

# St. Joseph's Messenger

## Building on Faith

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### Moving Forward into the New Year

On December 8, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, the Church closed the year dedicated to St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin. This was a special year of grace for the Church and in particular for our parish. Grace is that gift from God that helps to bring us closer to Him. As a parish, we have gone through many trials and blessings over this past year dedicated to St. Joseph. Grace has been poured out for us in times of these trials and in times of these blessings. Though the year in honor of St. Joseph has ended, his love, fatherhood, and care for us continues. He is still our help and our patron.

As we await the return of our pastor, many questions and discussions have taken place in public and private conversations. One of them involves the capital campaign and our plans to build a new church in honor of the Saint we know as The Spouse of the Blessed Virgin, The Worker, The Foster Father of the Lord, and The Head of the Holy Family. I would like to write to you this month about this topic. The bottom line is: We are moving forward.

In the Capital Campaign Launch Document which we shared earlier this fall, we proposed a "quiet phase" to begin this campaign. In this phase, we are engaging in personal conversation with those parishioners who may have a higher financial capacity to offer their support to help "jump-start" the campaign. We are inviting them to prayerfully consider a commitment to help us raise as much as 40% of the total we would need to begin our construction project. The invitations for financial support have already begun with a small number of parishioners, and we are currently receiving initial financial commitments as a result of those invitations and their generosity.

This quiet phase has always been a part of the Capital Campaign plan. While we did need to pause for a time to reevaluate our current situation and process, the Capital Campaign Cabinet made the unanimous decision to proceed with the plan in a slightly modified form. This decision was made after we engaged in very deliberate, prayerful, and conscientious discussions.

It is important for you to know that the decision to proceed with the quiet phase of the campaign was made in consultation with Bishop Daniel Felton, and with his full support. Bishop Felton, in turn, consulted with our Pastor, Father Anthony. He too gave his support and blessing for us to continue on this path in his absence. Father Anthony's approval was something that the Bishop, the Cabinet and I wanted to have before we considered moving forward. Let me be very clear: Our Pastor, Father Anthony, is aware and supportive of what we are doing.

In the sacristy before each Mass that he celebrates, Father Anthony leads the assisting deacon(s) and the altar servers in a prayer that we may serve the Lord and His people well in our work. He ends each prayer with the following (commonly used in these circumstances) direction, "Let us Proceed." Our response is, "In the name of Christ. Amen." And so, as your Parish Administrator, I wish to conclude this message to you in the same words. Regarding our Capital Campaign and every other part of our life as a parish and as individuals: Let us proceed in the name of Christ. Amen.

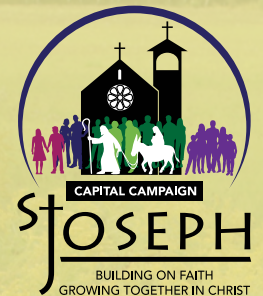
Deacon Dan

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### Contributors

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### Rosary - January 8, 2022

Join the Prayer Guild for a 10 a.m. rosary at St. Joseph's church on the 2nd Saturday of the month. For questions, contact Mary Lee Dallman at 218-851-0193 or maryleedallman58@gmail.com.

### Our Prayer for intercessions from St. André Bessette

*Brother André – help us imitate Saint Joseph's humility and obedience to the Father, in the care of His Son and Mother through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Instill in us a desire for reverence in what we build and in how we serve the community in which we live. Be our companion and prayer partner that all we do may be for the good of God's people and for the Glory of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*Brother André Bessette, the first Canadian Saint and Patron Saint to the Facilities Planning Team, was known for devotion to St. Joseph. His Feast Day is January 6.*



# Zeanna Franck Restores the Nativity Set

*Parishioner Spotlight by Joan Hasskamp*

During a conversation with Julie Goshey, Tamee Franck shared that her daughter, Zeanna, was painting statues in their home. Tamee expressed how pleased she was with Zeanna's work. This gave Julie an idea.

Deacon Dan had mentioned to Julie that the nativity set at church needed painting and repair. Julie suggested to Deacon Dan that perhaps Zeanna could restore the nativity set. With Father Anthony's blessing, the opportunity was given to Zeanna.

Two of the nativity pieces were severely broken. Most of the others had chips and cracks. In order to learn art restoration, Zeanna watched several online videos. She used a 50/50 mixture of plaster of Paris and wall mud to fix cracks, fill in areas, and replace missing parts. The pieces were glued back together with a special glue. Once the pieces dried, she sanded them before applying a wood sealant. All pieces were painted with an acrylic-based paint followed by a glossy, chip resistant spray finish. In order to make them look like a set, she repainted every piece. "I was asked to make them shiny, bright, and fresh," she said.

Zeanna, 18, used only six colors of paint to create over 50 different shades. By mixing the six colors she was able to achieve the multiple shades she wanted. She describes herself as very detail oriented. "I wanted them to look how I believe they really looked," she said. She admits she was frustrated at first trying to create the right skin tones. It took several attempts before she achieved the results she wanted. For outdoor workers such as the shepherds she made the faces a little darker. Individuals who spent more time indoors, such as Mary, were given lighter skin tones. Zeanna painted and restored approximately two dozen figures including Joseph,

Mary, Jesus, three wise men, angel, flute player, and multiple animals. She also fixed and painted the manger.

It took Zeanna approximately three months to complete the project. The nativity set will be unveiled for all to see and enjoy at Christmas Masses. Deacon Dan is thrilled with the finished product. "I was blown away!" he said. "Zeanna's vision on color choices and her phenomenal skill absolutely amazed me. Some of the pieces had been damaged, chipped, and broken. The repairs she made gave them the appearance of being brand new. I can't wait for the rest of the parish to see our beautifully restored nativity."

Her next project is to restore and spray paint the St. Joseph statue that sits next to the altar. The statue will be moved outside next summer for Zeanna to work on. She is currently studying statue restoration. "I am kind of intimidated by it because it's so large," she said.

At the same time, Zeanna is excited to take the challenge on. "I'm always interested in trying new things," she said. "I doodle and draw every day." She has been interested in art and its different mediums since she was a small child. Her uncle recently gifted her with a college art course that she is enjoying working through.

Zeanna sees herself working in the field of art although she doesn't know in what area yet. She has received other offers to paint and restore statues. She's not sure if she wants to commit herself to art restoration quite yet. "I might have different taste than the person who wants the work done," she said. Whatever she chooses to do, Tamee said she'll do well. "Zeanna is talented and good at many things," she said.



*Zeanna with nativity pieces*



# Giving Tree - Sharing Gifts with the Community

Ministry Spotlight by Doreen Miller-Fish

The Giving Tree has been a Christmas tradition at St. Joseph's parish for approximately 10 years. Started by Cheryl (Plude) Leonard, the Giving Tree has been coordinated for the last three years by Bonnie Rekucki and Joan Hasskamp along with the Sleeping Bag Ministry ladies with the support of the CCW. In addition to Hasskamp, Rekucki, and Leonard, current members are: Scena Proodian, Susie Roberts, Doris Hintz, Marian Freese, Mary Johnson, Julie Aspelin, Kathy Baldwin, and Joanie Ullom.

With paper mittens on trees in the church narthex, parishioners are invited to pick mittens marked with the age, gender, and gift suggestion to purchase. Gift cards to local businesses are also requested which is a great boon for the local economy. "People were taking the mittens off as fast as we were putting them on," said Bonnie. Parishioners are asked to wrap the presents and return them to church with the mittens attached. Then the presents are organized and prepared for delivery.

"The parish is always so generous with the Giving Tree, but this year the response from our parishioners was phenomenal," said Joan. "There truly is joy in giving. Best of all giving nourishes the soul." In addition to parishioner response, the CCW donates cash for gift cards, and Salem West donates brand new items. "When we picked up gift cards, some businesses added special coupons with the gift cards," said Bonnie.

On December 15, 451 gifts/gift cards were distributed to C-I students and CRMC Care Center residents. Bonnie was overwhelmed with gratitude after delivering the gifts, she said, "It was so heartwarming. It was the best year ever. The pandemic did not slow down generosity, in fact, it increased. People are

thinking outside of their own needs and giving from their hearts."

Bonnie, Joan, and the Sleeping Bag Ministry ladies would like to thank all those who provided gifts and/or gift cards, along with all those who helped make this ministry a huge success! Bonnie said, "We will do it again next year and definitely keep adding more mittens on the tree as long as people will take them."

Bonnie shared her daily mantra, "Mary Jo Copeland said, 'To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world,' which just epitomizes this ministry."



L to R: Marian Freese, Susie Roberts, Bonnie Rekucki, Joanie Ullom, Doris Hintz, Cheryl Leonard, Joan Hasskamp.

## St. Joseph, A Working Father

*Excerpts from the Apostolic Letter*

An aspect of Saint Joseph that has been emphasized from the time of the first social Encyclical, Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*, is his relation to work. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family

without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

Read the full Apostolic Letter at: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)

# Sharing Our Blessings With An Attitude Of Gratitude

## 2021 Year-End Contribution Opportunities

This is the time of year when many of us consider offering charitable contributions to our favorite organizations in gratitude for the impact these organizations have on our lives. We hope that you consider St. Joseph's Catholic Church an important part of your life.

Depending on your situation, there may be a tax benefit to offering a financial contribution before December 31, 2021. Whether you choose to designate your year-end financial support to our parish operating budget or our building project to construct a new church on our new campus, please know that your generosity is valued, appreciated, and most certainly needed.

Since our operating budget and building project are secured in separate financial accounts, you may designate your support to either fund. Be assured that if you specify your contribution for a special purpose, it will be used as you intend.

With the encouragement of Fr. Anthony and Bishop Felton, we have launched our capital campaign to fund a new church and social hall with the initial "quiet phase" of inviting financial support. More details will follow in the new year. In the meantime, we are grateful for your prayers and support as we move forward in faith. Thank you!



## Volunteer Focus

*Tom & Janel Lewandowski, Capital Campaign Cabinet*

Tom and Janel Lewandowski met through Rachel Stokman, sister of Peter and Paul Stokman. Rachel was Janel's roommate at Saint Benedict College. She introduced the two of them.

Janel grew up in St. Paul, MN. She has a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas. Tom hails from Grand Island, Nebraska. He has a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Des Moines University in Iowa.

Tom is a physician assistant in orthopedics at CRMC. Janel works for Well-Read Mom. They are the parents of five children aged 8-18.

Tom enjoys playing guitar, biking, and fixing things around the house. Janel enjoys reading, cooking, and biking.

Tom and Janel have been actively involved in the St. Joseph's community as lectors, ushers, and teachers in religious education and RCIA. Also, they participate in the

Lenten Food Drive and Communion and Liberation. In the summer they enjoy watering the church gardens.

They love being members of the St. Joseph's family. "We love that the people we worship with are people we share life with in the community," Janel said.



*Tom and Janel Lewandowski*

Tom and Janel feel they bring positive energy, insight, and community engagement and unity through the various ways they are involved in the parish.

## Sick or Homebound and Seeking Holy Communion?

Call the parish office to request a visit if you are unable to attend Mass.

**218-546-6559**