

On Eagle's Wings

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
September / October 2017



From the Pastor

Where in the world did the summer go? It can't be September already. When I was in grade school, summer didn't come to an end until the Tuesday after Labor Day. It never failed - as soon as school would start, the heat would come back and there would be no breeze in the classroom. Hey, there were always water breaks where, row by row, you were sent out to a drinking fountain that no one in their right mind would drink from for several reasons: One, the water fountain hadn't been cleaned since it was first installed, which was just after the Civil War. Two, the water was so warm you were better off not taking a drink. Finally, the fountain was so low to the ground you couldn't decide whether to kneel to get a drink or bend over. However, going out to take a drink did take up time, so there would be more class to miss. Ah, the good old days of school; I wouldn't trade anyone to do it all over again.

During this time of year, we have many new beginnings. There is a fresh new school year and who knows - maybe the teachers will forget you had an older brother or sister. During this time of year, we have high hopes for what is to come. So, what about those who are not in school? How can this time of the year bring new beginnings for you? From the look of attendance at Sunday Masses, perhaps a renewed effort to go to Mass each week should be in the works. But seriously, when is the last time you got interested in learning more about your own faith? The Adult Faith Formation program is filled with many things that can stoke the fires of our faith. So many people think they are finished learning about their faith with the last formal class they took in high school or college. We can never learn enough about our faith. We need to challenge ourselves and grow deeper into the Gospel message that Jesus offers us.

Every Tuesday evening, we have a Mass at 7 p.m. You can take just a half hour out of your week and spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. I think there is a special energy at the Tuesday Mass. It is nice to attend a Mass without feeling some obligation like the weekend Masses seem to do.

Fall is a time to come alive, to reconnect to the Parish Family. In October, we have another big service night with our Generations of Faith. What an awesome two-night event! It is wonderful to see everyone work together to serve the needs of others. There is literally no age barrier; there is something for everyone to do on those nights. The energy in the room is amazing and many commented on it last year. The dates are October 24 and 25; come for one of the two nights.

Our parish is nothing without each one of you present in the best ways possible. When I was praying about gaining another six years as pastor, my choice was easy because of the attitude of giving and service I have experienced here at St. John. What a giving community we have here and I am proud to be a part of it. But we can always grow deeper in that service and in that giving. Yes, I am talking to you (and you, and you!) and anyone who considers themselves a part of this parish. Let us share our pride and respond to the theme, "I have called you by name. You are mine." Yes, Lord I am here to do your will. Enjoy the joys of the kingdom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don West'.

Father Don West
Pastor

From the Business Manager



We have so many things to be thankful for! Our budget year closed on a positive note, our festival was well attended and we have our fall "Generations of Faith – Night of Service" event coming up!

We finalized our fiscal year on June 30 and will have the books closed and our annual report sent to the Archdiocese by the beginning of September. We will have our annual report to the parish handed out and emailed to parishioners sometime in October. We finished the year with a budget surplus of around \$25,000. This was great news after all of the improvements we made during the last fiscal year here on campus. We plan to keep this surplus for urgent needs or capital improvements. Thank you to our parishioners for your gifts of treasure and thank you to our staff for watching every penny that you spend. You are all good stewards to our parish!

Our festival was so much fun! We really were blessed with the weather! And, did you know that we have over 2,000 volunteer shifts during our festival weekend? It takes a lot of hard working folks to pull it off! It makes me so proud to know how much work goes into our Festival and how much community is created. Thank you to our festival committee, booth captains, boy scouts, bakers and all of our volunteers and donors! We will share final numbers later in the year, but our gross income was off this year by 8-10%. We will still have a solid income produced by the weekend, though. We really do thank you all; we could not do it without our entire parish community.

I would like to ask all parishioners to consider giving to the parish electronically. It helps us to ensure that we have a regular income level. This summer's income is down and our festival income was off, so we would love to have year-round commitment from our parish families. Our bills are year-round...they don't take the summer off. We have about 30% of our families who give electronically. It's easy to do! Please help us by giving on a regular basis if you are able! To set up electronic giving, go to our website at www.stjohnwc.org and click on "donate/payment" button. It only takes a couple of minutes to create an automatic payment via your credit card or bank account. If you want to set things up over the phone, feel free to call Marianne Ball in our office at 777-6433, ext. 119.

Coming up on October 24/25, we will be having our fall "Generations of Faith" event. In alignment with our parish theme "I have called you by name: You are mine", we will be having another evening of service for all parishioners to participate in. The past service evenings have been huge successes. We are still in the planning stages, but be ready to have a hands-on evening of sharing of your time and talent with others! If you are interested in helping to coordinate this event, please let me know.

Have a blessed September and October. I am continually praying for you. Please pray for our staff as well.

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

Joan Seibenick
Business Manager

God of Generations

NICAEA 12.12.12.10 ("Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!")

*God of generations, we are all your children;
To your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song.
Young and old we follow, hand in hand together;
In your great love, together we are strong.*



*Christ, you welcomed children, called us to be like them,
And received a boy's small gift to feed a hungry crowd.
In our church's children, may we see you working:
More than "our future"! They are faithful now.*

*Spirit, freely moving, giving youth a vision,
By your grace young Jeremiah heard your loving call;
Mary was a young one when she learned her mission:
Through faithful youth, you offer truth to all.*

*God of men and women, Helper on our journey,
You have called us in our faith to grow and to mature.
May we keep on learning, worshiping and praying,
That each new day, we'll serve you all the more.*

*Abraham and Sarah trusted in your promise:
Age was no condition when you gave them work to do.
Old and young we follow, hand in hand together;
At every age, Lord, we belong to you.*

Biblical References: Mark 10:14; Matthew 18:3; John 6:9; Acts 2:17; Jeremiah 1:6; Luke 1:27; Genesis 17:17
Tune: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861 ("Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!")
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I love finding the perfect hymn text. I spend lots of time reading through my many hymn books when I am choosing music for the liturgy. Of course, the Internet has made it so easy to find texts; just enter a word and boom, there you go! When I entered "Generations of Faith" into Google, I found this wonderful hymn text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette which celebrates our generations of worshipers. I love that it references our gifts, our worship and our song. So much happens when we offer our gifts to our song. When we commit to be a music minister, we are offering our gifts to God and enhancing the liturgy for others and increasing our own prayer life! Wow, a three-in-one prayer. Wasn't it St. Augustine who said when we sing we pray twice? I think if we sing in the choir, we pray three times!

One of the most excellent things about the music ministry is that is truly generational. Any person of any age can be a music minister, from children to the young at heart. Everyone is a music minister from the pew; we are all called to participate in the liturgy. If you feel called to sing and pray thrice, here are your opportunities: The Children's choir will be practicing on Tuesday afternoons at 5:30. The adult choir will practice Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Contemporary group will practice at 4:00 on Saturdays and the high school group will practice at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Don't have a great singing voice? Instrumentalists are welcome at any Mass or try the Bell Choir, they will practice Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Practices begin the week after Labor Day. Contact me for more info at lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org or call the parish office or come see me after Mass.

Lynn Meisberger Lynn Meisberger
Pastoral Associate of Music Ministry



St. John the Evangelist

FAMILY FESTIVAL

August 4, 5, 6, 2017

Thanks to all those who helped make this festival happen! The rain held off and the weather was perfect.

We are so thankful for our volunteers, parishioners, and attendees. See you next year!



“When It Comes to Faith, No Man or Woman is an Island”

There are several true stories of Japanese soldiers stranded alone on islands in the Pacific during World War II. Being isolated, they never learned that an armistice had been signed. Consequently, they thought the battle raged on and so remained secluded. They would not come out of hiding despite numerous attempts to rescue them. In one extreme case, a soldier had to be convinced by his retired commanding officer. It was 1974 - nearly 30 years after the conflict had ended. Imagine what their lives were like returning to civilization ten, twenty, even thirty years later. Socially, they were very backward. Making conversation was difficult and slowly had to be relearned. Think of the many inventions they were suddenly exposed to such as more advanced cars, buildings, and appliances arrived. It was a gut-wrenching transition.



Concerning our faith life, how isolated are we? Are we like the soldiers on the island? Does our understanding of the Catholic faith date back to our childhood? Are we walking around as adults with concepts of God and Catholic doctrine that have not been updated since we were in elementary or high school? How close are we to God? Is our relationship with God being cultivated, or are we spiritually backward; with little growth to speak of beyond Sunday mass attendance?

When it comes to our “faith life”, like any other relationship, it requires nurturing if we wish to grow. Besides our liturgies, St. John has many faith formation opportunities. By early September our parish households will receive a schedule listing all of the options available here and at our neighboring parishes (St. Susanna and St. Max). Let me highlight a few of them: Our Christ Renews His Parish retreats, Lectionary Reflection, Bible Study, Book Clubs and the RCIA are all ways to grow in our relationship with God. We also offer many seminars regarding our doctrines to help participants come to a better understanding of the teachings of Catholicism. Our annual “Show ‘N’ Tell Mass”, Church Tours, and Bishop Barron’s video series are just a few more examples.

The parish theme is “I have called you by name; you are mine”. How is the Lord calling us to develop? In what ways can we respond to the Lord’s invitation?

Watch your mailbox. When the Adult Faith Formation schedule arrives, please prayerfully look it over and mark on your personal calendar any programs of interest. Most of what we offer is free and is open to everyone, so bring a friend or two.

We are not called to be hermits, cut off from all higher learning and growing of our faith. Immerse yourself into the life of our community and you will be richly rewarded.

Jerry Barney
Deacon

Update from St. Gabriel Consolidated School

By: Nicole Brainard, Principal



Saint Gabriel

St. Gabriel Consolidated School has a sign that reads, “Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen, but ever present teacher in its classrooms, the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.” This is what sets us apart. We are unapologetic about our faith and its instruction within our walls. Our faith permeate everything we do in our school and within our school community.

Faith formation at St. Gabriel certainly takes place in our religion classes. Faith formation also extends to include all other subjects as well. For example, we focus on religious art and music, we teach science from the Catholic perspective, our Reading classes focus on sections of the Bible; at times utilizing the Psalms to help instruct our children in poetry. Even our math classes have myriad opportunities to incorporate our Catholic faith in its lessons.



Catholic schools and our partnerships with the parishes are critical to the survival of the Church. Sadly, for many children, the faith formation we offer is the only formation they experience as families are not attending Mass with the regularity of the past. St. Gabriel Consolidated School's faith formation works hand-in-hand with the efforts of the parish. Through our combined efforts, the children receive their prepara-

tion for the sacraments, garnering deeper membership in the Church. These joint ventures between parish and school are extremely important as we form the next generations of Catholics. Let's continue to try and bridge the gap between Church and schooling and bring faith formation not only into the classroom and at Mass, but at home as well. There are many faith formation opportunities for both parents and kids at St. John; bring your child to Generations of Faith in October or visit any number of Adult Faith Formation events to foster even more discussions of faith at home!

Missionary Discipleship

A famous naturalist and writer, John Burroughs, wrote, “[f]or anything worth having one must pay the price; and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice – no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service.” How many parents can identify with these words? Most of us would agree that we occasionally feel overworked and have run short on patience; however, not many parents appear to be short on love or self-sacrifice. Most parents already invest a great deal of time and effort into making sure bills are paid, there is healthy food on the table, and that our children have decent activities and ethical friend groups. Is this the “work, patience, love, self-sacrifice” to which we attest? Most of us would say, generally, yes.

Consider what would happen if we more deeply instilled, and genuinely expected, the notions of “work, patience, love, self-sacrifice” within the our children? Would we impart more responsibility, accountability and respect? When our children have spent time in the ruts of mistakes, they might learn to be more empathetic and compassionate toward peers who end up in similar situations. They become “missionary disciples” through an organic process of internalizing the joy of walking with, and serving, those both close to them and on the fringes of their comfort zones. Through the journey of interactive service, they experience a personal encounter with Christ that they can relate to their own lives.

The theme for Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 17) is “Living As Missionary Disciples.” This day pays grateful tribute to the catechists who put “work, patience, love, self-sacrifice” into their personal ethoi. Catechists find a place in their schedules and hearts to serve young people, not asking for “paper currency ... promises to pay, but the gold of real service.” Catechists plant seeds of dialogue and brainstorming within a faith formation setting, drawing out the thoughtful, problem-solving nature that our children innately possess. Most catechists have discovered in their students the service-oriented nature of conversations, the love-infused prayers and comments, and the willingness to innovate and share with patience. With gentle supervision and guidance, our children respond to faith-based themes and activities with “work, patience, love, self-sacrifice.” This year we are asked to discover the meaning of missionary discipleship in our own lives and to bring that meaning to those with whom we live, work, and share fellowship.

What does it mean to live as a missionary disciple? Pope Francis tells us that people are attracted to the joy they see in Christians, the genuine joy of someone who likely embraces “work, patience, love, self-sacrifice” while they maintain a strong faith in Jesus. As baptized Christians, we are duty-bound to be missionary disciples, to walk the journey of success and failure, happiness and dejection, faith and doubt, with everyone we encounter. The smallest acts of kindness and support, when multiplied, represent the “gold of real service.” Let’s all be missionary disciples!



Mary Montour
Pastoral Associate of Children's Faith Formation

Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to...

June

July



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