



ST. JOSEPH PARISH

NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Inside

2 The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

3 A Letter From Our Pastor

4 Usher Ministry: Fostering Hospitality and Building Community in Our Parishes

5 Women's Prayer Group

6 Meet Worship and Liturgy Coordinator Christina Dupré

8 "The Church Receives Your Declaration with Joy" By NATHAN FRANKART, First-Year Theologian

9 Upcoming Events

St. Joseph Parish
 200 Saint Joseph Drive
 Amherst, OH 44001
 (440) 988-2848
 stjosephamherst.com

Nativity of the BVM Parish
 333 South Lake Street
 South Amherst, OH 44001
 (440) 986-7011

OCT 2021



As Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). If Jesus is there when only two or three people are gathered, what a blessing it is when 15 to 20 are gathered! Each Wednesday, about 15 women are gathered at the home of Dodie Kollhoff for the Women's Prayer Group.

continued on page 5



The Women's Prayer Group members gather for a recent session.

The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching



What makes being Catholic, well, “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary and the Seven Sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood — Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained with 10 key points. These 10 principles demonstrate the depth of the Church’s teaching on social justice, and they call Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Human Dignity

Human dignity is the fundamental principle within the Church’s teaching on social justice. A firm understanding of this principle is required so that the rest of Catholic Social Teaching can be viewed from the appropriate perspective. God created us in His image and likeness, so we all are worthy of respect.

Respect for Human Life

Whether unborn or seconds away from death, no life deserves to be prematurely ended. The Church sees this principle as crucial to the health of any society.

Association

Association holds that social relationships must be developed so that all people may reach their fullest potential. The Church teaches that the family is the basic unit upon which all other elements of society rest. We must uphold the sacredness of the family, and foster the growth of other societal organizations that preserve the well-being of all people.

Participation

All people deserve the right to work and to participate in God’s creation. The joy of accomplishing a task and performing honest labor should be made available to all people.

Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Society exists in a balance between those with power, and those without it. The vulnerable — those with disabilities — and the poor must be protected from those with power who choose to wield it in an unjust manner.

Solidarity

“Love your neighbor as yourself” — this commandment extends beyond the boundaries of any town, state or country. The principle of solidarity encourages all people to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need and to help them, even if they live halfway around the world.

Stewardship

Everything we have — even our own lives — is a gift from God. Our talents, our time and our financial resources are not our own, but God’s. The same goes for the natural resources we so often take for granted.

Responsibilities and Limits of Government

Governments, while created for the common good, sometimes overstep their boundaries. The Church teaches that all governments should seek to operate at the lowest level of organization possible — striving to solve problems at the source, with those who understand them best, and not through oppressive force.

Human Equality

God made all humans equal, including those of different ethnicity and race, and in different stages of life. No one person is of more value than another.

Common Good

It is especially important in our society to promote the common good — the social well-being and development of the “human group.” If we consider the entire human race as one family, the common good urges us to support our brothers and sisters so that they may reach their full potential.



October: A Month to Turn to Our Lady of the Rosary

Dear Members of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes,

Day by day, our heavenly Father provides spiritual food and graces to His beloved children, nourishing us on our earthly pilgrimage. October brings us the grace of the Holy Rosary, a prayer buried deeply in the heart of the Church, as one of its most precious treasures.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which takes place October 7th, is a commemorative feast established by Pope St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto. The victory was attributed to the help of the Mother of God, whose aid was invoked by praying the Rosary.

This victory revealed the power of the Holy Rosary more than ever. Catholics who were open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit took with deep resolve the Rosary as their link to God.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his 2002 Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, writes:

“The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary ... the most difficult

problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation” (39).

Thus, not merely through the Rosary, but more significantly, through the woman behind the Rosary – the glorious Mother of our Savior, Christ the Lord – a wellspring of God’s love has been discovered.

Indeed, the Rosary is truly a way to discover Christ’s infinite love through the tender heart of His Mother.

“With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 1).

A great number of saints, such as Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had a special concern for the

preservation of the Christian family, pointed us to the Holy Rosary. And as Pope St. John Paul II wrote, “Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer ... the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 39). Our Lady of Fatima, who pleaded with families to pray the daily Rosary, would agree with him!

Let us entrust everything to the Rosary along with the saints. As our hearts burn with hope, let us give to the Mother of God every concern that we bear, each cross we carry, piece by piece, worry by worry. She will be there to offer everything to Jesus, her Son and God’s Son, whose care for each one of us reaches beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Timothy J. O’Connor,
Pastor

Usher Ministry: Fostering Hospitality and Building Community in Our Parishes

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, with our own unique talents that can be put to use to glorify the Lord and serve His church. We must all take the time to pray and ask the Lord the words of the church hymn, “Servant Song,” “what do you want of me, Lord?”

St. Joseph’s usher Jeff Mount believes we all have talents to give at our



Jeff and Kathleen Mount love being involved at St. Joseph’s.

“For my job, I interact with a lot of people. I love asking people how they are doing and taking an interest in their lives. I want to let them know that I care.”

— Jeff Mount

parishes — we might just have to ask the Lord to show us where the need is.

“Some people think, ‘I can’t make a difference,’” Jeff says. “It’s all about being links in a chain and building blocks to form a strong and vibrant faith community.”

The ushers help with seating, if necessary. They also take the collection, distribute bulletins, facilitate lines for Communion and show guests where to go. Ushers are also there in the event of a health emergency at Mass.

Jeff considers himself a people person, and he loves being involved at St. Joseph’s.

“For my job, I interact with a lot of people,” he says. “I love asking people how they are doing and taking an interest in their lives. I want to let them know that I care.”

Our ushers want to make sure everyone who enters the doors at St. Joseph’s feels welcome. Jeff realizes this may be a determining factor in whether someone returns to St. Joseph’s.

“We are the climate makers,” he says. “We set the climate and make them want to come back and feel welcome.”

Through the past year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeff admits it’s been hard to not share an un-masked smile with people. He has missed seeing smiles, too. But as churches reopened last summer, Jeff has been happy to be a constant in people’s lives through the ups and downs.

“I want to make sure I show compassion — I want to be caring,” Jeff says. “We have to be there for everyone. When someone is ill or loses a loved one, it affects all of us.”

Jeff would encourage everyone to share their talents with a ministry. He also enjoys his work with the Knights of Columbus. His wife, Kathleen, is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and she also serves the homebound.

“I think people sell themselves short on their talents,” Jeff says. “Sometimes we lack the self-confidence to do things.”

continued on page 5



Nativity ushers (from left) Joe Pellitteri, Dee Darin, Kathy Rokasy and John Rokasy

Usher Ministry: Fostering Hospitality and Building Community in Our Parishes *continued from page 4*

Marriane Pellitteri helps coordinate the ushers at Nativity. Her husband, Joe, and brother-in-law, Dee Darin, are both ushers. John and Kathy Rokasy also help with this ministry quite a bit. It has been a challenge to fill the ministry because not everyone has come back due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Marriane invites parishioners to get involved because it's such a great way to meet people and it doesn't require a significant time investment.

"You want a friendly face to greet people when they come to Nativity," Marriane says. "We want everyone to feel welcome."

If you would like to get involved as an usher, please contact Jeff Mount (St. Joseph) at 419-602-3125, or Marriane Pellitteri (Nativity) at 440-320-3875 or mpellitteri@yahoo.com.

Women's Prayer Group:

A Chance to Pray, Hear and Learn Together *continued from front cover*

"I believe God is calling me to bring more people together so He can direct our lives in love of each other and the Holy Spirit," Dodie says.

Back in 2013, Dodie and a friend were talking over a donut and coffee on a Hospitality Sunday, when a few women were sharing how they felt lonely and wanted an outlet to study Scripture. It was from this discussion that the Women's Prayer Group was formed. The group started with five women and has slowly grown to about 25, although the attendance number varies each week.

Each Wednesday at 7 p.m., members meet at Dodie's home. They start with a prayer, usually led by Dodie, and move to discussions on the book they are reading. They pray for one another, along with any needs of our parish, country, and world. Dodie also keeps a prayer jar and all the requests are added and prayed for.

Sue Cotton, a member of the group for about seven years, enjoys the relationships among the members and the love they have for one another.

"We have the same faith, different opinions, different stages in our family lives, and different levels of prayer life, which we hear and learn from each other," Sue says.



Sue Cotton has a prayer jar in her home, just like Dodie Kollhoff.

The Women's Prayer Group will be celebrating the Year of St. Joseph with a consecration to him beginning in November. It is open to all St. Joseph and Nativity parishioners. More details on the Consecration to St. Joseph will be communicated in the bulletin.

Meet Worship and Liturgy Coordinator

Christina Dupré

Drawing Our Whole Parish Family Together in Prayer and Song

Since joining St. Joseph Parish staff as our Worship and Liturgy Coordinator, Christina Dupré has not only made big plans to use her many musical talents to aid in beautifying the liturgy but also to get as many others involved as she possibly can. This is also why she believes the title “coordinator” is so vital to her role.

“Fr. Tim and I were very deliberate in coming up with my title when I came to St. Joseph’s,” Christina says. “It’s very important to me that the role is ‘coordinator’ — I’m not a director, but a coordinator. I like when people make things happen. I’m here to get others involved, especially the youth and teens. I want to bring people together to participate in the liturgy.”

One of the primary aspects of Christina’s role is to coordinate the many ways music is used during the liturgy to enhance and aid the worship of the faithful. In particular, she is inspired by the various forms of media and music the Church uses to enhance its worship.

“You never know who you affect,” she says.

Moving forward as coordinator, Christina aims to blend classical music and contemporary Christian music into the repertoire of the parish.

“I’m from France originally, but I came to the United States for education and decided to stay,” she says. “My background is in classical music and performing. But I love modern and contemporary Christian music.”



Worship and Liturgy Coordinator Christina Dupré has not only made big plans to use her many musical talents to aid in beautifying the liturgy, but also to get as many others involved as she possibly can.

continued on page 7

Meet Worship and Liturgy Coordinator Christina Dupré

continued from page 6

Christina will also be working to get more teens involved at the parish, with the hope of starting a children's choir.

"I'm hoping to bring the Taizé style to the parish eventually," she says. "It's very beautiful and meditative. It's so many voices, and they all just sing together and it surrounds you — I want to have that sound."

Recently, she has been working with the Gonzalez family, who have used their musical talents at Mass on the weekends. The three siblings — Josh, Elizabeth, and Nathan — have formed a family band called "Sanctuary," the name of which is inspired by the sanctuary of the church, as well as the idea of a sanctuary as a "safe place." She plans to travel with the Gonzalez family to different churches in the area and speak about the importance of praying as a family.

"Family ministry is a big theme of my ministry," Christina says. "I want to get families involved, and the children and youth. I want people to be inspired by what happens at church and to bring it into their homes, and then to have that spiritual element grow and come back to nourish the Church."

Another key aspect of Christina's ministry is examining the way the parish uses media. There are plans under way to install new digital screens in Saint Joseph Church, and she has already started a YouTube channel for the parish — go to YouTube and subscribe to "sjandnbvmedia" to

see some great videos. The goal is to begin livestreaming Masses for those at home who are unable to participate in the liturgy at church, as well as to post other videos to inspire others to better live out their faith.

"I think media is a really important ministry in the Church and a way of reaching out to the community on a larger scale," she says.

One final and very exciting project is the construction of a media center at the parish for projects and performing arts events. The success of Christina's Lenten production, *Compassion, The Musical*, has led to her second production, premiering this Advent at St. Joseph's. Christina is particularly excited to celebrate the close of the Year of St. Joseph with this new musical as it will tell the story of the Nativity, with a special focus on the faith of St. Joseph in this moment of Christ's life.

"It's going to tell the story of his faith, but in a comedic and serious way," Christina says. "There's a lot going on — there will be something for everyone. There's Scripture, prayer, and song and dance. It's a really exciting way to end this year of St. Joseph that we are celebrating."

As Christina believes, the parish forms a family when our parishioners gather for worship, prayer, service, and fellowship.

"If you allow God to be in the middle, incredible things can happen," she says.

"Fr. Tim and I were very deliberate in coming up with my title when I came to St. Joseph's. It's very important to me that the role is 'coordinator' — I'm not a director, but a coordinator. I like when people make things happen. I'm here to get others involved, especially the youth and teens. I want to bring people together to participate in the liturgy."

— Christina Dupré, Worship and Liturgy Coordinator

“The Church Receives Your Declaration with Joy”

By NATHAN FRANKART, First-Year Theologian at Saint Mary Seminary

Peace of Christ to you! In early September, I received a letter from Bishop Malesic, the bishop for the Diocese of Cleveland. It will be the first of many letters that I pray to receive from him. You see, as a graduate seminarian along the pathway towards priestly ordination, there are several steps along the way called minor orders, and acceptance into these minor orders is communicated through personal letters from the bishop of our diocese. These minor orders slowly introduce me into my own ministry in the Church, and the first one that starts the journey to ordination is the rite to Candidacy for Holy Orders.

In simplest terms, this rite represents something deeper than just a necessary or bureaucratic step towards priesthood. It will be the first time that I will stand up and publicly proclaim my desires to continue formation, and to be

recognized for that declaration. I will stand before Bishop Malesic, the faculty of the seminary and my brother seminarians, and answer these following questions:

“In response to the Lord’s call are you resolved to complete your preparation so that in due time you will be ready to be ordained for the ministry of the Church?”

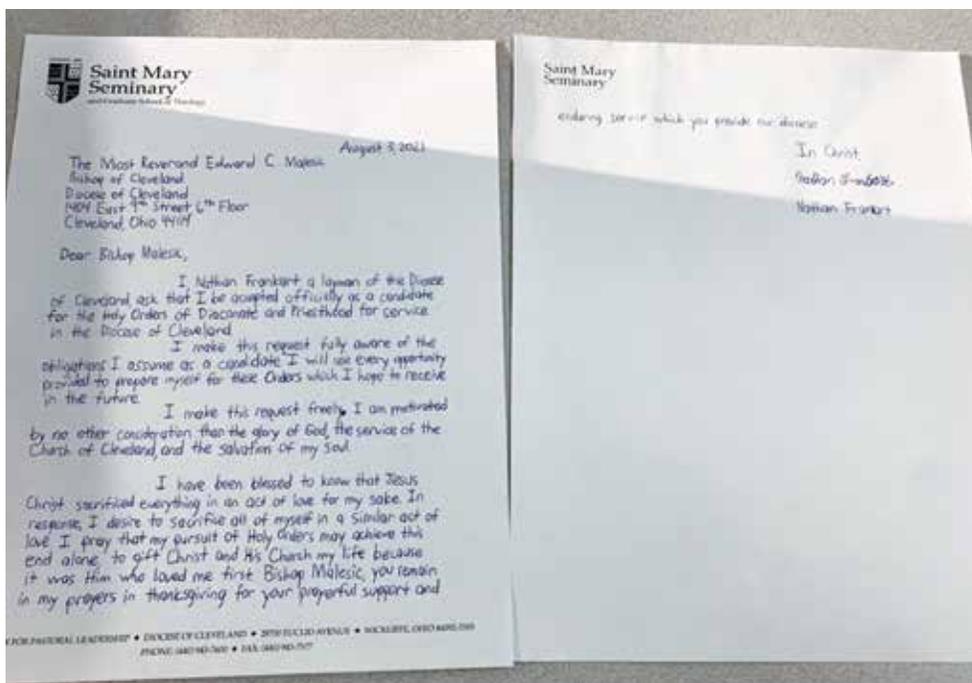
“I am.”

“Are you resolved to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and His body, the Church?”

“I am.”

For my time in Borromeo Seminary, the focus was primarily a journey of discovery. I grew to know more about

my relationship to the Father as His beloved son. I grew to understand more fully how deep and intimate a life filled with Christ can be. I grew in understanding and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, and how to discern God’s divine will through promptings. Now, it is time to enter into a new season of my formation. In growing in all these areas, I grew in a greater capacity to love Christ, His Church, and myself. This rite and time of my life is analogous to engagement. I am declaring my intent to pursue my seminary formation to the very end. God willing, this will be the first step of many on a journey that will end on the floor of St. John the Evangelist Cathedral.



Upcoming Activities and Events

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY

Friday, Oct. 1 — 11 a.m., Nativity Parish

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Saturday, Oct. 2 — 9 a.m., St. Joseph Church

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

Cancelled for this month

PARENT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 5 — 7 p.m., School MPR

NO SCHOOL

Friday, Oct. 8 — Teacher Professional Inservice Day

IMMERSION 7/8 MEETING

Friday, Oct. 8 — 7 p.m., at the Convent

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Oct. 9/10 — at all Masses

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CLAMBAKE

Saturday, Oct. 16 — 5:30 p.m., American Eagles on Milan Ave.

FIRST PENANCE PARENT MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 17 — 12 p.m., St. Joseph Church

IMMERSION HIGH SCHOOL MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 17 — 12 p.m., at the Convent

ALTAR AND ROSARY CANDLELIGHT

ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Wednesday, Oct. 20 — 7 p.m., Nativity Church

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE AND PARENT MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 24 — 12 p.m., St. Joseph Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 26 — 7 p.m., Art Room

IMMERSION COLLECTION FOR

CATHOLIC CHARITIES TEENS IN NEED

Oct. 30/31 — After all Masses at St. Joseph and Nativity Churches

RCIA MEETINGS

Mondays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 7 p.m., Nativity Parish Hall

MEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Tuesdays, Oct. 5, 19 — 7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall

PSR CLASSES

Wednesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph School

DINNERS ON THE GO

Tuesdays, Oct. 12 and 26 — Nativity Parish

VINCENTIANS MEETING

Thursdays, Oct. 14 and 28 — 9 a.m., Conference Room

AD SPACE

AD SPACE

This newsletter brought to you by the Catholic Communities of:

& ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 58
AMHERST OH

200 Saint Joseph Drive, Amherst, OH 44001

Address Service Requested

Fr. Tim O'Connor Serving Both Parishes

Mass:

- Monday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*
- Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*
- Friday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*
- Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*
5:30 p.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*
- Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Confession at St. Joseph:

- Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 a.m. - noon

Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) at Nativity of the BVM:

Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Our Stewardship Renewal

*Don't Forget to Return
Your Commitment Card!*

Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to your parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's Stewardship Renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish community will flourish and grow!

