

St. Joseph Church Parish Newsletter

February 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1



A word from Father Matthew.....

Whenever I turn on my radio these days, I always seem to be able to find

the beautiful song by Philip Philips called: "Home." It is the most uplifting and inspiring song that I have heard in a long time and if I could, I would dedicate this song to all those people who may, at times, felt to be completely lost and overwhelmed by the realities of life and our daily struggles. The more I listen to this song the more I feel like it is the voice of God whispering into my ear and into the ears of all those people who may have become a bit tired or even lost in their life journey.

"Home" — by Philip Philips:

*Hold on, to me as we go
As we roll down this unfamiliar road
And although this wave is stringing us along
Just know you're not alone
Cause I'm going to make this place your home
Settle down, it'll all be clear
Don't pay no mind to the demons
They fill you with fear
The trouble it might drag you down
If you get lost, you can always be found
Just know you're not alone
Cause I'm going to make this place your home
Settle down, it'll all be clear
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They fill you with fear
The trouble it might drag you down
If you get lost, you can always be found
Just know you're not alone
Cause I'm going to make this place your home*

What is *Home*? Some people may say that *Home* is that place where you feel loved and accepted. Others may believe that *Home* is that state of mind where we find warmth, security and fulfillment. Still others may say that *Home* is where the

heart is. *Home* is far more than a building. It is that place and state of mind where we find peace, tranquility, love, fulfillment and a strong sense of belonging. When we are at *Home*, we feel welcomed and accepted. We feel that we are a part of something greater than ourselves.

This coming July, I will celebrate my second year anniversary here at St. Joseph Church. Being with you during this time has been a true blessing for me. I believe that my dog Hunter and I have found a true home here at St. Joseph. This parish and the Alliance community has become our new *Home* and I know that there are many others who feel exactly the same. Nothing makes me happier than to see the continuous growth in the number of parishioners since I began my ministry here at St. Joseph Parish. As priests we very often do not get a chance to see the fruits of our labors. Many of the interactions between a pastor and his parishioners take place in the privacy of people's homes, hospital rooms, nursing homes, funeral homes or the pastor's office. These interactions are usually very cordial and very personal. A priest may never know or fully realize the impact of his words of comfort and his very presence in the lives of his parishioners during their time of need. However, sometimes he gets a chance to see that his hard work and genuine love and concern for his parishioners makes a difference in their lives and his life as well. We must be doing something right here at St. Joseph in Alliance because more and more people have become members of our parish community and they call our church their new *Home*. As your pastor, I feel very touched and inspired that new *(continued on page 2)*

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(continued from page 1) families have become a part of our community. This past year alone we registered 60 new families. Every time I celebrate mass with you I look around and I smile. New faces can be seen at every single mass. The cries of little babies are like music to my ears that says to me: "Look, a new generation of kids are coming here. They are the future of our church and our country!" This is their new *Home* - a place where their parents wish to raise them and teach them about loving God and our neighbor. God has blessed us with new members and we are delighted to have them here at St. Joseph's Church. On **April 14, 2013**, at the Schwartz Center, we will have a special dinner for all of our new members in order to welcome them and to tell them a little bit more about our mission, our ministries and opportunities to get involved in the life of our parish community. To sweeten the pot, I decided to cook at least one dish for them in order to say: "Welcome. We are glad you are here."

This past Christmas my heart was overjoyed looking at our parishioners' willingness to help those who struggle during these difficult economic times and who need our help. Every time we placed new tags on our Christmas Giving Tree, they were gone within minutes. We were able to help so many people and restore their faith in humanity. Tears of joy filled with gratitude for the generosity of our parishioners were shed this past Christmas and God was smiling looking at St. Joseph Church members. Our St. Joseph's St. Vincent DePaul members extended their very much needed help to many families who have fallen on difficult financial times. Their Christmas food baskets also provided a lot of help and comfort to the struggling families.

The highlight of my Christmas was the children's mass at 4 p.m.

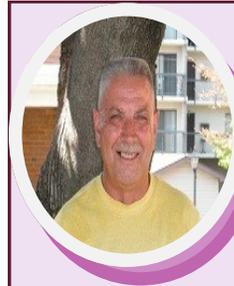
Never did I realize that instead of 25 teddy bears, I needed 63 for all the little ones who came forward to talk about Jesus and Christmas during my homily. I guess there is a lesson to be learned here and I shall definitely make the necessary improvements for 4 p.m. Christmas mass this year.

Speaking of this year, we have some necessary improvements in mind that we would like to accomplish this year. We are planning to put a new roof on the Schwartz Center because the old roof is on it's last leg. We are also planning on putting new widows in the Schwartz Center and St. Dominic's Chapel. In order to make our Schwartz Center fully handicap accessible, we are going to put an elevator at the Schwartz Center. This elevator will also help us to deal with the food transportation from the kitchen to the first floor. Last but not least, we will either cement or blacktop the gravel area located behind the rectory, which has served us as an additional parking space during this past year. During the course of this new year we will also have a couple of parish dinners. It has been said that: "The family that prays together, should eat together," therefore, we will cook and eat together, so that we can get to know each other better and become closer to one another. We will ask parishioners who love to bake cookies and cakes to help us with the desserts because no meal is complete without something sweet.

I am looking forward to our celebration of Easter and I am very excited for our RCIA participants this year who will join our parish family during this coming Easter Vigil. On behalf of our St. Joseph Parish Family I wish to

say to **Bill Fast, Judy Wittensolder, Audrey McClelland and John McMasters Welcome Home!** We are delighted you have chosen to become members of our church. As always, all of you are in my thoughts and prayers. May the good Lord continue to bless us and guide us on this our life and faith journey. With my love and prayers,

Fr. Matthew



On December 21, 2012 the Staff of St. Joseph Church lost a very important member, our dear friend.... Tom May. Tom was the head maintenance man and loyal parish-

ioner at St. Joseph Church for many years. He was hardworking, dedicated, loyal and a friend to everyone he met. While searching for the words to sum up what Tom meant to all of us I came across this poem, I think Tom would have liked it. We miss you Tom, there isn't a day that goes by that we don't think about you!

See Ya, Love Ya, Bye!

*When I heard that you had left us
I was simply blown away
How could that be possible?
We were laughing yesterday.*

*Your dry wit and your humor
Your 'grin' and devilish smile
No one knew what you'd do next
You had one unique style!*

*Oh how I'd anticipate you
Clocking "in" on our shift
How I waited for your quips
You had a truly special gift.*

*Always there for everyone
So dependable, sincere
Kind, gentle and caring
Felt good to have you near.*

*So, my dear departed friend
I'll think of you each day
Peace and rest and comfort
I hope you've found today.*

*Your last words to me
Will help my tears to dry
You smiled at me and said,
"Hey...see ya, love ya, bye!"*

Financial Report submitted by Joseph E. Keffer, Bookkeeper



Above: Olivia Leskey carrying baby Jesus
Below: Larry Gatts as Santa Clause



Above: Fr. Matthew, Ally Oyster as Mrs. Clause, Larry Gatts as Santa Clause, Tessa Gatts And Hunter.



Above: Red Artino at Christmas Eve Mass
Below: Christmas Eve Mass



St. Joseph Church Income		
Type of Income	Proposed Budget for 2012-2013	Actual from 7/1/12 to 1/1/2013
Sunday and Holyday Collections	\$270,485	\$122,279
Christmas and Easter Collections	\$35,318	\$19,062
Other Church Collections	\$14,300	\$9,720
Other Church Income - Gross (candles, votive lights, Bequests, Gifts, Etc.	\$20,128	\$1,943
Designated Collections	\$20,000	\$1,050
Parish Functions	\$9,539	\$4,048
Bishop Appeal Rebate	\$10,095	
	\$1,023	\$930
Total Income	\$380,888	\$159,032
St. Joseph Church Expenses		
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE:	(A) Proposed Budget for 2012-2013	(B) Actual 7/1/12 to 1/1/2013
Clergy and Religious Salaries	\$14,754	\$15,848
Lay Salaries	\$89,210	\$63,330
Rectory Expense	\$9,000	\$2,864
Office Expense	\$8,000	\$5,044
Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits	\$25,653	\$13,725
Transportation and In-Service Expense	\$2,300	\$0
Priests' Reimbursed Expenses	\$2,000	\$400
Parish Activities	\$2,000	\$0
Sanctuary Expense (includes flowers)	\$17,000	\$7,643
CCD and Adult Education (does not include salaries)	\$7,000	\$2,631
Catholic Exponent Expenses	\$4,700	\$2,276
Miscellaneous Administration	\$2,000	\$0
BUILDING EXPENSE:		
Utilities	\$25,000	\$10,300
Ordinary Building Maintenance & Security	\$25,000	\$3,900
Insurance	\$21,804	\$10,839
Taxes	\$500	\$0
CHURCH NON-OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS	\$15,000	\$0
PAYMENTS TO OTHERS:		
Assessments to Regina Colie School	\$50,000	
Taxes to the Diocese of Youngstown	\$30,711	
High School Quota	\$19,451	\$7,510
Designated Collections	\$12,000	\$4,048
Total Expense	\$383,083	\$150,358
Profit/Loss	\$8,674	
Percentage of Budget Used	39.25%	

What's Happening Around PSR..... by Lynn Raber, CRE

Children's Christmas Play: We had eight children participate in our Christmas Eve Play this year which was directed by Mrs. Lori Burse. The children worked very hard practicing their parts and did a wonderful job with their performance on Christmas Eve prior to 4 p.m. Mass. Many thanks to all who participated and worked behind the scenes to make this play a success!



Above First Row: Peyton Downs, Katelin Downs, Adam Burse, Abigail Downs and Patrick Burse
Second Row: Michael Burse



Above: Patrick Burse & Abigail Downs



Above First Row: Peyton Downs, Adam Burse, Patrick Burse, Katelin Downs & Kaylie Strelbel
At Podium: Michael Burse

First Reconciliation at St. Joseph Church

Five second grade students from St. Joseph Church came together in song and prayer to receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time on January 19th. There are a total of six students currently preparing to receive their First Communion on May 5th at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Please keep the following students in your prayers as they begin their spiritual journey: **Emma Jackson, Holden Robinson, Bryce Skidmore, Mary Flemming, Payton Downs and McKayla Korosy**



Future Family Event:

Family fun events are an important part of Parish life. We are currently planning a family outing to see "The Canton Charge" on March 16th at 7:30 p.m. The Canton Charge is an NBA Development League minor league basketball team based in Canton.

The Charge's NBA affiliate is the Cleveland Cavaliers, which also owns the team. They play their home games at the Canton Memorial Civic Center. We can obtain a group rate but need at least twenty people to get tickets for \$12.00 a piece. Information is available and has been sent home with students. Any parishioners interested are welcome. For more information, contact the church office or Lynn Raber if interested.





Confirmation at St. Joseph Church:

Beacon Street performing Arts and Ministry is coming to St. Joseph Church on **March 2nd** to facilitate a retreat for our Confirmation Candidates from St. Ann and St. Joseph Churches. Sometimes, another talk or audio-visual just won't do. No matter how qualified the staff may be, it takes someone from "outside" to make the point. Beacon Street is a Catholic based ministry whose mission is to proclaim the Gospel using

the performing arts. The retreat will begin at **9 a.m.** and end with attendance at **4 p.m.** Mass. Our Confirmation date is set for **Monday March 18th at 7 p.m.** at St. Joseph Church. Please keep these 16 Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey: **Matthew Manley, Erica Scarpetti, Michael McKenna, Logan Miller, Bradley Dennis, Alex McDaniel, Gabrielle Moore, Dylan Eakins, Victoria Thompson, Alan Michael Cabassa, Matthew Heffinger, Aaron Fleming, Steven Thiel, Kyle Hilles, Cody Hilles and Alexis Lyons**

Important PSR Dates

- ◆ **2/24/2013—Confirmation Prep.
Class at 6:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **3/2/2013—Confirmation Retreat
9 a.m.— 4 p.m.**
- ◆ **3/16/2013—Family Fun Event with
the Canton Charge at 7:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **3/18/2013—Confirmation at 7 p.m.**
- ◆ **3/30/2013—Easter Egg Hunt**
- ◆ **5/5/2013—1st Communion at
10:45 a.m. Mass**
- ◆ **5/5/2013—May Crowning at
10:45 a.m. Mass**

Special Word of Thanks!!!

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to **Michael Skolosh**. Michael is an accomplished photographer who just happens to be a parishioner of St. Joseph Church. Michael has donated his time and artistic talent to St. Joseph Church taking photographs for special masses and events over the past few years. The photographs you see within our Newsletter of the Children's Christmas Play, the Church at Christmas time and the photo of Fr. Matthew, Santa, Mrs. Clause and Hunter were all taken by **Michael Skolosh Photography**. Michael volunteered his time and talent during the Christmas season taking pictures of parishioners with Santa & Mrs. Clause, giving pictures free to those who participated.

Michael has been amazing to St. Joseph Church and we would like to publically thank him for his kindness in sharing his gift with us. Any one can take a picture but Michael has the ability to "capture" the moment. For those who may not know, **Michael Skolosh Photography** is a local business here in Alliance. Samples of his work are displayed on his website at **michaelskoloshphotography.zenfolio.com** Please keep Michael in mind for your next weddings, special events, portrait and graphic design needs. His business phone number is 330-581-8246.



On August 26, 2012 St. Joseph and Regina Coeli churches came together to begin our joint RCIA Program. We currently have eight individuals along with their families and sponsors participating in this Journey into our Catholic Faith.

On January 6, 2013 the four participants from St. Joseph Parish: **Bill Fast, Judy Witten solder, Audrey McClellan and John McMasters** participated in the Rite of Acceptance during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. During this Rite, we as a parish, welcomed our new inquirers as Catechumen and Candidates.

The *Rite of Election, The Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the bishop* will take place on **Sunday, February 17, 2013** at St. Joseph Parish at 10:45 a.m. Mass. At that time Catechumens and Candidates will be asked to sign their name as either "The Elect" or "Candidate for Recognition". The "Elect" or "Catechumen" are those who have never been baptized. The "Candidates" are those who have been validly baptized in another non-Catholic ecclesial community, or baptized Catholic but not confirmed.

Later that same evening on **Sunday, February 17th**, the Elect and Candidates, their sponsor and/or Godparents will be asked to gather at **St. Joseph Church, in Canton, at 6 p.m.** for the *Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continued Conversion of Candidates*. Bishop George V. Murry will be the celebrant at this service. At this service the form they signed at the earlier Mass will be presented to the Bishop and the Church formally ratifies your readiness for the sacraments of Initiation, and your readiness

to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church.

We are so proud of our RCIA Participants! We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they continue their Journey into Faith!

Important RCIA Dates

- ◆ **2/17/13**—Rite of Sending for Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop.
- ◆ **2/17/13**—RCIA Session 14: Justice & Peace and Life Issues at 12:30 p.m. at Regina Coeli
- ◆ **3/3/13**—RCIA Session 15: Human Sexuality and The Last Things (Eschatology) at 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
- ◆ **3/10/13**—RCIA Session 16: Temptation: Entering the Spiritual and Walking in the Light of Faith at 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
- ◆ **3/17/13**—RCIA Session 17: Changing Our Hearts and Receiving Sight at 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
- ◆ **3/24/13**—RCIA Session 18: Dying & Rising in Christ, Looking at Jesus and Practice for Easter Vigil
- ◆ **3/30/13**—Easter Vigil at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
- ◆ **4/7/13**—RCIA Session 19: Initiation & Easter Experience and Resurrection Life at Regina Coeli
- ◆ **4/21/13**—RCIA Session 20: Evangelization and The Catholic Church in the US at 12:30 p.m. Regina Coeli
- ◆ **4/28/13**—RCIA Session 21: Lay Ministry and The Ongoing Journey at 12:30 p.m. at Regina Coeli



Catholics Returning Home by Sandy McCready

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, however, we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

As baptized, practicing Catholics we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Secondly, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are excommunicated and are not

welcome to return for a variety of reasons. Many non-practicing Catholics carry a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church so they are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like for them to come back to our Church family.

Here at St. Joseph Church we have a special program to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church called **Catholics Returning Home**. The next series begins **Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Schwartz Center. This is a six week series with the first session lasting about 1 1/2 hours and the remaining sessions lasting no more than an hour. The following is an outline of the session subjects:

- 4/9: *Welcome: "Why am I here?"*
- 4/16: *"Stories of Faith from*

- *Catholics Returning Home*
- 4/23: *The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II*
- 4/30: *Walk through of the Mass*
- 5/7: *Tips on Sinning; An Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation*
- 5/14: *The Creed: What Catholics Believe*

Please pass this article on to anyone who might be interested. For more information about Catholics Returning Home, call **Lynn Raber** or **Sandy McCready** at 330-821-5760

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leaves the 99 sheep to seek the one that is lost. And, when he finds it, he brings it home, and calls everyone in heaven to rejoice more over the one repentant sinner than over the 99 who have no need of repentance



St. Joseph Passion Cantata, submitted by Bruce Snyder, Director of Music

St. Joseph Church is proud to present **"The Passion Cantata and Candlelight Service"** under the direction of Musical Director, Bruce Snyder, on **Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 7 p.m.** At St. Joseph Church.

"The Passion Cantata" is a

moving musical composition telling the story of Christ in his final days. Please come and join the St. Joseph Parish family and experience this moving production at St. Joseph Church. All are welcome and there is no charge for admission.

St. Joseph Church—Lenten and Holy Week Schedule



During the season of Lent St. Joseph Church will be offering many opportunities for spiritual growth. Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday Mass on February 13, 2013.**

Masses will be held at St. Joseph Church at **8 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross will be held at **12:10 p.m.** every **Friday** during Lent beginning **February 15th** and continuing through **March 22nd.** On Good Friday, **March 29th** the Stations of the Cross will be held at **3 p.m.**

A Communal Penance Service will be held at St. Joseph Church on **Tuesday March 5th** at **6:30 p.m.** As always, individual confessions are heard every Saturday from 3—3:45 p.m.

We will have three **Simple Suppers** this year during the Lenten Season. Simple Suppers are simple meals of soup and bread which remind us of our common journey through Lent. These suppers are free of charge and are open to all parishioners. Following the meal, we will have a special guest speaker. All simple suppers are held in the **Schwartz Center** and begin at **6:30 p.m.** Meals are scheduled for **February 20th** with **Fr. Matthew Mankowski** as our guest speaker; **March 13th** with **Msgr. Kolp** as our guest speaker and **March 20th** with the guest speaker to be announced.



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins with the **Chrim Mass** at **St. Columba Cathedral** on **Tuesday, March 26th** at **10:30**

a.m. The Chrim Mass has traditionally been held on Holy Thursday but the Diocese of Youngstown has decided to celebrate this Mass on Tuesday this year.

St. Joseph Church will present the **Passion Cantata and Candlelight Service** on **March 27** at **7 p.m.** once again this year. This service is open to everyone and free of charge.

Holy Thursday—The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at **7 p.m.** on **March 28th.**

Good Friday Service will be held at **3:30 p.m.** on **March 29th** following the Stations of the Cross.

As is traditional in many Eastern European countries, Fr. Matthew will Bless Easter Baskets on **Holy Saturday, March 30th** at **12:00 p.m.**

The Easter Vigil will be held at **6 p.m.** on **March 30th.** At this Mass we will welcome four new members into our Catholic family.

Easter Sunday Masses will be at **8 a.m.** and **10:45 a.m.** We encourage you to take advantage of the Services, Programs and Masses offered at St. Joseph Church.

St. Lucky Lottery Calendar Fundraiser Was a Great Success!

The total profit from our Lucky Lottery Calendar was \$7280 which is a \$170 increase over last year. We sold a total of 442 Calendars this year which would have not been possible without the help of the following people: **Emma Beach, Helen Bosick, Nancy Burkey, Ann Conrad, Jim Edwards, Becky Egli, Lori Gasparik, Judy Gatts, Dick Glasser, Nan Gwin, Norm Haidet, Patty Hampu, Barb Rogel, Nancy Saunier, Ede Scaia, Sam Scaia, Joan Smith, Bruce Snyder, Marlene Snyder and Anna Mae Welsh!** This fundraiser would not have been a success without your hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all you do for St. Joseph Church!

Lucky Lottery Report 2012	
Number of Calendars Sold	442
Total Amount of Money Received	\$13,260
Total Payouts	\$5,980
Total Profit	\$7,280



Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton

by Sandy McCready, Pastoral Assistant

We are beginning a new Adult Faith Formation Series on **Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.** in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center entitled *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton: Entering the School of Your Experience.*

Bridges is intended for anyone seeking to live more contemplatively. For some it initiates a spiritual journey, for others it leads to re-examination or recovery of a neglected spiritual life, and for still others it deepens an already vibrant spirituality. Through reflection and dialogue on specific spiritual themes, participants revisit and refresh their perspectives on and

understanding of life. They explore the strength and balance of the relationships that ultimately determine who they are: relationships with self, God, others, and nature. Through examining these relationships, participants probe their understanding of life's great questions:

“Who am I?”

“Who is God?”

“Why am I here?”

“What am I to do with my life?”

This series is open to all parishioners. All sessions will be held in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in these series, please contact **Sandy**

McCready or **Lynn Raber** at 330-821-5760. The following is our schedule for this eight week series:

4/10: Session 1:

Contemplative Living

4/17: Session 2:

Contemplative Dialogue

4/24: Session 3:

Exploring Life's Questions

5/1: Session 4:

Trusting Life, Nature, and God

5/8: Session 5:

Praying through Your Changing

Image of God

5/15: Session 6:

Doing God's Will

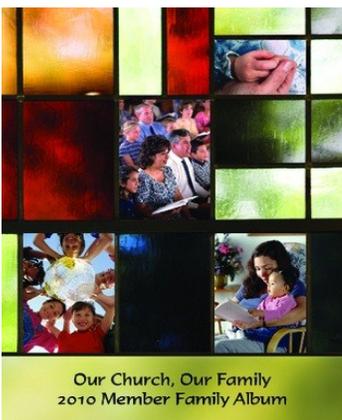
5/22: Session 7:

Praying Out of the Roots of Your

Own Life

5/29: Session 8:

Compassion: Prayer in Action



Our Church, Our Family
2010 Member Family Album

It's time again for a Parish Directory!

Be a part of our new St. Joseph Parish Family Directory! We need YOU to make our new family album complete. Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with *Lifetouch* for

from **Tuesday, May 14—Saturday, May 18th.** Your session will last approximately one hour. At your scheduled time you will check-in, be professionally photographed, immediately view your portraits and have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Each family will receive a complimentary 8X10 portrait and directory for participating.

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken? Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

this project in order to connect our members and tell our story.

Lifetouch will photograph at the St. Joseph Schwartz Center in the Kindergarten PSR Room

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Every Monday the phones at the St. Joseph Parish Office begin ringing off the hook at 9 a.m. with calls from the poor and needy requesting help with utilities, evictions, medical assistance and food.



Above & Below: Christmas Food Baskets



Above: Ally Oyster and Bruce Snyder performing at the St. Vincent de Paul benefit recital

Our parish secretary, **Barb Rogel**, receives information from these individuals & schedules appointments for Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. in 30 minute increments. The information gathered is then given a volunteer from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, who in turn meets with each person and evaluates every case based on the household income, number of people in the household and urgency of need and allots funds to help the family. Most parishioners do not realize the time and effort that goes into helping the needy of Alliance. It is not as simple as writing a check. The true definition of Christian Stewardship is demonstrated weekly through this process. Everyone who comes to us is welcomed by a nonjudgmental representative and is treated with dignity and respect.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is able to help our needy largely through donations from our parish along with fundraisers such as the Christmas Basket Raffle, Bake Sales and the benefit recital which was performed on November 11th this year by **Bruce Snyder** and **Ally Oyster**. From August of 2012

through January 21, 2013 \$8,405.50 in monetary donations were received. As a result of the parishes Christian Stewardship of “treasure” we were able to help 112 families, 40 of which received Christmas Food

Report Dates	Number of Clients Helped	Type of Assistance Given	Total Amount of Aid Given
8/27/2012 to 9/17/2012	4	Water	\$297.25
	2	Evictions	\$200.00
		Total Aid Given	\$497.25
9/17/2012 to 10/15/2012	1	Water	\$100.00
	1	Evictions	\$100.00
		Total Aid Given	\$200.00
10/15/2012 to 11/18/2012	2	Electric	\$160.00
	1	Medical Asst.	\$30.00
	2	Water	\$155.98
	2	Evictions	\$175.00
	3	Gas	\$308.30
	2	Electric	\$160.00
	1	Emergency Housing	\$42.00
	1	Fuel Oil Asst.	\$200.00
		Total Aid Given	\$1,231.28
11/18/2012 to 1/21/2013	40	Christmas Baskets	\$116.14
	40	Food for Baskets	\$1,200.00
	1	Medical Asst.	\$50.00
	1	Water	\$100.00
	4	Evictions	\$400.00
	1	Electric	\$107.05
	1	Funeral Asst.	\$500.00
	1	Special aid for a family in our community	\$500.00
	1	Food Voucher	\$39.86
		Total Aid Given	\$2,896.91
Total Number of Families Helped from August - January	112	Total Amount of Financial Asst. Given from August—January	\$4,825.44

Baskets this year.

How can you help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Get involved! The Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Schwartz Center. If you can not join the Society, donate! An envelope for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is included in your envelope packet on a monthly basis. Collections are usually taken the 1st weekend of every month. For more information about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please contact **Tony LaMonica** at 330-821-1162.

The Funtastiks submitted by Bruce Snyder

The organization is formally titled the Senior Parishioners' Club. The familiar name is Funtastiks. It is open to Catholic people 55 year and older, and the dues are \$10 per year. We meet once a month excluding January and July on the third Tuesday at 1 p.m. usually in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center.

Our March meeting will be a Tuesday morning breakfast and our August meeting will be a picnic at the log cabin at Silver Park.

The meetings consist of prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, a program, a short business meeting and refreshments.

Programs over the past year have included **Dan Skivolocke's** presentation of the history

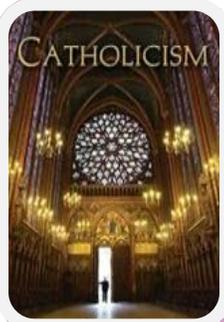
of Alliance, **Dr. Joseph Torma** describing his visit to El Salvadore, and **Ron and Kathy Kuceyeski's** vacation in Alaska.

Also the club member enjoyed a Christmas party at Alliance Senior Center. Members of the club enjoyed a one day guided tour of the Shrines of Ohio. Another guided tour took the members to Presque Isle (not the casino) and a buffet lunch on a boat on Lake Erie. The officers of the club are: President-**Bruce Snyder**, Vice President-**Larry Gatts**, Secretary-**Jean Popovich**, Treasurer-**Mary Alice Antonini**, Publicity-**Marlene Synder**, Hospitality-**Elda Gallina** and Sunshine- **Pat Buck**.

The St. Joseph Parish Appreciation Party!

The parishioners at St. Joseph Parish go above and beyond the call of duty when volunteering their time and talent. If you are a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish and have volunteered in any way during 2012, we would like to invite you to the St. Joseph Church

Parish Appreciation Party on Sunday, April 28 at the Holy Family Catholic Center (Regina Coeli School Gym). Doors will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and entertainment will be provided at 6 p.m. Anyone who volunteered is invited to this event: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Parish Council Members, Finance Council Members, Advisory Board Members, Cemetery Board Members, Lucky Lottery Calendar Sellers, Office help Volunteers, Website Builders, Bereavement Ministry Members, Choir Members, Cantors, Liturgy Committee, Decorating Committees, Bus Drivers, PSR Catechists, Lay Leaders of Prayer, Adult Servers, Giving Tree Coordinators, St. Vincent De Paul members, Adoration Ministry, Bereavement Luncheon Servers and any other ministry, organization or committee that we may have forgotten that volunteers their time or talent to St. Joseph Church. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to the Parish Office no later than **April 8, 2013**.



On November 7, 2012 we began an Adult Faith Formation Program entitled Catholicism. We began this series with seven individuals and ended with sixteen! Our group met weekly, on Wednesdays until January 30, 2013 from 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. The groups consisted of prayer, watching a DVD by Fr. Robert E. Barron and open small group discussion

regarding how to apply our Catholic faith to our daily lives. The subjects we learned about and discussed were difficult but everyone who participated shared their thoughts and ideas and listened openly to the thoughts and opinions of those who participated. We plan on offering this series annually. If you would like to participate in the Catholicism Series or any other Adult Faith Formation Program, please contact **Sandy McCready** or **Lynn Raber**.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

427 East Broadway
Alliance, OH 44601

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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, *Director 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 8:30 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