

**St. Joseph Parish Office**  
**145 St. Joseph Drive**  
**Oneida, WI 54155**  
(920) 869-2244



October 29, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish,

As I write to you this year, I am more hopeful than I was last year. Last year, I was truly worried about our parish's future because of the revelations concerning its finances and our ability to deal with them. This year, although I am still very concerned about our finances, I am more confident about our future because of our new leaders who have started to freshly deal with the challenges facing the parish by offering their ideas, time, talents and especially their energy. You will see in this mailing how much they are working with me to help all of us be what we need to be. We are all committed to collaborating on making Saint Joseph Parish great in living its mission statement of welcoming all by sharing our Christian faith. Hospitality will be the focus of what we do as Saint Joseph welcomed those who came to experience Jesus' life.

Last summer, I wrote another important letter detailing much of my vision for the parish and its future. I was so pleased with the surveys and other forms of feedback that were positive and helpful. The survey and all our listening are helping our councils to discern the future of our parish. As you will hear more about in this mailing, although we are not moving the parish offices at this time, the internet is still being redone in the main building with no cost to the parish – all thanks to the generosity of a parishioner family. We are working toward better balancing of our finances with fund raisers and other matters which will also be addressed in this mailing. We continue to work on better reporting of finances, transparency, and communication of all kinds. We are also working toward the final resolution of the vacant rectory situation. We will study the possibilities again and present them well at the annual meeting and offer more opportunities for feedback from the parish so that the decision can be made.

We all know how difficult this time during the pandemic has been for all of us. First, we had no public masses, then we had public communion reception, then we opened safely with the dispensation, then without the dispensation and now more carefully with the dispensation once again. I always enjoy seeing each and every one of you who attend mass and miss every one of you who are not able to make it while totally understanding why you cannot be there with the situation the way that it is. I just want to reiterate the parishes offer to help anyone in any way that I can help. I only want the best for everyone and the parish. We all look forward to the day when we can all be together at mass and worshipping together while at the same time welcoming other people more so that we can grow bigger and better. With all that in mind, we are trying to anticipate what Christmas will be like. It would help us to know if you are planning on attending mass since there will probably continue to be a high level of COVID-19 in our area so that we can prepare well. Call or email us at the office if you can. We will be allowed once and only once to start masses Christmas Eve at 1 p.m. if we socially distance well. No matter what, we will adhere to recommended safety guidelines.

Saint Joseph Parish is a great parish with wonderful people. It has fantastic history but also a good present with good new leaders who are full of promise for the future. The key thing is that we all must work together to make something good happen by living our mission so as to give greater honor and glory to God. Please read the rest of the mailing that will include other important parish information. Thanks for all your help. Best wishes and prayers.

In Christ's love,

Reverend David C. Ruby, Pastor