

OUR PARISH

Family Newsletter

Summer 2021

The Face Behind the Camera



I have live-streamed over 60 Masses including: weekend Masses, funerals, weddings, Holy Days of Obligation and prayer services. If you ever have tuned in to the St. Joseph Parish live-stream, there is a pretty good chance that I am the one who is live-streaming it!

This is a true blessing to have been given the opportunity to live-stream Masses for St. Joseph Parish. It feels very good to be able to bring Mass and spread the Good News to those who are unable to attend in person.

~**Joseph Putrino, IV**



In May of 2020, the seminarian, Joe Menkaus, had asked me to help him out with the St. Joseph Parish live-stream. As soon as I got the email, I was thrilled! I was so happy to have been given the opportunity to help the church out in any way possible during that tough time. Before everything shut down, I was an altar server. That's how I met Seminarian Joe. On May 17, 2020, I arrived at the church about an hour early before Mass and was trained on how to operate the live-stream. A couple of weeks later, I had a pretty good understanding on how to deliver Mass through the live-stream. In late August, I got an email from Seminarian Joe. It consisted of saying he was going to be leaving soon to go back to the seminary. He also asked me if I wanted to take over his role as Live-Stream Administrator. I gladly accepted the role.

Table of Contents

Joseph Putrino IV	pg. 1
Ancient Heretics	pg. 2
From the Desk of Fr. Joe	pg. 3
Year of St. Joseph	pg. 4 & 5
Growing in Their Faith	pg. 6
SJJ Education	pg. 7
SummerFest	pg. 8

Saint Joseph
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving God and Neighbor Since 1946



Ancient Heretics and Modern Heresies

Throughout the first nine hundred years of Christianity, the Church called ecumenical councils (meetings of the bishops in union with the Holy Father) to address serious errors regarding the proper understanding of Jesus Christ. The Church recognized that if we get Jesus wrong, we will get everything else wrong: salvation, Mary, the Church, morality, etc. The errors of the heretics moved the Church to clarify and articulate her teaching on Christ.

In the Church today we can learn from the heretics of old so that we do not make their mistakes. This article will address some of the ancient heresies and place them in a contemporary context so that we can be aware of any misunderstandings about Jesus. When we misunderstand Jesus, the consequences for Church life are dire, and so I hope that this article will help us to understand the Church's dogmatic Christology.

The Catholic Understanding of Jesus: The teaching of the Church holds that Jesus Christ is one divine person possessing two natures, human and divine (CCC 481). "Nature" answers the questions of Jesus thusly: What is Jesus? True God and True Man; Who is Jesus? The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Council of Chalcedon confesses, "One and the same Christ, Lord, and only-begotten Son, is to be acknowledged in two natures without confusion, change, division or separation...the character proper to each of the two natures was preserved as they came together in one person" (CCC 467). The Catechism of the Council of Trent offers this simple formulation: "His divine and human natures meet in one Person" (Article II). We call the mystery of the union of two natures in one person the *hypostatic union*.

The Gnostic Heresy:

Gnosticism (from Greek for knowledge) has taken many forms over the years, but all expressions of it deemphasize the true humanity of Christ. Particularly discounting the importance of the body, the Gnostics attempted to recognize Jesus' divinity but reject his Humanity. But if Jesus never assumed our true humanity, then we were never truly saved. As a consequence, they deemphasized the importance of our "bodilyness" and relied on secret knowledge (gnosis) to gain salvation. Gnosticism continues to appear today in those who reject the goodness and sanctity of the human body.

The Arian Heresy:

The heretic Arius insisted that Jesus was not true God, but instead the highest creature of God. But if Jesus is a creature and not God, then he does not have the power to save us. When we say the word "consubstantial" in the Creed at Mass, we implicitly reject the Arian heresy as we acknowledge that Jesus is of the same substance as the Father, "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God." A form of Arianism continues today in those who suggest that Jesus is merely a good teacher or moral example, but not God.

The Nestorian Heresy:

Nestorius suggested that Jesus was in fact two distinct persons. For Nestorius, Mary was only the Mother of Christ, not the Mother of God. The Church condemned this teaching insisting that what is said of the humanity of Jesus is indeed said of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. From time to time today, we will hear people attempt to separate the humanity and divinity of Christ. Some today err even by suggesting the Jesus as a human person had committed sin! We must always keep in mind that Jesus is one person possessing two natures, and that whatever is said of either nature must be said of the Divine Person Christ.

The errors of the ancient heretics teach us to be on guard whenever we hear someone attempt to confuse, change, divide or separate the divine and human natures in the one Divine Person, Jesus Christ. If we get Jesus wrong, we'll get everything else wrong. ~ Fr. Kevin Klonowski





From the Desk of Fr. Joe

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the beginning of another summer!

With any luck, this summer will be much different than last. While COVID-19 may not be eradicated, between the help of the vaccines and our own adapting to the realities of living with it, it is likely that some “normal” aspects of summer will return. As I have said throughout this entire pandemic, I truly want to thank you for the dedication that you have offered to one another, often in what may seem like little ways, that has helped each one of us navigate through these uncharted pandemic waters. While we probably all made mistakes along the way, we are moving forward. I was reflecting recently that as difficult as some of the days were, overall, we seemed to tolerate the interruptions of our usual routines fairly well. I think that shows a strong resolve on the part of each one of us – not only here, but throughout our country and world. Beyond the care we offered to one another, I do want to thank you for the ways in which you have continued to offer your support to our parish.

First off in this edition, I want to take the opportunity to welcome you to our 75th Anniversary Year. While we had hoped to end our celebration with Bishop Malesic, we are privileged to welcome him as we begin this year of celebration! As you may be aware, our Founding Pastor, Father Joseph McGraw received his letter of appointment for the establishment of a new parish in Strongsville, Ohio on June 10, 1946. Then, he and Bishop Edward F. Hoban purchased several acres of farm land for this purpose and began St. Joseph Parish with 170 families. Since that time, a large portion of our property was sold to become part of Olympia, the remaining seventeen acres is home to what, in 2021, is now a community of 2,757

families. Throughout this year, we will have several celebrator events. We will also be sharing aspects of our community’s history through the bulletin each month. This sharing will begin later this month and continue through next June with these features helping to recall the shoulders upon which we stand as we work together and with God to create the legacy for those who will follow after us. I believe that these will help us recall that we truly have been trying to “serve God and neighbor” well since our earliest days!

Beyond that, we were honored last month to celebrate the ordination of our parishioner, now-Deacon Matt Lawler, to the Diaconate. The last two ordinations from our parish were five years ago in May 2016 with Fr. James Kulway and our last Diaconate Ordination was Deacon Bob in 2004. (And as a side note, you may recall that I was ordained as a priest from St. John Neumann in 2006). There are more than likely others out there considering one of these paths... As Deacon Matt recounted to me, “volunteering with charitable ministries gave me a BIG push [towards the Diaconate]. It helped to open me up to the presence of the Holy Spirit and the amazing things that can be accomplished. Experiences like these left me wanting more of what my faith had to offer”. Deacon Matt’s journey took him from our pews and being active in many ways here to the Diaconate Formation Program and now to St. John Cathedral. It is a great reminder to us that the praying and service that we do can not only make a difference in the lives of others, but also call each of us to something else – perhaps bigger – than we might imagine! While I had hoped that Deacon Matt would have been assigned here, we know that he will be a great asset to St. John Cathedral. As they say, Deacon Matt, don’t ever forget your roots and know that our prayers will go with you!

Like every summer, I know that many among us are celebrating transitions over the past few weeks, as they complete various phases of their

education – Pre-school, Grade School, High School, College, and Graduate Studies – and move on to new challenges and adventures. I certainly congratulate all of them as their graduation represents the benefit of much dedication, and pride! You have accomplished much and worked hard to get to this point. We all share their joy as they finish this phase of their lives. We hope that they will carry God’s love with them wherever they go – and always see St. Joseph as a place they can call “Home”. Years ago, just as I reminded Deacon Matt, a mentor of my own told me “Joe, never forget your roots...” This has been wise advice and words that I believe have kept me grounded and focused; I in turn offer the same advice to our graduates and also invite you to always remember where “Home” may be found!

Lastly, I am very much looking forward to our modified Annual Summer Fest. It will be different this year, but unlike last year, we are having something! We will have a modified Parish Picnic and Ice Cream Social together and still offer the Golf Outing. There is a copy of this year’s schedule on the last page of this edition. We welcome everyone to those events! We do not have these events as fundraisers for our parish community, but rather fun-raisers so that we might all enjoy the companionship, laughter and good times of being with our families and neighbors. I wholeheartedly believe this “being together” will be one of the greatest things after being “apart” for so long! I certainly hope to see you and others from both our parish community and the wider Strongsville community at these events! Please feel free to invite your neighbors, family, and friends to join you. Let’s celebrate our community and enjoy ourselves as members of the community of St. Joseph!

With best wishes for safety and health during these summer months,

Father Joe Mamich
Pastor

WHY HONOR ST. JOSEPH?

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

“We must be convinced that, in consideration of his great merits, God will not refuse St. Joseph any grace he asks for those who honor him.” -ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

As we continue to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph, we recall that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ chose to enter the world through the human family; He came as an infant born into the marriage and home of the two holiest human creatures who ever lived: Joseph and Mary.

Although He was God, He was obedient to them as a Child, and under their watchful care “Jesus advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace with God and men” (Luke 2:51-52). In this Jesus gave us an example, that we too as His disciples are meant to entrust ourselves to Joseph and Mary, learning from them how to grow in holiness as the adopted children of God (Eph. 1:5).

As Christians we are blessed to have sweet Mary as our spiritual mother and valiant Joseph as our spiritual father. Just as Mary guides us from heaven with loving devotion, so too St. Joseph diligently provides for the needs of the family of God, the Holy Catholic Church.

Because of his special role as foster-father of the Child Jesus, St. Joseph has merited singular privileges in heaven unmatched by any saint excepting the Blessed Virgin Mary. Certain saints have received special insight into his holiness and the wonderful power of his heavenly intercession.

The Catholic Church as always fostered a tender to St. Joseph as the Head of the Holy Family; yet he has become increasingly prominent in the spiritual life of the Church over the last 150 years, as Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, lists in his book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. We will be exploring this as a parish in February 2022, in preparation for St. Joseph’s Day 2022.

- 1870 – Blessed Pope Pius IX declares St. Joseph the “Universal Patron of the Church.”
- 1879 – Apparitions at Knock, Ireland. St. Joseph appears with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Apostle, and Jesus (appearing as the Lamb of God).
- 1889 – Pope Leo XIII writes *Quamquam Pluries*, an encyclical letter on St. Joseph.
- 1908 – St. Luigi Guanella begins constructing a church dedicated to St. Joseph in Rome. It is completed and consecrated as a basilica in 1912.
- 1917 – Apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. During the last apparition on October 13, St. Joseph appears holding the Child Jesus and blessing the world.
- 1921 – Pope Benedict XV inserts the phrase “Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse” into the Divine Praises.
- 1955 – Venerable Pope Pius XII establishes the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to be celebrated on May 1.
- 1962 – Pope St. John XXIII inserts St. Joseph’s name into the Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).

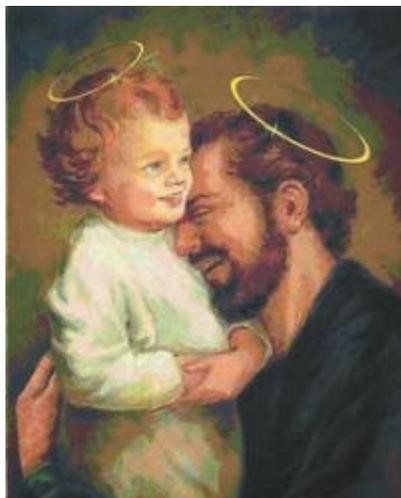
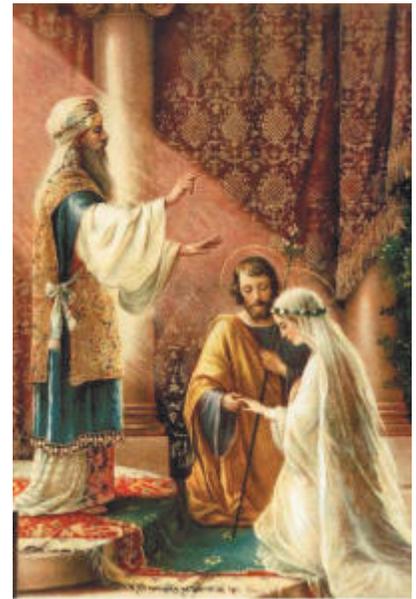
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- 1989 – Pope St. John Paul II writes *Redemptoris Custos*, an encyclical letter on St. Joseph.
- 2013 – Pope Francis, echoing and fulfilling the intentions of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, inserts the name of St. Joseph into all Eucharistic Prayers. He also consecrates Vatican City State to St. Joseph.

Through this providential sequence of events, it's clear that the Holy Spirit is at work teaching us the importance of devotion to St. Joseph at this moment in salvation history. "Now is the time of St. Joseph!" writes Father Calloway, "In our day, Jesus wants the Church to know, love, honor, and seek refuge in the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph."

Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Adopted from <https://yearofstjoseph.org/honor/>



Growing in Their Catholic Faith



Before quarantine, I thought that I had a very strong faith, but I failed to realize how much I struggled with my faith in high school. Sure, I liked going to weekly Mass, and I always loved Youth Group, especially being a By Teens For Teens mentor. However, (what I only realize now, a year later), was that I didn't take time to just...pray, and spend time with God. I always had to be doing something, go somewhere. Last March, I had multiple events planned that I thought would bring me much closer to God. I was planning to go on a weekend retreat with my classmates and then a week later on a pilgrimage to Assisi. While these would have been great opportunities to strengthen my faith. I was so focused on looking forward (how I would grow in faith, how I would pray), that I didn't focus on the present. I wasn't making time in my daily life for Christ, for the simple things, like reading the Bible or even praying. When everything shut down, both of these events were cancelled. For a while, I was frustrated, because I didn't have these chances to grow my faith. At that time, I didn't realize that God was right in

front of me, trying to tell me that I didn't need some grand journey to grow closer to Him. So for the first few months of the pandemic, my faith was at the lowest it had ever been.

Everything began to change in my relationship with Christ last June, when Mrs. Zvoncheck invited me and a few others from the youth group to pray the rosary with her outside. First, I was super excited because I'd get to see my peers from the church. Throughout everything, I always loved to go to anything related to By Teens For Teens. However, I was also nervous because I had had little experience praying the rosary. I hadn't prayed the rosary for years, the only times being when I was at SJJ. Nonetheless, I went in with an open heart and mind. That event led to the complete change in my faith life. It didn't happen right away. My faith didn't immediately become strong; it was gradual. I came and said the rosary with the group a couple more times and then decided to try saying it myself. What I used to think was repetitive and boring, I now have fallen in love with. The rosary was the way I found my way back to a strong relationship with the Lord. Quarantine forced me to spend time in silence with God, which I rarely did before. I used to say I was "too busy", or looking for some excuse to put off prayer for later. Then, while stuck inside, I was forced to learn to pray better, revert back to simplicity. Before, I was searching for extravagant ways to grow my faith, waiting for the opportunities to come to me, desiring to be around others. But God worked in the opposite way: I learned the beauty of quiet, alone time with Christ. Through this, I've discovered the beauty of the rosary and found a new love for the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. When I look back on the pandemic, I try not to think of all I've lost or missed out on. Instead, I think of what I've gained, which is what matters more than anything: a new relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

~**Kaitlin Helal**

The Easter Vigil Mass was one beyond imagination. It was dark and somewhat mysterious. The fire lit at the beginning of the ceremony felt so special to experience. All sacraments felt so special and reserved only for me. First Communion was amazing! I proudly walked up to the altar and received the Body of Christ. After each spill of the baptism water (which was very cold), I felt a little more clean. When I received the Sacrament of Confirmation I felt like a new person, clean and reborn. ~**Ella M**



What My SJJ Education Has Meant To Me

Throughout my whole nine years at SJJ I have countless amazing memories with some of my closest friends. The most fun year at SJJ has definitely been 8th grade. This is because I stayed out of trouble and focused on having fun and trying to get good grades. I remember many old memories from SJJ, some good like having lots of fun at recess with my friends and some bad like in pre-school being the last one to be picked up because my mom was always late. Some things at SJJ I will never forget like when I fought with Coope on the bus and had to bring him candy to his house to apologize and we became friends. There have been countless times when I didn't know what to do on an assignment and I needed help from a teacher and they were always there to help me. For instance, about once a week, in math, I would ask a stupid question and Mr. Sands wouldn't get mad at it. One of my favorite things to do in second grade was to play football with some of my friends and some of the older kids who were much better than me. It was always Cooper and I and many of the older kids who didn't like passing it to Cooper and me.



These past nine years have shaped who I am and who I will continue to be in my future. One of my favorite memories of my time at SJJ was when COVID started and we went online. This was such a great memory for me because I had lots of fun talking to my friends about hanging out right when we got out of class. Although I am happy to be back in school was a lot of fun to have a little break where I could do online school from my bed. I have countless memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life and always remember what SJJ and all of the teachers along the way have done for me. ~**Kenneth R.**

Through my 11 years at SJJ I have had a great education and great experiences. I have been here at SJJ since pre-school. I learned some nice prayers about who this Jesus and God are. Through my experiences I have learned how to value my faith graciously. Learning about the Sacraments and accomplishing them, was a preparing task. I can't really remember my Baptism, but I can remember all my other Sacraments. My first Reconciliation was the second sacrament I can remember. I was very nervous to talk about my sins. No one is perfect. After that I knew it was just the beginning of my relationship with God. The next step was my First Communion. I was excited to have God in my presence and Him in my soul, He being with me always. Lastly, making my Confirmation. This means that it is the beginning of a new chapter. This means I will be growing with God and my faith even more.



I would also like to talk about all my friends that I met! I will always remember meeting my best friend in Kindergarten. We have been close ever since. I love history; it is my favorite subject. When we went to D.C. it was one of the coolest experiences for me, seeing all the museums and monuments that are full of history. Lastly, I will always love field day. I love playing all the games and having a good lunch, of course. Now the 8th graders will run field day. Now the younger kids can have the fun I had. No matter what, I could never forget my life at SJJ. Meeting new friends in pre-school, and having some of them until 8th grade. ~**Shaunee M.**

St. Joseph SummerFest

All are welcome to join us!
July 25, 2021 and August 7, 2021



For more information, please
see the bulletin,
www.sjohio.org, and Facebook
as these events draw close!

As we emerge from the pandemic, we look forward to some limited outdoor events...

Sunday, July 25

“Old Fashioned” Parish Picnic and Ice Cream Social
Come for Noon Mass and stay for the fun!
Bring your own chair, picnic basket, and enjoy live music outside in our front yard!

Ride the Euclid Beach Roller Coaster Car.

Ice cream will be provided.

Limited food and drink available for purchase.

Saturday, August 7

16th Annual Parish Golf Outing
Mixed Scramble

Fees will include golf, food, and prizes!
Details and forms at www.sjohio.org/golf.

Events subject to change.