

## Transitions

The word Transition is defined as “A change from one form, state, style, or place to another.” We have experienced and are currently experiencing such changes in society, our church, and even our parish. This is nothing new, and it really shouldn’t surprise us. For example, Pope Benedict pointed out several years ago that the church in the future will be much smaller, but it will be more faithful and dedicated to living the faith. Over the years we have seen this transition playing itself out as we see the numbers of “active Catholics” attending Mass each weekend dwindle not only throughout the country, but also and very noticeably, in our own parish. The size of our community is out of our control, but efforts to deepen our dedication, understanding, and practice of the faith is certainly within our grasp.

Last December I shared with you how the number of our young people attending Mass has dropped dramatically over the last several years. This is so sad and concerning. They become “inactive Catholics,” cutting themselves off from the grace of the sacraments before their life even really begins. It would be irresponsible of me, as your pastor, to turn a blind eye to this reality and continue to operate things as usual. More of the same will only get us more of the same.

However, the Holy Spirit is good and is inspiring some great ideas to help us maneuver through this transition and beyond. One such addition to our parish is our Family Ministry. Since I first shared this idea with you last December, we have been slowly developing it in the parish. Among other things, this ministry will include what we are calling “Godfamilies.”

Whenever a child is baptized in our parish, a parish family (a Godfamily) will be asked to 1. Pray for the newly baptized and their family daily. 2. Initially, deliver some items that will help the newly baptized and their family deepen their relationship with the Lord. 3. Regularly (monthly/bimonthly) mail or deliver to the family of the newly baptized a newsletter and other materials provided by the parish. In many cases, the information the Godfamily is passing on can also be used to enhance their own family life.

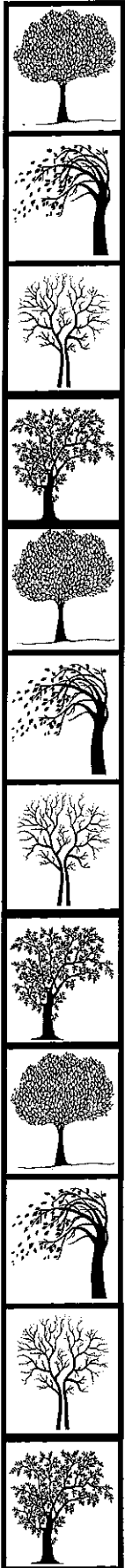
The purpose of this ministry is to extend our religious education and preparation for the sacraments of the church well into early infancy. If we expect parents to be able to form a home life centered around Christ and founded on our faith, we must help them accomplish this task. After all, that child, if nothing else, needs to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism (which they receive as an infant) and how it has made them unique. The Godfamily Ministry along with all it will provide for young families, basically means our Sacramental Preparation Program (for all the sacraments) will begin for our children right after Baptism, thanks to this ministry.

Another area of ministry we are tweaking as we transition into the future is the preparation of couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. I am very grateful to the couples, past and present, who have worked with engaged couples in our parish as FOCCUS couples. They have been trained to work with engaged couples and share with them their lived experience of marriage. They do a great job, and we will keep this as an option in our Marriage Preparation Program. However, there is a new trend taking place which seems to work well for many. That approach is to provide the engaged couple with the appropriate materials and have them choose a married couple they personally know and would like to work with as they prepare for their marriage.

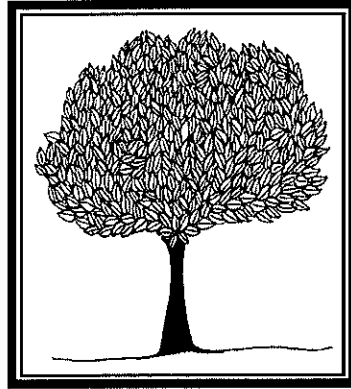
That couple could be you! Don’t worry, the materials you’ll be working with are very easy to follow and will even enrich your own marriage. Just like the Godfamily Ministry, the goal is to help us connect with one another, to deepen our sense of community, and to help us develop the gifts the Lord has given us to serve Him and each other.

In short, I’m certain the “transition” our society is headed for will leave the concept of “family” in tatters. As we look to the future, my goal as your pastor is to focus on building up and strengthening family life among us, deepening our love for the Lord, and discovering new ways we can serve Him and one another.

Fr. Mike



# Transitions



## K-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education (from Jennifer Nelson, Director of Religious Education)

The K-9<sup>th</sup> grades have started their program year and meet weekly on Wednesdays, with one week each month including a family activity night. This year we have included the Kindergarten grade to reach out to the younger children with a new hands-on approach religion curriculum. The 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades started this fall with new curriculums as well.

Sacramental Preparation begins in 1<sup>st</sup> grade for those who are seeking First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. First Reconciliation typically takes place in January and First Communion on the first weekend of May. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade year consists of a parent meeting, two parent/child workshops, and a First Communion practice.

Confirmation Preparation is for 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades and follows the program calendar year with normal religious education classes. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring of 9<sup>th</sup> grade and includes weekly classes for the 8th graders and monthly sessions for 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

It wouldn't be a complete program without the great Catechists and parents who need to be mentioned and thanked for all they do.

## St. Joseph Catholic School (from Chris Wells, Principal)

This school year, we are transitioning towards a Classical Catholic Liberal Arts program.

We have partnered with our afterschool religious education program and are using a new religious textbook through Ignatius Press entitled "Faith and Life." This program highlights a traditional faith journey, truth, and Catholic identity as well as the importance of family life. Lessons incorporate family activities to work on while at home.

We have also chosen a new Math program, Purposeful Design Math, which provides a Christian worldview that features devotional themes drawing students to God as our creator. This program centers around a traditional math approach.

We have purchased a new History textbook through the Catholic Textbook Project, which emphasizes the freedom for truth. These textbooks integrate a holistic Catholic worldview in a narrative format. This program focuses on historical truths and facts rather than political biases. Grades 4-6 are currently reading and learning with this text.

We plan to grow our Classical Catholic Liberal Arts program each year until it is fully implemented. These are exciting transitions taking place in our parish school!

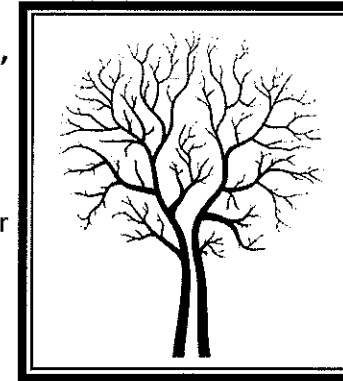


## Music Ministry (from Jeff Richards, Director of Music)

The theme this year is Transitions. The first thing that comes to my mind is transitioning out of the COVID pandemic into a brand new sanctuary. I am looking forward to having our choir back and also having our children's Masses in the new space. Our former piano in the balcony has been transitioned out and will be replaced with a refurbished Baldwin Grand piano. There will also be organ repairs addressed as soon as possible after the renovation of the worship space.

## Youth Ministry (from Chris Groves, Youth Minister)

What's Happening in Youth Ministry? This year the youth ministry program is going to have a new look. After much consideration and discernment, the program will be more catechesis-based in which we will be covering a number of topics and working on building a strong knowledge and faith foundation. We are meeting weekly throughout the school year along with attending some retreats throughout the year. The program is an eight semester program spread over four years. Each year will consist of two semesters of material; each semester is about ten weeks. I know how well this program can work being that I've seen it from a student's point of view and as a volunteer group leader. We are really excited to get this program rolling out here at St. Joseph's, and I can't wait to see the fruits that come from it!



## Facilities (from Dave Klein, Maintenance Supervisor, and Susan Mahoney, Business Manager)

We've had a number of upgrades throughout our facilities in the last year:

- ◆ A new boiler
- ◆ A new air-cooled system for the walk-in cooler in the school
- ◆ Repairs in the bell tower to stop leaks
- ◆ Parking lot repairs
- ◆ A new utility tractor with special attachments for sidewalk snow removal
- ◆ Internet wiring to each classroom

Looking ahead, we're excited about the renovation to the church worship space which includes streamlining the electrical wiring. We've also started working with professionals to replace the 60-year old, single-pane windows in the school.

## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (from Amanda Grigar, RCIA Director)

Before His Ascension into Heaven, Our Lord gave us The Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19). This directive tells us that it is the work of all the faithful to lead others to become followers of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, the RCIA program is seeing a transition to a parish-wide endeavor. Those seeking full communion within the Catholic Church are not only seeking the sacraments, but also unity within the parish community.

Some ways for all parishioners to support this vital work of the Church are:

**Prayer** - Your presence on Sundays and holy days is a powerful witness. Your prayers for those seeking a relationship with God are very important too.

**Support** - Supporting those seeking Christ may involve hospitality, an invitation to parish offerings, and kind words or encouragement. Sharing your time and talents to support the various aspects of the RCIA process are another way to offer your support.

**Example** - Your example in daily life (worship, work, prayer, service, and leisure) show others what it means to live the Gospel.

## Celebrating the Sacraments (from Deacon Jerry Fust)

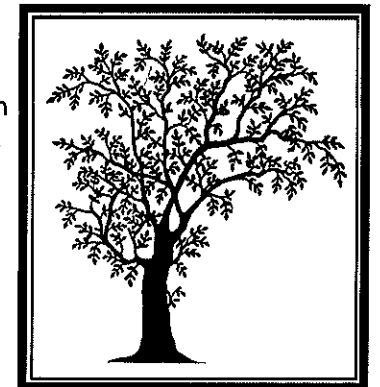
This has been a year of transitions, including for clergy. Sacraments administered by deacons have looked a little different this past year.

At St. Joseph Parish baptisms are the second Sunday of the month (except during Lent) with multiple families at each. During the pandemic, baptisms were scheduled as needed, one for each family. That made for very busy calendars and much extra communication! Baptisms are once again back to their second-Sunday schedule. With the renovation, however, those baptisms are now celebrated in the Day Chapel. This led to a more intimate setting which was an unexpected benefit!

Autumn marriages have moved to Most Holy Trinity. The flexibility of the couples and their families has certainly been much appreciated. For clergy, working across two parishes adds complexity, but staff at Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph are very supportive.

Finally, the service of deacons at Mass has had constant change. Once we hit a stride in the Wilson Center, the addition of the play practice meant each week the "backstage" aspect of Mass needed regular tweaks. Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion often had their questions answered with either "Here's what we did at the last Mass" or "Let's just wing it."

I am looking forward to one more transition – back into the newly renovated worship space of St. Joseph Church.



# St. Joseph Parish

## Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2022

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and checking accounts for main operations	\$ 196,235.26	Accounts payable	\$ 7,803.85
Parish savings accounts	1,403,723.00	Accrued payroll expenses	117,213.89
SCRIP assets	27,098.23	Deferred income	23,995.55
Boy Scout assets	6,301.35	Deferred income-school fundraisers	161,258.54
Building Fund savings acct	859,712.71	Prepaid tuition, lunch accounts	13,673.22
Receivables	32,612.98	SCRIP credits	27,098.23
Inventories and prepaid exp.	18,897.00	Total liabilities	351,043.28
		Net Assets	2,193,537.25
Total assets	<u>\$ 2,544,580.53</u>	Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 2,544,580.53</u>

## Financial Activity for the Year Ended June 30, 2022

### Regular Operations

<b>Church</b>		<b>St. Monica Ladies' Auxiliary</b>	
Tithing	\$ 1,065,012.79	Income	\$ 2,846.00
Other income	97,020.19	Expenses	(2,617.69)
Expenses	(487,443.18)	Net activity	\$ 228.31
Net activity	<u>\$ 674,589.80</u>		
<b>Faith Formation</b>		<b>SCRIP Tuition Reduction Incentive Program</b>	
Income	\$ 37,318.06	Gross profit on sales	\$ 8,414.72
Expenses	(152,127.89)	Expenses	(456.00)
Net activity	<u>\$ (114,809.83)</u>	Credits for families	7,035.18
		Profit for school	1,685.49
		Net activity	\$ -
<b>Elementary School</b>		<b>Parent School Council</b>	
Tuition and fees	\$ 607,999.12	Income	\$ 35,799.05
Fundraisers	92,378.62	Expenses	(25,016.49)
Other income (incl. EANS grant)	216,684.59	Net activity	\$ 10,782.56
Expenses	(1,339,076.89)		
Net activity	<u>\$ (422,014.56)</u>	<b>Cub Scout Pack 572</b>	
		Income	\$ 200.00
<b>Building Fund</b>		Expenses	(1,876.06)
Donations and interest income	\$ 56,919.49	Net activity	\$ (1,676.06)
Expenses	(112,347.00)		
Net activity	<u>\$ (55,427.51)</u>	<b>Boy Scout Troop 72</b>	
		Income	\$ 9,729.85
<b>Scholarships</b>		Expenses	(9,516.03)
Donations	\$ 15,728.89	Net activity	\$ 213.82
Scholarships awarded	(17,920.00)		
Net activity	<u>\$ (2,191.11)</u>	Net regular operations	<u>\$ 89,695.42</u>

### Other financial activity:

The financial transactions for Clinton County Hispanic Ministry are run through St. Joseph Parish. Of the Net Assets reported above, \$24,502.06 is CCHM's.

Witness to Hope Diocesan campaign	
Beginning of year balance	\$ 110,937.25
Parish share received	\$ 101,473.44
End of year balance	<u>\$ 212,410.69</u>

### Sacramental statistics for the year:

Baptisms	32
First Communions	17
Confirmations	48
Marriages and Convalidations	2
Anointings of the Sick	22
Funerals	26