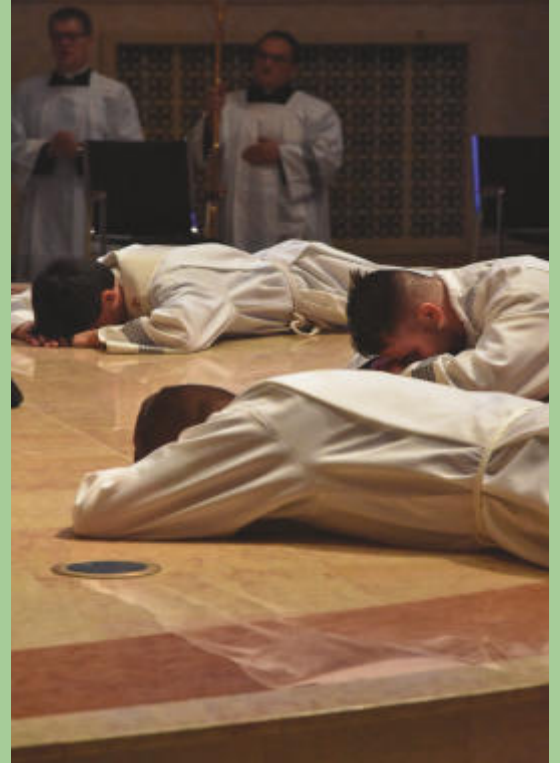


St. Joseph's Newsletter

June 6, 2020

The Church is Blessed with New Priests!



Congratulations!

Deacon Ben Rivard,

Fr. Romeo Cappella, and

Fr. Tom Merkel

“The Priesthood Is The Love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see a Priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ” ~St. John Vianney

On Friday, June 5th 2020, the Church received a beautiful gift. Through priestly ordination, two men gave their lives to the Catholic Church out of love. These men are offering their entire lives to serve the Church and bring us the Sacraments. Fr. Tom Merkel and Fr. Romeo Cappella were ordained priests and Ben Rivard was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop John Doerfler.

Fr. Tom Merkel was assigned as associate pastor to St. Albert the Great Parish in Houghton with pastor Fr. Ben Hasse. Fr. Romeo and Deacon Ben Rivard were assigned to St. Joseph's Parish! St. Joseph's will be a full house with Fr. Mike, Fr. Mark, Fr. Romeo, and Dcn. Ben. Christ has blessed this Parish with some good men who are committed to serve you.

“Fr. Romeo, what was it like during your Ordination?”



Fr. Romeo's response was "Awesome!" He explained that he had been preparing for that moment for the past 10 years

“How Did you know you were called to be a Priest?”

Fr. Romeo grew up as a Lutheran with Catholic Italian roots and, at the age of 15, started searching for the answers to the big questions about life. He was drawn to Catholicism for philosophical reasons. While in high school he met a very devout Catholic Family that helped to bring him closer to the Church. When Fr. Romeo entered the Catholic Church he still had not experienced his “St. Paul moment” until he was 16. He became very sick and was going through a dark moment in his life, but through that darkness the light of Christ came shining through. Fr. Romeo said he knew that he wanted to give his life completely to Christ. From then Fr. Romeo started getting involved in the youth group at his Church and began to develop a prayer life. He thought of the priesthood as a possibility, but wrestled with the idea. Small events began to reveal a tug at his heart such as different people telling him he would be a good priest. Even with these little hints, discerning his vocation was still a gradual process. Fr. Romeo eventually decided to enter College Seminary to be able to discern his vocation more seriously while studying Philosophy. Once at the Seminary Fr. Romeo found himself desiring more and more to be a priest and completely give himself to the Church, explaining this yearning Fr. Romeo said: “Men desire to die for something, to lay down their lives. That's why so many join the military. A priest lays down his life for the Church.” Fr. Romeo found his longing to serve and lay down his life. He is satisfied by the priesthood through which he freely surrenders his life to the Church.

“What was it like saying Mass for the first time?”

When Fr. Romeo celebrated his first

Mass, he explained this long awaited moment as: "It was exhilarating. It was the best!" Fr. Romeo said he was filled with happiness as he was able to have the miracle of Transubstantiation take place through his words as a priest for the first time.

"Dcn. Ben, how would you describe how you felt during your ordination?"



"There aren't any words to describe how happy and excited I was!" Dcn. Ben said the highlight of the ordination for him was the moment he took his vows of celibacy,

prayer, and obedience. The vows that the priest makes are an act of love that are permanent. It is a gift of self. Dcn. Ben said his vows are an incredible act of love.

"Dcn. Ben, What was your discernment like?"

Describing his discernment process, Dcn. Ben said that his desire for the priesthood gradually grew. When he was about 10 he attended an ordination and remembered thinking that it would be really cool to be a priest. Throughout high school, Dcn. Ben was very open to the idea of becoming a priest. However, when he entered seminary he found he struggled with his discernment. During this time he developed a strong devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux and said a novena to her asking

for clarity of his vocation. He remembered on Oct. 1st, 2016 he was praying and asked God to say one of two words: priesthood or marriage. Whatever word God gave him, that is the vocation he would accept. The word that Dcn. Ben heard was not what he was expecting. Instead of hearing priesthood or marriage Dcn. Ben clearly heard the word "choose." Dcn. Ben realized that if God were to give him an answer, marriage or priesthood, Christ's call would not be an invitation but a command. If Christ gave him a command then his choice to follow Christ would not be a free act of love. Dcn. Ben explained: "A vocation is a way to love. Love requires freedom which requires the ability to choose. I needed to choose my vocation for it to be a calling to love. So I chose the priesthood." After making this choice Dcn. Ben's desire to be a priest grew even more. Dcn. Ben eagerly awaits the moment when he will become a priest sometime next year.

"Dcn. Ben, What Advice would you give to any young men that are feeling an attraction or tug towards the priesthood?"

Dcn Ben had two pieces of advice for any young men that are feeling an attraction or tug towards the priesthood:

1. Increase your prayer life, whether it be daily Mass, Rosary, or Adoration. Make time to talk with God.
2. Talk to a priest. Everyone who has been ordained has felt the same conflict as you. If this calling is strange for you, it was probably strange for them too.

"O Jesus my Love, at last I have found my vocation. My vocation is Love! . . . In the heart of the Church my Mother, I will be love!"
~St. Therese of Lisieux

Church Ministries

Article by Ashlianna Kreiner

Despite the struggles that have come up in the parish due to the COVID 19 pandemic, St. Joseph's is finding new and creative ways to serve our Parishioners.

One way the parish is trying to reach out to its parishioners is through **Flocknote**. Flocknote is a communication system that will send emails and texts to all our Parishioners, keeping them informed on the different Mass times and other Parish activities.

To sign up for Flocknotes simply text SOOCATHOLIC to 84576 or go to stjoesault.flocknote.com and sign up there. We are trying to get as many parishioners as possible to sign up for Flocknote. Please sign up! We would greatly appreciate it.

Another Way St. Joseph is hoping to reach out to its Parishioners is through **Porchside Ministry**. We know that many of our parishioners are not able to attend Mass during COVID 19. Keeping this in mind, we want to bring Christ to you and your families. **Porchside Ministry** will be an outreach which happens at people's homes. A small prayer service would be held which maintains the CDC procedures. The people involved will stay either on the porches of those who signed up, or on the front lawn. We wish to respect people's desire to stay safe during these times as well as bring Christ to them. This ministry is especially for those who are vulnerable to the virus and have not been able to attend Mass but all are invited to sign up for the program. We will only reach out to those who sign up for it so please feel free to sign up for this Ministry by contacting **Ashli Kreiner** by calling or texting **810-919-2918**.

The Flock

We had an excellent turnout for the Flock last Sunday. The Flock is a summer program for students going into grades 6, 7, and 8. High school students are also encouraged to come and be part of the team that facilitates the program. Each session is composed of games, talks, music, and prayer. The Flock will be held on **Sunday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm at St. Joseph's parish hall.** We will meet every Sunday this summer with **the last session being on August 2nd.** If there are any students who would like to participate, please come! We can register you at the door.

Announcements

Mass Times:

Sunday - 8:00am, and 10:00am

Tuesday-Thursday - 5:15pm

Friday - 5:15pm.

Friday is the Mass for those vulnerable to COVID 19. **All who attend this Mass must wear a mask.**

Saturday - 5:00pm

Part Time Secretary and Maintenance Needed: If you know anyone who would be interested in applying for a part time secretary position or part time maintenance at St. Joseph's Parish please have them email

stjosephsault@gmail.com

or call the parish at 906-632-9625

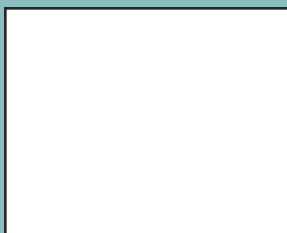
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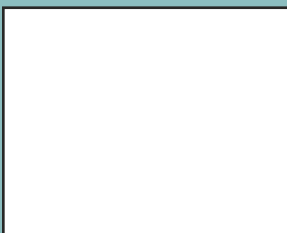


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