



The Angelus

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Spring 2018

New Year, New Face, New Direction

St. John Chrysostom opened its 66th year with a new pastoral vision: transforming the parish into a “school of prayer” that offers the spiritual direction and retreat and faith opportunities to deepen our relationship with God.



Sr. Maria McCoy, SSJ

Guiding that “school” will be Sr. Maria McCoy, SSJ, serving in the new position of Parish Spiritual Director. A former teacher and school principal, Sr. Maria has provided spiritual direction over the past 23 years at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville. She holds a doctorate in ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary, where her work focused on the integration of feminist scholarship and Ignatian spirituality.

“Sr. Maria is both a gifted spiritual director and a longtime close personal friend,” said Fr. Ed. “I look forward to our parish community growing in faith together under her spiritual care and direction.”

We invite you to get to know Sr. Maria!

Where did you grow up? I’m a Delaware County girl, greatly blessed by wonderful parents, Cass and Joe McCoy; three brothers, Jim, Jack and Joe; and one sister, Maureen. I have many happy memories of living and playing in Aldan and attending our parish school, St. Joseph in Collingdale. The education offered by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the lay teachers gave me a solid foundation before I ventured off to Archbishop Prendergast High School. I loved my years at Prendie! It was a gift to be among this more diverse community and to meet so many great teachers and students at Prendie and Bonner!

When did you join the Sisters of St Joseph, and what drew you to that order? While in grade school, it passed through my mind and heart to become a Religious Sister. Then, when I met the Sisters of Saint Joseph at Prendie, I felt an immediate attraction to them. Their joy, way with one another, and with the students touched me.

What did you do before turning to spiritual direction full time? Many experiences and good works led me to my present ministry. Right after my years of Initial Formation as a Sister of Saint Joseph, I taught 5th through 8th grade for five years at St. Callistus School in West Philadelphia. Then I was transferred to teach 5th through 8th grade for five years at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Chester Heights. At that

point, the Sisters of St. Joseph asked me to study in Rome, Italy, where I joined sisters from all over the world in a nine-month program for apostolic religious women. This was a very expansive time in my life.

Continued on page 6



At PREP, A New Chapter

St. John’s Parish Religious Education Program will launch its first Summer Session in June. A weekday class option is also under consideration for the fall.

See page 4.

Moving On



June 30 will mark an ending and a new beginning for Lina and Nami. *See page 7.*

INSIDE

- Fall-Winter Photo Album 2-4
- PREP 4
- RCIA..... 5
- MPRCS 5
- Around the Parish 7
- Refugee Update 7
- Holy Week Schedule..... 8
- New Parishioners 8

Right: A giving year. *See page 7.*



'Our church should not be a small chapel ...

Fall & Winter Photo Album



Welcome Sunday, on Oct. 1, kicked off SJC's busy fall, Advent and winter. Our Parish Life Festival in the gym showcased our many ministries (top left and right), inviting everyone to find their place in the parish family. A hot breakfast warmed new and old friendships (bottom left), while kids' activities and charitable collections by the Youth Group (bottom right) and others added fun and purpose.



'We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone. We find it with another.'

Thomas Merton



Clockwise from above: Our Youth Choir practices weekly to lift our liturgies and spirits each month. ~ Fr. Ed Hallinan acs his first American Sign Language lesson by Fr. Sean Loomis (right) in a video welcome to the Archdiocesan **Deaf Mass**, held Oct. 29 at SJC. Fr. Sean presided in ASL. ~ **Deacon Ray** blesses our furry parishioners on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. ~ Whether planning or hosting, our **Married Couples Ministry** brings the faith and fun (and wine and child care) that keeps couples strong. Their holiday get-together drew 27 couples.



... for a select few, but a home for all'

Pope Francis

MLK Interfaith Celebration

'Building the Beloved Community'

St. John's was honored to host the annual Archdiocese of Philadelphia MLK Celebration on Jan. 15. Archbishop Chaput presided at an interfaith service that included Jewish, Presbyterian and Muslim leaders; students from four Philadelphia high schools; visiting clergy; and some 900 guests from across the region. The Philadelphia Catholic Mass Choir and liturgical dancers joined our Adult Choir for the service and choral prelude. Afterward, hospitality overflowed in the gym.



'I believe some people – lots of people – pray through the witness of their lives, through the work they do, the friendships they have, the love they offer people and receive from people.'

Dorothy Day



CityTeam's Hope Café in Chester is a favorite service opportunity. Our crew visited in February.



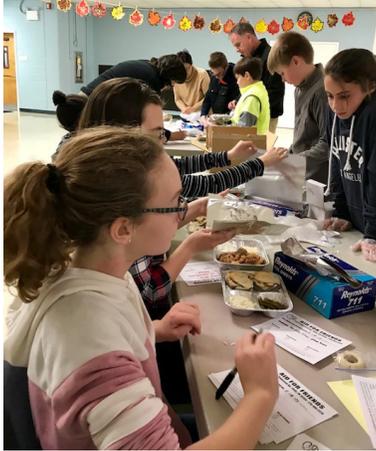
Left: CYO's four seasons of fun and friendship include fall soccer. **Right:** SJC bookkeeper Maureen Culbert presents Fr. Ed with the now-famous light-up Eagles hat that would take the pastor's favorite team to Super Bowl victory.



Continued on next page

PREP Preps for a New Season

Responding to requests from families for more scheduling options, St. John's burgeoning Parish Religious Education Program is launching its first Summer Session and making plans for its first weekday program.



As with traditional Sunday PREP, service projects such as Aid for Friends meal assemblies will be required in the Summer Session.

The Summer Session will pack a year's coursework and new curriculum into eight mornings in June. Other requirements include family participation in service and worship. Space is limited, and the intensive program will have a strict attendance policy. Registration begins in March.

"I am excited to be able to offer an alternative PREP session for our parish families," said Mary C. Pizzano, Director of Religious Education. "The summer program offers a fun alternative to the

formal religious education instruction for the children.

"I can't wait to introduce the Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* as the primary curriculum. The *Gospel Weeklies* will bring the Gospel message to the children, connecting it to their everyday lives."

Mrs. Pizzano said that she hoped to launch a Monday afternoon class option this fall for the 2018-19 school year, but that such a program would require at least 12 students per class and enough parents to volunteer as catechists. A decision will be announced later this spring.

Serving Hundreds of Families

This is one of PREP's biggest years ever, with 477 students enrolled from 263 families. The popular pre-K and kindergarten program has 35 children; Adaptive PREP serves 13. The program is built on a dedicated team of 37 volunteer catechists and aides.

Sacramental Season

In 2017-18, 65 second graders from public school, Mother of Providence and other schools received the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Nov. 29 and will celebrate First Communion on May 5. Eighty sixth graders are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Chaput on March 15.



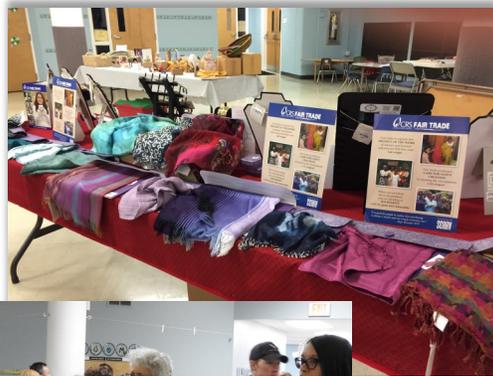
Above: High schooler Sarah Spaulding is among 37 devoted volunteers who teach and assist with PREP. Sarah and Julie St. Clair (not pictured) work as teacher's assistants in the busy kindergarten each Sunday.



Left: Chaz Gummel, with parents Daniel and Sunny, was one of 65 second graders celebrating First Reconciliation on Nov. 29.

From previous page

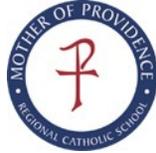
Recalling A Cold Season Of Warm Hearts



Left and center: Our Advent Festival, on the first Sunday of Advent, includes our Fair Trade Sale. The sale allows us to support Catholic Relief Services and other vendors that ensure fair wages and safe conditions for their craftspersons. Top right: Daily Mass Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Adult Servers allow us to start our weekdays with Mass. The ministers include (back, L-R) Mary Fee; Marie Morrissey, who coordinates the ministry; Lou Scotto; and Gary Sloskey. Front (L-R) are Maureen Benson; Donna Schroeder, Pat Scotto and Jonathan Jackson.

At MPRCS, Service, Scholarship & Super Times

Midway through our sixth year as a regional Catholic school, Mother of Providence is alive with energy, faith and success. We have 250 students, and classes are filling fast for next school year. We pray gratefully each day for St. John's parishioners, who generously support us.



A highlight of our school year is Catholic Schools Week at the end of January. This year, we celebrated with service projects, including making breakfast bags for local food banks and blankets for nursing-



home residents. In addition, our 4th, 5th and 6th graders enjoyed our annual Living Museum and Cavalcade of Countries, sharing about famous Pennsylvanians and serving as guides for many countries.

Of course, we caught Eagles Fever, celebrating our champs with a tailgate party and a thank-you banner for all the Eagles' players do to give back to the community. During Lent, we prepared for a sacred high point of our year: Living Stations, in which our eighth graders portray the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. This moving event will be at 1:15 and 7 p.m. March 26 at St. John's Church. As the year continues to fly, we look



forward to our May Procession, graduation, and other rites of spring.

Registration Underway

Registration is open for 2018-19, and classes are filling up fast. Please call us at (610) 876-7110 for a personal tour, or visit us at mpregional.org.



Mother of Providence offers more than \$100,000 in scholarship aid, so please don't let finances keep you from applying.

RCIA: Sharing the Journey

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is honored this year to welcome three participants. Julie Moore is a candidate, having been baptized, while husband Keith joined as a catechumen who is converting to Catholicism and preparing for Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Candidate Gena Scanlan completes the group. All of our participants (as well as second grader Taylor Moore) are already active in our parish, and all will receive or complete their sacraments of initiation March 31 at our Easter Vigil Mass.



The RCIA team looks forward to celebrating this joyful occasion with them and asks for the parish's prayers for them throughout their faith journey.

RCIA welcomes baptized older teens and adults who are seeking the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation, as well as adults who are exploring converting to the Catholic Church. To learn more, please call us at (610) 874-3418.



Above: Archbishop Chaput greets Keith Moore at a Cathedral service Feb. 18 celebrating the Rite of Election and Call to Conversion, a milestone in the RCIA process. **Left:** The 2018-19 RCIA team and participants. Back row (L-R): Jonathan Jackson, Keith Moore, Julie Moore, Dave Tannenbaum, Gloria Mann. Front row (L-R): RCIA director Elaine Mott, Taylor Moore, Gena Scanlan, Marie Anderson, Linda Jackson.

New Spirit, New Direction

From page 1

When I returned, ministry needs called me to serve as principal in two elementary schools in North Jersey.

At times, I found myself asking, "What do I really believe?"

My life took another turn when I was asked to serve as Formation Director for our Sisters who had made First Profession of Vows through preparation for Profession of Perpetual Vows.

This ministry was both rewarding and challenging. The ability to help women grow in their relationship with God as a Sister of Saint Joseph was a sacred gift. I truly was graced with

the sisters I companioned. The challenging part came as we met to share around the various elements of religious life at that time. At times, I found myself asking, "What do I really believe?"

In hindsight, I see that this was not only a time for the sisters to grow in their understanding of their vocation, but also for me to deepen and be clearer about life as a Sister of Saint Joseph. After eight years, I was asked to join the staff at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, where I was blessed by 23 years of abundantly graced moments.

What does a spiritual director do in the traditional sense, working with someone one-on-one?

That's a good question! In essence, when someone engages in the practice of spiritual direction, the conversation centers on the person's prayer, relationships, present-life realities, and how they are sensing God present in all. The spiritual director helps the individual become more aware of how God's Spirit is actively engaging them and faithfully drawing them into greater union and love. All of this happens in a contemplative, discerning spirit.

What is your vision as spiritual director for St John's?

Fr. Ed wants to do all that he can to help parishioners deepen their relationship with God and live more fully in this love.

Fr. Ed and I have talked about this at length over the past year. Put simply, Fr. Ed wants to do all that he can to help parishioners deepen their relationship with God and live more fully in this love. This focus resonated with me, since the Sisters of Saint Joseph were founded for this purpose. The heart of our charism and mission graces and energizes us in this way: *We live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another.*

Having known Fr. Ed for many years, I believe that, with our capable staff and ministry leaders, we can work together for this end.

What is your initial impression of St. John's?

I had a "heads up" on the spirit of St John's before coming here, from our Sisters who have ministered here over the years. They shared many fond memories of living and working among the people of the parish. After a few months here, I see why! My encounters with those I have met, the celebrations of Eucharist, and the active ministries serving in and beyond the parish touch me deeply.

Let's talk about prayer. Many of us find it difficult to pray. We think we are not praying "correctly" or we don't know where to start.

What do you advise?

While there are many ways of praying and aids to prayer, my first advice is "be who you are" as you enter into prayer. Remember, we have been loved into existence because God desires us. That's something for all of us to constantly take in. So, as with any human relationship, each of us has a unique, personal way of relating with God and God with us.

It may be helpful to think of how you are when you spend time with a dear friend. I can imagine that you are friends because you feel at home with one another. You can be yourself, no matter how you are feeling. You can talk with one another naturally about what's going on in your lives, and at times you may seek each other's advice. I can also imagine there are times when you are silent together, simply enjoying each other's company and what the day holds. I think this expresses, to some degree, what God desires for us as we pray.

Most Catholics are raised on the concept of God as strictly male: God the Father. But your study and direction have emphasized female images and aspects of God. Why is a female concept of God important for us to explore?

This is another significant question! While the image of God as *Father* is very sacred and has deep meaning for many of us, studies show that it is important to be open to having our images of God expanded. We already do that when we speak of God as our *Rock, Good Shepherd, and Light*. We use many such images to express our experiences of God.

A stretch may come when we hear God spoken of with female imagery, like *God our Mother*. This is understandable, since we may not have been exposed to this imagery before. However, Pope John Paul I spoke of this in a significant and beautiful way in 1978 in response to the Egyptian-Israeli peace accords:

[W]e are the objects of undying love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother. He does not want to hurt us. He wants only to do good to us, to all of us. If children are ill, they have additional claim to be loved by their mother.

There are other female images of God that we can explore. I have been offering retreats on *Praying with Female Images of God* to men and women for over 15 years. Perhaps we can offer one at St. John's.

Continued on next page

When entering into prayer, be who you are. Each of us has a unique way of relating with God, and God with us. You can be yourself, no matter how you are feeling.

God our Mother? It is important to be open to having our images of God expanded.

Around the Parish

The Year of Living Generously

Dec. 31 closed a year of stunning generosity and outreach at St. John's. Week in and week out, parishioners answered the call to give, love and serve above and beyond their Sunday donations. Here's a look by the numbers.

- 4,000** Aid for Friends meals prepared and delivered in Chester;
- 3,700** Tons of electronics recycled with PAR-Recycle Works, which serves reintegrating citizens;
- 6,000** Pounds of nonperishable food delivered to the Bernardine Center;
- 100** Pints of blood donated at two American Red Cross blood drives;
- 51** Families whose Christmas wish lists were fulfilled by Adopt a Family;
- 545** Casseroles prepared and delivered to St. John's Hospice;
- 225** Christmas toys provided to CityTeam by our St. Nicholas Project;
- 3,600** Dollars for hunger relief raised by the Youth Group's Operation Grow;
- 15,000** Dollars in cash and supplies provided to Kay Lasante Clinic in Haiti;
- 12** Hot brunches cooked and served at the Bernardine Center in Chester;



Providing Thanksgiving meals for those in need was just one way that St. John's parishioners reached out in 2017.

Continued from previous page

Can you share a favorite Scripture passage?

Many passages are significant for me. I love John's Gospel, especially Chapters 13-17, when Jesus speaks tenderly to us from his heart. I'm also moved by Ephesians 3:14-21 (*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name..."*).

If you could canonize anyone, real or fictional, who would it be?

Many people come to mind and heart, but I am drawn to say *parents*. When I reflect on the love, sacrifice, and example of my parents; my siblings, nieces and nephews as parents; and witness the loving care of other parents, I am deeply moved. Along with their endless expressions of selflessness, I am struck by their commitment to share their faith with their children. At the 7 p.m. liturgy on Ash Wednesday, I sat

I am moved by parents' endless expressions of selflessness and struck by their commitment to share their faith with their children.

I also often turn to, and share, my cousin Cassie's favorite advice to her children: "Never forget who you are."

To which I would add only: "... and *Whose* you are."

Contact Sr. Maria McCoy at mmccoysj@sjcparish.org or (610) 874-3418 x 109.

Lina and Nami Move On

With hearts full of gratitude, Lina and Nami will become independent of St. John's Parish on June 30, 2018. Through our parishioners' support and kindness over 25 months, the former refugees — stateless over years of traumatic migration — now live safely in our area. Nami is lighting up second grade at her neighborhood school; Lina is employed and training for new challenges; and both are on the path to citizenship. The family extends its deepest thanks and prayers to our parishioners for their support and care throughout the family's resettlement journey.



- 90** Bereaved and homebound parishioners receiving personal visits and flowers at Christmas through the Advent Angels program;
- 7,000** Dollars donated to Mother's Home of Darby to support homeless mothers and their babies;
- 365** Shawls, blankets, mittens, hats and scarves made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry for people in need and for each baby baptized at St. John's;
- 10,000** Dollars donated to hurricane victims in the U.S. and Caribbean;
- 100** Percent of Stinson Tower residents in Chester who received Christmas gifts personally requested through the St. Nicholas Project; and
- Thousands** Approximate number of coats, gloves, diapers, toiletries, school supplies and other essentials collected in drives all year long and distributed from Philadelphia to Port au Prince.



617 S. Providence Rd.
Wallingford, PA 19086
(610) 874-3418 (v)
(610) 872-1741 (f)
phoffice@sjcparish.org

+

www.sjcparish.org



+

Stay connected! Email us
with changes to your
phone, address or email.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mineola, NY
Permit No. 70

Welcome, New Parishioners!

August 2017 - January 2018

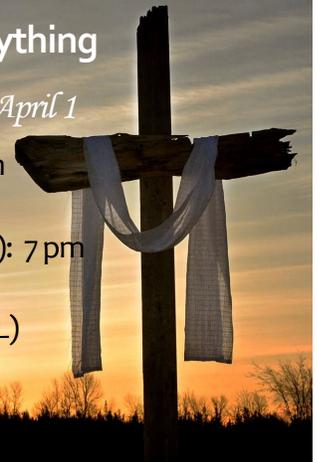
Babs and Bimpe Adenusi
(Kenny, Taiwo, Tosin)
Bryan and Rica Armstrong
(Brody, Maureen)
Cortney and Dominick Battel
(Patrick, Avery)
Teresa and Robert Bohinick
Julie and Steven Boyd
(Logan, Nolan)
Samantha and Robert Breischafft
(Hayden)
Judy Brimer
Edward Capper
Jamie-Lyn & Ryan Caton
Frances and Gerald Chandlee
Daniel Cline
Mari-Beth Coia
Bridget Corey
William Wallin Corey
Susan Curray
Michael Deely
Christina and Vincent DiAngelus
(Mitchell)
Patrick and Eileen Donaghy
(Patrick)
Robert Duffy (Collin)
Donna and Paul Fischer (Katherine)

Carolyn Fox and James Keenan
Michael Fiugalski and
Catherine Browne
Nicole and Carmen Gentile
Brian and Michelle Goodman
(Caydence, Bexley)
Vincent and Alice Greto
Macie Celona and Ken Guglielmi
(James, Jackson, Ryan)
Amanda Gummel
Brittany and Mike Hansen
(Michael, Colin)
Joan Harrison
Kelly and Thomas Kachelries
(Benjamin, Evan)
Joseph & Mary Kadlec
(Ramsay, Cohan)
Albert and Elizabeth Kagel
Jason and Kelli Kopec
Christine and Gabriel Lavella
Lisa and Christopher Likely
(Xavier, Zoe)
Rosemarie Mannion
Heather Cavanagh-McGee and
Shawn McGee (Kian)
Ryan and Kristen McKenna
(Clare, Kerry)

Easter Changes Everything

Please join us March 29 - April 1

Holy Thursday: 7 pm
Good Friday: 3 pm
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil): 7 pm
Easter Sunday:
8, 9:30, 11:30 am (ASL)



Jennifer and Andrew McNamara
Christine and Francisco Mendez
(Julian, Samuel, Nina)
Jennifer and Ronald Miller (Abigail)
Olivia and Todd Miller (Cole, Jack)
Scott Mullen
Kim and Vijay Noronha
(Diya, Rohan)
Carolyn O'Neill
Collen and Ryan Olivo
(Morgan, Mackenzie)
Timothy and Julia Paynter
(Alice, Natalie)
Keith and Elysha Pifko (Lydia)
Melissa Pohl & Jonathan Fettig
(James)

Brendan and Andria Rafferty
(Brendan)
Jonathan Rios-Doria and
Claudia Arce (Carolina, Victor)
Lisa Ritacco (Max, Amelia)
Linda and Mike Rooney
Bridget and Matthew Schroeder
(John, Maeve)
Jay and Emily Spinelli
Steve Stines and Jim Brady
Shannon & Kory Swierczek
(Harper)
Grayce Turnbach
Dennis and Lori Ware (Isabel)
Caitlin White and Vivek Narayan
(Nikhil)