

Our Parish Family Newsletter Celebrating 50 years of Faith in our Church Building

Summer 2015



St. Joseph Catholic Church

a stewardship parish

Working to Build the Reign of God

We hear Jesus tell his followers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless.

St. Joseph Ministry of Assistance (MOA) is your bridge to the needy. Each of our over 30 members is active in reaching out to those in need on your behalf. We want to share with you what your generous donations and financial support, as well as support of our parish staff, allow us to do.

MOA's primary ministry is to people in Strongsville who call the parish office seeking assistance with food, utilities or housing. Last year 59 client calls were received and over \$18,500 in financial help was given. What is most important is that someone from St. Joseph Church responds directly to the call for help. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give is not money but time to listen. We are not trained social workers but we do believe that the Holy Spirit is with us when meeting clients to offer whatever help is deemed appropriate. While we respond to all calls for emergency assistance that come to the church, we know there are some among us who may be struggling but do not ask. All it takes is a call to the church office asking to speak with MOA.

A client visitor will make contact within 24-48 hours; to schedule a visit and a team of two will visit to listen and hear the needs of the client. Due to the confidential

nature of its work, the MOA client visitors will only speak with the client.

More visibly, you see MOA collecting various items for those in need. This includes the School Drive, Blankets and Beyond, and two major food drives. The clothing that you donate throughout the year, goes, at no expense to the clients at the SVDP Southwest Center in Old Brooklyn. MOA works to be your arms in sharing the resources so generously donated directly with families in need.

Continued on page 2

Table of Contents	
Ministry of Assistance	pgs 1-2
MOH Car Wash	pg 2
Apostles Build	pg 2
Fr. Joe's Column	pg 3
Corpus Christi	pg 4
Confirmation Class	pg 5
SJS Youth Group	pg 6
2015 Graduates	pg 6
Vacation Bible School	pg 6
SummerFest 2015	pgs 7-8

Working to Build the Reign of God

MOA is very active in three pantry centers: **Strongsville Food Bank and two pantries under the umbrella of St. Vincent DePaul. These are the St. John Paul II Center at Holy Name Parish and the Southwest Center in Old Brooklyn.** In addition to providing financial support, **MOA** members serve on the “**Boards**” of each “**Pantry**”, volunteer their time and collect food and other items for clients. Your donated food and

personal hygiene items that appear in the container in the church “**Gathering Area**” is most appreciated!

This food goes to the Strongsville Food Bank and stocks our food cupboard for client needs.

Sample size hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, lotion, toothbrushes and razors) go into over 1,200 kits distributed to the homeless.

In addition, MOA members gather excess food weekly from over 20 area businesses, resulting in over

15,000 donated miles a year.

Members also prepare and serve hot meals using your donations of food and your generous monetary gifts.

It is a blessing to have committed people in our parish that want to make a difference in our world. **Jesus proclaimed the reign of God and God invites us to join in building that reign.**

We invite you to continue to join us by supporting our ministry that brings the face of Jesus to those in need.



6th Annual Mission of Hope Car Wash

Thanks to everyone who stops by the front church parking lot on the first Sunday of May each year to help support the Mission of Hope ministry. We've washed cars in the rain and in 40 degree temperatures; but this year it was sunny and warm, and it felt like we were playing outside!

Because of you, we raised \$1,040 to help cover the costs of our next mission trip. Thirty parishioners will be traveling July 5-12th to

Youngstown, Ohio; and will be hosted by St. Patrick's Church. We've been preparing since January and look forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return. Please keep us in your prayers. You are always remembered in ours. Thank you again for your support.



As we're celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church, we realize how great a legacy – a faith home – has been left to us by past generations. Now we've got an opportunity to help others build a legacy of their own home – through a refurbished house made possible through our work with Habitat for Humanity.

Our parish is joining with 21 other communities of faith in rehabbing two homes in the Cleveland Stockyard Neighborhood. Already this year, we have provided site workers on May 30, while June 11 and July 1 remain as work days. As Habitat makes more days available, there are possibilities for further dates as the project progresses! Complete details, pictures of the project's progress, and opportunities to sign-up are all available at - www.sjohio.org/habitat. Please keep our work in your prayers!





*From the Desk of
Fr. Joe Mamich*

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the beginning of another summer! As we transition from another cold winter, here's hoping that we will have the reward of a very enjoyable and temperate summer. So far, it seems as if we went right into August! As we move forward, I do hope that all of us will have the chance to relax, recreate, and enjoy these days!

Over the past few months, I have been spending a great deal of time reflecting upon the plight of our sisters and brothers in Christ – particularly in the Middle East. We've heard stories of the persecutions and brutal treatment of Christians, and in reality, anyone who disagreed with the ideologies of brutal terrorists. All these acts have been committed in the name of God and in the name of religion. As I have, many have wondered what more can we do? As I have reflected upon it, I think that there are two things that we can do: pray and support relief agencies.

Considering prayer, let's never underestimate the power of prayer! As you know, I believe that I'm with you today as a product of prayers being answered – perhaps not as I would have liked them to be – but answered in a way that brought me new life and all of us a witness of compassion towards another – in the person of Jim, my donor.

While prayers for healing were not answered in the form of a healing, look what God orchestrated – the answer in the form of a restored life! Ultimately, a form of healing! That said, even though our prayers may not seem to be “working” as we pray for those who are persecuted – or even for those who persecute – perhaps they are working in another way! We may never know. Regardless, let's heed the words of St. Paul in his First Letter to the Thessalonians and continue to “pray without ceasing”, especially for those who are persecuted and those who persecute that God may continue to be at work in their lives!

In addition to prayer, as I wrote back in March in one of my Pastor's Columns, some have inquired of the possibility of offering financial support to those in the Middle East. I might suggest a visit to the website of “Aid to the Church in Need” at - www.churchinneed.org. Under the direction of the Holy Father, an agency works for those most in need. Their website is filled with stories and prayers about our sisters and brothers, especially those in the Middle East.

On the home front, we have witnessed the beginning and speedily progressing expansion of the Rectory Garage. I'm grateful that we were able to secure reasonable bids that allowed us to meet the current and future needs of parish storage, while attaining a building that matches our existing structures. As that project continues to progress towards completion, our parking lot project will soon begin.

Your support of the Diocesan *Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope* Campaign has not only allowed us to assist meeting needs throughout our region, but also to pay for our entire share of the parking lot project! While the next few weeks will be difficult and perhaps annoying as we navigate the work, I promise that the final product will be well-worth it! Nearest that I have been able to surmise, the bulk of our main lot was last completely overhauled sometime during the late-1980s and we're hopeful that we'll get a similar life-span from this project! Thanks for your continued support of our parish and for your patience during the next month or so!

Lastly, I am very much looking forward to our Annual SummerFest – the week-long series of events from July 24 through August 1, which are outlined on the last page of this newsletter. I certainly hope to see you and others from both our parish community and the wider Strongsville community during this week of activities! I'm sure that everyone is sure to find something to their liking. We work hard to do God's work; let's take a few minutes to enjoy the blessings that God has given us in one another and our parish. Let's celebrate our community and enjoy ourselves as members of the community of St. Joseph!

With best wishes for the upcoming months,

Father Joe Mamich
Pastor



The Origin and Traditions of Corpus Christi

By: Fr. Anthony Suso



The Feast of Corpus Christi, or the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (as it is often called today), is traditionally celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. In the United States, the celebration of Corpus Christi was transferred to the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, which this year is June 7, 2015. Corpus Christi celebrations go back all the way to the 13th century but its traditions are far older. The Feast Day is a solemn commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. While the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday is also a celebration of this mystery, due to the solemn nature of Holy Week and the focus on Christ's Passion on Good Friday early Christians used this day to promote a deeper devotion and appreciation for Jesus' real presence in the Holy Eucharist.

At the request of Pope Urban IV in 1264, St. Thomas Aquinas composed the official prayers that the Catholic Church uses for this feast. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote two famous Eucharistic hymns: Pange Lingua Gloriosi (**Sing my tongue the Saviors Glory**) and the Tantum Ergo Sacramentum (**Down in Adoration Falling**) that is traditionally sung for the feast as well as during solemn **Eucharistic Adoration** or processions of the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps the most amazing tradition associated with the Feast of Corpus Christi is that the Holy Mass concludes with a solemn Eucharistic procession in which the consecrated Host is placed in a monstrance and carried around the town accompanied by incense, hymns and litanies. Faithful Catholics would follow in procession around the town and venerate the Blessed Sacrament, making the sign of the cross and bowing as Jesus passed by. Last year at St. Joe's we processed outside around the church building with the help of the Knight's of Columbus carrying a sacred canopy over the Blessed Sacrament. This canopy is meant to remind us of the covering placed over the **Ark of the Covenant** by the Israelite people in the Old Testament. **The Ark of the Covenant was the sacred gold box that contained the Ten Commandments** that God gave to Moses on the top of Mount Sinai. **Just as the Israelite people covered the Ten Commandments in the Ark with a canopy, Catholics cover Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament who is our Ark of the Covenant**, the source and summit of our faith.

This year we will be joining our Catholic sisters and brothers at St. John's in Strongsville for 12 Noon Mass on Sunday June 7, 2015 for a solemn celebration and Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The Body and Blood of Jesus is the source and summit of every Catholic's faith life and so it is quite fitting that we will be joining St. John Neumann for one large Strongsville Catholic celebration on that day. Please consider joining us for Mass at 12 Noon at St. John's as we commemorate this awesome mystery of Jesus' sacred Body and precious Blood!





Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Our 8th graders made their Confirmation in May. We asked them to answer the question, **what making their Confirmation means to them?** We should all be impressed with our 8th graders as they responded with thoughtful and spiritual comments they wrote from their heart. As you read some of their responses, this is an opportunity for you to remember what making your Confirmation has meant to you.



Throughout this whole journey of Confirmation, I have always had questions about my faith.

This was caused by my very peculiar mind and open ended thoughts to the teachings of this journey. However, by going through this journey, I feel that some of these questions have been answered, no longer leading my mind astray. Now that I am about to receive the sacrament I feel like my faith has grown a lot stronger. I am ready to accept all of my gifts from God. **-Justin-**



My Confirmation means a lot to me. Confirmation has always been something

I was looking forward to make. Ever since I went to my brother's Confirmation 7 years ago, I have always been looking forward to it.

For starters, it's when you're getting ready to go into high school and become a young man/woman. Confirmation has already helped me to grow in my faith, even just through preparing for the sacrament. We've had long retreats that I've learned much from. Yet I am still learning. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will help me to grow closer to God and especially the Holy Spirit. Just like the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles during Pentecost, he will do the same for me. I'm looking forward to both receiving the Sacrament and growing closer to the Holy Spirit. **-Kevin-**



Confirmation is a great deal to me and it will be one of the most meaningful times of my life. To me, it will make me understand my faith more and deepen it. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit will enter me and help me know what I have, to help benefit the world and the inhabitants through Jesus Christ. It shall help me develop a greater conscience of what Jesus would and wouldn't want me to do. The day that I am Confirmed will make me a better member of the church. The Holy Spirit will help me follow Jesus' footsteps and grant me the wisdom needed to help others. I wish to follow my path and calling that the Holy Spirit

will guide me and all of us towards. I wish to be Confirmed to become a great member of the Catholic Church and become closer to God and his teachings.

-Ben-



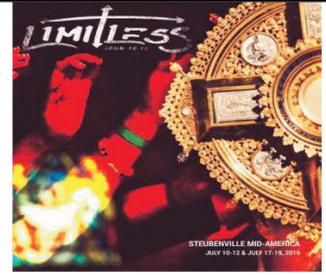
To me making my Confirmation is a very important task. At first I wasn't sure what it is and why I had to do it. Through some retreats, through "Theology of the Body" and through talking in religion class, I have been able to appreciate this journey. Fr. Joe and Fr. Anthony along with Mrs. Zvoncheck have shown me that I am made of greatness. Because I am made for greatness, I want to take another step. Getting Confirmed so I can be with God forever. **-Rory-**



The Sacrament of Confirmation is important to receive. To me, I feel as though I am becoming an independent being of the Church. From here on out I will believe always and forever. Confirmation is a commitment and a promise that I am willing to make. It means that you are finally receiving all of what Christ has given you. The sacrament of Confirmation is a real beginning and journey for me. I shall take on this new chapter of my life with the Sacrament of Confirmation. **-Karena-**



**Steubenville Youth
Conference
2015
“LIMITLESS”**



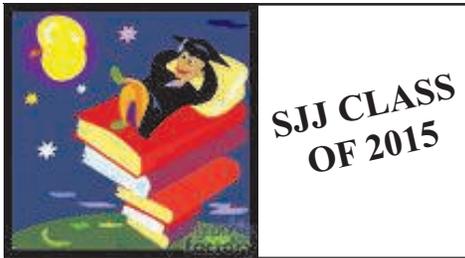
We are excited to have seven youth from our Parish going to one of the 21 Steubenville Youth Conferences this year from July 10-12th in Steubenville, Ohio.

The 2015 conference theme is: **LIMITLESS**. It comes from John 10:14. **“I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me.”**

Steubenville Youth Conference is a conference where over 2000 youth gather to listen to national speakers about our Faith, pray and share their faith with their peers! The mission of the conference is to invite young people into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for the youth that will be attending the conference in July. Be sure to follow us on **Twitter @SJSYouth** and **Instagram @sjs_youth**.

As always, you can follow us at www.facebook.com/SJSYouth and www.sjohio.org/youth
Tim’s contact information: phone 440-238-5555 ext. 114 or email tmcgrath@sjohio.org.



It is so hard to believe that Sts. Joseph and John School said good-bye to the class of 2015 and are getting ready to say hello to the class of 2024. Many wonderful things went on to close out the year with the students and faculty ending their Lenten journey with an all school day of prayer and activities titled “Mercy is Falling”.

The school processed out in silence to the Pall bells led by a former student and many of our 8th graders acted out the Living Stations of the Cross. When the students, faculty and staff returned, banners with the word “ALLELUIA” were strung throughout the school.

The 7th and 8th graders participated in a “March-Madness” event that began with a service project making blankets for Laura’s Home and ended with the annual 8th grade basketball event. Our 6th graders took up a

collection to help the cats in the Berea Animal Shelter, and the 8th graders led the Annual Relay for Life at Catan’s Stadium.

Preparing for the event, the 8th graders made cupcakes to sell after Masses and hand made necklaces for the school community to help raise money to fight this terrible disease that has so many different faces. The school year ended with 2nd graders receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the very first time, and the 8th graders receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



This year, Vacation Bible School is titled “EVEREST”- **Conquering Challenges with Gods’ Mighty Power’s!** The VBS program is taking on a new appearance this year. The kids will participate in activities with multi-aged groups from grades K-5.

High school students and adult volunteers are taking on a more active role than in the years past and Mr. Beck will continue helping to organize the game activities.



As we continue the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Church, the Community Life Commission will be hosting many fun events for our **SummerFest** week.

To kick it off, we will have **Family Movie Night**, starting at about 8:30pm on Friday, July 24th. The movie will be shown on a large screen under the big tent once again, and sure to be a popular and fun movie. Refreshments will be available for all. So kids, get your lawn chairs and/or blankets ready, grab your parents and come on down to St. Joseph's Friday Family Movie Night.

In conjunction with this year's SummerFest, we are having "**A Night under the Stars**" with a **reverse raffle** on Saturday July 25th from 5:30-9:30pm, the day before our Annual Parish Picnic. The raffle will take place under the big tent, so come and join us for this fun evening. You could be the winner of the \$2,500 grand prize! There will also be many sideboards for (\$5, \$3 and \$2), for more possible ways to win additional cash.

This event will begin at 5:30pm with a buffet dinner catered by Novotny Catering at 7pm and continue with the reverse raffle at 8pm. There will be an open bar serving beer, wine, coffee, and soft

drinks. **No BYOB** please.

Only 199 tickets are being sold at \$50 per person, which includes dinner, open bar and a main board ticket number. In celebration of the **Golden Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church** ticket number 50 will be the lucky ticket.

Tickets go on sale the weekend of June 27-28th after each Mass and every weekend until they are sold out. A fun night is a guarantee! So invite your friends to join us, as well!

On Sunday, from 1-5pm, we will have our **Annual Parish Picnic** on the front lawn, with food from many different restaurants around the area. We will once again feature music. This year we will start the dancing with the swing music of the Struckley & Cole Band, followed by a Polka Band and finally, a DJ will spin some records.

Come join in the fun of game playing, pony rides, dancing, balloon making, good food and all around fun and socializing with friends and family. This fun filled day will conclude with an outdoor Mass beginning at 5pm.

The Knights of Columbus and SJS Youth will be sponsoring a picnic for our **Youth Altar Servers**. This event is taking place on Tuesday, July 28th from 6:30-8:30pm.

Come join us for our **Annual Ice Cream Social** on Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm which will feature ice cream cones and sundaes.

Our Ice Cream Social will take place in the Holy Family Center. Bring your sweet tooth and enjoy the cool treats!

Last but not least, and to round out our week long SummerFest 2015 events, is our **Annual St. Joseph Golf Outing**. This mixed scramble will take place at Briarwood Golf Club on Saturday, August 1st, which will include 18 holes of golf, food to be catered, and prizes awarded. So all of you good, average or beginner golfers, come on out for a day of fun, food and fellowship.

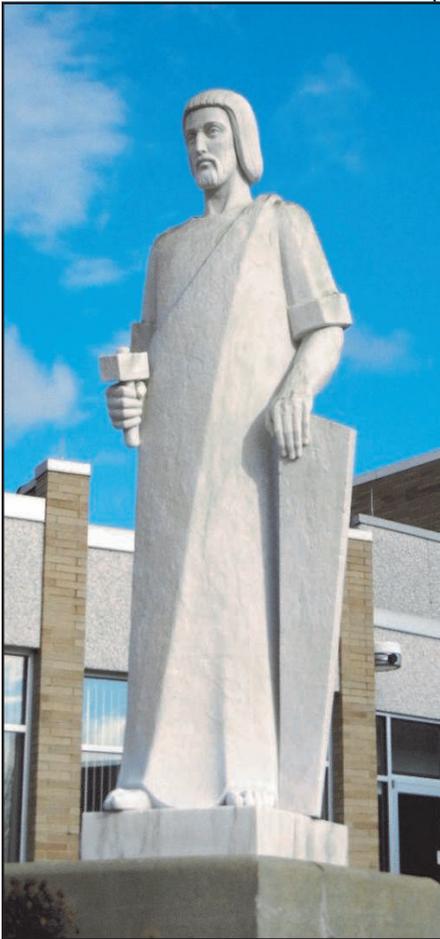
Join in the fun of one or all of these fun filled events. You may even want to volunteer a bit of your time to one or more of these activities. Many friendships have been made by attending and/or helping at events such as these at St. Joseph's. Hope to see you there!



ST. JOSEPH SUMMERFEST

All are welcome to join us!

July 24 – August 1, 2015



Friday, July 24

Family Movie Night

8:30pm

Rain or stars...under the tent!

Saturday, July 25

“A Night under the Stars” Reverse Raffle

5:30-9:30pm

\$2,500 grand prize

\$50/person; advance sales only.

Details at www.sjohio.org/raffle.

Rain or stars...under the tent!

Sunday, July 26

Annual Parish Picnic and Outdoor Mass

1-5pm: Mass at 5pm

Live music, food, games, and fun for all!

Tuesday, July 28

Annual Youth Altar Servers’ Picnic

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and SJS Youth

6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, July 29

Annual Parish Ice Cream Social

6:30-8:30pm

Saturday, August 1

Annual Parish Golf Outing

Mixed Scramble at Briarwood Golf Club

Fees will include golf, food, and prizes!

Details at www.sjohio.org/golf.

For more information, please
see the bulletin and
www.sjohio.org
as these events draw close!