

# On Eagle's Wings

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
May / June 2017



## From the Pastor

When I was confirmed in the third grade, it came time to choose a saint's name to accompany mine. My baptism name was John, named after my uncle, who was also my Godfather. I really didn't have a choice; the name of the Godparent worked out since I was a junior. Dad and I had the same name, so picking out a Confirmation name was not hard at all. I chose the name Joseph, after of course St. Joseph of the Mary and Jesus family. I did not receive a very large amount of money or gifts after the ceremony. I received exactly "one" gift: a statue of St. Joseph the Worker. It was about two feet tall, wooden and wonderfully painted. I had it for a long time, but sadly now it is only a memory; I lost it in my many moves.

As I was thinking about what to write for this edition of the "Wing Thing", and June being the time we recognize fathers, I thought of my dad. He was a big fan of St. Joseph. He turned to the saint for everything, like a good garden, good weather for a golf game, or vacations. You also knew when St. Joseph was on the clock. When you walked into my parents' bedroom, on a shelf behind the bed was the statue of St. Joseph. When St. Joseph's face was turned toward the wall, that meant the prayer was in motion. Poor Joseph didn't get turned around until whatever dad was praying for had happened. Of course, if St. Joseph failed to produce, he remained facing the wall. I have to tell you that didn't happen very often, although sometimes on the golf course dad would be known to shake his fist in the air and blame Joseph of the bad weather he was supposed to take care of that day.

My father was no saint, and he didn't raise a saint either; I'm speaking only of myself and not my two awesome sisters. But when it came to his faith, my dad was one of the strongest people I was graced to know. I don't think

we really got on the same page until he was 65 years old. He died at the age of 69. We had some amazing, knock-down arguments, but I always knew he loved me deeply. And his love for scripture was awesome. When I was very young, he would spend time before we went to bed to read from the bible. He loved his Catholic faith and instilled it into each of his children. Going to church was never an issue. Dad had a simple rule; his house, his rules and you knew he was serious, so you followed his lead. He was so proud of each of his children. He had the honor of walking his two daughters down the aisle and was able to be a part of my ordination to the priesthood. In July of 1992, I had the honor of celebrating my Father's funeral Mass. It was my final way of saying that I loved him unto death. I'm sure many thought it was not the wisest thing to do, but it was the only thing I could do to honor my father. He gave his family the best he had to offer and I am a better person for what he gave of himself.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are times to recognize the people who brought us into this world. I'm sure that some were better at it than others, but I hope that they did the best they could. If you are someone who did not have the best relationships with your parents, turn to the ultimate parents who are in heaven watching over each of us. You couldn't have a better Father than God and our precious mother Mary to care for you in the most unique way. Show your gratitude for those who raised you and celebrate the gifts they have given you. Have an awesome couple of months. Bring on the festival!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. West".

Father Don West  
Pastor

# From the Business Manager



We continue to be on track for our parish finances. As of March 30 (we hadn't closed March yet as of the writing of this article), our income total was \$1.16M versus a budget of \$1.15M (1.1% ahead of budget). Our expenses were at \$1.175M versus a budget of \$1.25M (around 6.4% under budget). Thank you to everyone who gives to our parish. We would not be able to do all that we do without you. Your parish staff continues to watch all of our expenses. We are hoping to increase our income a little next year so that we can keep working on campus improvements.

We continue to utilize our overage from last year in order to update some of our facilities and make needed improvements. We've purchased a new phone and security system. We have completely refurbished the Pavilion bathrooms, repainted and resided that building. We've replaced several HVAC units and are working on repairing the windows in the chapel. We are in the process of updating around 15,000 light bulbs to more efficient LED bulbs. We are replacing the carpeting in three more of the rooms in the office as well. Our facilities employees and contracted professionals have been really working hard this year on improvements and replacements. There has hardly been a day this year when something wasn't being replaced, refurbished or updated.

As you know, the St. John Family Festival is coming up on August 4, 5, and 6! Our Festival Committee has been hard at work adding new games, prizes, food and other exciting offerings. We have most of our Booth Captain positions filled, but we are still looking for about five captains to fill game booths! Please call or e-mail me if you are interested in one of these positions at 777-6433 (ext. 124) or [jseibenick@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jseibenick@stjohnwc.org). This is a great way to give back to our parish community and the friendships created while working on our festival will last you a lifetime. Make sure to check out all of the festival information included in the center of this Eagle's Wings!

Are you making plans for family vacations this summer, or are you tired of bringing envelopes to church every week? Did you know that you can set up electronic giving to our parish in under five minutes? It is super easy to do using your checking account or credit card. It is also safe and secure. Go to [www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org) and click on "Donate/Giving" and then "Sunday Collection". Any questions? Feel free to call or e-mail Marianne Ball at [mball@stjohnwc.org](mailto:mball@stjohnwc.org) or 777-6433, ext. 119.

Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all of our moms, dads, grandparents and parent figures this spring! As always, I continue to pray for all of our parishioners; please continue to pray for me as well! Thank you for all that you do for our parish family. I am proud to be a part of this community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan", positioned below the author's title.

Joan Seibenick  
Business Manager

# Confirmation and our Youth's Value to the Parish

Sacraments are a community experience, meant to involve the entire parish community. In Baptism, we welcome new members into our community. In Confirmation, we strengthen our ties to the Church, to God, and to our community. As members of the Body of Christ, we all have gifts and talents that we bring with us to share with others.

This year, coordinating Confirmation has been a true blessing. I have been able to witness our community come together around the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation. One thing that I was truly blessed with was how many members of our community stepped up to help with the Confirmation Retreat. It was so wonderful to see so many members of our community support the youth at the Confirmation Enrollment Mass. The generosity and willingness of parents to donate their time, talents, and even snacks, has been a blessing that helps to keep this ministry alive. It has been affirming for me to see so many different talents and gifts within this parish. I love watching our mentors and catechists interact with the teens in the program. Being able to witness mentors engaging with teens and handling their wonderful wit has been a joy to witness, as I am not always great at understanding and handling sarcasm. The different styles they all have for relating to the teens are greatly appreciated. For me, one of the blessings is the respect that the mentors and catechists had for the teens.



Confirmation is often viewed as the day that the teens of our parish become adults. I personally don't like this view. I think it confines teens into a box before Confirmation and limits what they think they can do in our parish. I have noticed that the students had already been actively involved in the parish. I was delighted to find out that on the day of our retreat, one of our teens was scheduled to serve at the Mass we were attending. I was even more surprised when one of our candidates walked up to distribute communion during that Mass. As members of the Body of Christ, they shared their gifts and talents as we are all called to do. These were concrete examples of teens who were already engaging and participating in our community before the Sacrament of Confirmation. Seeing their involvement reassured me that our youth are an integral part of this community now, and in the future. They are not only the future of the Church, but they are a very important part of the present.

This year we have 71 teens being Confirmed. The Confirmation Mass is one of my favorite moments of my whole year in ministry and I would love for you to join us. Confirmation is on Saturday, May 6 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. I think it is a wonderful opportunity to see the youth of our parish and to support them. If you cannot make the Mass, please pray for our Confirmation candidates before and after the Sacrament as they continue on their journeys of faith. If you want to pray for a specific candidate, I would love to give you a specific candidate to pray for! You can e-mail me at [jplandowski@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jplandowski@stjohnwc.org) for a candidate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Plandowski".

Josh Plandowski  
Pastoral Associate of Youth Ministry



# St. John the Evangelist FAMILY FESTIVAL

August 4, 5, 6, 2017



If you've kept up with our "Festival Committee Member of the Week" section in our bulletin, you already know how important each person is in putting together such a great community event as our Parish Festival. So many hands work together to bring our community to one place for 3 nights in August to eat delicious food, listen to live music, play exciting games and win prizes, and ride some classic festival thrill rides!

So, what can you expect from this year's biggest summer bash?

## Basket Bonanza ● Rockin' Live Music ● Games and Prizes

Every year, with the help of many generous donations, we put together stunning gift baskets that can be worth hundreds! Don't miss the "giving tree" in the Gathering Space this Spring; you can help make this year's Basket Bonanza the best one yet! Check the bulletin for more details.



**Friday:** Remains

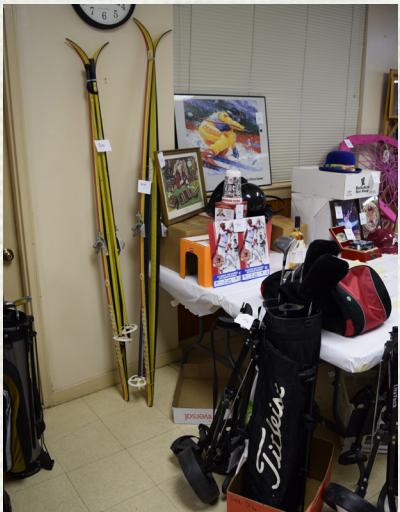
**Saturday:** DV8

**Sunday:** Second Wind and  
Suburban Horns

There is plenty to do at our festival - and plenty to win! In addition to our crazy-big baskets, we have a major awards raffle, poker, sports wheels, and many more kids' games to play! Try your luck at both; whether it's \$1,000 in our grand raffle or a lollipop, you could be a winner!



## Silent Auction



Our Silent Auction is always bursting with beautiful antiques, new and gently used sports equipment, unique home decor, collector's items, furniture, and more! Join the bidding race to win your favorite item!

## Festival Rides

Your kids (and maybe you, too!) will love all the thrill rides we have in our parking lot. Buy your tickets at the ticket booth when you arrive and ride away!



## Food and Drink



The people behind the scenes at our festival are always hard at work to make sure we have the most delicious food. Enjoy our famous pulled pork sandwiches, burgers, fries, ice cream, and more! And don't forget to wash it all down with a cold beer from one of our 2 beer stands. We also have a craft beer tasting and soft drinks available!

## Want to Help with our Festival?

The 2017 festival committee is always looking for new volunteers to help out with our biggest event of the year! If you would like to be a part of making sure we have the best festival yet, please contact Joan Seibenick at [jseibenick@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jseibenick@stjohnwc.org) and let us know. Our volunteer website is up and you can find it at [stjohnwc.org](http://stjohnwc.org). Check what spots are available today!

We have all been called by name; how will you answer?

“I have  
called  
you by  
name.”

*How have  
you been called?*

-Isaiah 43:1

# Update from St. Gabriel Consolidated School

**By: Nicole Brainard, Principal**



This May, we say good-bye to another graduating class from St. Gabriel Consolidated School. The Class of 2017 has much of which to be proud. They will be attending St. Xavier, Moeller, LaSalle, Ursuline Academy, St. Ursula Academy, Mount Notre Dame, Badin, Fenwick, Roger Bacon, Purcell Marian, Oak Hills, St. Bernard/Elmwood Place and Lakota East. Many of our graduates were accepted as distinguished scholars to the schools of their choice and amassed in excess of \$465,225 in scholarships and financial grants to the private and parochial high schools. We are grateful for the positive impact they have made on our school community and look forward to hearing of their continued successes in high school and beyond.

On May 21, 2017, St. Gabriel will conclude the celebrations of our 150th anniversary year with an event for alumni and current families on campus. A reception and tours of the school building will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m. We are looking forward to celebrating the continued success of St. Gabriel Consolidated School with both our past and present families. Please look for more information in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

Finally, as we celebrate both Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day these months, we would like to express our gratitude to the moms and dads of both our current St. Gabriel students and alumni. Without the assistance of our parents, our school would not be able to function at its expected levels of excellence. We are dependent upon our parent volunteers for needed assistance to run programs, serve lunch, help in the library and computer lab, plan events and raise funds to name a few areas. Our SGCS parents are wildly supportive of our school, our faculty and one another. It is because of our families that our school continues to thrive and improve each year. With grateful hearts, we thank you all.

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# ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

## Blessing for Mother's Day

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## Blessing for Father's Day

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.



This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.  
Amen.

# Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to...

## February

- The Osner Family on the death of Jessie Osner
- Joan Opatken on the death of her daughter
- Dan Woods on the death of his uncle
- Tamil Woods on the death of her grandfather
- Herberth family on the death of Loretta Herberth
- Terry Cummings on the death of his wife, Barb Cummings

## March

- Larry Roedl on the death of his father
- Joe Weinle on the death of his wife, Kathleen Weinle
- Ruth Phelps on the death of her brother
- Chris Adams on the death of her husband Ebert Adams
- Anita & Brian Turpin on the death of their son Nick Turpin
- Lindsay Turpin-Howard on the death of her brother
- Linda Pearson on the death of her mother, Marjorie Keene
- Lisa & Bill Keane on the death of their son Jimmy Keane
- Anne Holbrook on the death of her father-in-law

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