

# St. Joseph Parish Newsletter Fall 2021

## Meet Our Transitional Deacon,

# BRETT JAMROG



*Hello!* For those of you that I have not yet had the chance to meet, my name is Deacon Brett Jamrog. I have been here at St. Joseph since the end of August, and I will be here until the beginning of May. For those that do not know my story, here is a little bit about me! I am a Seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Omaha. I lived half of my life in Lincoln, Nebraska and the other half of my life in Yankton, South Dakota, Omaha, Nebraska, Mankato, Minnesota, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. I grew up with two loving parents, Connie and Jeff, and two siblings, an older sister, Elizabeth, and a younger brother, Jared. I grew up playing sports such as football, basketball, and golf. After high school, I went to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where I studied Business Administration. While in college, I was in the Phi Kappa



My dad and I attended the Nebraska vs. Michigan game in 2013. At the time, I was a student manager for the football team)

Psi Fraternity and worked for the Husker football team. At that time, my plan was to follow in the footsteps of my dad and become a football coach.

But, God had other plans! At the end of my sophomore year my friends Lily and Zach convinced me to go on a FOCUS Mission Trip to Ukraine. On the trip during Eucharistic Adoration I encountered Jesus in a real way. I also realized the joy and peace that is only found in living for the Lord. Following the trip, I put Jesus Christ at the center of my life. I got more involved with FOCUS, I began leading a bible study and also went to daily mass.

A year later after going on another FOCUS mission trip to Rwanda I started to truly discern the possibility of religious life and the priesthood. I met with a spiritual director and it became clear in prayer after a few meetings that God was calling me to the priesthood. But, I wasn't ready to give God my yes yet. Instead, I decided I would be a FOCUS missionary for a few years, and then go to the seminary. I applied and got ac-

cepted by FOCUS. However, the Lord's calling to the priesthood was still on my heart. Eventually, I visited St. Gregory the Great Seminary, where Jesus spoke to me and told me to follow Him to the seminary to pursue the diocesan priesthood. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August of 2015

and went straight to St. Gregory the Great Seminary. After three years of theological studies, I was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate. I have enjoyed so many opportunities to bring God's presence to others! I have had the blessing of baptizing fifteen babies, ministering at one wedding, and speaking at several retreats.

Although the time I have had here at St. Joseph has been short, I have loved every minute of it! I have enjoyed the preaching, baptism, and various parish functions.

Also, it has been a tremendous blessing to work with the youth group. It is amazing to see so many young high schoolers on fire for their faith! If I had to pick one memory as my favorite, I would have to say the time I helped Danny Zink build a 100 foot slip n' slide for the youth group.

Thank you all for the opportunity to minister here at St. Joseph! I ask that you continue to pray for me as I prepare for my ordination to the priesthood on June 4th! Thank you and God Bless!



Baptizing Leah Monica Wiedel, the daughter of my good friend, Seth Wiedel this summer at St. Paul parish in Overland Park, KS.

# Partners in Everything, Even PSR

When God joined Rich and Mary Ellen Bruenderman, they really took Genesis Chapter 2, verse 24 to heart, “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.” Together for over 50 years, they have taken on just about everything most couples do: parenting, grandparenting, and day to day life. But they took it one step further; they chose to serve together. When Mary Ellen got involved co-coordinating the Eucharistic ministry to the homebound, Rich joined her in bringing Communion to those shut-in. And when a need for PSR teachers arose, the two volunteered to team teach together!

The first year Rich and Mary Ellen chose to teach at St. Joe, the plan had been for Rich to lead classes and for Mary Ellen to help with the paperwork. That plan quickly changed when the need for two eighth grade teachers instead of one became the reality. So they took the challenge up together, each teaching a classroom. True to her word, Mary Ellen helped Rich with the paperwork and Rich helped Mary Ellen in highlighting the Bible. The Bible is something Rich feels particularly strongly about. In his employment he worked with prisoners and various prison ministries. His Catholic schooling hadn’t really emphasized the Bible and he found a need for growing his own faith through a knowledge of his Bible. He soon was performing the work of apologetics before it was a thing.

When teaching PSR, Rich strives to bring that Bible knowledge and apologetics to the forefront for the kids. As Mary Ellen says, “We want these kids to have a Bible in their hand, to know how to open it and how to use it. We want them to learn how to pray and meditate with the Bible.”

Though Mary Ellen has always had her foot in the PSR world, spanning over 20 years and three parishes, the two have taught together at St. Joe for the past six years. For all six of those years they have taught eighth grade and confirmation preparation.. Parishioners for twenty-three years, they are parents to three married adult children, a son and two daughters. Each child has given them two grandchildren for a total of six aged 4 to 26.

Between their Eucharistic ministry work and teaching PSR, they find a real balance. They have their foot in the door with the youth and on the other side with the sick and aging. It’s been quite the blessing.

This year, the two report having a great class and are excited to be back in person. Rich’s favorite aspect of teaching has been getting to know kids and sharing his faith, something that just wasn’t easy to do virtually. For Mary Ellen, the best part has been letting the kids know that God loves them and has a purpose for them. But, she adds, the purpose is who He wants them to BE, not what they are going to DO.

✿ In closing, Rich and Mary Ellen had three powerful scripture quotes to share: John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life., John 14:6; Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me, and Micah 6:8: You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. What a blessing to have them onboard teaching our kids!



Mary Ellen and Rich Bruenderman traveling in Ireland.

## St. Joseph Parish Newsletter

Published three times per year with  
Lent, Summer, and Fall issues

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Becky Younker | **Layout**

# Answering God's Call

Shortly after becoming a parishioner in 2005, Michael Ulm was pulled by an ad in the bulletin about the need for PSR teachers. "I just kept seeing the bulletin notice and it wouldn't stop pulling me." Now in his fourteenth year of teaching PSR, Ulm can't imagine not doing it.

For his first two years, Ulm taught fifth grade. He then moved to teaching sixth grade for six years before now settling in as a second grade teacher. He loves teaching the younger ones best. Though he enjoyed the fifth and sixth grade kids, teaching the second graders has brought a wealth of different experience and reward.

He said the best part of teaching second grade is by far the excitement in the kids at receiving their sacraments. He also loves that they still very much enjoy school and attending the after school PSR program. They are young and fresh still and that makes teaching exciting.

Professionally, Michael is in retail management, but he joked, "I like PSR better than my regular job." He finds it fun to see students outside of the school setting and interacting with them. "It's always fun when they say hi," he said of seeing students out in the regular world.

Michael teaches on Monday nights this year. His go-to saint to pray to is St. Jude. When he's not teaching PSR, you will also find him helping out with St. Vincent DePaul in their store and helping as a Captain at the Parish Picnic, something he's also done since he became a parishioner.

We are so grateful to Michael for his answer to that bulletin posting and his dedication to the students year after year. It takes all kinds of people to teach PSR, but we are very blessed to have a young and faith-filled man in the position of forming our little ones to Christ!



Michael Ulm and a family friend at the Grand Canyon



**FORMED Daily: Advent with Dr. Tim Gray**  
 Register Free at <https://formed.org/advent>

This Advent season, walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ. Each day of Advent, Dr. Gray will unpack the meaning of this season and its rich traditions, as well as offer practical advice for making this Advent your best yet.

# A New School Year Brings Two New Sisters

One of the many blessings of having the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia at St. Joseph School is their placement is always being prayerfully discerned. Some sisters in the school have been placed for years while others only months. Typically, the sisters are placed in a school for between two and four years. Part of their vow of obedience asks detachment of them. They don't know when they will be asked to move on and neither does the school community. Though it's always hard to lose sisters, it's always exciting to meet more.

This year we were blessed to receive two new sisters: Sister Maria Lucia (second grade) and Sister Veronica Anne (sixth and seventh grade Religion). And while they are still new to our school, they are already fitting right in. Below you will find a little more about each of the new sisters. If you see them, please, welcome them to our community!

## **Sisters, tell us a little bit about yourselves:**

**Sister Maria Lucia:** I come from a family of 7: my parents, 3 brothers and 1 sister. I am the middle child and have loved every minute of the middle child life. My older sister, older brother, and my older younger brother are all in the Air Force. My sister recently returned from her deployment in the Middle East. I grew up in Huntsville, Alabama. Roll Tide y'all! I love sports, with soccer being my number 1, then ultimate frisbee and volleyball. A little fun fact, I attended a Benedictine boarding school run by Benedictine monks for part of my primary and secondary school. It was a grace from God!

**Sister Veronica Anne:** I grew up in Oklahoma, Tulsa area and am the youngest of 7. There are thirteen years between my oldest sister and myself. There are four girls and three boys. I attended K-8 public schools and Catholic High School before attending Christendom College in Virginia. I spent two years there before I entered in 2000. Oh, fun fact, I have a brother who is a priest. He's a diocesan priest, but serving as an Army chaplain.



Sister Maria Lucia



Sister Veronica Anne

## **Why did you choose the Dominican order?**

**Sister Maria Lucia:** This is where I fell in love with God.

**Sister Veronica Anne:** I was attracted to being able to communicate the truth of the faith and seeing that learning of the faith in the kids. It's amazing what they get. I also love to learn and study and that's the charism of our order.

## **What is your favorite part about your name saint?**

**Sister Maria Lucia:** FIAT

**Sister Veronica Anne:** Well, I'm a special case. I really wanted the name Veronica, not for the saint itself, but for its meaning. Veronica is "vera" or true and "icon" or image. I wanted to be a true image of God. Anne was for my home parish which had a huge impact in forming me. So my feast day is actually the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and that I think fits with everything else!

## **Where else/what else/who else have you taught?**

**Sister Maria Lucia:** I have taught in Memphis and Nashville, Kindergarten and Fourth grade.

**Sister Veronica Anne:** Lots of places! Ok, let's see, fourth grade in Minnesota, I taught in Murfreesboro for a year, Georgia for eight years, Memphis for three, and before I came here I spent a year in the motherhouse kitchen. I've always taught fourth through eighth.

## **What's your favorite food?**

**Sister Maria Lucia:** Arnold Palmer and a Heath bar...but not together!

**Sister Veronica Anne:** Anything and everything! I think I would say Tex-Mex. Anything in that category I could eat everyday.

# Catholic Women of Faith

By: Katherine Frawley, President of CWOF

Are you seeking fellowship and looking for ways to get more involved in the parish? The Saint Joseph women's ministry, Catholic Women of Faith was created to lead women to Christ as we journey through Scripture, serve others, create community, and support one another in all stages of a Catholic woman's life.

Volunteering in this organization is truly a fulfilling way to share your time and talents while supporting our parish.

Under the umbrella of the Catholic Women of Faith, fall many wonderful events and ministries for women and families. These include: Advent Tea, Moms + Munchkins, Walking with Purpose Bible Study, Trunk or Treat, and plans are under way for a women's weekend retreat: Arise.

**Advent Tea:** The 22nd Annual Advent Tea will be in person on December 10, 2021 at St. Joseph Parish. It's a peaceful night surrounded by women awaiting the coming of Jesus. Friends, old and new, sit together and enjoy an amazing speaker, uplifting music and delicious refreshments. All women from any parish are welcome.

**Moms + Munchkins:** Moms + Munchkins celebrate, support and connect Moms (with kiddos birth through Age 5) in our community. M + M meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month throughout the school year in the St. Joseph Parish Hall. We eat, pray, relax and encourage one another in whatever stage of mothering munchkins we are in.

**Walking with Purpose:** All women are welcome to come and see what WWP is about. Join us on Thursdays, 7pm, in the parish hall for an evening of coffee, friends and fellowship on the following Coffee Connect nights - 10/21/21 or 11/18/21. Look for registration in January for spring 2022 session - Fearless and Free and Opening your Heart.

**Trunk or Treat:** The annual family event will be held October 17, 2021. Families come together on the school parking lot for children to trick or treat out of decorated trunks of their cars. Pizza is available for purchase and an awesome prize is given for the best trunk.

Have questions or need more information feel free to email us anytime at [cwof@stjoe.com](mailto:cwof@stjoe.com)

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/stjoecotcwof](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjoecotcwof). You will be able to connect with other women, ask for prayers, get information on upcoming events, ask or share advice, plan playdates and social events and share your uplifting stories, quotes and Bible verses.

Also, look for opportunities and events in the bulletin and on the St. Joseph Parish website at [www.stjoecot.org](http://www.stjoecot.org)

Lastly, The Catholic Women of Faith Ministry is currently seeking women (ages 18 and up) to be a part of the Core Team. If you are interested please email [cwof@stjoe.com](mailto:cwof@stjoe.com).

## What is your go-to prayer/scripture/quote?

**Sister Maria Lucia:** *Sic Deus dilexit mundum* || Surrender Novena || Litany of Trust

**Sister Veronica Anne:** The Memorare is my favorite prayer.

## Do you have any pastimes or hobbies?

**Sister Maria Lucia:** I have recently discovered a very fun game called "Catan" which I quite enjoy playing with the Sisters and all of the other delightful people who have joined us as well. As for pastimes, Alabama Football and soccer.

**Sister Veronica Anne:** I love reading history, both real and fictional. I hate to say it, but I like watching movies! I also enjoy making cord rosaries when time allows and just being after a long day.

## What else would you like to share?

**Sister Maria Lucia:** Verso l' alto! Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us.

**Sister Veronica Anne:** I'm so grateful to be here. It's great to see the community and faithfulness of the people. The coordination of parish, families, school, and faith really works here and that's not always the case so I'm grateful!



# Fall Festival



Mark your calendars and cancel your dinner plans for Sunday, November 14. Thanks to Tom Longinette, Mary Wolf, and many other dedicated volunteers, the annual Fall Festival is back in full force this year.

The Fall Festival has been held annually on the second Sunday in November for as long as anyone in the parish can remember. Not even a pandemic could interrupt this tradition. A modified festival was still held last fall, with a drive-thru only dinner. This year, the committee is excited to bring back the full festival experience, with both dine-in and carry-out dinners available, plus an afternoon of fun activities, including: bingo for the adults, bounce houses and more games for the kids, a cash raffle, quilts from the St. Joseph Quilters, and a performance by the St. Joseph Jazz Band.

If you don't come for the fun, come for the food. The Fall Festival offers plenty of culinary delights. In the early years of the festival, the women of the parish prepared the turkeys and other food in their homes, and then brought them to the church. Even the sausage was made by parishioners! Parishioners do still contribute desserts, but now Josephville Meat Processing has taken over responsibility for providing the meat. This year, kitchen volunteers will be working hard in the school cafeteria to prepare and serve 75 turkeys and 900 pounds of Josephville Meat's homemade sausage. The spread of sides will include St. Joseph Parish's own special dressing. This original recipe, still kept a secret by the kitchen volunteers, requires toasting 210 loaves of bread!

Be a part of this special parish tradition – come to eat, play, or volunteer, and celebrate our wonderful parish community. Volunteers can sign up at [stjoecot.ivolunteer.com/fallfestival\\_2021](https://stjoecot.ivolunteer.com/fallfestival_2021) We hope to see you on November 14!



## Did you know?

The turkeys and other food for the Fall Festival used to be prepared in the homes of women of the parish, and then brought to the church





# 12.10.21

## ADVENT TEA REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

Paper registrations are available at the Parish Office or register at the link below:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=529a0e77-8150-4b61-b083-6f3e6e549415>



*Catholic Women of Faith*



# Scenes of the Nativity

An Advent tradition since 2007!

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this free and public event, whose mission is to share the anticipation of the birth of Jesus!

“The Scenes of the Nativity is a unique event where every nativity has a story, and your nativity is just as special!”

–Becky Pogorzelski, Display Coordinator

Here are some of the many ways that you and your family can engage in our two-day event!

- \* This is a great opportunity to share your love of the season! Come and bring your nativity (or nativities) to display for the community to see!
  - \* “Great variety! Really loved seeing so many different kinds.”
  - \* “Lovely nativities...we love this display!”
  - \* “All families are most welcome and encouraged to visit the LITTLE ANGELS’ ACTIVITY AREA. Here, children and parents can engage in a variety of nativity related activities! Such as puzzles, crafts, puppets, and storytelling. Please stop into St. Joseph’s Workshop, where each child can create a Baby Jesus manger ornament to take home. Coloring sheets and games will be available as well!”
- Francie Null, Activity Area Coordinator

New this year...live local music featuring the St. Dominic High School Chamber Choir! (Sunday at 2:15pm)

“Christmas Photo of a Lifetime! Bring your family, big or small, for your own live Nativity scene photo taken for FREE by professional photographers. We have the costumes—in all sizes—for men, women and children; and props needed for your unforgettable family photo! Lots of fun, and you can pull your photo off the website yourself. Please join us!”

These pictures make for great Christmas Cards!

– Connie Luptowski, Photo Area Coordinator

New this year...live local music featuring the St. Dominic High School Chamber Choir! Sunday at 2:15PM

- ❁ When: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-7pm  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm
- ❁ Where: St. Joseph Parish Hall
- ❁ Check out our Facebook page for more info and updates!

“Christmas Photo of a Lifetime! Bring your family, big or small, for your own live Nativity scene photo taken for FREE by professional photographers. We have the costumes—in all sizes—for men, women and children; and props needed for your unforgettable family photo! Lots of fun, and you can pull your photo off the website yourself. Please join us!”

These pictures make for great Christmas Cards!

– Connie Luptowski, Photo Area Coordinator



## I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE! WHO CAN I TALK TO?

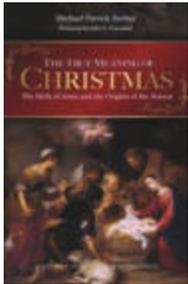
If you would like to display your nativity sets, email Becky Pogorzelski at [2001rmp@gmail.com](mailto:2001rmp@gmail.com).

If you would like to volunteer, email Jan Beckman at [RN3jb@charter.net](mailto:RN3jb@charter.net).

# Get a “Good Read” for Advent at an incredible price

Inside the front door to the church stands a wooden kiosk. Originally filled with faith building CDs, it has become more popular lately for great books, offered at the low price of \$4-5. But for the seasons of Advent and Lent the Augustine Institute (the company that offers the *Formed* media platform for parishes) offers one or two of their popular book titles for an even lower price when purchased in bulk. These books normally sell for as much as \$14.95 for a single copy, but are available for only \$2! Where can you get an excellent book for only \$2? (Hint: They make stocking stuffers!) So as we enter the season of preparation for the birth of Jesus, avoid the noise and distractions of the secular Christmas season and spend some time deepening your understanding of your faith.

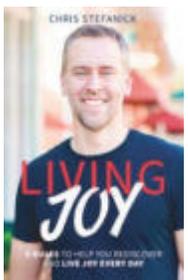
For Advent this year there are three offerings: *“The True Meaning of Christmas: The Birth of Jesus and the Origins of the Season”* by Dr. Michael Patrick Barber and *“Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day”* by Chris Stefanick, popular speaker and author and co-author of the popular book and *Formed* series called *“The Search”*. A third book is available for younger readers titled *“The Best Advent Ever”* by Paul McCusker.



As Dr. Barber says in the intro to his book: “This book is for people who want to deepen their experience of the Christmas season. As I will show, to find our way “home” at Christmas, we first need to return to Christmas’ home in the story of the Bible. Only by carefully reflecting on the stories of Jesus’ birth there can we hope to celebrate Christmas in the way it is meant to be celebrated. Only then can we discover the real joy it promises.”

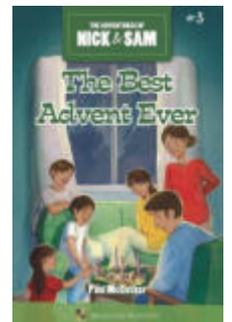
Dr. Barber looks at the Bible’s accounts of Jesus’ birth and the development of the Christmas season. Along the way, he answers numerous questions, including:

- \* How is the Christmas story related to ancient Jewish expectations?
- \* Why is Jesus said to be laid in a “manger”?
- \* Who are the Magi?
- \* What is the mysterious Christmas star?
- \* How did December 25th become the date of Christmas?
- \* How did Saint Nicholas become “Santa Claus”?



The second book option titled: *Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day* by Chris Stefanick equips you with the wisdom you need to experience joy to the fullest. With evidence, experience, and common sense, Chris Stefanick presents nine rules that will help you to overcome the obstacles that are keeping you from attaining unspeakable joy. As Chris explains: “Everyone pulls their strength from somewhere. Many are driven by powerful emotions like anger, lust, or pride; others are driven by the promise of power, money, or fame. But the greatest and most tenacious driver in life is joy. Joy isn’t just the feeling of contentedness that comes from the fight being over. It’s the strength to enter the fight in the first place.”

*“The Best Advent Ever”* by Paul McCusker is the third book offering and is the third book in the series of the *Adventures of Nick and Sam*. This book is appropriate for young readers age 7+. In this book, the Perry family’s first Advent in Hope Springs is a mix of drama and comedy. Sam competes with her best friend to be in the Christmas pageant, Nick hopes to play an angel that actually flies, the search for a Christmas tree leads to danger, and family traditions take on a whole new meaning of joy. It’s a time of fun, learning, and wonder for the Perrys that might really turn out to be The Best Advent Ever! This book is in limited supply so pick up your copy early so you won’t be disappointed!



# Decking the Halls with the Christmas Bazaar



After a two-year break, St. Joseph's Christmas charity resale shop is back and better than ever! The newly retitled Christmas Bazaar (formerly The Olde Christmas Shop) will take place in the School Cafeteria on December 4-5, and all are invited. Proceeds from the event go directly to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society, which assists our neighbors in need with rent, food, utilities, transportation, and more.

The Bazaar has two elements: parishioners are invited to donate any gently-used, unwanted Christmas decorations, and shoppers make a freewill donation for any items they pick. Donations can include all types of Christmas décor, linens, lights, and outdoor items. The majority of items will be available to Bazaar shoppers for a voluntary offering, so it's perfect for those on a limited budget, those searching for new inspiration or great deals, and kids looking for gifts for family members.

Kathleen Englert, who is coordinating the event for the first time, was inspired by the potential for the Christmas Bazaar when she attended it several years ago with her granddaughter. They couldn't believe what a great selection of merchandise was available, and many people donate items that haven't been used at all. Kathleen's vision is to take those existing strengths and expand beyond them. Her goal for the Bazaar is to make it a community event with something for all ages and interests that is open to anyone in the area. In addition to the Christmas décor offerings, there will be numerous other attractions:

- ❁ The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus will offer homemade Christmas cookies for purchase.
- ❁ There will be an "Adopt a Pet" area for kids to select their own stuffed animal to take home.
- ❁ A free gift-wrapping station will be available for use by children who pick out presents for family and friends.
- ❁ Hot chocolate, coffee, cinnamon rolls, and fun music will make shopping a fun experience.
- ❁ There is even something for furry friends- organic dog treats will be for sale, too.
- ❁ Great prizes will be awarded to lucky shoppers!



With so many exciting additions to the Bazaar, it's going to be a can't-miss event. This year, it coincides with the Scenes of the Nativity located in the Parish Hall, so attendees are encouraged to visit both attractions. Advent and the coming of Christmas are perfect reasons to gather with friends and enjoy an outing.

Organizers will accept donations of décor, lights, ornaments, linens, outdoor figurines, and knick-knacks in the Cafeteria on Friday, December 3 from 6-9 PM and on Saturday, December 4 all day. Limited donations can be accepted in advance; please contact Kathleen if you need to donate your items before December 3. If you have unneeded decorations for other holidays (New Year's, Valentine's Day, etc.), you are welcome to contribute those as well because there will be a small area for these items at the Bazaar.

Events like this need enthusiastic volunteers to make them happen, so Kathleen is looking for kids, teens, and adults to assist. The only requirement is that you have to love Christmas!

To volunteer, discuss a donation, or ask any questions, please contact Kathleen Englert at 636-279-0379.

# In Thanksgiving For Your Kindness...

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that we are heading into the holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from your Society of St. Vincent de Paul!

We would like to thank each of you for your faithful support of our many programs. Most recently, The Friends of the Poor Walk was a beautiful morning of fun and fellowship! We gathered at Legacy Park on September 25<sup>th</sup> to raise



2021 FOP Walkers at Legacy Park. We had over 125 participants and we raised over \$11,000.

funds for the neighbors in our community and your support was phenomenal! On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> we will be bringing back the *Ye Old Christmas Shop* under the new name *Old Time Christmas Bazaar!*

SVDP could not extend the help that we give without your generosity. Time and again, you, as individuals, ministries, and organizations, have answered the call to serve our neighbors in need. Let's take a look!

Your financial assistance has been remarkable. Since last October we have gifted over \$14,000 in utility assistance and over \$10,000 in rent/mortgage assistance. Our St. Joseph SVDP Conference has extended over \$12,000 in aide to our neighboring conferences in the Northwest District in order that they may better serve their own clients. We have more than 8 parishioners who volunteer at the Thrift Store. Their countless hours of service have allowed us to offer free vouchers to our neighbors in need. Moreover, St. Joseph has donated nearly \$20,000 worth of credits to other SVDP conferences through-



Terri Struttman, Judy Bailey and Jerry Kluge preparing dinner for the homeless at the Salvation Army in St. Charles.

out the entire diocese. We have joined the St. Charles Community Council in a coordinated effort to help our homeless and near homeless neighbors. We have donated \$22,000 to our district to assist with this endeavor. We have given out countless bags of groceries and thousands of dollars in grocery and gas certificates. The Deacon Diaper Drive saw over 24,000 diapers distributed to local charities. Through the SAFHR program, with money allotted from the state, we have been able to assist our NIN's in receiving over \$100,000 of rental assistance. Many of these neighbors, unable to navigate the application process, were looking at eviction.

Beyond our boundary, we have partnered with St. Augustine in the city, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in North County and St. Pius V in South City, that they may continue the good works they do in those poorer areas. We have sent \$2,500 to help the victims of the hurricane in Louisiana. We have begun serving dinner at the St. Charles Salvation Army



Joyce and Jerry Kluge taking the first casseroles down to the St. Patrick Center. Look for pans/recipes in the St. Joseph Room at church. Contact Patti Kamykowski at [pattik-np@charter.net](mailto:pattik-np@charter.net) for information.

and have initiated the Casserole Program for St. Patrick's Center, which has seen 45+ casseroles delivered each month since March.

In short, the generosity of our fellow parishioners has allowed us to continue our mission of serving our dear neighbors. YOU are the good news of the Catholic Church! Your involvement in SVDP and our fellow ministries IS making a difference. Together, we are impacting the lives of our own parishioners, the neighbors in our boundary, and even those in the Greater St. Charles and St.

Louis Area. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is humbled by your generosity, your support, and your love.

As the holiday season approaches, SVDP looks forward to your continued support. Last year we were able to provide more than 40 families with a full Thanksgiving meal and gifts for Christmas. We are anticipating similar numbers for this year and as such, Giving Tree Envelopes will be distributed again in the Gathering Area of church beginning the first weekend of December.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



OLD TIME  
**CHRISTMAS**  
BAZAAR

**DECEMBER 4-5**  
DEC. 4 9:00AM - 7:00PM | DEC. 5 7:00AM - 12:00PM

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**KIDS! FIND YOUR CHRISTMAS TREASURES!**

**COME SHOP *and* DONATE TO OUR HOLIDAY DECOR RESALE!**

CHRISTMAS PRIZES \* CINNAMON ROLLS  
COFFEE \* FELLOWSHIP \* FREE GIFT WRAPPING

*All donations go to the Society of St. Vincent De Paul*

\* BRING CHRISTMAS RESALE ITEMS ANYTIME SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH \*  
CONTACT KATHLEEN 636-279-0379 OR GERI 636-578-5213

*November 13th/ 14th & 20th/21st  
SVDP TURKEY COLLECTION*



*Place your turkey in the grocery cart provided in the gathering area.*

**CHRISTMAS  
ADOPT A FAMILY SIGN UPS**



*Email [svdpstjoecottleville@gmail.com](mailto:svdpstjoecottleville@gmail.com) with your family name, address, telephone number, and the size of family you would like to adopt.*

**SVDP Giving Tree**

<p><b>Check</b> Please make checks out to: SVDP and write category in memo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Utilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Auto Repair</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Stay for Homeless</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gift Card</b> Please specify amount on gift card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grocery Store</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> General Retail (Target, Walmart, Kohl's)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gas Station</li> </ul>
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All envelopes may be returned in the Sunday collection baskets or to the Parish Center. We promise to be good stewards of your charitable gifts. We understand that you have many options when it comes to giving this Christmas Season and we are grateful that you choose the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We are humbled to be members of the St. Joseph Conference, where we are surrounded by people, organizations, and ministries all working together to build a better community for ourselves and our neighbors in need.

If you need assistance, please call our hotline at 314-286-5137

God bless you for your continued support and generosity.



Don and Judy Bailey, Ernie Zidzik, Janine and Emily Goodenough, Paul Cook, Ann and Tom Yeager collecting funds for the Friends of the Poor Walk in the gathering area of church.

# Memento Mori



*As we enter into November, the Church liturgical year dies and is reborn. It's a beautiful season, one in which we Catholics are not only called to remember and pray for the dead, but we are also called to "Memento Mori," or to, "remember you are to die."*

Why does the Church ask this of us? And what does any of this death have to do with the respect life apostolate?

At its core, to be Catholic is to respect life. It means loving, celebrating, and respecting life at all stages, "from the womb, to the tomb." It means welcoming every beginning while preparing for every ending. It means honoring and believing in the sanctity of the body as well as the soul. The respect we pay to the dead and dying very much highlights how and what we believe of living life. And so, in November, Mother Church challenges us to take that end very seriously.

No matter what your age or stage, there are some very real actions you can take to celebrate life, renew your Catholic Spirit, and Memento Mori. Take some time in prayer this month and reflect on ways that you can beef up your respect of life at its natural ending. Where do you need to work? Do you have a will? Have you planned for your physical death? Have you talked to loved ones about **their** plans? Have you taught your children about the sanctity of the body and the precious gift of burial or internment? Are you fully aware of your end of life options? Do you understand Church teaching when it comes to respecting life at the very end?

As you ponder these questions and more, take some time to get started with your journey. Below you will find a short laundry list of Catholic respect life issues and activities you can take part in both in the month of

November and beyond as you endeavor to become more fully respectful of life at the end stages.

## **Taking it to prayer:**

Pray for the dead. Catholics take this month to physically visit cemeteries and actively pray for the souls of the departed. Saying the simple prayer for the souls in purgatory at the dinner table each night can be a start! Take it further and pray specifically for deceased loved ones.

Earn a November-specific indulgence. See [ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/all-souls-20378](http://ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/all-souls-20378) for a wealth of information on praying for the dead, biblical defense of purgatory, and more!

Remember that cemeteries are places of profound HOPE. We have a firm and steadfast belief in the resurrection which we express fully at the end of the creed we say at Mass, "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, Amen."

## **Learning what the Church teaches:**

Know the Church's teachings on suicide and cremation. Over the last hundred years modern medicine has learned much about the human mind and body which has informed Church teaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a great place to start when questioning Church teaching on these and many other issues. Don't have a Catechism? Go online to view it in its entirety at [vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM).

## **Take some action and make some plans:**

Contact the Catholic Cemetery's Cal-

vary office (314.792.7738) to discuss planning for your burial.

Consider completing a durable power of attorney and advanced directive. There are a lot of pre-made ones out there, but a great one for Catholics can be found at [missourilife.org/advance-directives/](http://missourilife.org/advance-directives/).

Recognize those in grief and be supportive, especially of those who are experiencing grief over infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Though the death encompassed in these issues is harder to understand, it is no less real. If you are experiencing a loss of a little one, Mercy has a program that can help called Mercy Heartprints (314.251.6878).

Dig deeper into options and issues:

Keep abreast of Catholic social teaching on death and dying. Check out the USCCB's website and resources on end of life issues at [usccb.org/pro-life/end-life](http://usccb.org/pro-life/end-life).

Attend the Roman Catholic Foundations "The Conversation" workshops. Go to [rcfstl.org](http://rcfstl.org) for more information. There will be a workshop at St. Joe on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-2.

Do some reading! Check out the modern "Memento Mori" instructress Sister Theresa Altheia Noble and her work. Begin with *Memento Mori Prayer Book: Pray on the Last Things*. Another good read is Scott Hahn's *Hope to Die*.

Dive into Catholic bioethics issues. Get to know and understand end of life issues. Learn what "extraordinary means" actually means and how medical science has changed the conversation. A great resource to start with is [www.ncbcenter.org/](http://www.ncbcenter.org/).



## A Closer look at the Eucharist

By Fr. Westhoff

**The word “transubstantiation” gets used to explain how bread and wine get turned into the Body and Blood of Jesus.**

This is a fancy word; it requires breaking down to understand it better. The etymology of the word could help us. “Trans” means “across” and “substance” means exactly that, substance. So, the Latin breakdown literally means, “across substances.” But we don’t use the word “substance” like they did back in the day. When we modern speakers use “substance” in a sentence though, it usually entails, “They never say anything with any real substance.” Or “there is some sticky substance on the floor.” Or “What was the substance of his argument?” The word “substance” becomes a fancy word for “stuff” when we use it today.

Back in the Medieval times, when they used the word, “substantio,” (Latin for “substance”) they used it to describe the essence of something. They used it to describe what was intrinsic to it being called by the right name. The essence of bread is that it is ground up grain, baked, and put into loaves. The essence of wine is that it is made out of grapes, (usually) and it is alcoholic.

This means that the original definition means that “transubstantiation” really means “across-essences.” That when the priest says the words of consecration over the gifts of bread and wine, it is moving across-substances, or across-essences, into something new. Every one of our senses tells us that what we are holding feels like bread, looks like bread, and tastes like bread. But it is a necessary part of our faith that we believe that it has moved across-essences from bread into the Body

of Christ. And likewise, we believe the wine has went across substances into the Blood of Christ. This is why if we drink enough of the Precious Blood, it will still have the effects of alcohol, because it still has the properties of bread and wine, but the essence of it has changed.

This is why Catholics are meant to worship the Eucharist, because it is Jesus Christ. This is also why we give ultimate respect to each little particle of the Host, and also every little drop of the Precious Blood of Christ. The Eucharist still has the properties of bread, which happens to be brittle sometimes and crumbles, and we treat every one of those crumbs as it is Jesus. Just because a piece breaks off, or some of the Precious Blood might get spilled, (God forbid) does not mean that it is not the Eucharist anymore.

Back in June and July, I gave a homily that spoke about the host I found on the floor in our Church, and how I felt like I was led to find it. I can say with great confidence that I believe that what looked like bread, was actually the Eucharist and it was Jesus telling me to go find him in the Church. I have good reason to believe that host was there for more than a year, (because every other pew was still roped off at the time and I found it in between pews) and just because that host had been laying there for a year, it does not mean that it stopped being Jesus. I hope we all have this same confidence that Jesus is calling all of us to be closer to Him and to come find Him in the Church in the Eucharist.

# Many Hands . . .

Many hands make light work could very well be the motto of the St. Joseph Quilters. It takes many hands and many hours of work to produce a finished quilt from procuring just the right material, designing the quilt, cutting and sewing the pieces together for the quilt top, marking the quilting design, pinning the top into the frame with backing and batting, hand-quilting every stitch and finally sewing a border or hemming the finished quilt.

Each woman who has chosen this ministry is talented, creative and loving. Not all are involved in the process from beginning to end but all contribute wherever and whenever they are needed. The quilters usually gather on Mondays and Wednesdays in the wonderful, bright room on the second floor of the parish center to work their magic. There are usually two queen-size and several baby or sports quilts in progress at any particular time. One entire wall is set up as cubicles for material storage and looks like a rainbow since everything is sorted by color.

In addition to quilts, this group sews, knits, crochets and embroiders a myriad of craft items that are sold at different St. Joseph functions. At the yearly quilt social, every fifth bingo game winner gets to choose a quilt. We also raffle a quilt at the quilt social, church picnic, fall festival and at Christmas. In addition there is a quarterly quilt raffle each year, except for last year when we were shut down due to Covid. Beneficiaries of the quarterly quilt raffles have included the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Cottleville Fire Protection District, St. Joseph Cottleville Youth Ministry and St. Louis Haven House.

So many individuals in our parish and our community are touched through and by our handiwork. So many little ones have been comforted by our beautiful baby quilts. Through our efforts with the Eastern Missouri Chapter, Quilts of Valor so many veterans have been honored with a quilt. Our departed quilters are honored at their funeral or memorial service with a beautiful quilted pall covering the casket during the ceremony with an honor guard of their fellow quilters holding candles and lining the center aisle of the church.

If you are interested in joining the St. Joseph Quilters, please call or stop by any Monday or Wednesday. You don't have to know how to quilt, we will teach you! In addition to putting your time and talent to good use, you will meet a diverse group of women who love what they do and have fun while doing it. No matter how stressful your life may be, quilting quiets the mind and relieves the stress. We look forward to hearing from you!



St. Joe Quilters and friends are pictured playing Bingo at the annual Quilt Social. Quilts available as prizes hang in the right-hand picture.

# REMEMBERING MR. FISCHER



Mr. Larry Fischer, our beloved St. Joseph School History teacher of 28 years, passed away this summer. Someone asked me if he is a legacy. If legacy refers to the richness of an individual's life and accomplishments that impacts others, to one who is remembered and cherished, and to one who lives their vocation to the fullest, then YES!

This is evident by the sentiments expressed during his life and at his passing: He is a wonderful teacher, favorite teacher, best friend, beloved by students and parents. He positively influences children with a passion and joy for teaching. He respects every person he meets. He has excitement for positive learning environments. He is a blessing to all. He brings energy to class each day. He is an amazing teacher, ignited with passion and appreciation for history, the BEST storyteller. He is a cherished member of our community. He relates history to current events and celebrates

the accomplishments of others with encouragement and pride. He is a Confirmation sponsor and committed to his Catholic faith and the sanctity of human life. His students remember Lemon Drops and little trinkets for paying attention and knowing their history facts! He always has a kind smile! He teaches by example how to live a faith-filled life.

Mr. Fischer was born November 11, 1950. He attended Duchesne High School where he was active in sports. He served in the Army. He taught in public schools before coming to St. Joseph School. It has been said that our school was his soulmate. He stayed after school to work with anyone who needed help. He worked in the summer "to stay out of trouble." Students hoped and prayed that they would be assigned to Mr. Fischer's homeroom each August. He was active in Revolutionary War re-enactments, even taking students to participate in the Revolutionary War days at Daniel Boone's historic homesite in Missouri where they dressed in period clothing and "worked" the school-house. New teachers and staff members were welcomed with "Hi, you're going to love it here!" Alumni visiting the school made sure to stop by his room—and he remembered them all!

I had the privilege of working at St. Joseph School for 3 years with the Aftercare program. Many nights Mr. Fischer would swing through the cafeteria on his walk ("I gotta get exercise somehow!") and stop to chat for a few (or many!) minutes. Whenever I thanked him for being such a great teacher, he instantly turned it around saying that his job was so easy because of all the parents sending him such wonderful children raised with good values. He told me it was his greatest privilege and honor to work at St. Joseph School. He spoke often of his pride in the students' accomplishments. He hoped they would continue to grow in their Faith.

Mr. Fischer's Memorial Mass was on August 19, 2021, and school was closed for the day so faculty and students could attend, and the church was packed. Current students formed an honor guard from the church doors to the cemetery. It was a beautiful witness to his life.

Like so many parents, I am blessed that my children got to spend time each day in Mr. Fischer's classroom. They learned valuable lessons about life beyond the history books and war stories. It's amazing to think he taught over 3000 students. But I wonder if being a legacy is the best way to describe him. I don't think that was ever his intent. I am reminded of the refrain of the song "Only Jesus" by Casting Crowns: "I don't want to leave a legacy, I don't care if they remember me, Only Jesus. I've only got one life to live, I'll let every second point to Him, Only Jesus." I think he understood that. I can hear Mr. Fischer telling me that we all have our own special calling and that we only need to do our very best at it. His spirit of dedication and love will continue to live on in the lives of his family, friends, and students.

Well done good and faithful servant. Welcome Home.

# St. Joseph Parish

Cottleville

1355 Motherhead Rd.

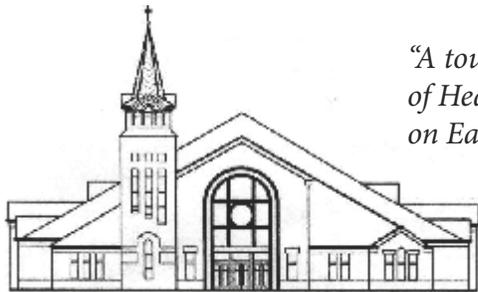
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*"A touch  
of Heaven  
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## Fall 2021

### ST. JOSEPH PARISH

1351 MOTHERHEAD RD | COTTLEVILLE, MO 63304



*"Get to Know  
St. Joe"*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Special Performance by the St. Joseph Jazz Band  
Bingo ♦ Games ♦ Spectacular Quilts ♦ Giant Inflatables  
50/50 Drawing ♦ Cake Walk ♦ FUN & much, much,  
more...

**WHOLE HOG PORK SAUSAGE & REAL  
TURKEY DINNERS**

Not Pressed ♦ Josephville Meat ♦ The Old Recipe  
Served From Noon Until 6:00 P.M. | Carry-Out Available  
Adults \$13 ♦ Children (6-12) \$6 ♦ 5 & Under Free

Register to volunteer at this event here:

[https://stjoecot.ivolunteer.com/fallfestival\\_2021](https://stjoecot.ivolunteer.com/fallfestival_2021)