



The Lightpost

The Parish Newsletter of St. Joseph Catholic Church



A Letter from Our Pastor

Changing for the Better

Dear Parishioners,

In our parish retreat last November, Matthew Kelly encouraged us to dream. When we stop dreaming, we begin to simply exist. When we dream great dreams, we are at our productive best and live a vibrant life.

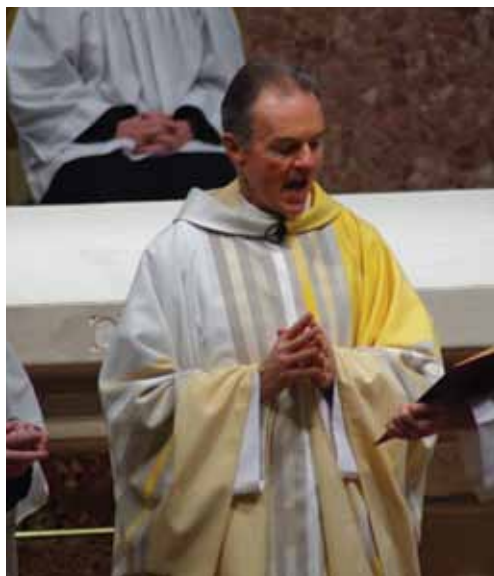
One of our cluster goals is to “engage all of our faithful in regularly attending and participating in the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.”

I have been dreaming a lot about that: how can we make Sunday Mass a part of every Catholic’s life – and not just for the one-third of our parishioners who are here every week, but also for the two-thirds of our parishioners who are here only occasionally, or not at all?

In our parish survey that was done in 2006, some people indicated a desire for a Mass on Sunday evening. The nearest Sunday evening Masses at present are at Saint Angela Merici Church in Fairview Park and at Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral in downtown Cleveland; both are at 5:30 p.m. There is no Sunday evening Mass anywhere in Lorain County.

As a priest, I am permitted to celebrate two Masses on a Sunday, and three if there is a necessity. [I have been celebrating three Masses every Sunday for nearly fifteen years here.] So adding a fourth Mass on a Sunday here in a one-priest parish is not possible.

However, re-arranging the present Sunday schedule is possible. And so, after favorable conversations with the



consultative groups of our parish, a new Sunday schedule will take effect here on the weekend of June 12-13. The Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday will remain at 4:30 p.m. Sunday Masses will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m..

This will take a bit of re-adjusting for many of us, but I hope that this will make Masses on Sunday, the Lord’s Day, even more available.

This new schedule will enable us to do some other exciting, and, I hope, more convenient things. This fall, our PSR program for our children in public schools in grades K-5 will take place on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:30 – between

the 8:30 and the 11:00 a.m. Masses. So people can come to 8:30 Mass and then stay for PSR, or come for PSR and stay for the 11:00 Mass.

In the parish survey of 2006, parishioners had asked for adult education and enrichment opportunities on Sundays. While the children are in PSR on Sunday mornings, their parents and other adults can use this same time for their own faith formation with offerings to be developed.

With a Sunday evening Mass at 5:00, PSR classes for grades 6-8 will meet on alternate Sunday evenings following Mass from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Youth Ministry opportunities will center on Sunday evenings, beginning with Mass at 5:00 p.m..

More events on Sunday morning and Sunday evening will develop, I am sure. On Ministries Fair Weekend in March, I

Fathers and Stewardship

There's nothing quite like butterfly kisses from daddy for a little girl, or a camping trip filled with fishing and frogs with dad for a little boy.

No doubt, fathers play such an enormous role in the lives of their children. From the child's birth, a good father nurtures his newborn and begins a lifelong bond. He sets time aside from his busy schedule to share in his child's ongoing developments learning the sounds, gestures, and behaviors that make his child unique.

As his child grows from infancy to toddlerhood to adolescence, a good father continues to take an active part in his child's life.

Now, instead of bouncing his son on his knee, a good father patiently teaches him how to ride a bike or play the guitar. Or, maybe a good father helps his daughter with her algebra homework or gently listens to the story of her first heartbreak and offers her a shoulder to cry on.



The role of a good father doesn't end with sharing his time and talents with his child. Instead, a good father forgoes his own wishes for the needs of his children by choosing to use his financial resources to feed, clothe, provide medical care, and house them without a second thought.

These characteristics – sharing his time to get to know his child, sharing his talents to teach his child, and sharing treasure to help take care of his child – are essential traits to being a good father.

After all, God calls all fathers to be good stewards of the priceless gift of life he bestows on them.

But sharing these three areas of life in which we practice stewardship is not enough. Instead, God calls all fathers to a higher purpose, and to the ultimate goal of

helping their children get to heaven to spend eternity with their Creator.

If a father has spent time, shared talents, and spent his resources for the benefit of his child but has not helped the child grow faith and love for God, has he done his entire job?

Thankfully, God provides us countless examples of how to teach children about God and instill Christian values into their lives. Beyond Bible stories, Catechism classes and Vacation Bible Schools, God offers spiritual enrichment through the Mass, the Sacraments, Adoration and countless parish ministries.

As the head of the domestic Church, the father can help further instill a sense of love for God by being a good example to his children. That example starts with attending Mass each week and praying with his children on a daily basis. The prayer can be as simple as a short thanksgiving prayer, reading the Gospel, saying intentions, or even saying a short prayer on the way to school.

Good fathers take an active role in their children's faith. As we approach Father's Day, let us encourage all fathers to be good stewards and daily help their children to their final destination – to be reunited with their first Father, God in Heaven.



AVILAS *Watching Prayer Work Wonders*

She's in it for the long haul, and she's got some fantastic reasons to prove it.

"I have been in this for 27 years, and if I didn't believe in it, I wouldn't do it for this long," says Marie Rodgers, who is the diocesan contact person for the AVILAS prayer group at our parish. "We have three young men from our parish who are in the seminary and we've seen an increase in programs designed to promote vocations. We feel our prayers are being answered, and we're very happy about it!"

AVILAS is an organization of people who hear the gentle command of Jesus: "The harvest is good but laborers are scarce. Beg the harvest master to send out laborers to gather the harvest." (St. Matthew 9:37-38) Members pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, and for the perseverance of those who have already consecrated their lives to God. AVILAS meets on the second Monday of each month after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's.

"The ministry of AVILAS is so important because we all need prayers, especially those interested in religious and priestly vocations, because there are so few right now," Marie says.

Currently, there are about 14 active and a few homebound AVILAS members at St. Joseph's who pray a set of prayers for vocations once per month, whether or not they are able to come to the monthly prayer meeting. Lifting their hearts to God with trust, they pray for ill and retired priests, for missionaries, vowed religious men and women, for deacons, for the Holy Father and the bishops, for families, and more. They also pray a vocation prayer for children and their parents, that they would be able to discern God's will in their lives. In addition, the diocese occasionally sends out a newsletter to AVILAS members with meditations which they can use during prayer.

Members like Marie truly enjoy giving their time and talent to this prayer ministry. Marie first became involved with AVILAS through the encouragement of her mother's good friend, Madeline Norris, now deceased.

"About 40 years ago, Madeline decided that the simplest way to ensure continuing vocations in the Diocese of Cleveland was through prayer," Marie says. "She claimed St. Teresa of Avila as the patroness of her newfound prayer group, and based its spirituality on St. Teresa's admonition, "There is only one road that reaches God, and that is prayer. If you find another one, you are being deceived."

Marie opened her heart to God's call to join AVILAS, and helped get a group started at our parish.

"Being in AVILAS is a great way to give your time and talent for the good of the Church, and meet your stewardship requirement," Marie says.

Those who are interested in watching prayer work wonders can contact Marie at 440-933-9107, or simply come to a meeting. All men and women of prayer are more than welcome!



Sacraments Galore at St. Joseph

By *Lorrie Coughlin, Director of Religious Education*

The past few months have been times of wonderful celebration here at St. Joseph's! And our whole parish family is delighted to recognize and congratulate those family members who have celebrated sacraments of initiation this spring!

On March 19, the feast of our patron, Saint Joseph, Bishop Richard Lennon joined us to celebrate Mass and confer the sacrament of Confirmation upon members of our eighth grade classes of St. Joseph School and St. Joseph Parish School of Religion. These young people were joined in the reception of the Holy Spirit by a number of adults who participated in our Cluster Adult Confirmation program. We congratulate each of the following:

Charlotte Albainy
Lea Bastulli
Anthony Bogdas
Jennifer Christie
Emily Crumling
Rachel Drapcho
Megan Fishburn
Roisin Gibbons
Jacob Hartsel
Conner Hosier
Ashleigh Koenig
Manny Livchak
Natalie Mealey
Lauren Nally
Connor Pisco
Gina Redilla
Liz Schneider
Shay Stanchak
Corey Vidumsky
Grace Vinesky

Zachary Andolsen
Rob Beck
Nolan Bousek
Lorenzo Costanzo
Michael Cuva
Christian Duerk
Caitlyn Flynn
Aubrey Goodwin
Kellen Henry
Addie House
Jack Laraway
Daniel McCormick
Jon Morales
Danny Parrish
Caroline Popiel
Veronica Rodriguez
Melissa Schuerger
Riley Thomas
Katie Viancourt

Lauren Bakaitis
Caroline Bello
Emily Brambrick
Rochelle Crimaldi
Heidi Danckers
Zoe Farr
Katie Gallatin-Broad
Monica Green
Jason Hessel
Lauren Jedlicka
Molly Laska
Madison McQuiston
Alex Murray
Conor Patton
Adam Rawlings
Courtney Rogers
Julie Sfiligoj
David Winkel
Sydney Venesile

Finally, May 1, Father O'Connor celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the very first time. We join their parents, grandparents, and young people to the Lord's Table on their First Communion Day:

Cameron Addington
Connor Borgeault
Madison Cerny
Daniel Connaughton
Gabriel Duban
Bailey Finley
Katelyn Gojevic
Thomas Harrington
Carolyn Homolka
Stephen Jones
'Alyssa Kimble
Andrew Koziol
William Larson
Rosie Lawko
Joseph Mack
Ashley McAleese
Rayana Meyers
Maxwell Nepomuceno
Olivia Ortiz
Robert Persiani
McKenna Roof
Dana Sacco
Annabel Schustrich
Maggie Smith
Grace Trepczyk
Grace Wennerberg

During Holy Week, two children – Liza Cornet and Austin Baraona – both received Jesus for the first time, and nine adults completed the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) journey by celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. We congratulate and welcome these newest members of the Catholic family:

Darrell Finley
Claudia Loper
Sarah Rogge

Christy Gojevic
Mark Loper
Shantiel Soeder

Angela Knapper
Nicholas Melzer
Joel Woods



Father O'Connor prepares to confirm the RCIA candidates.



Parish!

on

honor had the wonderful annual honor of presenting Jesus in the
time to 79 boys and girls from our PSR and day school programs.
nts, Godparents and all those who love them in welcoming these
and in prayer that they will always be as close to Jesus as they were



Rebecca Lisi wore her mom's First Communion dress.



Owen Lange poses with his family near the Holy Family statue after receiving Jesus for the very first time

- Marcy Allen
- CJ Brausch
- Thomas Cline
- Olivia Conroy
- Avri Duff
- William Gerard
- Abby Green
- Harry Hebert
- Christopher Hustey
- Andrew Kaye
- Abigail Kirk
- Christina Kuemerle
- Christopher Laska
- Rebecca Lisi
- Cameron Marcie
- Emily Mealey
- Christian Miller
- Matthew Oehlstrom
- Colleen O'Toole
- Nekale Przybylski
- Logan Rotz
- Carter Scheatzle
- Jamie Skelton
- Anna Marie Soltes
- Connor Warns
- Brianna Write

- Jack Baker
- Cadee Burns
- Isabel Comer
- Owen Conroy
- Connor Fairfield
- Abbey Goetz
- Anna Haberstro
- Ainsleigh Heinzmann
- Zachary Jasko
- Luke Kemer
- Emily Kirkwood
- Owen Lange
- Aidan Latchford
- Jaclyn Loper
- Chase Marcie
- Devin Medved
- Jack Moore
- Emma Okuma
- John Perry
- Max Rauch
- Daniel Sabath
- Marissa Schmitt
- Ian Small
- Jack Stracker
- Kelsey Watson
- Billy Zech



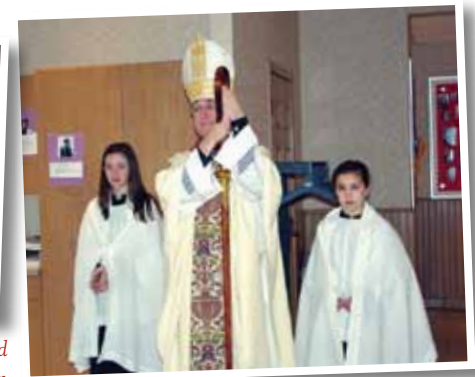
Our church family celebrates First Communion for 79 young parishioners



Christy Gojevic processes towards Baptism with her husband Marty.



Bishop Lennon anoints Róisín Gibbons with sacred chrism while Liz Schneider awaits her Confirmation.



Bishop Lennon awaits the Entrance Procession, flanked by servers Caroline Caldart (L) and Giuliana Costanzo (R).



CIA class of 2010.



Maggie Smith and her mom share their happiness on First Communion Day



Easter Vigil 2010



The Knights of Columbus acted as honor guard for Bishop Lennon at Confirmation on the Feast of St. Joseph.



Changing for the Better *continued from front cover*

saw how so many people really enjoyed “hanging out” here after each of the Masses. This new schedule should enable us to ground all that we do in the Sunday Eucharist – and perhaps even more conveniently with a one-stop approach.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan is the new archbishop of New York. He just issued his first pastoral letter, urging Catholics to “keep the Lord’s Day holy.”

“Anybody 50 or older,” Archbishop Dolan writes, “can remember when faithful attendance at Mass was the norm for all Catholics. To miss Sunday Eucharist, unless you were sick, was unheard of. To be a ‘practicing Catholic’ meant you were at Mass every Sunday. More than 75 percent of Catholics went to Mass every Sunday.

“That should still be the case. Sadly, it is not. Now the studies tell us only one-third of Catholics go weekly, perhaps even less than one-third.

“If you want your faith to wither up and die, quit going to Sunday Mass. As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. That sustenance comes at the Sunday Eucharist.

“Are we Catholics living for Sunday? Do we look forward to Sunday as a day dedicated to the Lord, which gives meaning and purpose to our whole week?”

“Or have we become accustomed to a weekend mentality where we sleep late, catch up on chores around the house, run errands, drive the kids to sports, do a little recreation, and then fit Sunday Mass in between everything else, if at all?”

Archbishop Dolan then quotes Pope John Paul II: “When Sunday loses its fundamental meaning and becomes merely part of a ‘weekend,’ it can happen that people stay locked within a horizon so limited that they can no longer see the heavens.”

In this same spirit, I appeal to you and to all of the members of our parish to “make Sunday once again the heart of your week!”

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor

Our Family in the Armed Forces

When you gather your family for prayer, please remember these members of our parish family who are placing their lives on the line to protect and serve us!

Michael Baker

Jeff Capretto

Carin Cozza

Timothy Gaydosh

Craig Goodwin

James Goodwin

Scott Hardman

Patrick Harris

Brian Hertvik

Scott Hutcherson

Brendan Mackin

Christopher McMenemy

Charlie Meyer

Matt Monschein

Jessica Moran

Brian Nealon

Brian M. Novotny

Robert Pate

Ryan Petrella

Michael Schumacher

Dr. Roy Seitz

John Stanley

Christopher Stover

David Taylor

Daniel Urbin

Larry van der Oord

Scott Vorisek

Tony Zelasko



If you have any loved ones in the service, please let us know so we can add them to our honored list and keep them in our prayers.



Another Great School Year Winds Down at SJS

The Mission Statement of SJS states that our school models itself in creating “disciples who are the hands, voice, and heart of Christ.” As stewards of our faith, we continually promote the central theme of giving “time, talent and treasure” as a way of life for our entire school community.

Our school parents are the backbone of our Catholic family. Over 200 school families worship and play together on a day-to-day basis. Our parents promote our Mission Statement by becoming actively involved in all aspects of our school and parish. They continually support all activities and are committed to Catholic education for their children. For most, it is a financial sacrifice to send their children to SJS. Parents prepare hot lunches, coach CYO, coordinate Scouts, drive for field trips, raise funds and so much more. They so firmly believe in Catholic education! This is obvious through their support of our Tuition Assistance Fund. This fund provides financial assistance to families who seek a Catholic education for their children yet may not be able to fully provide it. Along with our parish, many of our own school families contribute to the Fund in order to help others!

Our students create a true “family” atmosphere in our school. Throughout the year our children are examples of our faith. The rosary is recited daily, and the entire school attends Friday morning Mass each week. The children reverently add their petitions during classroom prayer and can be heard praying for everything from ailing pets to aging grandparents! They embrace time for prayer as a way of life. As a student body, our children donate thousands of dollars and countless hours to many outside organizations throughout the

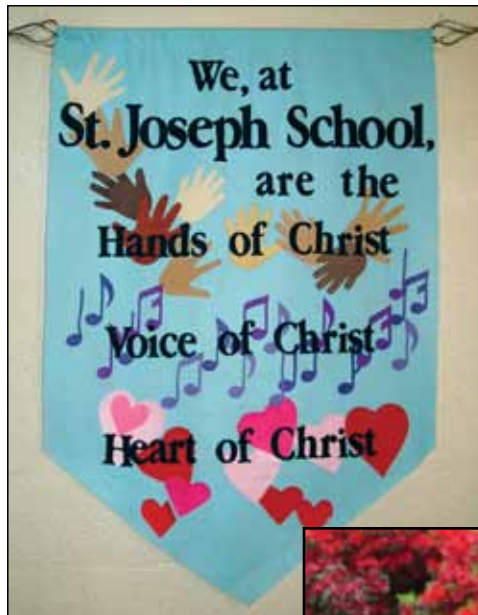
year. They collect socks, toiletries, food, and money to provide for local food pantries and shelters. Our giving stretched beyond local borders as our children donated \$1,500 to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. When Mohican School needed financial support, our students raised \$500! Whether it is collecting for “Pennies for Patients” (Lymphoma and Leukemia Society) or providing backpacks and books for an inner city school visit, our students share their time, talent and treasure!

Our tremendous staff of teachers is at the heart of bringing together parents and students. Their loyalty to our school shines through at all levels. Ms. Brenda Johns is celebrating her 50th year of teaching (46 years at SJS)! Our teachers average 19 years of teaching experience, and professional development is an integral part of their daily practice. They spend countless volunteer hours tutoring and are active in all aspects of our parish. We are grateful

for their dedication and extraordinary contribution to St. Joseph School.

As we strive to raise children who are stewards of our faith, we reflect on the commitment our parents and teachers have made to Catholic education. It is with genuine and deepest gratitude that we bid fond farewell to the 2009-2010 school year and look forward to

2010-2011 with enthusiasm and hope. May we continue to be disciples who are the hands, voice and heart of Christ.



Ms. Brenda Johns retires from SJS this year after teaching at our school for 46 years!

Saint Joseph

Catholic Church

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In this Issue:

- 1 *Changing for the Better*
- 2 *Fathers and Stewardship*
- 3 *AVILAS
Watching Prayer
Work Wonders*
- 4 *Sacraments Galore
at St. Joseph
Parish!*
- 6 *Armed Forces*
- 7 *Another Great School
Year Winds Down
at SJS*

Save the Date!

Important Dates for June 2010

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Eucharistic Adoration 8 AM-8 PM | 15 Eucharistic Adoration 8 AM-8 PM |
| 3 Happy Birthday, Father O'Connor! | 20 Happy Father's Day |
| 4 First Friday - 24-Hour Adoration
8th Grade Graduation Mass - 7:00 PM
St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive through
Monday morning at 9:00 | 21 Vacation Bible School (through Friday)
9AM-Noon |
| 8 Eucharistic Adoration 8 AM-8 PM | 22 Eucharistic Adoration 8 AM-8 PM |
| 13 New Mass Schedule - 8:30 & 11 AM &
5:00 PM | 25 10th Anniversary of Dedication of St.
Joseph Church |
| 14 Father O'Connor's 35th Anniversary of
Ordination
Mass at Main Street 10:30 AM | 29 Eucharistic Adoration 8 AM-8 PM |