

# St. Joseph Parish Newsletter

February 2016

Volume 4 Issue 1

## A Message from Fr. Matthew

For the last couple of weeks I have been singing and humming one of my favorite Catholic church hymns; The Song of the Body of Christ by David Haas. The lyrics of this beautiful song read:

*"We come to share our story. We come to break the bread.*

*We come to know our rising from the dead.*

*We come as your people. We come as your own. United with each other, love finds a home.*

*We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor.*

*We are called to feed the hungry at our door.*

*Bread of life and cup of promise,  
In this meal we all are one.*

*In our dying and our rising, may your kingdom come."*

When I hear and sing this song, I realize that we create a very unique and diverse family called St. Joseph Catholic Church. Here at St. Joe's we cry together and we laugh together. We form the church of saints and sinners and we acknowledge that we are members of the Body of Christ. Here at St. Joseph Catholic Church all people are welcomed. Men, women and children, people who are rich and poor, people of different ethnic background and skin color, people of different sexual orientation, people of different political beliefs - all of them are welcome in our church. We do not reject a single soul and we do not discriminate against anyone because God does not discriminate against us. At this altar of God we welcome all who come here to share their story. We welcome all who seek God's grace, love and mercy. We embrace them as brothers and sisters in Christ, members of St. Joseph Church who carry each other's burdens and who walk humbly with God. We gather as one in Jesus - God's Son who brings salvation and acceptance to all.

This year our parish community has been asked to embrace the Stewardship Way of Life by sharing of their Time, Talent and Treasure. As many of you realize any church community

is as strong as the people who belong to it and who support it. St. Joseph Parish is a wonderful church community. We help one another on this journey of life and faith and we reach out to the poor, the hungry and to those who have fallen on difficult times. This winter all of our parishioners have been asked to increase their financial giving to St. Joseph Church. We appeal to all of our members and friends to please, consider increasing your financial giving, so that we can continue to provide quality programs and services for all who are in need of our help and assistance.

I myself had increased my financial giving to our church because I want for our parish community to become debt free and to continue our legacy for many centuries to come. Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) wrote this inspiring poem which I hope will help all of us to realize that we can make a big difference in the life of St. Joseph Church if we only choose to do so;

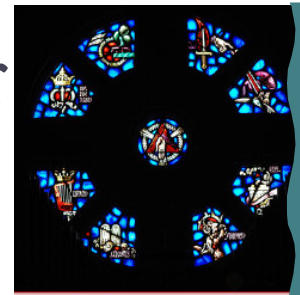
*I am only one,  
But still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something;  
And because I cannot do everything,  
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do;*

*And by the grace of God, I will.*

~~~~~ Edward Everett Hale 1822-1909

Please, help St. Joseph Church community by increasing your financial giving, so that we can reach out to many people in need who cry out for our help, support and assistance. Thank you for your consideration regarding this request. Please, know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and watch over you always as you continue to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

With all my love and prayers,  
Fr. Matthew



### Inside this issue:

St. Joseph Youth 2

Finance Report 2

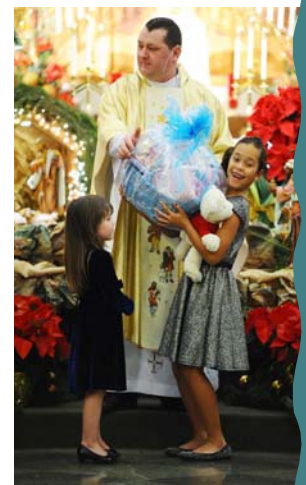
Parish Survey 3

Polka Mass 3

Unsung Heroes 3

St. John Paul II 4

Year of Mercy 4



# St Joseph Youth— In Service and Celebration!



## St Joseph Parish Financial Report—June to December 2015

### Income - July thru December, 2015

|                                                                  |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Collections                                                      | \$162,244        |
| Bequests and Gifts                                               | \$3,695          |
| Parish Activities                                                | \$2,975          |
| Stewardship / Capital Campaign                                   | \$0              |
| Bishop's Appeal Rebate                                           | \$501            |
| Other Parish Income (ex: sale of land, royalty or rental income) | \$1,736          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                              | <b>\$171,151</b> |

### Money Owed Diocese we have not been able to pay this year

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Diocesan Assessment              | \$35,580         |
| High School Quota                | \$18,336         |
| Diocesan Health Care             | \$31,995         |
| Property and Liability Insurance | \$20,292         |
| Diocesan Retired Religious       | \$8,880          |
| Payments to Holy Cross Academy   | \$27,492         |
| <b>Money Owed to Diocese</b>     | <b>\$142,575</b> |

### Expense - July thru December 2015

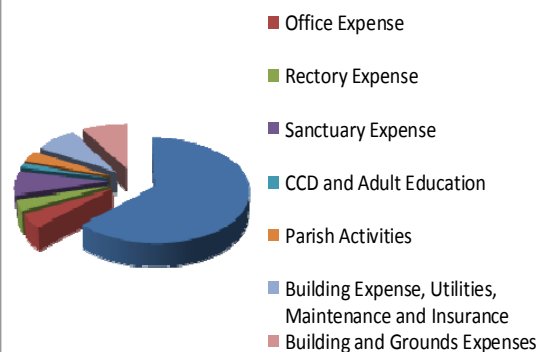
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|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Salary and Payroll Expense                             | \$108,335        |
| Office Expense                                         | \$7,537          |
| Rectory Expense                                        | \$5,842          |
| Sanctuary Expense                                      | \$12,864         |
| CCD and Adult Education                                | \$2,408          |
| Parish Activities                                      | \$6,307          |
| Building Expense, Utilities, Maintenance and Insurance | \$13,890         |
| Building and Grounds Expenses                          | \$14,742         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                                   | <b>\$171,925</b> |

**Income - Expense - Money Owed = -\$143,349**

Income



Salary and Payroll Expense



Total number of families at our parish is **593**  
**184** families do not contribute  
**133** families contribute less than \$5 a week  
**77** families contribute between \$5 and \$10 a week  
**85** families contribute between \$10 and \$20 a week  
**95** families contribute between \$20 and \$50 a week  
**14** families contribute between \$50 and \$100 a week  
**4** families contribute between \$100 and \$250 a week  
**1** family contributes more than \$250 a week

# Highlights of our Parish Survey

Many results of the parish survey are printed in the Parish Pastoral Plan. You can obtain a copy of this plan by calling the parish office at 330-821-5760. There are many interesting facts found in the survey demographic information. We had a total of 163 parishioners who responded to the Parish Survey this past summer.

- 30% have been registered 5 years or less.
- 59% of the respondents were female and 41% were male.
- 70% of the respondents were over 60 years old.
- Over 31% have a Bachelors and/or Graduate degree.
- 64% of the respondents are married.
- 18% of families reported children living at home with the largest category being - Adult Children.
- 93% of those are registered members of St. Joseph, another 4% are not registered but attend regularly.
- 35% have been registered members for over 40 years.



## Polka Mass and Polish Dinner

Our first annual Polka Mass and Polish Dinner was well received with a packed church for Mass and over 250 people in attendance for the dinner and dance. Music was provided by Jack Vasko Orchestra. Fr. Matthew made sure it was an authentic Polish dinner, complete with special kielbasa and pierogies from St. Stans in Youngstown. Plans continue to make this an annual event. Mark your calendars for October 22, 2016—the feast day of St. John Paul II!



Photos by Michael Skolosh Photography

## Parishioners Who Are Unsung Heroes of Stewardship



### Carnation Days in the Park

Every summer you will find the Morrow family at the St. Joseph tent during Carnation Days in the Park. Although others

have volunteered to work at times, it is Jim and Katie Morrow and their children Sam and Claire, who do all the buying, preparing, setup, and cooking of the delicious meat ball sandwiches. Then they work each day to sell the sandwiches and meet and greet the people of Alliance and all visitors to the Days in the Park. It's a family affair that benefits St. Joseph Church and proves that the roots of stewardship begin at home—thank you to the Morrow family—our unsung heroes!



When you see Margaret Bowman out and about, you will notice that she is always taking

care of whatever needs to be done—and doing it with great care and love. She truly lives this quote from St. Augustine.

*“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.”*

Thank you Margaret!

## St. Joseph Church



427 E. Broadway  
Alliance, OH 44601  
Phone: 330-821-5760

Rev. Matthew Mankowski, Pastor  
stjosephalliance@gmail.com  
<http://www.stjoseph-alliance.org>

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### *Parish Mission*

*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.*

*I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think – and I say it with humility – that this is the Lord's most powerful message: **mercy**. Pope Francis*

### Helping In the Year of Mercy

1. Help two people looking for a new job to meet people in your personal network who may be helpful.
2. Visit one sick person at their home or in the hospital.
3. Call or send a card (or both!) to those people for whom you are truly thankful and share with them how grateful you are to have them in your life.
4. Adopt a needy family and make their lives better with what you can share.
5. Pray every day for those who are struggling.
6. Let's take the time to teach our children about stewardship and helping others.
7. Invite someone who has fallen away from the Church to Mass or any of the numerous special events being held in your parish community.

Randy Hain, author of: *Joyful Witness:  
How to be an Extraordinary Catholic*

Our parish is blessed to have a relic of St. John Paul II. Many parishioners have prayed before this relic and asked for St. John Paul II to intercede on their behalf for many needs and intentions

### Prayer for the Intercession of St. John Paul II

O Blessed Trinity, we thank you for having graced the Church with Saint John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your fatherly care, the glory of the Cross of Christ and the splendor of the Spirit of love to shine through him.

Trusting fully in your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

He has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you.

Grant us, by his intercession, and according to your will, the graces we implore, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Asking for the intercession of St. John Paul II

