



OUR PARISH

Family Newsletter

Winter 2020

Making Christ Number One On Your List

Saint Joseph
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



The Christmas season is approaching. We have already made our gift lists, even checked them twice. First there is family, then friends, our children’s teachers and coaches – even the mailman; Christmas inspires us to give our family and friends gifts of love and appreciation, “thank you’s” for all they do for us during the year. The very idea of holiday gift giving, a display of love and gratefulness to those who have touched our lives, is parallel to the concept of stewardship for us as Catholic Christians. When we give to God, we are effectively saying “thanks” for all He has done for us.

Think of all God has done for you this year. How have His loving arms embraced you? Maybe He has answered a special prayer intention. Maybe He has created a job opportunity for an unemployed loved one, Helped safely bring a new baby into the family, or instilled peace during a difficult time. God’s blessings are countless and the abundant gifts He bestows upon us are given freely out of incomprehensible love, despite our unworthiness.

Think of the ways you respond to God’s bountiful blessings. How do you choose to show Him your thankfulness? During Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Christ, will we remember to add Jesus’ name to our list? Uncle John wants a new drill and grandpa definitely needs a new cardigan, but what does Jesus want? After all, isn’t it His birthday we’re celebrating?

The very first name on the list, above our spouse, children, relatives and friends should be God’s name. As disciples of

Christ, we are called to give God our “first fruits”, not our leftovers. We should joyfully place God first on our gift-giving lists, not out of guilt or as an after-thought, but out of love and appreciation.

The concept of stewardship allows us to tangibly give a Christmas gift to God through our time, talents and treasure. We give God gifts of time through prayer, such as spending time before the Bless Sacrament or praying the Rosary. We can give our talents to God in the guise of simple charitable actions; consider bringing a meal to a hard pressed neighbor, or watching a young mother’s children so she can prepare for her own family’s Christmas. Whatever choices you make this season, make a decision to be a good Christmas steward.

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Let Advent Be Advent

I began writing this article only three days into November. Already, Christmas decorations abound in malls and stores. Just yesterday, I heard on a local radio station an advertisement for “non-stop Christmas music” beginning the day after Thanksgiving. We are still almost eight weeks from Christmas Day, and yet throughout all of December, we celebrate as if Christmas had already come. Of course, as soon as the clock strikes 12:01am on December 26, the radio stations resume their regularly scheduled programming and the stores rush to take down the Christmas decorations to set up for the next thing. It’s not unusual to see Christmas trees out on the tree lawn before the end of St. Stephen’s Day. Our culture would have us celebrate Christmas during Advent and nothing at all during Christmas.

The Church, however, desires that we take time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the glorious birth of the Savior. Thus, we have the season of Advent. The word “advent” comes from two Latin words, *ad+venire*, meaning “coming towards” or “approaching.” In fact, our word adventure comes from those same words. The season of Advent ought to be an adventure of faith as we prepare for the three comings of Christ. Just as the season of Lent prepares us, body and soul, for the Solemn Celebration of Easter, so too the season of Advent is designed to prepare us for the coming joys of Christmas. We’ll notice at Mass the absence of the Gloria and the distinct violet vestments signifying sacrifice and preparation.

During the first two weeks of Advent, the Church focuses our attention on the Parousia (the second coming of Christ at the end of time).

We remember that Jesus will come again on an unknown day and at an unexpected hour and that we ought to prepare our hearts to be ready for him at his coming. St. John the Baptist’s words resound, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Mark 1:3). We are reminded to live daily in the company of Christ and to seek his mercy for our failings that we might be ready to welcome him when he comes. Arrange to make a good confession during this season: “make straight in the wilderness the paths of our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

Beginning on December 17, we enter into an eight-day time of intense preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ in time on Christmas Day. On these days, the Church reviews the genealogies of Jesus, considering the lives of those who prepared the way of the Lord throughout salvation history, and reflects upon all that happened to Mary and Joseph before the birth of our Lord. Of particular note during this time are the great “O Antiphons,” which are chanted daily at Evening Prayer, on which the great Advent Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is based. In these antiphons, Jesus is addressed as: Sapientia (Wisdom), Adonai (Lord), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Clavis David (Key of David), Oriens (Morning Light), Rex Gentium (King of the Nations), and Emmanuel (God with us). Taking the first letter of each title and working backwards, a Latin phrase emerges: ERO CRAS (I shall be present tomorrow).

The season of Advent also serves to remind us of the third coming of Christ: his arrival in our midst in the Holy Eucharist. In the intervening time between the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem and the Second

Coming of Christ in his Glory at the end of the age, Jesus continues to come to us daily in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, giving us his true Body and Blood for our food and drink.

Once we come to Christmas Day, we continue our celebration for weeks! The Octave of Christmas is an eight-day celebration from December 25 until January 1, during which time we celebrate as if it were Christmas Day every day. Far from returning to “normal life” the day after Christmas, we ought to celebrate the Birth of our Lord with the Church in the following days. In fact, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” does not refer to the time leading up to Christmas but instead to the twelve days after Christmas, leading to the Feast of the Epiphany.

Finding ourselves now in the midst of the Advent Season, let’s let Advent be Advent by preparing our hearts for the three comings of Christ and let’s let Christmas be Christmas by celebrating joyfully for many days when he comes.

~ Fr. Kevin Klonowski



2020 Annual Report

St. Joseph Parish

Dear Parish Family:

Each year our Winter Newsletter affords me a chance to write and share with you an Annual Report about the sacramental statistics and finances of our parish community. Thank you for all you have done this year, especially in the midst of some very challenging times. With a deep sense of gratitude for your commitment to our parish, I present to you our Annual Report covering the life of our parish community from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

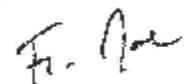
First and foremost, as I begin this report, I want to acknowledge the reality of COVID-19. In many ways, we all know how this pandemic has upended our normal routines as individuals, families, and as a parish community. I first want to extend our prayerful support to all those who were sickened or lost a family member or friend on account to this disease. I am grateful for the work of our parishioners, staff, and members of our Ministry of Assistance who were able to assist in various ways. I am excited to share that as of my writing everyone who approached us with a need, was assisted in some manner. We just need to be made aware of the situation.

Certainly COVID-19 also had an effect upon our parish in terms of a Mass attendance, activities, and finances. We are very blessed that we have a large enough facility to comfortably accommodate our new capacity limits. We have been averaging around 130 people per Mass since our re-opening out of a total capacity of 400. In addition, our facilities have allowed some groups and ministries to begin meeting again with appropriate social distancing and face coverings. While our parish experienced a loss of about 30% of income during March, April, and May, corresponding reductions in expenses still allowed us to close out the year slightly ahead of budget with a surplus of \$7,595. This is tremendous given everything and certainly places us in a different place than other parishes that have had to undergo “offertory recovery” programs this current year. On account of your generosity and our financial planning of the past, we remain in a good spot. Thank you!

Parish Life Statistics	2020	2019
Adults welcomed into the Church	3	14
Infant Baptisms	47*	66
Marriages	17*	14
Funerals	57	67
8th Grade Confirmations	4*	58
2nd Grade First Communions	22*	77
Registered Households	2,880	2,835
Registered Parishioners	7,640	7,485
Average Weekend Mass Attendance	1,248*	1,467
* Reflects items known to be impacted by COVID-19		

As you review the following pages, I particularly want to draw your attention to our balance sheet. As many parishes did throughout the Diocese, we applied and were given a Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Loan in the midst of the pandemic. Our funds were applied for and used specifically to meet the salaries and benefits of our employees ensuring that other funds would be available for us to continue to meet the needs of our parishioners and parish. Given the uncertainty of the times and not knowing how long we may have been unable to have public Mass, I felt it important to seek out funding to assist us in this manner and was grateful that we qualified for the funding. Based upon the SBA guidelines, we have applied for and should qualify to have this loan forgiven.

Now that we have completed the repairs and replacement of both the kneelers and carpeting, we continue to foresee no major capital improvements for the next decade or more. As you view our report, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact James Reagan, Finance Council Chairperson at 440.821.0560, Joe Shuman, our Parish Business Manager at 440.238.5555, or me. You may also wish to visit www.sjohio.org/finance for details on our Finance Council or for past Annual Reports. I am also very appreciative of the wise and prudent counsel offered by the members of our Finance Council. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide our work, together, with St. Joseph as our guide, so that we might continue to accomplish great things. Please continue to stay healthy!



St. Joseph Parish Statement of Church Revenue and Expenses

	<u>Actual Year Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Budget</u>
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>
Parish Receipts:			
Offertory Collections	\$ 1,061,776	\$ 1,167,124	\$ 1,068,275
Bequests	20,000	201,732	-
Maintenance & Repair Fund (1)	134,853	141,090	113,365
Income From Parish Programs	85,369	134,731	58,095
Investment & Endowment Income	111,351	55,189	23,102
Miscellaneous Receipts (2)	27,236	62,279	22,008
Designated Collections	18,322	33,852	12,830
Total Parish Receipts	<u>1,458,907</u>	<u>1,795,997</u>	<u>1,297,675</u>
Parish Disbursements:			
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	596,904	604,722	604,908
Rectory & Household	24,180	23,717	15,040
Parish Office & Administration	65,154	77,788	72,270
Altar, Sanctuary & Liturgical (3)	65,587	100,954	39,723
Community Outreach (4)	37,618	48,534	27,882
Religious Education	18,593	34,183	14,520
Stewardship & Evangelization	21,183	37,805	12,895
Utilities	46,031	50,060	45,967
Insurance & Property Taxes	24,251	23,068	24,975
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	39,409	52,788	36,650
Diocesan Assessment	135,402	137,106	128,160
School Support (5)	260,689	265,041	248,424
Designated Collections	18,322	33,853	12,830
Capital Expenditures (6)	97,864	186,060	55,385
Extraordinary Expenses	125	3,248	-
Total Parish Disbursements	<u>1,451,312</u>	<u>1,678,927</u>	<u>1,339,629</u>
TOTAL PARISH SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (7)	<u>\$ 7,595</u>	<u>\$ 117,070</u>	<u>\$ (41,954)</u>

(1) These funds help to offset plant operating and capital expenditures.

(2) 2019 includes a \$10,000 special donation, \$8,100 from a funeral luncheon program (suspended) and \$5,500 from the *Rooted In Faith* program.

(3) 2019 Includes \$17,424 for new hymnals & \$7,761 for vestments.

(4) Includes Social Concerns Ministries, such as Feeding Our Families, West Side Catholic Center Meals, Mission of Hope and Bereavement.

(5) Includes our parish subsidy to our interparochial school and any parish-awarded tuition assistance.

(6) Includes \$139,401 in 2019 & \$42,301 in 2020 for new organ project; \$15,276 in 2020 & \$17,500 in 2021 budget for kneeler replacement project and \$34,000 in 2021 budget for carpet replacement in HFC & parish offices.

(7) The deficit shown for the 2021 budget results from expenditures for the kneeler replacement and carpet replacement projects (\$51,500). Substantially all of the funds necessary to complete these projects were raised prior to 2020 - 2021.

St. Joseph Parish Statement of Church Assets and Liabilities

	Balance As Of June 30,	
	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Checking, Savings And Investments		
Checking Account Balances	\$ 1,917	\$ 559
Savings and Investment Account Balances	738,896	651,001
Total Checking, Savings and Investments	740,813	651,560
Accounts Receivable	3,907	8,427
Total Assets	\$ 744,720	\$ 659,987
 LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 22,085	\$ 77,813
Income Received in Advance	-	63
LOANS/NOTES/MORTGAGES		
SBA Loan - PPP Cares Program	132,929	-
Total Liabilities	155,014	77,876
FUND BALANCE		
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	582,111	465,041
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	7,595	117,070
Fund Balance, End of Year	589,706	582,111
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	 \$ 744,720	 \$ 659,987

Parish Information

Baptism: Parents are to attend a Formation Session in preparation for their child's Baptism. Sessions are held here in February, April, June, August, October, and December and at St. John Neumann during the other months. Baptisms are usually celebrated Sundays at 1:30 p.m. or during a Weekend Liturgy. To register, please call the Parish Office.

Reconciliation: Every Saturday from 3-4pm and at any time by an appointment with one of the priests.

Marriage: Contact one of the priests or deacons at least six months before the desired wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: This is celebrated during the month of October and April after Weekend Liturgies. In case of surgery or serious illness, please speak with a priest or call the Parish Office.

Care of the Sick: If you will be hospitalized, please notify the Parish Office so that you may be visited. In addition, if someone is confined to the home and wishes to receive the sacraments, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you are interested in becoming Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

Parish School of Religion (PSR): Children in Public School are expected to attend the Parish School of Religion classes. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

New Parishioners: We welcome you! Please call the Parish Office and we will be happy to register you.

If you are moving: Please notify the Parish Office of your new address.

Zoom In Abundance

Since March, the Office of Faith Formation has been presented with many challenges. All classes came to a screeching halt, and events were cancelled like flights during a snowstorm. As with any journey, the cancellations did not prevent the participants from reaching their destination. Although disappointed with the change in dates, the children who anxiously waited to receive the grace of God in the sacraments were ready for our anticipated September dates.

The weekend of September 12th and 13th was full of excitement at St. Joseph Parish. On Saturday at 11 am, forty excited second graders and their families filled the pews in anticipation of receiving First Communion. Dressed in beautiful white dresses and crisp dress shirts, the children listened eagerly to the homily by Fr. Kevin Klonowski. After much practice about proper mask removal and position of hands, they received First Communion from Fr. Kevin Klonowski. During the summer months, thirty-two individual First Communions were held at most weekend Masses along with Monday evening Mass. The parishioners were so welcoming to the children and waited after Mass to offer congratulations to our second graders. We look forward to celebrating with our now third graders again every Sunday!

Fortunately, the eighth graders were able to attend their Confirmation retreat in January and spend time in small groups with their By Teens for Teens faith mentors. On Sunday, September 12, 2020, forty-eight students in grade eight and one adult received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents and sponsors were present with the candidates along with faith mentors. After delivering an inspiring homily, Fr.

Joe Mamich confirmed the Class of 2020. Congratulations to all who were confirmed in September.

Members of By Teens for Teens, a youth group for students in grades 7-12, spent the spring and summer reaching out on Zoom calls and praying the Rosary in front of the St. Joseph statue. The laughter involved with the normal Tuesday at Joe's water balloon toss was replaced by the soft sounds of teens asking for prayers for family members. Hands that normally threw cornhole bags on Tuesday nights were wrapped around rosary beads on Thursday mornings. Proms and graduations were cancelled or virtual, but the teens' faith in God remained strong. As a result, the College Rosary group was formed, meets weekly on Zoom and currently reaches out to universities in Ohio and Louisiana.

By Teen For Teens continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 6 pm on Zoom. Like the College Rosary group, new members are encouraged and welcomed to join at any time. Using our resources, former faith mentors have been invited back to offer witness talks for the younger teens. Service still remains a priority as teens make cards and letters for the VA Hospital and local nursing homes. As part of a Senior Girl Scout project, Paige is painting a mural in the cave. All teens have been invited to add their symbols to this beautiful tree. Teens were also present on PSR materials pick up night to safely share Halloween treats with younger members of the St. Joseph family.

PSR, Parish School of Religion, resumed class on October 7th. Working as a team, parents, children and catechists prepare to hear the *Good News* for the upcoming Sunday. Catechists meet families at

material pick up events in order to continue to create community. Weekly videos made by grade level catechists are emailed to eager parents and children. The Lamb of God box in the Gathering Area contains drawings from joyful first graders who respond to their lesson with a beautiful picture. Our catechists spend a great deal of time not only preparing the weekly lesson, but also taping and sometimes re-taping videos. Thank you to our parents, catechists and children!

Adults and teens with special needs have also found a virtual home on Zoom. On the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6 pm, prayers, laughter and singing are shared by all members and families. Although Monday night is for our teens and adults, PSR welcomes children with special needs in our Wednesday evening program. Adult Faith Formation continues in both the HFC and on Zoom. Fr. Joe is completing a study on church history on Wednesday evenings, and the Monday morning Bible study is currently working on "Matthew: The King and His Kingdom". Please watch the bulletin for more winter and spring options including a class by Fr. Kevin Klonowski.

The Office of Faith Formation continues to adapt, move forward and "Zoom in Abundance". Teens, families, Bible study friends, children, parents, teachers and clergy are all working together to share the Good News with each other. Please contact Linda Zvoncheck at lzvoncheck@sjohio.org if you would like any additional information of programs for 2021.

~Linda Zvoncheck
Director of Faith Formation

A Deacon In The Making (God Willing)



Baseball looked a lot different this year. Then again, so did most everything else like school, work, restaurants, grocery shopping, any sporting event, Mass, the Fest, summer vacation, and the list goes on. Whether we like it or not, COVID-19 has affected us all. It looks like it will be around for longer than anyone thought and it will continue to have an impact on our daily lives. I liked how MLB played a shortened season and I liked the idea of the NBA's "Bubble" concept. At the time of my writing this, the NCAA was close to cancelling football in 2020.

No one knows how long COVID-19 will be with us. We just have to be patient and continue to live this new way of life for as long as it lasts. A favorite quote of mine that reminds me of how important patience is in our lives is from St. Teresa of Avila, "Let nothing disturb you. Let

nothing frighten you. All things pass. God never changes. Patience achieves everything."

Patience has been my key to progressing through the past several years. As I begin my final year of formation for the permanent Diaconate (God-willing), I am looking forward to another faith-filled year with my classmates from around the Diocese. Over the years I have found that our diocese is very blessed with an elite staff of instructors at the seminary and the Center for Pastoral Leadership. After getting used to two classes a week (one Wednesday evening and one Saturday morning) during my first year of formation, the remaining years have flown by. Something new this year is that our diocese will be one of the first in the country to offer a master's degree in ministry while in Diaconate formation.

During each year (except the first), we are given a field parish where we partner with the pastor to learn about the different ministries that each parish has to offer. I have had the privilege of being at St. Mary's of Berea, St. John Bosco, and Mary Queen of the Apostles. I enjoyed meeting many of the parishioners at each. I loved my time at each parish and always found it hard to say goodbye. Overall, I feel very blessed to be part of such a wonderful program as Diaconate formation. If you let it, it does an amazing job of forming you through the work of the Holy Spirit.

For those that don't know, Catholic deacons are ordained ministers. Unlike priests, deacons can be married. Most deacons hold full time jobs and most perform their duties as deacon purely voluntary (i.e. no monetary compensation). Deacons are called to serve the Church and the community in three areas: Ministry of the Word of God, the Ministry of the Liturgy/Worship and the Ministry of Charity and Justice. Deacons assist the priest at the Mass, may witness marriages and preside at baptisms and funerals outside of Mass.

A good friend of mine recently asked me why I decided to become a deacon. He knows the longer version but this time I gave him an abbreviated response: "I wanted to work on my end game." I was blessed to have several people over the years ask me if I ever thought about being a deacon. It's those people that helped to plant the seed and helped it grow. What about you or someone you know? What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?

~ Matt Lawler

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, few are the Catholic community of St. Joseph Parish. We celebrate Eucharist, worship God, and use our God-given gifts to serve all of God's people.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

TUESDAY, December 15, 7:00 pm

SATURDAYS	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday, December 19	10:00 am – 11:00 am
Saturday, December 19	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday, December 21	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, December 23	8:00 am - 9:00 am

CHRISTMAS MASSES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm in church (Live-streamed)

6:00 pm in Church (Praise Team)

8:00 pm in Church

With seating in both the Church and HFC

11:00 pm **Christmas Night Mass** (Musical Prelude: 10:30 pm)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am

11:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 am

