEDULE OF SERVICES +

SUNDAY, April 9, 2017 - PALM SUNDAY

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

+ EASTER TRIDUUM +

THURSDAY, April 13, 2017

HOLY THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY, April 14, 2017

GOOD FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY, April 15, 2017

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer with Ephphetha Rite: 8:30 am
Blessing of Easter Foods: 1:00 pm
Easter Vigil: 9:00 pm (no 4:30 pm Mass)
A reception to welcome the newly initiated members of the Church will follow.

SUNDAY, April 16, 2017

EASTER SUNDAY

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

+ RECONCILIATION +

WEDNESDAY, March 15, 2017

Diocesan Wide Confessions: 5:00-8:00 pm
Saturdays: 3:00 - 4:00 pm
(except Saturday, April 15, 2017)

Two priests each weekend

Saturday, April 8, 2017

10:00 am - 11:00 am
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

An hourglass with sand falling, set against a background of vertical wooden poles. The text is overlaid on this image.

! SAVE THE DATE !

*“Timeless Faith
Armored In Grace”*

**7:00 PM March 19, 20, 21
Sun, Mon & Tues**

Why Catholic?

Why are there so many other Religions?

In a time with so many changes what is the constant in my life?

What can I do, as a Catholic to share my Faith and be inviting?

How does the Grace of the Sacraments sustain me, my family?

During our Parish Mission here at St Joseph, with Julie Carrick, we will be exploring these questions and hearing the Truths of our Beautiful Catholic Faith and how we can each grow stronger in our Relationship with Christ and our Discipleship for Christ. This is a great opportunity to invite your family and friends who have *wondered* about your faith or who have *wandered* from the faith. A great welcome home. As with all the missions Julie presents around the country, this mission will include Spoken Word, Music, as well as time for deep reflection for individuals, married couples and families. ALL Ages are encouraged to attend.

For more information about our Mission Presenter please visit:

www.JulieCarrick.com