

# RESPECT ALL LIFE

## Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Church: 400 East Simpson Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6507

E-mail: [officemanager@stjosephmech.org](mailto:officemanager@stjosephmech.org) • Website: [www.stjosephmech.org](http://www.stjosephmech.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT: Saint Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg PA

Like our Patron, Saint Joseph, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are called to foster the presence of Christ in all that we say and do. Our mission is to grow disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ.



**Reverend Thomas J. Rozman, Pastor**  
**Reverend Kenneth C. Roth, Parochial Vicar**  
**Deacon Jack Paruso (Retired)**  
**Deacon Steven Auchey**  
**Rudy Geisler, Parish Manager**  
**Rebecca A. Bamberger, School Principal**  
**Mark Rebeck, Coordinator of Religious Education**  
**Mary Vukelich, Adult Education Coordinator**  
**Justin Myers, Pastoral Musician**  
**Suzanne Bruzga, Evangelization Coordinator**  
**Parish Advisory Council, [pac@stjosephmech.org](mailto:pac@stjosephmech.org)**

**Masses:** Saturday: 4:00 PM (fulfills Sunday Obligation)  
4:00 PM Gazebo  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:45 AM (ASL), 11:30 AM  
9:45 AM Gazebo  
Weekday: See inside; Masses for the Week

**Parish Office:** 410 E. Simpson St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6507

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday 9:45 AM - 4:00 PM  
Friday 9:45 AM - Noon

**Telephone Numbers:**  
Parish Office: 717-766-9433  
Video Phone for the Deaf: 717-610-0326  
Mass & Confession Times: 717-766-8032  
Parish Office FAX: 717-795-9123  
School: 717-766-2564  
School FAX: 717-766-1226  
Religious Education: 717-766-2472  
Trinity High School: 717-761-1116

### Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Please notify the parish office when you or a family member has been admitted to the hospital or healthcare facility.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please contact the parish office, 717-766-9433, to schedule.

**Common Policy for Baptism:** Parents are encouraged to call the Parish Office to receive a copy of the Parish Baptism Policy containing essential information regarding the required instruction workshop and requirements for sponsors.

**Sponsor Certificates:** Letters of recommendation for sponsors of the Sacraments can be issued only to active members of the Parish who are registered in the Parish and receiving the Sacraments.

### Sacrament of Matrimony (Marriage)

**Common Policy:** It is necessary for a couple to contact the priests NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS prior to the anticipated time of the wedding. (It is recommended to contact the parish priest as soon as a formal engagement is decided.)

**Sacrament of Anointing:** Call any parish priest as soon as there is any serious illness.

**Holy Communion to the Sick:** When a parishioner is confined to home because of illness, advanced age, or infirmity, please call the office and arrangements will be made to take Holy Communion to the person.



## Masses & Events for the Week + Mass in American Sign Language ASL

**VIGIL - THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** (Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52)

- 4:00 PM ✠ William Yuknek (Yuknek)  
4:00 PM ✠ Gazebo Mass - Mary Grasser (Grasser)  
Silence of Mary Collection (Carts in Narthex)  
5:00 PM Sacramental Workshop-for Parents of 1&2 Year Students of First Holy Communion & Confirmation (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.-Saint Joseph Hall)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 - THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 8:00 AM ✠ William Piccirilli (Piccirilli)  
9:30 AM REP Preschool/Kindergarten (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)  
9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Rm.)  
+9:45 AM ✠ Crit Charlton (Stack)  
9:45 AM Gazebo Mass - People of the Parish Living and Deceased  
11:30 AM Special Intention of Father Rozman  
9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Room)  
After Mass Coffee and Donuts to Go (Outside Brindle Hall)  
Silence of Mary Collection (Carts in Narthex)  
6:00 PM Bible Study (Lee Horan Rm.)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25 - WEEKDAY** (Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17)

- 9:00 AM ✠ Theresa McKim (Saint Joseph Sanctuary Choir)  
10:00 AM Bereavement Support Group (Brindle Hall)  
4:15 PM REP Grades 1-8 (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)  
4:15 PM REP Grades 6 (Brindle Hall)  
4:15 PM Alpha (Lee Horan Rm.)  
5:45 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)  
6:30 PM REP Grades 1-8 (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)  
6:30 PM Alpha (Lee Horan Rm.)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26 - WEEKDAY** (Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21)

- 9:00 AM ✠ Living and Deceased Members of the Speakman and Mattias Family (Mattias)  
9:30 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)  
5:00 PM SJAA Basketball (Gym)  
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg. (Lee Horan Rm.)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27 - WEEKDAY** (Romans 8:26-30; Luke 13:22-30)

- 9:00 AM ✠ Theresa Saucier (Collins)  
10:00 AM Bible Study (Brindle Hall)  
5:00 PM SJAA Basketball (Gym)  
6:00 PM REP High School Program (Lee Horan Rm.)  
6:30 PM Legion of Mary (John Paul II Rm.)

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 - SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES** (Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16)

- 9:00 AM Special Intention of Beverly Simmons (Warner)  
10:00 AM Abiding Together Women's Group (John Paul II Rm./Zoom)  
3:15 PM Sub Sale Pick-Up (Brindle Hall Kitchen)  
5:00 PM SJAA Basketball (Gym)  
7:00 PM Abiding Together Women's Group (John Paul II Rm./Zoom)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 - WEEKDAY** (Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6)

- 9:00 AM ✠ Irene and Jack Gohrig (Barrella)  
12:00 PM Senior Leadership Team Meeting (Brindle Hall)  
7:30 PM Holy Hour with Prayers, Night Prayer, Benediction ending with Candlelight Procession & Prayers to Our Blessed Mother (Church and Livestream)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 - WEEKDAY; BVM** (Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1,7-11)

- 6:15 AM That Man Is You (Brindle Hall)  
9:00 AM Ministry Leadership Summit (Zoom)  
2:15 PM Confessions (Confessionals)

**VIGIL - THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** (Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28b-34)

- 4:00 PM ✠ Dorothy Cannizzaro (Cannizzaro)  
4:00 PM ✠ Gazebo Mass - Anna Messinger (Brennan)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 - THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
ANNUAL EUCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS - 40 HOURS**

- 8:00 AM ✠ Anne Piccirilli (Stack)  
9:30 AM REP Preschool/Kindergarten (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)  
9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Rm.)  
+9:45 AM ✠ James Lawrence (Devlin)  
9:45 AM ✠ Gazebo Mass - Giuseppa Epifanotto (Epifanotto)  
11:30 AM People of the Parish Living and Deceased  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 11:30 AM Mass  
9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Room)  
10:45 AM Sacramental Workshop-for Parents of 1&2 Year Students of First Holy Communion & Confirmation (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.-Saint Joseph Hall)  
After Mass Coffee and Donuts to Go (Outside Brindle Hall)  
3:00 PM Bible Study (Lee Horan Rm.)  
5:00 PM 40 Hours and Benediction (Church)

**Please see our Forty Hours Schedule in this bulletin, sign up sheets for Adoration are in the Narthex. All are welcome to spend this time in prayer with Our Eucharistic Lord.**



Join us in Church or for an outdoor Mass. Our **Outdoor Masses are Saturdays at 4:00 PM (Vigil) and Sundays at 9:45 AM.** All Masses in the Church can be heard from the Church parking lot on your car radio (FM 95.5). The 9:45 AM Mass can also be viewed via Livestream on our website, Facebook or YouTube channels. All are welcome!!!

### We Remember

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** In honor of Beverly Simmons Birthday. Love, Lindy.

**TABERNACLE FLOWERS:** In honor of Beverly Simmons Birthday. Love, Lindy.

**DIVINE MERCY FLOWERS:** In honor of Beverly Simmons Birthday. Love, Lindy.

**PRO-LIFE ROSE:** In honor of Beverly Simmons Birthday. Love, Lindy.

**ALTAR CANDLES:** In loving memory of William Yuknek on our Wedding Anniversary. Love Dorothy and Family

**AMBO CANDLES:** In loving memory of William Yuknek on our Wedding Anniversary. Love Dorothy and Family

**RED SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In loving memory of William Yuknek on our Wedding Anniversary. Love Dorothy and Family

**TABERNACLE CANDLES:** In loving memory of William Yuknek on our Wedding Anniversary. Love Dorothy and Family

### FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY

Join us in the church on Thursday at 1:00 PM for the Flame of Love Rosary. If the church is unavailable, please contact Marcia Czarnecki for the location. Please see large ad in this bulletin for more details. All are welcome to come and pray the Rosary with us.

### THIS Weekend Music Ministry

- 4:00 PM Organ/Cantor  
8:00 AM Organ/Cantor  
9:45 AM Sanctuary Choir  
11:30 AM Cherub Choir

### NEXT Weekend Music Ministry

- 4:00 PM Organ/Cantor  
8:00 AM Organ/Cantor  
9:45 AM Organ/Cantor  
11:30 AM Contemporary Music Ensemble

### Rest in Peace

Please pray for those who have recently died, may they rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let thy perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



# PARISH TRANSFORMATION

## THE CALL

As we continue to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd who calls us to follow every day, we are aware that God has a unique call, a vocation, in store for each of us. We can live this vocation out in one of the states of life: as a married person, as a single person, or as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious.

This weekend we are very happy to welcome Father Jonathan Sawicki, the diocesan Director of Vocations, who will speak to us during the indoor weekend Masses. We look forward to hearing his insights on this important area of the life of the Church. Father will also be available for any questions you may have.

The Catholic Church is dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. In addition to what Father Sawicki will be sharing, if you feel that God is calling you to one of these vocations, there is more information online at [www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations](http://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations).

### **A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

**God our Father,  
we thank you for calling men and women to serve  
in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
to help others to respond  
generously and courageously to your call.  
May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love  
in our youth and young adults.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.  
Amen**

#### ***A message from Father Rozman:***

"Please know how grateful I am for all the prayers, notes and kind words I received when I celebrated my 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on October 11. Thank you for your support of our ministries here, and for all of us taking our part, clergy and laity, in furthering the Kingdom of God. May God bless the good people of Saint Joseph Parish always!"



Saint  
Joseph  
School



Saint Joseph School has the following employment opportunity available. Candidates are expected to uphold the values of the Catholic Church and our Saint Joseph School:

The Early Learning Program (ELP) at Saint Joseph School is looking to hire assistants for morning (7:30- 9:30) and/or afternoon (2:30- 5:30) hours. More hours may be available, if wanted. ELP is the extended day part of our part-time preschool program. ELP is open from 7:30-5:30, and we follow the Saint Joseph School calendar. For more information, you may contact the ELP Director, Ursula Pelton, at [upelton@stjoesmech.org](mailto:upelton@stjoesmech.org).

If interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Mrs. Rebecca Bamberger at [rbamberger@stjoesmech.org](mailto:rbamberger@stjoesmech.org).

Want to turn your state taxes into financial aid for Saint Joseph School? Contact Amanda Koerner, Director of Development, for details. [akoerner@stjoesmech.org](mailto:akoerner@stjoesmech.org) or 717-766-2564.

Interested in a Catholic education for your child? Visit the Saint Joseph School Open House on Sunday, November 14 from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**Save the Date: Registration for the 22-23 school year will begin on Thursday, January 13.**

The students at SJS held a "Socktober Event" the last few weeks. Students collected socks to be donated to Catholic Charities. Pictured are Student Service Council members and their moderator, Mr. Scott Smith, with many of the socks collected.



### TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL—LEARN MORE

**8th Grade Visit Day:** 8th graders are invited to join us for a visitation day November 12. Registration begins at 7:30 AM, with activities running from 8:00 AM to 2:40 PM. Student visitors are not required to bring anything with them. Lunch will be provided. Students will have the opportunity to meet teachers, learn about our academic and athletic programs, and discover what being a Shamrock is all about!

Current public school students should register for the day by contacting Monique Abbas at [mabbas@thsrocks.us](mailto:mabbas@thsrocks.us).

**Open House:** Middle school families are invited to join us on Sunday, November 14, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM for our Open House. You will have the chance to tour the school, meet faculty, talk with current students, and attend an activities fair. The Class of 2026 will also be able to register for the 2022-2023 school year!

### Weekly Stewardship Report - October 17, 2021

#### Regular Sunday Offerings:

Weekly Goal \$ 26,731.00

#### Actual Basket Offerings -

Weekend Offerings (envelopes & loose) \$ 16,822.00

Electronic Check - Bill Payer \$ 3,325.00

Online Thru WeShare \$ 4,150.00

**Total Offerings \$ 24,297.00**

**Comparison Prior Year - October 18, 2020 \$ 24,567.00**

#### Additional Offerings:

Peters Pence \$ 5.00

Capital Improvements (PLEC Roof Savings Account) \$ 671.00

*"Building Disciples, Sharing Gifts"*

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

### UPDATED COVID-19 PROCEDURES FOR THURSDAY DAILY MASSES WHEN SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE PRESENT

Effective October 14, 2021, students and adults are required to wear a mask in Church at the Thursday 9 AM Mass when the Saint Joseph School students are with us.

This is in keeping with the state-wide masking mandate for schools.

Instead of cancelling this Mass and moving it from the Church to the school gym (where only the faculty and students would be allowed to attend), and because we normally have only one priest at the parish on Thursdays, it has been decided that all who attend are to cooperate with this policy, for the safety of our students and those who might be at risk of contracting COVID-19.

For those who would find it difficult to wear a mask, we will continue to livestream the Mass, for you to attend from home. We will also allow attendees without masks to participate in the Mass in the narthex, and Holy Communion will be brought to you during the Mass.

Again, the policy will be in effect starting Thursday, October 14, 2021. Masks will be available in the narthex for those who need one. Masks are required only when Saint Joseph School students are in attendance. Thank you for your cooperation.



Thank you for your support of the 8th graders of Saint Joseph School and their sub sale. Subs and sandwiches are available to be picked up on Trick or Treat night, October 28! They will be available from 3:15 PM to 5:15 PM in the Brindle Hall Kitchen. Thank you for your support! Any questions, please contact Kelley, [kelleysimpson@gmail.com](mailto:kelleysimpson@gmail.com) or call 717-856-7671.

Saint Joseph Chargers Basketball Registration is now open for High School aged students in grades 9-12. Sponsored by the Saint Joseph Athletic Association, the basketball program is a fall/winter sport for those who are baptized members of Saint Joseph, Saint Katherine Drexel or Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes and actively enrolled in REP or RCIA. Registration closes on November 19, 2021. Registration can be done online at: <http://www.stjosephmechatletics.com/>



## PROTECTING *Life*



October is Respect Life Month! As part of our month long efforts to help the unborn, our Respect Life Committee is teaming up with Morning Star Pregnancy Center and hosting the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. The Baby Bottles are available in the narthex, church exits and at the Gazebo Masses all month. Please return your donations and Baby Bottles anytime. There will be contactless bins in the narthex for both available bottles and returning bottles/donations.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support through the Baby Bottle Campaign! If you are interested in joining our Respect Life Committee, please contact Joel Santolla at [joelsantolla@gmail.com](mailto:joelsantolla@gmail.com).

**Our Parish Staff has an opening for a full-time Family Life Ministries Coordinator.** The central focus of this position is to engage families, adults, and teen-aged youth in a life of discipleship. The successful candidate must be a living witness of strong Catholic faith, and be committed to the vision and mission of Saint Joseph Parish. They must have a track record of being an initiator, leader, and consensus-builder, with a demonstrated ability to take an idea from inception to implementation. They must have experience engaging people of all ages in the life of the Church. Candidates must possess excellent oral and written communication skills, and a demonstrated ability to listen and respond effectively. Experience in recruiting, training and mentoring volunteers, as well as establishing strategic connections and partnerships are strongly desirable in this position. Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite and social media, and a demonstrated ability to learn proprietary applications are required. Candidates must be able to obtain Diocesan Youth Protection clearances. A college degree is required, or equivalent work experience and track record of success in a professional environment. Please submit resume and cover letter to Mary Vukelich at [adultformation@stjosephmech.org](mailto:adultformation@stjosephmech.org). Apply by October 22.



## Knights of Columbus Membership Drive Save the Date: November 13/14, 2021

If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. Saint Joseph Council 12788 will conduct a membership drive after each Mass on November 13-14. Please consider joining us. For more information visit <http://www.kofc.org>

Welcoming Physicians, Nurses, and all Healthcare Workers...the Harrisburg Guild of the Catholic Medical Association invites you to the annual **White Mass** held at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Harrisburg, on **Sunday October 31 at 9:30 AM**, Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the Celebrant. Participating in the Harrisburg Guild provides faith formation, education, and advocacy, particularly with respect to conscience protection. Physicians will recite their oath of care at the Mass. Attendees are welcome to wear their white coats and uniforms. After the Mass, a reception will be held downstairs in the cathedral hall. Family members are welcome.

## THE FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY



Praying the Rosary is a powerful prayer. Based on the book, *Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, by Elisabeth Kindelmann, Our Lady has requested we pray this Rosary for the following intentions: all priests and an increase of vocations, for families, for conversion of sinners, especially the dying, and for all holy souls.

If you would like to join us in this special devotion, all are welcome. We will gather in our church on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 PM, if the church is available. If the church is unavailable, please contact Marcia Czarnecki, 949-637-2622, for the location.

May Mary intercede for us to her Divine Son, Jesus.

## SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 6, 2021



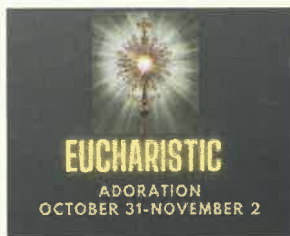
The Knights of Columbus Council 12788 is sponsoring a "Night at the Races" on Saturday, November 6, doors open at 5:00 PM, with first post time at 5:30 PM.

The event will be in Saint Joseph Hall (cafeteria) of the Parish Life & Education Center. All proceeds benefit the Parish Life and Education Center's new roof.

Admission is \$5, Veterans are free if accompanied with paying customer. Advance registration, horse ownership and more information can be found at [www.council12788.org/events/](http://www.council12788.org/events/) and at Coffee and Donuts to Go after Mass. Contact Michael Yakubick at 717-329-2725 or [Myakubick@comcast.net](mailto:Myakubick@comcast.net) with any questions.



What are the characteristics for the kind of men needed to build the Kingdom of God? Do you have those characteristics? Isn't it time you found out? Join That Man Is You on Saturday morning to learn how you can be the kind of man your family needs to save them. TMYY meets in Brindle Hall at 6:15 for a men's program that shows you how to transform yourself, your family and greater society. Breakfast is provided! Contact Tony Devlin at [thedevlinfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:thedevlinfamily@yahoo.com) for information.



**Annual Eucharistic Devotions  
October 31-November 2, 2021**

Each year, our parish has the privilege of worshipping the Lord in the Eucharist during our Annual Eucharistic Devotions. Reverend Thomas J. Rozman, Reverend Kenneth C. Roth and Deacon Steven

Auchey invite you to participate in the opening of our annual Eucharistic Devotions on **Sunday, October 31, 2021.**

Following the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 31, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Church will remain open all afternoon. We will conclude with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 5:00 PM.

On Monday, November 1, we will have Mass at 9:00 AM, and Exposition will follow. The Church will be open all day for prayer in front of Our Sacramental Lord. This is All Saint's Day, but is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

In the evening, we will offer two Masses, 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM which will include the attendance of our Religious Education Students. All are welcome.

On Tuesday, November 2, the Feast of All Souls, we will have Mass at 9:00 AM. Exposition will follow the 9:00 AM Mass. The Church will be open all day for prayer in front of The Blessed Sacrament.

We will conclude our Forty Hours Devotion with Mass at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

We pray you can join our parish in prayer during this most solemn time. May the Eucharistic Lord Jesus continue to richly bless and reward you and our parish.

*Interested in becoming Catholic? Are you an adult needing any Sacraments? Join our RCIA Program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)! For additional information please contact Suzanne Bruzga at [evangelization@stjosephmech.org](mailto:evangelization@stjosephmech.org) or call 717-766-9433.*

**Abiding Together Women's group**



Each Thursday morning and again in the evening, amazing women like you are gathering in-person and via Zoom to accompany and support each other as we grow in faith. We discuss an episode of the Abiding Together podcast, and how the ideas presented help us draw closer to Christ. The topics are all stand-alone, so you can participate as your schedule permits.

Contact Mary at [adultformation@stjosephmech.org](mailto:adultformation@stjosephmech.org) to learn more!

**Want a preview?** Listen to the podcast for free using your favorite podcast app (iTunes, Stitcher, Spotify, etc.) or by visiting [www.abidingtogetherpodcast.com](http://www.abidingtogetherpodcast.com).

Christmas Fest will take place on Saturday, November 20 from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Please consider helping out with this annual parish event by baking a pie for 'Pies for a Purpose' or your favorite baked good for the Bake Sale. Donations of gift cards or a basket for the Silent Auction are also needed as well as volunteers on the day of the event. Please contact 717-790-9172 or [vjdspn@verizon.net](mailto:vjdspn@verizon.net) to help out.

**Save-the-Date - Diocesan Catechetical Conference -  
November 13 - Livestream and In-Person**

Calling all catechists, catechetical leaders, youth ministry leaders, RCIA team members, and all who are involved in the teaching of the Catholic Faith at any level in parishes and schools! Please mark November 13, 2021 on your calendars for the Annual Catechetical Conference. The conference will be both in-person and livestreamed this year. It will include Mass celebrated by Bishop Gainer and many outstanding speakers on various topics pertaining to the teaching of the Faith.

Registration will be available online on the Diocese of Harrisburg website shortly. Thank you!



**NEW COATS FOR KIDS!**

The Knights of Columbus are accepting donations of **NEW** coats – sizes infancy – kids' large, from now until November 21.

Carts will be under the portico each weekend for the collection. Thank you in advance for helping the kids in our community stay warm this winter! Questions, please call Dan Uhazic at 717-574-7458.



**Our Angel Tree is Virtual Again This Year!**

This year, due to the continued safety precautions of the pandemic, we will not have the Angel Tree in the narthex, but your support is still greatly needed. We are working with New Hope Ministries and Catholic Charities this year to provide Christmas gifts for those they assist. We have been asked to provide monetary donations or gift cards from Giant or Walmart. There are many ways to give! You can place them in the weekend collection basket, drop them off in the mail box at the parish office, on-line at [www.stjosephmech.org/give](http://www.stjosephmech.org/give) or you can mail them in as well (see address on bulletin front cover). Please note "Angel Tree" on the envelope. Angel Tree donations are being accepted now until November 27. **Your generosity and giving hearts during the Christmas season is always such a blessing. Thank you for helping to make this Christmas a little brighter for so many during these challenging times. May God continue to richly bless you and your families.**

**We thank our Sponsor of the Week:**

**RICHARD E. FERRARO, M.D.**

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for sponsoring an advertisement in our parish bulletin.

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October 21, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 10, Pope Francis inaugurated in the Universal Church a two-year synodal process leading us toward the Synod of the People of God scheduled to take place in October 2023. The following Sunday, this synodal process was inaugurated at our cathedral church as I invoked the aid of God the Holy Spirit to guide us toward a deeper fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we walk together in the communion of the Church.

“Synod” comes from two Greek words that mean “together on the way.” We have to admit that the words “synod”, “synodal”, and “synodality” are not familiar to us in the ordinary experience of the Church today. Yet, they find their foundations in the ancient Church itself. Synods have been held locally and universally throughout the history of the Church. It was Pope Paul VI who established a permanent structure, an office, in Rome for the Synod of Bishops. And, through that office, the popes in the last sixty years have used that structure to consult the bishops throughout the world about various concerns facing the Church.

Pope Francis is hoping that this process of “journeying together” might be expanded to include all the baptized members of the Church. At its core, this synodal process is an exercise in listening, not only to each other in the Church, but most especially to the voice of the Lord speaking to us through the Sacred Scriptures, the grace of the Sacraments, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

For those who follow Catholic news, you might look at the word “synod” with some skepticism because of what is happening in the Catholic Church in Germany. The reports about the synodal path chosen by the German bishops has been controversial and, by what is reported, even dangerous. Pope Francis, in his address to the local Diocese of Rome, explained clearly that a synodal path is not about “gathering opinions” but “listening to the Holy Spirit.” He goes on to say that this is not a survey that is employed to change the Church’s doctrines or disciplines according to popular opinions, but to call the Church to ongoing conversion and deeper communion with each other and with God.

It is with this in mind that we embark on the synodal process for the Diocese of Harrisburg, gathering together in prayerful listening to the voice of the Lord. Throughout the coming months, each parish will be engaged through their pastoral councils and other Catholic organizations to “journey together” as we seek to follow the Gospel faithfully. We will ask questions about our personal experience of the Church and how the Church lives its mission to proclaim Christ in our parishes and our diocese. Our goal is not to achieve consensus in thought or to arrive at specific action points for change, but to be transformed by the process itself and adopt a new style of “synodality ... that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church’s ordinary way of living and working (International Theological Commission, *Synodality in the life and mission of the Church*).”

Guided by the Holy Spirit, may the Lord lead us closer to communion with the Blessed Trinity and with each other in the Church as we “journey together” toward our eternal home.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer

