

ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEWS

July 2015

Dear Friends,

I want to keep you informed of a number of things that are going on in the parish. Many of our Ministries and Groups take a little break during the summer months—and it is well deserved. But the Parish continues to function and operate. In some areas of Parish life, Summer provides an opportunity to plan for the events that will be taking place in the coming year. In other areas of Parish life, there is no break, we just keep moving right along.

From the stories that follow, you will see that summer is going to be a time for some needed repairs to the church building. It is not the kind of work any of us look forward to, but we have to keep the building in good repair so that we will have many more wonderful years of parish life in it.

I know that some of you spend most of the summer at the shore and attend Mass there, so I thought I'd send out a little newsletter just to keep everyone up to date on important matters in the life of our Parish.

Peace and prayers,

Fr. Mike

NEW WEBSITE

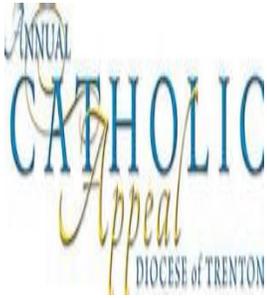
Our website fell into a state of disrepair and had not worked properly since last October. I am very happy to report that we do have a new website. The website is much more user friendly and is easy to update. You can find a lot more information and new features on our website. Stay up to date with parish news by checking out the bulletin online. You will find information about most of the Parish Ministries and Groups. You can request prayers, download forms for

registration for Religious Education and Vacation Bible School, find out about weddings and baptisms. You can find the Scripture readings for the day as well as news about what is going on in the Catholic Church. Check out the calendar of events for the parish. You will be able to sign up online for Scripture Study and other adult faith formation offerings. You can set up online donations (more about that later) and much more. The website is mobile-friendly so



you can easily use it on your smart phone or tablet. So check the new website out at www.stjosephmillstone.org. Be sure to check back for new information regularly. You can also keep up to date by liking our facebook page— St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp NJ (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Joseph-Catholic-Church-Millstone-Twp-NJ/210497738985893>). You can follow on twitter as well @frmikestjoseph It is your Parish—stay tuned in!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



I am making an appeal to the entire parish on behalf of the Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Trenton. Each year the Diocese raises funds for the operation of the various Ministries and Offices of the Diocese. Each Parish is actually assigned a goal based on number of families and amount of ordinary donations. Our goal for the last several years has been \$39,500.00. In the last 6 years we have not made the goal. But we could easily reach the goal with just a little help from everyone.

First though, I do want to thank everyone who has already contributed to the Annual Appeal for the Diocese. Your generosity is appreciated.

For those who have not made a donation, I simply ask that you please consider making a donation.

Why? And it is a good question to ask. The most important answer to that question is that in order for a number of Diocesan Ministries and Offices to exist, they need the support. Some of the work of the Diocese includes helping people in need—food, shelter and medical treatment. This is one of the most important ministries of the Church—to provide assistance to those who very often find themselves with no place else to turn. Jesus did tell us that every time we clothe the naked, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the sick and visit the imprisoned it is like we do it for Him. Jesus also said that when we fail to do those things it is as though we have refused to do it for Him. So we cannot ignore this mandate from Jesus. Some of the Ministries in the Diocese make the attempt, as imperfect as it may be at times, to fulfill the directive of Jesus. But they need the help of others in order to do it. Part of the money raised by the Annual Appeal is used to help those in need. Some of the funds are used for the operation of the Offices that have the responsibility to train new priests and care for retired priests. We are already feeling the crunch from fewer and fewer Vocations to the Priesthood. More and more parishes are going to be forced to share the services of a priest. So we need to support the efforts to recruit and train those who feel called to the priesthood. Many have served in parishes for most of their lives and now are up in years living in retirement. The Diocese does have the responsibility of providing for their needs. Of course with the number of retired priests increasing the costs increase proportionately.

We also have to acknowledge that we, as a Catholic Community of Faith, are part of the Diocese of Trenton. We are not disconnected. We do have an obligation to support the efforts of the Diocese. One of the great aspects of being Catholic is the recognition that we are part of something much bigger than what we experience on a regular basis. Each parish is part of a Diocese. Every Diocese is part of a larger Conference. Every Conference is part of the Universal Catholic Church.

As I said, I think we can easily show our support and reach our goal and it does not have to be a hardship for anyone. Just a small gift of \$20.00 from every family will go a long way. So, if you have not already given, would you consider a gift of \$20.00 for the Annual Appeal of the Diocese of Trenton? I understand that for some, even that is not possible, but if those who can make that donation, we should still reach the goal and demonstrate our willingness to support the efforts of the Diocese.

If you are willing to help out, you can contribute in a number of ways. You can send a check to the parish and we will forward it on to the Diocese (make checks payable to Annual Catholic Appeal). You can mail the check to the Annual Appeal—**Department of Development, P.O. Box 4887, 701 Lawrenceville Road, Trenton, NJ 08650-4887. Please be sure to indicate that you are a member of St. Joseph Church — Perrineville. You can donate online by going to <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal/>. You can also view more information about the Annual Catholic Appeal at that website.** If your employer participates in a Matching Gifts program, this should be an eligible donation. There is information about that on the Annual Appeal website. The other consideration in all of this is that once we make the goal, part of the donations comes back to the parish. So it can help us all as well as we take care of our parish.

Again, thank you to all who have already made a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal for the Diocese of Trenton. And thank you for considering to make a donation to the Annual Appeal. We need to keep God present in the world. What we do, from the smallest thing to the biggest, plays an important part in keeping God present.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH

Feeling connected to your parish is important and it comes with fantastic benefits. Coming and worshiping with the community of Faith is definitely important and allows us to receive the gifts of Word and Sacrament that God offers us. But we also have to open ourselves to the nourishment that comes from our interaction with one another. The easiest way to do this is to get involved in one of our ministries or groups. A little of your time, even once in a while, helps to keep us connected to one another as we try to live the life that God calls us to live. All those currently involved can testify to the benefits of participating in some way. If you are not currently involved, check out the parish website and look over the ministries and groups. The choices are plentiful—the sense of actively participating in your parish is priceless. Remember, if you have an idea for another group or ministry, just talk to Fr. Mike—there is always room for more!

WINDOWS AND ROOF

We all are wise enough to know that maintaining a building—whether it is a home, business or church—requires a lot of maintenance. Some problems that pop up are easy fixes, and not so costly. But then there are the times when large, and costly, repairs are needed.

Both the roof and the windows of the church building have to be replaced. The roof has been leaking in various places and it seems that the severe winter was not kind to the roof. Work on the roof has begun and will likely be done by the time you read this.

Unfortunately the windows in church (the built in windows, not the stained glass part) also have to be replaced. They have all become clouded over and are rather unsightly from the outside. More importantly, they have become less energy efficient. There is quite a bit of work involved with the windows because the stucco around the windows has to be chipped away to remove the windows. It will take a few weeks to complete all of the windows.

Some people have asked about a special collection to help pay for this work. It has been decided that there would not be a special collection for the repair of the roof and windows. Of course, anyone who wishes to contribute, is more than welcome.

Thank you to the Building & Grounds Committee for all the time that was put into doing the preparation work for these two projects.

KEEP YOUR PARISH UPDATED

Technology is great and can be very useful in keeping people up to date. But information always has to be up to date as well. If you change your email address, phone number or other information, please remember to contact the parish so that we can update our records. We are looking into ways to keep our parishioners updated on all that the parish offers as well as special events. We would like to utilize email more but have to make sure that the information we have is correct. So please keep us informed of changes. Thanks!

***The 15th Annual Parish Golf Outing takes place on Monday,
September 14 at the Knob Hill Golf & Country Club.
Check our the parish website for more information.***

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We are on the web
www.stjosephmillstone.org

INTRODUCING PARISH GIVING



In an effort to make supporting your Parish a bit easier, our parish has enlisted *Parish Giving* to provide our members with the opportunity to use electronic funds transfer as an alternative method for giving to the parish. Parish Giving is offered free of charge to you so that you may make donations by credit card or transfer from your checking account. On the giving site, you will be able to select from various opportunities to contribute to our parish and contribute to Diocesan collections as well. By setting up your account with Parish Giving you have the ability to make one-time contributions, make recurring contributions, select your billing date, use credit card or bank transfer and access contribution reports at any time.

To sign up to use Parish Giving, just go to our Parish website—www.stjosephmillstone.org. Select Contribute/Donate Page, then select Electronic Giving. Once on the page click the link for Parish Giving and you will be taken to our contribution page. If you have any difficulties using the site, just contact the parish office.

Thanks for supporting your parish.