



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Inside

- 2 Stewardship and Evangelization: Using Our Time and Talents to Spread the Good News
- 3 September: An Ongoing Opportunity to Change the World
- 4 Meet Bob and Rachael Hooper: Living the Faith and Embracing Community
- 5 Testimony is the Spirit of Prophecy By NATHAN FRANKART, first-year theologian
- 6 St. Joseph School Students, Faculty and Staff Gear Up for New Year
- 8 Celebrating the Feast of the Archangels
- 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

SEPT 2021

MEET OUR

Knights of Columbus

Strengthening Our Parish and the Community Through Service

The Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council 4891 Amherst is bringing back its annual Clambake that raises funds for the seminarians of St. Joseph Parish and Lorain County. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that the signature event was canceled last year, but the Knights are ready to once again welcome hungry guests on Oct. 16 to the Amherst Eagles Club.

“It’s a family-friendly event,” says Mike Hughes, Grand Knight. “There will be a DJ providing music for the evening. The dinner will include clams, mussels, chicken, clam chowder, corn, salad, and refreshments.”

Tickets for the Clambake are available from any of the Council 4891 members.

Besides the Clambake, Council 4891 members are active throughout the year with events that not only reflect the charitable mission of the Knights of Columbus, but that also help build faith and community.



Officers of Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 4891 gathered during their annual Clambake in 2018. Although the Clambake was cancelled last year, it returns this year to again raise scholarship funds for our seminarians. Council 4891 is made up of members from St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes, and the Clambake is their signature event.

The members invite us to join them in prayer during the Fifth Sunday Rosary Services. These gatherings are held in the months having a fifth Sunday. They work to keep Christ in Christmas with the sale of car magnets depicting the Holy Family at the manger. They also sponsor the Youth Free Throw Basketball Contest and take part in the Tootsie Roll Drive for those with intellectual disabilities. During meetings, the members drop their spare pocket

continued on page 12

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION:

Using Our Time and Talents to Spread the Good News

Jesus came to save the world and to draw all people to Him. When we think of the salvific work of Christ, many of us think of His life, death, resurrection, and His ascension into glory. And while those salvific events are of primary importance in salvation history, it doesn't end there.

Christ wants everyone to know the salvation He has won for them. He wants every soul to experience heavenly glory. Therefore, after having conquered death through His cross and resurrection, Christ commissioned His disciples to carry the Gospel to the world. They were charged to "preach the Gospel to all nations," winning, through their words and examples, souls for the Kingdom! What a task! The disciples were overwhelmed at the thought of carrying the Gospel to all nations after Christ had returned to heaven. But the Lord assured them, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my wit-



nesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). When the Holy Spirit descended upon them on the feast of Pentecost, all those in the crowd were amazed. They all spoke in different tongues, preaching the same message, and everyone there could understand!

And so it was that the Church was established through the power of the Spirit and for the purpose of evangelization. Each of us has been baptized in that Spirit, and through that, made a member of the Church. It is, thus, up to each and every one of us to actively participate in the Church's mission — proclaiming the Good News to all the world and building up the Kingdom of God!

Each of us must re-evaluate how we are using the gifts God has given us to build up His Kingdom. Do we preach the Good News in all that we do and say? The same Spirit that descended upon the apostles that first Pentecost remains with us now, giving us the strength and courage to labor in the vineyard of the world.

Christ came to save the world, and He established the Church as the "universal sacrament of salvation" (*Christifideles Laici*, 2), by which many people throughout the world would know the glory of His truth. St. Paul describes the Church as one body with many parts. And just as each part of the body has a particular function, so each member of the Church has a particular calling but, united as one body in the Spirit, all of the members are to carry out the Church's one mission. How is God calling you to carry out this mission? What particular gifts has He given you with which you ought to build the Kingdom?

Each of us must re-evaluate how we are using the gifts God has given us to build up His Kingdom. Do we preach the Good News in all that we do and say? The same Spirit that descended upon the apostles that first Pentecost remains with us now, giving us the strength and courage to labor in the vineyard of the world.

A Letter from Our Pastor

SEPTEMBER: An Ongoing Opportunity to *Change the World*



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

In his letters, St. Paul often began by greeting his “brothers and sisters.” Every time I read one of these letters, it reminds me that you and I truly are brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, the Church, but especially here in our parishes. We need to understand that we are indeed a family, and the way we see and treat one another is fundamental to the health and happiness of this family.

Our spiritual family doesn’t stop at the walls of our churches, but rather, extends to include every man and woman created in God’s image and likeness. You may be familiar with the term “Catholic Social Teaching,” part of which is built on a commitment to the poor. These are the beliefs that guide Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and they lay the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life. Once we make a commitment to be disciples of Jesus and pursue stewardship as a way of life, the principles of

Catholic Social Teaching become very easy to incorporate into our lives.

Catholic Social Teaching has been around since those first followers of Jesus tried to balance their new faith with the realities of living in a world of Roman oppression. Jesus reminded His disciples then, just as He reminds us now, that caring for and ministering to the poor should be at the core of all we do. Recall when the Lord said in Matthew, “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was ill and you cared for me; I was in prison and you visited me” (cfr. Matthew 25: 31-46).

This is our foundation as we seek to embody mercy and justice to our fellows and should be one of our major goals as a faith community. Many of the ministries in our parishes provide for us an opportunity to do just as Jesus asked; to serve those most in need. As we move into the fall season, with

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas soon to follow, now is a good time for us to recommit ourselves to addressing the needs we see around us — both as parish societies and as individuals.

I am proud of our collective efforts in assisting and serving the poor, but I also know that we can do more. Many of us personally need to get involved in these efforts. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has a great love and regard for the poor and, like Jesus, he reminds us often of what we need to do. Pope Francis once said in a homily, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” Together, we can make a difference.

Gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Timothy J. O’Connor,
Pastor

Meet Bob and Rachael Hooper:

Living the Faith and Embracing Community

It's easy to join a parish and get into a routine of attending weekend Mass. The weeks fly by and, before we know it, years have gone by. But when we get involved more at our parishes, that's when we can really be challenged to grow in faith and to better know our fellow parishioners. That's just what Bob and Rachael Hooper have done, whether it was when they attended St. John Neumann in Strongsville, or St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Apex, N.C.

Bob and Rachael moved around quite a bit, but, in 2018, they settled with us at St. Joseph's to be closer to their children. Their involvement in parish life is not out of obligation — rather, it's just such an integral part of their lives that they don't think twice when asked.

Both Bob and Rachael serve as Eucharistic Ministers. Rachael is in the Wonderful Women group and Bible Study. She also attends the First Friday Rosary group and is a part of a prayer group in the couple's 55-plus community.

"I've grown in my faith quite considerably in the last few years," Rachael says. "I feel that I want to continue to grow closer to our Lord."



Bob and Rachael Hooper enjoy being involved at St. Joseph's.

Bob is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Men's Group, and he serves on the Finance Council. Bob even still meets virtually with his previous men's group in Apex.

Getting involved has also allowed the couple to get to know people, helping to make them feel more at home.

"To become part of the family, you had to do something," Bob says. "You can't just come and go to Mass. You have to do your part."

"Getting involved is a way to get to know people and to build a support system," Rachael says.

Over the years, getting involved in their parish has been a way for Bob and Rachael to build a community.

"For us, faith isn't just on Sundays — it is part of who we are," Bob says. "Over time, church became more than just a Sunday thing."

Bob and Rachael have a son, Robert, and a daughter, Erin. The couple enjoys participating in recreational activities in their community. They spend a lot of time in Port Clinton, Ohio. They also enjoy riding motorcycles. And of course, they enjoy being a part of the faith community at St. Joseph.

"I've grown in my faith quite considerably in the last few years. I feel that I want to continue to grow closer to our Lord." — Rachael Hooper



TESTIMONY

is the Spirit of Prophecy

By NATHAN FRANKART, first-year theologian

Pease of Christ to you! I missed writing to you all dearly, particularly because this last summer was perhaps one of the most exciting and joy-filled I have ever experienced! Before I jump headlong into everything that I did, let me give some context to set the scene.

I served as a summer missionary with a ministry located in the heart of Ohio known as Damascus. The purpose of this ministry is to provide an opportunity for young people to experience a personal encounter with Jesus so that they may also be empowered and equipped to preach the Gospel to their friends, communities, schools, and families. And believe me, I saw so many young people encounter Jesus this summer. Damascus runs a summer camp known as Catholic Youth Summer Camp, or CYSC, and as a counselor, I had the privilege to journey with 65 middle and high school-age men in their faith. Some campers loved the Catholic faith and jumped right in, other campers had a lukewarm approach to their relationship with Jesus, and others still were being

forced to stay at the weeklong camp and, by extension, hated me. It was not uncommon to have all three of these kinds of campers in my small group of nine every single week.

And yet, with the small exception of perhaps one or two individuals, all my campers encountered Jesus throughout my time at Damascus. This has nothing to do with myself or my own ability, for all stems from the grace of God. I could have done none of this on my own. It was grace that got me up in the morning to do everything with my campers for 16 hours a day. It was grace that came into the hearts of the young men who opened themselves up to receive the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. My earnest prayer for my campers is that they take the power of the Holy Spirit and testify to their encounter with our loving God, and act as the early disciples did. I plan to do the same, and I have much more to share with you as the months go on. Until then, pray for renewal in the hearts of the young people in the Church!

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

Gear Up for a **NEW YEAR**



First-graders designed and suggested installation locations for equipment and wrote rules for the new equipment. They fundraised to purchase signs to install near each piece. The fathers of the students came to help.



Students set up an obstacle course in the gymnasium.

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic presented numerous challenges for schools across the nation. Now, our students, faculty, and staff are excited to return for 2021-22, excited for the many possibilities that come with a new school year.

Principal Mrs. Amy Makruski joins in the excitement for the new school year. In particular, she is excited to be welcoming two new permanent staff members — already familiar faces at St. Joseph School, both served as substitutes in the last school year. Ms. Alicia Werner will be teaching physical education for kindergarten to eighth grade. Mr. Justin Bilewicz will be the full-time art teacher.

“We are very happy to welcome them both back as permanent parts of the St. Joe’s family,” Mrs. Makruski says.

While we welcome our newest teachers, we also look forward to the many opportunities on offer to students as an Ohio-designed STEM school, with an emphasis placed on science, technology, engineering, and math. Faculty incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math across all curricula, and the school emphasizes the use of technology to enrich learning.

Last year, students took on standalone STEM projects, but there was not much room for collaboration due to COVID-19 protocols. This year, we hope students have the opportunity to work together more across classes and grade levels. Collaboration is one of the “Seven STEM Habits of Mind” along with resourcefulness, resilience, curiosity, reflection, open-mindedness, and ethical

continued on page 7

consideration. These concepts are taught from preschool all the way to eighth grade.

Students also visit the STEM Lab each week to practice engineering and the STEM Habits of Mind. One of the school's STEM partners is the Ohio STEM Learning Network, which facilitates a yearly design challenge — this year's challenge is "reimagining energy in communities." Ultimately, students can follow this project or come up with something different.

"If they're into it and ready to go, we'll support them," Mrs. Makruski says. "If not, we'll head in a direction of their choice and interest. Either way, we can expect big ideas from the students. They use their creativity to think beyond barriers, and imagine and invent in ways that are limitless."

The school has two designated STEM areas. The low-tech, maker space provides students with a place to solve STEM challenges by building prototypes in an environment where they can learn from successes and mistakes. The new SJS Design Studio is currently in production, with the opening planned for January. This high-tech area will house 3D printers, a vinyl cutter, laser engraver, poster printer, and robots, all of which will help students at all grade levels further explore and become proficient in basic and advanced coding skills.

"For the new design studio, I'm looking forward to challenging our students and staff to dive into a new way of design thinking," Mrs. Makruski says. "We will be able to

create more high quality, usable, and permanent prototypes to express our ideas and support our school and community. It's going to be an adventure as we learn new things."

As in past years, Mrs. Makruski and Fr. Timothy O'Connor ask for parishioners to continue in their support of our school. Mrs. Makruski says that supporting the school and parish is essential to the success of the school. Without parish support, St. Joseph School could not form disciples or teach the faith each day during the school year.

"What we do each day is a partnership between the parish community, the school community, and families at home," Mrs. Makruski says. "As a Catholic school, we have the unique privilege of helping these students reach their maximum potential in not only academic areas but social and spiritual areas, as well. That is a large, but humbling responsibility."

There are so many ways to support the school. You can pray for all those at St. Joseph or do something as simple as writing a letter to a faculty or staff member. You may also consider your talents and ask if they would be of use at the school. The support of our parishes with your Sunday offering also benefits the school. Each year, St. Joseph School provides about \$30,000 in tuition scholarships to families in need. Please consider making a gift to the tuition assistance program or to the Named Scholarship Fund, where a scholarship can be given in someone's name as a way to honor them.

If you would like more information about St. Joseph School, please visit www.sjsamherst.org.



Students utilize the STEM lab to test prototypes and learn various science, math, technology and engineering concepts.



Celebrating the FEAST *of the* ARCHANGELS

Every Sept. 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of the Archangels — St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. We are blessed to be inspired by these “servants and messengers of God” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 329).

The term “archangels” has its Scriptural basis in the New Testament (1 Thes 4:16, Jude 1:9), indicating a chief or leading angel. “Archangel” generally refers to St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, as they are the three angels most frequently mentioned throughout Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The fact that these three angels are mentioned by name on multiple occasions indicates the significance of their roles in

the history of salvation. It is because of these important roles that we take pause to celebrate on Sept. 29.

St. Michael is mentioned by name on several occasions in Sacred Scripture (Dn 10:13, Rev 12:7), and his role in the Tradition of the Church has been extensively documented. He has been widely referred to as the “great prince,” and is most often associated with the apocalypse — the final battle against Satan. Christian Tradition gives St. Michael four different roles, but he has primarily been regarded as the patron and protector of the Church.

St. Gabriel is mentioned by name in Scripture (Lk 1:19), and Tradition has also assigned him implicit

roles within Scripture where he is not specifically mentioned. Most important, however, is St. Gabriel’s role as the messenger of God, delivering to Mary the announcement of the birth of Our Savior (Lk 1:26).

St. Raphael is mentioned by name only in the Book of Tobit, where he is responsible for healing Tobias. Raphael means “God has healed” and thus, he has also often been associated with the “angel of the Lord” (Jn 5:4).

The feast day on Sept. 29 gives each of us the opportunity to consider our own role in the Church, as we gratefully commemorate the Archangels responsible for carrying out their roles of defender, messenger, and healer.

Upcoming Events

ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL

Monday, Aug. 30 — *First day of school for first through eighth grades*

Monday, Aug. 30 — *First day of school for kindergarten with last names A-L*

Tuesday, Aug. 31 — *First day of school for kindergarten with last names M-Z*

Wednesday, Sept. 1 — *First day of school for all kindergarten*

Tuesday, Sept. 7 — *First day of school for 3-year-old afternoon preschool class and for 4-year-old morning preschool class*

Wednesday, Sept. 8 — *First day of school for 4-year-old afternoon preschool class*

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY AT NATIVITY BVM CHURCH

Friday, Sept. 3 — *11 a.m., Nativity BVM Church*

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Saturday, Sept. 4 — *9 a.m., St. Joseph Church*

LABOR DAY-PARISH OFFICES CLOSED, NO SCHOOL

Monday, Sept. 6

MEN'S GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 7 — *7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall*

NATIVITY ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY

Tuesday, Sept. 7 — *7 p.m., Nativity Parish Hall*

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Wednesday, Sept. 8 — *7:15 p.m., St. Joseph School*

WONDERFUL WOMEN MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 14 — *7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall*

DINNER ON THE GO

Tuesday, Sept. 14 — *pre-ordered pick-up from 5-6 p.m. at Nativity Parish Hall*

ST. JOSEPH PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, Sept. 19 — *12:30-3:30 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall*

MEN'S GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 21 — *7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 28 — *7 p.m., St. Joseph School*

SJS VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, Sept. 30

A Look Back on Recent Parish Events

This spring, parishioners enjoyed gathering in prayer, fellowship and service for our First Friday Rosary at Nativity and for Dinner on the Go.



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.

Knights of Columbus *continued from front cover*

change in a bin for the Pennies From Heaven collection to promote vocations.

There currently are 90 members in Council 4891, bringing together men from St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes. They meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at St. Joseph School.

Any practicing Catholic man 18 years of age and older may join.

“It’s a way to reach out and help your fellow man through charitable efforts,” Mike says. “And it’s not necessarily money, but we give back to the community with our talents and help those less fortunate. It also helps deepen your faith and strengthens our parish and community.”

Anyone interested in joining the Knights of Columbus may speak to Mike Hughes or any of the Council 4891 members. Information and the opportunity to join are also available online at www.kofc.org.