

# From the Desk of Father Jeff



## Join Us for the Holy Family Picnic:

Get ready for an afternoon of community and celebration at our annual **Holy Family Picnic**, happening on **August 17th!** This special event brings together families from **Saint Catherine Labouré Parish** and **Saint Louise de Marillac School** for an unforgettable end-of-summer bash. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and school families, enjoy delicious food, and have some good old-fashioned fun.

Last year's inaugural Holy Family Picnic saw an incredible turnout, filled with laughter, fellowship, and a wonderful sense of togetherness. We're building on that success and eagerly anticipate an even more vibrant gathering this year. Whether you're a long-time member of our community or new to the parish or school, you're warmly invited to join us for this joyous occasion. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to celebrate faith, build friendships, and create lasting memories.

The registration deadline has passed, but walk-ins are welcome!

We are in need of supplies and of volunteers. To help with supplies and/or to volunteer, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CAEAA28A4F85-50067037-holy#/> to sign up. Thank you for your time and generosity to help with this amazing annual event!

## Backpack Blessing is August 17th:

As the new school year approaches, we're filled with excitement for our Faith Formation and Catholic School students' return! Beyond textbooks and supplies, we want to invite you to consider a beautiful Catholic practice that can spiritually prepare your child for the academic journey ahead: the blessing of backpacks. This will take place during the noon Mass on August 17th, right before the start of our Holy Family Picnic!

This isn't just about the physical bag; it's a symbolic act of entrusting your child's entire school year—their studies, friendships, challenges, and triumphs—to God's care. When a priest blesses a backpack, it becomes a visible sign that reminds us of God's presence and grace in all aspects of our lives. It's a tangible way to ask for divine protection, wisdom, and guidance for your children as they learn and grow.

I want to encourage you and your family to come to Mass at noon on the 17th of August to take advantage of this beautiful opportunity! It's a wonderful way to begin the year with faith,

reminding our children that God walks with them in every classroom, on every playground, and through every lesson. Afterwards, make sure to stick around and enjoy our faith-filled community at the Holy Family Picnic!

Wishing you and your children a joyful and grace-filled start to the school year!

## Faith Formation Registration:

Our Faith Formation registration has begun! Make sure you sign up soon so that you can start planning for the 2025-2026 school year. This past year, we made changes to this important and growing ministry that helped to create a new and engaging experience for all of our over 500 children who take part in faith formation. We are excited to offer Family Catechesis, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and Middle School Ministry. We offer a variety of times and offerings that will fit every busy schedule allowing the whole family to be involved in learning more about Jesus and His love for each of us.

For more information on all of our various Faith Formation offerings, and to find registration information, please go to: <https://www.sclpgh.org/information>

## High School Youth Ministry Continues to Grow!

Thank you to those who donated to support the future of our church by supporting our high school youth ministry through their various fundraisers! With your help, we were able to assist in bringing 25 teens to the Steubenville Youth Conference, which is an increase of 15 from the previous year and 24 more than two years ago! We now have such a youthful parish at present and therefore a strong future ahead of us! Thank you!

## Assumption: Holy Day of Obligation

Recognizing your very busy schedule, we have many Masses at various times of the day on August 14th and 15th to help assist you in attending Mass this Holy Day. Please check page 13 of the bulletin for Mass times. What an amazing opportunity to spend more time with the Lord and become one with Him in the Eucharist!