

# St. Joseph Church Parish Newsletter

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall of 2013



## A Word From Father Matthew...

A few days ago I received a very touching Thank you note from a member of our parish family who just lost his wife. I have been very privileged to know him and his wife. They both tried so very hard over the last two years to find a cure for her illness, and make her feel better again. Losing a loved one is never easy especially if it is your wife, husband, daughter or son. When we lose someone who was so close and so dear to our heart, a part of us dies with them. Life goes on as it always does, but life without our loved one will never be the same. Wounds heal with time, as they say, but some wounds may take a bit longer to heal. In our dealings with people who are grieving and mourning the loss of a loved one, we must always remember never to rush them through their grief. We all grieve differently, and we should never put time restraints or try to "speed up" the process of grieving by encouraging those who are grieving to just "snap out of it," or "just move on and let go." Sometimes the less we say is better. Sometimes just embracing them and holding them close to our heart will send the message of comfort and our deepest sympathies in the most efficient way.

The "thank you," note I received said; "The measure of success lies not so much in what you have achieved, but in knowing that you have touched the lives of others." When you think about these words, they certainly put a different spin on how some people define success. From the Christian perspective touching other people's lives, expressing our love and compassion for those around us, reaching out to the poor and the hungry and giving our helping hand to those who are in need are the most profound ways in which we put the Gospel of Jesus Christ into practice. We may never

know how much we have touched the lives of other people by our simple gestures of kindness, encouragement and compassion. We must always do good and never evil. Christ calls us to become the messengers of his love, compassion and forgiveness in this world of fragile peace and broken promises. He calls us to bring healing to those who still suffer and hurt. He calls us to lift up those who have been living in the darkness of stress and depression. He sends us into this world to bear witness to his Gospel of Life and Love.

As I mentioned it in my previous articles, we are trying very hard to accomplish a few renovation projects before the first snow this year. A few weeks ago we were able to put a new roof on the Schwartz Center. Within the next few months, we would like to cement the gravel area behind the rectory and turn it into a fully operational parking lot. We are also in the process of finalizing the drawings for the elevator shaft to be installed at the Schwartz Center. This will make the Schwartz Center fully handicap accessible. We are presently in the process of installing the air conditioning system at the Schwartz Center. As many of you know, our old window air conditioning units are outdated, and not energy efficient. The proposed air conditioning system will allow us to save money on electricity in the long run, and it will also give us several different zone options so that the AC will run only in the rooms being used for different parish meetings and functions.

Our final project this year is to replace the windows in the Schwartz Center, St. Dominic's Chapel and the Server's Sacristy in the Church. These windows are very worn, and some of them exhibit safety and security hazards. We have acquired several bids for each of the above mentioned projects, and at the recommendation of the Parish Council, Finance Council and Advisory Board and after much discussion, a

### Inside this issue:

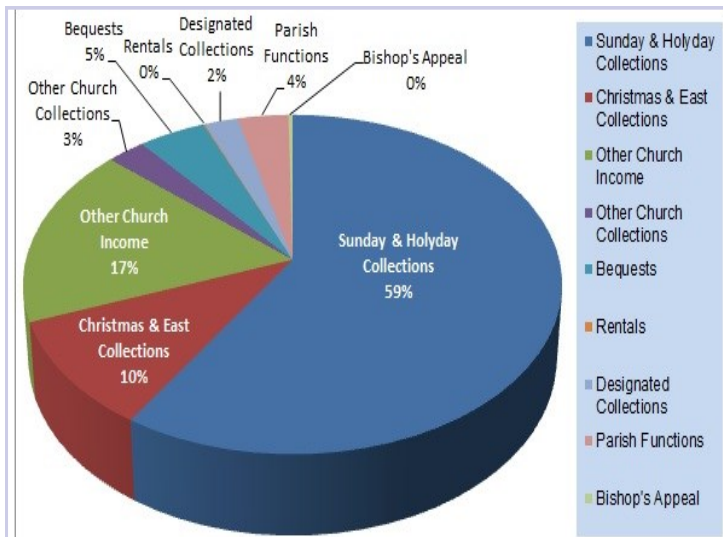
2013 St. Joseph Parish Picnic	13
Alliance Mission Encounter	10
Alliance Neighborhood Center Community Dinners	14
Blessed John Paul II Relics	3
Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton	12
Catholic Journey....RCIA	11
Family Movie Night	12
Financial Report	2
First Communion Class of 2013	6
Fun in the Sun with Father Matthew at Waldameer	8
Holy Triduum & Easter Sunday	5
New Member Dinner	6
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration	15
Renovation Projects	3
Spirit is a Movin' at St. Joseph Church	4
St. Joseph 2013 Seniors	7
St. Joseph Church Bus	10
St. Joseph Parish School of Religion Registration	9
St. Vincent DePaul Society	15
Vacation Bible School	7

Continued on page 15

## Financial Report, Submitted by Joseph Keffer, Bookkeeper

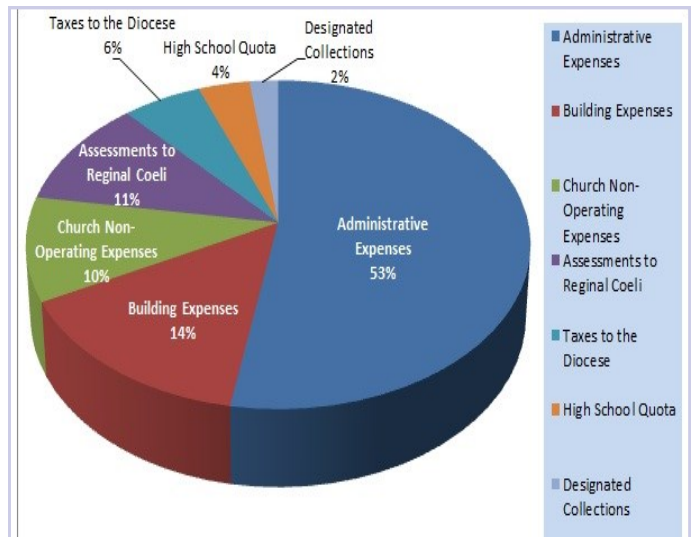
St. Joseph Church Income		
Type of Income	Proposed Budget for 2012-2013	Actual 7/1/12 to 6/30/2013
Sunday and Holyday Collections	270,485	259,029.15
Christmas and Easter Collections	35,318	45,127.00
Other Church Collections	14,300	11,649.00
Other Church Income - Gross (candles, votive lights, religious articles, pamphlets, etc.)	20,128	76,091.93
Bequests, Gifts, Etc.	20,000	20,385.00
Rentals and Other Misc. Income	0	410.00
Designated Collections	9,539	10,181.01
Parish Functions	10,095	15,469.00
Bishop Appeal Rebate	1,023	1,256.78
Funds transferred from Trust to cover Regina Coeli Tuition Subsidy	52,710	52,710.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$433,598</b>	<b>\$492,308.87</b>

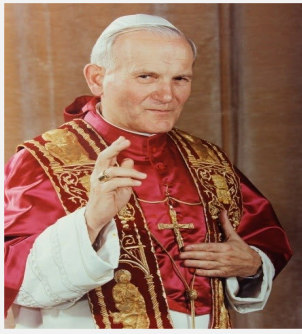
**St. Joseph Church—Income**



St. Joseph Church Expenses		
	Proposed Budget for 2012-2013	Actual 7/1/12 to 1/1/2013
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE:</b>		
Clergy and Religious Salaries	\$14,754	31,768.80
Lay Salaries	\$89,210	139,314.00
Rectory Expense	\$9,000	7,314.00
Office Expense	\$8,000	12,857.45
Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits	\$25,653	21,953.41
Transportation and In-Service Expense	\$2,300	4,361.04
Priests' Reimbursed Expenses	\$2,000	0.00
Parish Activities	\$2,000	3,016.36
Sanctuary Expense (includes flowers)	\$17,000	14,519.00
CCD and Adult Education (does not include salaries)	\$7,000	12,133.09
Catholic Exponent Expenses	\$4,700	4,454.27
Miscellaneous Administration	\$2,000	4,558.00
<b>BUILDING EXPENSE:</b>		
Utilities	\$25,000	22,978.88
Ordinary Building Maintenance & Security	\$25,000	23,938.93
Insurance	\$21,804	23,558.00
Taxes	\$500	882.93
<b>CHURCH NON-OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Land & Buildings	\$15,000	48,809.11
Equipment & Furniture		883.38
<b>PAYMENTS TO OTHERS:</b>		
Assessments to Regina Coeli School	\$50,000	52,710.00
Taxes to the Diocese of Youngstown	\$30,711	28,140.00
High School Quota	\$19,451	18,204.00
Designated Collections	\$12,000	10,181.01
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$383,083</b>	<b>486,535.66</b>
<b>Profit</b>		<b>\$5,773</b>

**St. Joseph Church—Expenses**





"In any case, in the path of love which life entails, always remember that above every love there is one Love. One Love. Love without constraint or hesitation. It is the love with which Christ loves each one of you."

## Blessed John Paul II Relics ~Submitted by Fr. Matthew Mankowski

In April of this year, I attended the 24th Polish American Priests' Convocation in Pittsburgh, PA. While there I had the privilege of meeting the former secretary to our beloved Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, Poland. During the Convocation, there was much talk about the canonization of Blessed John Paul II. When I returned to Alliance, I began the process of requesting first class relics of Blessed John Paul II.

For those who do not know what we mean by

"Relics", the word "relic" comes from the Latin *relinquo*, literally 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 which has been touched to the tomb of a saint. Traditionally, a piece of the body of a saint, especially that of a martyr, may be with the permission of the local ecclesiastical authority, used in solemn processions recalling the specific holy person.

In June, we received, from Rome, a class one relic of Blessed John Paul II, a drop of his blood. The presentation to the parish of the relics is on

**Sunday, October 20, 2013** at 10:45 a.m. mass. We have invited **Bishop George Murry** to participate in this celebration. There is a very good chance that Blessed John Paul II will be canonized as a saint in April of next year. We will be only one of two churches in the State of Ohio to have first class relics, and that is cause for great celebration within our church. Please mark October 20th on your calendars! I'm looking forward to celebrating this monumental event with you.

## Renovation Projects ~ Submitted by Fr. Matthew Mankowski

For the past year, I was weekly asked the following questions: Will we ever get started on these renovations? When will these renovations be done?

On September 12, 2012 we sent a Permission to Spend request to the Diocese of Youngstown asking for permission to access St. Joseph Church funds to start our renovation projects. For those of you who did not know, all parishes must send a request to the Bishop if they are to spend over \$10,000. With this report, we submit a financial statement, all estimates for work and a letter explaining, in detail, the work that is to be done. Until the permission to spend is approved by the Bishop, we are not able to start any renovations.

Seven months later, on April 30, 2013 we received the approval of Bishop Murry to precede with our renovations.

At the end of July, Hill's

**Heating and Cooling** of Alliance, sent electricians to complete the electrical work needed to install the air conditioning units at the St. Joseph Schwartz Center. The air conditioning work has begun and should be complete late September.

On August 7th, **Jeff Keene, of Skilet Siding & Home Repair**, replaced the roof on the Schwartz Center. This work was completed within two days despite the rainy weather!

We have selected a company to install the elevator for the Schwartz Center, and all we are waiting for is the final approval of the architectural drawings.

We have also selected a company to install the parking lot where the gravel overflow lot is now. We are just waiting for the company to begin work.

We will be contracting with **Joe Reese, of Elite Remodeling and Construction**, of Alliance to replace the windows in the Schwartz Center. We are on

their work schedule list and hopefully, we will be able to replace the windows before the winter months begin.

Over the summer, we completed many improvements around the church grounds. As you may have noticed, **Southway** of Canton installed new fencing and entry gates in our courtyard. The new gates allows easier access to the church during the day for prayer and additional security at night.

Our St. Joseph Church maintenance team: **Dave Skolosh, Mike Johnson, Howard Henderson and Andrew Gallina** have kept busy this summer beautifying our Cemetery, leveling grave markers, repairing and painting all of the main doors to the church and Schwartz Center, trimming trees, mulching and making the buildings & grounds look more pleasing to the eye. Our guys have also been stripping floors in the church,

Schwartz Center and PSR classrooms to ready the rooms for the new school year!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states the tabernacle is to be situated in the most worthy place, with the greatest of honor. For this reason, **Joe Reese, Dan Skivolocke and Frank Popovich** joined forces to build a small altar, located under the crucifix on which to place our Eucharistic tabernacle. This will move the Blessed Sacrament to the center of the altar where it rightfully should be. This project should be completed mid September.

We see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we are working hard to get these projects done in a safe and timely manner.

## The Spirit is a Movin' at St. Joseph Church ~ submitted by Lynn Raber, CRE

The St. Joseph Parish School of Religion (PSR) serves grades Pre-K – 12. We provide religious education opportunities for the youth and families of St. Joseph Church to enhance their personal and community faith development. In addition to religious education, we offer preparation classes for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. We also have a Youth Ministry program and offer other opportunities for enriching the faith of our young people. Our dedicated volunteers serve as catechists, substitute teachers, youth group leaders and chaperones, teaching assistants and helpers with unique programs. The Parish School of Religion begins in September and continues through the first Sunday of May. Classes are held on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the St. Joseph Schwartz

Center.

**2013 Confirmation:** In order for area parishes to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation near home, the Diocese of Youngstown mandates that area parishes

completed service hours in our church, as well as, our community, attended group meetings and religious education classes and attended a special retreat presented by Beacon Street Productions. Beacon Street

p.m. Mass. We celebrated Confirmation on March 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Church with celebrant **Bishop George Murry**. We had eighteen (18) confirmed from St. Ann's and St. Joseph Church. We are proud to announce to you the names of those who received the sacrament of confirmation this year:

- **Alan Michael Cabassa**
- **Bradley Dennis**
- **Dylan Eakins**
- **Lauren Falasca**
- **Aaron Fleming,**
- **Matthew Heffinger**
- **Cody Hilles**
- **Kyle Hilles**
- **Alexis Lyons**
- **Matthew Manley**
- **Alex McDaniel**
- **Michael McKenna**
- **Logan Miller**
- **Gabrielle Moore**
- **Erica Scarpitti**
- **Jacob Strazinsky**
- **Steven Theil**
- **Victoria Thompson**



collaborate with each other and combine Confirmation programs and ceremonies. This year we collaborated with St. Ann Church of Sebring.

Our young people

is a Catholic based ministry whose mission is to proclaim the Gospel using the performing arts. The retreat took place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, began at 9 a.m. and ended with attendance at 4

### St. Joseph & St. Ann Confirmation Class of 2013



Photographs by Mike Skolosh Photography

## The Holy Triduum and Easter Sunday

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Although chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

We began Holy Week with the presentation of **"The Passion Cantata and Candlelight Service"** on Wednesday, March 27th. Our St. Joseph Choir, under the direction of **Mr. Bruce Snyder**, did a wonderful job preparing the music for this event. We are excited to report that we had about 150 people attend this special service.

We began the Holy Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, March 28th at 7 p.m. Consecrated and blessed Holy Oils, which were received from the Chrism Mass at St. Columba Cathedral earlier in the week, were presented to the parish. In remembrance of the actions of Jesus when, at the Last Supper, He humbled Himself by washing the feet of His disciples, Father Matthew washed the feet of twelve members of our parish. It is during this Mass that

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.

At 3 p.m. on March 29th 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, March 30th, Father Matthew blessed Easter Baskets which is a European custom. In Poland, blessing of the baskets is known as *swiecenie pokarmow wielkanocnych*, a practice dating to the 15th century. The food items in the Easter basket have special significance. The white

napkin that lines the basket represents the shroud of Christ. The lamb in butter, sugar dough, wood or even plastic stands for Jesus, the Paschal lamb. The hard-cooked eggs symbolize new life or Christ rising from his tomb. Bread represents the bread of life given by God. Meat and sausages are symbols of the resurrected Christ; horseradish represents accepting the bitter with the sweet in life; vinegar symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross. Salt is to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption, and sweets suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come.

On Saturday, March 30th, 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: **Judy Witten-solder, David McMaster, Audrey McClellan, Bill Fast and John McMaster**. These five individuals were actively involved in the RCIA process which began in August of 2012.

The church was filled for Easter Sunday Masses and 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.



## New Member Dinner

~ Submitted by Sandy McCready

Whoever said that people are leaving the Catholic Church have never been to St. Joseph in Alliance!!! Since Father Matthew became Pastor in August of 2011 we have welcomed fifty new families to St. Joseph Parish! To welcome these families, a New Member Dinner was organized by our Parish Family and Life committee, headed by **Lori Gasparik** and

catered by the **College Inn** on Sunday, April 14th at 6 p.m. Members of different ministries and parish committees within the church were also present to talk with the new members about spiritual, outreach and volunteer opportunities within the parish. We plan on making this an annual event.



## First Holy Communion Class 2013 ~ Submitted by Lynn Raber, CRE

First Communion is one of the holiest and most important occasions in the life of a Roman Catholic. This is the first time a person received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist by receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ. On May 5, 2013 at 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church nine second graders received the Eucharist for the first time. In preparation for this sacrament, our second graders received special instruction through the St. Joseph Church PSR program, and if the child attended Catholic school, this instruction was given at their school. These children also received the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time with a special penance service on January, 19, 2013. Our First Communion Mass was beautiful. The children were fine representatives of our faith and all participated in some way in the Mass. The following is a list of students who received their First Communion: **Peyton Downs, Mary Fleming, Emma Jackson, Makayla Korosy, Mary McMasters, Emma Reese, Holden Robinson, Bryce Skidmore, and Chase Aaron Strebel.**



Photographs by Mike Skolosh Photography

## St. Joseph 2013 Seniors ~ Submitted by Lynn Raber, CRE



Seniors from high schools in Alliance and surrounding communities donned caps and gowns recently to accept their hard-earned diplomas. This was a great accomplishment for all, and we are excited to see each student set out on their next journey. Many of these students have contributed in a number of ways to the vibrancy and energy of our parish through ministry involvement service within the community. As a parish, we expressed our gratitude to these amazing students with a breakfast and special Mass on May 19, 2013. In addition, each graduate received a monetary

gift to help them on the next phase of their education and a special key chain to remember their parish family. The seniors honored at our special Mass were: **Nicholas Skidmore, Hanna Morelli, Emily McDaniel, Ossiel Ibarra, Uriel Ibarra, Ricky Moore and Ashley Martija**



## Vacation Bible School ~ Submitted by Lynn Raber

Vacation Bible School teaches religious education through stories, bible readings, skits, songs, crafts and other fun activities. One of the central goals of VBS programs is to make the Bible more understandable for children. This year we combined forces with Regina Coeli Church to present a week long Vacation Bible School program which ran from July 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. The program was catered to children ages 4 – 10 and fourteen children from St. Joseph Parish alone.



Photographs by Mike Skolosh Photography

## Fun in the Sun with Father Matthew at Waldameer

In appreciation for their hard work and dedication to St. Joseph Church, our Altar Servers and Youth Ministry Members were treated to a trip to Waldameer Water World and Amusement Park in Erie, PA on Tuesday, July 23, 2013. The cost to Altar Servers and Youth Ministry members was free in appreciation for their commitment to our parish. They were only asked to participate, in some way, in a bake sale to raise money for the trip. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the children raised \$279 towards this trip through that bake sale.

Since we still had room on our bus, Father Matthew opened the trip up to any child from the age of 10 to 17 that wanted to attend. These children paid only \$20 to attend the trip. This price included their bus ride, admission to the park and two meals. No child was turned away for inability to pay. If they wanted to go, and we had the room, we let them board the bus. We were able to do this only through the generosity of our parishioners. Some parishioners made monetary donations for children who did not have the ability to pay.

Thirty-three children and twelve adults boarded the bus and 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday morning and were treated to donuts compliments of **Leann Laure**, one of our chaperones. When they arrived at Waldameer at about

11:30 a.m. they enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, drinks and snacks which were donated by St. Joseph Parishioners. The children then enjoyed the day swimming and riding the amusement park rides. Late afternoon, they enjoyed a light dinner supplied again by St. Joseph Church and Fr. Matthew treated everyone to ice cream for dessert.

They departed Waldameer at 8:00 p.m. and came home exhausted but smiling at about 11 p.m.

A great time was had by children and adults alike. This type of trip builds community among our young parishioners, encourages new friendship and makes great memories.

Fr. Matthew would like to thank all those who volunteered as chaperones for this trip: **Mariann Domer, Cathy Downs, Rebecca Fleming, Jennifer Green, Lori Gasperik, Mike Johnson, Leanne Laure, Ed McKenna, Lynn Raber, Janet Sabatino** and **Michelle Zumbar**

He would also like to thank all the parishioners who donated, hotdogs, snacks, water, juice boxes, paper products, condiments and the monetary donations towards this trip. Your generosity was overwhelming!

The following is a financial breakdown of the expenses of this trip. I can honestly say; any out-of-pocket expense was well worth it for our youth!

Bus	\$930.00
Park Admission	\$938.75
Shelter House	\$50.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,918.75</b>
Bake Sale	-\$279.00
Private Donation	-\$748.00
Private Payments	-\$400.00
<b>Total Cost for Trip</b>	<b>\$491.75</b>



## The St. Joseph Parish School of Religion Registration begins on August 24& 25

PSR is full of events throughout the year to help guide the future Catholic Leaders in our church. In addition to preparation of the sacraments, we have many opportunities throughout the year for fun and fellowship. In March of this year, a Mardi Gras party was held for all classes during the PSR hour. Parents were invited, and plenty of food and games were enjoyed by all. This year we have planned a trip to Noah's Lost Ark and the Nature Center for September 22, 2013. This event is open to all students grades 4 – High School. Our first PSR class begins on September 8, 2013. Registration forms and schedules will be mailed to all current students.



### St. Joseph Parish School of Religion Schedule 2013-2014

All classes are from 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Sun, Sept 8 -	Registration for students
Sun, Sept 15 -	First day of classes (Catechetical Sunday)
	PSR classes
Sun, Sept 22 -	Field Trip to Noah's Lost Ark and the Nature Center after 10:45 a.m. Mass
Sun, Sept 29 -	PSR classes
Sun, Oct 6 -	PSR classes (Respect Life Sunday)
Sun, Oct 13 -	PSR classes - Youth Mass
Sun, Oct 20 -	PSR classes (World Mission Sunday)
Sun, Oct 27 -	PSR classes
Sun, Nov 3 -	PSR classes
Sun, Nov 10 -	PSR classes - Youth Mass
Sun, Nov 17 -	PSR classes
Sun, Nov 23 -	PSR classes
Sun, Dec 1 -	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun, Dec 8 -	PSR classes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun, Dec 15 -	PSR classes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun, Dec 22 -	Classroom parties/Evening Christmas Caroling at St. Joseph -
Tue, Dec 24 -	Children's Christmas Eve Play
Sun, Dec 29 -	Christmas Break – No Classes
Sun, Jan. 5	Christmas Break – No Classes
Sun, Jan 12 -	PSR classes
Sat, Jan 18 -	First Reconciliation - 11:00 a.m.
Sun, Jan 19-	PSR classes - Youth Mass
Sun, Jan 26 -	PSR classes
Sun, Feb 2 -	PSR classes
Sun, Feb 9 -	PSR classes
Sun, Feb 16 -	PSR classes
Sun, Feb 23 -	PSR classes
Sun, Mar 2 -	PSR classes
Sun, Mar 9 -	PSR classes 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun, Mar 16-	PSR classes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun, Mar 23 -	PSR classes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun, Mar 30 -	PSR classes 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun, Apr 6 -	PSR classes 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
Sun, Apr 13-	PSR classes Palm Sunday
Sun, Apr 20 -	Easter Sunday – No classes
Sun, Apr 27 -	PSR classes
Sun, May 4 -	PSR classes May crowning - 1st Holy Communion Last Day for Classes

## Alliance Mission Encounter

Every year the Alliance Mission Encounter which is made up of members of Salem United Methodist, First Friends, Abiding Savior, St. Joseph Parish, Alliance Christian Center, Christ United Methodist, First Baptist and Science Hill Community Church come together for a week-long project to help local homeowners who are financially or physically unable to maintain their homes. This year seventeen parishioners from St. Joseph Parish took part in this mission project. This year, the Alliance Mission Encounter, took on six homes. They built two new porches, two new steps, they painted, put on a new roof, did two sidewalks, a wheelchair ramp, did some yard clean up and tore down a shed.

Volunteers gathered each morning at the Alliance Neighborhood Center for breakfast, devotion and work assignments, then returned to the center for lunch, provided by one of the churches.

We are so proud of our parishioners who took part in this mission project. They are excellent examples of Christian Stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure to those in need.



## The St. Joseph Church Bus ~ Submitted by Judy Gatts

The St. Joseph Church bus has been part of our Parish for four years now, and we have logged nearly 15,000 miles.

We are now transporting six parishioners for both 4 p.m. Saturday and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses. The number of passengers has varied between five or six one week to a completely full bus the next!

Our goal is always to serve our Lord God through serving others by making transportation available when needed. If you need transportation to Church, please call the parish office at 330-821-5760 and they will forward the message to the bus coordinators, or you can **Larry and Judy Gatts** direct at 330-823-9629, 330-

704-2969 or 330-704-4606.

We are always looking for drivers and helpers on the bus. If you would be interested in this ministry, please call for the parish office for details.

We would like to welcome **Kyle & Mary King** to our staff of drivers and helpers!

To keep our parish bus rolling, gas cards, monetary donations and prayers are greatly appreciated.



Father Matthew pictured with some of our regular bus riders.

## Our Bus Coordinators, Drivers and Helpers



Judy & Larry Gatts



George & Mary Webber



Mary & Kyle King

## The Catholic Journey.....RCIA ~ Submitted by Sandy McCready

*Are **YOU** considering becoming Catholic?  
Are **YOU** a Catholic interested  
in being Confirmed?  
Are **YOU** a confirmed Catholic  
who's ready to explore your faith anew?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then RCIA is for you! Every year men and women embark on an exploration of the Catholic faith. Some are deciding if they are called into the Catholic Church; others have been Catholic all their lives and are now interested in discovering what this really means. Together we witness to the fact that our search for God is a lifelong journey, a journey on which we make the most progress when we walk with others.

This year St. Joseph Church all RCIA sessions will be held at the St. Joseph Schwartz Center and will begin at 12:00 p.m. with a light lunch and will end at about 2:00 p.m. We plan on having two sessions a month beginning August 18th and continuing until the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2014.

We have revamped our previous program to include the "Catholicism Series" by Fr. Robert Barron and the "What Catholics Believe" series. We feel the changes we have made to the program will better enable us to guide our participants on their spiritual journey.

The RCIA process is not just open to those who want to become Catholic; it is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the Catholic faith. Many of us stopped learning about our Catholic faith when we received the Sacrament of Confirmation in our early teens. It's not uncommon for us to realize as adults that we want to know more about our faith. RCIA is an opportunity for you to explore your faith. It is also a chance to see your faith through the eyes of people exploring it for the first time. Together we'll help each other grow closer to Jesus Christ.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis stated *"All of the baptized must announce Jesus with our life, with our witness and with our words. When we do this, the church becomes a mother church that bears children. But when we don't do it, the church becomes not a mother, but a baby sitter church, which takes care of the child to put him to sleep."* If you are searching for a way to get involved in the "New Evangelization" of the Catholic Church, the RCIA process may be your answer.

If you are interested in participating in the RCIA process or you are interested in assisting with the program, please contact our Pastoral Assistant, Sandy McCready at the parish office 330-821-5760 or via email at sandymccready66@yahoo.com.

RCIA Schedule 2013-2014		
Date	#	Session Lessons
8/18/2013	1	Welcome/ Lunch / What Catholics Believe About RCIA
8/25/2013	2	Group Discussion regarding Images of God and Why are you here Questionnaires
9/15/2013	3	What Catholics Believe About the Church What Catholics Believe About the Sacraments
9/22/2013	4	Amazed and Afraid
10/6/2013	5	Happy Are We; The Teachings of Jesus
10/13/2013	6	The Ineffable Mystery of God
11/3/2013	7	Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast: Mary the Mother of God
11/17/2013	8	The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure
12/1/2013 1st Sunday of Advent - Rite of Acceptance at 10:45 Mass	9	A Body Both Suffering & Glorious - The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church
12/15/2013	10	What Catholics Believe about Baptism What Catholics Believe about the Sacrament of Penance
1/5/2014	11	Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven - The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist
1/19/2014	12	A Vast Company of Witnesses - The Communion of Saints
2/9/2014	13	What do Catholics believe about Eucharist What do Catholics believe about Confirmation
2/23/2014	14	The Fire of His Love - Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
3/9/2014 First Sunday of Lent		Rite of sending at 10:45 a.m. Mass Rite of election at 6 p.m. at St. Paul in Canton
3/16/2014	15	What Catholics Believe about Lifestyles/ Group Discussion with Fr. Matthew
3/23/2014	16	World Without End - The Last Things
4/6/2014	17	What Catholics Believe about Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities
4/13/2014	18	Group Discussion with Father Matthew/Vigil Practice
4/19/2014		Easter Vigil
4/27/2014	19	Invitation to Serve



Are you looking for something to do on a Saturday Night that is both fun and economical? Then come to Family Movie Night at St. Joseph Church!

Several years ago St. Joseph Parish began showing films for our parishioners purely for their enjoyment. Our movies are faith based films with a moral lesson although we have been known to show a "clean cut" comedy. In the past, we have shown films such as *October Baby*, *Facing the Giants*, *Amish Grace*, *Mother Theresa*, *The Blindside*, *Flicka*, *Faith Like Potatoes*, *Trouble with Angels*, *Where Angels Go Trouble Follows* and *Halloweentown*. We try to accommodate the hearing

impaired by showing a movie with Closed Caption.

Movie nights are on the **4th Saturday** of each month after the 4 p.m. Mass. All movies are shown on a projection screen in the Schwartz Center. To accommodate those who attend right after Mass, we serve a light supper prior to the movie. Our light suppers usually consist of: pot lucks, pizza, hot dogs, sloppy Joe's, hamburgers, beef macaroni, or cold sandwiches. Watch the bulletin for details.

COME AND JOIN US  
FOR SOME FUN AND  
FELLOWSHIP!  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
**ADMISSION IS FREE!**



"Either you look at the universe as a very poor creature out of which no one can make anything, or you look at your own life and your own part in the universe as infinitely rich, full of inexhaustible interest, opening out into the infinite further possibilities for study and contemplation and praise. Beyond all and in all is God."

~ Thomas Merton  
July 17, 1956

## Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton ~ Becoming Who You Already Are

On September 11, 2013, we began a new chapter in our *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton* series entitled "*Becoming Who You Already Are*." This group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the St. Joseph Schwartz Center.

Life is a spiritual journey. Contemplative living is a way of responding to our everyday experiences by consciously tending to our relationships. It deepens our awareness of our connectedness and communion with others, becomes a positive force of change in our lives, and provides meaningful direction to our journey.

Ultimately, contemplative living leads us to a sense of well-being, profound gratitude, and a clearer understanding of our purpose in life.

Pope Francis stated in Vatican City on July 21, 2013 in his Sunday Angelus message: "*From contemplative prayer, from a strong friendship with the Lord, is born in us the capacity to live and carry forth the love of God, His mercy, and His tenderness toward others.*"

During this eight week series, we will explore contemplative pray together, read and discuss Psalms, excerpts from the writings of Thomas Mer-

ton and excerpts from other spiritual leaders throughout the world. We will deeply contemplate, through small group discussions, how the suggested weekly readings touch our lives and how we can ultimately as Pope Francis stated "...carry forth the love of God, His mercy and His tenderness toward others".

Come join us on this spiritual journey. Sessions are open to everyone even if you have never attended previous sessions. Attend as many sessions as you would like. Feel free to bring a friend!

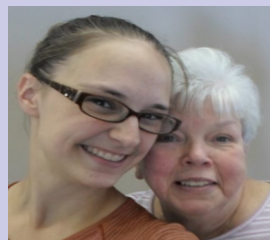
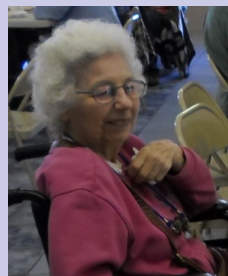
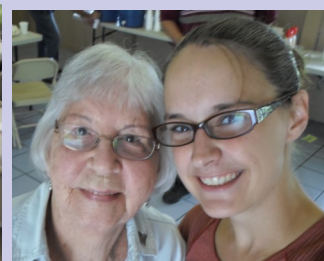
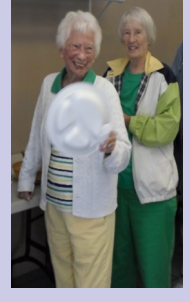
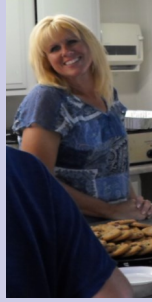
## 2013 St. Joseph Parish Picnic

On Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. nearly two hundred parishioners from St. Joseph parish gathered at the Robertson Community Center for our annual parish picnic. The afternoon was filled with good food, swimming, BINGO, Karaoke, Corn hole games, fresh, tasty elephant ears and of course an exclusive performance from our singing pastor, Father Matthew with his Karaoke rendition of the Bobby Vinton song, "My Melody of Love"!

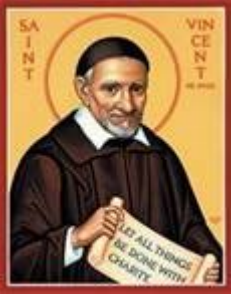
A fabulous time was had by all!

Of course, this picnic would not have been a success without the hard work of our Parish Family & Life Committee members: **Lori Gasparik, Tom Hines, Catherine Fichter, Terri Bishop, Patrick Bishop, Barb Montesano, Kathy Lynn, Marvin Bixler, Paula Andreani, Elda Gallina, Ann Clausnitzer, Liz & Bob Wise, Frank Popovich, Jim Morrow, Claire Morrow, Sam Morrow and Katie Morrow**

Thank you to all who helped to make this year's picnic a great success!



## St. Vincent DePaul submitted by Judy Gatts



As followers of Jesus we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome strangers, and care for the sick and St. Vincent DePaul Society does just that. Every Thursday afternoon a St. Vincent DePaul volunteer, who also happens to be a member of St. Joseph Church, gives of her time to meet a stranger who needs our help, assess their needs and provide financial relief to ease their burden. The funds collected from your monthly offering envelope to St. Vincent DePaul, goes to help with utility shut off notices, food vouchers, prescriptions etc. 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 DePaul is able to help our needy largely through the monthly donations from our parish along with fundraisers such as the Christmas Basket Raffle & Bake Sales.

Monetary donations are always welcome and 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.

### St. Vincent DePaul Financial Report

January - July 2013

Month	Monetary Donations Received	Amount of Financial Aid Given	Number of Families Who Received Aid
January	\$2,221.49	\$2,620.10	18
February	\$1,683.00	\$1,657.64	15
March	\$2,540.00	\$1,159.58	11
April	\$1,483.00	\$555.28	6
May	\$1,758.00	\$2,201.60	11
June	\$1,446.00	\$1,622.32	14
July	\$1,674.75	\$1,773.47	16
<b>Total Monetary Donations Received</b>		<b>\$12,806.24</b>	
<b>Total Amount of Financial Aid Given</b>		<b>\$11,589.99</b>	
<b>Total Number of Families Who Received Aid</b>		<b>91</b>	

## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Schwartz Center, Saint Dominic Chapel from Monday 9 a.m. through Thursday midnight.

### WHAT IS PERPETUAL ADORATION?

Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members of St. Joseph Parish unite in taking hours of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament during the day and throughout the night, from Mondays at 9 a.m. through Thursdays a midnight.

### HOW DOES ONE SPEND AN HOUR BEFORE JESUS EXPOSED IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

This hour Jesus wants you to spend with Him is spent any way you want. You may bring your own prayer books, use the books in the chapel, read the Bible, pray the rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you take the time,

at a specific hour each week to spend 60 minutes with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pleases Him very much and is in itself a prayer of great faith. Please remember that Perpetual Adoration is not just for a day, a week, a month, or a year. Rather, it is for always. It is not temporary, but ongoing, lasting, permanent.

If you would like to commit to spending an hour with Jesus, contact the parish office and they will get you in touch with a division leader.

(A Word from Fr. Matthew Continued from page 1)

recommendation was made to hire different companies that seem to address these projects in the most professional and fiscally responsible ways.

As we slowly move into the fall season, the changing of leaves and the nature around us preparing for a deep winter sleep, I could not stop but think about how quickly the time goes. Days turn into weeks, weeks into months and without blinking an eye we will come to the end of this calendar year. It has been quite a year. For many of us, it has been a year filled with many joys and accomplishments. For some, it has been a rough year filled with grief and anxiety. Many wonderful and faithful parishioners have passed away this year. I dedicate this little reflection to their families and loved ones. I borrowed this from one of the wedding programs we used this past year to their families and loved ones. The newlywed couple wrote:

*"We thought of you with love today, but this is nothing new.*

*We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.*

*Now all we have is memories, and your picture in the frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part.*

*God has you in his keeping, but we will always have you in our heart."*

Please, know that you are always in my thoughts and prayers. May God continue to bless our parish family. May he guide us and give us his wisdom and strength. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother embrace us with her loving arms and protect us from all evil. May we carry each other's burdens and encourage one another on this our life and faith journey. I will see you in Church! With all my love and prayers,

*Fr. Matthew*

## Alliance Neighborhood Center Community Dinners

The Alliance Neighborhood Center is located just one block north of St. Joseph Church at 405 South Linden Ave. A free dinner is held every Tuesday of the month for those in need of a hot meal. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and area churches take turns preparing meals for this dinner.

On the second Tuesday of each month, St. Joseph Church is responsible for making, delivering and serving a dinner at the Neighborhood Center. Father Matthew in conjunction with his Community Dinner Team: **Kathy Lynn, Richard Moore, Anne Marie Moore, Ricky Moore and Gabrielle Moore**, prepare the food, usually on the Saturday morning prior to the dinner. The prepared food is then kept refrigerated until the day of the dinner. The day of the dinner, rosters filled with food are delivered to the Neighborhood Center about 12 noon where they are kept warm until dinner is served. Later that afternoon a team of parishioners serve the dinner and clean up afterwards.

Father Matthew and his team have gained quite a reputation for serving quality food and they have provided meals for as many as 200 people at one seating.

The door is always open for volunteers! If you would like to volunteer to help cook or

serve meals, please contact the parish office and we'll put you to work!

Monetary donations and items such as paper products and condiments are always welcome as the church supplies these items at each dinner. For more information on how you can help, please contact the parish office.



**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.*

**St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church**

427 East Broadway  
Alliance, OH 44601

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Alliance, OH  
Permit No. 427

## 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](mailto:stjosephalliance@gmail.com)

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.stjoseph-alliance.org](http://www.stjoseph-alliance.org)