

## *St. Joseph Church History*

As early as 1848 mention is made of a priest visiting early Catholic settlers in the Alliance area and by 1854 regular visits by priests of nearby parishes in Canton and Summitville prayed the Mass and offered the Sacraments in homes.

In 1859, Father Eli Lindesmith rented a room over a store on Main Street. It was there that Bishop Rappe, of Cleveland, celebrated the first Sunday Mass. Soon property was purchased on the corner of Market and Linden Streets for our first church.

By 1881 more room was needed and land was purchased on the corner of Linden and Broadway – our present location. This church was loved for its beauty, but by 1930 the church became too small and it was felt that a larger building was needed. The present sanctuary was dedicated in 1941, and received extensive renovation in 1994 - 1995 due to settling of the sanctuary.

After the establishment of Regina Coeli Parish in 1958, our parishioners were those residing east of Union Avenue. In recent decades, many parishioners who have moved west have continued their membership here.

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# Word

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## **Bible Study:**

Adult Bible Study is held on Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study alternates monthly between St. Joseph and St. Ann Parishes. We discuss the coming Sunday readings.

## **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):**

If you are a non-baptized adult or baptized in another Christian Church, a baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, or are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, then RCIA is for you! RCIA is a community experience in Catholic Christian growth which includes formation and informational sessions.



## **Catholic School Education:**

Regina Coeli/St. Joseph Elementary School 330-823-9239  
St. Thomas Aquinas High School 330-875-1631

## ***Sacrament of Baptism:***

*Infants are scheduled after parent preparation. School age children are initiated after a period of formation. Call the church office.*

## ***Sacrament of Reconciliation:***

*Celebrated Saturday, 3:00-3:30 p.m. or by appointment.*

## ***Sacrament of Holy Communion:***

*First Eucharist is normally celebrated in the spring after Easter for those children in the second grade who have prepared for this sacrament.*

## ***Sacrament of Confirmation:***

*Preparation classes begin every other September for eligible youth. Call the church office for information.*

## ***Sacrament of Matrimony:***

*Please make arrangements for required preparation with the parish priest at least six months in advance, preferably one year.*

## ***Sacrament of Anointing:***

*When seriously ill or anticipating surgery, call the church office and ask for this healing sacrament.*

# Worship

## Eucharistic Ministers

A Eucharistic Minister is commissioned to serve the Body and Blood of Christ at our Eucharistic celebrations, and they take weekly or monthly communion to the homebound and to two area nursing homes. They are trained and assigned to their respective services by a coordinator. Proper attire is required.

## Readers of the Word /Lectors

The Reader/Lector is commissioned to proclaim the Scripture readings at Mass (with the exception of the Gospel), make announcements and offers the intentions of the General Intercessions. All readers are trained and assigned by a ministry coordinator and are expected to attend all training sessions. Proper attire is required.

## Servers :

**Youth Servers:** Our Youth Servers serve at our 4:00 Saturday, and 10:45 Sunday Masses. This ministry is open to boys and girls in grades 3 and above. Training is provided.

## Greeters:

A warm “hello” welcoming everyone to the Church is important to our faith community. You have a chance to set the tone for the entire service. To send a feeling to a person that they are welcome and we are glad they are worshipping with us is the goal of a greeter. It is also a wonderful way to meet and converse with fellow parishioners. Greeters serve both before and after Masses.



## Ushers:

An usher assists in welcoming, distribution of bulletins, money collection, obtaining offertory gift bearers and responds to any need an individual might have while at the church service.



## Knights of Columbus #558:

The K of C provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic parishes of Alliance, their communities, families and young people. The Knights of Columbus meet on first and third Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. in the Schwartz Center.

## Catholic Women’s Club:

The Catholic Women's Club consists of Catholic women in Alliance.

They meet monthly on Monday evenings for the mutual advancement of its members, in spiritual, charitable, intellectual, cultural and social fields of endeavor.

Membership is open to all women interested in taking part in the activities of this organization.

## Catholic Men’s Fellowship

A gathering of men who get together to discuss their lives in light of their Catholic faith and to share their faith and experiences through friendship, prayer, and fraternity. Meets the first Saturday morning of each month.

## St. Joseph Church Annual Events

Communal Penance Service

Lenten Simple Suppers

Parish Picnic

Carnation Days in the Park Booth

Anointing of the Sick Mass and Luncheon

Family Movie Nights

Christmas Caroling

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## ***Stewardship***

### The Gift of Time

The Stewardship of Time is the amount we give freely to do God's work.

### The Gift of Talent

Stewardship of Talent show us the way to a spiritual life, a oneness with God.

### The Gift of Treasure

The Stewardship of Treasure calls us to search out ways to help the less fortunate.

*Striving to be a Good Steward and a good Disciple is our response to the Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.*



## **Parish School of Religion (PSR) Grades Pre-K-12:**

Our ministry serves to provide religious education opportunities for the youth and families of St. Joseph Church to enhance their personal and community faith development. To this end, we offer Elementary, Junior High and Confirmation Religious Education, Preparation for First Sacraments, Senior High youth group and other opportunities for enriching our faith. Our dedicated volunteers serve as catechists, substitute teachers, youth group leaders and chaperones, teaching assistants and helpers with special programs.

## **Youth Ministry**

St. Joseph Youth Ministry is a Catholic program designed to minister to high school students and lead them closer to Christ. The programming reaches teens on a spiritual, emotional and social level through the Mass, catechesis, prayer, reconciliation, social activities, service and retreats. The youth have a special meeting room. Meetings are usually held each Sunday evenings during the school year.

## **Vacation Bible School:**

Our Vacation Bible School is a one week event where children, preschool through 6th grade enjoy learning about God through meaningful activities based on a daily theme. Crafts and Bible skits encourage children to learn about God in a fun, exciting way. Teens serve as assistants and crew leaders. Young people and adults are needed to plan and execute this event.

# Community



## **Saint Vincent DePaul Society:**

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society is an organization of parishioners who have accepted the important responsibility of serving people in temporary need of food, and utility payment help.



Saint Vincent DePaul Society also provides Christmas baskets for those in need in the community each year in late December.

## **Funtastics:**

This "young at heart" group is open to men and women of both parishes who are at least 55 years of age. They meet on a monthly basis just to have FUN! There are luncheon meetings, speakers and occasional day trips.



## **Parish Library:**

Provides books and videos for individual use in the following categories: prayer, Sacraments, Scripture, Saints, biographies, Mary, youth, relationships, development of Catholic identity, church history and children's books. We also offer library books to shut-ins.

## **Cantors/Song Leader:**

A Cantor or song leader leads and supports the parish in singing hymns, psalms, and acclamations at Masses.

## **Gallery Choir:**

The Choir gathers each Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. at the Church to practice songs, pray together, and visit as friends. This choir leads our parish family in song every Sunday for the 10:45 Mass. Men, women and youth in the 6th grade and up are welcome to join us.

## **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

This commitment of a weekly holy hour encourages and promotes Adoration of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is located in the Schwartz Center in the St. Dominic Chapel. Adoration is a quiet time to spend in prayer and reflection with Jesus in the Eucharist. We are looking for additional volunteers so that more hours can be offered. Adoration begins weekly on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and goes to Thursday midnight.

## **Rosary Group:**

We gather as a group on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary and other prayers for the special intentions of the individuals in the group as well as for various needs of other members of our parish.

## **Legion of Mary:**

The Legion of Mary is a group of lay people, who with prayer and with the help of the Blessed Virgin and the Holy Spirit spread the love of Jesus in our parish. Call for meeting time and location.



# Service

## Pastoral Council:

The Pastoral Council assists the Pastor with long range planning that promotes the mission of the parish. The Pastoral Council meets once monthly. Members are either nominated by the Parish or appointed by the Pastor.

## Parish and Family Life Committee:

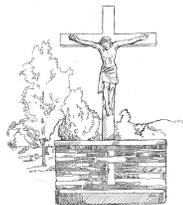
The purpose of this committee is to plan social events for our parishioners to build community and good relationships. Some events include the Lenten simple suppers, graduation luncheon, and parish picnic.

## Bereavement Ministry:

This committee provides caring support to members of the parish when they experience the loss of a loved one. Members of this committee provide support materials and compassion to immediate members of a bereaved family and sponsor an annual Mass for parishioners who have died during the past year near All-Soul's Day.

## Cemetery Board:

Consists of parishioners from both St. Joseph and Regina Coeli, who help the pastor with planning, development, and maintenance of our cemetery on East State Street.



## Finance Committee:

The Finance Council works with the pastor to provide advice and practical help with the parish finances and budget. The Council usually has nine monthly meetings per year on Monday evenings.

## Sponsor Couples:

This ministry by married couples to help the engaged couple discuss important topics related to marriage that include communication, problem solving, parenting, money matters, families and marital spirituality. Meetings are generally held in the home of the married couple. They meet for about two hours weekly for about five weeks. Full materials and training are provided.



## Church Cleaning Committee:

The Church/Sacristy cleaning ladies is a group of parishioners who dedicated to taking care of the Sacristy and interior of our Church. We do light cleaning on Saturday mornings starting at 8:00 a.m., and seasonally host a Church cleaning morning.

## Funeral Receptions:

There is a funeral luncheon committee that assists the family and friends of deceased members of our parish by providing beverages, table service and serving help in the Schwartz Center after a funeral.

## Parish Website:

Promotes the parish and its' ministries through maintenance and updates of the Church website. Desktop publishing and HTML experience is helpful.

## Pro-Life Activities/ Life Chain

This Pro-Life committee supports the Alliance Life Chain during Respect Life Sunday in October. If you are interested in promoting the Life Chain and other life issues, please join us.

