



St. Joseph Parish Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 1

427 E. Broadway, Alliance, OH 44601

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September 2014

A Word From Father Matthew



Father Matthew with the parish children at 4:00 p.m. Mass on 12/24/13.

I Hope You Dance...

The following was written by an 83 year old woman to her friend. The last sentence says it all!

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped or the first Amaryllis blossom.

I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for a small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.

"Someday" and "One of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear

and do it now.

I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was.

I'm guessing: I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, tell myself that it is special.

Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance!

When I had read this little reflection on life and living for the first time, I was very touched and inspired. It made me think of one of my friends who used to say: "Life is too short that is why we should

enjoy every minute of it and make the best out of it." In the words of my favorite French singer, Edith Piaf: "No regrets." I do believe that we should live our lives to the fullest. We should live it in such a way that when we leave this old earth, we can leave it with a big smile on our faces and a that grin of satisfaction which comes from a sense of accomplishment.

I have lived and worked at St. Joseph Church in Alliance for three years, and a big smile comes to my face as I celebrate my anniversary with you. We have accomplished so much! We have addressed all major problematic issues pertaining to the Church building, rectory, Schwartz Center and St. Joseph Cemetery. We have renovated every building by replacing old and worn out windows, replacing roofs on the Schwartz Center and St. Dominic's Chapel and by painting and cleaning various rooms which have not been used to their fullest potential. We are currently completing our last major project, the construction of the Schwartz Center elevator. Upon completion, our Schwartz Center will be fully handicap-accessible!

Not only have we made significant and much needed improvements to our parish buildings and properties; we have also grown spiritually in our

relationships with God and with one another. I am pleased to inform you that in the last three years St. Joseph Parish Family has grown by an additional 200 families. Nothing could make me happier as a pastor than to see so many young adults and younger families come to our church and bring with them little babies, school age children and teens who are the future of our church. More and more people call St. Joseph Parish their spiritual home.

Here in our church we come to worship God and

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A Word from Father Matthew (continued from page 1)

"We are a community of believers who walk together as one. We help and encourage each other along the way as we walk side by side."

to carry each other's burdens. We walk together side by side; we laugh together and we cry together. When one of our parish family members suffers, we all should feel his/her pain. We are not lonely sailors on this journey that we call life. We are a community of believers who walk together as one. We help and encourage each other along the way as we walk side by side. You are my family, and I am very blessed to have you in my life. My old priest friend who has been gone now for seven years used to tell me that sometimes a pastor and his parishioners click and they build an unbreakable bond and sometimes they don't. Nothing could make me happier than to tell you that we are bound by our love for one another, our love for God and our love for the St. Joseph Parish Family. God has led us here to this church. He has brought us here so that we can grow in our love for God and one another. Here in this church before our loving God we bring our trials and tribulations. We ask God to help us with our problems and struggles. Here at St. Joseph Church we find peace, strength and encouragement for the days and weeks that are still ahead. We may not be blood related, but I dare to say that we have a much stronger bond than blood. We have an unbreakable bond built on faith, hope and love. We have been destined to work, play and grow together in our love of God and one another. As your pastor and your fellow traveler on this journey of life and faith, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your involvement and support of St. Joseph Parish and the ministries that we share for the benefit of all our members, participants, guests and visitors. There is no doubt in my mind that God has a big smile on his face as he looks at our parish family and at all the wonderful things we have accomplished together. May God continue to bless each and every one of us as we follow in the footsteps of his son and try to be Christ-like toward every man, woman and child. I will see U in church!

With all my love and prayers,

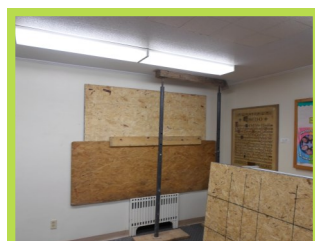
Fr. Matthew

Finally!

Finally, after planning that has spanned over ten years, ground was broken on the St. Joseph Schwartz Center elevator project! This major construction undertaking began on July 9, 2014. What is so incredibly awesome about the installation of this elevator is the number of parishioners from our parish and other friends in faith who are working together to make this elevator a reality. Many people think that the installation of an elevator is easy, you hire an elevator company and they take care of everything, and "boom" you have a working, safe elevator in a week! To complete a project of this magnitude takes the involvement of several different individuals and companies. Paino Building Corporation of Kent designed the preliminary elevator plans in 2011, but after extensive meetings with various elevator companies and building contractors a cost efficient solution could not be agreed upon.

On April 30, 2013, Bishop Murry approved our permission to spend for renovations to our Schwartz Center, Church and parking lots. On April 5, 2013, Father Matthew and parishioner, Dennis Clunk began touring elevators in various buildings around Alliance and Canton. They wanted to talk to the users of these elevators and find out how reliable their units were, how quickly a maintenance team responded to repairs and the cost effectiveness of their respective elevator. After talking with other elevator companies and the people who use them, it was determined that our original elevator plans needed to be amended. While the blueprints were being revised by Peter Paino, we began the other major renovations. The following is a list of projects completed since the spring of 2013.

- ♦ Energy efficient air conditioning units were installed in every room in the Schwartz Center and St. Dominic Chapel by **Hill's Heating & Cooling**
- ♦ A new roof was placed on the Schwartz Center and St. Dominic Chapel by **Skillet Siding & Home Repair**
- ♦ **Joe Reese of Elite Remodeling & Construction** installed new window in the Schwartz Center.
- ♦ **Southway** of Canton installed our new courtyard fence.



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- ♦ **Carnation Security** installed a security system in the church and upgraded video surveillance around our property.
- ♦ The Eucharistic Tabernacle was moved to the center of the altar. This project was the combined effort of **Joe Reese, Dan Skivolocke** and **Frank Popovich**. The church sanctuary received a much needed facelift with the installation of new carpet, wood baseboards, and a beautiful tabernacle altar hand crafted by Frank Popovich.
- ♦ **Soltis Electric** installed energy efficient lights in every room of the Schwartz Center and updated the electrical boxes in both the Church and Finnigan Hall.
- ♦ To accommodate our growing parish, a cement parking area was added to our property by England & Sons of Atwater.
- ♦ Our Church Parking lot was sealed and restriped by **Jody Vinton of Vinton Asphalt**.
- ♦ **Jim Menegay of JC Masonry** repaired the brick wall around the church and replaced the bell tower windows that were broken and damaged.

This brings us to our final project....the elevator! The final blueprints were dropped off to the City of Alliance for approval on October 30, 2013. We received elevator bids from companies in Stark County for several months. After numerous meetings with the Parish Council and Advisory Board, we contracted with Tristate Elevator to install the elevator. We had the elevator company, now we had to build the elevator shaft. Dennis Clunk met with several of our parishioners who own construction businesses and formed an elevator "dream team".

- ♦ **Todd Mastroianni of Alliance Ventures** is the general contractor for this project.
- ♦ **Marty Pagnucco of Pag's Excavation Inc.**, is completing the excavating and digging for the elevator shaft.
- ♦ **Jim Menegay of JC Masonry Construction** is laying the cement block and masonry work for the elevator shaft and building surrounding the elevator.
- ♦ **Joe Reese of Elite Flooring** will also be contributing to this project as construction progresses.

The installation of the Schwartz Center elevator marks an end of our major renovations. These projects were accomplished through the stewardship of time, talent and treasure of our parishioners and the faithful business owners in Stark County.



Celebrations in Christ!

Relics of St. John Paul II:

Last year, Father Matthew had the privilege of meeting with the Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz during the 24th Polish American Priest's Convocation. Cardinal Dziwisz was the personal secretary to St. John Paul II. Fr. Matthew has known the Cardinal for over ten years. After their meeting, Fr. Matthew wrote to Cardinal Dziwisz requesting relics of St. John Paul II and received, from Rome first-class relics, in the form of a drop of his blood. The word "relic" comes from the Latin reliquo, meaning "I leave," or "I abandon." A relic is a piece of the body of a saint, an item owned or used by the saint, or an object that has

been touched to the tomb of a saint. St. Joseph Church is one of only two churches in the state of Ohio to have such relics.

A celebratory Mass, open to all, presenting the relics to the community was held at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2013 at St. Joseph Church. Bishop George Murry, participated in this very special Mass. In addition to the presentation of the relics, Fr. Matthew was officially installed as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish.

Following the Mass, a free authentic Polish dinner, cooked by Father Matthew and our Community Cooking Team, was served in the Schwartz Center. Over three hundred people attended this very special event.

Mass of Remembrance:

Thirty-two parishioners of St. Joseph Church were remembered in a very special way at the Mass of Remembrance at St. Joseph Church on October 29th. Many families and friends of our dearly departed attended this Mass. The names of the deceased were read aloud during the tolling of the bells by members of the St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry. Individual candles with the names of the departed were lit during this Mass and carnation flowers were given to all families in attendance.

St. Vincent DePaul & St. Joseph Giving Tree:

In late October we began taking names from Catholics and Non-Catholics in need of help during the Christmas Season.



(Continued on page 4)



Celebration in Christ Continued from page 3

This past year Saint Vincent DePaul collected food and monetary donations from St. Joseph Parishioners and prepared over 100 food baskets for needy families in Alliance. Our St. Joseph Giving Trees went up on the first Sunday of Advent. Over 100 cards with names of children from Alliance were represented on this tree. All of the tags were spoken for within the first weekend and thanks to the generosity of our parish, many children enjoyed a Christmas filled with joy and amazement.

Christmas Eve at St. Joseph Church:

Our young children did not disappoint this year at the annual Christmas Eve Children's Play. Children from our PSR class took on roles of Mary, Joseph, Angels and the Magi and touched the hearts of young and old.

Mass in celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord followed the Children's Play. Santa Claus made a visit at this Mass and surprised each child with a Teddy Bear. These bears were donated anonymously by a very generous parishioner.

Lent-Holy Week-Easter: As in years past, the Stations of the Cross were held every Friday at 12:10 p.m. This year we welcomed over fifty people weekly for these very special services.

Holy week began with our Passion Cantata & Candlelight Service on Wednesday, April 16th. Our St. Joseph Choir, under the direction of **Bruce Snyder**, did a wonderful job preparing the music for this event. Our attendance at the Cantata has grown over the past three years. This year we welcomed over 200 people.

We began the Holy Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, April 17th in remembrance of the actions of Jesus when, at the Last Supper, when He humbled Himself by washing the feet of His disciples, Father Matthew washed the feet of twelve members of our parish. In accordance with our Catholic Tradition, at the end of this Mass, the Church is stripped of its ornaments; the altar stripped bare, and the door of the

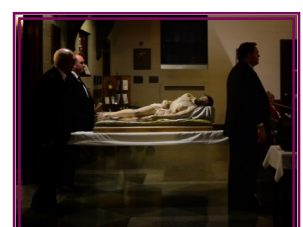
empty tabernacle is left open as if in mourning. Fr. Matthew added another element to Holy Thursday this year that touched the heart of many in attendance. After the altar was stripped bare, the lights were dimmed and the Christ in Repose statue was processed solemnly down the center aisle of the Church by pall bearers from **Sharer, Stirling, Skiv-olocke Funeral Home**. The statue was then placed at the foot of the Altar where it remained for Good Friday Services. Many who stayed after Mass to pray said they felt as if they had attended Christ's funeral and expressed how their hearts had been touched by the experience.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, April 18th a Good Friday Service took place wherein the entire Church fixed their gaze on the Cross at Calvary. On Good Friday, each member of the Church tries to understand at what cost Christ has won our redemption. In the solemn ceremonies of Good Friday, in the Adoration of the Cross, in the chanting of the "Reproaches," in the reading of the Passion and in receiving the pre-consecrated Host, we unite ourselves to our Savior, and we contemplate our own death to sin in the Death of our Lord.

At noon on Saturday, April 19th, Father Matthew blessed Easter Baskets. In Poland, blessing of the baskets is known as *swiecenie pokarmow wielkanocnych*, a practice dating to the 15th century.

On Saturday, April 19th we celebrated the Easter vigil. The Easter vigil liturgy is the most-beautiful liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church and is also when we welcome new Catholics into our parish family. This year we welcomed five new members to the Catholic Faith: **Jason Green, Nicole Quiles, Jason Ott, John Eberling and Danielle Murphy**.

Parishioners and visitors filled the pews for Easter Sunday Masses. Our church was beautifully decorated by our Liturgy Committee and parish volunteers. Thanks to all those who worked to make this year's Triduum a truly spiritual and moving experience.





First Communion at St. Joseph Church

~ Information submitted by Lynn Raber

The one thing that sets the Catholic religion apart from other Christian denominations is our devotion to the Sacrament of the Eucharist. "The Eucharist builds the Church," as Saint Pope John Paul II said (*Redemptor Hominis* 20). It deepens unity with the Church, more fully assimilating us into Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; ccc1396)

The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion.

When we gather for Mass, Jesus is present in the Word. Christ is present in the priest who presides over the Eucharist, but He is particularly present in the bread and wine, which, after the consecration, become the body and blood of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. At every Mass, we are witnesses to the miracle which is transubstantiation. In the Eucharist, Jesus is present in the fullest possible way. That is why the First Communion Mass is so incredibly special.

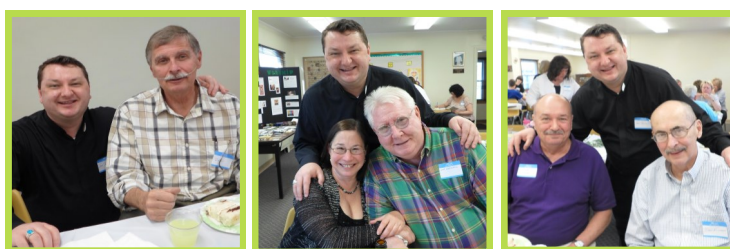
Preparation for this most important sacrament was provided by the St. Joseph Parish School of Religion (PSR). On January 18, 2014 the children experienced the loving grace of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Sunday, May 4, 2014, after several months of preparation; **Hunter Bonnell, Kayden Bonnell, Neithan Dunkle, Leah Menegay, Hunter Robinson** and **Adam Zumar** received their First Communion at St. Joseph Church.

The month of May is considered the season of the beginning of new life and for that reason, we dedicate the month of May to our Blessed Mother. A ceremonial May Crowning was celebrated prior to the First Communion Mass. **Leah Menegay** had the honor of crowning our beautiful statue of Mary.

New Member Dinner

On May 18, 2014, we hosted our annual New Member Dinner. This year we welcomed over thirty-five families to our parish. Our St. Joseph Church cooking team, headed by Father Matthew, prepared a delicious meal for this event. Our Parish Family and Life Committee did a wonderful job decorating and setting up for

this welcome dinner. Members of our Parish Council and other ministry leaders volunteered their time to serve the meal and clean up afterwards. We warmly welcome our new family members to our parish family!



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Parish School of Religion—Lynn Raber, CRE

The St. Joseph Parish School of Religion (PSR) represents grades 1-8. Classes are held from 9-10:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Schwartz Center. The PSR program is designed to assist families of children attending public school in their religious education. The curriculum presents the teaching of the Catholic Church in age-appropriate materials. Classes will begin this year on September 7, 2014 and will continue until May 3, 2015. The cost for PSR at St. Joseph Church is \$15 per child or \$30 per family. These fees cover the cost of books and materials for the educational year. We do not want cost to be a barrier to your child's religious education. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the parish office. If you would like to volunteer your time and talent as a teacher of religious education, please contact Lynn Raber at 330-821-5760 ext. 1108. PSR Registration began **August 30, 2014**. You may register online at www.stjoseph-alliance.org, at our parish office during regular office hours Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or on the first day of PSR. Early registration is encouraged.

St. Joseph Parish School of Religion 2014-2015 Schedule

9/7/2014	First Day of Classes
9/14/2014	PSR Class
9/21/2014	PSR Class -Catechetical Sunday
9/28/2014	PSR Class -
10/5/2014	PSR Class -Respect Life Sunday
10/12/2014	PSR Class -Youth Mass—Vocation Awareness Sunday
10/19/2014	PSR Class -World Mission Sunday
10/26/2014	PSR Class -
11/2/2014	PSR Class -All Souls Day
11/9/2014	PSR Class -Youth Mass
11/16/2014	PSR Class -
11/23/2014	PSR Class -
11/30/2014	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Break—1st Sunday of Advent
12/7/2014	PSR Class -2nd Sunday of Advent
12/14/2014	PSR Class -3rd Sunday of Advent
12/21/2014	PSR Class -Classroom parties/Evening Christmas Caroling at St. Joseph
12/24/2014	Children's Christmas Eve Play
12/28/2014	NO Classes - 12/28/14 - 1/4/2015 Christmas Break
1/11/2015	PSR Class -
1/18/2015	PSR Class -Youth Mass
1/25/2015	PSR Class -
1/31/2015	First Reconciliation at 11 a.m.
2/1/2015	PSR Class -
2/8/2015	PSR Class -
2/15/2015	PSR Class -
2/22/2015	PSR Class -1st Sunday of Lent
3/1/2015	PSR Class -2nd Sunday of Lent
3/8/2015	PSR Class -3rd Sunday of Lent
3/15/2015	PSR Class -4th Sunday of Lent
3/22/2015	PSR Class -5th Sunday of Lent
3/29/2015	PSR Class -Palm Sunday
4/5/2015	NO CLASSES - Easter
4/12/2015	PSR Class -
4/19/2015	PSR Class -
4/26/2015	PSR Class -
5/3/2015	PSR Class -May crowning—1st Holy Communion—Last day of classes



Vacation Bible School

Information Submitted by
Lynn Raber

St. Joseph Church in conjunction with Regina Coeli hosted their annual Vacation Bible School program from July 21 thru July 25 from 9-11 a.m. at Regina Coeli Church. This program welcomed over 40 children ages 4-9. This year's theme was "Weird Animals! Where Jesus' Love is One of a Kind". The goal of this curriculum was to connect with children when they feel different by introducing them to wonderful animals around the world. When "Weird" means special, unique and one of a kind, kids are reminded of Jesus' special love for them even when they feel different.



Fun in the Sun With Father Matthew



If a picture is worth a thousand words then we have an entire library at St. Joseph Church! The rainy weather did not deter our Altar Servers and Youth Ministry kids from a great time at Waldameer Amusement

Park and Water World on Tuesday, July 8th. Annually, Father Matthew and chaperones from the Parish take our parish youth on a fun-filled day trip to Waldameer. This year we had thirty-three children ages 7-17 and sixteen adults for "Fun in the Sun with Father Matthew." As in previous years, Altar Servers and Youth Ministry kids were granted free passes if they participated in a parish bake sale. This year we had 19 kids partici-

pate to raise money for this event. This day trip was open to the public after reservations were secured by our parish children. In addition to cash donations, our parish family donated hot dogs, hot dog buns, condiments, snacks, drinks, water and paper products for this trip. Our children are the future of our Church. Activities such as these build not only lasting friendships, but form spiritual bonds that last a lifetime.



Expense	
Bus	\$914.89
Pavilion Rental	\$50.00
Admission Tickets	\$1,004.50
Total Expense	\$1,969.39
Income	
Bake Sale	\$280.73
Self Pay	\$525.00
Donations	\$205.00
Total Income	\$1,010.73
Total Cost to Parish	\$958.66



The Youth Ministry took two trips to New York City this year. **Mike Johnson**, Youth Ministry Leader, coordinated the trips. The first trip was a 24 hour bus trip which left on Saturday night June 15th and returned on Sunday the 16th. The group was able to spend twelve hours in Manhattan! The second New York Trip was a weekend excursion that began on July 18, 2014 and returned on July 20th. This group stayed overnight in New Jersey and toured New York City during the day. As you can see by the pictures, our kids experienced all the Big Apple has to offer!



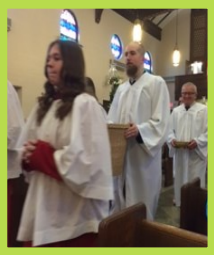
On May 11th, St. Joseph Parish sponsored their first Mother's Day Brunch after each Mass. The planning for this celebration of motherhood was facilitated by a newly formed social committee headed by **Don & Mary Flitcraft**. The main focus of this committee is to plan and facilitate parish fundraising events. This event was open to the general public. The cost was \$12 for Adults and \$6 for children. We served approximately 90 people at this event. The entertainment provided was enjoyed by all and the delicious food was catered by **Jeff Walker Catering**. Texas Roadhouse donated the rolls and butter to complement our tasty brunch. Specialty Baskets donated by **Mercy Medical, Great Harvest Bread, Holy By Design** and **Lynn Smith** were also raffled off. It is our hope to make this an annual St. Joseph Social event.



The Catholic Journey

by Sandy McCready

This year, St. Joseph Church presented the RCIA program on our own, and it was a great success! The entire Parish was involved in the RCIA process this year. The RCIA facilitating team consisted of **Father Matthew, Eric Brown, Lynn Raber and Sandy McCready.** Our "Breaking Open the Word Team" was **Christy Ballor, Liz Wise, Lynn Raber and Sandy McCready.** Our luncheon team was: **Christy Ballor, Bill & Lynn Fast, Crystal & Wayne Korosy, Kathy Lynn, Linda Russo, Dave & Stephanie Skolosh, Judy Stroia and Liz Wise.**



Many of our parishioners came to RCIA sessions to learn more about the faith and offer support to our Candidates and Catechumens and the whole

parish offered up prayer to our team and participants.

Some of our participants shared in group discussions how welcomed they felt when parishioners prepared lunch for them. They were touched by the weekly blessing they received from Fr. Matthew and the prayers lifted up for them by the entire parish.

Our sessions began on August, 18, 2013 and were held on Sunday afternoons following 10:45 a.m. Mass in the Schwartz Center. Sessions usually lasted about two hours. Our curriculum consisted of the "Catholicism Series" by Fr. Robert Barron and the "What Catholics Believe" Series by Dara Publishing. In addition to our scheduled meetings, our participants were dismissed every Sunday during 10:45 a.m. Mass to "Break Open the Word." At this time, we discussed the Mass readings and traditions of the church.

After months of preparation, on Saturday, April 19, 2014 St. Joseph Church welcomed five new members to our parish family: **Jason Green, Danielle Murphy, John Oberling, Jason Ott, and Nicole Quiles.**

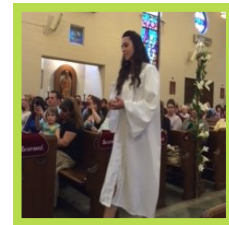
We are so proud of our new Catholics, and we pray for their continued growth along their spiritual journey.

The 2014-15 RCIA Program will begin on, **Sunday, September 14th** with a Welcome Luncheon at 12 p.m. in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center.

Sacred scripture tells us in **Matthew 28:19-20, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."** So in accordance with our Catholic teaching it is our duty and responsibility to make disciples of Christ. With that in mind, if you know of someone who is interested about the Catholic Faith or just curious about what we believe, encourage them to attend this luncheon. Below is a schedule of RCIA sessions for the upcoming year. These sessions are open to everyone in the parish.

If you would like to be a part of our RCIA team as a Program Facilitator, Breaking Open the Word Facilitator or Luncheon Team, please contact Sandy McCready at the parish office at 330-821-5760 or email her at:

sandymccready66@yahoo.com



RCIA Schedule 2014-15		
Date	#	Session Lessons
9/14/2014	1	Welcome/ Lunch / What Catholics Believe About RCIA
9/28/2014	2	Group Discussion regarding Images of God and Why are you here Questionnaires
10/5/2014	3	What Catholics Believe About the Church What Catholics Believe About the Sacraments
10/26/2014	4	Amazed and Afraid
11/9/2014	5	Happy Are We; The Teachings of Jesus
11/23/2014	6	The Ineffable Mystery of God
12/7/2014	7	Mary the Mother of God
12/21/2014	8	Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure
1/11/2015	9	The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church

1/25/2015	10	What Catholics Believe about Baptism What Catholics Believe about the Sacrament of Penance
2/1/2015	11	The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist
2/8/2015	12	A Vast Company of Witnesses - The Communion of Saints
2/22/2015		Rite of sending at 10:45 a.m. Mass Rite of election at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph in Canton
3/1/2015	13	What do Catholics believe about Eucharist What do Catholics believe about Confirmation
3/8/2015	14	The Fire of His Love - Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
3/15/2015	15	What Catholics Believe about Lifestyles/What Catholics Believe about Rights Freedoms and Responsibilities
3/22/2015	16	World Without End - The Last Things
3/29/2015	17	Group Discussion with Father Matthew/Vigil Practice
4/4/2015		Easter Vigil
4/12/2015	18	Easter Experience/Invitation to Serve

Beginning Apologetics: How to Explain & Defend the Catholic Faith ~ by Sandy McCready, Pastoral Assistant

Late last year I had to replace the “starter” in my car. My husband had a friend...of a friend....of a friend, who was a mechanic and he agreed to come to our house and change the starter in my garage and only charge me for the part. I thought to myself “What a wonderful gift from God, He truly does care about me.”

My husband left for work and left me alone with the mechanic. I decided to stay in the garage with this man, hold the flashlight and hand him tools when he asked for them. It was the least I could do, he was doing me a favor! While he was working, we began making small talk about the weather, our families and then he asked me what I did for a living. I told him I was a pastoral assistant for a Catholic Church. This is when the conversation took an unexpected turn, my mechanic was an atheist. He began immediately to try to disprove God and my Catholic Faith. I fought a pretty good fight but realized how difficult it was for me to articulate what I know in my heart. I know I believe, but I can’t always explain in an intelligent manner, “Why” I believe. Our conversation ended on a good note. When the car started on the first try, my atheist mechanic exclaimed with a huge grin across his face, “Praise God!” He also thanked me for talking with him about my faith and I told him I would pray for him. Although our conversation ended well, I couldn’t escape the feeling that I fell short as a defender of my faith.

Father Matthew happened to be studying “The New Atheism” in his doctorate class and when I confided in him what had happened we thought it would be a great idea to offer an adult faith formation series on Apologetics.

Apologetics simply means giving a reasoned explanation for your faith. A Catholic apologist charitably explains and defends Catholic doc-

trine using Scripture, history and common sense. Apologetics fulfills the command of St. Peter, *“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence...”*

1 Pet 3:15-16

We decided to begin with the subject of defending our Catholic Faith and if this program is well received, present “How to Answer Atheists” in the Spring.

This program will begin with an Introductory Session on **Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center.** At this session, we will distribute study materials and explain the program. This series is open to anyone, so feel free to bring a friend. As always our sessions last approximately 90 minutes. If you are interested in participating in this new series, please contact me, Sandy McCready at the parish office at 330-821-5760 or email me at sandymccready66@yahoo.com as soon as possible so the appropriate supplies can be ordered. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

*Always be
prepared to make
a defense to
anyone who calls
you to account
for the hope that
is in you, yet do
it with gentleness
and reverence
~ 1 Peter 3:15-16*

Beginning Apologetics	
Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 8 p.m.	
Date of Session	Subject
9/10/14	Introduction/Distribution of Materials
9/17/14	The Eucharist
9/24/14	The Canon of the Bible
10/1/14	The Bible Alone?
10/8/14	Apostolic Authority: Peter and the Papacy
10/15/14	Marian Doctrines
10/22/14	Questions Asked About Mary
10/29/14	Confession & Scandals in the Church
11/5/14	Prayer to the Saints
11/12/14	Purgatory
11/19/14	Miscellaneous Questions: Calling Priests “Father,” Statues, Paganism, Sacrifice of the Mass, Baptismal Regeneration
11/26/14	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
12/3/14	Miscellaneous Questions: Infant Baptism, Faith Alone, Good Works, Assurance of Salvation
12/10/14	Miscellaneous Questions: Tradition, Doctrinal Development, Priestly Celibacy, Different Denominations, Christ's One True Church

St. Joseph Parish Picnic

On June 29, 2014 over 250 members of St. Joseph Parish attended the annual parish picnic at the Elks Club in Alliance. A wonderful meal was prepared by the Community Dinner Cooking Team: **Father Matthew, Kathy Lynn and Rick & Ann Marie Moore**. Desserts were prepared by our parishioners. There was something for everyone at this fun filled event. The pool was open for swimming, corn hole games were enjoyed and the annual BINGO game was played for "white elephant" gifts donated

by parishioners. Of course no summer outdoor event would be complete without Elephant Ears! Thank you **Liz and Bob Wise** for this delicious treat for young and old alike. This picnic would not have been a reality without the help and expertise of the St. Joseph Parish Family & Life Committee headed by **Lori Gasperek**. Those who gave of their time, talent and treasure for this event were: **Christy Ballor, Terry & Patricia Bishop, Marvin**

Bixler, Brent Bixler, Catherine Fichter, Elda Gallina, Madi Gasperek, Bob & Patty Hampu, Tom Hines, Wayne Korosy, Kathy Lynn, Barb Montesano, Rick & Ann Marie Moore, Joan Pucci, Anna Mae & John Searfoss and Liz & Bob Wise.

Activities such as these help to build our faith community and make lasting friendships.





NEW Parish Outreach Ministry

by Sandy McCreedy, Pastoral Assistant

A St. Joseph Parishioner recently came to my office with a valid concern. In June, she participated in the Alliance Mission Encounter. The Alliance Mission Encounter is a united collaboration of churches, of all denominations, that come together once a year for one week to repair, paint and rebuild properties of the needy in the city of Alliance. One of the houses repaired was that of a Saint Joseph Parishioner. It was then that she asked herself, "Why are we not helping our own?"

There are many elderly parishioners who are in need of repairs or improvements to their home that they are no longer capable of doing themselves, such as repairing a window, painting a porch, cleaning the gutters, patching the roof, fixing a light fixture, unclogging a drain, etc. We would like to form an outreach ministry to help St. Joseph Parishioners who struggle with these problems. If you are interested in joining a ministry such as this, please contact me at the parish office during regular business hours or contact me through email at sandymccreedy66@yahoo.com.

Alliance Neighborhood Center Community Dinners

Matthew

25:35

For I was hungry
and you gave me
food, I was thirsty
and you gave me
drink, a stranger
and you
welcomed me.

The Alliance Neighborhood Center might have closed their doors, but our area churches are still providing free meals on Tuesday evenings. Although the location has changed, the commitment is the same. When the Neighborhood Center closed this past winter, United Methodist Church graciously opened their doors to host the free weekly dinners. St. Joseph Church prepares and serves a free meal to those in need the second Tuesday of every month. This alliance of neighborhood churches feeds approximately 100 people a week. The St. Joseph Community Dinner Cooking Team has established two menus that they alternate every other month. Menu one consists of baked chicken, French fries, salad, soup and dessert. Menu two consists of pasta, meatballs, salad, soup and dessert. We also provide beverages and all the paper products for this event. The Saturday morning prior to the dinner, our cooking team meets in the Schwartz Center kitchen to make the soup, pasta sauce or chicken depending on the menu for the month. On Tuesday, prior to the dinner, the food prepared on Saturday is placed in roasters to warm up and any food that cannot be made in advance is prepared. On that same day, at noon, our maintenance team brings all the food and supplies over to United Methodist Church for the dinner. Our serving team arrives at United Methodist about 5 p.m. to set up for the dinner, serve and cleanup afterwards. If you would like to volunteer your time, talent or treasure for any aspect of this outreach, please contact the parish office. We always need volunteers!

Our Parish Webpage has had a Face Lift!

Our parish webpage was redesigned last month. Our web address has remained the same at www.stjoseph-alliance.org but we have added some new features. Check our parish website for Mass Times, Recent Parish Bulletins, Ministry Schedules for Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers and a list of our latest events. A new feature is online registration for the Parish School of Religion and RCIA and soon we will be adding e-giving to our web capabilities. Visit our new webpage today and let us know what you think!

Lucky Lottery Calendars

Our Lucky Lottery Calendar fundraiser began on Tuesday, July 1, 2014. Lottery Calendars will be sold until September 30, 2014. This major fundraiser raised \$7,030 for St. Joseph Church last year. The lottery calendar is based on the evening drawing of Ohio's daily three-digit number. In the EVENING DRAWING, you have two chances a day, during October, November, and December, to win from at least \$50 to \$500. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve grand prizes of \$1000, each will be awarded. Calendars cost \$30 and are available after weekend Masses in the courtyard or at the parish office Monday through Friday from 9a.m. to 4p.m.



St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry

In 2011, Father Matthew formed the St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to provide caring support to the family members of St. Joseph parishioners who have passed away.

When a loved one dies, the families are often surrounded by concerned friends and acquaintances for the first week or so and then all of sudden they are left alone to grieve because everyone else has "moved on". The St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry works to help the family through the grieving process immediately following the death of their loved one and through the first year.

When a parishioner dies, a member of the Bereavement Ministry is called to be the first contact from our church. They meet with the family, pray with them and offer guidance in planning the funeral Mass. They help the family choose appropriate scripture readings and songs. They walk them through the Catholic Funeral Mass and help them to choose the appropriate

individuals to be pall bearers, bring up the gifts, and read scripture.

This initial contact is crucial because it lets the family know that they are not alone and that their St. Joseph Family mourns with them. This first meeting also helps Father Matthew. When he meets with the family for the first time, the funeral planning is complete. He can then focus on praying with the family and talk to them about their loved one on a more intimate level. The "First Contact Person" then follows up with the family throughout the year with cards or phone calls, just to let them know that we are still here for them if they should need us and they are in our thoughts and prayers.

In November, a Mass of Remembrance is celebrated around the feast of All Soul's Day. The Bereavement Ministry helps in planning this important Mass. Prior to this Mass, letters of invitation are sent to all family members of those who died during the past year. At

this Mass, the deceased is remembered in a very special way. The names of all deceased buried through St. Joseph Church for the past year are read aloud while the "tolling of the bells," an individual candle representing their loved one is lit during a special candle ceremony, and they receive a memorial flower at the end of the Mass.

Another component of the Bereavement Ministry is our Funeral Luncheons. St. Joseph Church hosts a luncheon for the family members of the deceased in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center. Members of the Funeral Luncheon team set and decorate the tables for the funeral luncheon, serve the catered food, and cleanup afterwards.

We are seeking volunteers to join this ministry. If you feel called to serve as either a "First Contact" person or as a Funeral Luncheon server, please contact the parish office. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided.



Plug In It's Your Parish!

Getting plugged into a new (or even "old") parish is easy, especially in a parish like St. Joseph where there are so many activities going on:

1. Why get involved? Our Baptism makes us "do-ers," not spectators in our faith. We need constantly to grow in our faith and help others. As a parish, our role is to provide those opportunities and encourage your involvement. As you become involved with your fellow parishioners, you will find the wonderful gift of community.

2. Do I have the time to get involved? Just as we should plan our financial giving, we should plan to tithe

a percentage of our time to growing in our own faith and to helping others each year. Even if life gets completely out-of-hand, we encourage you to stay in touch with what is going on in the parish and be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

3. What do all these ministries / organizations do? On page 14 of this newsletter we have listed some of the ministries available at St. Joseph Parish and a brief description of each. However, to stay in touch with what is going on, check out our webpage at www.stjoseph-alliance.org and read the weekly bulletin.

4. How do I pick the one for me? If you would like more information about a ministry/organization, please complete the questionnaire on page 15 and return it to the parish office. We will have a ministry coordinator contact you to answer any questions you may have and get you "Plugged In".

5. I don't have any special skills?

Most of our parish activities do not require any special skills, experience, or knowledge. We just need your interest and your energy.

7. I know what I want to do, but I don't see it on the list of parish ministries? If you are willing to work to make your idea into a parish ministry or activity, please call the parish office and set-up an appointment with Father Matthew to discuss your idea and how you see it could be implemented.

8. I'm not sure, but I think I have a calling to pursue a religious vocation? Contact the parish office to make an appointment with Father Matthew, he would be delighted to talk with you.

See page 14 a list of ministries at our parish



Ministries / Organizations at St. Joseph Parish

Plug In

It's Your Parish!

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Adoration is a quiet time spent weekly in prayer and reflection with Jesus in the Eucharist. Commitment time is one hour per week.

Adult Altar Server: Adults who assist the celebrant at Mass, especially for Daily Mass and Funeral Masses

Adult Faith Formation Programs:

Programs are offered throughout the year for adults with the sole purpose of awakening your faith. A series lasts 6-12 weeks depending on the subject. All programs are held on Wednesdays beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bereavement Ministry: Provides a connection between the parish of St. Joseph and the bereaved and offers assistance and ongoing support to the family who has experienced loss.

Bible Study: Group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the coming Sunday readings.

Catholics Returning Home: This six week series begins the first Wednesday after Easter. The program gives a process by which Catholics who have been away from the Church can transition back "home".

Catholic Women's Club: Consists of Catholic women in Alliance. They meet monthly for the mutual advancement of its members, in spiritual, charitable, intellectual, cultural and social fields of endeavor.

Catholic Men's Fellowship: A gathering of men who discuss their lives in light of their Catholic faith and to share their faith and experiences through friendship, prayer, and fraternity.

Cantor/Song Leaders: A cantor or song leader leads and supports the parish in singing hymns, psalms and acclamation at Masses

Cemetery Board: Works with the Pastor and Parish Staff to identify areas of the building and grounds of the cemetery property in need of repair and to assure proper maintenance.

Choir: Choir meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. to practice songs, and pray together to lead our parish family in song every Sunday.

Church Cleaners: A team of committed parishioners vacuum and dust the main level of the Church weekly

Community Dinner Cooking Team: Meets once a month to cook the Alliance Neighborhood Dinner.

Community Dinner Servers: Meets once a month to serve the Alliance Neighborhood Dinner.

Eucharist Minister: Assist the Priest by serving the body and blood of Christ at Mass. May also take Communion to the Homebound or Nursing Home Residents.

Funtastics: This "young at heart" group is open to men and women who are at least 55 years of age. They meet on a monthly basis just to have fun!

Greeters: Welcome parishioners and non-parishioners at the church door as they arrive for Mass or other special services.

Homebound Minister: Visit parishioners who are homebound or live in local nursing homes. They provide support by listening, praying and distributing Communion.

Knights of Columbus #558: The K of C Provides members with volunteer opportunities in service to Catholic parishes and the community.

Lay Leader of Prayer: Lay ministers preside at or lead the congregation of special groups in various services such as Novenas and Stations of the Cross.

Lectors: Proclaim the Word of God at Sunday/Daily Mass or other liturgical Services.

Liturgy Committee: Works with the Pastor to implement diocesan and universal liturgical policies, recommends and coordinates a schedule for worship services and provides appropriate environmental background in the church.

Marriage Preparation—Sponsor couple: Meet with an engaged couple to aid them in preparing for the sacrament of marriage.

Parish Outreach Ministry: Help parishioners with minor repairs within their home.

Parish and Family Life Committee:

Plans social events for our parishioners to build community and good relationships. Some events include Lenten simple suppers, new member dinners and parish picnic.

Parish Pastoral Council: Works with the Pastor and Parish Staff to carry out the mission of the Roman Catholic Church in the parish, community, diocese and the world.

Pro-Life Ministry: Supports the Alliance Life Chain during Respect Life Sunday in October.

PSR Catechist: Teach and share the Word of God with students from the public schools who are members of St. Joseph Parish.

PSR Volunteers: Help the C.R.E. to provide assistance in the area of religious education to public school children.

RCIA Team: Provides Religious Education to the non-baptized or baptized adults who desire to become Catholic.

St. Vincent DePaul Society: An organization of parishioners who have accepted the important responsibility of serving people in temporary need of food, and utility payment help. They also provide Christmas baskets for those in need in the community each year in late December.

Social Activities Committee: Organize parish fundraising events such as Mother's Day Brunch, Island Party etc.

Ushers: Assist parishioners and visitors in finding a place to sit at Mass, assist anyone with a special need, take up the offertory collection and direct the Communion Procession.

Wedding Coordinator: Assist Father in organizing parish weddings.

Vacation Bible School: A one week event where children preschool through 6th grade enjoy learning about God through meaningful activities based on a daily theme.

Youth Altar Server: Young boys and girls who assist the priest at Masses on Sunday, holy Days at Funeral Masses and Weddings.

Youth Ministry Volunteer: Provide assistance, support and guidance to the Youth Ministry Staff by service as an advisor chaperone, substitute catechist and/or activity volunteer helper.

Time and Talent Form

If you would be interested in any of the ministries or programs listed below, please complete this form and return it to the parish office: St. Joseph Church, 427 E. Broadway, Alliance, OH 44601

Worship

- ☐ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
☐ Altar Server
 ☐ Adult
 ☐ Youth
☐ Cantor/Song Leader
☐ Eucharistic Minister
 ☐ at Mass and to the homebound
 ☐ at Mass only
 ☐ to homebound only
☐ Greeter
☐ Lector
☐ Liturgy Committee
☐ Usher

Word

- ☐ Adult Faith Formation Programs
 ☐ Participant
 ☐ Group Leader
☐ Bible Study
☐ Catholics Returning Home
 ☐ Participant
 ☐ Group Leader
☐ Lay Leader of Prayer
☐ Parish School of Religion
 ☐ Catechist
 ☐ Catechist Assistant
 ☐ Participant
☐ RCIA
 ☐ Participant
 ☐ Sponsor
 ☐ Facilitator
 ☐ Luncheon Provider
☐ Vacation Bible School
☐ Youth Ministry
 ☐ Participant
 ☐ Group Leader
 ☐ Chaperone

Service

- ☐ Bereavement Ministry
 ☐ Family Support Ministry
 ☐ Funeral Luncheon Server
☐ Church Cleaners
☐ Parish Outreach Ministry
 ☐ Landscaping
 ☐ Plumber
 ☐ Electrician
 ☐ Carpenter
 ☐ Painter
 ☐ Other Skilled Trade
☐ Homebound Ministers
☐ Parish Family & Life
☐ Parish Pastoral Council
☐ Marriage Preparation/
Sponsor Couple
☐ Wedding Coordinator

Community

- ☐ St. Vincent DePaul
☐ Parish Library
☐ Funtastics
☐ Knights of Columbus
☐ Catholic Women's Club
☐ Catholic Men's Fellowship
☐ Community Dinners
 ☐ Cooking Team
 ☐ Dinner Server

Cemetery

- ☐ Cemetery Board
☐ Seasonal Clean Up

Parish Fundraisers/

Activities

- ☐ Lucky Lottery Calendar
☐ Carnation Days in the Park
☐ New Member Dinner
☐ Social Activities Committee

*In grateful response to
God for His generous
Gift of time and talent
To me, as His steward,*

*I volunteer to return to God as I am
able, my time and talent for Christ's
services in my parish.*

Family LAST Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

Phone

Cell

E-Mail Address

Family Members:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

Comments/Concerns:

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

427 East Broadway
Alliance, OH 44601

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Organization
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St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Joseph Mission Statement:

*Guided by the Holy Spirit,
nurtured by the
Sacraments of Jesus
and inspired by the Holy Family,
we, the members of
St. Joseph Church,
commit ourselves
to growing the Family of God
both in our parish
and in the community
through sharing
God's Word,
worship and service.*

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4 p.m. & Sundays 8 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8 a.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Matthew Mankowski, Pastor—Ext. 1104
Sandy McCready, Pastoral Assistant—Ext. 1103
Barb Rogel, Parish Secretary—Ext. 1101
Lynn Raber, Coordinator of Religious Education—Ext. 1108
Joseph Keffer, Parish Bookkeeper—Ext. 1102
Bruce Snyder, Director of Music
Dave Skolosh, Head of Maintenance

Our Parish Office is located in the Schwartz Center behind St. Joseph Church. Wheelchair accessibility is available from the High Street Entrance.

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4 p.m.
PARISH/CEMETERY PHONE: 330-821-5760
PARISH OFFICE FAX: 330-821-5783
PARISH E-MAIL: stjosephalliance@gmail.com
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjoseph-alliance.org