

# St. Joseph's School

## The Numbers.....

St. Joseph's School, for 2018-19 school year, has 189 students. This total has been fairly consistent over the past 5 years. This year we have 104 boys and 85 girls, 39 preschoolers, 25 students in Kindergarten, first and fourth grades, 24 in second grade, 21 in third, 17 in fifth and 12 in sixth grade. We have waiting lists in 3 classes.... Our student population is 70 % Catholic.

## .....Beyond the Numbers

Each of these children is a gift, and we are blessed to have a Catholic School in our parish in which the students DAILY pray and learn about God, understand that we are called to serve others, and experience the wonderful Catholic faith traditions that we hope will be their foundation throughout their lives. We are grateful to all who support our school-thank you!

~ Teresa Matetich, Principal

## ST. JOHN'S AND ST. PAUL'S PARISHES – IT HAS BEEN 5 YEARS.....

So many times in life we get caught up in the busyness of life and forget the obvious. This is what I feel as I write this note to the former members of St. John's and St. Paul's. It has been 5 years since your parishes merged into St. Joseph's, and as I dug through bulletins, Annual Reports, any communicate that I could think of – I never found *one spot* that offered you complete information on how *the funds* were utilized. There *were* periodic bulletin burbs, but if you missed it, well, you missed it. Even though it is 5 years later, we (the Parish Finance Council and Staff) think it is still an important part of the merge of our clustered parishes. All of us as parish members should be in the loop, and thus this note to you in our Annual Report.

We were able to start the St. Joseph's Church Endowment Fund with \$50,000 in assets. This Church Endowment is incorporated separately from our parish and is managed by an Investment Committee along with our School Endowment. Folks are able to contribute to this fund in memory of a loved one or simply to continue the mission of the Church. Currently this fund is in the *'building stages'* and we have watched it grow in the last 4 years to over \$70,000!

We tried to use the funds with special projects in mind that would benefit all the members of our parish. We really wanted to stay away from using it for utilities, payroll.....we wanted it to be projects that we were able to see and touch. New hymnals were purchased for our Sanctuary as the new order of Mass deemed ours unusable. The Stations of the Cross were renovated this last Lenten Season. Take notice of how beautiful they are in the back of our Church, glistening with fresh gold accents! St. John's set aside funds to create a scholarship for descendants of their parish to access through the GR Community Foundation. We were also able to PAY OFF the home our priests live in – it is MORTGAGE FREE! The remaining funds have since been added to our Parish Reserve Fund which helps maintain our parish campus, rectory, and fund any special projects our Building Committee, Art Committee and Finance Council deem appropriate.

We have re-purposed MANY of the beautiful statuary, crucifixes and artwork throughout the church and school. The St. John's Mary and Joseph statues (which are full size!), are proudly displayed in the entrance of our school. The Last Supper Painting from St. John's adorns our School lunch area. The Cross from St. John's is hung over the tabernacle in our Adoration Chapel, while the St. Paul's Cross graces our Social Hall. Many statues from both parishes are now in our school and faith formation classrooms – bringing us all a reminder of our love for the Lord, Mary and the Saints.

Even though it is 5 years later, there are still a couple of other things we hope to bring to fruition. The bell that rang St. Paul's in Warba was original to the Sand Lake School. In 1923 the school was moved to Warba and became the first St. Paul's Church. In 1960 it was decided to build a new church on Highway 2 and the bell moved along with the members to the new church and remained there until the closure. That same bell is safely stored in our Morton Building! In some of those last meetings as the closings were taking place, an idea was discussed to build a bell tower near our playground and use it as our recess Bell..... Wouldn't that be AWESOME!?! We also have both sets of the Stations of the Cross, stored carefully, to possibly use in our lower level for students of both the school and faith formation programs to use for learning and praying.

I hope this letter helps to settle any of the "I wonder what happened with.....". Even though our communication of this process lacked in diligence, I can guarantee that in our parish leadership meetings, careful thought and planning has been part of the discussion as we received these funds and made plans for them. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have and again, I apologize for delay. — Karla Igo, Parish Administrator

Newsletter Date  
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315 SW 21st Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-326-2843  
www.stjosephscatholic.org

### Pastor:

- Fr. Seth Gogolin

### Assoc. Pastor:

- Fr. Charlie Friebohle

### Parish Administrator:

- Karla Igo

### Business Manager:

- Nancy Kopacek

### Director of Development

- Wendy Roy

### Parish Secretaries:

- Kitty Pollock

### Office Support:

- Patti Istvanovich
- Tracy Smith

### Music and Liturgy:

- Michelle Kessler

### PreK-5 Faith Formation Director:

- Mandy Foss

### 6-12 Faith Formation Director:

- Lisa Neary

### Grief, Share & Prayer Ministry:

- Bobbie Harrington

### School Principal:

- Teresa Matetich

### School Secretary:

- Carmen Watland

### Maintenance:

- Jim Berg

## St. Joseph's Catholic Community



2017-18 Annual Report

### Annual Report Introduction

It has been almost four months since I began my time as your new pastor. I am grateful for all of your prayers for me in preparation for my arrival, and I thank you for your continued prayers. You have been very welcoming, and you have helped me to feel at home with you as my parishioners. I am also grateful to all of the staff at our parish and school who have helped make my transition go smoothly, and have helped me acclimate to such a large parish along with a school. Lastly I would like to thank Fr. Jerry for his leadership over the last 13 years. I am honored and humbled to follow him as your pastor.

With pastor moves happening in the middle of July, one of the first things that new pastors have to do is sign off on the annual financial report to the Diocese. Thank you for your generosity this last fiscal year! Overall it looks like a good year. Our school income was greater than our school expenses, we contributed over \$183,000 towards paying down the mortgage, our UCA goal was made without taking from our operating budget, our endowments are growing, and our ordinary income for the parish increased from the previous year.

Even with all of these good things, there are always opportunities for growth. Just as cost of living increases each year, so do expenses for our parish and school. I encourage all of us to consider if this year could be a time for us to increase our giving to St. Joseph's. You will see in detail in our annual report your generosity to our parish during the last fiscal year. Again, thank you so much! We have included an insert which is a stewardship update for the current fiscal year. Please look it over as there are many opportunities to continue your generosity, as well as see the areas in our parish where we could use some extra support. I am grateful to our finance council and staff for helping bring a focus to the needs of our parish and school. Please prayerfully read over this insert, consider where your generosity can be best used, and feel free to come talk with me. I pray that God who can never be outdone in his generosity towards us may guide us in our giving for our good, and the good of his holy Church.

Although finances are a necessary part of a parish and school, without your generosity of service we would not have the vibrant and welcoming community that we do, so I thank you all for your generosity of your time and sharing of your talents as well!

I am blessed to be your pastor. I am looking forward to the years ahead, as we grow together in Christian Discipleship and love of God and one another.

God Bless,

Father Seth Gogolin, Pastor

