

# A Place for YOU

July 1, 2022 -  
June 30, 2023

From Fr. Mike Williams

Well, another year has come and gone! Another year that has confirmed for me how blessed I am to be your pastor. Our parish has about 2,521 registered souls and this past year was marked with very positive changes for us. We saw parishioners participate in a number of new projects. For example, the Renovation Committee oversaw the changes in our worship space, the Knights of Columbus created the Veteran's Memorial outside the school entrance, the Path of Divine Hope Grief Ministry hosted a grief workshop, and a number of families are acting as Godfamilies to fellow parishioners with new babies. This is in addition to the many others serving in various capacities during Mass, on councils, and in other quiet ways year after year. We are blessed to have folks who are "taking ownership" in their parish and stepping up to help when and where it's needed.

I am hopeful that the coming year will continue this trend and more positive developments for our parish community. However, there's a catch--this hope of mine depends entirely on each of you! You see, the average parish only has about 10% of their people who are involved, outside of Mass, in their community. We are around that same percentage. That means 90% are not involved outside of Mass.

Recently I was ill for two weeks and if it wasn't for the parish staff and parishioners pulling together to make things work during that time, I honestly don't know what would have happened. This is going to continue to be a growing concern moving forward. The vibrancy and effectiveness of our parish is the result of not just my efforts but your efforts and participation as well. We need 100% of our parishioners to "take ownership" of their parish.

As it stands right now, we have in our diocese, 80 priests in active ministry in 73 parishes. Of those 80 priests, 18 of them can retire at this very moment; and in next five years 26 of them will be able to retire. If that were to happen, we would be faced with 54 priests assigned to 73 parishes. The question at this point, and moving forward, is **"Who will lead and preserve this faith community in St. Johns as we move into the future?"** The bishop's plan for the diocese heavily emphasizes how important it is that **parishioners** rise up to provide leadership within their own communities.

While we have seen many positive changes over the past year, the one thing that hasn't changed is that we live in a society that is increasingly hostile toward our Faith and Family Life. The age we live in dictates the necessity of every parishioner to not only find a new spiritual depth within themselves but also to share that grace and faith in new ways with the rest of the faith community. I encourage you to find ways to deepen your faith in the parish and in your home and let the creativity of the Holy Spirit help you understand how best to share that grace with the rest of the community.

Ask yourself, **"Where can I get involved and where can I help?"** Not every way of involvement is labor-intensive or time-consuming. In fact, just participating in opportunities to learn and grow in your faith and to share that faith with others is one of the greatest ways to help ensure the life and vitality of our parish moving forward. I remain grateful for the blessing each of you are to me and the parish community.

Blessings, Fr. Mike

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

As the Director of Christian Initiation of Adults, I have a privilege that is similar to that of the early Christians: I see adults born into a new life in Christ. Their transformations are perceptible, and their joy is a wonder to behold. In 2023, five adults entered into full communion with the Holy Catholic Church at St. Joseph Parish. Each of the adults who became Catholic had at least one Catholic family member or friend who played an influential role in their journey to the Catholic Church, and they did it in simple ways: talking about their faith, carrying a rosary, or making Mass a priority. Likewise, each of these new Catholics witnessed the truth of Christ to others: co-workers (who were often supportive of their journeys or at least curious), family and friends at various points in their own journeys, and one even shared that a gas station attendant looked forward to hearing what they learned about the Catholic faith each week.

An annual report brings with it the tendency to look at numbers, which is great when it comes to many matters, but falls short when it comes to the number of souls touched and the long-term ramifications of our everyday interactions. No matter where you are in your faith journey, others notice. All of us have a role to play in the salvation of those around us, so make the most of every day that you are given to share your faith with others.

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

- Renovated the church interior with brighten walls, new color scheme, and a gathering space at the main entrance.
- Converted the former Youth Room into a vibrant religion room for the students in the school and in our religious education program.
- Removed asbestos flooring in the oldest restrooms of the school. New flooring and paint have freshened the look.
- Thanks to the K of C, the veteran plaques from the church vestibule are part of a new memorial display in front of the school.

**From Deacon Eric Elstro**

The 2022-23 year in this part of the world was the year of "The Chosen." This TV streaming series portraying the lives of Jesus and his apostles grabbed a small but passionate local following.

In the fall of 2022, we had about 20 people a week gather in the church basement to watch and discuss the second season of the planned seven-season run of the series. Season Three was released right after the first of the year. Winter weather issues kept the numbers down a bit, and we averaged about 15 viewers a session.

Anticipation is high for more of "The Chosen" and we will undoubtedly run season four as soon as it's available in early 2024.

**In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.**

**If your gift is serving others, serve them well.**

**If you are a teacher, teach well.**

**If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging.**

**If it is giving, give generously.**

**If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.**

**And, if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.**

**Romans 12:6-8**



# You are called

Below are many of the ministries and service opportunities available at St. Joe's. Watch the bulletin for your chance to get involved or contact the Parish Office.

**Liturgical Ministries**

- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Altar Servers
- Ushers
- Choir and cantors
- Musicians
- Sanctuary Cleaners
- Sacristans

**Faith & Spiritual Ministries**

- Prayer Tree
- Sunday Rosary
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Religious Ed Catechists
- St. Monica Ladies' Auxiliary
- Average Joes Men's Group
- Small group faith sharing

**Service Ministries**

- Sanctuary cleaners
- Collection counters
- Office volunteers
- Church decorating
- Landscaping & watering
- Funeral luncheons
- Special receptions
- Feast & Raffle fundraiser

**Councils & Committees**

- Pastoral Council
- Finance Council
- Buildings & Grounds Committee
- Educational Trust Fund
- Parent-School Council

**Outreach**

- Giving Tree
- Senior Appreciation luncheon
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Baby Shower
- Veterans Shower

**Sacramental and Other Statistics**

Baptisms: 17 First Communions: 30 Confirmations: 18 Marriages: 2 Anointing of the Sick: 46 Funerals: 19

**St. Joseph School (from Chris Wells, Principal)**

The school has a steady enrollment at 199 students. We have made changes to the old youth room and have created a Religion Room designed for spiritual encounters (see Jen Nelson's report below). The Religion curriculum has also changed to include: Encountering God and his presence; Growth of knowledge through text, sacraments and scripture; and to Witness God's love through acts of kindness and service. We have implemented Virtues in our daily designs and call on students who demonstrate virtuous behaviors as our "Soaring Comets" students of the month. Our student choir will sing at a weekend Mass monthly, and we are planning to add an additional time at church with a Liturgy of the Word service where students will engage in scripture and song.

**K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education  
(from Jen Nelson, Director of Religious Education)**

The K-9<sup>th</sup> grades have started their program year and meet twice a month on Wednesdays, with two family nights (All Saints and Advent). This year we are excited to introduce a new space and program/s for the children. All K-8 grades will have the opportunity to learn about their faith in a new *Religion Room* with various curriculums, the main focus being The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This new curriculum is a hands-on approach to their faith that addresses what the child needs to develop his or her relationship with God through Scripture and Liturgy. This is in addition to their classroom curriculum with the usual textbook approach.

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 8<sup>th</sup> grade attending Wednesday religious education classes. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring of 9<sup>th</sup> grade and includes monthly sessions for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and a weekend Confirmation retreat.

High School Faith Formation will begin a new year with the YDisciple curriculum. Grades 9-12 will learn how to help in building up the Kingdom of God as young Disciples of Christ. High school youth meet on Wednesdays.

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

I am very excited to report of really great events going on with our music program. I have been playing the children's Mass with Mrs. Carn and Mr. Hoffman on Friday mornings, and they are planning to have the children sing once a month at a Sunday 10am Mass. During the renovation, the balcony received new carpet, lighting, choir chairs, and a rebuilt Baldwin Grand piano. We also relocated some file cabinets to the basement—all giving the choir loft a fresh clean look. Currently, we're having refurbishments done on the organ.

# St. Joseph Parish

## Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2023

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and checking accounts for main operations	\$ 198,611.81	Accounts payable	\$ 8,068.01
Parish savings accounts	1,041,858.11	Accrued payroll expenses	122,867.27
SCRIP assets	24,053.47	Deferred income	69,806.72
Boy Scout assets	0.06	Deferred income-school fundraisers	92,961.89
Building Fund savings acct	379,725.72	Prepaid tuition, lunch accounts	5,702.43
Receivables	29,502.16	SCRIP credits	24,053.47
Inventories and prepaid exp.	<u>4,990.79</u>	Total Liabilities	<u>323,459.79</u>
		Net Assets	<u>1,355,282.33</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 1,678,742.12</u></u>	Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 1,678,742.12</u></u>

## Financial Activity for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

<p><b>Church</b></p> <p>Tithing \$ 977,328.32</p> <p>Other income 63,092.71</p> <p>Expenses <u>(555,434.12)</u></p> <p>Net operating activity 484,986.91</p> <p>Assets released from restrictions 151,637.11</p> <p>Transfers out <u>(481,804.19)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ 154,819.83</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Faith Formation</b></p> <p>Income \$ 27,839.28</p> <p>Expenses <u>(109,699.80)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (81,860.52)</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Elementary School</b></p> <p>Tuition and fees \$ 662,047.98</p> <p>Fundraisers 161,213.54</p> <p>Other income (including grants) 279,287.04</p> <p>Expenses <u>(1,453,184.93)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (350,636.37)</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Designated and Restricted Gfts</b></p> <p>Donations \$ 1,293.90</p> <p>Transfers in <u>152,660.00</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ 153,953.90</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Building Fund</b></p> <p>Donations and interest income \$ 248,597.28</p> <p>Transfers in 328,614.19</p> <p>Expenses <u>(1,057,198.46)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (479,986.99)</p>	<p><b>Scholarships</b></p> <p>Donations \$ 15,881.50</p> <p>Scholarships awarded <u>(10,470.00)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ 5,411.50</p> <p> </p> <p><b>St. Monica Ladies' Auxiliary</b></p> <p>Income \$ 2,230.00</p> <p>Expenses <u>(2,290.82)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (60.82)</p> <p> </p> <p><b>SCRIP Tuition Reduction Incentive Program</b></p> <p>Gross profit on sales \$ 8,935.53</p> <p>Expenses \$ (506.00)</p> <p>Credits for families \$ 6,915.20</p> <p>Profit for school \$ 1,514.33</p> <p>Net activity \$ -</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Parent School Council</b></p> <p>Income \$ 30,518.70</p> <p>Expenses <u>(33,666.44)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (3,147.74)</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Cub Scout Pack 572</b></p> <p>Income \$ 500.00</p> <p>Expenses <u>(2,400.77)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (1,900.77)</p> <p> </p> <p><b>Boy Scout Troop 72</b></p> <p>Income \$ 11,370.60</p> <p>Expenses <u>(16,746.39)</u></p> <p>Net activity \$ (5,375.79)</p> <p> </p> <p>Net all activity <u><u>\$ (608,783.77)</u></u></p>
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**Other financial activity:**

The financial transactions for Clinton County Hispanic Ministry are run through St. Joseph Parish. Of the Net Assets reported above, \$7,441.60 is CCHM's.