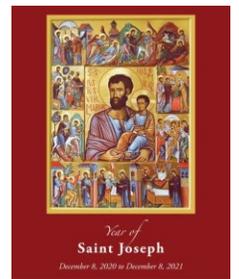




Pastor's Report on the Life and Ministry of the Parish Fall, 2021



Dear Saint Joseph Parishioners,

It is my pleasure to write to you again this year, as we prepare for the parish Grand Annual Appeal. It seems as if Father Joseph and I were just moving into the rectory one year ago and here we are preparing for another fall at Saint Joseph Parish. Even with all the vicissitudes of the COVID pandemic, we have had a good and faith-filled year at our parish and school. As more members of our parish family begin to return to in-person attendance at Mass, I look forward to continuing to meet many of you and to develop relationships within our parish community as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am particularly grateful to our **Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council** for their engaged leadership throughout this past year. As your Pastor, I could not effectively lead this parish community without these significant lay leaders and I am so appreciative of the guidance and advice offered by the Councils. We are truly blessed here at Saint Joseph's with their wise and generous leadership.

New Staff Additions

This past year saw some wonderful **new additions** to our parish staff. In June, we welcomed Deacon Steve Restrepo to Saint Joseph's. Deacon Steven is a Transitional Deacon in formation for Ordination to the Priesthood and we have all benefitted from his earnest involvement in so many facets of parish and school life these past months. Please continue to keep Deacon Steven in your prayers as he journeys to the sacred priesthood.

Over the summer, we also welcomed Dr. Christina Danko as the new Coordinator of Faith Formation, grades K-6. In the months ahead, I trust that our faith formation families will come to know in many ways the talents and gifts that Dr. Danko offers the children of our parish. I am also pleased to welcome Dr. Carlo Serrano as the new Sunday morning Music Director for our parish. Having recently earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Theory at the New England Conservatory, Dr. Serrano will bring youth and vitality to both the 11:00 am Adult Choir and the 9:30 am Family Mass. Finally, Saint Joseph School welcomed Dr. Joseph Barnes as the Interim Head of School for the current school year. Dr. Barnes offers his sure and seasoned leadership as we search for a permanent Head of School. As I reflect on these new additions to our parish and school staff, I trust that we will benefit in many ways from the faith, gifts and talents of these individuals.

Parish Life

Looking back on this past year, our parish maintained an active program of parish life. A few events stand out for me. The November **Mass of Remembrance**, offered virtually and with many creative touches, was a spiritually uplifting event for those whose funerals were celebrated at Saint Joseph's this past year. The **Pack-a-thon** to support families in need in Haiti, was truly an inspiring initiative. Over 150,000 meals were packed by a large number of parish volunteers under the leadership of Crudem and sent from our parish to Haiti, to personally address the food instability of so many Haitian people. Seeing the many parish volunteers of all ages, I saw faith in action: "whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters you did for me." (Mt 25:40). During Lent 2020, Fr. Michael Ssenfuma, a talented and charismatic priest originally from Uganda, offered the **Parish Lenten Mission**, inspiring all who attended in-person or virtually with his deep faith, musical talent and inspiring talks. One highlight was the Mass he celebrated to conclude the Mission, accompanied by members of the Ugandan Community Catholic Choir. In word and action, Fr. Ssenfuma helped us to experience the diversity and universality of the Catholic Church. Finally, this past September we hosted the **Parish Picnic**. The Lord blessed us with good weather, as many members of our parish family had the chance to gather together with old friends, meet new friends and enjoy a relaxing few hours with parishioners of all ages. This wonderful event will become a parish tradition for sure.

Sacramental and other figures

A parish's primary mission is to bring people to Christ through the sacraments. Given the limitation on gathering safely inside for much of the past year, we needed to be flexible and creative. Instead of the usual three First Communions, we offered **twelve** Masses this year. Confirmation with Bishop Reed was celebrated in four separate liturgies. Additional Masses were held during Christmas and Easter. We also livestreamed the Saturday Vigil Mass each week, as well as the Lenten mission and several funeral liturgies.

Sacramental figures from October 2020 thru September 2021 are below:

Sacrament	Number receiving	
Baptism	54 children	plus 1 adult
Confirmation	68 teens	plus 1 adult
First Penance	91	
First Eucharist	180	includes 2 nd and 3 rd grades
Holy Matrimony	3	
Anointing of the sick	as requested	

Additionally, over **60** funeral liturgies were celebrated by the St. Joseph clergy. We also welcomed **44** new families who registered at the parish. While our Faith Formation program numbers were down last year due to the pandemic, I am happy to report that we currently have over **425** students enrolled and learning their faith in person.

Financial Status

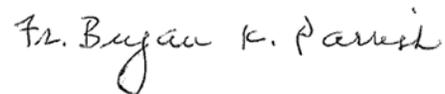
Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the annual financial reports for the Parish and School, prepared by the Parish Finance Council. Financial reports for past years are available on the parish website. Allow me to review some highlights:

- For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, the parish reported net operating income of \$64,000, and the school reported net operating income of \$567,000. These results were favorable to the budget due in part to the generous participation in last year’s grand annual and school fundraising activities, the reduction of certain activities due to the pandemic, and conservative budgeting based on the uncertain effect of the pandemic on financial results.
- Our outstanding loan with the Archdiocese of Boston for the completed school and church construction work was \$638,000 at the end of June, but the current balance has been reduced to \$530,000 resulting from principal payments made subsequent to year end.
- At the height of the pandemic in the spring of 2020, the parish and schools applied for and received three loans from the federal government under the “Paycheck Protection Program.” These funds allowed staff to continue receiving a paycheck while some programs were suspended. Following the program guidelines, these loans, totaling over \$700,000, were forgiven in the spring and summer of 2021.
- The parish and school budgets for the fiscal year ending in June 2022 anticipate increased spending with the return to pre-pandemic activities and needed maintenance work.

Grand Annual

We are launching this year's **Grand Annual Appeal** on the weekend of October 23 & 24. Members of the Finance Council will give a brief update on parish finances at all the Masses. As a reminder, the Grand Annual is not a project-based fundraiser. Rather, it augments the offertory collection in covering the day-to-day needs of the parish in areas such as payroll, liturgical expenses, building maintenance, Faith Formation, and numerous pastoral ministries. Last year's appeal collected **\$215,000**, thanks to the generosity of over **340** donors. In consultation with the Finance Council, we have set a goal of **\$190,000** for this year's appeal. Your generosity allows us to meet the increasing cost of maintaining multiple buildings and facilities and sustaining programs that support the mission of the parish. I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider a generous gift to this year's Grand Annual collection, as your means allow.

Grateful for our Catholic faith and with God's blessings, let us go forward together as committed disciples of the Lord Jesus and members of the Body of Christ at Saint Joseph Parish.



Very Rev. Bryan K. Parrish, V.F.
Pastor

Notes:

1. For registered parishioners, this letter and the Financial Summary have been emailed to those with emails on file. Otherwise, it was sent by US mail.
2. Return envelopes for the appeal were sent separately in the monthly mailing of offertory envelopes for November and December and are available at the doors of the Church.
3. You may contribute to the Grand Annual using Online Giving at:
<https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephneedham/funds>
4. A tax-friendly option of a direct transfer from an IRA may count toward your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) and be excluded from income for those age 70 ½ or older. Check the IRA option on the envelope and the parish office will contact you.